The Great Blue Heron

A symbol of environmental health and inspiration for HRWC’s iconic logo

Birds are a powerful indicator of environmental health. They are mobile and quickly reflect changes in their surroundings. When the quality of the air, water, or soil is compromised, birds provide early clues of an underlying problem. That holds true for the Great Blue Heron and it’s one of the reasons it serves as the emblem of so many conservation groups across the country, including HRWC.

Of course, there are other reasons for the Great Blue’s prominent use in environmental graphics. It is the largest heron in North America. It is majestic, charismatic, and supremely graceful in flight. While watching a Great Blue Heron stalk fish at the edge of a marsh, it’s hard not to be captivated by their deliberate, predatory movements.

Adaptable and distinctive

The Great Blue Heron is highly adaptable and especially common in healthy wetland areas across the northern United States. Herons love secluded marshes and riverbanks, but are also opportunistic—so they’ll explore backyard ponds or forage for food in agricultural fields. To hunt, they wade slowly or stand still in shallow water, waiting for the right moment to thrust their neck and head forward. Herons are not picky eaters, consuming various fish, amphibians, reptiles, small mammals, insects, and other birds if they get the chance.

continued on page 4

Green Infrastructure Takes Root!

HRWC completes construction of new projects to improve creeksheds

Spring is in full swing, and plants are in bloom. And, while putting on a colorful display, those beauties are working hard to clean the water before it gets to the river. Many native wildflowers and plants have deep roots which pull water into the ground and absorb excess nutrients, incorporating them into their stems, leaves, and petals.

Forests, wetlands, floodplains, and other land covers provide water cleansing services naturally. In recent years, innovative landscapers have begun to use native plants in specific designs to capture stormwater runoff, treat it, and divert it into the groundwater. Watershed planners refer to these vital services provided by nature—and our built infrastructure that mimics nature—as “Green Infrastructure.”

continued on page 5

INSIDE: UPCOMING EVENTS AND WORKSHOPS

Developing new Field Safety Initiatives
Laura’s final Stream of Consciousness | River Givers Gathering celebrates volunteers, members, and donors
As the PFAS story continues to unfold in our watershed, there is some good and bad news. The good news is that we found the largest source of PFAS to the river in Wixom at the Tribar metal plating facility. Last October, Tribar ran their discharge through carbon filters, reducing concentrations of PFAS chemicals and, in turn, reducing concentrations in the City of Wixom’s discharge and in the river overall. The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE)—formerly MDEQ—is still testing for other PFAS inputs and has found a few minor polluters, but no other large sources in the Huron.

The bad news is that as we are learning more about where PFAS is coming from in the watershed, we are discovering secondary ways that PFAS is a threat to human and environmental health. Wastewater treatment plants in our watershed may be releasing high levels of PFAS into our river and wetlands. Further, the sludge (biosolids) from wastewater treatment plants may also be high in PFAS. The biosolids are used as fertilizer on many of our agricultural lands and may be thereby contaminating meat and dairy products. And the leachate from our landfills may have high levels of PFAS that are not treated before they are discharged to the river, lakes, and streams.

Recently, we’ve seen some additional success when Governor Whitmer announced the development of a statewide drinking water standard, something HRWC has been advocating for since last summer. Governor Whitmer is fast tracking this standard and is proposing additional funds for PFAS testing and cleanup. With your help, we’ve been able to keep many balls moving to ban PFAS chemicals, clean them up, and educate the public on the threats.

Thank you and hope to see you out on the river!

On a personal note—this is my final stream of consciousness. In June, I am leaving HRWC and will be the Director of the Great Lakes Coalition, Healing Our Waters. This is a coalition of 150 environmental and conservation groups—including HRWC!—working to restore and protect the Great Lakes. This coalition leads the effort to solidify the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative strategies, priorities, and federal funding. Priorities for the coalition include educating elected officials in DC about the importance of Great Lakes investments and priorities, working with conservation leaders in the Great Lakes region, and partnering with the media to tell the story of the Great Lakes and its restoration.

My time at HRWC has been incredibly rewarding, and I’ve been lucky to be part of a great team. We have achieved so much together. We’ve grown a watershed council that is effective, well-respected, and well-funded. We’ve created real solutions to hard problems: phosphorus legislation, green infrastructure and restoration projects, establishment of a National Water Trail, removing Mill Pond Dam, and so much more. I’ve so enjoyed my time with HRWC and the people like you who have been part of it.

And now, a new challenge awaits. I will do everything I can to support HRWC in the transition to a new director, and I hope I’ll be able to see and work with you all again in my new role.

Thank you for all you do for the river.

— Laura Rubin
HRWC Executive Director
@LauraRubin4
The inaugural River Givers Gathering brought together 120 volunteers, members, donors, and staff for an afternoon filled with good food, great music, cheer, and sincere gratitude. It was a celebration of the many contributions and accomplishments of the people who support HRWC’s mission. The event was such a success that HRWC has decided to make it an annual tradition.

Hosted at the Ypsilanti Freighthouse in Depot Town on March 3, the gathering was a way for staff to thank volunteers, donors, and members for their support, hard work, and dedication. Thanks to their efforts, HRWC has made big strides towards the protection and restoration of the Huron River.

Sharon and Dave Brooks were presented with the Stewardship Award for their 20-plus years of volunteer service. Their unfailing dedication has played an integral role in the development and success of some of HRWC’s premier monitoring programs. Read more about Sharon and Dave Brooks on page nine of the Spring 2019 Huron River Report.

There were opportunities for guests to immerse themselves in the current events happening at HWRC. An “adult science fair” provided an exciting look into many programs. Kids and adults alike created artistic fish prints and taste-tested water samples from Ypsilanti, Ann Arbor, and Dexter.

Thanks to Chela’s Restaurant Dexter, Mighty Good Coffee, the Pontiac Trailblazers, Kari Paine Photography & Design, REI, Schultz Outfitters, Yeti, and the Ypsilanti Freighthouse for their support of this event.

And, once again, thank you! Your commitment and dedication are key to HRWC’s success!

—Karissa Brumley
Communications Intern

Clear space on your bookshelves and support HRWC through Books by Chance — it’s easy!

Contact Margaret Smith at (734) 769-5123 x 605 or msmith@hrwc.org to learn more.
They grasp small prey and impale larger fish with their bills, sometimes violently shaking their catch to subdue it before swallowing it. They are immediately recognizable in flight, even at great distance, thanks to their slow wingbeats. They tuck in their S-shaped neck and let their legs follow in a line behind. Along with Sandhill Cranes and Pelicans, Great Blue Herons inspire onlookers to compare them to pterodactyls.

**An indicator species**

Scientists use the Great Blue Heron as an indicator species to monitor the health of the habitat in which it lives. Along with other large birds like eagles and ospreys, Great Blue Heron populations declined severely in the 1960s and 1970s when DDT, an insecticide, caused the shells of heron eggs to thin and crack before the chicks were born.

Herons have helped scientists understand how toxic chemicals accumulate in fish-eating birds because they are near the top of most food chains, nest repeatedly in the same area, and can survive significant contamination longer than many bird species. When they abandon an area or their numbers drop, something has gone terribly wrong.

Great Blue Herons, along with many other bird species, also indicate climate change. The distribution of seasonal bird ranges has shifted north, on average, with warming temperatures and shorter winters. In recent years, Great Blue Herons have been spotted more frequently in parts of the Northwest Territories of Canada where it was exceptionally rare to find them in the past.

**Threats and breeding grounds**

The greatest threat to Great Blue Herons is habitat loss. While they are resilient to many disturbances, they require secluded wetlands for breeding. New development, heavy traffic, and motorboats can disrupt their breeding behavior and startle adults away from their nests.

Herons can be found throughout the Huron River watershed. A prominent breeding area on Wildwing Lake in Kensington Metropark is a popular observation spot. Located on an island out in the lake, dozens of large, stick-based nests crowd the treetops in a communal nesting area called a rookery. Another rookery near 6-Mile Road and Whitmore Lake Road gets a lot of traffic as well. But a trip through any of the meandering floodplain meadows that line the pristine parts of the Huron River Water Trail will likely give paddlers multiple opportunities to see the worthy sigil of the Huron River up close in its natural habitat.

—Daniel A. Brown
There are many types of Green Infrastructure practices used in built environments, referred to as Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI). All types of GSI capture runoff before it enters stormdrains, store it for some time, filter out pollutants, and slowly release it to groundwater. GSI ranges from relatively small, low-cost rain gardens that capture runoff from rooftops and driveways, to integrated “Green Streets” in city centers that utilize many practices to capture and treat runoff from multiple types of impervious (non-porous) surfaces. Some practices, such as porous or permeable paving, do this work underground. GSI helps clean the water, cool it, and improve the hydrology of nearby streams.

Within the last year, HRWC completed two large GSI projects in different parts of the watershed. The first, in the Swift Run creekshed on the City of Ann Arbor’s east side and in Ann Arbor Township, consisted of multiple sites distributed throughout the creekshed. The second, focused on Norton Creek in the City of Wixom, is a downtown demonstration project that is combined with a stream restoration project.

**Swift Run grows green**

Swift Run is an urban creek that is heavily impacted by untreated stormwater runoff. HRWC data shows that developed parts of the watershed generate 17% more phosphorus, 76% more sediment, and 45% more bacteria than less-developed headwaters. Overall, the Swift Run GSI project goal was to identify property owners in key locations to retrofit properties with GSI practices and measure their impact. Large GSI projects were completed at three different locations and included nine large bioinfiltration (rain garden) cells and 4,900 square feet of porous paving. In addition, seven small rain gardens were installed in right-of-way sites between residential roads and sidewalks to capture road runoff, and ten rain gardens were installed voluntarily by residents on private property. These projects were built through a unique partnership between HRWC, the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), the City of Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County’s Rain Garden Program, and local land owners including Mitchell School and the Forestbrooke Athletic Association. Altogether, the practices are projected to annually remove ½ ton of sediment, three pounds of phosphorus, and 11 pounds of nitrogen.

**Norton Creek gets some love**

Historically, the Norton creekshed in Oakland County was rural with many farms. The creek was channelized in many places to drain wetlands and expand agriculture. Over time, much of the land has been developed with the increasing population. HRWC conducted an extensive study of the creek from 2014–2016 and identified three main concerns: slow moving, low oxygen water, poor habitat conditions for wildlife, and pollution. An additional analysis modeled future flood risk throughout the Huron, with Norton Creek ranking as one of the areas at the highest risk for future flooding.

GIS, in this case, will improve water quality and reduce flood risk. HRWC partnered with the City of Wixom to identify a site that would improve the creek while providing a location for Wixom residents to learn more about Green Infrastructure and Norton Creek. Gibson Park, located in downtown Wixom, has regular visitation, making it an ideal demonstration site. Contractors built a bioswale in the park to treat runoff from Pontiac Trail. Once past the bioswale, the runoff then empties into a rain garden for further cleansing and infiltration. In addition, HRWC contractors installed some natural structures into the creek to improve habitat diversity and increase dissolved oxygen levels. In June, volunteers will plant native plants in the bioswale and rain garden. Together, the volunteer crew will seed the land next to the creek with a native seed mix, along with willow and red osier dogwood live stakes to add a buffer along the creek’s banks.

**Into the future**

HRWC will work with partners over the coming months and years to quantify the benefits of the GSI in Swift Run and Norton Creek. Monitoring and evaluation will give us a better understanding of the projects’ impact and determine if the innovative techniques can be used elsewhere.

—Anita Daley, Rebecca Esselman, and Ric Lawson
MISSION
The Huron River Watershed Council protects and restores the river for healthy and vibrant communities.

VISION
We envision a future of clean and plentiful water for people and nature where citizens and government are effective and courageous champions for the Huron River and its watershed.

CORE VALUES
We work with a collaborative and inclusive spirit to give all partners the opportunity to become stewards.
We generate science-based, trustworthy information for decision makers to ensure reliable supplies of clean water and resilient natural systems.
We passionately advocate for the health of the river and the lands around it.

HRWC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Executive Committee
Mary Bajcz
Chris Benedict (Vice Chair)
Janis Bobrin
Paul Cousins
Matthew LaFleur (Treasurer)
Dick Norton (Chair)
Diane O’Connell
Evan Pratt
Steven Wright

Board of Directors
Norm Andresen
Scott Barb
Sue Bejin
Anne Brown
Marlene Chockley
Cheryl Darnton
Bob Demyanovich
Larry Dishaw
Belinda Friis
David Glaab
Mandy Grewal
Fred Hanert
Mark Irish
Gerry Kangas
Michelle LaRose
Molly Maciejewski
Doug McClure
Kate Mehuron
Sharon Popp
Peter Schappach
Matt Stuk
Curt Wolf
Lisa Wozniak

Individuals, local businesses and more than 40 communities support HRWC’s work through voluntary membership.

Visit www.hrwc.org for detailed maps, monitoring data and creekshed status updates.
HRWC Events and Workshops

JUNE • JULY • AUGUST • 2019

HRWC Board Meeting
Thursday, July 25, 5:30pm
Contact: Jennifer at jkangas@hrwc.org

River Cleanups
August 9, 7:45 – 11am, Dexter-Huron/Delhi Metroparks
August 17, 7:30am – 12:30pm, Milford
August 21, 7:45 – 11am, Willow/Oakwoods Metroparks
Wednesday evenings, TBD, Ypsilanti
Help us collect and remove tons (literally!) of trash from the river.
Contact: Jason at jfrenzel@hrwc.org

Summer Events
Native Plant Expo, June 1
African American Festival, June 1
Ann Arbor Mayor’s Green Fair, June 14
Dexter Daze, August 9 – 10
Stop by the HRWC Booth and see what’s going on with the watershed.

Fall Events
Suds on the River, September 12
Ypsi Fall River Day, September 22
Leader & Collector Training, September 29
River Roundup, October 12
Insect ID Day, October 27
Hold the date!

Capture your appreciation for the Huron this summer by connecting and sharing it with us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram—use #huronriver to mark your posts!

EVENT DETAILS
Stay up-to-date on event details and future notifications.
www.hrwc.org/calendar

The watershed is home to a variety of birds throughout summer. Some birds live here year-round, others return to Southeast Michigan for breeding, and still others are passing through as they migrate north. Local birders thrill to the return of the Baltimore oriole with the hopes of spotting a nesting pair. Orioles eat grubs and caterpillars in the wild. Grape jelly and oranges are often used to attract orioles to feeders.

credit: J. Wolf

Make a Gift for Ages to Come

Contact Margaret Smith about your planned gift to HRWC at msmith@hrwc.org or (734) 769-5123 x 605
Connecting Land and Water Trails
Washtenaw County’s Border-To-Border Trail meets the Huron River

In February, construction began on a highly anticipated stretch of the Washtenaw County Border-to-Border (B2B) Trail from Dexter to Zeeb Road. It will feature a pair of bridges over the Huron River and connect to Dexter-Huron Metropark. It’s expected to be completed in November.

**Progress and patience**
Biking along Huron River Drive west of Zeeb road right now, the area looks a bit rough. Many large trees were felled and substantial amounts of dirt are being moved around to make the grade on some small hills accessible. This phase of trail construction is always bittersweet. Facets of the character of the road are removed to make room for something new. There are silver linings, however. The cleared areas will provide a space for new, healthy forest growth. Many previously established trails throughout Michigan demonstrate that the natural landscape is often given increased care and attention along these trail margins.

Additional sections of the B2B are in the engineering phase and are scheduled to be built in late 2019. Those sections include a trail between Dexter and Chelsea. Another section northwest from Chelsea towards Stockbridge will include a tunnel under M-52 that will create a safer connection to the Waterloo and Pinckney Recreation Areas. In some locations, like a tunnel connector from downtown Ann Arbor to the Argo Cascades, spur trails are being built to make getting to the B2B safer and easier.

**A safe out-of-doors experience**
Completion of the B2B, especially along one of the most popular stretches of the Huron River Water Trail, will benefit the entire river corridor. Extending the B2B to Ann Arbor parks along Barton and Argo Ponds will make many outdoor opportunities more accessible for people who want to enjoy the river. Dedicated bike paths and well-established bike lanes improve safety for cyclists and reduce traffic congestion while providing convenient access by bike to popular launch spots like Argo Livery. Most profoundly, connecting land and water trails builds a culture of outdoor enthusiasm that spans multiple activities and lets people more completely experience the value of our natural resources.

**A state-wide vision**
The B2B is one of several major land trail initiatives moving forward in the watershed. The B2B is a part of the larger Iron Belle Trail that will run from Iron Mountain in the Upper Peninsula to Belle Isle in Detroit. The Lake-to-Lake trail that connects Lake Michigan to Lake Huron will follow the Lakelands Trail State Park bike path through southern Livingston County, Island Lake State Recreation Area, and Kensington Metropark. Van Buren Township recently approved the route of the Iron Belle Trail past French Landing, connecting to the Downriver Metroparks and the Downriver Linked Greenways. All these trails repeatedly intersect the Huron River Water Trail in many iconic locations and will tie the region more closely together through outdoor recreation.

—Daniel A. Brown

Kayakers and cyclist on the Argo Cascades and Border-to-Border Trail in Ann Arbor. credit: D. Brown

The Border-to-Border Trail
The Iron Belle Trail
The Huron River Water Trail

—Daniel A. Brown
Lake Monitoring Expands in the ‘Shed

Volunteers capture data on 24 lakes in 2018

Last summer, under the statewide Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program (CLMP), volunteers monitored 24 lakes in the Huron River watershed (see box below for a list of lakes). Thanks to financial and marketing support from Oakland County Commissioners, fifteen new lakes located in the Huron River watershed were included in HRWC’s 2018 survey.

Productivity and eutrophication

CLMP volunteers take a variety of measurements each spring and summer designed to indicate lake productivity—the amount of plant and animal life produced within the lake. A lake naturally and gradually increases in productivity over time as plant material dies, decomposes, and releases nutrients into the water—a process called eutrophication. Most lake management strategies are concentrated around slowing down the cultural eutrophication process so the lake stays clear and free from excessive algae and plant growth.

Lake types and transparency

Most of the 24 lakes in the Huron River watershed monitored by volunteers are mesotrophic (see side bar for definitions), the dominant type of lake in Michigan as a result of the areas glacial history and land use patterns. A typical Michigan lake is a slow-flushing, deep kettle lake surrounded by houses with bright green lawns. While a deep kettle lake will tend to have naturally low nutrient levels, over-fertilization of surrounding lawns boosts them into the mesotrophic nutrient level.

Water transparency is probably the easiest of the three trophic parameters to visualize. Volunteers saw an average of 11 feet into the water column at the lakes they monitored. The clearest lake was Silver Lake in Washtenaw County, with a transparency of 17 feet, and the murkiest lake was Tull Lake in Oakland County with a transparency of 4 feet. The transparency in a eutrophic lake is often 5 feet or less, while transparency in an oligotrophic lake will be 15 feet or more.

Eutrophication is a natural process. When this process is accelerated by human activity, it is called cultural eutrophication.

As noted, most lakes in this area are mesotrophic. The exceptions are:
- Silver and Upper Straits Lakes were oligotrophic
- Tull #2 and Whitewood Lakes were eutrophic

24 Lakes Monitored in 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lake Name</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Lake Name</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Lake Name</th>
<th>County</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baseline</td>
<td>Livingston</td>
<td>Pleasant</td>
<td>Oakland</td>
<td>Portage</td>
<td>Washtenaw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brendal</td>
<td>Oakland</td>
<td>Round</td>
<td>Oakland</td>
<td>Sears</td>
<td>Oakland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cedar Island</td>
<td>Oakland</td>
<td>Sherwood</td>
<td>Washtenaw</td>
<td>Silver (Green Oak)</td>
<td>Livingston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cross</td>
<td>Oakland</td>
<td>Tamarack</td>
<td>Oakland</td>
<td>Tull #1</td>
<td>Livingston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green</td>
<td>Oakland</td>
<td>Tull #2</td>
<td>Oakland</td>
<td>Tull #2</td>
<td>Oakland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little Portage</td>
<td>Washtenaw</td>
<td>Upper Straits</td>
<td>Livingston</td>
<td>Whitewood</td>
<td>Livingston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long</td>
<td>Oakland</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mud</td>
<td>Oakland</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neva</td>
<td>Oakland</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North</td>
<td>Washtenaw</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ore</td>
<td>Livingston</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oxbow</td>
<td>Oakland</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As noted, most lakes in this area are mesotrophic. The exceptions are:
- Silver and Upper Straits Lakes were oligotrophic
- Tull #2 and Whitewood Lakes were eutrophic

Exotic Plant Watch

In addition to productivity measurements, lake volunteers are trained to identify five exotic plant species, which are a deeply problematic issue for many lakes. CLMP’s intention is that volunteers

continued on next page

LIMNOLOGY 101: Lake Productivity

Lakes are often assigned one of the following categories based on their nutrient status.

Oligotrophic: low nutrients result in low lake productivity and very clear water. This is great for swimming and boating but fish populations will be low.

Mesotrophic: moderate nutrients result in some algae growth. Swimming and boating can still be good and fish populations are larger due to a greater food supply for all parts of the food chain.

Eutrophic: high nutrient levels cause excessive plant and algae growth. When this growth decays, oxygen is taken from the water, which can potentially cause fish kills.

Hypereutrophic: like eutrophic lakes, but with even more plant and algae growth, and a greater likelihood of anoxia and fish kills.
Ensuring Safe (and Fun!) Field Outings
New efforts promote inclusivity, minimize risks

Each year, hundreds of volunteers spend thousands of hours collecting monitoring data for the Huron River, which serves as the backbone for HRWC programs and projects. Dozens of sites across four counties are surveyed, often on private property, in deep water, or into thick woods.

Throughout the last year, HRWC’s staff-run Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee collaborated with other environmental organizations to explore initiatives and protocols to ensure a safe and accommodating experience for volunteers in the field regardless of their identity and abilities (see box). For more information on HRWC’s field safety initiatives, please visit hrwc.org/field-safety.

Through input from program participants, HRWC will continue to expand this work and better understand the unique needs of community members during field outings. To provide any feedback, please contact Stewardship Coordinator Jason Frenzel at jfrenzel@hrwc.org.

—Andrea Paine

Lake Monitoring continued from previous page

find and report the plants before they spread and become nearly impossible to eradicate. Across the state, volunteers found invaders of Eurasian watermilfoil in 43% and starry stonewort in 38% of lakes surveyed.

In the Huron River watershed, fewer volunteers participated in this optional monitoring method. Seven lakes were surveyed for exotic plants. None were found in either Tull Lake. However, Cedar Island, Mud, and Round lakes all had starry stonewort; Cross Lake had curly-leaf pondweed; and Mud and Round lakes had Eurasian watermilfoil. The pictures at right highlight the significant characteristics of the three invaders of top concern. (The Huron River Report Summer 2016 issue covers aquatic hitchhikers in depth.)

The Exotic Plant Watch is perhaps the most important monitoring activity a volunteer can do to keep a lake healthy. HRWC looks forward to training new people to conduct this critical field work.

CLMP volunteering
If you are interested in learning more about the CLMP or seeing the data collected on a lake near you, visit https://micorps.net. If you have questions about becoming a CLMP volunteer within the Huron River watershed, please email psteen@hrwc.org.

—Paul Steen

Eurasian watermilfoil

starry stonewort

curly-leaf pondweed

Staying Safe in the Field

Volunteer Identification
To ensure volunteers are readily identifiable, the HRWC logo was added to waders and safety vests.

Public Outreach
HRWC developed a suite of talking points for use when discussing programs with members of the public, as well as training on how to handle confrontational interactions.

Property and Site Access
HRWC staff notify property owners, local law enforcement, and emergency dispatchers in advance of monitoring activities.

Field Training
Volunteers are trained to identify, protect against, and mitigate risks in the field including poison ivy, thunderstorms, and ticks.
You Are Invited!

Please join us to raise a glass to celebrate our home river, the Huron

Thursday, September 12
6:00-9:00pm

Enjoy locally brewed artisanal beer, gourmet fare from your favorite local chefs, chat around a campfire, paddle in a kayak, and tune into live acoustic music with fellow friends of the river.

Tickets available at HRWC.org
Proceeds support HRWC