



# Huron River Report

Published quarterly by the Huron River Watershed Council  
*Protecting the river since 1965*

Spring 2009

MiCorps pg 5  
Implementing LID pg 7  
Giving You a Better View pg 9

## “Down” by the River

Swans of the watershed

Swans of any kind are majestic looking birds, and in the Huron River watershed three different species of swans use the wetlands and open waters at various times of the year. Only two of the species are “native” to the area: the Tundra Swan and the Trumpeter Swan. Further, only two species actually nest in the watershed: the non-native Mute Swan and the Trumpeter.

### SWAN IDENTIFICATION 101

Swans are large, white birds with long necks, but telling various species apart can be tricky so here is a short lesson in swan identification. The Mute Swan is the easiest to identify and the most commonly found. The Mute Swan is the only swan with an orange bill and a black knob at the base of the bill. It often holds its neck in a curved fashion, rather than straight up and down like the two native species. The other two species have bills that are smooth and black, except that the Tundra has a yellow spot on its bill often only

observable at close range. In the summer, the Trumpeter is the only black-billed swan that remains in the watershed. If you are lucky enough to hear the call of the Trumpeter Swan in the summer, then you will know exactly which species you are hearing and seeing. This species is appropriately named!

### TUNDRA SWAN

As its name implies, the Tundra Swan prefers the northern tundra to our area for breeding, but even this well-insulated bird does not spend winters there. The Huron River watershed is a stop along its migratory path from the northern tundra to eastern coastal states of New Jersey through North Carolina. However, some Tundra Swans winter on open water at the mouth of the Huron River, on Lake



*Trumpeter swans.* photo: used with permission from the Trumpeter Swan Society, [www.trumpeterswansociety.org](http://www.trumpeterswansociety.org)

Erie. This species is rarely seen in other parts of the watershed. When they do pass through, they often travel in good-sized

*continued on page 3*

## Great Lakes Compact Approved

What it means for Michigan

In October 2008, after a decade of discussion, negotiation, drafting, and legislative deliberation, the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact has been approved by Congress and signed by the President.

The Great Lakes compact prohibits large-scale diversions of water out of the watershed. More significantly, it applies water use rules and environmental protection standards to withdrawals for use within the watershed. The compact's standards represent advances in the development of water use law in the region, including wa-

ter conservation, return flow, prevention of environmental impacts, and uniform treatment for ground and surface water withdrawals.

The federal approval comes after all eight Great Lakes states (Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and New York) ratified the compact in their respective legislatures. Under the compact and a companion agreement with the Canadian provinces of Ontario and Quebec, the world's largest freshwater resource will be protected and managed according to standards administered

primarily under the authority of individual states and provinces. Regional bodies have been established to provide oversight for the process and review certain large-scale water uses.

### WHAT IT MEANS FOR MICHIGAN

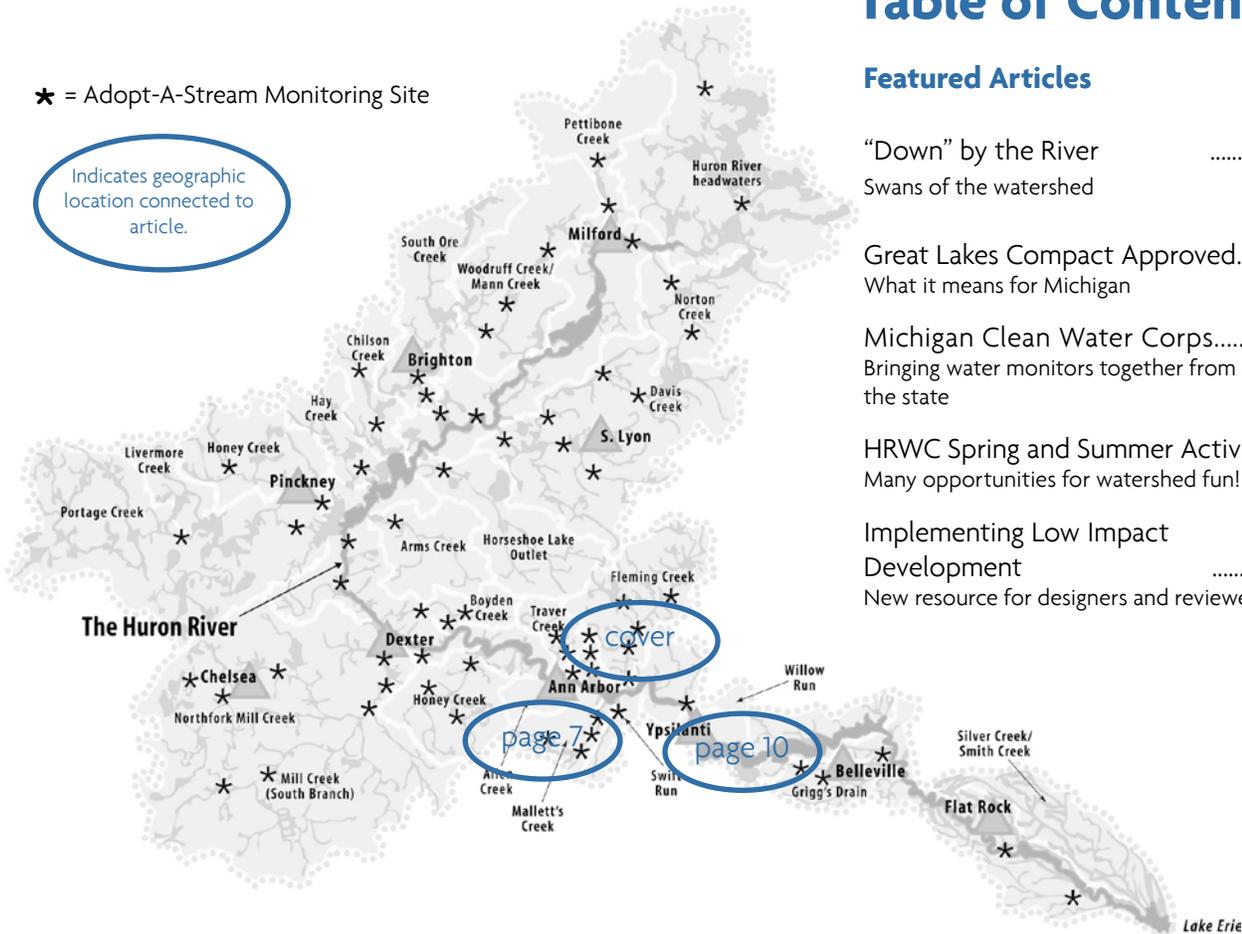
In 2006, Michigan enacted a new water management law that for the first time imposed permits and other regulatory requirements on large-scale water withdrawals. Along with approving the Great Lakes compact during the 2008 legislative

*continued on page 4*

# Table of Contents

★ = Adopt-A-Stream Monitoring Site

Indicates geographic location connected to article.



## Featured Articles

“Down” by the River Swans of the watershed .....cover

Great Lakes Compact Approved.....cover  
What it means for Michigan

Michigan Clean Water Corps.....5  
Bringing water monitors together from across the state

HRWC Spring and Summer Activities.....6  
Many opportunities for watershed fun!

Implementing Low Impact Development .....7  
New resource for designers and reviewers

New HRWC Members .....8  
Welcome NEW individual and business members

Your Legacy .....8  
A better future for all living things

Giving You a Better View .....9  
How phosphorus impacts our waterways

Know Your Board Representative.....10  
Sally Lusk, City of Ypsilanti

Laura’s “Stream” of Consciousness.....11  
A symphony for the Huron River Watershed

You Make the Difference! .....11  
Become a member of HRWC

Thank You! back cover

## Events

Friday, March 13, 4:30 PM – 6:30 PM  
**Millers Creek Film Festival**  
Michigan Theater, Ann Arbor – FREE  
Contact: jmartin@hrwc.org

Saturday, April 4, 12 PM – 5 PM  
**Adopt-A-Stream Leadership Training**  
NEW Center, Ann Arbor  
Contact: jmartin@hrwc.org

Saturday, April 25, 9 AM – 3:30 PM or 10:30 AM – 5 PM  
**Adopt-A-Stream River Round Up**  
Sign up by April 7  
Contact: jmartin@hrwc.org

Thursday, April 30 5:30 PM – 7 PM  
**HRWC Annual Meeting**  
Location: Matthaei Botanical Gardens, Dixboro Rd., Ann Arbor  
Contact: lrubin@hrwc.org

Saturday, May 2, 10 AM – 4 PM  
**Bioreserve Field Assessment Training**  
Matthaei Botanical Gardens  
Contact: kolsson@hrwc.org

Saturday, May 16 at 1 PM – 4 PM  
**Huron History and Geocaching**  
New Center, Ann Arbor  
Contact: msmith@hrwc.org

Sunday, May 17, 12 PM – 3 PM or 2 PM – 5 PM  
**Adopt-A-Stream ID Day**  
NEW Center, Ann Arbor  
Contact: jmartin@hrwc.org

Sunday May 31, 7 AM – 12 PM  
**Ann Arbor Dexter Run**  
HRWC Water/Aid Station  
Contact: msmith@hrwc.org

More events and updates at:  
[www.hrwc.org](http://www.hrwc.org)

HRWC offices are located at the NEW Center  
1100 N. Main Street in Ann Arbor  
Call (734) 769-5123 or visit the HRWC website for directions

# “Down” by the River

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flocks, though an occasional straggler may linger if there is open water.

## MUTE SWAN

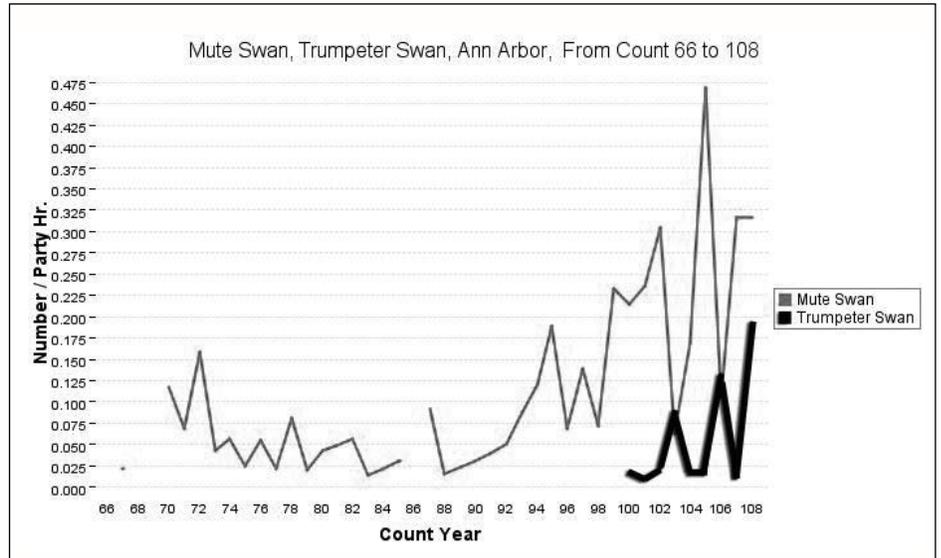
Few Ann Arbor residents may be aware that the most commonly observed swan, the Mute Swan, is an introduced, non-native species that began colonizing the Great Lakes area in the 1960s. Though these Eurasian birds were released in the northeastern U.S. in the late 1800s, biologists have only recently become attuned to the extraordinary increases in their populations. Locally, the Ann Arbor Christmas Bird Count (CBC), an annual December survey of all birds within a 7.5-mile radius circle centered in Ann Arbor, has recorded high numbers of Mute Swans in recent years (see graph).

Large numbers of this most aggressive swan may begin to generate ecological problems for the State of Michigan, which until a 2001 federal court decision, was one of the few Great Lake states that offered protection for this bird. Mute Swans aggressively maintain large territories during the breeding season, fending off other waterfowl and wetland-dependent birds. They feed year-round on submerged aquatic vegetation, limiting food for native migrant and resident waterfowl and depleting habitat for invertebrates, fish and other animals. Mute Swans also tend to feed on high-quality native plants, providing an opportunity for aquatic weeds to grow into the area.

Mute Swans prefer to nest in sites that have easy access to open water, and a mated pair often will nest in the same area year after year. The pair, which mates for life, usually stays in the nesting area throughout the year, as long as open water and plentiful food are available. They nest in sites at Gallup Park, Ford Lake and along the Huron River. In winter, large populations occur at Portage Lake and at Ford Lake as long as open water conditions remain.

## TRUMPETER SWAN

Trumpeter Swans historically bred in southeastern Michigan. However, hunting, the millinery trade, and draining of marshes led to a near extinction of the species.



*Mute Swans and Trumpeter Swans seen on the Ann Arbor Christmas Bird Counts since 1965. The y-axis is the number of birds seen divided by the effort (party hours) made to find them, not the actual numbers of each species. Numbers of waterfowl are usually dependent on whether or not there is open water so one needs to look at the overall trend of change in numbers, not just one or two years. More information is available at [www.audubon.org](http://www.audubon.org).*

credit: Audubon Christmas Bird Count website

In the early 1930s, only 69 individuals of Trumpeters were known to exist in the northwestern United States. Efforts to expand populations have led to increases in Trumpeter Swan numbers with the largest populations being on the west coast. All birds that are found east of the Rockies are a part of restoration projects that have taken place since the 1960s.

Efforts in southwestern Michigan and at the Seney National Wildlife Refuge (in the Upper Peninsula) have brought the Trumpeter Swan populations in Michigan to at least 200 individuals today. The only reintroduction effort that took place in southeastern Michigan occurred in Ann Arbor. Pinioned Trumpeter Swan parents first nested successfully in 1994 at Geddes Lakes townhouses near Gallup Park. While the original parents were removed from the site, at least one of the young, along with a mate from introduced Ohio populations, continued to nest there through 2002.

Other successful nesting pairs have been observed in Lodi Township (2007, 2008) at the southeast corner of the intersection of Scio Church and Parker Roads, and in Bridgewater Township. This past winter (2008/2009), adult Trumpeter Swans with young of the year (identifiable by their gray feathers) were seen on open water on the Huron River at Gallup Park, Barton

Pond, the Arboretum, and in Little Lake, all part of the Huron River Watershed. These swans may or may not be locally nesting birds, but they likely will return to these open water sites along the Huron River every winter as long as they can find food.

## BATTLING FOR PRIME REAL ESTATE

Gallup Park patrons can see (and often hear) the Trumpeters most frequently during the winter and early spring. Unfortunately, every spring the Mute Swans have discouraged the Trumpeters from nesting in the Gallup/South Pond area with aggressive territorial behavior, even though the Trumpeters are much larger birds. As a result of these territorial assertions, the Mute Swans have tended to nest along the Huron River while the Trumpeter Swans have nested in ponds or marshes with ponds. It will be interesting to see how the local populations of the two swan species interact over the years. If you observe any nesting pairs of Trumpeter Swans, please report them to [ddarm@umich.edu](mailto:ddarm@umich.edu) or to the Washtenaw Audubon Society at [washtenawaudubon.org](http://washtenawaudubon.org) or (734) 994-3569.

— Dea Armstrong

*Deaver D. Armstrong is the City of Ann Arbor Ornithologist, tracking wild bird populations throughout the area.*

# Great Lakes Compact Approved

continued from cover

session, Michigan strengthened its water withdrawal statutes by expanding its permit system and creating an assessment process to determine whether a proposed withdrawal may cause an adverse impact on river systems (See 2008 Public Act 179-190).

## KEY PROVISIONS OF THE MICHIGAN LAW INCLUDE:

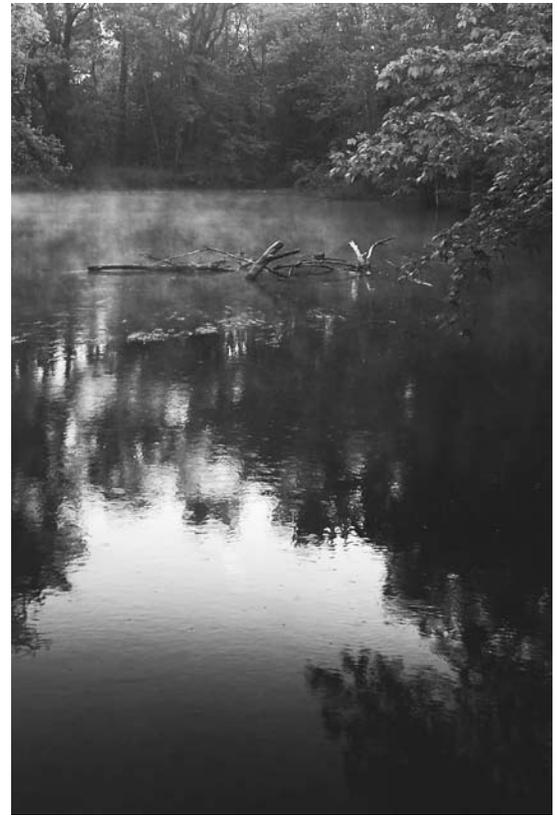
- Requires permits for all new or increased withdrawals over 2 million gallons per day (gpd) from any source, and withdrawals over 1 million gpd in sensitive areas.
- Permits these withdrawals only if they meet the compact standard and do not violate public or private rights and limitations imposed by Michigan water law or other Michigan common law duties.
- Permanently sets aside and protects between 75% and 95% of summer low flows in all Michigan rivers and streams to preserve aquatic health.
- Ensures adequate public participation by providing public notification of any water withdrawal application and a public comment period of at least 45 days for proposed withdrawals.
- Continues stronger regulatory protections for bottled water withdrawals and lowers the threshold for permits for bottled water withdrawals to 200,000 gpd.

The most significant advancement of the 2008 statute is the development of a water withdrawal assessment process that determines the impact of a specific withdrawal on river systems by calculating the effect of the stream flow reduction on fish populations. Fish population statistics serve as an indicator of overall aquatic health. The assessment process helps the state and other users ascertain whether a new or increased “large quantity withdrawal” (withdrawals of over 100,000 gpd averaged over a 30-day period) from streams, rivers, or groundwater should be prohibited because it causes an adverse resource impact.

For each type of affected stream or river, withdrawals are divided into four impact zones (Zones A through D). Withdrawals in Zone D have such severe effects on the density or abundance of fish populations that they are likely to cause a prohibited impact. Conversely, withdrawals in Zones A and B are afforded the presumption that they are not likely to cause a prohibited impact. The assessment process was developed by the Michigan Groundwater Conservation Advisory Council (Advisory Council) pursuant to the 2006 legislation.

While a permit is only required for withdrawals over 2 million gpd, by July 2009 all new proposed “large quantity withdrawals” (with exceptions for residential properties) from streams, rivers, or groundwater must use this new assessment model (it will be publicly available on the MDEQ website) to determine the impact zone of the withdrawal ([www.miwwat.org](http://www.miwwat.org)). Once the water user enters data on the withdrawal – such as the capacity of the equipment, the location of the withdrawal, and the amount and rate of water to be withdrawn – the tool provides an immediate determination.

For most withdrawals initially determined to be in impact Zones A and B, the water user may proceed immediately after registering the water withdrawal with the MDEQ. However, withdrawals initially determined to be in Zones C and D must undergo a site-specific review by the MDEQ. This second level of assessment, to be completed within ten working days, allows the MDEQ to consider additional information (such as return flow) that might alter the outcome of the model. Depending on the size of the withdrawal and the final determination of the impact Zone, the water user may be required to obtain a permit even if the withdrawal is under 2 million gpd.



*What we are protecting.* photo: J. Oleksinski

## ADVISORY COUNCIL EXPANDED

The Advisory Council has been expanded and renamed the Water Resources Conservation Advisory Council. It will oversee implementation of the new law and the effectiveness of the water withdrawal assessment tool. The Advisory Council will also develop criteria for what would be considered an adverse resource impact to a surface water system, such as a lake, pond or wetland area. The Council will report to the standing natural resources committees in the legislature.

—Laura Rubin

*Sections of this article were used with permission from Noah Hall, Wayne State University Law School, Sara Gosman, National Wildlife Federation, and James Clift, Michigan Environmental Council.*

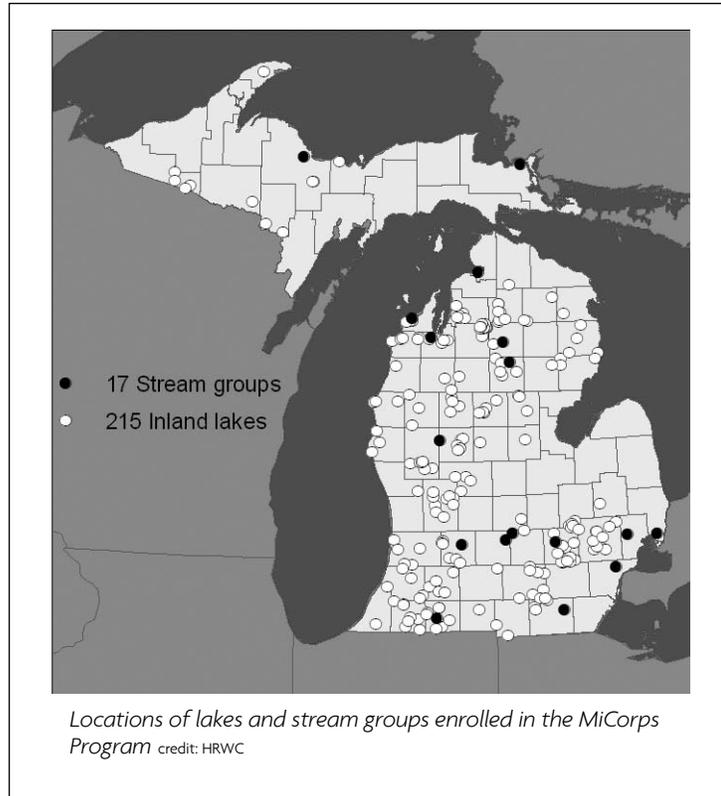
# Michigan Clean Water Corps

Bringing water monitors together from across the state

HRWC has long been a national leader in volunteer monitoring programs. Its Adopt-A-Stream program has deployed thousands of volunteers to study the Huron and its tributaries. Since 2004, HRWC has been extending this expertise statewide. In partnership with the Great Lakes Commission, HRWC was awarded a contract to lead and administer a statewide volunteer water monitoring program, called the Michigan Clean Water Corps (MiCorps, pronounced “my-core”). Funding for MiCorps comes from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ).

In MiCorps, HRWC staff work with watershed and other non-profit groups around Michigan to establish volunteer monitoring programs similar to the Adopt-A-Stream program. Over the past four years, HRWC has trained 17 non-profit organizations in the methods used to sample aquatic macroinvertebrates and assess stream habitat. These groups include the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council, the Friends of the St. Clair River, and the River Raisin Watershed Council, among others. Each of these organizations has received a two-year grant from the MDEQ to establish or significantly expand their program. They have received group and individual training from HRWC, and each organization submits progress reports and detailed quality assurance plans to ensure that the data they collect is gathered with acceptable, scientifically sound methods. The quality assurance plans are a requirement of the MDEQ, as the state agency needs reliable data from the MiCorps program for their management strategies.

As part of MiCorps, HRWC also partners with the Michigan Lake and Stream Associations (MLSA) and MDEQ in leading the Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program, a program in which volunteers take weekly summer measurements of the nutrient status of their lakes. In the summer of 2008, 215 lake associations and individuals measured lake parameters such as water clarity, chlorophyll, phosphorus, dissolved oxygen, and temperature. Participat-



ing lakes located within the Huron River watershed include Big Portage, Strawberry, Base Line, Hawk, and Long.

hosts an annual conference at which water experts and volunteers from around the state gather to share their experiences.



HRWC and the Great Lakes Commission have developed a website for the MiCorps program at [www.micorps.net](http://www.micorps.net). This website contains useful resources for the groups involved in the program, as well as anyone else interested in volunteer monitoring. As a part of this website, MiCorps staff developed a data exchange platform so that monitoring groups can enter and share data. This database is a reliable, ever-growing wealth of information on the streams and lakes of Michigan. MiCorps also produces a semi-annual newsletter that summarizes program accomplishments and highlights member groups, and

Both the MDEQ and member groups use the data collected in the MiCorps program to manage the state's lake and stream resources more wisely. Just as important, though, is that programs of this type invite people of all ages and walks of life to become stewards of the environment. When people get out on a boat to pull out water samples or don waders to collect macroinvertebrates, they experience the river system firsthand and begin to understand the importance of keeping it healthy and safe.

— Paul Steen

# HRWC Spring and Summer Volunteer Activities

Many opportunities for watershed fun!

Looking for volunteer opportunities that get you out and about in the watershed? HRWC events are a great way to see old friends, meet new people, and learn more about your local environment.

## Friday, March 13 at 4:30 PM - Millers

**Creek Film Festival:** Come to the Michigan Theater (603 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor) and bring a batch of homemade cookies to share. Help prepare the lobby before the festival, hand out programs, or clean up at about 6 PM. Contact Joan at (734) 769-5123 x11 or [jmartin@hrwc.org](mailto:jmartin@hrwc.org).

**Saturday, April 18 - Middle Huron Tributary Monitoring Training:** Curious about water quality? Want to learn how to chase thunderstorms and witness their impact? Come find out how you can help collect water quality and flow data to help track the condition of creeks in the middle part of the watershed. No experience necessary. Volunteers will learn how to use various kinds of scientific monitoring equipment and will help collect samples twice per month from May through September. Contact Debi ([dweiker@hrwc.org](mailto:dweiker@hrwc.org)) or Ric ([rlawson@hrwc.org](mailto:rlawson@hrwc.org), (734) 769-5123 x13).

## Saturday, April 25 - River Round Up:

Teams look for aquatic macroinvertebrates (bugs) that are sensitive to environmental conditions and indicate the health of the river and its streams. Register with [jmartin@hrwc.org](mailto:jmartin@hrwc.org) before April 14th to be placed on a team.

## Saturday, May 2, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM - Bioreserve Field Assessment Training – Field Season II:

Learn how to conduct field assessments and sign up for assessments that take place May through September 2009. The training session is at Matthaei Botanical Gardens in Ann Arbor and will be followed by a field trip to practice doing assessments at the Botanical Gardens' beautiful natural areas. Contact Kris at (734) 769-5123 x16 or [kolsson@hrwc.org](mailto:kolsson@hrwc.org) if you are interested. **Those with plant identification knowledge or familiarity with wildflowers, grasses, and trees would be especially helpful.** Let's continue the success of the last field season, in which more than 25 volunteers performed over 90 field assessments through woods, swamps, and fields on more than 40 different properties throughout the watershed. For more information, see [www.hrwc.org/text/bioreserve.htm](http://www.hrwc.org/text/bioreserve.htm).



An intrepid team searches for indicator bugs in stream samples during a recent River RoundUp. photo: HRWC

There are **NEW** volunteer opportunities with HRWC. If you are interested in planning or volunteering for special events like Suds on the River, Baseline Lake Swim with Liz Elling, Annual Meeting, Dexter Ann Arbor Run aid station, Huron River Day, or to join a new membership committee that is forming now, please contact Margaret at [msmith@hrwc.org](mailto:msmith@hrwc.org) or at (734) 769-5123 x19.

—Margaret Smith, Kris Olsson and Joan Martin



video still: D. Nienhuis

## MILLERS CREEK FILM FESTIVAL Friday, March 13, 2009, 4:30 – 6 PM

Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor  
Join us at the 4th annual festival of locally produced, short and entertaining films about our fresh water. Film topics include locations throughout the 900-square-mile watershed, not just in the Festival's name-sake creek.

This **FREE EVENT** is a great way to end the week! Following the screening and awards, the filmmakers join the audience for a reception featuring homemade cookies in the grand lobby. We hope to see you there!

## More Fun Activities in the Watershed...

### HURON RIVER HISTORY AND GEOCACHING WORKSHOP

**Saturday, May 16, 2009 at 1:00 PM**  
**River History and Geocaching Workshop**  
NEW Center, 1100 N. Main St., Ann Arbor  
South Conference Room  
*Huron River History with Grace Shackman;*  
*How to Geocache with Bob Hospadaruk,*  
*Michigan Geocaching Organization*  
**RSVP** to Margaret Smith, [msmith@hrwc.org](mailto:msmith@hrwc.org) or (734) 769-5123 x19

Geocaching is a high-tech treasure hunting game played throughout the world by adventure seekers equipped with GPS devices. The idea is to locate hidden containers, called geocaches, outdoors and then share your experiences online. Geocaching

is enjoyed by people from all age groups and encourages a strong sense of community and support for the environment.

Get the history and how-to information with us at this workshop, then take the summer to enjoy The Huron History Mystery Tour Geocache, the longest, 5-star terrain geocaching adventure ever, with 22 caches placed over 100 miles on the Huron River. Each cache contains one highly educational collectible Trading Card — collect all 22! This river adventure was the brainchild of HRWC and was made possible by Michigan Geocaching Organization.

To learn more, go to [www.huronhistorymysterytour.com](http://www.huronhistorymysterytour.com).

# Implementing Low Impact Development in Michigan

New resource for designers and reviewers

During these demanding economic times, with reduced pressure for new housing and commercial development, communities can focus on amending policy to incorporate new planning objectives. Designers can begin to think about environmental protection goals at the beginning of the development process to maximize environmental benefits by incorporating Low Impact Development (LID) into policies and plans.

LID can be implemented easily into re-development projects by using practices such as bioswales, rain gardens, and green roofs to capture 100 percent of stormwater runoff, thereby eliminating the need for costly stormwater management infrastructure.

## A PRACTICAL LID MANUAL

The Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG), working with experts from across the state and with funding and support from MDEQ, has developed the guidance manual *Low Impact Development Manual for Michigan: A Design Guide for Implementers and Reviewers*. The manual includes 500 pages of technical and policy guidance in implementing LID specific to Michigan conditions. LID focuses on using design techniques such as rain gardens, green roofs, porous pavement and others to capture, filter and infiltrate stormwater to mimic presettlement hydrology as much as possible. Local governments, engineers, developers, and builders can refer to the LID manual as a policy and design guide for new development and redevelopment projects in communities and transportation corridors.

## HOW LID PROTECTS THE ENVIRONMENT AND SAVES MONEY

Protecting water quality requires actively managing stormwater runoff throughout the state. LID is one part of managing stormwater to reduce pollution and meeting other water quality goals within communities. LID's goal is to mimic a site's pre-settlement hydrology by using design techniques that infiltrate, filter, store,

evaporate, and detain stormwater runoff close to where it originates.

The benefits of LID includes cleaner lakes and streams through ground water recharge, and decreased flooding and erosion. LID also reduces municipal infrastructure and utility and maintenance costs. The manual reports on a variety of sources that document cost advantages of LID practices compared to traditional development using conventional stormwater management techniques.

## TO OBTAIN THE LID MANUAL OR BROCHURES

The manual and a set of brochures can be downloaded from [www.semco.org](http://www.semco.org). For more information, contact SEMCOG at [infocenter@semco.org](mailto:infocenter@semco.org) or (313) 324-3362.

—Ric Lawson

*This article was adapted from a press release issued by SEMCOG and used with permission.*



*Easy Street in Southeast Ann Arbor before and after LID reconstruction. The improvements include porous shoulders and infiltration trenches. photos: J.F. New*

# New HRWC Members

Welcome NEW individual and business members and thank you for your commitment to clean water!



*Photographer Ed Rosch captured this scene one evening along the Huron River at Gallup Park in Ann Arbor.*

Aisin World Corp. of America  
James and Ashley Adox  
Lynda Asher  
Autodesk, Inc.  
Andrew Baker  
Genevieve Bantle  
David Bay and Susan Campbell  
Elizabeth and Arthur Beaudoin  
Lawrence Berlin and Jean McPhail  
Gene and Kay Berrodin  
Luther D. and Melissa M. Blackburn  
Lare Blum  
Duane J. and Ann C. Bonvallet  
Marjorie and Kenneth Boyer  
Rachel Brett Harley  
Daniel and Amy Broderick  
John Carson  
Evan K. Chambers  
Allison Clements  
Conservation Design Forum  
Aline Cotel  
Mathew Davis  
Linda Diane Feldt  
Barbara Eberbach  
Dennis and Claire Fernly  
E.M. Floyd  
John Foley  
Steven Francoeur  
Jason Frenzel  
Barbara Fuller-Ryan  
Otto and Lourdes Gago  
Martin Gold  
Jack Goodnoe  
George S. Hammond  
Carol and James Harris  
Lee W. Hartmann  
Lucia Heinold  
Benjamin Henry  
John Hicks  
Carsten Hohnke  
Johnson Controls  
Johnson Hill - Land Ethics Studio  
Kristin H. Jordan  
Deborah E. Kanter

Diana Kern and Julie Douglas  
Sherri Kessel  
Joe Krulack  
Pam Labadie and Karim Motawi  
Gregory J. Larson and Serena Ann Schwartz  
George Lavoie  
Lloyd L. and Joyce E. Lober  
Tracey Marchyok  
William C. and Sally A. Martin  
Andrea Matthies  
Carole A. McCabe  
David Mifsud  
Susan Monet  
Nawal Motawi and Glenn Dong  
National City - PCG  
Daniel Okon  
Mark B. and Susan M. Orringer  
Mark Patrick  
David J. and Renee Pinsky  
Kendra Pyle  
Raymond J. Rabadoux  
Resource Recycling Systems  
Richner & Richner  
Dean C. and Phyllis V. Russell  
Peter Schriemer  
Kenneth Sharrock  
Adam and Theresa A. Smith  
William and Louis A. Solomon  
Paul Steen  
Nell Stern  
John C. and Sharon P. Stetz  
Kimberly Suedkamp Wells  
Ian and Amy Switalski  
Thomas F. and Nancy E. Taylor  
Christopher Taylor  
Philip Tchou  
Bruce Thelen and Kathryn Flood  
Lynn Vaccaro  
Douglas Vandenberg  
Bonnie Walworth  
Susan Webster McDonald  
Teri and John Williams  
Michael Winkelman

## Your Legacy

### A BETTER FUTURE FOR ALL LIVING THINGS

You can help ensure that clean water in the Huron River is protected for generations to come. Consider a charitable bequest that designates HRWC as a beneficiary in your will, trust, retirement plan, or insurance policies. Options such as charitable remainder trusts may allow you to increase cash income during your lifetime, while providing HRWC with much-needed funding in years to come.

A charitable bequest is a gift of assets to a charity through a will or Revocable Living Trust. The bequest allows you to make a substantial contribution without reducing current income; it operates like a postdated check payable only after death. There are four different ways to specify a charitable bequest: a percentage of the estate; a dollar amount; a specific asset; or a residue of the estate following the satisfaction of other bequests.

We are hosting afternoon tea parties this spring to help you understand your options and to have an expert answer your questions. Call Margaret Smith at (734) 769-5123 x19 to sign up for an Afternoon Tea Party. Chris Kelly, Charitable Gift expert will be on hand to explain the various ways you can make a charitable bequest, and Arbor Teas will make you a perfect cup of tea for your enjoyment.

— Margaret Smith

# Giving You a Better View

How phosphorus impacts our waterways

Since 2003, University of Michigan scientists have been studying the nuisance algae conditions in Ford and Belleville Lakes. Fed by the excessive nutrients phosphorus and nitrogen, algae grow to enormous proportions within a few days, and water quality deteriorates.

The study was conducted in two parts. First, the researchers examined the reasons why nuisance algae conditions exist. Second, they performed large-scale experiments in Ford Lake to test possible long-term solutions. The results show a promising improvement in water quality and have been reported in past newsletter articles.

Residents of Ford and Belleville Lakes and the surrounding communities will receive a mailed summary of the findings in March. In the meantime, for a chronicle of the project's development, archives of the research data, and progress reports, go to [www.umich.edu/hrstudy](http://www.umich.edu/hrstudy).

— Pam Labadie

Local communities with **PHOSPHORUS ORDINANCES** that ban the use of manufactured phosphorous fertilizer on turf grass unless a soil test confirms it is needed:

- Pittsfield Township
- City of Ann Arbor
- City of Orchard Lake Village
- Commerce Township
- Hamburg Township
- West Bloomfield

## SOIL TESTING

is available through  
County MSU Extension Agents:  
Livingston (517) 546-3950  
Monroe (734) 240-3170  
Oakland (248) 858-0902  
Washtenaw (734) 997-1819  
Wayne (313) 833-3412

# it begins in your yard...



## How you fertilize your lawn impacts our fresh water.

Rainwater washes off your yard carrying pollutants like fertilizer and pesticides into our rivers and lakes directly or through the storm drains, untreated.

## Small actions make a BIG difference...

- Keep fertilizer away until early May. Wait until the ground is fully thawed to apply it. Better, a single fall application may be all you need.
- Don't guess, soil test. Find the fertilizer best suited for the condition of your soil. Most area lawns already have enough phosphorus.
- Use a broom to sweep fertilizer spills on sidewalks back onto your lawn.
- Reduce your need for fertilizer by keeping the grass blade 3 inches tall after cutting to promote healthy root growth.
- Leave a "no fertilizer" zone of 25 feet from waterways.

**Go to [www.hrwc.org](http://www.hrwc.org) for more tips.**

# Know Your Board Representative

Sally Lusk, City of Ypsilanti

Sally Lusk is one of two HRWC representatives from the City of Ypsilanti.

Sally is a professor emeritus from the University of Michigan, having served on the faculty for 34 years. She earned a bachelor's degree in nursing from Indiana University, a master's degree in public health and a Ph. D. in educational psychology from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

Sally grew up in Southwest Michigan, living on a lake that was too polluted for swimming, which may explain her broad interest in the environment and her focus on its issues. She and her husband, Jon, now live on the Huron River. She is interested in the water quality of the river and is distressed by the recent increase in weeds and algae near her home.



photo: S. Lusk

Sally and Jon have three children, scattered from Maryland to Hawaii, and three young grandchildren. In addition to staying busy and involved in clean water issues, Sally also enjoys travel, reading, assisting others with research, and raising money to fund research grants.

Residents of the City of Ypsilanti can contact Sally at (734) 484-4347 if you have questions, suggestions, comments, or wish to become involved with watershed issues.

— Eunice Burns

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# Laura's "Stream" of Consciousness

A symphony for the Huron River Watershed

Evan Chambers, a resident of the watershed and faculty member at the University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre & Dance, has composed a symphony about the Huron River watershed to honor the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra's (A2SO) 80th anniversary year, a "watershed moment" for the organization. His work, *Watershed*, draws its inspiration and its title from the Huron River watershed – all the lands and creeks that feed into and are touched by the river – and the invisible and the visible flow of water that connects our region. The river and the wide area its many arms embrace is a metaphor for the sometimes subtle but important ways in which we are all connected by the landscape, as well as by community organizations that bring us together, again and again, through time. The music of the piece flows in a single movement (much like the river itself), beginning with small pools of impressionist sound and culminating with a grand opening into the broad horizons of Lake Erie. It also seeks

to evoke the quiet magic, fragile beauty, and great power of one of this region's most important natural ecosystems.

Evan described his motivation for writing a symphony about the Huron River: *"I live near the Huron River, and often spend time kayaking the stretch nearest my house. I go down to see the water almost every day. When the Ann Arbor Symphony asked me to write a piece with a local theme, it struck me that the Huron and its tributary streams form a very real connection between us in this part of Southeast Michigan. The river literally flows through all of our veins, and even the groundwater that feeds wells for those off the city water grids is connected directly to the flow of the river. This seems like an auspicious metaphor to celebrate the anniversary of an important community arts organization, one which also works toward bringing us together and connecting us. I also wanted to bring the attention of*

WATERSHED SYMPHONY  
**ANN ARBOR SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**  
**SATURDAY APRIL 18TH, 8 PM**  
**MICHIGAN THEATER, ANN ARBOR**

Current HRWC members  
get 20% off the ticket price!  
Call 734-994-4801 for information.

*the audience to the beauty and fragility of the river system in a way that might be a bit unusual – symphony orchestra concerts are not usually dedicated to environmental issues. But rather than writing a piece of music that would be didactic and informational, my goal is to give people an aesthetic experience and resulting emotional response that might come to inform their understanding of the river and water stewardship in our region. We are currently working to include a reading by the poet Keith Taylor in the performance, using two of his recent works about the river as another way to make that experience of place more tangible."*

— Laura Rubin



## Fulfilling Goals

Leave a legacy by including the Huron River Watershed Council in your will and estate plans. Please remember HRWC and our important watershed protection and restoration programs with a generous bequest in your will or trust. Help us meet the challenges of keeping our river running clean. If you have already included HRWC in your will, please let us know so we can thank you. With your support the watershed will be enjoyed for many generations to come.

**Please contact us to discuss planned giving options.**

**Margaret Smith, Development Director.**  
**(734) 769-5123 x 19, msmith@hrwc.org**

*Every individual has a role to play.  
Every individual makes a difference.*

Your membership supports HRWC programs. Send us this membership form with your check made out to "HRWC" or join on-line at [www.hrwc.org](http://www.hrwc.org) and click on Join Now! Your contribution is tax-deductible.

### MEMBER LEVELS

- \$35 **Mayfly**
- \$50 **Crayfish**
- \$100 **Dragonfly**
- \$250 **Soft Shell Turtle**
- \$500 **Salamander**
- \$1,000 **Smallmouth Bass**
- \$2,500 **Great Blue Heron**
- \$5,000 **Mink**

*thank you!*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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The Huron River Watershed Council receives contributions via payroll deduction through EARTH SHARE of Michigan.



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OF MICHIGAN

## Thanks to Our Volunteers!

Protecting the Huron is a big job and we would be lost without the donations of time, talents, and resources from our dedicated volunteers. **We extend Special Thanks to:**

**Environmental Science students** at Lansing Community College, Howell Campus, **Eric Kennedy's class** at South Lyon High School, and **25 people** who are driving around the watershed performing roadside surveys for the Bioreserve Project.

**Lynn Vaccaro** for creating an Access database for tracking and scoring natural areas assessed for the Bioreserve Project.

**Samantha Wolf** for organizing and inputting data for the Bioreserve Project.

**Glenn Heiber, Wes Daining, Kris Kaul,** and **Beth Olson** for performing field assessments for the Bioreserve Project

The **185 people** who spent Saturday January 31<sup>st</sup> successfully searching for stoneflies at 40 sites throughout the watershed and the 9 additional people who prepared and staffed the event.

**Beverly Black** for helping staff make better presentations and helping us reach our audiences more effectively.

**Larry Short** of TEC Detroit for leading a staff development workshop.

**Jennifer Gough**, Development Intern, for her service from September to December. We wish her well in her graduate studies at the University of Michigan.

**Polina Gouskova**, Green Hills School student, for filling in on the database work for year-end donations, and giving up holiday vacation time to help us until we get a new intern.

**Cynthia Radcliffe** and **John Lofy** for careful review of the *Huron River Report* each quarter.