

Paul Dimond

Expert in conservation law;
author of children's literature;
Wolfpack* co-founder

Ray Pittman

Retired Executive Director, Ford Europe
Co-founder of the Wolfpack*

Bill Ford

Executive Chairman,
Ford Motor Company

Steve Hamp

Former Vice President and Chief of Staff,
Ford Motor Company

Dr. Thomas Buhr

Board of Directors, Anglers of the Au Sable
Editor, The RIVERWATCH



Laura Rubin

Executive Director,
Huron River Watershed Council

John Carver

Co-founder of NWF's President's Council,
Michigan LCV and the Wolfpack*

Maureen Martin

Senior Director, U of M
Foundation Relations Office

Andy Buchsbaum

Director of NWF's Great Lakes office
Co-chair, Healing Our Waters Coalition

Lisa Wozniak

Executive Director of Michigan LCV
Board of Directors, MEC

*See other side for more
about the Wolfpack

A River Runs Through It

We have the good fortune to live in splendid communities. Ann Arbor and its environs are abundant with natural amenities of breathtaking beauty—none more so than the Huron River, the jewel in nature's crown that runs through our very back yards. Yet we stand at a critical point in the life of this incredible resource. We can be indifferent, taking for granted that a healthy Huron will always be there, meandering quietly along its hundred-mile length across five counties. Or we can seize the opportunity to ensure that the Huron River is ready to enjoy for our grandchildren and beyond. Call it our river renaissance. A river runs through our communities. It's in our souls.

A Vision, a Goal, a Plan

We can't imagine Ann Arbor without a healthy, vital Huron River. Or Milford. Or Ypsilanti. Or Hamburg, etc., etc., for that matter. Cognizant of the need to act, and responding to **Congressman John Dingell's** call for the development and implementation of a substantive plan for the Huron River's future, a core group of community and business leaders recently began to formulate a strategy to realize the goal of a vibrant, robust and fully restored river—a destination for both nearby residents and vacationing tourists. Ambitious yet achievable, it has broad implications, from rural agricultural communities to urban manufacturing centers.

Fix Up! Build Up! RiverUp!

Congressman Dingell sounded the clarion call, and some great organizational minds, as well as experts in river ecology and sustainability, have risen to the occasion. People like **Laura Rubin, Ray Pittman, Paul Dimond, Dr. Thomas Buhr, Andy Buchsbaum, Steve Hamp** and **Bill Ford**. The long-term plan encompasses three broad objectives: *Fix Up!* Invest in recreation infrastructure. *Clean Up!* Improve the ecological health of the river. *Build Up!* Literally turn the face of our communities toward the river and transform the Huron River Corridor into a premier destination for people throughout Michigan. Because historically it was used primarily for transportation, industry and waste disposal, communities along the Huron literally "turned away" from it. Now it's time to do the hard work of restoring the river to its pristine beauty. We need to look *toward* this incredible asset and reestablish it as the indispensable and irreplaceable center of our community lives.

Here's How You Can Help

17th century angler Isaac Walton once wrote, "Rivers are made for wise people to contemplate and for fools to pass without consideration." Let us be wise in our stewardship of this precious resource. Please join us in the critical inaugural stages of this effort, and help carry toward fruition a project vital to us all. Initial financial support for further project planning and implementation, branding and marketing, and related events will be invaluable to a successful launch. **Call Laura Rubin at 734-769-5123 x 606** for specific details on how this all-important seed money will be spent. Or, you can email her at lrubin@HRWC.org. Then let's RiverUp!

About the Wolfpack

Founded in 2002, the Wolfpack is a pioneering, action-oriented group of conservation-minded leaders that operate together under the auspices of the National Wildlife Federation.

A partial list of current Wolfpack members includes these intrepid individuals:

*John Austin
Dan Banda
Lee Berry
Andy Buchsbaum
Thomas Buhr
Jamie Buhr
Irene Cahill
John & Patricia Carver
Greg Curtner
Martha Darling
Paul Dimond
Stephen Dobson
Del Dunbar
Frank Ettawageshik
Joe Fitzsimmons
Bill Ford
Mike Garfield
Robert Gilbert
Paul Glendon
Rusty Gowland
Mike Griffin
Steven K. Hamp
Sheila Hamp
Robert Helber, Sr.
John Hiefije
Howdy Holmes
Mark Hodesh
Tony Infante
Jeff Irwin
Jerry Jung
Riyaz Kanji
Kathi Kuehnel
Ivan LaHaie
Bob Martel
Bill Martin
Maureen Martin
Margaret Parker
Ray Pittman
Lana Pollack
Jennifer Poteat
Phil Power
John Rogers
David Rogers
Phil Roos
Nathaniel Rowe
Joe Schwarz, M.D.
Pat Shure
Dave Siglin
Mike Staebler
Jay Stielstra
Jan Turner
Nub Turner
Matt Turner
David Uhlmann
Tim Wadhams
Bruce Wallace
Steven Wild
Tom Wojwode
Lisa Wozniak*

Getting Our Feet Wet

RiverUp! will not happen overnight. We have no illusions about the breadth and scope of this endeavor. However, a journey of a thousand miles always begins with the first step. As described above, our immediate funding needs pertain to preliminary work over the next several months that will help leverage further funding from other sources, as well as ensure a greater level of success for this initiative in the long-term. But what does the long-term vision for a Huron River renaissance look like? It centers around the three broad objectives mentioned earlier. Here they are in greater detail:

Fix Up! Invest in Recreation

Canoeing, kayaking, rowing, biking, walking, swimming and fishing are just a few of the pursuits people enjoy along the Huron. Much can be done to increase access to the riverfront for passive use and improve its accesses and passages for canoers and kayakers. City, county and metropolitan agencies have developed extensive park systems that provide access and venues for these activities and plans are in the works for more, such as additional greenways to provide trails for walkers and bicyclists. The RiverUp! approach—from Milford through Ypsilanti down to below Flat Rock—will augment these projects and add complementary ones. We will improve recreational access to the river; add interpretive, way-finding, and historical signage; and create linkages from city to village along the way.

Clean Up! Improve the Ecological Health of the Huron

All our hopes and aspirations for the Huron River depend on the its ecological health. That means cleaning up historically contaminated areas—pollution hotspots, if you will—and restoring more natural shorelines and river flows. Remediating legacy pollution sites will require public-private partnerships and creative funding mechanisms. A return to natural shorelines and river flows results from better human management of the dams, removal of some dams, and clearing away impediments to free-flowing water. A more natural flow to the river along its hundred-mile length improves viewsheds, waterfront parks, wildlife corridors and, ultimately, human interaction with the river itself.

Build Up! Turn the Face of our Communities toward the Riverfront

In order to transform the Huron River corridor into a destination location for people beyond our immediate area, communities along the river need to face toward the riverfront and not away from it. It's imperative that public and private institutions literally face the Huron and make it an essential part of community experience. One way of achieving this is to develop the Huron River corridor into a 100-mile "water trail" for people to canoe, kayak, fish, bicycle, or walk along. Imagine spending several days staying at B and Bs, eating at waterfront restaurants, visiting local museums and attending music festivals or art fairs. When combined with a robust higher education environment, including a world-class university, the rich talent pool it attracts could be a powerful stimulus to our regional economy. It pays to **RiverUp!**