

# Watershed

## REPORTER

PARTNERING TO PROTECT OUR NATURAL RESOURCES

NOVEMBER 2012

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY, CLEAN WATER ACT!

**REBECCA FEDEWA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**



Rebecca Fedewa

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the Clean Water Act. I'd like to take a moment to celebrate this monumental legislation that helps us protect, preserve, and improve our Flint River.

On June 29th, 1969, the Cuyahoga River infamously caught on fire (for the 13th time, according to Cleveland Plain Dealer) due to the pollutants dumped daily into the river. Many credit this incident as the beginning of our modern clean water regulations. Building on the public's awareness of our distressed waterways, an August 1969 Time magazine article covered the issue, at one point describing how "each day...1.5 billion gallons of inadequately treated wastes such as human sewage and pollution from steel, paper, and automobile plants," are discharged into our waters. The magazine went on to say, "Lake Erie was in danger of dying by suffocation."

Those are dire words, indeed. A problem of this scale could lead some to feel that the situation was beyond repair or perhaps

too costly to implement a solution. Yet our leaders at the time took the bold action to establish the Environmental Protection Agency in 1970, the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement in 1972, and the all-important Clean Water Act, passed on October 18th, 1972.

Have there been missteps along the way? No doubt. But what hasn't happened is more telling. Lake Erie, for instance, has not suffocated. The Cuyahoga River has not caught on fire again, and rather is considered a recovery success story with 40 different fish species in the river, including steelhead trout, northern pike and other clean-water fish. Locally, the Flint River is getting healthier every day and the industry that at one time was the largest polluter is now a leader in environmental stewardship.

The Clean Water Act hasn't fixed all the problems of our vital waterways, but it has resulted in improvements one may not have dreamt possible back in 1969. Clean, drinkable, fishable, swimmable water is our human right. This also makes it our responsibility to ensure that this right is available now and long into the future. Join us as we celebrate the next 40 years of clean water for everyone!



**THEN**  
CUYUHOGA RIVER ON FIRE



**NOW**



400 N. Saginaw St. Ste 233  
Flint, MI 48502  
810-767-6490

[www.FlintRiver.org](http://www.FlintRiver.org)

The Watershed Reporter is published quarterly by the Flint River Watershed Coalition. The Coalition is dedicated to promoting the importance of protecting our natural resources. It works closely with the public and private agencies and citizens' groups in carrying out its mission.

## **FRWC Board of Directors**

### **Board Chariman**

Brent Nickola

### **Executive Director**

Rebecca Fedewa

### **Board of Directors**

Jim Ananich  
Darren Bagley  
Irene Bashore  
Linda Berker  
Derek Bradshaw  
David Churchill  
Duane Elling  
Steve Hester  
Brad Hill  
S. Olof Karlstrom  
Andy Leavitt  
Robert McAllister  
Amy McMillan  
Jack Minore  
Greg Palinsky  
Diane Peplinski  
Carol VanBuren

FRWC Board Meetings are held  
the third Friday of the month.

Printed locally at a Union Shop on  
Recycled Paper with 40% Post-Consumer  
Waste. Please Recycle!



*Newsletter design & layout by Jon Wood*

## **10 QUESTIONS WITH... HOLLY ROSSER, GREEN COORDINATOR**



*Holly Rosser*

### **1. Why do you work for the FRWC?**

I work with the Flint River Watershed Coalition for many reasons. I love being able to work with an organization that advocates for something that cannot speak for itself, and I love working with schools, teachers, and mentors that educate our young people on how important it is to "protect and preserve" the watershed for future generations.

### **2. What FRWC programs do you participate in?**

I work mainly with the GREEN (Global Rivers Environmental Education Network) program. This past summer and fall I worked on the Storm Drain Stenciling project. Both programs are a lot of fun!

### **3. When did you first get involved in the FRWC?**

February 15th, 2012!

### **4. What's your favorite part of the watershed?**

I love the part of the Flint River that runs through downtown Flint. It is nice to have a great piece of nature running through the middle of a city. It is very grounding and calming.

### **5. What is the most interesting thing you have seen in the watershed (wildlife, garbage, someone doing something unexpected, etc.)**

I took a boat ride around Mott Lake one morning, and was amazed at the number of birds and other wildlife that have chosen to call the lake and its shoreline home

### **6. What's your favorite river (any river) memory?**

I remember taking walks near the river when I was a young student at Alpha Montessori school in Flint, and being fascinated with how big the Flint River was and how giant the carp were.

### **7. What worries you most about the watershed?**

The perception that the Flint River itself is too far gone to help. That not enough people know that its health has, and continues to, vastly improve. Also, that not enough people know how beautiful and fun the river and its shoreline can be for kayaking, fishing, biking, etc.

### **8. What gives you the most hope?**

The amount of people that ask about the watershed, how can they help, and the amount of people that participate, volunteer and support the many activities that benefit the Flint River and the entire watershed.

### **9. If you could change one thing to help improve the watershed, what would it be?**

I would change the limited view some people have on the watershed and environmental preservation as a whole. That they think it is a losing battle. That is not true. Every effort, no matter how small, makes a positive difference.

### **10. Who is your river/watershed/environmental/conservation hero?**

Truthfully, everyone that works, volunteers, and is involved with the Flint River Watershed is a hero to me. It is a job that requires continuous effort, a lot of time, and a lot of hard work.

# ON DEFINING MOMENTS...

## BRENT NICKOLA, BOARD CHAIR



Brent Nicola

I have often wondered about the relationship between the two uses of the word watershed. One of them describes a place, the other a moment in time. For those of us at the Watershed Coalition the former of the two is very common. We use it to describe the area of land that drains to our river. The second use of the word is potentially more recognizable by the general public and used to describe a change in course or a turning point. A "watershed moment."

I speculate that the relationship between these two uses is rooted in the idea of a dividing line. The ridge that separates our watershed from its adjacent one serves as dividing line. A rain drop that lands on one side of that line faces a very different future than one that lands on the other side. In a similar manner, when we think about dividing lines in the context of time, we often recall those moments when we say,

"Things just changed." I have recently heard the killing of JFK, the dropping of nuclear weapons in WWII, and the events of Sep. 11 described as "watershed moments."

Now you might be asking, "Why is Brent musing about all this?"

This past year the board and staff of the FRWC embarked on a journey to evaluate our organization and I am happy to report that this process has been very productive and rewarding. We largely owe that positive outcome to our Executive Committee. Their leadership in the process kept us on track and on time. In particular I would like to thank Darren Bagley for his leadership. His skills as a facilitator, communicator, and board member are second to none. I thank you my friend.

So what has become of this process? We have made some important decisions about how we intend to carry out our mission, operate our organization, and advocate for the health of our river. We have bonded as a board and staff to better understand each other. Finally, I believe we have identified a vision for the FRWC that will guide us for many years to come. Another way to say it is that we have discovered several of our own "watershed moments."

## GENESEE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT UPDATE

Pollution entering the Flint River is an ongoing concern in Genesee County. This pollution damages our local waterways and affects every down stream community as it travels toward Saginaw Bay, where it accumulates. Modern regulations have helped to clean up industrial wastewater and some urban pollutant sources, but now the focus has turned to agricultural runoff.

Sediment, nitrogen and phosphorus are key pollutants that often originate on agricultural land. When these elements build up in the Saginaw Bay they literally fertilize the plants in the water, especially algae. As the plants grow and die they tie up oxygen, meaning that fish and other organisms can no longer survive. Eventually this process will destroy the value of our water for recreation, fishing, hunting and even drinking.

The GCD is working to correct this problem, along with the Natural Resource

Conservation Service (NRCS) and other partners. The idea is to help farmers implement conservation practices on their land, such as cover crops and nutrient management plans. A cover crop is one of several erosion reducing practices that work by both tying up nutrients and preventing sediment from washing off the land. Nutrient management plans help producers to apply only the nutrients that their crop needs, preventing excess fertilizer from making its way into streams. These practices, among many others, combine to have an enormous impact on the health of both the water and the land here in mid-Michigan.

This endeavor is made possible by NRCS and their Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), which offers technical assistance and cost share for the application of conservation practices. With funding through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative we have provided nearly \$2.5

million to Genesee County farmers who are now employing these pollution reducing strategies. Application for EQIP is ongoing and producers are encouraged to contact their local USDA office. We will provide project updates in future newsletters, along with information on application deadlines and community meetings. Important dates can also be found in the Flint River Watershed Coalition's online publication Ripples.

For more information on NRCS programs, the watershed project or to voice your comments and concerns, please contact one of our Soil Conservation Technicians: Brian Schorr ([brian.schorr@mi.nacdnet.net](mailto:brian.schorr@mi.nacdnet.net)) and Robert Carlin ([robert.carlin@mi.nacdnet.net](mailto:robert.carlin@mi.nacdnet.net)). Reach us by phone at (810) 230-8766 extension 3. The Genesee Conservation District is located in the USDA service center at 1525 N. Elms Rd., Flint, MI 48532.



Don't miss the  
**Voice of the River**  
*Annual Gathering*  
 January 31, 2013 ~ 6:00pm

**Our 2013 Event Features  
 Mr. Rodney Stokes**



**Mr. Stokes was recently appointed by Governor Rick Snyder as special adviser for city placemaking.**

Stokes began his professional career with the DNR in 1977 and had held several leadership positions within the agency, including service as chief of the Parks and Recreation Division, legislative liaison, chief of staff, acting chief of the Law Enforcement Division and chief of the Office of Science and Policy.

[www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr)

*The FRWC is a non-profit member funded organization. We greatly value the support of all our members and sponsors.*



Partnering to Protect, Preserve,  
 and Improve the Flint River  
 Watershed.



Stonegate Banquet Centre  
 1086 N. Irish Road Davison, MI 48423

**Table sponsorship opportunities  
 are available. Contact  
 Casey Foote at  
[cfoote@flintriver.org](mailto:cfoote@flintriver.org) for more  
 information on showing your  
 business' support for a healthy  
 watershed.**

**Tickets:**

**\$35.00 through January 21<sup>st</sup>  
 \$40.00 after January 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**RSVP required**

**Tickets will also be available at the door**

Join us for an evening of dinner,  
 discussion, silent and live auctions,  
 fellowship, and celebration of YOUR  
 Flint River.

**Flint River Watershed Coalition**

400 N. Saginaw Street, Suite 233, Flint, MI 48502  
 810-767-6490 [www.FlintRiver.org](http://www.FlintRiver.org)  
 RSVP: [ewesthoff@FlintRiver.org](mailto:ewesthoff@FlintRiver.org)

# Voice of the River

## Annual Gathering

### Become a sponsor today



#### ***Pike – \$1,000 Sponsor Level***

- VIP table for 8 at the Annual Gathering
- Recognition on our display board at Annual Gathering, in the event program, and in all related press releases
- Recognition in FRWC newsletter with your company logo
- Recognition in our Annual Report
- Company will receive a Watershed Patron plaque
- Listed for one year as a sponsor on our website



#### ***Walleye - \$500 Sponsor Level***

- 4 VIP tickets to the Annual Gathering
- Recognition on our display board at the Annual Gathering, in the event program, and in all related press releases
- Recognition in FRWC newsletter with your company logo
- Recognition in our Annual Report
- Company will receive a Watershed Protector plaque



#### ***Bass-\$250 sponsor level***

- 3 VIP tickets to the Annual Gathering
- Recognition on our display board at Annual Gathering, in the event program, and in all related press releases
- Recognition in FRWC newsletter with your company logo
- Recognition in our Annual Report



#### ***Blue Gill - \$100 Sponsor Level***

- 2 tickets for Annual Gathering
- Recognition in the event program, FRWC newsletter, and Annual Report



**Flint River Watershed Coalition**  
 400 N. Saginaw Street, Suite 233, Flint, MI 48502  
 810-767-6490 [www.FlintRiver.org](http://www.FlintRiver.org)  
 RSVP: [ewesthoff@FlintRiver.org](mailto:ewesthoff@FlintRiver.org)



# FANTASTIC SUMMER OF OUR WATER PADDLES

JAIME WELCH

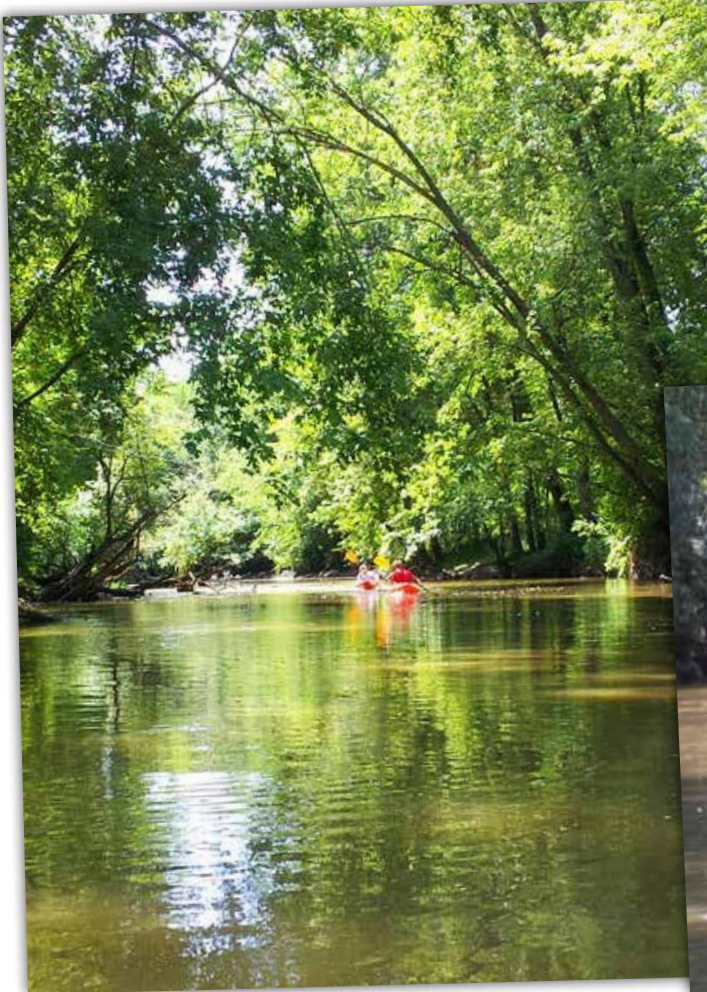
I was lucky enough to spend a good portion of my summer experiencing the fun and beauty of the Flint River through the 'Our Water' Paddles program. Our Paddles are made possible by the generous support of the Genesee County Drain Commission, and allow us to take canoe/kayaking trips down various parts of the Flint River in areas such as Lapeer, Flushing, and Flint. These paddles help us share the "real" Flint River.

This summer, low water levels gave us a challenge, but you know how we at the FRWC love a challenge! We rose to the occasion, holding 7 paddling trips this summer and fall. Our last paddle on October 24th provided participants with some gorgeous views of fall foliage and helped us celebrate the end of our Indian summer with a 70 degree day and blue skies. This summer we had paddlers from as far away as Ann Arbor and Waterford, as well as many local to the area.

I love these trips and look forward to them every year. It seems no matter how many times I have traveled down a particular stretch of the Flint River there is always something

new to see, be it a bald eagle perched in a tree or a beautiful weeping willow bending gracefully down to touch the water. I am constantly learning something new from those who travel it often, such as Terry Reechko, who has volunteered countless hours to helping with these trips and never passes up a chance to get in the river. And seeing the reactions of those new to kayaking the Flint River always gives me a great feeling, especially when they express how amazingly beautiful it really is.

Needless to say, I can't wait to get back in the water next spring! We are hoping to add even more paddles next year, increasing the opportunities for our participants to enjoy some fun on the river and to see the watershed from a whole new viewpoint. We will be starting our paddling trips up around April next year, weather permitting, so set some time aside and come float with us down the Flint River. You won't be sorry you did!





# FALL MONITORING SUCCESS

It's a wrap on another successful monitoring season! Thank you to all the volunteers – new and returning that came out once again to help with our Water Quality Monitoring program this fall. We keep saying it because it's true: We just could not do it without you and we appreciate all your hard work and dedication to this program! And special thanks to the Genesee County Drain Commission for their unwavering and generous support in helping make this program possible.

This fall season we had 17 new monitors attend our training, and a total of over 40 volunteer monitors came out and helped with water quality monitoring. The weather cooperated, and we successfully monitored almost all of our sites.

Due to the lack of rain over the summer, water levels were unusually low this season, reducing some sites to a trickle. But at other sites where the streams were normally deep, the low water actually worked in our favor, giving us access to parts of the stream that we typically have not been able to reach, resulting in some surprising finds during collecting. Monitors at a few sites collected some very sensitive and rare benthics, such as water pennies, which are the equivalent to finding the proverbial needle in the haystack.

Overall, the results were promising with only a few sites showing areas of concern. We are following up on those sites

with significant downshifts, and hope to determine the reason for the decline. But we had several sites that had increasingly higher scores over the last several seasons, which goes to show what we have been saying all along: The Flint River is thriving, and getting better all the time!

Want to join us next spring? Then mark your calendar! Our Spring Monitoring season will begin on April 27, 2013 and our lab dates will be Saturday, April 27 and Thursday, May 2. To find out more about what you can do to make a difference in your watershed, contact Jaime Welch at [jwelch@flintriver.org](mailto:jwelch@flintriver.org) or at 810-767-7140. We would love to have your help making this amazing program a continuing success!



## 3 CHEERS FOR YOUTH QUEST VOLUNTEERS!

This summer, the FRWC partnered with the Genesee Regional Chamber of Commerce Summer Youth Employment Program sponsored by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. We had two amazing young people intern with us during August and September, Shekinah Richard and Shemark Woodward, II.

Shekinah and Shemark worked with FRWC volunteer extraordinaire Terry Reechko to remove over 100 tires and other debris from the river between Mitson Landing and Flushing. They also kept Riverbank Park in downtown Flint free of trash and debris on a weekly basis, helped us on our paddles, conducted research on invasive species, and took part in our benthic monitoring program.

We're so glad to have had a chance to work with these two remarkable teens. Please join us in wishing them both all the luck in the world as they continue on in their education and as the next generation of the Voice of the Flint River.



*Shekinah Richard, Shemark Woodward, II & Terry Reechko.*

*We would also like to thank the Bridgestone Community Clean-Up program and Liberty Haulers for their assistance in disposing of the tires removed during this clean-up effort, as well as the Flint Downtown Development Agency for providing a location to temporarily store the tires until pick up could be arranged.*

# WE ARE PROUD OF OUR GRASS ROOTS

## FUNDING BY MEMBERS COUNTS

"You probably get a lot of money from the government. Right?"

NOPE. We depend on the commitment of members like you.

We hear that question frequently when we are out in the community or on the river. Many river enthusiasts who value the Flint River as a source of economic opportunity, environmental concern, or recreational activity are under the impression that the work of the FRWC is fully funded by government or grant sources. Sure, we get our share of support from these groups. But, the real foundation of our long term success is from MEMBERSHIP.

It's your membership that provides lunches to the cleanup volunteers; it's your financial commitment that enables a middle schooler to participate in the GREEN program; it's your support of our mission that provides monitoring volunteers with the tools they need to carry out their benthic tests; and lastly, it's your passion for the river that inspires you to become a high dollar contributor and join us as 'a voice of the river.'

The following is a list of the individuals, families, and businesses that have joined the Flint River Watershed Coalition or renewed their membership since the publication of our last newsletter. Welcome to new members, and welcome back to our renewing friends!

### Membership Levels of \$250.00 and Greater

Anonymous

Genesee County Parks and Recreation  
Commission (2012 River and  
Community Cleanup)

Steve Landaal, Landaal Packaging  
Systems

MLive (Designated for the 2013 River  
and Community Cleanup)

Jeff Spinney

### Membership Levels of \$100.00 to \$250.00

Linda Johnson Barnes

Michael Beattie, The Grainery

Linda Berker and Donald James

Mark Bilodeau

David Churchill

Denise Fedewa

Kathleen Gazall, Gazall Lewis &  
Associates Architects, Inc.

Amy Krug

Gerry Masters

Dr. Robert McAllister

Donald Mosher

Todd Rumball

Tracy Whelpley, The Lunch Studio

### Membership Levels up to \$100.00

Mary Bluteau

Nancy Byder

Lauri Elbing

Flushing Area Historical Society

Ester Fuchs

Keith Garmin

Steve and Rosanne Heddy

Richard Holaly

Sandra Smithey

### Foundation Recognition

**GM Foundation, 'Dollars for  
Doers' program,**

*In recognition of the volunteer  
work of Irene Bashore*

**Leo Burnett Company  
Charitable Foundation,**

*Matching gift for the  
membership payment of  
Ms. Denise Fedewa*

**CS Mott Foundation,**

*Matching gift for the  
membership payment of  
Ms. Sandra Smithey*

We want to give some special recognition to Mr. Clark Almassy. Clark has been a member for several years, and very graciously stopped into our offices in the spring and renewed his membership for a two year period. He wasn't recognized in our last newsletter, so we wanted to let him know that in spite of our oversight, we appreciate the extra steps he took to stay in our ranks.

In these tough and uncertain economic times, we recognize the hardships that everyone is experiencing. We sincerely appreciate the sacrifice of our new members by making a financial commitment to the FRWC, and the continued affirmation of support we receive from those who have renewed their membership. We would not be a successful organization without our members. Thank you very much.

We depend on our grass roots supporters, and that's the way we like it!

*We try to keep a clean mailing list for the Watershed Reporter. If you find that you are receiving two copies, please pass the extra newsletter on to a friend who may want to know more about the watershed, and call out offices to let us know. To inform us about corrections, call us at 810-767-6490, or send an email to ewesthoff@flinriver.org. Thanks!*



# STORM DRAIN STENCILING

Many volunteers, including student volunteers from Kettering University, Mott Community College, home school groups, and Whaley Children's Center came out to support the Flint River Watershed Coalition and the Genesee County Drain Commission in their effort to keep our waterways clean.

The Storm Drain Stenciling Project alerts and educates neighbors on the function of storm drains in their streets, the dangers of dumping toxins down the drains, and ways they can help reduce the level of pollutants that runoff from yards and driveways.

When it rains, the rainwater travels down the street and then drains into a storm sewer. As the rainwater travels, it picks up pollutants such as excess fertilizer, pet waste, oils, household cleaners, and trash. The water that flows into these drains does not get treated. It flows directly to a river.

To help this issue, stencils with the message "Dump No Waste, Drains To River" are painted on the streets near the storm drains. Literature is also distributed to nearby homes detailing the stenciling project and ways they can help reduce the level of pollution that empties into the storm drains.



Our volunteers stenciled nearly 134 drains in and around the city of Flint.

Many neighbors thanked the volunteers and shared their concerns about the health of our local waters. Several even came out to help clear trash and yard debris away from the drains. Mayor Dayne Walling snapped a picture of our volunteers in action and posted a message about the project on Twitter and Facebook!

Thank you to our volunteers and all those that continue the effort to keep our waters clean!

Here are some ways you can help:

- Use a low phosphorus fertilizer.
- Keep grass clippings, leaves and trash off the streets & out of the gutter.
- Properly dispose of motor oil and cleaners.
- Pick up waste after your pet.

## BE A VOICE FOR THE RIVER

*Every member can be a 'Voice for the River'. We don't have to shout: sometimes a small gentle voice can have a significant impact. Elected officials at every level have an impact on water-quality issues. When speaking with a candidate-office holder,*

*ask them where they stand on water quality issues. Suggest that they go to [flintriver.org](http://flintriver.org) for information – or join the FRWC to keep getting information. Encourage THEM to also become a voice for the river. Remind them that "every ditch and every catch basin in the watershed is a headwater of the Great Lakes." Your small voice can become, through elected officials, a MUCH louder one!*

Become a member of FRWC now!

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION - NOVEMBER 2012

name \_\_\_\_\_

organization \_\_\_\_\_

address \_\_\_\_\_

city/state/zip \_\_\_\_\_

phone (h) \_\_\_\_\_ (c) \_\_\_\_\_

email \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ student \$10

\_\_\_\_\_ individual \$25

\_\_\_\_\_ family \$40

\_\_\_\_\_ river sponsor \$100

\_\_\_\_\_ river patron \$250

\_\_\_\_\_ watershed  
protector \$500

\_\_\_\_\_ watershed  
guarantor \$1000

\_\_\_\_\_ other  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Some companies will match an employee contribution to an eligible charity or non-profit organization. Please check with your employer to obtain a matching gift form, if applicable.

Your support is sincerely appreciated. The Flint River Watershed Coalition is a not-for-profit organization with 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status. Your contribution is tax deductible.

Please make checks payable to: **Flint River Watershed Coalition or FRWC, 400 N. Saginaw Street, Suite 233 Flint MI 48502**

# SUMMER FUNDRAISERS

## HELICOPTER RIDES OVER THE WATERSHED

Even though the full day of festivities was canceled due to rain, we rescheduled our helicopter rides over the Flint River Watershed. We had an exciting day showing our River Sponsors what they are protecting and how beautiful our river is from a bird's eye view. The FRWC would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Jeff Spinney for donating the helicopter rides, Greg and Pam Palinsky for helping plan this awesome event, and Gary Nickels for volunteering

to capture the day in photographs. Through the generous donations of our participants and our valued volunteers we raised much needed funds for our programs. We received such a positive response from everyone that we plan to have this fundraiser again in 2013. With the ongoing support of our members and volunteers the FRWC can continue to protect, preserve and improve the Flint River Watershed.



## FLINT LOCAL 432

This year we held a fundraiser at the Flint local 432 raising much needed funds for our Flint River GREEN program. The Flint Local 432 hosted a wonderful evening with several talented bands that came out to support our cause. We extend a special thank you to the Local 432 for sponsoring this event, and to all the patrons who came out to support the FRWC. We had a great night of good clean fun for the future GREEN stewards of the earth!

Red Ink believes art is a force that revitalizes people and places. Promoting a spirit of creativity and inspiration, they provide space for young musicians and artists to learn and perform. Their signature program, the all-ages music venue Flint Local 432, has been in existence since 1985. For more information visit their Facebook page or at [www.flintlocal432.com](http://www.flintlocal432.com), or contact them by e-mail at [flintlocal432@gmail.com](mailto:flintlocal432@gmail.com).

# MANY THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS!



BE PART OF THE SOLUTION!  
Environmental Rubber Recycling



Get away. Right away.  
GENESEE COUNTY PARKS  
TETRA TECH



Koege's



GENESEE COUNTY  
DRAIN COMMISSIONER  
Jeff Wright: Title Sponsor of the  
2012 Flint River Watershed Coalition's  
Annual Meeting



WASTE CONNECTIONS INC  
Connect with the Future®  
810.407.4824  
Hours: Mon - Fri 8AM - 4PM  
Rick Rhein Disposal  
3000 Davis Lake Rd  
Lapeer, MI 48849  
[www.laperecubitalia.com](http://www.laperecubitalia.com)  
Rick Rhein  
Owner



Mott Community College



Habitat for Humanity  
ReStore



FLINT  
Farmers Market



COMMUNITY PROGRESS  
Today's Great Place for Tomorrow



COLDWELL BANKER  
Wade Pyles Realty Network  
On the Move in Genesee County!  
810.845.6789 or 810.629.2220



Reinvent Michigan  
Jim & Andrea Ananich



PEDALS TO PADDLES  
GENESEE COUNTY  
WATERSHED COALITION



GENESEE COUNTY  
LAND BANK



KEEP GENESEE  
COUNTY BEAUTIFUL



UAW  
Region 1-C  
Norwood Jewell, Director  
Steve Dawes, Assistant Director



MPS  
group



Cardno  
JFNew



WADE TRIM



FINANCIAL  
Federal Credit Union Plus



ROWE PROFESSIONAL  
SERVICES COMPANY



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MONTH	DATE/DAY	TIME	EVENT
<b>NOV</b>	16 / FRI	8:30am	Board of Directors Meeting
	20 / TUES	7pm	Lapeer Chapter Meeting
<b>DEC</b>	13 / THUR		FRWC Fundraiser at the Torch Bar & Grill with Guest Bartender Kathleen Gazall
	18 / TUES	7pm	Lapeer Chapter Meeting
<b>JAN</b>	15 / TUES	7pm	Lapeer Chapter Meeting
	18 / FRI	8:30am	Board of Directors Meeting
	31 / THUR		FRWC Voice of the River Annual Gathering Stonegate Banquet Center
<b>MAR</b>	28 / THUR		GREEN Teacher/Mentor Professional Development Day
<b>APR</b>	22 / MON	EARTH DAY	GREEN Water Quality Testing (week before and after)
	27 / SAT	12 - 5pm	Spring Monitoring Lab Day.
	27 / SAT	9am	Friends of the Flint River Trail Annual Clean Up
<b>MAY</b>	TBA		Flint River & Community Annual Spring Clean Up
	2 / THUR	12 - 6pm	Spring Monitoring Lab Date
	17 / FRI		GREEN Student Summit

## DON'T MISS OUT ON TIME-SENSITIVE INFORMATION!

SUBSCRIBE TO OUR WEEKLY E-NEWSLETTER, "THE RIPPLES" BY VISITING US ONLINE AND [WWW.FLINTRIVER.ORG](http://WWW.FLINTRIVER.ORG) OR CALL THE OFFICE: 810-767-6490  
ALSO, YOU CAN BECOME OUR "FAN" ON FACEBOOK BY SEARCHING 'FLINT RIVER WATERSHED COALITION'

## FRIENDS OF THE FLINT RIVER TRAIL - A GREAT SUMMER

**JACK MINORE**

As I write this at the end of the riding season I'm pleased to report on what may have been the best season in memory. We averaged about 40 riders on each of our Sunday rides, and riders represented about 35+ different zip codes. But – the most surprising statistic of all is that we had at least one new first-time rider on the trail EVERY single Sunday all season! Our original goal was to introduce riders to the trail and to promote cycling: I think we did it in grand fashion this year.

We also saw the paving of two short 'connecting' sections of the trail – at the site of the Flint Water Plant and just beyond the plant a short section that had been



left unpaved over a property question – finally resolved.

The monthly Saturday rides to other mid-Michigan trails were all successful – in spite of some bad weather threats – none of which actually materialized.

We rode every Sunday through the end of October and are scheduled to start up again the first Sunday in May of 2013 – following our annual trail clean-up on the final Saturday in April

of next year. Mark your calendars now! Saturday, April 27 is the clean-up and Sunday, May 5 the first ride.



400 N Saginaw Street Suite 233  
Flint, MI 48502

US Postage  
Paid  
Permit 694  
Flint MI

# THE PERFECT GIFT FOR ANYONE!



Looking for that special gift for the person who has it all? Consider a gift of watershed protection. We've got gifts for all budgets. For \$25 - \$100, purchase your friends or family a membership to the FRWC. Or help them become a sponsor of a GREEN classroom, starting at \$250. You can even get their name on our annual Flint River and Community Clean Up t-shirts for \$250 or more. What a fun way to show you care!

Call our office, or visit our website at [www.FlintRiver.org](http://www.FlintRiver.org) and donate online – be sure to note in the comment field that this is a gift so we can send you a certificate.