



Watershed Reporter

Partnering to protect our
natural resources

Spring 2008

Chairman's Update: **Jack Minore**

I am delighted to have been elected to chair the Board of the Flint River Watershed Coalition, and I thank the Board members for demonstrating their confidence in me. I will do my best to lead this organization for the next year.

I am in a fortunate position: I have inherited a strong organization and credit for that goes to the long-serving chair who preceded me, Olof Karlstrom. He deserves our thanks - and much credit - for his leadership over the past several years. Steve Montle, the Executive Director for the past two years also merits our thanks and appreciation for his work and his leadership. He has taken another job in the environmental area and is already making waves on policy issues in Lansing.

But not to worry. Much as they have contributed, their final efforts may be the most valuable of all. They hired an outstanding new Executive Director in the person of Rebecca Fedewa, and they and Rebecca added a new position and hired an enthusiastic person with an already established reputation as an environmental leader in the person of Sue Lossing.

I suspect that I could just sit back, chair the Board meetings, and the organization would thrive with little or no effort from me.

BUT, I have other plans. For one thing, we need to expand our membership substantially in order to ensure the long-term viability of the Watershed Coalition. If you are reading this newsletter, but are not yet a member, please consider joining officially. Your assistance is needed. And if you are already a member, can you solicit one more person to join us and help assure a strong future for the FRWC?

I also believe that we need to add more full membership activities that promote our mission of education and of recreation in and along the river. I hope that we can join with the Paddlers and the Peddlers on their activities - and that we can have at least one yearly educational presentation in the community. I envision more of our members assisting with the Lapeer river clearing, the Ortonville Creek Fest, water monitoring and other events. You're all invited! Check out the great calendar that the staff has developed, and join in!

Whether we are promoting better land use, water conservation, recreation or education; together we can make the Flint River Watershed Coalition a stronger and more effective "voice for the river".

Woofenden named Volunteer of the Year by Watershed Coalition

The Flint River Watershed Coalition hosted its Annual Meeting and Silent Auction at the Davison Country Club on January 31, 2008. With over 65 members and guests in attendance, the event provided a very enjoyable evening to all. Olof Karlstrom and Steve Montle co-hosted the ceremonies, and between the two of them, had us on our way home by 9:00!

The program began with the annual awards ceremony. Dave Woofenden won the 5th Annual 'Dr. Gary Pace Volunteer of the Year Award'. Dave was the driving force behind the finishing stages of the Lapeer Canoe Passage. He also helped form the partnership with the Lapeer Rotary Club that earned us the prestigious DNR 'Partners in Conservation' Award in 2007. Dave has taken on the lead role in mapping the entire branch of the river from Lapeer to Saginaw County for canoe access.

Lois Robbins received the 'Joe Leonardi Leadership Award'. Initiated in 2006, this award recognized Lois for organizing a citizens group of several dozen residents to work for land use changes in the southern portion of the watershed, specifically Brandon Township. Additionally, serving in a volunteer capacity, Lois is her township's Phase II stormwater coordinator, and is a key organizer for Ortonville's Creekfest Celebration.

Our own Roxy Moreno received the first 'Special Service Award' for the several years of dedicated volunteer service that she has provided to

us by editing and publishing the 'Watershed Reporter'.

After the awards, our keynote speaker was Mr. Andy Buchsbaum, Regional Executive Director of the Great Lakes Office of the National Wildlife Federation. Mr. Buchsbaum leads many important environmental projects, and spoke to our group on the critical issues facing the Great Lakes eco-system and what citizens and citizen groups can do to protect our waters from the many threats they face.

The evening concluded on a very high note with the closing of the Silent Auction. We were able to raise over \$900.00, providing funds to conduct our educational, cleanup, and recreational activities on the river. We want to thank the following individuals and businesses who donated items for the Silent Auction: Bob Carlyon, Fandangles', Flint River Watershed Coalition, Flushing Township Nature Park, Eric Hall, IMA Brookwood, S. Olof Karlstrom and Olivia Maynard, Amanda Kurzman, Steve Lehto, Marian Listwak, Sara McDonnell, Jack Minore, John Mrozik, Brent Nickola, and Gabe Zawadzki. We extend our sincere appreciation to all of our donors and to the generous individuals who bid on the wonderful items.

Please watch our fall newsletter for advance notice of our Annual Meeting and Silent Auction in January 2009. You will really be glad you set aside an evening to participate in this fun evening with the Flint River Watershed Coalition.



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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 and works closely with public and private agencies and citizens' groups in carrying out its mission.

FRWC **Board of Directors**

Board Chair
Jack Minore

Executive Director

Rebecca Fedewa

Board of Directors

Darren Bagley
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Bob Carlyon
Brad Hill
S. Olof Karlstrom
Susanne Kubic
Amanda Kurzman
Bob McAllister
Sara McDonnell
Brent Nickola
Diane Peplinski
Bill Welch
Dennis Zicha

FRWC Board meetings are the third Friday of the month, January through June, at Mott Community College in the Genesee Room of the Prahl Conference Center.

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Spool up those reels, it's time to go fishing!

Oh, and don't forget to bring a brick?

by Brent Nickola

That's right it's time to spool your reels, charge up the boat and fix those leaking waders. After a long and snowy winter we are less than a month from the opening of



Dave Ostrander, FRWC business member, holds up a 17 inch smallmouth. Location: Top Secret!

fishing season. Most of the preseason action is taking place at local bait shops where anglers are trolling for new gear. With all the excitement just around the corner, I thought I would share a few fishing

opportunities and tips. It doesn't matter if you fish for meat, or just for fun, there are plenty of species and places to go in the watershed.

Holloway Reservoir: The Holloway Reservoir is a tremendous fishing spot in the watershed. This 2000 acre reservoir is historically home to one of the finest walleye populations in the state. Try trolling the flats with planer boards at night for these tasty walleyes. Another good spot for walleye is in the "narrows" near the Mt. Morris Rd. Bridge. Everywhere else you may want to try vertical jigging in the old river channel.

Flint River Main Branch (Flint to Montrose): The Main Branch from the City of Flint to north of Montrose is one of the most diverse fisheries in the watershed. The geology of this area has made it the ideal for smallmouth bass, rock bass, walleye and northern pike. The pike fishing in the spring is usually good in the shallows. If you get out early in the season you might tie into a lingering walleye from the spring run. Smallmouth fishing heats up a bit later in the summer reaching its peak in July and August. Try some minnow baits, inline spinners and tube jigs for these bronze backs. Crayfish patterns work well later in the season. Catch and release is much the norm in this section.

Flint River Main Branch (Montrose to

Saginaw River): If you are out for the best fighting fish in the watershed this is the spot for you. You can find big carp and catfish in this part of the watershed. Try chumming for carp using corn but be ready for the hook up. Crawlers and cut bait work for the catfish. Last year we landed an 18 pound carp in this section on a five and a half foot light spinning rod. For those of you who have never experienced battling a carp that big, on a rod that small, you can duplicate it at home with these simple steps.

1. Take a spool of 3/8 nylon rope and tie it to the nearest Chevy Caprice. If you can find one with a hitch, that works best.
2. Tie the other end to a branch taken from a nearby tree or shrub.
3. Have friend put the car in drive and place a brick on gas pedal.
4. Hold on! Just like those Caprices, these fish may not be the prettiest things out there but they pack some power under the hood.

Local ponds/private ponds: One of my favorite places to fish in our watershed is a pond. These little gems produce some of the best fishing anywhere in the area. Deep cold ponds in some sections of the watershed will hold nice populations of rainbow trout. If managed well, most of the other ponds in the area will produce healthy largemouth bass and "bread plate" size pan fish. Try ultra-light tackle or fly rods. Fly fishing for the first time on a private pond is good for the ego. You will not embarrass yourself in front of a bunch of seasoned river anglers and you will easily hook some bluegills. If your casting looks anything like our former executive director Steve Montle's you will want to continue to fly-fish in private for another year of two. By the way Steve, did you ever get that hook removed?

All kidding aside, fishing season is a great time in the watershed. Anglers from all over the region spend a few bucks with our local bait shops, head out on the river and then get together and tell lies to one another. The economic benefit of fishing and the social interactions that go with it make it one of the best times you will have on the river. In the next newsletter I will talk about a few things we can all do to improve the quality of our fishery. I might even have story or two about opening day.

Tight lines and see you on the river.



by Eric M. Hall

The "Flint River Paddlers" is a new chapter of the Flint River Watershed Coalition (FRWC). We are a group of paddle sport enthusiasts from the Flint, Michigan area who share a common goal of paddling and conservation on the Flint River Watershed. We invite all ages and all paddle sport interests and abilities to join our group; canoeists and kayakers alike are welcome to join us, and both interests are present in our current membership. The group will paddle everything from kayaks, canoes, and rafts on everything from our "home river" (the Flint River) to more technical whitewater runs throughout Michigan and other parts of the country.

The group had its first weekly paddle on Sunday the 16th of March, and although it was a rather cold endeavor, we did have four members who braved the elements. With warmer weather I am sure that the number of paddlers will increase dramatically as we already have over 50 people on our group's mailing list. The weekly paddles will most likely continue to be every Sunday at 1:00 PM. All of the relevant information such as put-in location and take-out location can be found on the club's website at www.flintriverpaddlers.org on the Calendar of Events page.

As you are reading this, the Paddlers are traveling to West Virginia to

whitewater raft the Lower New River. We always have room for more, and welcome anyone who is interested to join us for our October 11th trip on the Upper Gauley River, which contains five Class V rapids, and requires prior whitewater paddling experience.

As a part of our conservation efforts, the Paddlers also will organize and lead a "Paddle Pick-Up" event both in the spring and in the fall of each year. The first "Paddle Pick-Up" will be May 10th, 2008 in conjunction with the FRWC's pick-up. We will be paddling from Mitsen Landing (south of Flushing Road and west of Ballenger Hwy) to Downtown Flushing picking up any and all trash that we find both in the river and along its banks. If you would like to help with this event, or learn more about it, we will be having a pre-planning meeting on May 1st, 2008 at Gander Mountain on Miller Road at 7:00 PM.

It is my belief that this year, the first year for the Flint River Paddlers, promises to be a very exciting one indeed. Through the generous sponsorship of the FRWC, not only will we be able to have fun paddling together and expanding the recreational user base on the Flint River Watershed, but we will also be able to work to improve the resources that we use for our sport. I sincerely look forward to seeing each of you on the river sometime soon. So get out there and get your paddles wet.

Eric M. Hall is the founder of the Flint River Paddlers.

erichall@flintriverpaddlers.org

JK4K2K8 Run benefits Watershed Coalition

On an annual basis, John Kruecher, one of the long term members of the FRWC, has organized a New Year's Eve Run on the Flint River. The event usually starts at Richfield Park, and includes a run across the suspension bridge over the river. Called the JK4K2K8 Race Group, this year's participants included 27 hardy runners and walkers, and 2 dogs. Each year the club raises money through donations, and designates a non-profit group to receive the proceeds. With John's leadership and influence, the group chose to donate the \$200 raised to the Flint River Watershed Coalition.



From the Executive Director Rebecca Fedewa

The warmer temperatures that tease us this time of year brought me for the first time since last October onto the Flint River Trail. Since moving to downtown Flint six years ago, I've become a frequent user of the trail. It started with leisurely walks with my husband and our two dogs, thinking "hey, let's see how far this goes!" We turned around just past Vietnam Veteran's park, assuming it couldn't be much further. As we became more acquainted with our new home, we began to utilize the trail more and more. And as I became more interested in and involved with issues pertaining to the river, I learned just how extensive the trail was. Fourteen miles round trip, I never thought I would see the whole thing!

Well, as they say, never say never. Last year, partly to get into shape and partly as the result of some friendly competition, I signed up to run the Detroit marathon (my best friend ran a marathon, and I suddenly felt the need to match her accomplishment). Every weekend from June to October, I got to know the trail. The first time I got past the water plant, I discovered what every Friend of the Flint River Trail already knew: how beautiful a natural amenity we had right here in downtown Flint. The day I got all the way to Bluebell Beach I knew first hand the benefits that trails offer in allowing us to traverse the city in such a safe and picturesque way. Then we ran out of trail and had to start adding on to our runs through the city streets. Comparing the peaceful trail with even the quiet streets of Flint on a Sunday morning made me aware of how lucky we are to have this amenity, and how important it is that we continue to maintain and expand our trails.

Running along the river has been a joyful experience for me. And getting back out there again after too many LONG months hiding from the cold weather on a treadmill made me realize all over again how important our work is to improve and protect the Flint River. In the past, I was simply a user of the river and its trail. In my new role as Executive Director of the Watershed Coalition, I've taken on the

See Fedewa, page 4

Private land conservation protecting our water

by Christina Nickola

The number one pollutant in our waterways today is sediment. In response to this issue agencies under the United States Department of Agriculture, Michigan's Department of Agriculture and county Conservation Districts developed Michigan's Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). CREP was created to help protect our waterways, decrease soil erosion and restore wildlife habitat on private agricultural land throughout critical watersheds in the state. The watersheds selected for CREP in Michigan include Lake Macatawa, River Raisin and the Saginaw Bay.

How does the program protect our water ways from soil erosion and sedimentation? Through a set of conservation practices developed by the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). These practices include filter strips, riparian forest buffers and wetland restorations.

Filter strips and riparian forest buffers are plantings of grasses and wildflowers, or trees and shrubs adjacent to water bodies that filter sediment and other contaminants from runoff water. These vegetative

plantings also provide food and cover for wildlife as well as acting as a travel paths for larger animals.

Wetland restorations act as a sink that traps sediment and contaminants before the water is slowly released into rivers and streams or infiltrates to replenish groundwater. These restorations provide shallow water wetlands used by migratory water foul such as ducks, geese, swans, herons and cranes. The water bodies will also support

amphibian and reptile populations while the surrounding areas are planted to grasses, trees and shrubs for upland wildlife species.

In 2000, Michigan set a goal of enrolling 80,000 acres in to CREP. To date 67,000 acres have been enrolled in the program improving our water quality and wildlife habitat. If you or someone you know has agricultural land and would be interested in improving that property for wildlife and/or water quality contact your local USDA Service Center. USDA Service Centers can be located on the web at www.mi.nrcs.usda.gov or you can contact the Flint NRCS Field office for assistance at (810) 230-8766 extension 3.



responsibility of stewardship of the Flint River, and I couldn't be more excited to be here.

We have lots of great things happening at the Watershed Coalition this year, with the addition of two new chapters, two new staff, a new strategic plan, and a new board chair. You'll hear more about all this AND our great programs in the pages that follow. And I should note that we couldn't have made it to this point without the leadership and dedication of our past board chair Olof Karlstrom and former Executive Director Steve Montle. Their contributions to the Coalition are more than we can count, and I thank them for all they have done and continue to do for our organization.

I also wanted to say thanks to everyone for the very warm welcome. I've become very familiar with Flint's portion of the Flint River, and I can't wait to experience first hand all the other gems of our watershed. In the coming months, I hope to get out and meet all of our enthusiasts who care for their favorite part of the watershed. So if I don't see you at a local chapter meeting, or at our various events this spring, maybe I'll see you on the water as I learn to use my new fishing pole or, if our new paddlers have their way, learning to kayak. And I'll see some of you on the Trail, because that same friend ran Detroit with me, and now I'm behind two marathons to one... which means it's on to Chicago in October!

Lapeer Happenings

by Dave Woolfenden

Today I went for a short trip on the river from Millville Landing to Stanley Rd. This is the section Rotary will be monitoring so I wanted to see what we have ahead of us this Spring. Only three jams that need immediate attention. The first one is just downstream from Millville and it will take a lot of work to clear. The other two aren't too bad. We'll get on it as soon as the water level drops a little more and the temperatures warm up some.

The mapping project keeps expanding

and now will include the entire City of Flint. We'll be finishing up the work to assess all the access sites along the

main stem of the River - from Lapeer, Genesee and into Saginaw County. The map will include public lands, photos, information about the FRWC, and reminders about boating etiquette and safety. The CAD class at Lapeer Ed Tech has set up a preliminary map which I have

been revising and will produce the final version once we have all the information compiled.



Millville Landing is the site that Lapeer Rotary will monitor

Get your waders on for annual river clean-up

Free food, fabulous t-shirt, and fun in the sun - sign-up today!

by Sue Kubic

Spring is in the air despite the weird weather we have been having. The days are getting longer, the birds are singing and soon we will throw off our hibernation and look to spend some time outside. On Saturday, May 10th the FRWC is having



their annual River Cleanup from 9am until 1pm at various sites along the Flint River and its tributaries. Volunteers are encouraged to come out and spend some time along the river... picking up trash. Garbage bags and gloves will be provided so all you need to bring is yourself.

Lunch and t-shirts will also be provided to all volunteers. For directions or more information you can contact the FRWC at 810-767-6490 or check online at www.FlintRiver.org.

Sites in Genesee County

Vietnam Veterans Park:
off James P. Cole Blvd between Hamiton Ave. & Robert T. Longway Blvd.

Holloway Dam Canoe Access:
Carr Road at the dam

Flushing Riverview Park:
Cherry Street, Downtown Flushing
UM-Flint Campus:
Near Harrison Street at the River
Hamilton Ave. and Robert T. Longway Blvd.

Gilkey Creek: Pierce School
Flushing Road at Mill Street

Sites in Lapeer County

Cramton Park
Hunters Creek and Saginaw Street
Home Depot
Restaurant Row
Rotary Park
East Annrook and Linear Path Extension

Defending Our Natural Treasures

by Lois Robbins

The Flint River Watershed Coalition is very excited to bring Defending our Natural Treasures (D.O.N.T) on as a chapter of the organization.

Operating out of Northern Oakland County, D.O.N.T. will bring a grassroots presence to the Watershed Coalition focused on the headwaters of the South Branch of the Flint River and the headwaters of Kearsley Creek. D.O.N.T. has an active and dedicated membership working to educate their community on the best available land development practices that will protect and preserve the area's natural resources.

We couldn't be more pleased with the addition of D.O.N.T. as a chapter of the Watershed Coalition, as their passion and commitment to the river brings a new energy to our organization and helps the Coalition build a presence in the very important and fragile headwaters of our watershed. We look forward to working together to protect, preserve, and improve the watershed.

For details on D.O.N.T activities, contact Lois Robbins lois@robbinsmail.com

Genesee GREEN

by Darren Bagley

Every spring, hundreds of middle and high school students in the Flint River Watershed scatter out to creeks to conduct testing that measures the health of the Flint River and its tributaries. This stream monitoring started in Flint Schools over 20 years ago with science teacher Gary McDaniel and has now expanded to 23 schools across the watershed. Project GREEN (Global

Rivers Environmental Education Network) is a program going on all over the country, coordinated nationally by Earthforce (www.earthforce.org). Locally, the program is sponsored by General Motors and the Genesee County Drain Commissioner's Office. In addition to provide support financially, GM and the Drain Commissioner's Office provide mentors who work with the students to help them understand the results of their sampling and discuss environmental careers.

On May 16th, from 8am to 1pm at

Mott Community College, many of the students who participated in the project will come together for a GREEN Student Summit. Students will share their findings and attend breakout sessions developed by local environmental professionals. Programs include information on how the City of Flint treats its water and wastewater, recreational



opportunities, and environmental health issues. This program is open to members of the public free of charge.

Bike rides back in season (at last) - May thru October

With Spring upon us (hopefully for more than a day or two) the Friends of the Flint River Trail (FFRT) will resume their regular rides in May. The Friends host regular rides every Sunday, May through October, leaving the Flint Farmers' Market at 2:00 PM. There are two rides: the "Family Fun Ride" is a short, slow-paced ride designed for families with young children or for those "over 39" and just getting back into riding.

The "Regular" ride goes from the Market to either Stepping Stone Falls or Bluebell Beach - a round trip of about 13 miles. It too is a family friendly ride, at a pace of about 10 miles per hour. There is no fee, no pre-registration, and no required membership: just "show up and ride." Helmets are strongly encouraged! We ride rain or shine - unless lightening is

involved. Riders are expected to be ready to go by 2:00 o'clock. We have "sweeps" who ride at the end to make sure everyone is OK and to assist with minor problems (flats, etc) en route.

In addition, beginning in June, there will be regular - but harder and faster rides leaving the market at 6:00 PM on Thursdays; and sponsored rides to various other mid-Michigan trails on the second Saturday of each month. The first of the "Saturday Rides" is set for May 10th on the Saginaw - St. Charles Trail.

To prepare for the ride season, the FFRT will host a trail clean-up on Saturday, April 26th beginning at 10:00 AM at the Viet Nam Veterans Memorial Park on the west side of the river between Longway Blvd and Hamilton Ave.

For up-to-date information, you can

visit the web-site by way of the Watershed web site: flintriver.org - going to "links" and then find the Friends of the Flint River Trail under the recreation sub-heading. OR, you can check with the



Friends of the Flint River Trail take a break on the trail.

Friends chair, Bruce Nieuwenhuis at bnbaton@gmail.com or with me at jacksonmin@aol.com or by phone at (810) 235-1490.

Calendar of Events

APRIL	MAY	JUNE
15 7:00 pm Lapeer Co. of the FRWC board meeting. FRWC/L	4 2:00 pm First ride of the year for Friends of the Flint River Trail. FFRT	2 7:00 pm D.O.N.T. Meeting - Defending Our Natural Treasures. FRWC
18 8:30 am FRWC/G board meeting.	10 10:00 am-1:00 pm Annual River Clean-Up. Help is needed. FRWC	7 8:00 am Ortonville CreekFest. Volunteers Wanted. FRWC
18/19 8:00 am Flint River Paddlers white water kayaking trip on the Upper New River in West Virginia. FRP	10 8:00 am First of the monthly Saturday rides on bike trails around mid-Michigan. FFRT	8 2:00 pm Ice Cream Ride. FFRT
19 9 am/2:30 pm Annual Earth Day and Garden Celebration. See www.earthday.mcc.edu Help is needed. FRWC	11 1:00 pm Bike repair training. FFTR	14 10:00 am Lansing River Trail (Bike). FFRT
19 8:00 am Water Quality Monitoring in Lapeer County - Help is needed. FRWC/L	11 2:00 pm Ice Cream Ride FFTR	15 2:00 pm Sloan Museum Ride. FFRT
20 1:00 pm Weekly Paddler /Flint River Paddlers. FRP	16 8:30 am-1:30 pm Genesee Green Student Summit. FRWC	17 7:00 pm Lapeer County Committee of the FRWC board of directors meeting. FRWC/L
26 9:00 am/10:00 am Training for Water Quality Monitoring. FRWC/L	16 8:30 am Flint River Watershed Coalition board of directors. FRWC	20 8:30 am Flint River Watershed Coalition board of directors meeting. FRWC
26 10:00 am/4:00 pm Water Quality Monitoring (Genesee). Help is needed. FRWC/G	17 10:00 am-2:00 pm Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day. FRWC	30 7:00 pm D.O.N.T. Meeting - Defending Our Natural Treasures. FRWC
26 10:00 am-4:00 pm Wild Lapeer Earth Day Celebration. Downtown Lapeer, see: www.wildlapeer.com for more information.-Help is needed. FRWC	18 2:00 pm "Let's Explore Downtown" ride. FFRT	
26 9:00 am Flint River Trail Clean Up/ Veteran's Park Clean-Up. FFRT	18 4:30 pm "If the River Could Talk" performance, Kearsley Park Pavilion	
27 1:00 pm Weekly Paddler /Flint River Paddlers. FRP	20 7:00 pm Lapeer County Committee of the FRWC board of directors meeting. FRWC/L	
28 7:00 pm D.O.N.T. Meeting - Defending Our Natural Treasures. FRWC		
30 12:00 pm-6:00 pm Water Quality Monitoring - Help is needed. FRWC/G		

For more information contact:

D.O.N.T. 248-969-2518, Lois Robbins
 FRP: www.flintriverpaddlers.org or Eric Hall 810-423-4774.
 FRWC: 810-767-6490
 FRWC/L: 810-676-6490 or Diane Peplinski, 810-688-3347, dianeskiMAY@yahoo.com
 FRWC/G: (Monitoring) 810-767-6490 or Dennis Zicha @ 810-953-4954
 FFRT: Jack Minore (810) 235-1490 or jacksonmin@aol.com or Bruce Nieuwenhuis at bnbaton@gmail.com

Thank you, Members!

As of the printing of this newsletter, there are 251 members of the Flint River Watershed Coalition. And Counting!



This is our highest number of members ever, and we are very proud of our growth. Membership in the Flint River Watershed Coalition continues to be a very important factor in the success of our organization.



Each watershed member is equally important to us - whether it is a student who can afford \$10.00 to show his or her commitment to the work that we do, or it is a Watershed Patron who feels

inspired to contribute \$1000.00 to help us to be a 'Voice of the River'.

During the winter and spring, we have increased our new membership significantly, and have continued to enjoy sustained support from our renewing members. We sincerely appreciate each and every membership. Please see the list of new and renewing members below, and thank them for their support when you see them on the river at our activities this spring!



New members of the Flint River Watershed Coalition

James and Susan Adams
Carol Clemons
James and Anne Cummins
Diane DeClerck
Lisa Easterwood
Flint River Valley Steelheaders
Cheryl Gault
Josh and Rebecca Gonzalez
Eric Hall
JK4K2K8 Race Group
Joseph Juno
Richard and Ann Kraft
Ken Lombard
Karen Lossing
Victor Lukasavitz

Jose Martinez
John and Ann Molliassa
Chris Morden
Eldon and Kathleen Murphy
Melanie Myjak
David and Rebecca Pettengill
Chris Poulos
Michael and Julianne Riha
Leyla Sanker
Shawn Smith and Family
Marty Spees
Lyle and Nancy Walker
Karen Wildmo
Gabriella Young

Renewing members of the Flint River Watershed Coalition

American Speedy Printing Centers
James Ashmore
William Baker
Kirk Braun
Mike Brown
Nancy Byder
Herman and Donna Caldwell
John Cliber
Community Foundation of Greater Flint
Lewis Driskell
Ryan Eashoo
Daniel Emerton
John Freeman
Keith Garman
Gregory Gibbard
Harold and Debra Golden
Steinman
Lee Gonzalez
Henry Hickman
Holloway Lake Association, Inc.
Arthur and Bess Hurand
Jack and Felicia Jackowski
Tyler Jamison
Rob Jewell

Peggy Johnson
Raymond and Kathleen Kelly
Melville Kennedy
Kettering University
Ray Lum
Robin Mallor
Anthony and Muriel Mansour
Peter and Beth McCready
Sara McDonnell
Jack Minore
John Moldovan
Stephen and Laura Montle
Brent and Christina Nickola
Walter and Edythe Peake
Jeanne Pepper and Thomas Herman
Rowe, Inc.
Paul Rozycki
Joni Scramlin
Maureen Shoemaker and family
Terry Skoglund
Wendy Ulin
Wade Trim, Inc.
Bill Welch
Carrie Wenta



Ten questions with...Sue Lossing, FRWC Outreach and Education Coordinator

1. Why are you a member of/work for /volunteer for the FRWC? Because I really care about the environment and people, and water quality is essential to both. I feel very fortunate to finally have the opportunity to be involved and help make a difference

2. What FRWC programs do you participate in? I want to be involved in them all. In the past, my time for environmental activities was limited and I tried to find avenues where I could make a difference. I have always enjoyed participating in the clean-ups and have felt grateful for the efforts of those who coordinated the efforts. Occasionally, I was able to attend a few board meetings and my input was always welcomed. I was able to help spread the word about the FRWC through many opportunities such as the MCC Environmental Club website, Sierra Club, and the Annual Earth Day & Garden Celebration.

3. When did you first get involved in the FRWC? I believe it was in 1996, when my friend Pat Lewis asked me to help her with a project for Professor Hill-Rowley. I helped her form committees, develop boards, etc. and invite others to participate in the FRWC. It is nice to see our initial efforts as students grow into such a wonderful, essential organization

that was able to survive so many transitions over the years.

4. What's your favorite part of the watershed? I should say "Water of course!", but I have to confess it is the people who care and are energetic about making a difference. Besides, I'm not too crazy about getting cold and wet-but if it will make a difference, I'm there.

5. What is the most interesting thing you have seen in the watershed (wildlife, garbage, someone doing something unexpected, etc.) At one clean-up I was pulling styrofoam -lots of styrofoam, (so much that I'd like it banned) and this one large piece actually had plants growing-the styrofoam was a layer-roots on top and plant above. It was interesting and so I found a bag and took it home to put in my garden. Unfortunately, it did not survive-I'm thinking it was not wet enough-or that my husband sabotaged it (it was not appealing to look at-very slimy).

6. What's your favorite river memory? My Dad carrying his canoe on his shoulders to the water. He would like to canoe the river and do what I would call "wheelies" by raising one end of the canoe and letting it slap down, splashing the water like a big whale.

7. What worries you most about the watershed? I wish people were more aware of its value. If they were, it would be the first step toward effective watershed practices and would help counter misconceptions people have about the river.

8. What gives you the most hope? The people that care.

9. If you could change one thing to help improve the watershed, what would it be? Involve people. Striving for diversity when doing so.

10. Who is your river/watershed/environmental/conservation hero? I admire people who are humble and try to make a difference. Those who are able to work well with others and be effective are the great leaders we do not necessarily recognize. They are hard to identify. They are my heroes because without their efforts would it have happened? Reflecting on this thought brings sadness because I really respected Robert F. Kennedy's efforts and can only imagine what if... Heroes are often identified well after the fact. Those who start the ripple either are the heroes, or enable us to be.



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