

# The Watershed Reporter

## Nurturing Our Vision

*From Executive Director Rebecca Fedewa*



There's a saying, "What once was old is new again." And if you visited our website recently, you will see a big change! As we launch this next generation of **FlintRiver.org**, it seems to me that, in many ways, the adage is a fitting description of the Flint River Watershed Coalition.

FRWC was created in 1997 with the idea of local people coming together to provide a "voice" for the watershed, of supporting and defending this wonderful, vital resource in Genesee and Lapeer counties. Over the years, that vision has become a reality. The watershed's health has improved dramatically, thanks to FRWC members who monitor and test the waterways; remove trash and minimize

pollution; and work with businesses, community leaders and homeowners to ensure safe, responsible development in the watershed.

Our members' diligence and support have also helped spark remarkable growth in recreational and educational activities throughout the watershed. Perhaps more than ever before, families are paddling, fishing, biking and learning along the waterway's many pools and streams. And FRWC has increasingly become recognized throughout the region as an authentic, reliable and committed convener, advocate and resource on all issues related to the watershed.

Today, that "old" work of FRWC is new again. We've reaffirmed our belief that

maintaining the watershed as a healthy, fun resource is the community's right, as well as its responsibility. We've renewed our pledge to provide people with the tools – such as the expanded resources of this Web site – to turn the dream of a restored watershed into reality. And we have the fresh determination and commitment to make it all happen.

Join us in that vision by becoming an FRWC member or renewing your existing membership, and by participating in FRWC programs, events and activities. Together, we'll create an even bolder voice for the watershed, one that is strong and clear, and whose message of "welcome" never grows old.

## HOLIDAY GIVING

Not sure what to get that certain someone on your holiday gift list? How about a gift membership to the FRWC? Show the people in your life that you care by helping to protect, preserve, and improve THEIR beautiful Flint River Watershed. Gift memberships can come in any denomination over \$25. We will send you or your recipient a membership certificate suitable for gift giving. As a new member to the FRWC, your loved one will begin to receive our quarterly newsletter, weekly email updates, notification of fun events in the watershed, and the knowledge that their gift is going toward direct action in their community. Gifts of \$100 or more also receive a FRWC ball cap.

Holiday gifts can be purchased via our website's "Donate Now" button at [www.flintriver.org](http://www.flintriver.org) – please indicate that this is a gift membership and provide the recipients contact info. You also can send a check to our office, or simply call or stop by.

**Happy Holidays from the FRWC board and staff!!**





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[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 with private agencies and citizens' groups in carrying out its mission.

### **FRWC Board of Directors**

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#### **Executive Director**

Rebecca Fedewa

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

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newsletter design & layout by Jon Wood

## 10 Questions With...

### Amy M. McMillan

Director: Genesee County Parks and  
 Recreation Commission



1. Why are you a member of /work for/  
 volunteer for the FRWC?

The FRWC plays an absolutely critical role in protecting, preserving, and advocating for the Flint River Watershed and the Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission is one of the largest landowners in the watershed. As the Genesee County Parks Director, I believe that our the partnership with the FRWC is a tremendous resource.

2. What FRWC programs do you  
 participate in?

We participate in a number of partnership initiatives with the FRWC, but I think the annual river clean-up is one of the most important ones.

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

Believe it or not, I was actually one of the original board members when the FRWC was created.

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

There are so many beautiful places throughout the watershed and I have a "favorite" in each park, but I think my most favorite is the part of the river just upstream of the Genesee County Parks boat launch on Stanley Road, just about where the Cummings Center is on the north bank. It's amazingly gorgeous and peaceful there.

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

A bald eagle fishing in Mott Lake, right  
 outside of my office.

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

A few years ago, we were doing some filming to create some television spots featuring Genesee County Parks visitors, so we were went to each of the areas we wanted to film and looked for park visitors who might be willing to be in the spots. There was a woman wearing the most

beautiful straw hat who was fishing on the shore of Mott Lake between Stepping Stone Falls and Bluegill Boat Launch who agreed to participate and, when we turned on the camera and asked her to tell us why she was fishing there, she said "I've been fishing here for 40 years because it soothes my soul." I just loved that she found such solace in that spot and I always think of her whenever I am there.

7. What worries you most about the  
 watershed?

I believe that worrying is not a very productive use of limited time and resources, but I do find some of the untrue, out-dated, and persistently negative perceptions about the watershed really frustrating.

8. What gives you the most hope?

I find it really hopeful that the business community is really beginning to understand that health of the watershed and the contributions that it makes to the quality of life throughout the County, including in downtown Flint, is an important economic development tool for our entire region.

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

I'd love to be able to wave a magic wand and bring into existence all of the amazing plans for reclamation of the entire Chevy-in-the-hole site.

10. What is your river/watershed/  
 environmental/conservation hero?

My river - watershed - environmental - conservation heroes are the people who love the river / watershed enough to do the "little" things that make a big difference: the people that pick up their own bait containers and the ones others leave behind when they are shore fishing, the neighborhood associations that participate in annual clean-ups, the parents who instill a sense of wonder and responsibility toward the watershed in their children.

## Looking Ahead

**Jack Minore**

I will be stepping down as the Watershed Board Chair following our January Annual meeting. It has been enormously rewarding to serve, and - of course - I intend to remain on the Board and to



*Jack Minore*

continue supporting the great work of the Flint River Watershed Coalition.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the hundreds of volunteers who have made our various programs successful in recent years: we could not be effective in the clean-ups, water quality monitoring, Flint River GREEN, and all of our outreach efforts if it were not for your support and commitment. THANK-YOU!

Our staff has been wonderful to work with - and they have done an excellent job in directing our programs. All of us owe them our thanks and appreciation for their efforts and commitment.

Thanks, also, to the many people who have supported us with their memberships and other financial contributions. Finally, I appreciate the support of my Board colleagues!

NOW, as I wind down my service as Board Chair, I want to exhort all of the Board, members, volunteers and staff to do just a little more! The Watershed's future is of critical importance and the ability to sustain our operations is threatened by the tough economy and by the many competing needs in society. Your extra hour or two; your extra contribution; your advocacy on behalf of good water and environmental practices; and, yes, your 'watchdog' efforts for your local and state office-holders is important.

THANK-YOU in advance for your continued support of the Flint River Watershed Coalition!

## Outdoor Fun: Learning About Our Water

2010 was an enjoyable year for the Our Water paddles and river walks. Whether it was walking along the river or letting the current carry you along, over 150 people had fun learning about the watershed.

River Walks began in April on the Flint River Trail. This walk provided walkers with first-hand view of urban effects on the Flint River.



*Summer fun - Paddling with your pooch!*

Many walkers later participated in the Friends of the Flint River Trail (FFRT) annual Spring trail cleanup in April. While celebrating summer, walkers learned about river diversity during the Clio Ice Cream walk. Other walks included Barber Memorial Park, Flushing River Trail, For-Mar Nature Trails, Richfield Park Walk and Potluck, and the Gilkey Creek Restoration Presentation Walks in conjunction with the Ruth Mott Foundation - Applewood Estate. We are already planning our 2011 season of River Walks, so check our website soon for dates and locations.

Paddlers of all ages joined us on the river this year, having fun while developing a first-hand connection to the river and the importance of our efforts to protect, preserve, and improve the Flint River watershed. With support from the Our Water program, the FRWC provided canoes and kayaks to many first time

participants who otherwise would not have been able to join us on the river. Parents, young kids, teenagers, single adults, and avid paddlers all enjoyed the peaceful river and nice views. Our youngest participant was a three-year-old riding along with his grandmother and brother at the Fresh Water Forever event in the Flushing Township Nature

Park.

"I had no idea the Flint

River was this nice," commented Carol Mattoon, which is something we hear frequently from our participants! Carol paddled with us on the Flint River in the Flushing to Montrose stretch. In fact, Carol had

such a good time, she joined us again for our fall paddle from Irish Road to Mott Lake, where she noted that the Flint River reminded her of the rivers up north. Check our website calendar for 2011 dates! You don't want to miss out on all the fun!



*Walking or biking the trails is a great way to enjoy the watershed!*



# THURSDAY 12/16

## Ty Stone



**7pm: The Machine Shop in Flint**

with



and

## Concilio

Ty Stone is currently on tour and opens for Kid Rock. He has generously offered to play a benefit show for the FRWC. Suggested donation of \$15 is welcome, Tickets are \$5 with all proceeds going to the FRWC. Please contact [cfoote@flintriver.org](mailto:cfoote@flintriver.org) for more information.

the machine shop  
3539 S Dort Hwy. Flint



## Fall Events

We would like to extend a special thanks to Robb & Tamra Klaty and the Fenton Winery and Brewery for hosting two marvelous events to benefit the Flint River Watershed Coalition this fall.

[The Klaty's](#) hosted a gathering in their home that brought over 50 Watershed supporters together for a casual evening of good food and conversation, and a silent auction featuring works by photographer Grace Sauve and jewelry donated by Vintage Jewelers. We welcomed 37 new members to the Watershed Coalition that night.

[The Fenton Winery and Brewery](#) played host to 74 FRWC members for a tasting of locally produced (and delicious!) wines and

beers. We again held a silent auction, this time featuring the art of Ernest Carter and additional jewelry pieces from Vintage Jewelers. Our attendees included 41 new members of the FRWC. We sincerely appreciate the hosts of these events, and are pleased to welcome all our new members to the FRWC.

[See you at our next event](#), a benefit concert performed by Ty Stone at the Machine Shop on December 16th. Check the ad on this page for details on this fun filled evening of great music!!



*Robb & Tamra Klaty*

**The FRWC extends many thanks to our newest corporate donors:**

## ICHTHUS FOUNDATION

Founded in 2001, The Ichthus Foundation was established to be a corner stone in the lives of young adults and youth encouraging drug and alcohol free lifestyles. Their passion is to offer clean entertainment to thousands of young adults throughout in Mid-Michigan and beyond.

Vintage Jewelry is located in the Macy's wing of the Genesee Valley Center or at [flintvintage.com](http://flintvintage.com). They carry a full stock of unique vintage and estate gold and silver pieces as well as casual outerwear identical to the pieces carried at such stores as Hollister or American Eagle.



## Metropoulos AMPLIFICATION

Metropoulos Amplification has developed a reputation for building some of the finest point-to-point hand-wired Marshall plexi replicas in the world. Cloning even the smallest of details, these amps do what was once thought impossible: Resurrect some of the most sought-after, hard-to-find amps in the world.

# Giving Thanks for FRWC Members

The Summer and Fall activities that we organized this year helped us reach out to many individuals and groups who were interested to learn more about the Flint River, were motivated to join us on the river or the trails, or were just glad to meet at one of our fundraisers. We sincerely appreciate those who participated with us in the past few months, and want to take a moment to recognize those who became new members.

Please welcome these fellow members of the FRWC:

Jennifer Acree	Jan Elmore	Lisa Metropoulis	Dorothy Wicks
Aaron Adkins	Melissa Emke	Keonte Mitchell	Wayne Wodtke
Eric Allison	Glenn Fischer	Rafael Mojica	Mike and Christina Wright
Leanne Barkus	Alyce Fischer	Kim Moon	Robert Zang
Brian Bates	Josh and Jennifer Foote	Matt Moreau	
Karimah Brown	Friends of Southern Links	Joyce Morris	Besides developing new
Thomas and Janice Bryant	Rails to Trails	Ron and Jeanne Newton	friendships, we value the
Caleb Bullen	Jason Galvas	Nathaniel Olin	ongoing affiliation and
Amy Burtrum	Kimberly Glavin	Anthony Pannech	support of the following
Lisa Campbell	Grand Blanc City School,	Buzz Purcell	individuals who renewed
Teresa Cummings	3rd and 4th Grade	Bill and Mary Ann Reising	their membership in the
Caleb DeHart	Matt Hanna	Cheryl Rentschler	past couple of months:
Linda Dent	Marcie Hemgesberg	Art Reyes	Mark Bilodeau
Iugenia Edwards	Kristen Irwin	Thressa Robbins	Nancy Byder
Jade Edwards	Isaac's Grocery, Swartz	Vicki Sacharski	John Cherry and Pam Faris
	Creek	Shannon Sankey	Kiersten DeKorne
	Jeff Kingzette and Laurie	Carie Sarver	John Hayes
	Slade	Grace Sauve	Cathy Lancaster
	Yener Kandogan	Denise Schloegel	Wally McLaughlin
	Les and Liz Kannon	Cathy Schultz	Riley McLincha
	Katrina Khouri	Shaun Smakal	Mark Thornton
	Robb and Tamra Klaty	Elizabeth Smith	Christine Waters
	Heidi Klochack and Family	Bob and Cathy Smith	
	Elaine Kremposky	Brenda Taverniti	Our members are important
	Betty Krynske	Andrea Thornton	to us. Please let us know if
	Tim Larkin	John and Catherine	you have ideas or suggestions
	Katie Leoni	Tremaine	about how we may be better
	Marianne Leppanen	Vern's Collision, Michael	stewards of the membership
	Phil and Olivia Lewis	Herriman	contributions that you have
	Pat Litwiller	Michele Vincent	made. To join the ranks of
	Mary Ann McCarthy	Christopher White	our members, or to give a gift
	Kyle McCree		membership, turn to page 6

Special Thanks to Vern's Collision who recently joined the FRWC and paid for the purchase of two rain barrels. "The staff at Vern's Collision wants to thank all the volunteers that give so much of themselves to make our community a better place to live."

**VERN'S**  
Collision & Glass

The Spencer Agency is a full service advertising agency providing clients nationwide with creative concepts, specialized to company's exact needs, to make them stand out among the rest. Their professional staff is experienced in all areas of media, marketing, and the production. Let them do the same for your organization.



Wellness Massage Therapy and Yoga will be donating \$2 of every massage and gift card sold during the month of January to the FRWC. They specialize in Therapeutic massage, Thai massage, and yoga. Get your relax on in January by calling (810) 630-8000.

# Water Monitoring Update

In September, a total of 30 volunteer monitors attended one of three FRWC MiCorps trainings designed to bring our monitors up to speed on this exciting program and process. This fall season, 31 monitors collected data from one or more sites in Genesee and Lapeer Counties. We sincerely appreciate their time and effort! Since 1999, FRWC has been coordinating this effort to report on the health of our rivers and streams.



*Two of the many dedicated volunteers that help monitor our water quality*

Also going through a complete change this fall season was the process for identifying the collected macroinvertebrates (aka: creek critters). MSU-Extension provided the use of their facilities, and under the direction of FRWC

Board member Darren Bagley, "expert identifiers" began to identify our samples to the taxonomic level of "Family," going one step further than the "Order" level we had identified in the past.

Ten sites in total were taken to the Family level.

Monitoring results are posted on the FRWC website, [FlintRiver.org](http://FlintRiver.org); and are shared with the Genesee County Drain Commission. FRWC is able to expand on this program thanks to the support of the Great Lakes Commission (GLC). The

FRWC is a current recipient of a two-year Volunteer Stream Monitoring grant provided by the GLC through contract by the Michigan DNRE.

## MiCorps Approved!

FRWC's Water Monitoring program underwent a complete transition this past fall season to join the State of Michigan's Michigan Clean Water Corps (MiCorps) program. Created by executive order by Governor Granholm, the MiCorps program was formed to assist the Department of Natural Resources & Environment in collecting and sharing water quality data for use in water resources management and protection programs. The data collected by FRWC's trained, volunteer monitors will become part of the State's MiCorps Data Exchange Network. Visit the MiCorps website and retrieve data uploaded from water monitoring programs statewide.



## Membership Application

**YES! I am pleased to become a member of the Flint River Watershed Coalition:**

HOLIDAY 2010

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Organization \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (C) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed are membership dues for:

<input type="checkbox"/> Student	\$ 10	<input type="checkbox"/> River Patron	\$ 250
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> Watershed Protector	\$ 500
<input type="checkbox"/> Family/Group	\$ 40	<input type="checkbox"/> Watershed Guarantor	\$ 1000
<input type="checkbox"/> River Sponsor	\$ 100		

I have enclosed an additional gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

**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

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MONTH	DATE/DAY		TIME	EVENT
DEC	16	THU	7pm	TY STONE Benefit concert at The Machine Shop
	17	FRI	830am	FRWC Board Meeting
JAN	27	THU	6pm	FRWC Annual Meeting: Dinner and Auction
		SAVE THE DATE!!	SAVE THE DATE!!	SAVE THE DATE!!
FEB	15	TUE	7pm	Lapeer Chapter, FRWC Meeting
	18	FRI	830am	FRWC Board Meeting
MAR	3-6	FRI-SUN		*Flint River Valley Steelheaders Boat & Fishing Show, Birch Run
	5	SAT	MORNING	*Keep Genesee County Beautiful Conference
	11-13	FRI-SUN		*Flushing Walleye Festival
	15	TUE	7:30pm	Lapeer Chapter, FRWC Meeting
APR	15	FRI	8:30am	FRWC Board Meeting
	16	TUE	8am-3pm	*Annual Earth Day & Garden Celebration
	19	TUE	7pm	Lapeer Chapter, FRWC Meeting
	30	SAT	TBD	Spring Monitoring

\* denotes FRWC Community Table Events; Volunteers Welcome

## FFRT NEWS



For most of us, bike riding season is just about over! A few hardy souls will continue to ride throughout much of the winter – but, except for that trip to Florida or other sunny spots, most

of us are hanging up the bikes for the season. FFRT Sunday rides will commence again on the first Sunday in May – following a trail clean-up at the end of April - JUST in advance of the Flint River and Community clean-up in May.

This season we had first-time riders on at least 25 of the 27 Sunday rides, and our riders came (as usual) from over 40 different zip codes. We were delighted to ride new trails - the Kettering Trail and the Southern Links Trail in Columbiaville. We look forward to a new trail in Flint Township next year. Finally, we are proud that Michigan now tops all states in the number of miles of open trails!

It's the stationary bike now to keep in shape until that first nice day in March (?) when the bike will come off the garage rafters and back on the road again!

**Having Fun with  
Community Engagement  
Contact Us  
Now for 2011!**

The Our Water program supports FRWC's efforts to provide educational presentations about the Flint River watershed. It is hard to say what we enjoy most—meeting and making connections with groups, or sharing information about the watershed, our programs, and our fun activities. We always come back excited about the people we have met and the awareness we have shared. FRWC presentations provide an opportunity for people to understand their watershed while learning simple steps that help protect, preserve and improve our water. If you are interested in having the FRWC at your meeting or event, contact Sue Lossing at 810 767-9491





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## FRWC Annual Meeting and Silent Auction

# Save the Date!



with  
Special Guest Speaker

**Rich Bowman**

Director of Government Relations at  
the Nature Conservancy in Michigan



The auction features items of beautiful  
art and jewelry made by local artisans!

## Thursday, January 27th, 2011

## Davison Country Club

9512 Lippincott Blvd, Corner of M-15 and Lippincott, just south of I-69

Friends and guests are welcome to attend

Cost is \$30 per person

RSVP by January 24th, 2011 at 810 767-6490 or [ewesthoff@flintriver.org](mailto:ewesthoff@flintriver.org)