



Flint River
Watershed Coalition
452 N. Saginaw St., Ste. 805
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flintriver.org

The

Watershed Reporter

Partnering to protect our natural resources

December 2005

CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

In October we saw firsthand the tremendous work that our Lapeer group has done on the South Branch of the Flint River. Twelve miles of river had been closed by so many logs and other debris that it was like one huge log jam. For two years the Lapeer group has been clearing the debris. They have shored up banks and left log piles neatly stacked to open the river. Along with several other canoe enthusiasts, my wife Libby and I canoed the twelve cleared miles. At one bend we were greeted by seven large deer leaping and crashing across the River to reach the opposite bank: not bucks, but an interesting diversion during our trip down the South Branch.

We began at Farmer's Creek located near the old Oakdale site off Lapeer Road. We were joined by many happy canoeists and kayakakers enjoying a beautiful and crisp fall day. We stopped for coffee and crumpets at a local beanery and then went on to Rotary Park where fresh cooked pizza was trucked in. We were joined by Rily McLinch who was recently featured in Kayak Traveler and who you may recognize from his article in our most recent newsletter, and by Douglas Lanyk of Holly, a river clean-up expert who is working on the Holly to Fenton Canoe Race project.

Lots of photos were taken by camera people from The Flint Journal and the Lapeer County Press. Unfortunately, they missed David Graham's "roll-over canoe trick" performed for fellow canoeist, Dennis Zawol. David got all wet and went home early.

Our thanks to our two organizers of the event: Ken Elwert of the Lapeer County Parks and Peter McCready who teaches at the Lapeer Middle School.

Olof Karlstrom

Watershed Coalition receives grant from Ruth Mott Fdn.

by Jack Minore

The Flint River Watershed Coalition has received a generous grant from the Ruth Mott Foundation to assist with basic operations over a three-year period, and to help build capacity so that the Coalition will be sustainable over the long haul. The grant, in excess of \$50,000 per year for three years, will assure adequate staffing to continue and expand programs over that period. Incumbent on the organization is a doubling and re-doubling of membership over that time so that the Coalition can continue without basic operational

assistance. The first of three annual payments was made this month, and will be applied to the 2006 fiscal year budget.

It is anticipated that a full-time director will be hired early next year. While the Ruth Mott grant is very generous, the budget anticipates an entry level salary with no benefits for the Director. Individuals who might be interested in the position (which has not yet been posted) may wish to send a letter of interest to the Coalition. It is anticipated that the current director will remain on staff part-time through a transition period.



Olof Karlstrom is "up a creek without a paddle," but wife Libby Maynard is getting all the exercise canoeing on the South Branch of the Flint River in Lapeer. Read all about it on page 2.

First year canoe rally a success

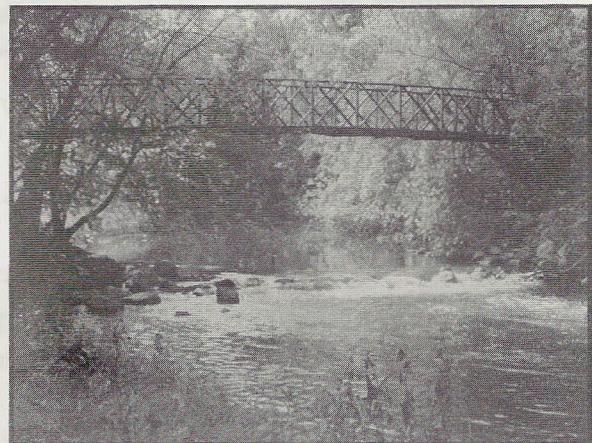
by Ken Elwert

The FRWC Lapeer Committee organized a canoe rally in mid-October to celebrate the completion (at least before the downed tree which I saw driving into work today) of its work on clearing Farmers Creek and the South Branch of the Flint River for navigation in the city of Lapeer. The rally was organized by Peter McCready, one of our river cleaning project leaders, who is also a teacher at Chatfield School in Lapeer.

People were able to canoe and kayak the river for about three hours and took a break at the Coffee Tree Cafe, which backs up to the river. The Cafe provided free warm beverages and trail mix

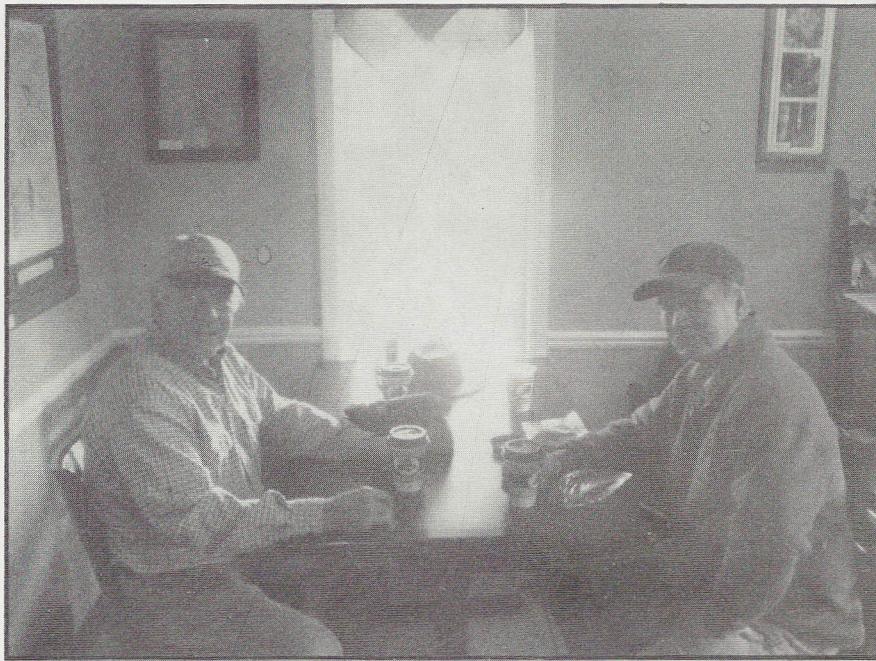
to the river adventures. Another break was taken around lunch time at Rotary Park with free pizza provided by Hugo's Pizza. Over 30 people attended, with one person coming from as far away as Shiawassee County. Most people stayed dry and it was a great day for being on the river. Temperatures were moderate and the sky was clear.

Thanks to everyone who attended for making this event so successful. Thanks also go to the Lapeer Area Rotary Club members that helped out the day of the event. We hope to offer



Rotary Park was the lunchtime break for free pizza for everyone who attended the Lapeer canoe rally on the Flint River.

a longer river trip next year (assuming we get the river cleared to the Plum Creek Road Canoe Landing) and also providing a picnic option at Rotary Park.



Olof Karlstrom and Dennis Zawol enjoying a warm beverage at the Coffee Tree Cafe for a brief stop on their 12-mile canoe trek of the South Branch of the Flint River in Lapeer County.

WALLEYE FESTIVAL COMING TO FLUSHING

While there are no details other than dates, you should mark your calendars for the "Flushing Chamber of Commerce Walleye Festival" which will be held "on the river" the weekend of March 10-12. Your FRWC is planning to participate and further information will be available after the first of the year.

FRWC annual meeting set for January 26th

The Flint River Watershed's annual meeting is set for Thursday, January 26th with a dinner, program, election of officers and a silent auction. The reception will begin at 5:30 p.m. with a brief business meeting at 6:00 p.m. and dinner at 6:30 p.m.

A brief program will follow, and the silent auction time will be announced at the dinner. A number of nice auction items have been received, but additional ones would be appreciated! All members and non-members are welcome to attend (subject to space limits), but advance reservations are absolutely critical to

accommodate dining. The cost is \$25 and includes dinner; there will be a cash bar. Individuals interested in attending should contact the office in January - prior to noon on Tuesday, January 24th.

The Governance Committee has recommended the following Board members and officers: for re-election to the Board, eight members currently serving whose terms expire in January 2006, for a two-year term to expire in January 2008. They are: Darren Bagley, Linda Berker, Harry Blecker, Bob Carlyon, Ken Elwert, Brent Nickola, Dennis Zawol and Dennis Zicha.

The officers who will be elected by the Board at its February meeting are all recommended for re-election for an additional one-year term. They are: S. Olof Karlstrom, Chair; Dennis Zawol, Vice-chair; Bill Welch, Secretary; and Harry Blecker, Treasurer.

Committee assignments will be made at the February meeting. Individuals, board members and members-at-large who are interested in serving on a committee or on specific projects should contact the office at their earliest convenience to express that interest.

The Watershed Reporter is published quarterly by the Flint River Watershed Coalition (FRWC). The FRWC 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.

Chair of the Board

S. Olof Karlstrom

Executive Director

Jack Minore

Board of Directors

Darren Bagley

Linda Berker

Jay Blair

Harry Blecker

Bob Carlyon

Bill Daniels

Stephany Diana

Ken Elwert

Amanda Kurzman

Suzanne Kubic

Roxy Moreno

Brent Nickola

Fred Townsend

Bill Welch

Dennis Zawol

Dennis Zicha

FLINT RIVER WATERSHED COALITION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____ Address _____ City/Zip _____

Phone _____ e-mail _____

Please check one

____	Student	\$10.00
____	Individual	\$25.00
____	Family/group	\$40.00
____	River Sponsor	\$100.00
____	River Patron	\$250.00
____	Watershed Protector	\$500.00
____	Watershed Guarantor	\$1,000.00

The Flint River Watershed Coalition is a not-for-profit, tax-exempt, 501(c)3 organization. Your contribution is fully tax deductible. Please make checks payable to:

Flint River Watershed Coalition
432 N. Saginaw Street, Suite 805
Flint, MI 48502

810-767-6490 / flintriver.org

FRWC membership continues to grow

New Members

Archie Bailey
Rose Bogardus
Matthew Bohlen
Nancy Byder
Jennifer Hill
James Kettler
Amanda Kurzman
Bonnie Mathis
Kerrilyn Miller
Donald Mosher
John Northrup
Patrick O'Callaghan
Paul and Davin Torre
City of Linden
Groveland Twp.-Oakland Co.

Renewing Members

Harry & Sheryl Becker
Judith Cawhorn

Linda Berker & Don James

Stephany Diana

Ken Elwert

Dan Emmerton

Lee Frantz

John & Jan Hartranft

Jim & Mary Ann Helmstetter

T. Herman & Jeanne Pepper

Olof Karlstrom

Michael & Kay Kelly

Sue Kubic

Joe Leonardi

Olivia Maynard

Brent & Christina Nickola

Heidi Peterson

Joel Rash

John Riegle

Lois Robbins

Michael Shepp

Fred & Alycemae Townsend

Dennis & Brenda Zicha



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