

# The Watershed Reporter

## From The Executive Director

*Rebecca Fedewa*

It is hard to believe it's already September. This has been a fun and busy summer for all of us here at the Flint River Watershed Coalition. And while we have lots to look forward to this fall – football games, fall color, apple season, our fall programs – it's hard to let



*Rebecca Fedewa*

go of a beautiful Michigan summer. This will be a memorable summer for me for many reasons, but I'll mostly look back on this as "the summer I learned to fish." For those of you who were able to attend the FRWC annual meeting last January, you might remember a very nice gift given to me by the board and outgoing Executive Director Steve Montle – a fishing pole. I mentioned then that I really wasn't much of a fisherwoman. In fact, the last time I had ever been fishing was probably 25 years ago with my dad, two brothers, a Zebco reel, and the proverbial coffee can of worms dug out of our leaf pile out back. We probably caught a few small fish, but I mostly remember being hot and bored, and wanting to jump in the lake myself rather than continue to drown worms in it.

So, the fact that it has taken 25 years to try again isn't so surprising. What was surprising is how much I absolutely LOVED being out in the Flint River, catching fish that probably aren't a whole lot bigger than those I caught way back when. My first trip out with my new reel, I caught three fish (and only needed help getting the first one off the line). To use a bad pun, I was hooked, and immediately came home and ordered my own set of waders. Later this summer, I had the opportunity to try

my hand at some fly-fishing. I was dubious of even trying to fly fish – my impression was it's very difficult to learn and until you were good at it, good luck catching anything. Again, much to my surprise, it was actually easy to learn (I had a good instructor!) and I caught several fish on my first outing.

My point is that even as a river and watershed enthusiast, I have certain "watershed" notions that aren't always correct. Fishing is in fact a lot of fun! Fishing (and wading) the Flint River is an amazing experience. There are large numbers of "keepers" out there to catch.

As the Voice of the Flint River, the Flint River Watershed Coalition is focused on helping people create their own story about the watershed, and working to dispel notions about the river that may not be correct. How many of us have heard some version of "if you fall in the river, you'll come out glowing/with three eyes/sick and diseased." It's true that the Flint River has its stresses, but an overwhelming majority of our watershed is a beautiful natural wonder that offers numerous recreation opportunities, serves as a water supply, provides habitat to a diverse array of wildlife, and adds beauty and character to our communities.

We still have some work to do to get our WHOLE watershed healthy; but in the meantime, we all can work to dispel incorrect notions about our watershed. So whether you hear "there is no good fishing on the Flint River" or "the river turns your hair blue" take a second and kindly correct your friend or neighbor. Point them to the FRWC's photo website [www.flickr.com/frwc](http://www.flickr.com/frwc) where you can see first hand just how beautiful a place we have, right here in our own back yard. Better yet, offer to take them for a walk, bike ride, canoe float, or fish in the river. I bet they'll be hooked, too!

## FRWC Outreach and Education Programs

Through support from the Genesee County Community Water Quality Consortium, the FRWC is sponsoring a number of activities to show YOU all the wonders of our watershed. See our calendar of events for dates and times, and contact the FRWC for more information or if you would like to participate in any of these programs.

### *Public Education Storm Drain Stenciling.*

Help us spread the message that storm drains run directly into our river. The FRWC is seeking community groups and neighborhood associations throughout Genesee County who are looking for opportunities to make a difference in their community. We provide all training and supplies.

*River Walks.* Free and open to people of all ages and abilities. Many of the walks are on groomed trails and show the diversity of our watershed. The walks focus on the value of our watershed, how you can take simple steps to help protect our rivers and streams, and many of the recreational possibilities on the Flint River.

*Canoe Trips.* The FRWC hosted two trips – a canoe rally in early August and an Environmental Education canoe trip in early September. These programs focused on fun, and getting people out on the river. Both trips were a great success, and we want to hear from you if you would like additional opportunities such as these in the future.

*Public Education Presentations.* The FRWC has a speakers bureau program that we can bring to your group. Our presentations focus on YOUR watershed, and simple steps you can take to help protect, preserve, and improve it. Presentations can be tailored to suit the time and topical needs of your group.



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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. 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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Jack Minore

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Rebecca Fedewa

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FRWC Board meetings are held the third Friday of the month at Mott Community College in the Genesee Room of the the Prael Conference Center.

Printed locally at a Union Shop  
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## C'mon in, The Water is Fine!

### Supporting the FRWC

The FRWC is in the midst of our membership drive. We are working to build our membership to 400 people, and while we are making great progress, we can use your help. If you are not yet a member, please consider joining today. You will find a membership application on page 5 of this newsletter. If you are already a member, thanks so much! For all those joining or renewing at the \$100 level or above, we've got a great gift for you.

We also have some fun events for you this fall that will help you get more involved in the Watershed Coalition. Later in October, we'll be hosting a Fall Forum on the impacts our watershed can have on the Great Lakes. U.S. Senator Dale Kildee has been invited to speak. I hope to see you there! We'll be sending out more details as we firm up planning for this event.

Also, we have launched our first annual Run/Walk/Bike/Paddle/Fish for the Watershed. Anyone can participate in our first foray into online donations. Please visit our fundraising page on [www.FirstGiving.org/FRWC](http://www.FirstGiving.org/FRWC). If you want to participate, making your own page takes only 5 minutes, and making a pledge is even faster! We'll have friendly competition among sub-watersheds (hey Gilkey Creek, Swartz Creek said they could raise more money in a day than you could in a week!!!) and FRWC Chapters (Paddlers, the Paddlers think you can't raise 10% of what they can raise). I'll be running the Chicago Marathon and collecting pledges for every mile. You can do anything – run the river trail, paddle the river, catch a dozen fish – whatever suits you best!

-Rebecca

## 10 Questions With...Diane Peplinski

Board Vice-Chair, Lapeer Chapter Chair

1. *Why are you a member of/work for /volunteer for the FRWC?* I became active in the FRWC because of my feeling of obligation, to do what I can, to protect the health of our environment.
2. *What FRWC programs do you participate in?* Benthic Monitoring, River cleanup, Habitat restoration/obstruction removal, education.
3. *When did you first get involved in the FRWC?* I believe it was in 2002 that I first was involved.
4. *What's your favorite part of the watershed?* My own back yard, and beyond.
5. *What is the most interesting thing you have seen in the watershed? (wildlife, garbage, someone doing something unexpected, etc.)* I think the most fascinating things are the macroinvertebrate that live in the creeks, streams and rivers, and how their numbers indicate the health of the water.
6. *What's your favorite river (any river) memory?* Having someone take you on a raft on the Martha Brae in Jamaica or in a canoe on the Flint River is so romantic, don't you think???
7. *What worries you most about the watershed?* I worry most about lack of concern for the health of the water and the denial (of many) that what they do could possibly cause harm.
8. *What gives you the most hope?* Talented and smart people who are knowledgeable about environmental concerns and (those person's) ability to share that information in a way that will be well received, gives me hope.
9. *If you could change one thing to help improve the watershed, what would it be?* Less toxins and sediment entering the water.
10. *Who is your river/watershed/environmental/conservation hero?* Rachel Carson

# Politics and the Watershed

## Chairman's Update: Jack Minore

Some of you may have noticed that there is an election this fall! (Of course this campaign has gone on for so long, that many of you may have tuned it out altogether.) And, some of you may think that since we are a 501c3 organization, we should ignore the



Jack Minore

campaigns, right? **WRONG!**

I'm not talking about the national campaign or even those for state office: but your local officials have an enormous impact on the conditions of our streams and rivers across the entire watershed now and far into the future. It is your local County, City, Township or Village official that makes critical decisions that affect water quality in the watershed. We should seek to influence and educate them about the issues that have an impact on the Flint River and its tributaries.

Those local officials will make dozens of decisions in the next two or four years on land use, on zoning, on water and sewage treatment, on wetlands, on run-off and on many other things. Many of them will have the opportunity to affect local regulations about buffer zones or wetland restoration, for example. And many of the candidates for those offices have given little or no thought to topics that affect "our" issues.

I'm not talking, of course, about endorsements or contributions: but

each of us has an opportunity to affect – not the election, so much – as the impact of the election on future action. Here are a few things you (yes, each of you!) can do in the coming weeks between the time you read this and Election Day.

When a candidate knocks on your door to ask for your vote, quiz them just a minute or two about water quality. Have they given any thought to the issue? Are they familiar with the Watershed Coalition? Will they take water quality in consideration when they make site plan or zoning decisions? Have they thought about the fact that what happens in their township or city has an impact on the quality of the Great Lakes?

And when there are candidate forums in your area, you can (and I hope, will) attend the forum and ask some of the same questions.

You can also give a candidate a copy of this newsletter (we will gladly mail you another one!) and ask them to at least skim through it – or, better yet, become a member. And you can point out that our staff and Board are always willing to answer any questions they may have – now, as a candidate – or next year, when they are in office.

I'm a firm believer that the very best time to get a candidate's attention to our watershed concerns is NOW – when they are seeking your attention and your vote! (Please let us/me know of any candidate encounters you have – and your impression of the candidate's interest in issues related to the Flint River Watershed Coalition.)

## Wildlife Sightings

-Sue Lossing

FRWC Outreach and Education Director



Image courtesy of NWF

In early July, I was canoeing in the Flint River along the Flushing to Montrose stretch. I was busy noticing what was in the water when my paddling partners sighted an immature bald eagle flying across the river. The eagle was quick and unfortunately, I missed it! But I'm confident I'll get a second chance, because in the days and weeks since, I've learned about several sightings of mature bald eagles around this same area and others.

Although we've not yet spotted an eagle's nest in the Flushing to Montrose area, a large nest has been recorded near Mott Lake, which means the eagle(s) may be traveling around our watershed. The sightings of the immature and adult eagles show promise, not only for a species just recently removed from the endangered list (June 28, 2007), but also for the continuing improvement in the health of our watershed.

Our hats are off to all the volunteers and residents whose stewardship along the river and participation in our annual River Clean Up has made this an area of choice for the eagles. And as it seems they are sticking around, we all have the opportunity to catch a glimpse of our national symbol.

For more information on bald eagles in Michigan, see:

<http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-153-10319-32581--,00.html>

**What if the FRWC had a penny for every time you searched the Internet?**



Here's a new easy way to raise money for the Flint River Watershed Coalition. Just start using GoodSearch.com as your search engine and online shopping mall. Every time you search the Internet or make an online purchase at one of their partner merchants, GoodSearch makes a donation to the FRWC and it's powered by Yahoo! so you get great search results!



## Doing Well by Doing Good

### *Businesses in the Watershed*

We are launching a new column here in the Watershed Reporter, highlighting local businesses that seek to lessen their impact on our watershed. If you know of or own a business that is taking measures to reduce its impact on our watershed, please let us know! This issue, we feature The Good Beans Café.

The Good Beans Café is located in downtown Flint at 328 North Grand Traverse, just two blocks from the Flint River. Two years ago, with assistance from the Ruth Mott Foundation, Good Beans' owner Ken VanWagoner installed a rain garden in between his building and a newly built patio. This garden catches 100% of the "first flush" of rain from his roof and driveways. Capturing this first flush also means capturing the sediment and other pollutants that would otherwise wash directly into the nearby storm drain. The garden does have a limited capacity, however, which means prolonged rain showers eventually result in some water entering the storm drain. Not to be deterred, Ken is building a second garden to capture this additional stormwater. Not only are the gardens doing their part to turn stormwater back into rainwater, they provide a beautiful addition to the landscaping at the Good Beans Café. If you would like additional information on rain gardens, Ken recommends visiting the Rain Gardens of West Michigan at [www.raingardens.org](http://www.raingardens.org).



Ken VanWagoner and his rain garden

## Lapeer Happenings

*Dave Wolfenden*

The South Branch of the Flint River between Rotary Park in Lapeer to Saginaw St. has several major blockages from large trees that have fallen recently. Peter McCreedy's crew has been working on clearing these trees, but there is still a lot more work needed. Due to shorter evenings, this time of year a Saturday workday will probably be required. As always, volunteers are needed.

There are still blockages between Mayfield Rd. and Millville Landing in the areas where the property owners have not given us permission to work. When going around these blockages, please remember that this is private property.

The Rotary Club along with Carl Haas has been able to keep the section from Millville Landing to Flint River Road fairly clear this year. We have had to use the winch several times to move large trees and have done a lot of trimming on overhanging branches. This is a scenic stretch of the river and very easy to navigate.

The DNR along with Carl have opened the river from Flint River Rd. through the State Game Area to the landing at Norway Lake Rd. This is a beautiful area and if you

are quiet, it is possible to see a wide variety of wildlife throughout the entire stretch.

From Norway Lake Road to Holloway Reservoir, the river is navigable but requires going around and under a number of trees. There were a large number of carp just past Columbiaville Rd. in the shallow water. Looks like a good place to catch them. The water level is low and there are a number of shallow places where I had to get out of my kayak and walk it across the sand and gravel bars. As you approach Holloway Reservoir and the north branch of the river there are many canals and islands. There is no noticeable current in this area and it is easy to get mixed up and paddle up a dead end canal or go around an island a few times. Rotary "River Rat" Earl has marked the most direct passage through this area with fluorescent markers making it much easier to navigate. To see just how easy it is to get turned around, look up the satellite photo of the north end Holloway Reservoir on Google Earth. This part of the river is most fun in the Spring and soon after a heavy rain, when the water level is up.

## Flint River Trail Rides

Fall, with its cooler weather and great scenery, is an ideal time to join the Friends of the Flint River Trail (FFRT) on one of their rides. The FFRT Sunday rides continue every Sunday through October, leaving promptly at 2:00 PM from the Flint Farmers' Market. The "regular" rides are about 13 miles in total, and are at an easy pace with plenty of rest stops for those who need them. Regular rides are usually to either Blue Bell Beach or to Stepping Stone Falls – both in the Genesee County Park System – and both wonderfully scenic in the fall. The second Sunday of each month we take a slightly longer ride to the village of Genesee – with an ice cream shop destination being the real reason we ride on those days.

On the second Saturday of each month, we explore another trail in the mid-Michigan area. October 11th, we'll be riding the Polly Ann Trail in Oakland County. For additional information or for questions, contact either Jack Minore ([jacksonmin@aol.com](mailto:jacksonmin@aol.com)) or Bruce Nieuwenhuis ([bnbaton@gmail.com](mailto:bnbaton@gmail.com)).

### *A New Bike Trail in the Area*

The New Southern Links Trail is now open for jogging, walking or cycling and the Ribbon Cutting for the newly paved trail is in early September. The trail is about five miles in length and follows an old rail line between Otter Lake and Columbiaville. The trailhead in Columbiaville has great parking, and you start off with great views of the upper Flint River and the Holloway Reservoir. It's a nice shady flat trail, easy to ride and quite scenic. It is expected that another five mile extension will be paved next year. You can learn more about it at [southernlinkstrailway.com](http://southernlinkstrailway.com)

# The Flint River Paddlers *Eric Hall*

For me personally, this summer has unfortunately been a rough one as far as paddling and being as involved in the watershed as I would like to be. On the positive side however, I am now back to work and able to start getting my paddle wet once again after basically five months of no activity due to my back surgery. I know most of you have been enjoying your summers and hopefully spending a good share of your time on the water. If you, like myself, have not been able to do as much paddling as you would have liked so far this summer, do not worry there are still plenty of opportunities to do so throughout the rest of the year.

With a new start due to my return, also comes a new level of ambition and commitment to increase awareness of the recreation possibilities within the Flint River Watershed. Through using the watershed for recreation, kayaking and canoeing, I am hopeful that we as an organization can be a part of the spearhead that is changing public opinion about the Flint River and our local resources within the watershed in general.

Also, the Paddlers, as a sponsored chapter of the FRWC, are committed to the

goals and work of our parent organization and therefore need to be as supportive of these as possible.

On that note, the FRP is dedicated to increasing the number of members within the FRWC. At our business meeting on September 11th @ 7:00 PM at Gander Mountain on Miller Road (all are invited to attend), membership in the FRWC will be a hot topic. Membership in the FRWC may be used as a separate level of membership within the paddlers, allowing those members who are members of the FRWC to take advantage of club equipment and other perks not available to FRP members who do not have a membership within the FRWC. That being said, everyone reading this article whom has a current FRWC membership is invited to come join the Flint River Paddlers, free of charge with no dues.

Even though summer is rapidly leaving us, fall is a very exciting time for paddle sports in Michigan and the rest of the country as well. Upcoming events include; Thursday September 4th 7:00 PM at Barber Park in Montrose, the Flint River Paddlers will have a club booth as well as

potentially a kayaking demonstration and Q&A session in the river, September 5th – 7th the Flint River Paddlers will have a club booth at the 2008 Sport and Fitness Expo at the Birch Run Expo Center, Tuesday September 9th it's the FRWC canoe trip from Flushing Township Nature Park to Barber Park (more details for this event available soon), Business Meeting at the Gander Mountain Lodge on Miller Road Thursday September 11th at 7:00 PM (besides club requirements and membership issues. We will also be discussing the fall Paddle Pick-Up, and the October trip to West Virginia to whitewater raft the world famous Upper Gauley River), Sunday September 21st, 1:00 PM weekly paddle (please check the FRP website at [www.flintriverpaddlers.org](http://www.flintriverpaddlers.org) the Thursday before the paddle for finalized trip plans), Sunday September 28th, 1:00 PM weekly paddle, Sunday October 5th, 1:00 PM weekly paddle. Last but definitely not least, the October 11th Flint River Paddlers and Friends trip to West Virginia to whitewater raft the world famous Upper Gauley River.

I hope to see each and every one of you on the river some time soon.

Keep your paddles wet!



## Flint River Watershed Coalition Membership Application

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Organization \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone (h) \_\_\_\_\_ (w) \_\_\_\_\_  
 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  
 432 N. Saginaw Street, Suite 238  
 Flint, MI 48502



## Tip #8: Be A Responsible Waterfront Owner

A riparian area is the green area immediately adjacent to streams, rivers, and lakes. Riparian areas are identified by the presence of vegetation that requires large amounts of water and soils that are subject to intermittent flooding or fluctuating water tables that may reach the surface.

The duration of soil wetness depends on the water levels of the adjacent water body. This makes a big difference to riparian plants and determines where plants can grow.

Riparian areas are important to our watershed, because these areas can:

1. Recharge ground water
2. Reduce downstream flooding
3. Increase stream flows in dry weather
4. Trap sediment and pollutants
5. Cycle nutrients
6. Provide shade to keep water cool
7. Increase stream and bank stability
8. Provide habitat for fish and other wildlife

### How can we better protect the land around our lakes, rivers, and streams?

**Adopt River Friendly Lawn Care** (see our summer newsletter for more information on this topic).

**Identify the problem** A sickly lawn is not necessarily lacking nutrients. The Genesee County Extension office (810-244-8547) can help you test your soil for nutrients, soil compaction, excess thatch, pH, and other parameters. Planting native species also helps promote a stronger, more drought/heat tolerant yard.

#### **Maintain or Install a Buffer of Vegetation Along Shore Lines**

Buffers help filter sediments, absorb chemicals, provide critical habitat linkages, and protect against flooding and erosion.

**Stabilize Stream Banks** Vegetated buffers help prevent stream bank erosion. In areas where there is no vegetation, or other issues are causing erosion, there are many new techniques to stabilize your stream bank, such as using live fascines, live stakes, and brush mattresses.

**Manage Woody Debris** In-Stream woody debris creates and maintains important habitat for fish and other aquatic creatures. When managing your shoreline, remove only what is necessary, and if possible try to only partially remove and replace woody debris

#### **Adopt Better River and Drain Maintenance Policies**

Encourage your local officials to adopt drain policies that match the suggestions above.

For more information on the simple steps you can take to promote clear water, go to [www.cleargeneseeewater.org](http://www.cleargeneseeewater.org).

## Fall Stream Monitoring

Fall is here once again, and that means it is time for our Fall Stream Monitoring. Dates for the FRWC fall 2008 stream monitoring project have been set. Please sign up for your site soon!!

Monitoring dates will be Saturday, 27 September and again on the following Thursday, 2 October.

To sign up, please contact Dennis Zicha at 810-953-4954 or [dzicha@comcast.net](mailto:dzicha@comcast.net). For those who wish to monitor sites in Lapeer County, please contact Diane Peplinski at 810-688-3347 or [dianeskimay@yahoo.com](mailto:dianeskimay@yahoo.com).

Lab hours at UM Flint, 261 Murchie Science Bldg, will be 10 AM until 4 PM on Saturday, 27 Sep and 12 Noon until 6 PM on Thursday, 2 Oct. Please ensure you arrive at the lab with your samples at least one hour before the ending times noted so you will have sufficient time to sort your critters. Pizza and soda will be available for you at the lab.

If you have never monitored before (or if you just want to brush up on your monitoring skills) we are also planning a TRAINING SESSION on Thursday, 18 September in Davison. Details have not yet been finalized for this, so watch your e-mail for confirmation in the next few days.

Please come join us in the waning fall sunshine. We need your help to make this important activity a success. See you there!

## Special Membership Offer

We have a fun and interesting offer for our new and renewing members of the Flint River Watershed Coalition. Great khaki sports hats with the FRWC logo are now for sale. (see page 7) But, if you join the FRWC or renew your existing membership at the River Sponsor or higher level, we will ship you a complimentary hat as a means of showing our appreciation for your support, and as a way for you to proudly display that you have made a commitment to protect, preserve, and improve the watershed. And, even if you join at a level that qualifies you for a hat, feel free to fill out the order form in this newsletter to purchase additional hats at \$15.00 each! (\$12.00 for the hat, and \$3.00 for shipping.)

### As always, we want to recognize our new and renewing members.

During the course of the summer, *Herman and Donna Caldwell, Cathy Lancaster, Carolyn Heidemann and Carl Haas* all renewed their membership in the Flint River Watershed Coalition. We really appreciate their support, and look forward to continuing our affiliation with them and all of the members of the FRWC.



# Now Available!

## FRWC Hats

Show your love for the river!

Hats are only \$12.00 each and shipping is just \$3.00 no matter how many hats you buy!

Send check or money order to:

Flint River Watershed Coalition  
432 N. Saginaw St. Ste 238  
Flint MI 48502



### Order Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

I have enclosed a \_\_\_\_ check or \_\_\_\_ money order for:

NUMBER OF HATS \_\_\_\_\_ x \$12.00 Subtotal \_\_\_\_\_

Plus shipping \$3.00

Total \_\_\_\_\_

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### SEPTEMBER

- Sept 4 River Walk, Barber Memorial Park, Montrose 7:00pm
- Sept 4 Paddling & Fly Fishing techniques, Barber Memorial Park. 7:00pm
- Sept 8 River Walk, Richfield Park, Pavillion #4 (Bring a sack lunch!) 12:00 noon
- Sept 9 Canoe Event, Flushing. Contact FRWC for canoe reservations 5:30pm
- Sept 11 Flint River Paddlers meeting at Gander Mountain 7:00pm
- Sept 13 Southern Links Trailways in Columbiaville 9:00am
- Sept 14 River Walk, Hogbacks 5:00pm
- Sept 15 Clio's George Atkin Jr. Recreation Trail 6:00pm

### SEPTEMBER

- Sept 16 Lapeer FRWC Meeting Courthouse, downtown Lapeer 7:00pm
- Sept 18 Benthic Training, Jack Abernathy Park in Davison 5:30pm
- Sept 19 FRWC Board Meeting Genesee Room MCC 8:30am
- Sept 24 Flushing Special Dinner Night. Contact FRWC for more info
- Sept 24 River Walk, Flushing Riverview Park Pavillion 8:00 pm
- Sept 27 Benthic Monitoring and U of M Lab Hours 10:00am to 4:00pm

### OCTOBER

- Oct 2 Benthic Monitoring and U of M Lab Hours 12:00 noon to 6:00pm
- Oct 10- Weekend Trip To Upper
- Oct 11 Gauley River in West Virginia.  
Deposit Due 9/15/08  
Contact FRP/Eric Hall for more information  
[erichall@flinriverpaddlers.org](mailto:erichall@flinriverpaddlers.org)
- Oct 11 Household Hazardous Waste Collection: Water Service Center and Flint Metal Fab. 10:00am to 2:00pm

### CONTACT INFORMATION:

FFRT=Friends of the Flint River Trail,  
Jack Minore @ (810) 235-1490;  
Bruce Nieuwenhuis @  
[bnbaton@gmail.com](mailto:bnbaton@gmail.com)  
FRWC: Flint River Watershed Coalition,  
(810) 767-6490.

# River Views

The Flint River Watershed Coalition is introducing a new column in the Watershed Reporter called 'River Views'. In periodic editions of our newsletter we would like to showcase different sites along the river that you might find interesting, or might feel inspired to visit. We hope in the future to include views from every stretch of the river and from the far reaches of the watershed. The more that you know of positive sites along the river, the more you'll recognize the value our resource. Please feel free to pass your suggestions about 'River Views' that should be featured in our newsletter to [info@flinriver.org](mailto:info@flinriver.org), or call us at 810-767-6490.

## Vietnam Veteran's Park

### 1700 James P. Cole Boulevard, Flint, MI

Vietnam Veteran's Park was officially dedicated on Armed Forces Day on May 18, 1991, during the Desert Shield/Desert Storm Conflict. The marker that you see in the picture above was installed by the Vietnam Veterans of America, and the poem was written by Dan McIntosh in honor of Tom Cussans, a local veteran who was a member of V.V.A. The boat landing nearby was also named after Tom Cussans and dedicated at the same time the park was. Tommy Cussans was a valuable member of the Genesee County Chapter of the V.V.A. He died of cancer, believed to be caused by his exposure to Agent Orange, while serving his country in Vietnam.



Vietnam Veteran's Park

The park is decorated with flowers by members of the Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter #175, Genesee County. Each year, the V.V.A. sponsors a spring cleanup in the park. In addition, this park is one of the numerous cleanup sites in the Annual Flint River Cleanup organized by the FRWC. The members and families of the V.V.A., Chapter #175 are very visible at the Cleanup, providing a great source of labor, materials, and lunch!

According to the local Fisheries and Biology Manager of the Department of Natural Resources, the stretch of river in this park is one of the two best sites on the entire Flint River for bass fishing.

## 'Shed No Tears'

by Daniel McIntosh

*Shed no tears I heard him say,  
what's done was meant to be.  
Let's look toward a brighter day,  
together you and me.  
Courage is your middle name,  
a fighter through and through.  
Learn early how to play the game,  
your heart is pure and true.  
Shed no tears and let's go on,  
we've mountains yet to climb.  
Life's too short, it's here and gone,  
we've all so little time.  
Enjoy now, the time we share,  
and let's be on our way.  
Let's make our mark, let's show we care,  
together, day by day.  
The road is long, the task is great,  
but onward we must go.  
To dare to tempt the lands of fate,  
to conquer every foe.  
For all too soon the light of day,  
runs out on one and all.  
That final debt we all must pay,  
when we hear that final call.  
And when that call goes out for me,  
and I must go my way.  
A brighter day I soon shall see,  
that's all I have to say.  
So shed no tears, when time has come.  
For I have run the race, and won.*



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