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www.flintriver.org

The Watershed Reporter

Partnering to protect our natural resources

Summer/Fall 2007

Schedule of events highlight Flint River Watershed Coalition's 10th anniversary!

This fall is the 10th anniversary of the founding of the Flint River Watershed Coalition. To celebrate, we have planned a series of events throughout the watershed to highlight those natural features that we as an organization work to protect. We hope that there is something for everyone, and we hope to see you at several of these events and celebrations. Look on www.flintriver.org for more details as we draw closer to these events.

Interpretive River Walk - Tuesday, September 25th, 10:00am

Fishing Dock across from Flint Farmers' Market

Darren Bagley will give a tour of the river in Downtown Flint. His talk will be centered around the plants and wild life that make this stretch of river their home. This is a free event.

Interpretive River Walk - Tuesday, September 25th, 5:30pm

Flushing River Trail by Main Street

Brent Nickola will give a tour of the Flint River in the Flushing area and discuss the geography and geology of the Flint River as well as how humans have - and continue to - interact with this river system. This is a free event.

Dinner Cruise on the Genesee Belle - Thursday, September 27th, 5:45pm - 8:00pm, Stepping Stone Falls (5161 Branch Rd)

FRWC members and friends will enjoy a fall cruise on the Genesee Belle leaving from Stepping Stone Falls (5161 Branch Road). Dinner, music, a silent auction and door prizes will be featured on the cruise. Tickets are \$35 per person and RSVP is required no later than September 19th.

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The stately Genesee Belle is the site for the Flint River Watershed Coalition's 10th anniversary dinner cruise on beautiful Mott Lake. The dinner cruise will leave from Stepping Stone Falls, 5161 Branch Road. It promises to be a fun evening with music, prizes, and a delicious dinner. Please call and make your reservations today, 767-6490.

From the Executive Director Steve Montle

Fall of 2007 will be the 10th Anniversary of the founding of the Flint River Watershed Coalition. Over these years, the organization has continued to grow and change in programming, board members, staff and membership. Although, one element has continued uninterrupted throughout the organization's history. That element is a core group of people who are truly committed to protecting and improving the water resources of the Flint River Watershed. While the individuals have occasionally changed, it is the ongoing work of the organization that continues to be important.

As many of you may be aware, the Watershed Coalition has been engaged in an intensive strategic planning effort over these past six months. While the final results of the process are not yet known, we do know that we will see many changes in the coming year. I expect that these changes will be for the better as we seek to grow our organization and become more effective in what we do.

As we celebrate this anniversary and look with anticipation at the future direction of the organization, I hope you will take some time to join us at one of our events throughout the watershed. We have planned many activities in the hope that all of our members will be able to enjoy the things that we all work so hard to protect throughout the year.

Schedule of events highlight FRWC's 10th anniversary celebration *continued from front page*

Flint River Trail Ride - Sunday, September 30th, 2:00pm

Flint Farmers' Market

Members of the Friends of the Flint River Trail will guide a bike ride along the river to Bluebell Beach and back. Ice Cream will be served at the halfway point. Riders of all skill levels are welcome to join in this 13 mile ride. This is a free event.

Flint River Canoe Trips - Saturday, October 6th and Saturday, October 13th, Flushing and Lapeer

Details for the canoe trips are still being finalized. Visit www.flintriver.org in the near future for details.

Visit to the Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge

Saturday, October 20th

Details are still being finalized for the visit to the refuge. This will be a free event.

Join Friends of the Flint River Trail for Sunday bike rides through October

by Jack Minore

The regular Sunday rides of the Friends of the Flint River Trail (FFRT) will continue through October - starting from the Flint Farmers' Market each Sunday at 2:00 PM. The "standard ride" is to either Bluebell Beach or Stepping Stone Falls - a total distance of about 13 miles. There are a number of "special rides" planned. The second Sunday of each month is an "ice cream" ride - a slightly longer ride to the Village of Genesee and Ms. Smitty's Ice Cream Shop - Sept 9 and Oct 14. The Sept 16th ride will include some Flint historical sites and a stop at the Good Beans Café. The Sept 30th ride is one of the Watershed's 10th Anniversary Celebration events, and will include refreshments and a brief watershed presentation at Bluebell Beach. October 7th will be the annual trip to Applewood for a brief tour of the Mott estate.

The FFRT rides have been remarkably popular this year, with about 50 riders being our "normal" good weather turnout. They conclude October 28th, but will resume the first Sunday in May of 2008. A special New Years' Day Ride is also being planned. Information on the rides is available from Jack Minore at 235-1490 or at <jacksonmin@aol.com>.



Once each month, on a Saturday, the Friends of the Flint River Trail (FFRT) explore other trails in mid-Michigan. The August trip was on the Lansing River Trail - a ride of about 14 miles. The group of 25 riders took a short side-trip off the trail to the State Capitol. The Friends group is affiliated with the Flint River Watershed Coalition.

FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD **S. OLOF KARLSTROM**

We have finished the second quarter of the year, typically our busiest. It has not lost its luster. Project Green, under the direction of Bill Welch of the GISD brought 25 schools into the project this year, doubling the number of schools involved, and most significantly doubling the number of youth who have become aware of, and involved in, our work with the watershed.

On another front our Executive Director became very involved with the redesign of the Brandon High School parking lot. It bordered Kearsley Creek, a cool-water trout stream whose status could change if the water run-off from the parking lot heated the stream. Lois Robbins, from Ortonville, called Steve for help. With assistance from Brent Nickola, the two met with Lois and her group of interested citizens along with the school board and its architects and consultants. The result was a plan that would control the parking lot run-off in a manner that would help the creek retain its cool-water status.

Our strategic planning efforts continue to move forward as we plan our future efforts as watershed stewards. Our consultants, Wendy Wilson and Baird Straughan, are very encouraging. Our completion goal is set for September.

The May River Clean-Up efforts always result in good fellowship and much pizza and hot dogs. Our thanks to Sue Kubic and Dennis Zawol for coordinating the volunteers. At the same time, our thanks to the many volunteers who participated in our May monitoring project. We continue to rely on Dr. Pace of the University to guide us in our analysis of the river critters whose presence in the river continues to advise us as to the health of the river. We owe our thanks to Dennis Zicha for coordinating our monitoring efforts.

Flint River Watershed Coalition's 10th Annual Flint River Cleanup successful thanks to 293 volunteers, businesses & organizations!

With perfect weather on May 12th, our coordinators, community volunteers, local businesses and organizations managed to achieve some remarkable results this year. There were a total of 293 volunteers - an impressive increase of 47 percent over 2006. Collectively, these individuals gathered 413 bags of trash from the riverbank; amounting to over 5 tons of material. In addition, several large, unsightly, and potentially dangerous items were hauled away from our watershed. These included 13 tires, 3 bikes, a bike frame, 1 snowmobile, a copy machine, shopping cart, carpet, a couch, a radiator, 1 metal safe, and over 1.5 tons of steel!

Seven sites were cleared in Lapeer and Genesee counties. We were happy to add a new site with over 60 volunteers on the Flint campus of the Michigan School for the Deaf.

Special thanks to the individuals who organized the cleanup activity, served as site coordinators on the day of the event, provided site assistance, donated food, or facilitated the use of public facilities. These individuals are:

Don Austin
Dave Lewicki
Cheryl Borkowski
Gerry Masters
Bob Carlyon
Peter McCready
Don Dale
Jack Minore
Genesee County Deputy Giguere
Steve Montle
Eric Grossbauer
Diane Peplinski
Michael Havermale
Genesee County Deputy Richardson
Brad Hill
Jonathan Shaver
Olof Karlstrom
Dave Woolfenden
Sue Kubic
Dennis Zawol

Just as the work of many individuals was necessary to pull off the enormous cleanup campaign, the cooperation and assistance of the following organizations, service groups, and businesses was

essential to our success.

Eastern Michigan Young Marines
Home Depot of Lapeer
City of Flint
Hugo's Pizza of Lapeer
City of Flint Parks Department
City of Lapeer
City of Flushing
Lapeer City Parks
Flushing Department of Public Works
Lapeer Downtown Development Authority
Flushing 'Movies in the Parks' Committee
Lapeer Rotary
Flushing 'Team Canteen'
Michigan School for the Deaf
Genesee County Parks and Recreation
Rick Rhein Disposal
Genesee County Sheriff Pickell's Work Detail
UM-Flint Maintenance Department
Keep Genesee County Beautiful
Vietnam Veteran's of American, Genesee Chapter #175

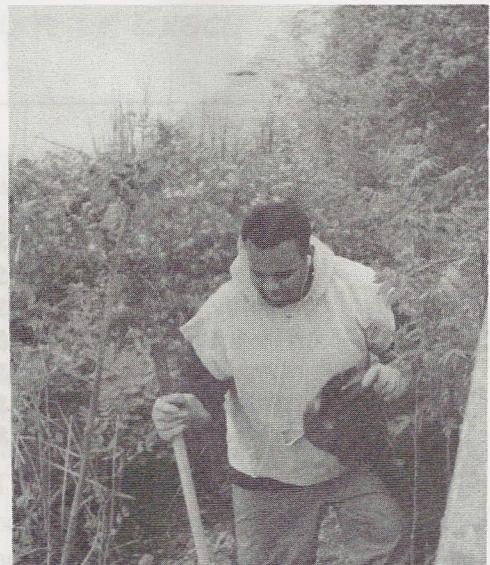
Funding for the 2007 Cleanup was provided by these generous donors:

Charles Stewart Mott Foundation
Matching Gifts Program
Lawrence Engineering, P.C.
CTE, Inc.
Judy Samelson
Sue Kubic
Wade Trim

We are starting to plan for the 2008 11th Annual Flint River Cleanup. Next year we want to build on the momentum that we have developed in the last ten years. Our goal is to improve the cleanup effort, and to involve more individuals and groups. To the extent that we can expose community members to the Flint River as a resource to be valued and maintained, we can ensure a pleasant and safe environment in our watershed.

Thank you to all of the individuals and businesses who donated their time, expertise and funding in support of the 2007 Flint River Cleanup. The naviga-

bility of the river, and the value of this resource to our communities is improved so much when individuals and groups work together to make this happen.



Membership is key to Flint River Watershed Coalition's success

At the Flint River Watershed Coalition, we are continuing to seek out new members, and to sustain the interest and involvement of our current membership base. The staff and board are working to ensure that membership levels are on track to meet the commitments that we have made to our financial supporters and to the community. New membership materials have been developed to explain more effectively the mission and activities of the organization. Let us know if you have friends or colleagues who would be interested in joining the Flint River Watershed Coalition. We would be glad to contact them, or to send them introductory materials. Or, pass on to them a copy of this newsletter, including the membership application.

New Members

Nancy and Rich Kautz
 Ray Lum
 Robin Mallor
 Matthew Norwood
 David Regiani
 Clark Tibbits
 Wendy Ulin

Renewing Members

Bentley HS Environmental Science Class
 Linda Berker and Donald James
 Arlene Breczinski
 Peggy Brunner
 Bueche, Failer, O'Callaghan & Zintsmaster
 Nancy Byder
 Mary Christian
 For-Mar Foundation
 Representative Lee Gonzales
 Brad Hill
 Richard Hill-Rowley
 Lynne Hurand
 S. Olof Karlstrom and Olivia Maynard
 James Kettler
 Todd McCready
 John Mrozik and Heather Sisto
 Patrick Parrott

Join us for fall stream monitoring and training in September & October

Fall stream monitoring will take place:

Saturday, September 29th, 2007. Lab hours are 10am - 4:00pm
 Wednesday, October 3rd, 2007. Lab hours are 12:30 - 6:30pm

This fall there will be a training session for volunteers interested in becoming stream monitors. Plan to join us on September 3rd, 2007 from 5:00pm - 8:00pm. The location is to be determined. Call Dennis Zicha at (810) 953-4954 for more information or e-mail: dzicha@comcast.net.

FRWC **Board of Directors**

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

Genesee County Parks offers something for everyone; request a family fun guide today

by Hilda McShane, Genesee County Parks

As we transition into another season in Genesee County, there are still many exciting things to do and beautiful things to see in YOUR Genesee County Parks. Fall is a perfect time to experience nature in all of its glory and there is no need to spend time and money traveling "up north" to do it. From For-Mar Nature Preserve and Arboretum to Flushing County Park, from Richfield County Park and Goldenrod Disc Golf Course to Stepping Stone Falls, from Mott Lake, the Holloway Reservoir, and the Hogbacks, to Linden County Park, YOUR Genesee County Parks will sport the most spectacular colors imaginable this fall.

The cool, crisp weather of fall is the perfect time to hike, bike, and re-connect with nature and YOUR Genesee County Parks are the perfect place to recharge and reflect in the great outdoors either on your own or in one of our family-friendly programs. To learn more about Genesee County Parks free and low cost fall and winter programs request a copy of the Genesee County Parks Fall and Winter Family Fun Guide. The Fall and Winter Family Fun Guide contains programs for all ages and interest and will keep the entire family active and entertained throughout the fall and winter season at little or no cost. To get your free copy visit Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission's website at www.GeneseeCountyParks.org to download a copy or call 810.736.7100 or 800.648.7275 to order your guide today.

Besides all of the wonderful children and adult programs listed in the Genesee County Parks Fall and Winter Family Fun Guide, the guide will bring you up to speed on some of the latest unique gift items sold at Crossroads Village and Huckleberry Railroad's gift shops and introduce the new Genesee County Parks gift card. The new gift card may be redeemed for passes, reservations or gift items sold at Genesee County Parks facilities. For example, the gift card may be redeemed at For-Mar Nature Preserve & Arboretum's gift shop and/or pay for your fall and winter For-Mar workshop fees. Also, the gift card may be redeemed for the following:

- Holloway and Bluegill Fishing maps*
- For-Mar's program fees and gift shop*
- Pavilions at Bluebell, Flushing, Linden, Davison Roadside, Richfield and Buell Lake County Parks*
- Tickets to Crossroads Village and Huckleberry Railroad's summer, Halloween and Christmas programs*
- 2008 daily and seasonal boat launch and Mounds ORV park passes*
- 2008 Genesee Belle cruises*
- 2008 campsite fees at Wolverine Campground*

As you can see from the above information, YOUR Genesee County Parks has much to offer all year long!



Green Arts Project Community Environment Art Exhibit **Save the Date**

On Friday, November 9th, Red Ink Studios will be showcasing the work of many Green Arts Programs from all of 2007. Many of the major works on display will be centered around environmental and watershed themes. If you would like more information, please call the FRWC office, 767-6490.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day Saturday, October 6

There will be two locations available for drop off of hazardous materials open from 10am until 2pm.

- The Water Service Center at 3310 E. Court St. in Flint between Center and Dort
- Davison Central Elementary School at 600 S. State Street in Davison between Lexington and Clark

If you have any questions, contact Natural Resources Agent Darren Bagley at bagleyda@msu.edu or (810) 244-8524.

FLINT RIVER WATERSHED COALITION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____ Address _____ City/Zip _____

Phone _____ e-mail _____

Please check one

<input type="checkbox"/> Student	\$10.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$25.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Family/group	\$40.00
<input type="checkbox"/> River Sponsor	\$100.00
<input type="checkbox"/> River Patron	\$250.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Watershed Protector	\$500.00
<input type="checkbox"/> 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 1001
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