

The Watershed Reporter

From The Executive Director

Rebecca Fedewa

The Green Arts Project of the Center for Applied Environmental Research recently hosted an invigorating two day event featuring Peter Forbes from the Center for Whole Communities. Mr. Forbes spoke



Rebecca Fedewa

to us about reconnecting people and the land, about working together across issues to ensure long term conservation of our watershed, and about using the power of story to convey not just what we are about, but who we are for.

These are all very powerful notions and a great challenge to the FRWC as we move into the next ten years of operation. If you are getting this newsletter, you likely already have a story about your connection to the river and why you care about partnering to protect, preserve, and improve the watershed. We want to hear that story, as well as provide opportunities to introduce the river to new friends, and help them create their story.

As for the FRWC board and staff, we like to

say that the FRWC is serving as the Voice of the river. For me, that notion has meant that we speak out for a resource that can not speak for itself. After listening to Mr. Forbes, I realize this Voice can be even more. We can be a community voice speaking to the joy we find in, on, and around the river. We can be the voice that tells our friends, neighbors, and decision makers why we should protect our river. And we can be a

collective voice that pulls all of our stories together to define why we care so much about the Flint River Watershed, who we are working so hard to protect it for, and how we're going to accomplish our goals.

To have that kind of voice, we need all kinds of members. We have steadily built the membership base of the FRWC over the years. But this year is especially exciting because we have a challenge from our funders to reach 400 members by December 31st. We're making great progress on that goal, but we could definitely use your help. When you are done with this newsletter, I hope you can take it to your friend or neighbor and tell them YOUR story of the watershed and why this organization is important to you. And as I mentioned above, we would love to hear your story, too.

Tell us what the Flint River or one of its tributaries means to you and why you feel it should be protected for future generations. We'll be collecting your stories to inspire us in our work, and if you let us, publishing some in future newsletters to inspire the rest of the FRWC community.

Finally, I wanted to add an additional thought about what we can accomplish when we work as a

community. Inside this newsletter, you'll find an update on the passage of the Great Lakes Compact. This is a momentous achievement for the conservation community not just in Michigan, but across the Great Lakes basin. Several years of hard work went into this effort, and it will be some time more before we see the Compact fully implemented at the federal level. But we likely never would have gotten this far or had the promise

River Clean-up Thank you!

Susanne Kubic

I'm very thankful this year on how the river cleanup went. I want to thank our great sponsors who donated cash and services and our wonderful volunteers who gave up a Saturday morning to come out and pick up trash. I am also thankful that we could not have had better weather if we planned it.

A challenge was issued to our new Outreach & Education Coordinator, Sue Lossing, that if she got us more volunteers, I would get us the sites for those people. Sue rose to the challenge and we added 3 more sites this year.

Also, the FRWC partnered to hold simultaneous clean ups off the river. Often trash on the ground ends up in the river either from wind



or rain, so the trash picked up at the community cleanups is trash that won't end up in the river. I'm happy to report that 270 volunteers from Genesee and Lapeer Counties removed the equivalent of 246 bags of garbage equaling over 1,700 cubic feet of trash. In addition, we removed several bikes, shopping carts, and TVs, 22 tires, a freezer, and a rusted out bed frame from the river.

I want to thank again all the people that took the time to help. I can't help but get excited for next year, because there are over a half a million potential volunteers in the Flint River Watershed and Sue will have almost a year to prepare...I think I need to start scouting for new sites now. *Have a wonderful summer!*

of such an exciting outcome if we hadn't pulled together as a community to speak for our freshwater natural resources.

So congratulations to all of us, and keep up the good work!!



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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.

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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 Prah Conference Center.

Genesee GREEN Completes 20th Year

Bill Welch

Genesee GREEN, the student water monitoring program, has just completed the 2008 season. This completes the 20th year that Flint River Watershed students have participated, and the 4th year under the leadership of FRWC. GREEN in Genesee County is funded by General Motors and the Genesee County Drain office.

GREEN, *Global Rivers Environmental Education Network*, was designed for schools to learn about watersheds and water monitoring. The mission for students is to determine water quality in their watershed. Schools in Genesee County have volunteered to participate and have added their data to a Global Rivers database. School participation has increased yearly, and for 2008 there were 893 students



Senator John Gleason works with students at Whittier Middle School

in the field sampling the Flint River and its tributaries. Quality of the Flint River water has been found generally to be good or very good. Current and past data can be found on the Genesee GREEN website at www.geneseegreen.org.

The FRWC goal for GREEN is to introduce and support watershed education in every school district in the Watershed. Currently 81% of school districts in Genesee County participate. Future plans are being discussed to include school districts outside of Genesee County that are part of the Flint River Watershed.

On May 16, FRWC held a GREEN/Watershed celebration at Mott Community College. At the celebration, called the Student Water Summit, student teams presented their water quality data and listened to environmental professionals discuss various aspects of watersheds. The student presentations were impressive and showed a thoughtful understanding of watersheds and the necessary part they play in our environment.

The Flint River Watershed Coalition would like to thank all the student participants for 2008. Our appreciation also goes out to all of the teachers that participated as well as General Motors and the Genesee County Drain office for their financial contributions. Other sponsors we would like to thank are Mott Community College and Genesee Intermediate School District. We would also like to thank our many environmental professionals that volunteer their time to mentor in classrooms.

The 21st year for Genesee GREEN will begin next fall. Teachers and mentors will be trained to lead their students in the assessment of water quality. In the spring, look for hundreds of students 'getting wet' in our watershed streams.

Land use, planning & zoning, and the high cost of gasoline...

Chairman's Update: Jack Minore

What, one might ask, connects those three items? Perhaps a walk through recent history will help. When I was a kid, growing up on the near north side of Flint, the neighborhood was comprehensive and self-contained.



Jack Minore

In a 6-7 block walk from my house, I had my choice of three grocery stores, three locally owned pharmacies, two bars, one restaurant, two barbershops,

dentist and physician offices, two drycleaners and a half dozen other commercial businesses. We could – and did – walk to fill virtually all of our service needs. My Dad rode the bus to work at “Chevy in the Hole” and many of our neighbors walked the mile+ to the Buick Factory. We rarely used the one car in the family – except on weekends. The houses were modest and mostly sat on 50 foot lots. Growing up in the forties and fifties, my life was pretty typical of other city dwellers. We didn’t use much gasoline!

In the sixties, however, land use changed (along with a lot of other things!). People began to move out to the suburbs, build larger homes, and drive everywhere. Soon, families began to “need” two or more cars. And kids could no longer walk to school. Gasoline consumption doubled and tripled, at least.

Later the houses got bigger, the suburbs further from the cities, box

stores replaced the neighborhood stores, schools got built on large plots ever further from the student homes – and gasoline consumption continued to rise.

Later still, the 3,200 square foot house with the attached and heated three car garage became the “norm” – in contrast to the 900 square foot home in which my parents and three siblings were comfortable. Every step, our own land use policies have made us more dependent on oil – and has required so much more of it on a daily basis – in spite of substantially increased fuel efficiency.

Of course there is a much greater concern for water resources in this history. As we paved more and more miles of pavement, drive ways, and parking lots – and as we built ever bigger roofs over those new houses and big stores – we eliminated hundreds of thousands of acres of permeable land, creating huge run-off problems for every creek and drain within our developed lands, and we’ve destroyed natural wetlands in the process. Development accounts for much of the increased problem with run-off pollution in our streams and lakes.

The moral of this history, of course, is to stress my firm belief that land use and issues of planning and zoning influence far more than just the new development site and its neighbors. Land use affects us all! I encourage you to consider how you can help influence better land use planning in your community.

Brandon Township Holds Planning Fair

Lois B. Robbins

Embarking on revisions to its master plan a year before they are required to do so, the Brandon Township Planning Commission is to be commended for its decision to seek as much public participation in the process as possible. As a result, a Planning Fair was held on June 10. Around 25 people attended, including several Middle School students brought by Science teacher, Dave Green. Most of the people in attendance are members of Defending Our Natural Treasures, a chapter of the Flint River Watershed Coalition.

Doug Lewan, the township’s Planning Consultant with Carlisle Wortman Associates, gave a brief PowerPoint presentation, explaining the purpose and limitations of a master plan as a guide for future zoning adjustments and ordinances. He then invited residents to visit any or all of the following topic stations to let their desires be known to the planning commissioner staffing each of the following stations: Residential Development, Commercial Development, Transportation, Natural Areas, Community Services, and others. At each station, a Planning Commissioner listened to residents’ concerns and noted them on a chart pad. Comments from each station were then summarized in a plenary session to conclude the event.

At the Planning Commission’s follow-up meeting on June 24, the Commissioners reviewed the results of the June 10 event. By far the Natural Areas was the most active station, with special concern for Kearsley Creek, a headwaters to the Flint River. Commissioners decided to schedule a second Planning Fair with better publicity, hoping for expanded citizen input. The Commission’s goal is to have a draft of the Master Plan revisions by Christmas of this year.

It’s clear that the Brandon Township Planning Commission desires to create a document that will honor the desires of Brandon residents to protect our cool jewel, Kearsley Creek, and the wetlands, woodlands and open spaces that give our township the rural character we love.

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!

Vegetation Flourishing at Gilkey Creek Rehabilitation Project

Brad Hill

Now that summer has arrived, newly established vegetation is flourishing in the Gilkey Creek streambed and floodplain constructed last year at the Mott Applewood Estate, near the Flint Cultural Center. The roots of the vegetation will hold soil in place when it rains or when the flow of water in the creek is fast to prevent water pollution caused by soil erosion.

Gilkey Creek starts in Grand Blanc Township and flows through Burton and Flint into the Flint River in northeastern Flint (near Hamilton Avenue). Almost all of the land that drains into the creek (its watershed) is urbanized. Because of this, the creek receives rainfall runoff (stormwater) that flows into it from roofs, driveways, roads, parking lots and other paved areas through storm sewers. This runoff carries pollution washed from these surfaces, such as dirt, animal droppings, yard wastes, lawn fertilizer and pesticides, automobile fluid leakage, and litter.

Flooding was exacerbated at Applewood by recent upstream commercial and residential development, mostly in Burton, which increased the area of upstream impervious surfaces (roofs, roads, parking lots, etc.) and volume of stormwater captured by them. Upstream stormwater is rapidly directed to Gilkey Creek through enclosed storm sewers and open drains. New upstream development now includes the use of retention basins to lower stormwater flow to prevent flooding.

During the summer and fall of 2007, a project to protect Applewood from flooding as well as enhance water quality and wildlife habitat in Gilkey Creek was carried out in the reach encompassed by the estate. This stream rehabilitation project involved excavating a new stream bed and contouring stream banks and the flood plain to correct hydrological problems caused by channelization. A stormwater detention pond and wetland were constructed next to the creek, and rapids, dams, pools and other types of aquatic habitat were created in the new

Lapeer Chapter Recieves Award

The Lapeer Chapter of the FRWC has won the Clean Waters Award from the Michigan Outdoor Writers Association, a professional organization of more than 200 outdoor writers and photographers. The Lapeer County Chapter's hard work and dedication was recognized during the association's summer conference on Beaver Island. Diane Peplinski had the arduous task of traveling to the island to accept the award on the Chapter's behalf.

We are so proud of all the great work of the Lapeer Chapter, and couldn't be more pleased that they are receiving this type of broader recognition from the public. The Chapter was nominated for the award by Mark Sak, a professional tournament angler and outdoor writer.

Congratulations to every volunteer in the Lapeer Chapter!!



Diane Peplinski recieves MOWA award from Carol Swienhart

channel. An in-stream sedimentation basin was also created for intercepting suspended solids. Soil erosion and sedimentation control measures were carefully employed throughout construction to prevent water pollution in the creek.

The Flint River Watershed Coalition studied the impact of the stream rehabilitation project on water quality while it was under construction. Samples were collected from the creek upstream and downstream of the project, and water quality index scores were calculated from sample test results.

This was done during periods of dry and wet weather to evaluate the impact of stormwater runoff and stream bank erosion during high flows on water quality. A biological survey was also done upstream and downstream of the project for assessing longer term water quality.

No substantial degradation in water quality was observed downstream of the project, and no correlation between rainfall amount and water quality was found.

The upstream and downstream water quality was good, as measured by chemical and physical testing, and fair, as measured by biological analysis.

*For more detailed information on the testing results, see **Good Water Quality** on page 5.*

FRWC on the Web

In the next month or so, you will be seeing a major overhaul to the FRWC website www.FlintRiver.org. We'll have a new look, but don't worry, we'll still have all the features you've come to love on our current site. Plus, we'll be adding new features, such as an interactive map of our monitoring sites, individual pages for each of our four chapters, online donation and activity signup, and more! Come check us out. In addition to our new site, the FRWC has become active on two social networking sites. We now will be housing our photos at www.flickr.com/photos/frwc. Come browse the sights and activities of the watershed. We'll slowly be adding photos over the summer, and if you have pictures you would like to add, please email them to me at rfedewa@flinriver.org. And if you have a page on FaceBook, please consider adding the Flint River Watershed Coalition as a "group" in your profile. And tell all your friends!!

Governor Signs Great Lakes Water Compact

--from the National Wildlife Federation

The Great Lakes states took an historic step toward protecting the lakes from water diversions on July 9, 2008, when Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm signed the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact.

With Granholm's signature, all eight Great Lakes states—Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin—have now passed the Great Lakes Compact, a regional water management agreement to protect the lakes from water diversions outside the region and to promote water conservation within the region.

The Compact now heads to the U.S. Congress. For it to become law, Congress must consent to the water agreement.

"There were times that I thought this day would never come," said Andy Buchsbaum, regional executive director of the National Wildlife Federation's Great Lakes office and veteran of many Great Lakes Compact workgroups. "To think that all eight Great Lakes states have passed the exact same law to protect the lakes... and that the law they passed is so visionary and effective. It's taken almost ten years from beginning to end, but the results are worth it. This is a remarkable, once in a lifetime achievement. And it's due to the hard work, dedication and vision of Great Lakes state leaders like Michigan's Governor Granholm, Senator



Michigan's Governor Granholm, Senator Patty Birkholz (left), and Representative Rebekah Warren

Patty Birkholz, and Representative Rebekah Warren."

Buchsbaum cautioned, "But we're not done. Now it's Congress's turn. To complete the process, Congress needs to approve what the Great Lakes states have created. Our state leaders have showed their mettle; now we look forward to our Congressional leaders stepping up. Our U.S. Representatives and Senators need to act with the same urgency that united the region to protect this national treasure from water diversion so that people, businesses and communities can depend on Great Lakes water now and generations to come."

The Great Lakes Compact is the culmination of a multi-year process of negotiations among the eight Great Lakes States.

The Great Lakes contain 95 percent of the fresh surface water of the United States. Although seemingly abundant, less than 1 percent of the Great Lakes water is renewed each year, leaving the lakes vulnerable to degradation and depletion.

The Compact will ensure that clean and plentiful water remains available to provide critical drinking water for citizens, power for the economy, affordable and efficient transportation for commerce, and numerous recreational opportunities for the region's residents and tourists alike.

Good Water Quality in Gilkey Creek

Brad Hill

Water quality in Gilkey Creek is generally good. The Flint River Watershed Coalition started monitoring water quality in Gilkey Creek near its mouth at Flint Kearsley Park last July (see "Vegetation Flourishing in Gilkey Creek Rehabilitation Project").

Gilkey Creek starts in Grand Blanc Township and flows through Burton and Flint into the Flint River in northeastern Flint (near Hamilton Avenue). Almost all of the land that drains into the creek (its watershed) is urbanized. Because of this, the creek receives rainfall runoff (stormwater) that flows into it from roofs, driveways, roads, parking lots and other paved areas through storm sewers. This

runoff carries pollution washed from these surfaces, such as dirt, animal droppings, yard wastes, lawn fertilizer and pesticides, automobile fluid leakage, and litter. Because of the polluted runoff, the suspended solids concentration in the creek was as high as 308 parts per million in Kearsley Park after heavy rainfall last month (the average concentration for the last 12 months is 25 parts per million).

Monitoring is being done for the Ruth Mott Foundation to assess the impact on water quality in the creek resulting from a project at the Mott Applewood Estate, near the Flint Cultural Center, to prevent flooding and enhance water quality and wildlife habitat in it. Water quality scores are being calculated based on the numbers of biological indicator organisms collected in the creek and also on water sample test results for dissolved

oxygen, pH, total solids, turbidity, phosphates, nitrate, and temperature.

The water quality score determined by biological analysis (bio-monitoring) was 27 last fall and 39 this spring. A bio-monitoring based water quality score of 19 – 33.9 represents fair water quality score determined by biological analysis (bio-monitoring) was 27 last fall and 39 this spring. A bio-monitoring based water quality score of 19 – 33.9 represents fair water quality and a score of 34 – 48 represents good water quality. The average water quality score determined by water testing was in 77 in 2007 and 78 this spring. A testing based score of 70 to 90 represents good water quality. These findings indicate that the water quality was generally good, despite the impact of stormwater pollution.

Tip #7: Choose Earth Friendly Landscaping



There are many simple and easy things you can do today that will help the FRWC in our mission to protect, preserve, and improve the Flint River Watershed. The Genesee County Community Water Quality Consortium has consolidated these ideas into seven tips that focus on simple changes that can make a big difference! Today, we've focused on tip #7: Choose Earth Friendly Landscaping

Mow high Make your lawn cheaper and easier to maintain by mowing high (three inches is recommended). Taller grass requires less water, promotes root growth, and shades out weeds. And fewer mowings require less of that ever more expensive gasoline!!

Use mulch Place a thick layer of mulch (e.g., four inches) around trees and plants. This helps retain water, reduce weeds, and minimize the need for pesticides.

Go native Select plants native to Michigan. Native plants are better equipped to tolerate Michigan's climate, require less fertilizing, and are more disease resistant. A good resource for native plants is www.epa.gov/glnpo/greenacres/ or just type "Michigan Native Plants" into GoodSearch or your favorite web search engine.

Variety is the spice of life Using a wide variety of plants helps control pests and minimizes the need for pesticides

Water wisely Generally, your lawn needs about an inch of water a week. Over-watering lawns results in shallow-rooted plants that are less tolerant of heat and drought, and more prone to disease. Avoid over-watering by using a rain gauge and watering only when necessary, instead of on a fixed schedule.

Use less for pests Pesticides and herbicides can be harmful to our kids, pets, and the environment. So, use pesticides and herbicides sparingly. Limit applications to problem areas instead of applying to the entire area (e.g., weed and feed).

Rake it or leave it Follow the guidelines in your community for leaf pick-up. Never rake leaves into or near storm drains, ditches, or streams. Decaying leaves use up the water's oxygen, harming fish and the aquatic insects that fish depend on to survive. Better yet, mow leaves into your lawn. Leaves and grass clippings are good fertilizers for your lawn.

Buffer Create buffers of plants between waterways and hard surface areas to help filter out pollutants.

For more information on all seven tips, please visit the Genesee County Community Water Quality Consortium at www.ClearGeneseeWater.org

MEMBERSHIP

The programs and membership activities sponsored by the Flint River Watershed Coalition this spring proved successful and rewarding. We continued to grow our membership, and to retain past supporters and volunteers. As always, we want to acknowledge those who became new members, or renewed their affiliation with our organization.

New members of the Flint River Watershed Coalition are:

Shane Connors
Patrick Erwin
David and Suzanne Lossing
Brittany Pilarski
Michael Stemm

Renewing members are:

Linda Johnson Barnes
Bob and Chris Carlyon
Leo and Genevieve Dorr
Wanda Dowdall
Kenneth and Amy Elwert
Susanne Kubic
Lois Robbins
Paul Roetter
Michael and Peggy Supernault
Dayne and Carrie Walling
Paul Wenstrom

10 Questions With...Brent Nickola, FRWC board member

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

- To stay informed and provide input on one of the greatest assets in our community.

2) What FRWC programs do you participate in?
- I have coordinated several cleanup sites and chaired the strategic planning committee.

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

- 2002

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

- That one fishing hole that always produces! Sorry, I can't be any more specific.

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

- The changing attitude of our community towards our river.

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

- As a kid, building little dams and knocking them down on the small creek behind my house.

7) What worries you most about the watershed?

- That people drive over small creeks near their home and don't know that they are part of the Flint River.

8) What gives you the most hope?

- Rivers ability to inspire people.

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

- Take everyone out in a canoe and show them all the life in the river.

10) Who is your river/watershed/environmental/conservation hero?

- Former Poet Laureat, Robert Hass. He once took a classroom of underprivileged children into the United States Senate to do a presentation on the combined sewers that service Capitol Hill. The children showed everyone how the senator's crap literally ended up in the children's neighborhood.

Lapeer Happenings *Dave Wolfenden*

Wed, 6/11, I took a kayak ride from Millville Landing to Norway Lake Rd. in the early evening. It was a very comfortable evening with a slight breeze and no rain. The water level was very high, so I decided to see how much damage the high water and wind had done.

As I got in my kayak at Millville, I was joined by a small frog. I didn't want didn't want to share my beer with him so I left him at the bridge. The DNR cleared a very large tree from the property just downstream from Millville a few weeks ago so the river is clear up to the area that Rotary is still working on off Stonegate Rd. We cut out a pathway on the left side of the big

jam and it was no problem getting through with the high water, but we need to do more work on it and another obstruction just downstream.

For now, there is an adequate opening at the left side and I got through easily, but the strong current took my kayak into a leaning tree just beyond the blockage. That tree has to go. Continuing on to Flint River Rd. I noticed many trees leaning into the water which weren't there a month ago, but none of them pose a navigation problem at this time, and for now, they provide habitat.

It was such a beautiful evening I continued past Flint River Road into the State Game Area. There is a very large blockage at the Bush property near the

oxbow which has been forming for several years. I was able to fight my way through it from the water, but it would have been easier and faster to have gotten out and gone around it and I wouldn't have had a boat full of spiders. Further downstream I encountered two more blockages and I did have to get out and go around one of them.

Late afternoon/early evening is a very good time to observe wildlife all along the river. I was able to get close to deer, musk rats, several great blue herons, a few kingfishers and lots of ducks. When the river is high like it is this week, the time from Millville to Norway Lake Rd. is only about two hours.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JULY		AUGUST		SEPTEMBER	
July	No Flint River Watershed Coalition board of directors, Lapeer Chapter, or DONT meetings in July.	August TBA	FRWC Canoe Trip, Flint River Trail from Mitsen Landing to Downtown Flushing. Contact: FRWC	September TBA	FRWC River Walk: Montrose Barber Memorial Park. Contact FRWC
July 12	Bike Ride: Rochester Area, Contact FFRT for more information.	August TBA	FRWC Canoe Rally, Flint River from Downtown Flushing to Montrose. Contact: FRWC	September TBA	FRWC River Walk: Richfield Park. Contact FRWC
July 13	Ice Cream Ride. Meet at Flint's Farmers Market at 2:00pm. Contact FFRT.	August 9	Bike Ride: Bay City (including State Park). Contact FFRT	September 16	Lapeer Chapter Meeting of the Flint River Watershed Coalition. 7 PM.
July 31	FRWC River Walk: Flushing River Trail. Meet at Bueche's parking lot for an interpretive walk from the Flushing City Park to Flushing County Park. Contact: FRWC	August 10	Ice Cream Ride. Meet at Flint's Farmers Market at 2:00 pm. Contact FFRT	September 19	Flint River Watershed Coalition board of directors meeting, Genesee Room of the Prah Center. 8:30 AM.
July TBA	FRWC River Walk: Holloway Reservoir. Contact FRWC	August 15	Flint River Watershed Coalition board of directors meeting, Genesee Room of the Prah Center. 8:30 AM.	CONTACT INFORMATION: FFRT=Friends of the Flint River Trail, Jack Minore @ (810) 235-1490; Bruce Nieuwenhuis @ bnbaton@gmail.com FRWC: Flint River Watershed Coalition, (810) 767-6490.	
July TBA	FRWC River Walk: Stepping Stone Falls. Contact FRWC	August 19	Lapeer Chapter Meeting of the Flint River Watershed Coalition. 7 PM.		
		August TBA	FRWC River Walk: Clio Park. Contact FRWC		
		August TBA	FRWC River Walk: George Atkins, Jr. Recreational Trail. Contact FRWC		

SPRING STREAM MONITORING

Dennis I. Zicha: Monitoring Committee Chairman



We sampled 22 of our 30 total sites (73%), 15 of 16 in Genesee County and 7 of 10 in Lapeer County. A total of 43 volunteers participated with 5 people participating for the first time. Six teams went out on Saturday and ten teams on Wednesday.

The overall stream quality rating (Poor, Fair, Good, Excellent) for sites sampled this spring improved at four locations (all in Genesee County) and declined for five streams (four of the five were in Lapeer County). Thirteen

locations remained the same as last spring.

Rebecca and Sue deserve special thanks as they monitored three sites together and two others locations with different partners. Sara McDonnell and Carol Clemons also monitored two sites,

both on the same day! Brad Hill and his partners at the Flint Water Pollution Control Department also did their usual two sites on Butternut Creek.

Fall monitoring will be scheduled sometime in the last week of September and first week of October. We are also planning a training session for early September. Please note these dates on your calendars and plan to participate. You will be hearing more about the fall session as we get closer to September.

Special thanks, especially for all our volunteers, whose participation makes this critical activity possible. Please spread the word about this program to your friends and family so we may expand our roster of volunteers. Thanks once again for helping to make a difference. I hope to see you in the fall.

Once again this spring our semi-annual stream-monitoring project was a success. Monitoring was conducted on Saturday, April 26 and the following Wednesday, April 30. Volunteers at some Lapeer County sites participated on other days due to scheduling conflicts.



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