

CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

Our Board of Directors has selected former State Representative Jack Minore as the new Executive Director of the Watershed Coalition. Minore has knowledge of the legislative and political systems, having served 15 years as a Flint City Councilperson and six years as a State Representative. He brings to the coalition his years of experience as an educator at Whaley Children's Center and five years of administrative service as the Executive Director of the Genesee County Bar Association.

I personally extend a special welcome to him. He dedicates himself to whatever work he takes on. He is thorough, considerate and energetic. I look forward to working with him as we begin this year of challenge: reinvigorating our membership and increasing the number of volunteers.

I want to pay special tribute to our former chair, Darren Bagley. He has done a superb job for the past two years with a special effort to keep us on track this past year. We on the Board are grateful for his efforts and his active participation on the Board.

We have three new board members joining us this year. They and other board members are listed elsewhere in the newsletter. Let us know your concerns and please volunteer for, and participate in, our various activities. If you are receiving this newsletter, but are not a current member of the Watershed Coalition, please support us by joining us in our efforts to assure improved water quality throughout the six county watershed area.

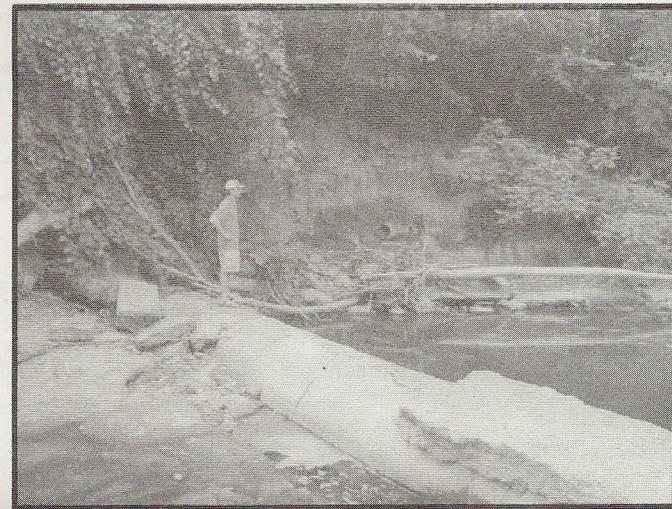
S. Olof Karlstrom

Watershed projects: a "road map" for future planning

By Brent Nickola

Over the course of the past several years many advances were made in protecting water resources in the Flint River Watershed. The Flint River Watershed Coalition (FRWC) has continued to conduct programs like the River Cleanup, Volunteer Monitoring and this spring will be administering Project Green for the first time in the watershed. In addition to these existing programs several other activities have been underway to greatly enhance our protection of the Flint River Watershed. What other activities have been underway you ask? Watershed planning and lots of it!

Approximately three years ago the FRWC and the Center for Applied Environmental Research (CAER) embarked on the first watershed planning process on a tributary of the Flint River Watershed. Since the beginning of that project I am pleased to report that more watershed planning efforts have started and that they are being funded by increasingly diverse sources. As several of these projects are nearly complete and others are starting this spring, I felt this was a great time to briefly review them and to express how important each and every one of us will be in implementing them.



Do we really know what's coming out of those pipes? Shouldn't we? We will, as soon as the Swartz Creek Watershed Study is complete in May.

THE PROJECTS:

The Swartz Creek Watershed Planning Project was the first project of its kind in the Flint River Watershed and as such has played an important role in the FRWC's watershed planning efforts. This project has provided the necessary resources to build FRWC's and CAER's capacity in watershed planning. The lessons learned from this project have been used in the other projects and will prove invaluable in future watershed planning efforts in the Flint River Watershed.

The Kearsley Creek Watershed management planning effort led by the Genesee County Drain Commissioners office will be completed in 2005. This project is unique in that it used highly sophisticated computer models as a basis for its analysis. The information from this

See WATERSHED continued on page 2

Save our river: volunteer for the annual river clean-up on May 21

By Dennis Zawol

The Watershed's annual Flint River clean-up will be 9:00am-1:00pm on Saturday, May 21st at various sites along the Flint River. Volunteers are encouraged to sign up in advance by calling the FRWC office, 810-767-6490, or just show up at one of the sites on the morning of the clean-up.

Vietnam Veterans Park: James P. Cole Blvd., between Hamilton Ave. & Robert T. Longway Blvd., west side of river

Holloway Dam Canoe Access: Carr

Road at the dam

Flushing Riverview Park: Cherry St. in downtown Flushing

UM-Flint Campus: near Harrison Street at the river

Lapeer – Crampton Park: Genesee

A sense of ownership is a great motivator for involvement.

Road and Monroe Street

Lapeer – Farmers Creek: Off M-24 east side of the Home Depot parking lot

Lunch and t-shirts provided for all volunteers; please bring your own work gloves, sturdy clothes, rakes, and wading boots, if desired. For additional information, call the FRWC office, 810-767-6490 or contact Dennis Zawol, clean-up chair, at northstate@hotmail.com

WATERSHED continued from page 1

project's analysis has led to the discovery of specific causes of stream degradation, impaired uses, and provided a means for measuring the success of corrective efforts.

The Gilkey Creek Watershed, the smallest in the Flint River Watershed and located in the heart of the City of Flint, will be undergoing watershed planning this spring and summer. This watershed, like so many urban rivers has been neglected to the point of almost being entirely forgotten as a resource. However, this spring the FRWC and CAER, with funding from the Ruth Mott

Foundation, will be working to change that image of the creek. This unique project provides FRWC and CAER with the opportunity to work with a distinguished group of stakeholders that included Mott Community Collage, The Applewood Estate, the Flint Cultural Center, and several vibrant neighborhoods in the City of Flint. The goals of this project are to identify potential sites for water quality improvement and to raise the awareness of the need to restore and beautify the Gilkey Creek

Watershed.

Finally, the Lapeer Committee of the FRWC and CAER have solicited funding to develop a watershed management plan



Brent Nickola (right) and DEQ Director, Steve Chester, met recently in Lansing to discuss watershed issues and to tape a brief segment for a spot to air on public television station, WFUM.

for the headwaters of the South Branch of the Flint River. The "Headwaters Project" will focus largely on protecting the river from negative impacts related to the expansion of M-24 in southern Lapeer County. This project will work with several large land owners and concerned stakeholders to protect the only self sustaining trout stream in the Flint River Watershed.

Through the hard work of the FRWC and several of its project partners it is

clear that we are beginning to see increase of watershed planning activities in the Flint River Watershed. In only the past three years we have gone from having no watershed planning efforts to having over 750 square miles of land and over 950 liner miles of streams undergoing formal watershed planning. These accomplishments are great and should serve as a source of pride for the FRWC and its many partners. However, the most exciting aspect of these projects is their potential impacts on the future of the watershed.

These plans and planning efforts provide us with a "road map" to protecting the watershed by identifying the critical issues that we must address in our advocacy. If we are to be successful in protecting our local waters we must encourage decision makers, landowners, farmers and citizens to use the recommendations set forth in these plans. This task will require effort and hard work from all that are concerned with the issue. But, in that effort, be confident that the plans being developed will provide us with tools to guide our dialog and decisions to preserve, protect, and restore the great natural resource that is the Flint River.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

I am pleased to have assumed the position of Executive Director of the Flint River Watershed Coalition and I look forward to working with you to advance good environmental practices in the area. Our work is, and will continue to be, largely volunteer driven. Our success depends on all of us working together to improve water quality and to preserve water resources in the region.

I welcome your ideas and suggestions as I begin this new venture. I hope that you will feel free to contact me at any time with your ideas on how we can best achieve our common environmental concerns.

I hope to increase our visibility in the entire watershed area, in order to increase membership and member participation in our various programs. One means of achieving this goal to regular communication – especially through this quarterly newsletter. In addition, I invite all of you to check our website at www.flintriver.org for complete information about us and our programs.

If you have an interest in a healthy environment across our entire watershed but have not yet become a member, please consider joining today. Our viability as an organization depends on increasing our membership annually over the next two years. Please contact us for membership information.

*Jack Minore
minore@umflint.edu*

Disposal of household hazardous waste at three sites in Genesee County on May 14

Everyone has dangerous stuff lying around their home: material that could be poisonous or have a bad effect on the environment. These hidden dangers are in your basement, your garage, and under the kitchen sink. Some of it could be leftover from when you bought your home. Often it is hiding in your parents or grandparents house because they don't know how to properly dispose of the stuff.

Take an opportunity this spring to get rid of it! Landfills aren't designed to hold hazardous waste, they are designed to hold everyday trash. Dispose of your old chemicals properly at the Genesee County Household Hazardous Waste Collection on Saturday, May 14th from 10am until 2pm at three locations:

City of Flint Water Service Center
3310 E. Court Street
Opposite Consumer's Energy between Center and Dort Hwy., at the corner of Averill Avenue.

Atherton Middle School
3444 South Genesee Rd., Burton, MI

Hill-McCloy High School
Montrose Community Schools
301 Nanita Dr., Montrose, MI

Material accepted include used motor oil, gasoline, antifreeze, oil-based paints, stains, paint thinners, old medicines, mercury (including thermometers and thermostats), pesticides, fertilizers, cleaning chemicals, batteries (all kinds; automotive, rechargeable, household).

We do NOT accept latex paint, radioactive materials, explosives, or any material from businesses.

Residents in Lapeer County should contact Phil Kaatz, Lapeer County MSU Extension Director, at 810-667-0341, for information about the next collection day. Residents of other counties should call their environmental health department.

Upcoming events to put on your calendar

APRIL 2005

FRWC Board Meeting
April 15, 8:30 a.m., Mott CC, Prahl

Earth Day
April 23, 9 a.m.- 3 p.m., Mott CC

Wild Lapeer Days
Lapeer, MI

April 23, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Training for River Monitoring
April 23, Mott CC

FRWC River Monitoring
April 30, Mott CC

MAY 2005

FRWC River Monitoring

May 4

FRWC Board Meeting
May 20, 8:30 a.m., Mott CC, Prahl

Annual Flint River Clean-up
May 21, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

JUNE 2005

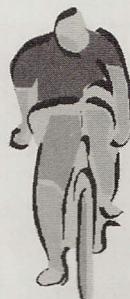
Ortonville "CreekFest"
June 11

FRWC Board Meeting
June 17, Mott CC, Prahl

Friends of the Flint River Trail bike rides begin May 1

By Jack Minore

One of the goals of the Watershed Coalition is to promote recreational use of the water and areas adjacent to the water. Friends of the Flint River Trail (FFRT) is a volunteer organization that promotes the use of the trail that runs along the Flint River from downtown to Carpenter Road where it connects to one of the Genesee County Parks trails. They organize a bike ride every Sunday, May through October, beginning at 2:00 pm, at the Flint City (or Farmer's) Market. The "normal" ride is from the Market and ends at Genesee County Parks and Recreation's, Bluebell Beach on Bray Road. Most of the ride is on



paved trail – though it includes minimal street riding also. The round trip is about 13 miles and is done at a leisurely pace to accommodate amateur riders. Shorter loops are available on all rides. You can find a link to the FFRT on our website.

There are occasional "special" rides during the season including, for example a June 5th "Kids Day" with shorter rides to the Kearsley Park Playground for play and snacks: that ride is intended for the very young (say 5 years old & up) but with longer loops available for older children. A Father's Day Ride (June 19th) will include refreshments and a look at the



The paved bike trail at Bluebell Beach on Bray Road where FFRT bike riders stop for a brief break before heading back to the Flint City Market.

exhibits at the Buick Gallery at Sloan Museum. Occasional Saturday rides on other bike trails will be scheduled.

The first ride is Sunday, May 1st at 2:00 pm. All riders are welcome.

Water Wise

- All the water we have ever had and all we will ever have is on the earth right now.
- The average American uses 200 gallons of water every day.
- A five-minute shower uses 50 gallons of water.
- A dairy cow drinks 56 gallons of water to produce 12 gallons of milk.
- An open faucet allows five gallons of water to pass in just two minutes.

The Flint River Watershed is the 1400 square mile area of land that drains to the Flint River. It includes portions of Genesee, Lapeer, Oakland, Saginaw, Shiawassee, and Tuscola Counties.

Your FRWC membership helps you

Stay "tuned in" to local environmental and natural resource issues through our newsletter and seminars.

Access information on how to protect and enjoy your watershed. Help your local environment through river cleanups and river and stream monitoring.

Meet and work with people with similar interests.

Your FRWC helps your community

Come together to protect, preserve, and improve the Flint River Watershed.

Provide community education programs to develop good watershed stewards and wise use of your resources.

Collect water quality data throughout the watershed to identify problem areas.

Facilitate region-wide river management and restoration. Keep 100% of your membership dollars focused on local projects.

Celebrate Earth Day at wild Lapeer

By Sara Lesky

Join environmentalist from around Lapeer County on Saturday, April 23, from 10-4 at the Lapeer Courthouse Square. This event will be a day of family fun though learning, exploring, and experiencing the natural world. This year many of the programs and activities will focus on the environmental benefits of farms and our local environmental industry. Wild Lapeer will offer several programs and presentations specifically about locally grown foods and farmland preservation.

Start the weekend out right with a "Dinner and a Movie" package on Friday, April 22. For a \$20 per person ticket purchase, each holder can get \$10 off their dinner at several of the downtown restaurants and admission to the featured movie, Barn Red at 7 p.m. the Pix Theater. This full-length feature film is the story of a Michigan fruit farmer and a Native American woman and their attempt to preserve history and retain the farm environment that has stood for many years. Tickets can be purchased at the Lapeer County Parks and Recreation Office, The Pix Theater, and the Lapeer Conservation District Office, or by mail by contacting Marion Listwak at wildlapeer@usol.com or 810-688-3192. Seating is limited so you are encouraged to purchase tickets early!

Pack your picnic blanket and lunch money on Saturday and visit the "lunch

wagon" for locally prepared and grown foods. Several of the featured items include home fries, roasted chicken and organically grown vegetables. Many of the supplying farms will also be displaying their products and services in the booth area so you can find out how to purchase these items year round. Prior to lunch many of the growers will be hosting a "Focus on Food" movie and panel discussion for attendees at the Pix Theater.

Throughout the day participants can visit numerous educational and informational booths along the Courthouse Square at no cost. Live presentations will also be taking place at the Pix Theater. Some of the featured presentations include hands on native Michigan snake and reptile program, a cultural history of the Great Lakes (including walking through a birch tepee), and exploring Farmers Creek, a guided river adventure.

There will be a small fee for some of the presentations, programs and other hands on activities. Tickets can be purchased on site for \$1 per ticket or 25 tickets for \$20 and can be used at all affiliated events and programs. For more information about participating in Wild Lapeer, please contact Marion Listwak at wildlapeer@usol.com or 810-688-3192 or visit the website at www.wildlapeer.org.

Ortonville "CreekFest" - Saturday, June 11

The 3rd Annual Ortonville "CreekFest" along the banks of Kearsley Creek, near the southernmost reaches of the Flint River Watershed, will begin the festivities with a pancake breakfast at 8 a.m. The day will continue with games, crafts, nature exploration and lots of activities for everyone. Fishing in a well-stocked pond is available for the kids, with their own poles. Don't miss out on all the fun!



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 objectives.

Chairman of the Board

S. OLOF KARLSTROM

Executive Director

JACK MINORE

Board of Directors

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MARION LISWIK

ROXY MORENO*

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FRED TOWNSEND

BILL WELCH

DENNIS ZAWOL

DENNIS ZICHA

Newsletter Editor

ROXY MORENO

FRWC Board Meetings are the third Friday of the month, January - June, at Mott Community College in the Prahl Conference Center's, Genesee Room

*Recently elected to the Board of Directors

BECOME A FRWC VOLUNTEER TODAY!

We would like to offer you the opportunity to become a FRWC volunteer. There are many options to choose from. Please indicate your volunteer preference.

Name _____

Committees

- Finance _____
- Strategic planning _____
- Governance _____
- Membership _____

General

- River Rescue _____
- Stream monitoring _____
- Office _____
- Website input _____
- General project organization _____
- RiverFest _____
- Student/Youth activities _____

Please mail volunteer or membership form to:

FRWC, 432 N. Saginaw St., Suite 805, Flint, MI 48502

Please start/renew my annual membership in the

Flint River Watershed Coalition

Name _____

Address _____

Organization _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone (h) _____ (w) _____

Email _____

Student.....	\$20	_____
Family.....	\$40	_____
Individual River Sponsor.....	\$100	_____
Family River Sponsor.....	\$250	_____
Club/Organization/School.....	\$60	_____
Government.....	\$100	_____
Small Business.....	\$100	_____
Large Business.....	\$250	_____
Watershed Protector.....	\$500 annually for 3 years _____	
Watershed Patron.....	\$1000 or more annually for 3 years _____	

YOUR SUPPORT IS SINCERELY APPRECIATED



810-767-6490

Flint, MI 48502

432 N. Saginaw St., Suite 805

Flint River Watershed Coalition

Partnership to protect our natural resources

