

The Watershed Reporter

Summer in the Watershed

From Executive Director Rebecca Fedewa



It's been a beautiful summer in the Flint River Watershed. We've had lots of sunny warm weather, which gave us countless opportunities to get out and enjoy the beauty of the Flint River.

And we've seen more and more people doing just that. Even a few years ago, it would have been an odd site to see kayaks or canoes taking a relaxing float down the river. While we have

no official count, I'm confident that this summer we have seen record numbers of boaters taking in the scenery and enjoying this fabulous amenity that flows through so many of our communities.

Fishing has also been grand this summer, starting with a record turnout at the Flushing Walleye Festival, which brings

in over 350 fishermen and women and over 5,000 persons for its outdoor expo, fish dinner, and other entertainment and activities. All summer long, the fishing throughout the entire watershed has been grand.



Paddling, Fishing & Biking Are all great ways to enjoy the watershed!

Our various trails also have seen a dramatic increase in users, both on foot and on bike. The Friends of the Flint River Trail continue to gain new riders every week, as you'll see later in this newsletter. But we've also noted many new faces out walking all the great trails we have throughout the watershed, whether

it's a taking a break over lunch to get some fresh air or taking a long and leisurely stroll on the weekends.

Which is all to say that all across the Flint River Watershed, we have a plethora of opportunities to get out, get wet (or not!) and enjoy this fabulous resource right here in our own backyards.

So what did you do over your summer vacation? Visit our Facebook page and brag a little about the fun you've had in the watershed. Or send us a letter. We love to hear your stories about all the great gems of the Flint River Watershed.

And even though summer is winding down, our beautiful fall weather can provide even more picturesque visits to the Flint River. Grab a friend, and get out there!

Calling All Monitors!

The FRWC is now an official MiCorps water monitoring program! Which means the state can do much more with the data you collect, including comparing it to data from other watersheds across Michigan. As a new MiCorps program, we need all Monitors, experienced and new alike, to attend one of our upcoming MiCorps Water Monitoring Trainings. There are a few changes in procedure we need to pass along, but this is still the fun and effective method of tracking watershed health that it has always been.

While we have many seasoned experts, we are excited about what you and others can learn from one of the trainings. Training will focus on the MiCorps collection process, identification of the "critters" you find in the stream, and reporting your data. Training should be completed in less than three hours and will help Monitors sharpen their skills and share information with new Monitors.

Water Monitoring Training Dates:

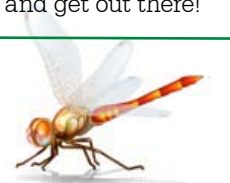
Please contact FRWC Outreach and Education Coordinator Sue Lossing at 810-767-9491 or SLossing@FlintRiver.org with any questions and to sign up for the training session that you plan to attend.

WEDNESDAY • SEPTEMBER 1

Water Monitoring Training, in Lapeer County at the Willows Earth Education Center/Chatfield Schools. Contact FRWC for more information

THURSDAY • SEPTEMBER 9

Water Monitoring Training, in Genesee County at Donnelly Pavilion, Kearsley Park. Contact FRWC for more information





400 N. Saginaw St. Ste. 233
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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.

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Please Recycle!**



newsletter design & layout by Jon Wood

10 Questions With...



Casey Foote

FRWC's New Development Director

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

I have always cared about the environment by being involved in the FRWC I can make a difference right in my own area.

2. What FRWC programs do you participate in?

I volunteered at the Student Summit in the spring of 2010. I plan on taking the training to participate in Benthic monitoring next year.

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

Last summer I attended the Flint River 500 and I knew from that moment on that I wanted to support such a great organization! I was always told to stay away from the Flint River and the FRWC invited me out onto it!

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

I have spent the most time in the Flushing area; however I have recently gone to areas in Lapeer and Goodrich that were absolutely beautiful!

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

A few weeks ago when I was out fly fishing in Flint River every time I took a step I would see ten to fifteen crayfish scurry around under my feet! It was an awesome sight.

6. What's your favorite river (any

river) memory?

When I was a child my brother and I would escape for hours playing in the creek behind my house. I want to help give the children and adults of the Flint River Watershed that same opportunity by being part of the FRWC.

7. What worries you most about the watershed?

Some people have the perception that the Flint River is polluted beyond repair and that what they do will not make a difference.

8. What gives you the most hope?

Since working for the FRWC I am amazed at the amount of people who have volunteered to help in any way they can.

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

I would get more people involved in the Flint River Watershed Coalition, the more awareness and involvement people have the healthier our Flint River will become.

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

Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.

Come and read our blog at



LiVEJOURNAL™
<http://frwc.livejournal.com>

Chairman's Report - Potpourri

Jack Minore

OIL SPILLS!

The recent oil spills in the Gulf and close-by in the Kalamazoo River should bring home the point of how important it is to reduce our dependence on oil. Simple steps



Jack Minore

such as walking and biking more, fully insulating our homes, buying local, and purchasing fuel-efficient cars go a long way. Also consider asking your elected officials about alternative energy, better land use, fuel efficiency (CAFE) standards, etc.

POLITICAL SEASON:

Candidates are going door to door now, so be sure to take the opportunity to ask them about their support of good environmental policy. Keep water stewardship in mind as you consider candidates and when you vote.

CONSERVE WATER:

Living in Michigan, we often feel that we have an abundance of fresh water. But in reality, our water is not an inexhaustible resource. It's easy to take simple steps to make a difference: shorter showers, less lawn watering, using rain water for those

tomato plants, full washer or dish-washer loads, turning the faucet off when brushing your teeth, etc. Every little bit helps!

And for the watershed organization: what can you do here?

MEMBERSHIP:

The FRWC depends on members for both financial support and assistance in serving as the Voice of the Flint River. Be sure you're doing your part! Can you recruit a friend or relative for membership? Are you able to increase your level of giving? Do you speak out on water issues or volunteer for our programs?

LEADERSHIP:

Equally important for the FRWC, consider volunteering – either for our programs or in a leadership position. Do you know someone who might be a good Board member? Let our Executive Director know who you would recommend and let us follow up with them.

As the years go by, stewardship of our local and state's water will become increasingly important! We ALL need to step up our efforts to preserve and protect our waters. We have all known all the things I've mentioned – but we can all improve our habits.

It's Summer and the Trails are Bloomin'

Friends of the Flint River Trail (FFRT) will continue their Sunday rides through the last Sunday in October starting at 2:00 PM at the Flint Farmers' Market. We have had new riders EVERY Sunday – and most repeat in subsequent weeks. The comments are universally positive about the Flint River and the trail. The FFRT also leads rides on other mid-Michigan trails on the second Saturday of each month. The September 11th ride will be on the Lansing River Trail.

We look forward with delight to the new "Kettering Extension" of the trail, now nearly complete (probably done as you read this). It will run from the current trail on the UM-Flint campus west to Kettering University and on to Ballenger Highway. Though not yet finished, the trail is regularly used for walking, jogging, etc. In the future, it is anticipated that this trail will be extended to connect with the current Flushing trail. The trail will now connect three major Flint college campuses – Mott CC, UM-Flint and Kettering.

And, just this July, we took a ride on the newly dedicated Southern Links Trail – a ten mile rail-trail connecting the towns of Columbiaville, Otter Lake and Millington. It's a beautiful, shade covered gentle grade trail with stream crossings and – most importantly – ice cream shops in all three towns! It's a great addition to the Michigan Trails inventory!

'''WE'VE MOVED!!

Come visit us in our new office suite in the Northbank Center.

400 N. Saginaw St. Suite 233

....Our phone numbers and email addresses are still the same.

FRWC - Partnering to Protect, Preserve and Improve the Flint River Watershed

Protecting Our Creeks



Storm Drain Stenciling photo of Davison's Catholic Heart Work Camp

Residents in the Village of Goodrich and Davison Township now know a little more about how they can prevent pollutants from entering our streams. With support from the Our Water program, the FRWC is working with various groups around Genesee County to raise awareness about the impact of storm drains in our watershed. Most recently, the Catholic Heart Workcamp program joined in our efforts, with youth from Pennsylvania, Illinois, Tennessee, and Wisconsin stenciling storm drains and distributing information to over 500 residents on Seven Simple Steps to Clean Water. We appreciate their efforts in helping us educate residents in the Kearsley Creek and Thread Creek Subwatersheds on how they can reduce contaminants from entering our rivers and streams.

Fresh Water Forever Celebrates Preservation!



Steve & Megan Romankewiz out paddling with their dog

The water monitoring site at Flushing Township Nature Park received an "Excellent" rating in both the 2009 and 2010 spring monitoring seasons. To celebrate the health of the river, more than 40 people participated in the Fresh Water Forever with a fun paddle from the nature park to Barber Memorial Park. The water, scenery and the enjoyable company helped make this celebration a wonderful event! Many thanks to Heather Griffin for her assistance, and Flushing Township Nature Park for supporting our events.

Improving the Watershed



Terry Reechko & a boat load of Tires

Terry Reechko: One person making a difference! Terry is a true river steward helping to bring the Flint River back to it's natural beauty. Terry knows what is lurking under the water and it's tires! As Terry expressed: "There's plenty of them and more I'd like to take out." We appreciate his efforts in helping to improve our river, especially for those who like to paddle or fish in this area.

Those who would like to help Terry with this effort, please contact the FRWC.

Want to see photos of your watershed?

flickr

www.flickr.com/photos/frwc/

Celebrating New & Renewing Members

The Flint River Watershed Coalition is out and about! We have really extended our reach in the past few months.

Our environmental, educational, and recreational activities on the Flint River are really expanding our message. We are meeting so many new and excited river enthusiasts who value the natural resource that surrounds us, and who agree that the mission of the FRWC is important. Evidence of this support is the number of new and renewing members of the Coalition who have provided the financial assistance that we need to continue our work to protect, preserve, and improve the Flint River watershed.

New members of the Flint River

Watershed are:

- Clark Almasy**
- Derek Bradshaw**
- Kathleen Dilworth**
- Christine Jaranowski**
- Ron Kahler**
- Edie and Fred Kaufmann**
- Pat Litwiller**
- Carol Mattoon**
- Matthew and Bonnie Mrazek**
- Sandra Murphy**
- Dan Osika**
- T.J. & DeLoris Richards**

Several individuals renewed their membership since the last newsletter was published. They are:

- Carl and Karen Bekofske**
- John Brissaud**
- Michael Brown**
- Ruth Brown**

- Richard and Linda Fedewa**
- Flushing Area Historical Society**
- Keith Garmin**
- Earl Gravlin**
- Rick Holaly**
- Doug Howard**
- Steve and Laura Montle**
- Fred Muhl**
- Terry Reechko**
- Virginia Smith**
- Sandra Smithey**
- Karen Wilkinson**

Please say hi to these individuals and families when you see them on the river in their kayaks, with their fishing poles, or just walking along the path enjoying the views. Let them know that you appreciate their commitment just as much as we do.



Membership Application YES! I am pleased to become a member of the Flint River Watershed Coalition:

FALL 2010

Name _____
 Address _____
 Organization _____
 City, State, Zip _____
 Telephone (H) _____ (C) _____
 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
 400 N. Saginaw Street, Suite 233
 Flint, MI 48502

GET YOURS TODAY!!



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
400 N. Saginaw St. Ste 233
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 _____

Flint River Paddlers

The Flint River Paddlers recently had a club business meeting at the Soggy Bottom Bar to discuss the future of the club. Everyone in attendance was enthusiastic and excited to get the club moving forward again and to make the club more active and involved than it ever has been in the past. In order for this to happen we need everyone who is a paddle sport enthusiast to attend our next business meeting.

The time, date and location (almost definitely the Soggy Bottom Bar again) of the next business meeting will be communicated soon through the Watershed Coalition's website, the weekly e-Newsletter "Ripples from the Watershed," and club e-mail list (Google Groups). You also can contact Eric Hall at (810) 43-4774 for more information.

We are looking for individuals to help out with organiza-



tional roles and leadership for paddling events and trips so that we can get things moving forward at a Rapid (pun intended) pace.

Hope to see everyone either at our next business meeting or on the river soon.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MONTH	DATE/DAY	TIME	EVENT
SEPT	4	WED	Contact FRWC Water Monitoring Training: Lapeer County. Willows Earth Education Center/Chatfield Schools
	3	FRI	Contact FRWC FRWC Fundraiser- Home of Robb & Tamra Klaty
	5	SUN	2pm FFRT Sunday Bike Ride: Farmer's Market
	9	THUR	Contact FRWC Water Monitoring Training: Genesee County at Donnelly Pavilion, Kearsley Park
	7	SAT	Contact LCD Tree Sale Begins - Lapeer Conservation District
	11	SAT	10am FFRT Saturday Bike Ride: Lansing River Trail Meet at Potter Park Zoo
	12	SUN	TBA FFRT Sunday Bike Ride: Farmer's Market
	17	FRI	830am FRWC Board Meeting
	19	SUN	2pm FFRT Sunday Bike Ride: Farmer's Market
	20	MON	7pm Genesee Conservation District: Deadline for Tree Sales
	21	TUE	7pm Lapeer Chapter Meeting
	23	THUR	Contact FRWC Our Water Autumn Paddle: Irish Road to Mott Lake Contact FRWC if participating & for more details
	24	FRI	Contact FRWC Fenton Winery & Brewery Wine Tasting and Silent Auction. Featuring Artist Ernest Carter
	25	SAT	9pm-1030pm Adventures in Nature: Herp Survey - Where and when to find slalmanders. Hogbacks area. \$3.00 fee. Contact Genesee Co. Parks & Rec: 810-736-7100, ext. 6
26	SUN	2pm FFRT Sundy Bike Ride: Farmer's Market	
OCT	2	SAT	7pm Genesee Conservation District: Tree Pick-up at For-Mar
	3	SUN	2pm FFRT Sunday Bike Ride: Farmer's Market
	9	SAT	Contact LCD Tree Sale Pick-up, Lapeer Conservation District.
	9	SAT	10am Saturday bike ride - Trail TBD
	10	SUN	2pm FFRT Sunday Bike Ride: Farmer's Market
	15	FRI	830am FRWC Board Meeting
	16	SAT	[tentative] Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day, Contact Genesee County Metropolitan Planning Commission
	17	SUN	2pm FFRT Sunday Bike Ride: Farmer's Market
	19	TUE	7pm Lapeer Chapter, FRWC Meeting
	24	SUN	2pm FFRT Sunday Bike Ride: Farmer's Market
31	SUN	2pm FFRT - FINAL 2010 Sunday Bike Ride: Farmer's Market	
NOV	16	TUE	7pm Lapeer Chapter, FRWC Meeting
	19	FRI	830am FRWC Board Meeting
DEC	7	TUE	5:50-830pm Appllewood Estate: Holiday Walk
	17	FRI	830am FRWC Board Meeting
JAN	26	WED	6pm FRWC Annual Meeting: Dinner and Auction
		SAVE THE DATE!!	SAVE THE DATE!!
			SAVE THE DATE!!



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Trail Expansion

Construction is nearing completion on a new universal multi-use hard surface blacktop pathway in the City of Flint along the Flint River, made possible with \$1.017 million from the American Recovery and Investment Act.

The new pathway will run from downtown Flint near the State Building next to the University of Michigan - Flint to Ballenger Highway where it will turn north along Ballenger at McLaren Hospital. This section is Phase One of two (2) phases. The preliminary engineering is complete for the second phase which will follow the Flint River along its north bank to Linden Road through Flint Township.



Trail headed west toward Ballenger Hwy

The Flint River Kettering Trail is about 2.5 miles long and will be officially open around Labor Day, 2010.

This new trail will provide connections for many users to neighborhoods along the route, bus stops, stores and shops, community facilities, and other existing and proposed trail

systems. When this trail is open, users will be able to walk, ride, roller blade, or bicycle from McLaren Hospital area to Stepping Stone Falls and even Geneseeville on Mott Lake via trail systems along the Flint River.

According to Gould Engineering, Inc.'s president, Victor Lukasavitz, trails such as this bring to a community a better quality of life, better health, increased economics, increased home and property values, and an alternate form of transportation. He



Under construction near Atwood Stadium

says they are already receiving very positive comments from those who live along the trail route and from early users. The Flint River Kettering Extension is the first major non-motorized transportation facility constructed in years within the City of

Flint. This trail will become a major connection to other similar projects to be constructed within Flint.

Many other pathway projects are under design, construction, or funding consideration throughout the county.