

Watershed

R E P O R T E R

PARTNERING TO PROTECT OUR NATURAL RESOURCES

SUMMER 2011



Rebecca Fedewa

It's been a wild and wooly spring in the Flint River Watershed! And while I don't think it's actually true, it feels like we had only 3 or 4 days when it DIDN'T rain during the month of May. Some areas experienced flooding, but thankfully we were spared much of the harsher weather experienced in other parts of the state and country. But nevertheless, it often felt like Mom Nature had it out for us this year. Luckily, we have a dedicated cast of volunteers, program participants, and staff who managed throughout the spring to stay positive and have a successful season of spring programs. THANK YOU to everyone who came out (often multiple times) for monitoring, GREEN, and our Flint River and Community Clean Up. You are all an inspiration!

The heavy rains did bring some impressive flows to the entire watershed. And in mid-May, we shared the beauty of our river and its zippy flows with noted Michigan outdoors author Doc Fletcher. Doc was in town to write a chapter about paddling on the Flint River for his next book. On a day that recorded almost 5,000 cubic feet per second (cfs), we

A NEW CHAPTER FOR THE FLINT RIVER

REBECCA FEDEWA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

set off from the River Road launch in Flushing for a swift paddle to Barber Memorial Park in Montrose, with a brief stop at Flushing's Riverview Park where Major George Kozan presented Doc with a key to the city. Normally, when I've paddled or waded this stretch of river, I can see the bottom and the flows are a much more leisurely 400 – 500 cfs. As the relative novice of the group, I can tell you my nerves were more than a little jangled just looking at the river

(I should note that I never would have attempted this paddle had I not been with ten very experienced canoe and kayakers, and was properly outfitted

high flows.)

Once out on the river, the proverbial sailing was surprisingly smooth; to the point that we all could snap some photos and even record a little video (check out our Flickr site!). Doc and his wife Maggie learned all about this particular stretch of the Flint River, and we all had a wonderful time taking in the views and just enjoying time floating down this spectacular river. We finished our trip in about 2.5 hours; a trip that normal might take closer to four! Everyone made it out of the river safe and dry, then we capped off the trip with lunch at Jack's Place in Downtown Flushing. And just

so we were sure to remember who was really in charge, after lunch we were greeted with what else but a massive rain storm that resulted in some of the worst flooding we saw all season and an almost doubling of the flows in the river. That trip was timed just about perfectly!

Please join me in thanking Doc



Doc and Maggie Fletcher enjoying a speedy float down the Flint River

with the right gear and lifejacket courtesy of Greg Palinski, who was instrumental in organizing the entire trip. Always take care when getting out on the river - including wearing your lifejacket - especially during

for visiting our beautiful corner of the world. His next book is scheduled to be released around the new year. I can't wait to share the Flint River with the world!



400 N. Saginaw St. Ste. 233
Flint MI 48502
810-767-6490
www.FlintRiver.org

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

Board Chairman

Brent Nickola

Executive Director

Rebecca Fedewa

Board of Directors

Jim Ananich
Darren Bagley
Irene Bashore
Linda Berker
Derek Bradshaw
Duane Elling
Steve Hester
Brad Hill
S. Olof Karlstrom
Andy Leavitt
Bob McCallister
Amy McMillan
Jack Minore
Diane Peplinski
Carol Van Buren

FRWC Board meetings are held
the third Friday of the month.

Printed locally at a Union Shop
on Recycled Paper with 40%
Post-Consumer Waste.

Please Recycle!



newsletter design & layout by Jon Wood

10 QUESTIONS WITH... STEVE HESTER, FRWC BOARD MEMBER

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

Because our best natural resource has had such a bad reputation. I want people to appreciate the fact we have this beautiful river running thru the middle of our city.

2. What FRWC programs do you participate in?

So far, the Flint River Clean-up with more to come...

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

About 10 years ago

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

The part with the Big Fish in it! You Know... that part.

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

People in a canoe FULL of garbage - Huge Smiles on their faces!

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

I put on a rubber survival suit once on the rifle river-Inflated it and floated the river with a paddle. If I came upon people-I announced myself as the "Incredible Floating Man" It was fun. I never claimed I was sane, you know...

7. What worries you most about the watershed?

That people will not see what we have.

8. What gives you the most hope?

The people that DO see what we have

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

More safe Canoe Access

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

Gideon Gerhardt, The man who went to fish the pine river in 1925, found a barrier and led us to today's laws regarding river access and navigability.



Steve Hester

'OUR WATER' WALKS AND PADDLES

It's a great time of year to get out and enjoy YOUR Flint River Watershed! If you aren't sure where to go, or are interested in meeting up with other river enthusiasts, join us for one or more "Our Water" paddles or river walks. These free walks and low cost paddles are scheduled across the Genesee County portion of the Flint River Watershed, offering participants a wide choice of opportunities to have fun and learn a bit about this great resource flowing right through our back yard. Visit our website calendar for details on each trip.

- **Wednesday, June 29th - 10 AM**
Thread Creek Farm
- **Saturday, July 9th – Summer**
Picnic Paddle
- **Wednesday, July 13th – 10 AM**
Richfield County Park

- **Wednesday, August 10th – 10 AM**
Gilkey Creek Trail
- **Saturday, August 20th – Time**
TBD: Blueberry Paddle
- **Wednesday, August 24th –**
7PM Stepping Stone Falls
- **Evening Walk: Friday, September**
23rd – Time TBD

The Our Water program is supported by the Genesee Community Water Quality Consortium. This program provides fun opportunities to enjoy the river while guiding participants through simple steps we all can take to keep it healthy.

If interested in participating in the Our Water walks or paddles, please contact Suzanne Lossing at:

slossing@flinriver.org
or 810-767-6490.



Brent Nickola

WHERE IS YOUR 'HOME WATER'?

As I was walking towards the river for the first fishing adventure of the year, I literally felt the stresses of life leaving my body. As I descended into the floodplain, I said out loud, "home water." The notion of home water refers to a stretch of river that an individual has developed such a fondness for that it becomes part of who they are. It is the place we

retreat to wash away the small things in life or to ponder significant questions. For an angler, it's a stretch of river so well know that it can be waded in darkness with only the sound of the river and the shape of the riverbed to guide them. For paddlers, it is a section of water where you know what is around the next meander and therefore can be prepared to enter the river bend with confidence. Simply put, home waters are the stretches of river that we KNOW WELL.

I suspect that many of you have "home waters" in stretches of the Flint River. If you don't have any home water, I encourage

you to get out on the Flint River and start your search. For those of you that do have these places, I ask you to do two things. First, share the story of your home water with me and our staff. Your stories are important to us as they are some of the most powerful tools we have in protecting and improving our watershed. Secondly, take someone to your home water this year. Share with them the knowledge you have of that section and encourage them to find a section of home water to call theirs. Imagine the impact of having hundreds of people with affection for hundreds of stretches of our river.

I recently had the chance to teach Andy Aguirre, a young Iraq War vet, the art of fly fishing in one of my home waters. He was excited to learn the new sport and I was excited to share my home water with him. As we walked out of the floodplain that night, I could witness his pride in the fish he had caught. As he talked about his catch, I could only think to myself, I had the best catch of the night. I just caught a future river advocate.

Mi Casa es su Casa,
Brent Nickola
Board Chair

NEWS FROM THE FRIENDS OF THE FLINT RIVER TRAIL

BY JACK MINORE

Most readers of the newsletter know that the Friends of the Flint River Trail (FFRT) hosts weekly bicycle rides every Sunday, May through October, starting at 2:00 PM at the Flint Farmers' Market. These are leisurely pleasant no-drop rides of about 13-18 miles in length – generally going to either Blue Bell Beach or Stepping Stone Falls – with some variations.

Everyone is invited: there is no registration and no dues required. Just "show up and ride". (Helmets are strongly encouraged!) There is a new (virtually completed) extension of the Flint River Trail – west from downtown past Kettering University and on to the west city limits at McLaren Hospital. It's about three miles in length.

On the second Saturday of each month, we lead rides on other mid-

Michigan Trails – generally within an hour's drive from Flint. July 9th we will ride the Lansing River Trail – one of the finest urban trails anywhere. The following months we will ride the Bay City Trail (Aug 13); the Chippewa Valley Trail in Midland (Sept 10); and the Kensington / Island Lake Trails from Milford (Oct 8). These rides all start at the local trailhead at 10:00 AM.

A hearty, dedicated band of riders observed the May 18th 'Ride of Silence' in the cold and pouring rain; and another group lobbied for better cycling support with legislators on 'Bicycle Advocacy Day' in Lansing. If you are interested in riding, contact:

Bruce Nieuwenhuis
bnbaton@gmail.com
or Jack Minore
jacksonmin@aol.com



NO DUMPING

DRAINS TO RIVER

Sewer systems and storm drains are not the same. Storm drains were designed to be the fastest and most efficient way of getting rainwater off streets and parking lots. Many people mistakenly believe that storm drains connect to sewer treatment systems instead of flowing directly into our creeks, rivers, and lakes.

Stenciling storm drains in your community may discourage people from putting harmful items and trash in the drains. While stenciling, volunteers also distribute door tags to area residents to raise awareness of simple things we all can do to help our watershed. Tools, materials, brochures and instruction are provided by FRWC through the Our Water program.

Any groups looking to participate in Storm Drain Stenciling as a service projects can contact Sue Lossing, FRWC Education & Outreach Coordinator at (810) 767-9491 or SLossing@FlintRiver.org

GROWING GREEN

Thanks to our many supporters and partners, we had our largest Flint River GREEN ever. This year, 57 teachers and over 3,500 students participated in this hands-on, real-life watershed education program. While students enjoy getting out of the classroom, they are learning real world water testing skills and developing their critical thinking ability, while providing valuable data to their community on the health of their local river or stream.

And even though they are having fun, the impact of the GREEN program is immediate. When students were asked what they learned, most



Students had a great time while learning at the GREEN Summit

answered as a Mt. Morris 7th grade student did, "That I can make an impact." Or a Northern High School junior who answered, "That our river isn't as unhealthy as I thought. I also learned that there are simple things I can do to make a difference."

Flint River GREEN goes beyond simple water quality testing, however. Another valuable aspect of the program is the mentors that join each classroom. Our mentors assist teachers and offer students their perspective on their particular environmental career, serving as a role model for students interested in making environmental science a career.

"We had a great time this year working with local schools to conduct river sampling. Flint River GREEN continues to provide General Motors an excellent opportunity to connect with students and teach them about the environment and potential careers in science."

--John Maksimchuk III

The growth of this program would not be possible without the support from our partners and funders. This year with the tremendous support from the Genesee Intermediate School District, we brought on six teachers from Grand Blanc schools and enhanced the program in Davison and the Flint Schools. We currently have a wait-list of teachers who want to bring this program to their students. For more information about this program, please contact Suzanne Lossing, Education & Outreach Coordinator.

(810) 767-9491 or
SLossing@FlintRiver.org

FROGS SWAMP THE FRG STUDENT SUMMIT!

On Friday, May 13th, waves of frogs in neon green t-shirts flooded the halls of Mott Community College's Gorman Science Building. Over 400 of our Flint River GREEN students from all over the watershed presented the results of their testing and recommendations for ways to improve the health of the watershed. In addition, 17 environmental professionals donated their time to hold educational break out sessions for students and teachers covering topics that varied from bee keeping to monitoring our sewer systems. Thank you to the following agencies for your participation: Michigan State University Extension, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Sloan/Longway Museum, City of Flint Waste Water Treatment Center, Mid-Michigan Bee Club, Edible Flint, Chatfield Schools, Lapeer Community Schools, Earth Force, Genesee County Parks, Flint River Wild Ones, Sierra Club, and the Flint River Watershed Coalition.



Bright Green "Frog" Tshirts were the order of the day!

FRWC LAPEER CHAPTER UPDATE

Our Lapeer River cleanup crew managed to fill half a dumpster and pull out one contender for the golden glove despite the super high water levels. Our crew wrestled a giant culvert with visions of golden gloves glory at the Hunters Creek site. This is the same site where, years before the golden glove award was created, we captured a waterlogged snowmobile. Arggh! Rotary Park and East Annrook, both on the South Branch, got totally skipped since no one had scuba gear with them. The Home Depot site on Farmers Creek got the most action

thanks to a new site coordinator, Sarah McCarter, and 24 members of the Jr. National Honor Society at Chatfield School. The flood plain there was indeed flooded, (highest I've ever seen it) but lots of trash waiting for the right trickle or breeze to enter the river was rescued from the high banks. Many of our volunteers returned to Wild Lapeer to eat local organic farm food and participate in a variety of free programs including a Watershed trailer from the Saginaw Bay RC& D, pond dipping for waterlife, and free canoe rides on the Old Lapeer

State Home(Oakdale) pond. For many Wild Lapeer participants, canoeing with four friendly baby beavers was the highlight of the day. We are especially pleased to again have Rick Rhein Disposal provide a dumpster, and thankful for a new business sponsor, Peddles to Paddles, a bike/canoe rental facility in Columbiaville. Our next meeting will be June 21, at the new River Pavilion on Farmers Creek created with universal access funds from the Kellog foundation and The Lapeer County Community Foundation.

EXTENDING MANY THANKS TO THOSE WHO HELP THE FRWC CONTINUE TO BUILD A STRONG MEMBERSHIP

As we close out our very busy spring season, and 'flow' into our summer activities, we are very pleased to welcome many new and renewing members to the Flint River Watershed Coalition. Members are such a valued source of financial support and volunteerism. You may have seen many of these families and individuals at our GREEN, Cleanup, or monitoring events this spring. Now they can join us for our walking and paddling activities this summer. Please welcome them when you see our members on the river.

Many people became new members via our on line link to the secure payment option called 'Donate for Good'. From our website, both Mona Younis of Burton and Gregory Hamman of Grand Blanc joined the FRWC at the River Sponsor level. Richard Whitlock and Alexandra Severn also joined the organization from the convenience of their own computer.

This secure site helps us in many ways, and can save you a stamp. Check out this on line payment option.

Several of our nearby friends joined the FRWC in response to an appeal that we mailed to residents of the Gilkey Creek area. We have done many studies of the quality and health of the Gilkey, and provided our neighbors near the creek with a thorough outline of our findings. If you care to have a copy of the Gilkey Creek habitat analysis, please call our offices. In the meantime, look for the following Flint residents and welcome them as our newest members from the area: *Paul and Reba Walling, Ron and Jessie Sirna, Joseph Burroughs, and Joel and Ann Harris.*

Many people responded to membership

renewal notices that we sent this spring. Renewing members include Matthew and Bonnie Mrasek, John and Loretta Brissaud of Flushing, RaeAnn Gatenby, and Jack Nettleton. Carl Haas and Carol Heidemann of Columbiaville also sent in their renewal. Carl and Carol have been key volunteers in the clearing of the south branch section of the river. They work hard, and take care of most of the equipment maintenance that is required to make the clearing activity run smoothly. Jarrett Lewis renewed at the River Sponsor level. He has been a long term member, and we appreciate his support. Rob Jewell of Flint has also been a long standing member. Renewing member Denny Crispell is one of our long term volunteers. He has been a great source of help with our benthic monitoring programs, and with our storm drain stenciling endeavors. You have probably seen him in some of our on line photos. Two of our newest board members, and one of our long standing board leaders made generous membership payments. We consider their financial commitment to be an important reflection of their personal commitment to the organization. We are looking forward to many years of leadership, guidance, and governance from Steve Hester and Andy Leavitt who joined the FRWC board in January. Renewing his River Sponsor membership is Brad Hill of Flushing. As a long standing board member, Brad provides leadership in many of our programs, most notably in the area of watershed management planning.

Following is a complete list of new and renewing members of the FRWC since the publication of the last Watershed Reporter:

John and Loretta Brissaud
Joseph Burroughs
Denny Crispell
Flushing Rotary
RaeAnn Gatenby
Carl Haas and Carol Heidemann
Greg Hamman
Joel and Ann Harris
Steve Hester
Brad Hill
Rob Jewell
Andrew Leavitt
Jarrett Lewis
Monica Mihailuk
Matthew and Bonnie Mrasek
Jack Nettleton
Mary Powell
Alexandra Severn
Ron and Jessie Sirna
Reba and Paul Walling
Richard Whitlock
Mona Younis

Lastly, we were much honored to receive a generous anonymous donation from one of our longstanding members. They have requested that their membership payment be kept confidential, and we'll certainly respect their wishes. But, we still want to say THANKS. Large contributions are sincerely appreciated by the staff, volunteers, and board members of the FRWC.

Financial support from the community in the form of membership payments is important to the Flint River Watershed Coalition. We value every member, and appreciate every dollar. Thank you so much to all!

FRWC MEMBER APPLICATION - SUMMER 2011

name _____
 organization _____
 address _____
 city/state _____
 phone _____
 email _____

_____ STUDENT \$10
 _____ INDIVIDUAL \$25
 _____ FAMILY \$40
 _____ RIVER SPONSOR \$100
 _____ RIVER PATRON \$250
 _____ WATERSHED PROTECTOR \$500
 _____ WATERSHED GUARANTOR \$1000
 _____ OTHER \$ _____

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**

VOLUNTEERS HELP MAKE SPRING MONITORING A SUCCESS

Another Spring Monitoring season has come and gone, and this one was one for the books! With record rain fall this spring, high water levels and fast moving currents, our lab dates had to be pushed back not once, but twice! Luckily, we have some awesome volunteers here at the FRWC, some of whom visited their sites multiple times, to help us get our sites monitored. To everyone who participated in our monitoring season, thank you!

Our water monitoring program occurs every spring and fall, and is a vital tool in tracking the health of the watershed. It is a testament to the dedication of our staff and volunteers that even when faced with the challenges of this spring season, we persevered and get almost every site monitored. Our Monitors completed Stream Habitat Assessments and collected macro invertebrates at each stream, which were then taken



Collecting macro invertebrates.

back to the lab and identified. Each site is then “scored” depending on the type and amount of specimens collected. Some macro invertebrates are more sensitive to changes in their environment than others, and identifying what macro invertebrates live in a particular stream plays a large part in determining how healthy (or not healthy) that stream is. The scores are evaluated, and compared to previous seasons, giving an accounting of the ongoing health of every stream that we monitor. These results are available to

view on our website, www.flinriver.org.

This was my first season heading this program, and I was constantly in awe of the wonderful volunteers and their “can-do” attitude. They took the weather and



Casey Foote helps out with monitoring.

its accompanying complications in stride, and the willingness of everyone involved to do whatever was necessary was amazing! I knew that we had some awesome people involved with the FRWC, but getting to see it in action was impressive. Our volunteers span all ages (from 8 years on up), and it was great to see so many different people willing to come out and get involved in a vital (and fun) way to monitor the watershed.

With the goal of having all of our monitors become MiCorps certified, a training session was held in April, and we had a great turnout. These training sessions are a great way for first time monitors to see what water monitoring is all about, as well as an opportunity for experienced monitors to become certified if they are not already, or as a quick refresher course before heading out into the streams. Everyone who attended got a chance to learn about what is involved in being a water monitor, as well as a chance to get in the river and see how much fun monitoring really is. After a walkthrough of the monitoring process, our attendees brought

their finds back to the lab and identified what they found under the experienced eye of Darren Bagley. If you missed this training session, don't worry, we will have another training session prior to our fall monitoring season, and the dates will be posted on our website and in our newsletters.

Once our spring season began, two lab dates were held to allow monitors to identify their samples, and have their identifications verified by the MSU Master Gardeners. Those results are then compiled, and the data published on our website, as well as submitted to both the Genesee County Drain Commission and the State of Michigan where they

are utilized in tracking the health of our watershed from season to season.

If you are interested in finding out more or would like to get involved, contact Jaime Welch at 810-767-7140 or at jwelch@flinriver.org. You can also visit our water monitoring page located on our website at: <http://flinriver.org/blog/programs/water-monitoring>, for information about water monitoring, to see all the sites we monitor, and view the scores from past seasons. Or visit us on Facebook and on Flickr to see pictures and videos from our monitoring seasons. See you in the fall!



Lots of volunteers make the day fun!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DON'T MISS OUT ON TIME-SENSITIVE INFORMATION!

SUBSCRIBE TO OUR WEEKLY E-NEWSLETTER, "THE RIPPLES" BY VISITING US ONLINE AT WWW.FLINTRIVER.ORG OR CALL THE OFFICE: 810-767-6490
ALSO, YOU CAN BECOME OUR "FAN" ON FACEBOOK BY SEARCHING FLINT RIVER WATERSHED COALITION.

MONTH	DATE/DAY	EVENT
JUNE	18 SAT	Boats, Bikes, and Bricks triathlon (FRCA)
	21 TUE	Lapeer FRWC Chapter Meeting
	21 TUE	Our Water Paddle: Stepping Stone Falls to Vietnam Veterans Park
	29 WED	Our Water Walk: Thread Creek Farm
JULY	9 SAT	Our Water Our Water Picnic & Paddle: Picnic at Flushing Riverview park, ~Paddle from Mitson to Flushing~
	11 SAT	FFRT Bike Ride: Saginaw Valley Trail
	13 WED	Our Water Walk & Potluck: Richfield Park Celebrating "Our Water"
	13 WED	Our Water Paddle: *Holloway to Richfield Park
	15 FRI	FRWC Board Meeting
	16 SAT	Kearsley Creek River Clean Up, Ortonville (rescheduled May 21st Clean Up)
	16 SAT	Holly Recreation Paddle
	19 TUE	Lapeer FRWC Chapter Meeting
23 SAT	Paddle: East & West Graham Lakes	
AUGUST	10 WED	Our Water Walk: The Gilkey Trail: Court Street to Kearsley Park
	13 SAT	Applewood Garden Day: Inspiring Hope & Pride in Flint
	13 SAT	Flushing's Taste of the Trail
	13 SAT	FFRT bike ride Bay City Trail
	14-21 SUN-SUN	Genesee County Fair
	16 TUE	Lapeer FRWC Chapter Meeting
	17 WED	Minnow Races at the Genesee Co. Fair
	19 FRI	FRWC Board Meeting
	20 SAT	Our Water Paddle: Celebrate Blueberries & Fresh Water: Montrose
	2 WED	Our Water Walk: Stepping Stone Falls Evening Walk
26-27 FRI-SAT	CRIM Expo.	
SEPT	10 SAT	FFRT bike ride: Chippewa Nature Center
	16 FRI	FRWC Board Meeting
	20 TUE	Lapeer FRWC Chapter Meeting
	23 FRI	Our Water Paddle: Fall/Autumn Paddle: Irish Road to Mott Lake

JOIN US EVERY SUNDAY - the Friends of the Flint River Trail hosts bike rides every Sunday, 2 PM, from the Farmers' Market.

Thanks to Our Newest Supporter

At the Flint River Watershed Coalition we are all about making and growing our partnerships with those who share our vision of being 'a voice of the river'. One of our newest partners, Mr. Michael Herriman of Vern's Collision, Inc has been a valuable source of financial and program support. You read an article about Mike and his rain barrels in the last issue of the Watershed Reporter. Since the publication of that newsletter, we received a generous donation in the amount of \$100.00 from Mike to fund

the purchase of two rain barrels that we presented to the local Master Gardeners group. When we delivered the rain barrels to the group, we used the opportunity to educate these interested environmentalists about our great natural resource, the Flint River.

Thanks to Mike for helping us make this happen. We look forward to our growing partnership with our friends at Vern's Collision and Glass.

Vern's Collision is a locally owned collision and glass shop located at

2409 Davison Road in Flint. Founded in 1972, Vern's Collision Inc. serves all of Genesee County, providing quality auto body repair and auto glass services. Their services include auto body repair, auto glass and mirror replacement, and custom spray-on bed liners.

If you would like to support this company, give them a call at (810) 232-6751, or consult the website at www.vernscollision.com.



400 N. Saginaw Street
Suite 233 Flint, MI 48502

Presorted Std.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Non Profit
Permit No. 694
Flint, MI

RECLAIMING THE HEALTH OF THE FLINT RIVER WATERSHED

Because of you, the annual Flint River & Community Cleanup has become the largest community cleanup effort in our watershed. Thank you! With the help of river steward Paul Remington, Todd Barden, and the City of Clio we added two new sites to our clean up effort. And with the Flint River Corridor Alliance (FRCA) we partnered to clean up Riverbank Park. In total, our volunteers worked at 16 sites across the watershed, collecting hundreds of bags of garbage that otherwise would still be in our rivers and streams.

The expansion of our volunteer appreciation luncheon in downtown Flint also helped make this a year to remember. Building on the great partnership with the Carriage Town Historic Neighborhood Association to host this event, this year The Spencer Agency's Patrick Bradway and Josh Spencer joined Carriage Town to host the biggest party yet, with live music, great food, additional participants, and Fresbee fun to downtown Flint. "People can work together and be a part of positive change," said Patrick Bradway. He was happy to see the diversity of the

groups who collaborated to help Flint's Cleanup and celebration happen. Given the outstanding outcome of the day, it wasn't surprising how highly motivated



Thanks to ALL the volunteers that came out for the cleanup!!

people were, many asking "when can we do this again?"

Clean up isn't limited, however to our annual event. Our FRWC Chapters are active other times of the year making a huge impact in all of our communities. The Friends of the Flint River Trail (FFRT) members kick off the season with the annual cleanup along the trail on the last Saturday in April. The Lapeer FRWC Chapter conducts stream maintenance during the summer, using the annual

Flint River & Community Cleanup as their first event. They had a successful cleanup this year followed by the Wild Lapeer festival enjoyed by many. To maximize volunteer efforts in the headwaters of Kearsley Creek (our natural trout stream), the Kearsley Creek Chapter has claimed Saturday, July 16th as this year's River Cleanup Day. So, if you missed receiving your 2011 annual Flint River & Community Cleanup t-shirt you have another chance to join the efforts. Last year, Ortonville participated for the first time and lots of garbage was retrieved from the watershed. They would like to do more this year with your help.

Our efforts would not happen without support from people like you. Please join us in making these waves of change even bigger. Often, opportunities pop up at the last minute, so we use email, Facebook, and our weekly electronic newsletter to keep volunteers up to date. Be sure to sign up for our listserv from our website and "like" us on Facebook to get all the latest updates.