One of the best parts of my job is that on certain days, I get to call the river my office. Whether that means taking a break from the overly enthusiastic air conditioning of our office to sit in the shade of River Bank Park and recharge my inner batteries, visiting canoe/kayak landings with dedicated volunteers to see what we can do to improve them, throwing on my waders to take part in our water quality monitoring program, or working with my partners at the Flint River Corridor Alliance to plan the third annual Boats, Bikes, and Bricks triathlon (see page 6 for the full story). I am continually grateful that my professional life and my personal love for the river intersect so beautifully.

But the truly best part of my job is the daily interactions I have with our members, donors, volunteers, supporters, and other river enthusiasts. You all love this river every bit as much as, if not more than, I do. And your enduring dedication is why we are seeing real improvements all over the watershed.

At the risk of repeating myself from previous newsletters, our Voice for the Flint River is only growing stronger. Let’s keep this momentum going!! This summer and fall, grab a friend or two who have never been on the river, and show them the beauty right in their own back yard. Sign up for our e-newsletter the “Ripples” to keep up on issues impacting our waters. Connect with your local politicians and let them know that you value an increasingly healthy river system in your community. Go fishing! Have fun, and share your experience with your friends, neighbors, and us at the FRWC. Join the discussion on our Facebook page. Let us know about your concerns about the river. And please consider joining, renewing, or increasing your membership donation to the FRWC. Your financial support helps us provide valuable education opportunities to area students, gets “newbies” on to the river for the first time, and helps us track the health of our watershed.

Thank you for being an integral “Voice” of the Flint River.

...Come Out And Enjoy Your River!
One of the many things I love about being a part of the Flint River Watershed Coalition is being present when someone really sees the “true” Flint River for the first time. Every summer the FRWC hosts ‘Our Water’ paddles, which are canoe and kayaking trips on the Flint River. These paddles are open to all levels of experience, and are made possible by the generosity of the Genesee County Drain Commissioner, who I can’t thank enough for helping us show just how beautiful our Flint River is.

Our first paddle of the season was on June 9th and we had 17 people participate. Quite a few had never kayaked at all, and most had never been on the Flint River, despite living near it. An hour into the paddle one of our participants turned to me and said “I can’t believe I’ve lived my whole life here and I’ve never been on the Flint River. Look at what I’ve missed out on!” That was the sentiment echoed by all of our first time paddlers. They could not get over how beautiful the Flint River is, and all the wildlife that they saw along the way. It is not uncommon to see bald eagles, turtles sunning themselves, fish, frogs and more during one of our paddles, and we saw just about everything that day.

We have several more paddles scheduled; why not spend a gorgeous summer afternoon on the Flint River with us? Our upcoming paddles, listed below, can also be found on our website, www.flintriver.org.

July 28th – Mid Summer Paddle
Enjoy a lazy summer day on the water -you’ve earned it! This 2 1/2 hour paddle from Holloway Dam to Irish Road is in a relaxing, peaceful stretch of the Flint River. Calm waters and beauty abound on this stretch of the river.

August 11th – Dog Days of Summer Paddle
Escape the heat by taking a refreshing paddle on the river. Join us on our 2 hour trip from Irish Road to Mott Lake and keep an eye out for the Bald Eagles we may see along the way!

August 21st - Tuesday Night Paddle
Come out with us on our weeknight paddle through Montrose. We will be leaving from Montrose Barber Memorial Park and kayaking to Morseville Road on this 2 1/2 hour trip.

September 22nd – Celebrate Fall Equinox
Enjoy the last day of summer or celebrate the start of fall with a colorful paddle along a beautiful section of the Flint River. Prepare to enjoy a calm and rejuvenating 3 hour paddle awash with beautiful scenery as we travel from Riverview Park in downtown Flushing to the Flushing Township Nature Park.

Shuttle transportation is provided. Interested participants must contact Jaime Welch at least 4 days prior to the event to register and arrange for kayak/canoe rental if needed. Kayak/canoe rentals are limited, and are held on a first come, first serve basis. Our kayak trips are intended for those ages 5 and up.
When I think of this summer, one word comes to mind. HOT! With record-setting temperatures across the county, and in our watershed, the summer heat has been unavoidable. I can’t even begin to count the number of days that I pulled out the hose and sprinkler for my daughter to play in. Recently while watching her run through the 45 degree well water, I started to think about how fortunate we are to have cold and clean water at our disposal. It is something that we as Michiganders often take for granted.

This year however, there has been a lot of talk about water in our watershed. Area farmers have been hit with significant droughts affecting their wheat, corn, and soybeans yields. Lawns all across the watershed are brown. Many of the small ponds and wetlands in the watershed are very low or dried up. We have also had to cancel several of our canoe trips on the river because of low flows.

Ben Franklin once said that, “When the well runs dry, we will know the worth of water.” Now, I am not making the case that the “well is running dry,” but it surely is the case that our river is running low this year. I think the drought provides us the opportunity to think about how much we rely on our local water resources and why each one of us has the responsibility to be a good steward of our water. I encourage you to take steps to be more “water wise” and to conserve water resources. If you need assistance on how you can be more water wise, don’t hesitate to contact our staff. If we all take some responsibility for our water, we can ensure that there is plenty of it for our future.

Just over 25 years ago, after several previous attempts, the U.S. Congress passed what is known as the ‘Michigan Wilderness Act’. This act set aside several thousand acres in Michigan for preservation as pristine natural land. That land included the banks of several northern and Upper Peninsula rivers. The Primary sponsor of the act was a fairly young Congressman – Dale E. Kildee. At the local June meeting, the State and local chapters of the Sierra Club recognized Kildee – as he retires this year – for that sponsorship and for his excellent environmental record.

As he was being presented the award earlier this summer, Kildee produced a plaque that had been given to him 25 years ago by the Sierra Club for his perseverance in getting the act passed a somewhat reluctant Congress. Dale Kildee has been a long-time member and supporter of the Flint River Watershed Coalition.
With the hard work and dedication of almost 300 volunteers and many area businesses, this year’s clean up was a smashing success! The totals speak for themselves – in one day, we removed close to 17 TONS of debris from our watershed. That’s about 13 dumpsters full! Thank you so much to everyone who came out and made a big difference in just a few hours.

Our volunteers spread out across sixteen sites around the watershed, where they collected general trash, 184 tires (thank you to Environmental Rubber Recycling for taking all of those tires for free!), and a stunningly wide variety of larger items, including scrap metal, park bench, signs, shopping carts, chairs, mattress, sink, front of a big screen tv, reel film case, vacuum, metal tub, televisions, and some garden hose.

We’d also like to extend a special thanks to Rick Rhein disposal and the City of Flint for once again providing pickup and disposal services during our clean up. And to our generous sponsors of the event, whose support provided supplies and lunch to all of our volunteers: Thank you! This year’s Golden Gloves winner will be announced at our January 2013 Annual Meeting – you won’t want to miss that!
For two weeks every spring and fall the FRWC does water quality monitoring at 34 sites around the watershed. Volunteer monitors visit their site and complete site assessments, including collecting benthic samples from their location. The samples are then taken back to one of our lab locations for identification, which are verified by Master Identifiers. This is a lot of fun for everyone involved, and relatively easy to do – when Mother Nature cooperates that is!

This spring started off as planned. The first lab was held, and our wonderful monitors were able to complete site assessments and benthic sampling at almost half of the 34 sites. The second lab was scheduled for May 5th. On May 4th we experienced a “100 year storm” which dropped over 6.5 inches of rain overnight, causing massive flooding, power outages, and raising water levels to record heights. May 5th found our monitors with water levels too high for them to safely get into the river, and a lab without power. The lab was cancelled and site visits were rescheduled.

Unfortunately for us, the spring season ended on May 10th with the creeks still too high in many locations to allow for complete site assessments and sampling to be performed. But, thanks to the dedication of our monitors who were willing to keep going out and check water levels, some sites were able to get completed. At the remaining sites the water levels were still too high to allow safe access into the water, and at these locations, site assessments were completed as much as possible. Our season is never boring!

Our fall water quality monitoring season begins with our volunteer monitor training on Thursday, September 6th, 2012 with 2 times for your convenience: 1-4 pm and 5:30-8:30 pm in Davison. We will be holding our labs on Thursday, September 20th from 12-6 pm and on Saturday, September 29th from 12-5 pm. If you are interested in finding out more about the monitoring program or in attending training, check out www.FlintRiver.org or contact Jaime Welch at 810-767-7140 or jwelch@flintriver.org. See you in the fall!

Friends of the Flint River Trail

The Friends of the Flint River Trail is an active chapter of the Watershed Coalition – and we love this year’s theme – only slightly adapted as “Fun Along the Flint River!” We host weekly bike rides – every Sunday, May through October – along the Flint River Trail – starting at the Flint Farmers’ Market at 2:00 PM.

The rides have gotten off to a great start this year with many first-time riders virtually every week of the year. These are leisurely paced, gentle group rides with ‘sweeps’ along to help resolve any bike problems that we might encounter. Treats are available at the end of the rides. There is no charge: It’s just a “show up and ride” fun trip of about 12-14 miles, generally.

The FFRT also hosts once-a-month Saturday rides on other mid-Michigan trails meant to explore other cycling opportunities, and to introduce riders to some wonderful other trails. Those rides all start at the trail-head at 10:00 AM. Your ride to the trail site is ‘on your own.’ The future Saturday rides are as follows: (all Saturdays) August 11, Bay City Trail; September 8th, Midland, Chipewa Nature Center; October 13th, the Milford, Kensington Park, Island Lakes trail complex. Get further information about the FFRT from Jack Minore at jacksonmin@aol.com or Bruce Nieuwenhuis at bnbaton@gmail.com.

The FFRT gratefully recognizes The Genesee Wanderers Bicycle Club as a $500.00 sponsor for the underwriting of the FFRT Spring Newsletter.
The third annual Boats, Bikes, and Bricks triathlon was a smashing success this year! Coordinated by our partner organization, the Flint River Corridor Alliance, this year’s event brought more participants than ever to the banks of the Flint River to take part in this fun and irreverent sporting event.

Congratulations to our top finishers: Stacey Osborn – 57:52 and Don Bernstien – 51:14

This year’s course included an up and downstream paddle from the Mott Park golf course through portions of Chevy in the Hole, a scenic bike ride along the Kettering extension of the Flint River Trail, and a rolling run through the golf course. Participants relaxed afterwards with refreshments provided by Hoffman’s Deco Deli, Blackstones, and the Lunch Studio.

As quoted in the Flint Journal, Shannon Henderson of Flint commented: “I think it’s a great event. It’s a lot of fun.” Mary Hewitt, also from Flint said “I never thought I’d be kayaking the Flint River until today.”

Congratulations to everyone who participated!!
Another season of the Flint River GREEN program has drawn to a close. This past season of GREEN was exceptional in many ways. We had nearly thirty area schools participate, the weather for the testing was wonderfully Michigan, and a very fun and successful Student Summit was held in May.

GREEN has been very fortunate to have amazing mentors that donate their time and expertise to the program by assisting the students with their water quality testing; both in the classrooms, and at the testing sites.

The weather was most agreeable during the testing season, with just a few classrooms reporting chilly or rainy days. Testing sites included the Flint River near Western Road, the Farmer’s Creek in Lapeer, Thread Creek in Grand Blanc, and Gravel Creek in North Branch. Early reporting by the teachers and students at these and other sites indicated very good quality. A complete listing of sites, participating schools, and results will be available on our website and in the GREEN annual report.

The Student Summit was an opportunity for GREEN students to present their findings to their peers through presentations. Students also participated in many break-out sessions during the day as well as took part in several exciting activities, lectures, and tours pertaining to water quality and the many opportunities for enrichment offered by the environment around them. To name just a few: Students learned about what creatures may be lurking in their drinking water, how to prepare and enjoy eating dandelions and other edible plants, how they can be environmental stewards, bicycling, and a special tour of the exciting progress at the Chevy in the Hole site.

This year’s summit was graciously hosted by Kettering University. It was a great setting for the presentations and break-out sessions. The event was also a valuable opportunity for the students to experience another of Flint’s superb higher education institutions.

We already have interest from additional schools that would like to participate in the GREEN program in 2013. Thank you to all those who support GREEN recognize the importance of educating our youth and the community on the value of a healthy watershed!

Thank You to our 2012 GREEN Sponsors!!

Up to $250.00
Dort Federal Credit Union
Flint River Steelheaders

$2500.00 and above
Genesee County Drain Commissioner - Our Water Program
Genesee Intermediate School District
General Motors Corporation
Lapeer Intermediate School District
Environmental Rubber Recycling

Environmental Rubber Recycling provides a wide range of scrap tire disposal options for Michigan businesses and the general public.

When you recycle your scrap tires with Environmental Rubber Recycling, you are doing your part to keep our state clean and our residents and wildlife safe, at the same time, you are helping to provide much needed energy for Michigan families.

Koegel’s...Always in Good Taste! Quality Meats Since 1916.

Get away. Right away.

Genesee County Parks

Busy as life can be, sometimes you just need to get away, right away. Welcome to the Genesee County Parks, Michigan’s largest county park system. With more than 11,000 acres of woods, rivers, lakes, trails, beaches and campgrounds, getting away in the great outdoors is as close as one of the 21 Genesee Parks. When your routine starts to feel a little too routine, slip away to Mid-Michigan’s favorite outdoor playground. It’s just around the corner. At your Genesee County Parks.

Additional In-Kind Donations were Received From:

- Calvelli’s Pizza - Lapeer
- Mexico At The Market
- The Spencer Agency
- City of Flint
- City of Lapeer
- City of Flushing
$250.00 to 500.00 Flint River Cleanup Sponsors:

**Center for Community Progress**

We develop the tools, strategies and relationships to help civic leaders and local advocates repurpose vacant and abandoned property, using the power of collaboration to transform communities.

**Flint Farmers’ Market**

There’s really no other market quite like ours. We’re a year round public Farmers’ Market located in Flint, Michigan with 30 vendors inside the building and, from May thru October, up to 50 more vendors outside. The market features several produce vendors (pesticide free both winter and summer), a great meat market, poultry, breads and baked goods, cheese, a wine shop, an art gallery, cafe, deli, middle-eastern and Mexican groceries, and unique gifts.

**Habitat for Humanity ReStore**

The Habitat ReStore is a place for donating and purchasing used and new building materials and home improvement items. The ReStore is open to the general public, so stop in and see what’s new! Prices at the ReStore are at least 50% below retail price. Profits from the ReStore support the Genesee County Habitat for Humanity’s mission: Bringing people together to build homes, communities and hope.

**Keep Genesee County Beautiful**

Our Mission - We encourage, educate and engage the community in the ongoing clean up and beautification of Genesee County.

**Genesee County LandBank**

The Land Bank’s mission is to restore value to the community by acquiring, developing and selling vacant and abandoned properties in cooperation with stakeholders who value responsible land ownership.

**Rowe**

Since 1962, ROWE has grown to be a leading professional consulting firm, driving infrastructure and development projects for our public, private, governmental, tribal, and not-for-profit clients. With our resources, broad expertise, and client-centered philosophy, ROWE has built a reputation that is unsurpassed by our toughest competitors. Our service specialties include civil engineering, surveying, aerial photography and mapping, landscape architecture, planning, and land development. Each of these services is delivered to you by a team of licensed and certified professionals from our offices in Michigan and South Carolina.

**Pedals to Paddles**

Pedals to Paddles offers bicycle, canoe, and kayak rentals for you and your family to enjoy. Located in Downtown Columbiaville, we’re only two blocks away from the Holloway Reservoir and a few minutes drive to the Flint River. Spend a day biking down the Southern Links Trailway or enjoy a day paddling down the river or reservoir.

**Wade Trim**

Wade Trim is a consulting engineering firm that helps communities address infrastructure and environmental issues. We have extensive experience in watershed planning and the evaluation and application of a broad range of ecosystem restoration techniques. We are proud to be involved with the restoration of the Flint River and its riverfront, planning and designing solutions that balance flood control, ecological restoration, public open space, recreation and redevelopment of underutilized land.
JOIN THE FRWC AND THEN HEAD OUT TO THE RIVER TO SEE THE DIFFERENCE YOU HAVE MADE!

When your support for the mission and activities of the Flint River Watershed Coalition motivates you to join the organization, your membership contributions make a real difference to us. Each dollar of membership revenue enhances our ability to carry out our important programs. You make a difference in many ways:  
- **Benthic Monitoring:** A $25 INDIVIDUAL membership covers the cost of all the testing equipment and supplies that go into one bucket that our volunteers carry to the river to assess water quality at 34 sites across the watershed.  
- **River and Community Cleanups:** A FAMILY donation of $40 provides gloves and garbage bags for 16 of the 300+ river rescuers who help us out in our cleanup efforts.  
- **River Paddles:** A RIVER SPONSOR contribution of $100 will pay for the canoe rental for a family who may never have participated in any recreational activity on the river.  
- **Flint River GREEN:** By contributing $250 or more and becoming a RIVER PATRON, you will provide assistance to 50 students who participate in our long-standing Flint River GREEN program. Your donation pays for teacher materials and student equipment to conduct water quality testing in the fall, and then helps provide student lunches at our annual summit.

The following individuals and groups have recently taken the important step to join the FRWC, or to renew their longstanding memberships. We would like to recognize them now:  

**Membership levels of $100.00 and greater:**  
Carl and Karen Bekofske  
Denise Fedewa  
Dr. Robert McAllister  

**Membership levels up to $100.00:**  
Ruben and Margaret Arceo  
Morey Biesman  
Tracy Brewington  
Nancy Byder  
Rob Cojeen  
Ryan Eashoo  
Bill Goodfellow  
Carl Haas and Carolyn Heidemann  
Raeann Gatenby  
Mike Haley  
Gregory Hamman  
Holloway Lake Association  
Ryan and Julie Londrigan  
Monica Mihailuk  
Sandra Murphy  
Bill Nicolai  
Theresa Osowski  
Joel Rash  
Cheryl Tromley  
Karen Wilkinson and  
Reginald Lancaster  

**Memberships for a special purpose:**  
The Sierra Club Nepessing group has been a long term partner with the Flint River Watershed Coalition. They made a special membership commitment to honor the long term volunteer efforts of Fred and Alyce Townsend. Fred and Alyce are active members of both the Sierra Club and the FRWC, and have donated countless hours of service to both groups. The Sierra Club contributed $100.00 to recognize Fred and Alyce’s efforts in the benthic monitoring program.

The Genesee Wanderers Bicycle Club contributed $500.00 to mark the publication of the ‘River Ride’, the yearly newsletter of the Friends of the Flint River Trail. The generous contribution of the Genesee Wanderers helped cover the cost to print and distribute the April 2012 edition to the members of the FFRT who enjoy the weekly bike treks organized by the riding group.

Membership contributions are a key element in our success as a grassroots watershed organization, and we value every one. Thank you so much to all of our new and renewing members. The hard work is done, now go out and enjoy the river!

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**SUMMER 2012**

name______________________________
organization_________________________
address______________________________
city/state/zip_________________________
phone (h)________________(c)________________
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
### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MONTH</th>
<th>DATE/DAY</th>
<th>TIME</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JULY</td>
<td>21 / SAT</td>
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<td>Lapeer River Fest</td>
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<tr>
<td>JULY</td>
<td>28 / SAT</td>
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<td>Mid Summer “Our Water” Paddle</td>
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<td>Dog Days of Summer Paddle</td>
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<td>AUG</td>
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<td>FFRT Saturday Ride Bay City Trail</td>
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<td>Fun Over the Flint River - FRWC Fundraiser including helicopter rides, medevac helicopter tours, skydiving show, dinner, music and open bar. Contact FRWC office for details.</td>
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<td>Lapeer Chapter Meeting</td>
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<td>Tuesday Night “Our Water” Paddle</td>
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<td>SEP</td>
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<td>FFRT Saturday Ride Midland, Chippewa Nature Center</td>
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<td>Lapeer Chapter Meeting</td>
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<td>Board of Directors Meeting</td>
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<td>SEP</td>
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<td>Celebrate the Fall Equinox “Our Water” Paddle</td>
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<td>OCT</td>
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<td>FFRT Saturday Ride - Kensington Metropark starting at Milford YMCA</td>
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<td>OCT</td>
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<td>Lapeer Chapter Meeting</td>
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<td>JAN</td>
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<td>FRWC Annual Meeting</td>
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**DON’T MISS OUT ON TIME-SENSITIVE INFORMATION!**

Subscribe to our weekly e-newsletter, “The Ripples” by visiting us online and www.flintriver.org or call the office: 810-767-6490. Also, you can become our “fan” on Facebook by searching ‘Flint River Watershed Coalition.’
FRWC HATS
Show your love for the river!

Hats are only $12.00 each and shipping is only $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 __________