

Watershed

REPORTER

PARTNERING TO PROTECT OUR NATURAL RESOURCES

DECEMBER 2011

SUCCESSSES TOGETHER

REBECCA FEDEWA, FRWC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



We are closing out another fantastic year here at the FRWC. I'd like to take this opportunity to express my deepest thanks to all of our dedicated volunteers, donors, and funders for making such a difference in our watershed.

Because of you, over 3,600 students from across the watershed learned firsthand about their river. Many visited their local stream for the first time ever! All of them gained a new appreciation of this valuable resource we have right here in our own back yard, and knowledge that they can have a positive impact on the health and vitality of their watershed.

And because of you, we again cleared over 5,093 cubic feet of garbage from the shores of our local rivers and streams. This includes over 261 tires, and countless amounts

of construction debris dumped incongruously on our shores.

With your support, the Flint River had a voice at a number of important discussions relating to the health of our watershed, including various landfill expansions, the development of TMDLs, and implementation of recommendations designed to remediate issues impacting the health of our waters.

You'll also read in this newsletter about the great work of our volunteers in collecting water quality data this past fall. Our monitoring program improves year after year, and that is because of the dedication of new and returning volunteers who head out season after season to collect this valuable data.

Thank You!! Working together, we can make 2012 an even bigger year for the Flint River.





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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 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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Newsletter design & layout by Jon Wood

*At this year's Annual Meeting we are offering
table sponsorship opportunities.*

As a non-profit member funded organization we greatly value the support of all our members and sponsors.

Contribute today by becoming a sponsor of our Annual Meeting!

Pike \$1,000 Sponsor Level



- Annual Meeting Title Sponsor
- VIP table for 8 at the Annual Meeting
- Recognized as a Title Sponsor on our display board at Annual Meeting, in the event program, and in all related press releases
- Recognition in FRWC newsletter and Annual Report
- Listed for one year as a sponsor on our website

Walleye \$500 Sponsor Level



- 4 VIP tickets to the Annual Meeting
- Recognition on our display board at Annual Meeting, in the event program, and in all related press releases
- Recognition in FRWC newsletter and Annual Report

Bass \$250 Sponsor Level



- 3 tickets for Annual Meeting
- Recognition on our display board at Annual Meeting, in the event program, and in all related press releases
- Recognition in FRWC newsletter and Annual Report

Blue Gill \$100 Sponsor Level



- 2 tickets for Annual Meeting
- Recognition in the event program, FRWC newsletter, and Annual Report

Don't miss the Flint River Watershed Coalition's

Annual Meeting

Thursday January 26th



We expect a record turnout this year at our new location
Stonegate Banquet Center, 1086 N. Irish Road Davison, MI 48423

Our speakers this year are the
founders of Michigan River News:



Andy McGlashen and Jeff Gillies

Get Your Tickets Today!!

Regular tickets are \$30 if you act now!

Tickets are \$35.00 January 1st through the 15th and \$40.00 January 16th to the event date.

Tickets will be available for \$40.00 at the door.

Go to www.FlintRiver.org to purchase your tickets today at the level you prefer by clicking the 'donate now' feature on our website. Make sure to note in the comment section you are purchasing tickets for the annual meeting.

Thank you for supporting the Flint River Watershed Coalition!
Partnering to Protect, Preserve, and Improve the Flint River Watershed.

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL WATER MONITORING SEASON IS UNDER WRAPS

This is a very exciting time to be involved in our water monitoring program! We had over 15 new and current monitors attend our September training to become MiCorps certified. Training was led by FRWC board member Darren Bagley, who never fails to make these learning sessions informative and entertaining. New monitors are always amazed to see how much diversity can be found in a quiet stream. But when we scratch the surface we find that these "quiet" streams contain entire worlds that are teeming full of life.

Our Fall Monitoring season was a huge success, thanks to the combined efforts of returning monitors and new ones. We monitored all of our regular sites, and even get some sample benthics to put in resin to use as examples in the lab. Cumulative monitoring results, including this Fall's scores, can be found on our website at www.FlintRiver.org.

What a wonderful privilege it is to work with our amazing and dedicated monitoring volunteers. They go out twice a year, ever year, and spend several hours in the river and then in the lab helping to track the health of our rivers and streams. Without them, monitoring just

would not happen. So to all of the monitors who helped out this Fall, whether in the streams or in the labs, a great big THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

Mark your calendar and get involved! We have already set our dates for the Spring monitoring. Labs will be held April 26th and May 5th, 2012, and we will hold water monitor training on April 12th, 2012. Check our website for details on times and locations. Training is a great refresher course for current monitors and a great introduction to the program for new monitors. Get involved! Contact Jaime Welch at 810-767-7140 or at jwelch@flintriver.org.



Why do we care so much are the health of our watershed?

Because every person reading these words lives in one and is effected by it. A healthy watershed has cleaner water and air, more wildlife, less disease, and less erosion than one that is declining. Water quality is a vital, integral part of our environment that

affects so much more than one particular stream in one small area. Each stream feeds into another stream and that water ends up in our homes, our businesses, our schools, our everyday lives. Every stream in our watershed supports all the life around it and that ecosystem in turn spreads out to support others in a domino effect. But if that stream

withers from pollution and neglect, everything around it suffers as well, from the plant and animal life to the family or business whose property abuts the stream.

That is why it is so important to get involved. YOU can make a difference; a positive impact that touches everything around you, for future generations as well as your own.

ASIAN CARP:**FEDERAL AGENCY DITHERS WHILE ASIAN CARP ARE POISED TO INVADE THE GREAT LAKES***by Jennifer Nalbone from Great Lakes United*

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers wants the public to believe that an electric fish barrier in the Chicago Waterway System, about 30 miles south of Chicago, is holding back a biological plague of Asian carp.

The facts tell a different story. A Corps-commissioned study concluded in 2009 that Asian carp smaller than 5.4 inches long could breach the electric barrier. The Corps was informed again in July 2010 that smaller Asian carp could penetrate the barrier, but the agency decided not to crank

up the voltage to repel the smaller fish. The Corps said there was no need to increase the voltage because no small Asian carp had been found within 25 miles of the barrier.

Four months later, in mid July, the Corps announced that more Asian carp DNA was found in waters open to Lake Michigan. In lay terms, that means Asian carp were recently swimming in those waters. Remarkably, the Corps continues to insist that the electric barrier is effective as the last line of defense against Asian carp storming Lake Michigan and spreading to the other Great Lakes.

This, despite a recent study by four preeminent scientists who concluded that: The electric barrier won't hold back Asian carp; an Asian carp invasion of the Great Lakes is imminent; the fish could thrive in the lakes and wreak havoc on fisheries; and a systematic campaign of disinformation by special interests have paralyzed efforts to find a permanent solution.

Those scientists, like many conservation groups in the region, said the only sure way to stop the movement of Asian carp and dozens of other invasive species between the Mississippi River and Great Lakes systems is to physically separate the two basins.

Though naysayers claim such a solution is impractical, studies have shown that separating the basins is technologically feasible and that such action would benefit the Great Lakes and Mississippi River ecosystems and the massive economies they support.

Unfortunately, a small group of special interests in the Chicago area have worked against efforts to move toward separating the basins.

On the other side of the argument are scientists, scholars and thousands of citizens around the Great Lakes who have called for separating the Great Lakes from the Mississippi River basin as soon as possible.

Congress in 2007 directed the Corps of Engineers to figure out how to prevent Asian carp from reaching the Great Lakes. Four years later, the Corps continues to study the problem without any plan for halting the threat. The Corps won't complete its study of how best to keep Asian carp from invading the Great Lakes until 2015, at the earliest. A solution will take many more years.

We can't afford to wait nearly that long.

Asian carp represent an ecological threat of the highest order, a biological plague bearing down on the largest and likely the most valuable freshwater ecosystem on the planet. Yet the Corps of Engineers continues to dither. The Corps must stand up to special interests and do what's best for the Great Lakes and the 40 million people who rely on the lakes for work, recreation and sustenance.

It's time for the Corps to focus its considerable resources and authority on breaking the artificial ties that bind the Great Lakes to the Mississippi River basin.

Article reprinted with permission from Freshwater Future.



Kris Larson, Minnesota Land Trust and Julie O'Leary, Freshwater Future ascend the Capitol steps to deliver thousands of postcards to Members of Congress.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF YEAR END GIVING!!

Ensuring our communities continue to have access to safe, clean, beautiful rivers and streams is our goal. But we need your help to ensure that the FRWC is there to serve as the "Voice" of the Flint River. When you are making your decisions about which of the many worthy charities you would like to support, we ask that you put clean and healthy water at the top of your list. All donations to the FRWC are fully tax deductible and provide you the knowledge that you are making a difference right here in your community.

Happy New Year!!

The board and staff of the Flint River Watershed Coalition

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE: FRWC'S ARE THE BEST!

In spite of the tough economic times, the members of the Flint River Watershed Coalition have continued to demonstrate their commitment to the organization by providing financial support for our activities. We have received many new and renewing membership donations since the publication of the last newsletter. We would like to recognize each individual and thank them for their support. They are:

David Ballentine

Irene Bashore

David Beaulieu

Claude Boucher

Kiersten DeKorne

Stephany Diana

David Didier

Richard Drummond

Claud Hodges

Maggie Jaruzel

Kenneth Johns

Ann Kraft

Erik Lindhurst

Marilyn MacKenzie

Jack Minore

Bruce Niewenhuis

Buzz Purcell

Vicki Sacharski

Marcie Schriener

Neil Seaward

Linda Smith

Christine Waters

Joyce Wierzbicki

Michael and Christina Wright

Many of these memberships are the result of outreach efforts on the part of our long time leaders and supporters. Those who have been familiar with our organization for many years have shared their story, or have told of their connection to the Flint River Watershed Coalition. Their enthusiasm has translated into a wider span of support for us. For instance, leaders of the Friends of the Flint River Trail rides have described how membership funds help to improve the riding trail. Those who enjoy the

trail, in turn, wish to contribute to the cause by becoming an FRWC member. We also have a valued member who makes annual contributions in honor of her father's birthday. And two of the membership payments made last month were by individuals who work for companies who match their contribution to 501(C) 3 nonprofit organizations. If you are a supporter of the Flint River Watershed Coalition, there are many ways that you can expand your financial support by sharing your enthusiasm with your friends!

Remember, there are many ways to become a member of the FRWC. Use the membership application in this newsletter, get a welcome brochure at any of our events, or link to our secure on-line payment option from our website. Or you can call us at 810-767-6490 or send us an email at info@flinriver.org. We can hook you up in a lot of different ways. We just need to know you are out there!

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION * DECEMBER 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 no-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

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'

MONTH	DATE/DAY	TIME	EVENT
JAN	20 / FRI	8:30am	FRWC Board Meeting
	26 / THU	6:00pm	FRWC Annual Meeting, Dinner and Auction Stonegate Banquet Center
FEB	17 / FRI	8:30am	FRWC Board Meeting
	21 / TUE	7:00PM	Lapeer Chapter, FRWC Meeting
MAR	2-4/FRI-SUN		*Flint River Steelheaders Boat & Fishing Show Birch Run
	3 / SAT	Morning	*Keep Genesee County Beautiful Conference
	7 / WED	8:00am	Flint River GREEN Professional Development
	9-11/FRI-SUN		*Flushing Walleye Festival
	16 / FRI	8:30am	FRWC Board Meeting
20 / TUE	7:00pm	Lapeer Chapter, FRWC Meeting	
APR	12 / THU	TBD	Spring Monitoring Training
	14 / SAT	8am-3pm	*Annual Earth Day & Garden Celebration
	17 / TUE	7:00pm	Lapeer Chapter, FRWC Meeting
	20 / FRI	8:30am	FRWC Board Meeting
	25-26 / WED THU		Flint River GREEN School Monitoring
	26 / THU	TBD	Spring Monitoring and Lab Date
	28 / SAT	9:00am	Friends of the Flint River Trail Maintenance & Cleanup
28 / SAT	9:00am	Annual Flint River & Community Cleanup	
MAY	5 / SAT	TBD	Spring Monitoring & Lab Date
	5 / SAT	9:00am	Wild Lapeer
	5 / SAT	9:00am	Backup Date for Annual Flint River & Community Clean up, in case of inclement weather.
	11 / FRI	8:00am	Flint River GREEN Student Summit
	11/ FRI	8:30am	FRWC Board Meeting
	15 / TUE	7:00pm	Lapeer Chapter, FRWC Meeting

* FRWC Community Table Events, Volunteers Welcome

TABLE EVENTS ARE FUN!

SUE LOSSING, EDUCATION & OUTREACH COORDINATOR

We enjoyed meeting many of you this summer at our information tables at the Flint Farmer's Market, MSU-E Tent at the Genesee County Fair, Taste of the Trail in Flushing, and at the CRIM Expo! We appreciate the collaboration and assistance in helping spread the news, shed the light, or rather "share the water". With the assistance of Master Gardeners and Sierra Club members, many kids enjoyed Minnow Races at the county fair. At the races and at the FRWC Creek Critter table, they learned about minnows'

preferred habitat (shade, wind/ripples) and invasive species (not releasing fish bait into the rivers) along with what was found in the pond at the fair. Special Thanks to Vicki Perkins, Rebecca Gale-Gonzalez, Mike Haley, Mel Kennedy, the Bagley family, Jaime Welch, and MSU-E Junior Master Gardeners for helping share watershed awareness. We invite you to join us at one of these fun table events contact Sue Lossing at (810) 767-9491, SLossing@FlintRiver.org



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THE PERFECT GIFT FOR ANYONE!



Looking for that special gift for the person who has it all? Consider a gift of watershed protection. We've got gifts for all budgets. For \$25 - \$100, purchase your friends or family a membership to the FRWC. Or help them become a sponsor of a GREEN classroom, starting at \$250. You can even get their name on our annual Flint River and Community Clean Up t-shirts for \$250 or more. What a fun way to show you care!

Call our office, or visit our website at www.FlintRiver.org and donate online – be sure to note in the comment field that this is a gift so we can send you a certificate.