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## **PRESS ADVISORY**

### **Volunteer of the Year and Leadership Awardees to be Honored at Watershed Celebration on Wednesday**

*Flint River Watershed Coalition grateful for leadership and dedication of area river and trail champions.*

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*Flint, MI. January 26, 2015* – There will be several exciting announcements at the Flint River Watershed Coalition's Annual Celebration our Flint River Watershed and the people who make it great.

#### **“Joe Leonardi Leadership Award” posthumously presented to John Moldovan**

We will honor the memory and service of John Moldovan, a Flint River GREEN Mentor who passed away suddenly this year. In addition, our partners at GM and Earth Force established the Mentor of the Year Award and Mr. Moldovan is its first recipient. We also will present this award to John's wife Susan at the event.

#### **“Gary Pace Volunteer of the Year” presented to Linda Johnson Barnes**

For more than 10 years, Linda provided lunch for volunteers on our river and trail clean-ups as well as the Friends of the Flint River Trail late summer picnic. She drove the family camper out to the sites, erected the awnings, and provided the cooking grills and the cooking and serving of meals. After surviving breast cancer about 5 years ago, Linda and her family have organized an annual breast cancer awareness ride -- encouraging riders to wear pink, as well as providing small treats and a "door prize" for those who donated to the cancer fund.

So much of what we do is accomplished through the work and leadership of our volunteers,” stated Rebecca Fedewa, FRWC Executive Director. “John helped shape our most influential program, Flint River GREEN, and through his work he has impacted 1,000's of students throughout the Flint River watershed. Linda helped to ensure that one of our most active chapters, the Friends of the Flint River Trail, was well organized and well fed, and helped introduce the River Trail to riders from all over the state. We cannot thank them enough for their years of dedicated service to the Flint River Watershed Coalition.”

#### **2015 Voice of the River Annual Celebration**

**Wednesday, January 28<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm**

**Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E Kearsley Street, Flint, Michigan 48503**

*\* FIA Gallery Viewing from 6:30 – 8:30 pm*

RSVP REQUIRED: \$40 per person with advance RSVP by Noon on Wednesday, January 28<sup>th</sup>)

(Pay Credit Online or Check, Cash, Credit at the door)

\$50 at the door on day of event without RSVP (Check, Cash, Credit)

Please contact FRWC to RSVP at 810-767-6490 or [info@flinriver.org](mailto:info@flinriver.org)

Also at the Celebration:

- New Board of Directors Announced with thanks and gratitude to retiring Board Members
- Winner of Golden Glove Awards will be announced: Winner was determined by on online poll
- Bucket of Booze and a Basket of Goodies will be raffled off, plus 50/50 drawing and door prizes
- A Silent Auction with exciting experience packages on which to bid:
  - Guided Wild Food Hike by Darren Bagley, MSU Extension Genesee County, Board Member
  - Guided Kayak Tour on Flint River with Greg Palinsky, FRWC Board Member
  - Guided Bicycle Tour for 6 of the Grand River or Southern Links Trail with Jack Minore, Board Member
  - Weekend Escape in Petoskey, Michigan, donated by Senator James Ananich
  - Food & Wine Pairing & Boat Ride for 6 on Lake Fenton
  - Wine Tasting for 6 in the comfort of your own home by LaToya Caldwell, Wines for Humanity
  - One-Year Membership to the Flint Institute of Arts
  - One Year Membership to UM-Flint Recreational Center



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*The Flint River Watershed Coalition is an organization representing individuals, businesses, community organizations, and local units of government sharing a vision of a healthier Flint River Watershed. We envision a day when the future of our drinking water is secure and the integrity of the Flint River is protected. We believe that all people should have access to the river for recreation, swimming, and fishing as well as the economic value it provides to our communities.*

**Visit us** on the [Flint River Watershed Coalition](http://www.FlintRiver.org) website  
**Like us** on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/FlintRiver.org) **Follow us** on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/FlintRiver.org)

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