I’ve decided to let you in on a little secret: I’m not a fan of Earth Day. I understand its intent to raise awareness and engage people of all ages to do something good for the earth. But in my opinion…Every Day is Earth Day.

I guess that is why I do what I do and love what I do. My mission is to equip you and your neighbors, the farmer a couple miles down the road, the corporate rep and the small business owner, the kayakers and anglers, the high school science club and teachers…

To give each of you the tools and the information you need to help protect, preserve, and improve the Flint River Watershed. I want to help you make every day Earth Day, too.

April ushers in the most exciting season to be in and around the river, creeks, and lakes of the Flint River Watershed. In this edition of the Flint River Watershed Reporter, you will find at least two opportunities each week from May until the end of October to come out and experience the wonders of our watershed for yourself. Come cycling with the Friends of the Flint River Trail. Journey down the Flint River in a kayak. Become a citizen scientist through the Benthic Monitoring program. Teach your neighbors how “Seven Simple Steps” will keep pollution out of your local storm drain and out of our river. Join members of your community at one of the many cleanups in Genesee and Lapeer Counties on April 25th. Celebrate with us at one of the “Love Your Lakes” Picnics at Flint Park Lake or Thread Lake in July. Did you miss the Flint River Flotilla last year? Mark your calendar for August 8th because you have to experience this stretch of our river in the city of Flint. You won’t regret any of these experiences, and I can guarantee that you’ll walk away craving more! I challenge you to prove me wrong!

I would be remiss if I did not address the elephant in the room before signing off. It has been a tough year for the image of our Flint River. It really took a beating, but don’t lose heart. I’m here to tell you that the state of our river and our watershed is good and consistently improving. I know this because with our volunteers’ help we have the scientific data to show it. The FRWC will remain vigilant, serving as the Voice of the River with the support of science and a cool head to guide our work.

Yes. There is work to be done, but there is also fun to be had. Join me in making Every Day Earth Day!
FRWC WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBERS: COMING, GOING, NEW LEADERSHIP

At our January Celebration of the Flint River, the FRWC bid a fond farewell to three of our esteemed board members. We would like to once again thank Irene Bashore – General Motors, Duane Elling – C. S. Mott Foundation, and Dr. Robert McAllister – Kettering University for their years of service to the Flint River Watershed Coalition. Among their long list of accomplishments, Irene brought enormous leadership to our Flint River GREEN program and an enviable fundraising prowess, Duane led the creation of our first strategic communications plan, and Bob facilitated our move to Kettering for the Flint River GREEN Student Summit. Their wisdom and enthusiasm for our mission will be greatly missed!

Greg Palinsky was elected to become Vice-Chair and has served on the FRWC board for many years. He brings boundless energy and vision to this leadership position, and we are grateful for his continued service. We’d also like to welcome our newest board member, Mr. Terry Reechko. Terry is a longtime volunteer for the FRWC. His passion for paddling the river has led him to personally take on tire clean ups, clear trees that block passage on the river, and advocate for more put-in locations for local paddlers. We are thrilled he has brought his focus for river recreation to the FRWC board of directors.

And finally, we would like to congratulate S. Olof Karlstrom for becoming our first ever Emeritus board member. Olof’s passion and dedication for our mission is largely responsible for building the FRWC to the organization it is today. We can’t possibly thank him enough for all he has done for the FRWC, and we welcome him to this new era of board service.
He found it under a bush next to the river across from the old Flint Farmers Market. It was terribly rusted, so he carefully picked it up, turning it to examine the find. The label was still legible – “Pfeiffer’s Beer.” By visiting an historical website, the FRWC Flint River and Community Cleanup volunteer soon discovered that this particular beer can was produced between 1946 and 1951, making it at least 62 years old. To put that into perspective, in 1951 Harry S. Truman was president, the movie Alice in Wonderland premiered, and I Love Lucy debuted on CBS.

If that Pfeiffer’s beer can could talk, what stories would it tell about all the changes it witnessed on our river? It is fair to say that the region reached historic heights and depths over this period – socially and culturally, economically and environmentally. The Flint River Watershed reflected many of those changes and upheavals, for the good and ill.

If you are from the region, you’ve heard the stories and the warnings from your parents, grandparents, friends, and neighbors, “Stay away from the river. It’s nasty!” For a long time that was true... until the Clean Water Act of 1972 allowed the Environmental Protection Agency to implement pollution control programs such as setting wastewater standards for industry and water quality standards for contaminants.

For the last 43 years, that Pfeiffer can saw a river benefitting from the regulation of point source pollution from industrial, municipal, and other facilities, which supported the dramatic and steady improvement in the health of our watershed’s rivers, lakes, and creeks. The FRWC has monitored the ecological health of the Flint River and its tributaries since 1999. Volunteers collect, identify, and count small animals living in streams that indicate their ecological health. Some types of animals can survive water pollution, while others are less tolerant. We look at the array of critters we find at each site, and hope to find a variety of species that span the sensitive-tolerant spectrum. If a variety of species are found, we know the ecological health of the stream is good because the water quality is consistently good enough for them to survive and even thrive. Most monitoring sites are steadily increasing with scores of “good” or “excellent.” FRWC identified a decreasing score at one particular site, so

the Genesee County Drain Commissioner is investigating the cause and we’ll work to address the issue.

We also can look to our river’s food web for anecdotal evidence in the form of the abundant populations of fish, birds, ducks, and other wildlife that rely on those little river critters to survive. Did you know that 77 species of fish live in the Flint River? The bald eagles nesting up and down the length of the 142 mile Flint River survive on a diet composed primarily of fish. There are beavers gnawing down trees and working on the beginnings of a dam in the city of Flushing. The DNR also proclaims that the Flint River Watershed boasts the #1 small mouth bass fishery in the state. When you add the data and observations together it paints a picture of a healthy, functioning ecosystem; one that has been on an upward trajectory for the last 43 years.

Today, the most serious pollution problems facing our Flint River Watershed come from nonpoint source pollution in the form of storm water runoff from urban, suburban, and agricultural areas alike. Nonpoint source pollution includes things like dirt, plant nutrients, litter, salt, oil, grease, and pesticides. Solving the problem of nonpoint source pollution is a tough nut to crack and it’s also where we as individuals and as a community come in. The most impactful way to stop nonpoint source pollution is for home owners, farmers, and others to follow some simple and proven actions. Each of the FRWC’s programs and activities allow people to experience the wonders of our watershed while learning how easy it is to do the right thing to keep our watershed healthy.

From its vantage point on the shore, the Pfeifer can must have watched FRWC volunteers, staff, and board members out talking with homeowners about the connection of storm drains to our river’s health, giving a bicycle tour to novice riders along the trail, and pulling tires and debris from the river. And then there was that one guy who picked up a piece of trash that transformed into an unexpected treasure upon closer inspection...

That Pfeiffer’s beer can rested under a bush for over six decades waiting to be discovered by someone who chose to spend the day helping his community and our Flint River stay healthy and clean for all to enjoy. It now sits on display at the FRWC office as a reminder not only of how far our Watershed has come since that beverage was enjoyed so many years ago, but also acknowledging that there is still work to be done and great people out there willing to lend a hand.
Out of sight, out of mind. That saying is particularly apt when it comes to littering and dumping trash in and near our rivers. People who litter with plastic bottles or bags, or those who dump bigger items like tires or construction debris may not have stopped to think about the harm they are causing our local rivers and our community. Maybe they think it will just float away, or at least sink out of sight. But we know that isn’t the case, and every spring that is where the FRWC, our chapters, and enthusiastic bands of volunteers come in.

The FRWC helps to organize small river cleanups all throughout the year and coordinate a big spring event on the last Saturday in April each year. This year the Flint River and Community Cleanup is on Saturday April 25th from 9AM – Noon. We invite you to join hundreds of volunteers at one of the more than 20 cleanup sites all over Genesee and Lapeer Counties. We will pick up trash (and the occasional treasure) along the shorelines of our local river, creeks, and lakes. After the hard work is done, volunteers are invited to a luncheon as a token of our gratitude for a job well done. Genesee County volunteers celebrate at Vietnam Veterans Park in Flint and Lapeer County volunteers gather at Cramton Park.

Part of the excitement of the Flint River and Community Cleanup is finding lost treasures. Every year the people with the most unique finds are nominated to win the prestigious FRWC Golden Gloves Award. The winner is chosen through a public poll leading up to the announcement at the FRWC Voice of the River Annual Celebration the following January, and has the honor of displaying the award for one calendar year. That Pfeiffer’ Beer can found next to the old Flint Farmer’s Market mentioned in the story on page three won the Golden Gloves Award a few years ago. A box of kittens won the award this past January.

What will we find and who will be clearing a prominent place in their home or office to display the coveted Golden Gloves Award next January? Will it be you? Come out and give it a shot on Saturday, April 25th! Contact Jaime Welch at jwelch@flintriver.org or 810-767-7140 if you, your organization, or business would like volunteer or become a sponsor. All event details are available and regularly updated on our Flint River and Community Cleanup program page at www.flintriver.org.

“What are those people doing? Are they painting graffiti on my storm drain?” Fear not! It’s just the FRWC’s corps of volunteer Storm Drain Stencilers doing their part to keep the Flint River clean and healthy.

Most residential areas have these drains, and when the snow melts and the rains fall everything washes off your lawn and driveways, and down the closest one. Which you think is fine because that must lead to a treatment plant. Right? Nope... It’s not exactly common knowledge, but it goes directly into your local river, lake, or creek.

That’s why the FRWC, in partnership with the Genesee County Drain Commissioner, created a Storm Drain Stenciling program where FRWC volunteers visit neighborhoods throughout the Flint River Watershed to talk with people and hand out a helpful brochure: Seven Simple Steps to protect our local rivers. Then the painting begins!

Volunteers spray paint a stencil near every storm drain in the neighborhood that says: “No Dumping. Drains to River.” Why do we paint these messages on the drains? Because at some point, we’ve all done it: washed a car in our driveway, fertilized our lawn without testing the soil to see if it actually needed it, or left the doggy dooodoo for “tomorrow.” The Seven Simple Steps are the easiest and most effective things you can do to stop nonpoint source pollution, keeping the Flint River Watershed clean and healthy for everyone to enjoy. And the stencils serve as a colorful reminder to your neighbors.

Sound like fun? Paint the Town (Storm Drains) with us! Artistic skills are not required, Storm Drain Stenciling can be done by anyone, anytime during the year as long as the weather permits. Groups can be as small as 2 or 3 people or as large as 25 depending on the size of the neighborhood. If you, your club, or business are interested in painting the town through the FRWC Storm Drain Stenciling program, please contact Jaime Welch at jwelch@flintriver.org or 810-767-7140, or sign up from our website by clicking the “Volunteer Here” tab and submitting the form: http://flintriver.org/blog/category/volunteer.
Jaime Welch has been leading floats down the Flint River for several years and has some stories to tell that will have you rolling on the floor laughing one minute, and then inspired and in awe of the beauty and serenity of our Flint River in the next. One of her favorite stories involves Wade Carver, a novice kayaker who started attending several years ago. He, like many of our participants, hadn’t seen the real Flint River, and was pleasantly surprised by the beauty he found. For the first several years Wade rented a kayak but this past summer he decided he enjoyed kayaking the Flint River enough to buy a kayak of his own. To have someone enjoy their experiences on the Flint River enough to make an investment that allows them to access it any time they want is a powerful testament to the beauty of our river.

Several years ago, while launching from the Holloway Dam site, Wade got caught in the current from the dam while going around the first bend. Before he could react, it had pushed him up against a tree stretching into the river and caused his kayak to flip sideways. No harm done. Wade was able to get right back up again, none the worse for the wear other than being a bit soggy. We dragged his kayak to the shore to get all the water out. As we were getting ready to set back out we discovered that Wade had lost his (very expensive) prescription sunglasses. Some people would have turned around and gone home or at the very least been upset, but Wade emptied the water and got back in his kayak. That wasn’t the last trip Wade went on, either. He was hooked!

Wade has continued to attend the paddles and can’t wait for the weather to warm up and our paddles to begin so he can get back out on the river. One of his favorite memories so far is the seeing the family of bald eagles as he floated downstream. It was just another day on our beautiful Flint River, but it was such an unexpected treat for those lucky kayakers. That is the appeal of paddling the Flint River: floating along in anticipation of what’s around the next bend.

Come out and see for yourself! Several times a month from May through October, the FRWC hosts kayaking and canoe trips along a number of stretches of the Flint River. These trips normally last two to three hours, are appropriate for all levels of experience and you don’t even have to own your own kayak or canoe to participate. The FRWC has some available for rent! Check the FRWC Events Calendar or the Flint River Paddles program page on our website. RSVP to Jaime Welch at 810-767-7140 or jwelch@flintriver.org to get out on the river with us this season.
SAVE THE DATE FOR “LOVE YOUR LAKES” COMMUNITY CELEBRATIONS

Flint Park Lake July 16th & Thread Lake July 23rd

Join us for the 2nd Annual ‘Love Your Lake’ Picnics. The FRWC will once again team up with the Genesee County Parks at Thread Lake and Flint Park Lake. The International Academy of Flint will also be partnering with us at the Thread Lake picnic. Join us for an afternoon of fun and celebration of these lakes, the people that love them, and to see the recent makeovers they have received! Come out and enjoy outdoor games, kayaking, bug discovery, bounce houses, and give-a-ways.

• Flint Park Lake Picnic will be held in the pavilion on July 16th from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm.
• Or join us at McKinley Park on Thread Lake on July 23rd from 5:30-7:30p.m.

If you have questions about this event or how you can take part please contact Sondra Severn at 810-767-6490 or ssevern@flintriver.org.

Don’t Miss the Boat!
FRCA’s Second Annual Flint River Flotilla is August 8th

Mark your calendars for the 2nd Annual Flint River Flotilla, August 8th. For just $10, you can join our Flotilla down the picturesque Flint River. Bring your inflatable raft, kayak, canoe, or paddleboard for a leisurely hour and a half float from the old Firehouse on Grand Traverse Street (recently reopened its doors as Tenacity Brewery) to the Mott Park Golf Course. Feeling competitive? You could win a major award! Last year Flotilla award winners included the “Spirit Award,” “Most Colorful,” and “Highest Energy.” Check out the FRCA’s new website for details: www.frcalliance.org. Take a peek at last year’s photos on FRWC’s Flotilla album on Flickr.

Something Uncommon at Chevy Commons

The Flint River Corridor Alliance helped the City of Flint submit a $500,000 grant to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation’s Sustain Our Great Lakes program for the Hamilton Dam project. The FRCA worked with the FRWC to submit a $30,000 grant application to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation’s Five Star & Urban Water program for the Swartz Creek and Spring Grove site. With Phase I of improvements at Chevy Commons set to break ground this spring, the FRCA has been working with the City of Flint and the Genesee County Land Bank to acquire the rail line through Chevy Commons so that Phase II of the site can be implemented.

For more information on the FRCA, ongoing projects, and upcoming events visit their new and improved website at: www.frcalliance.org
The snow has melted away, the frost will be gone soon too, and you are already getting that bicycle ready for the season. Cycling season is finally here and the FFRT needs your help getting the Flint River Trail ready for a great season, so please come out and help us with a trail cleanup.

Once again, the FFRT Spring Cleanup is held in conjunction with the Flint River and Community Clean Up on Saturday, April 25th, starting at the Vietnam Veterans Park at 9:00 AM. The first ride of the year will be on Sunday, May 3rd, and bicyclists start out on the trail ride at 2:00 PM sharp from the site of the OLD Flint Farmers’ Market on E. Boulevard Drive. You can join us every Sunday through the last Sunday in October. These rides are 10 to 12 miles long, leisurely, and family friendly. Don’t forget your helmet!

The FFRT also hosts a once-a-month ride on another mid-Michigan trail that is within about an hour’s drive from Flint on the second Saturday of each month. The first Saturday ride will be on the Saginaw to St. Charles Trail. Meet the FFRT at the Saginaw Trail Head at 10:00 AM for a 20-mile round trip followed by lunch, before returning to our vehicles. In June, join the FFRT to ride the Southern Links Trail starting in Columbiaville. Get further details on the season’s Saturday rides at the start of FFRT Sunday Rides or on the FFRT Chapter page of the FRWC webpage.

Are you looking for a way share your strengths as the voice of the river? The Lapeer Chapter would love to have you join their team of dedicated volunteer stewards. Here are four ways you can help:

1. **Adventure** The obstruction removal group provides access for paddlers for this amazing stretch of river by removing logjams. The Lapeer Chapter maintains a stretch of river long enough to provide 10 hours of canoeing/kayaking in Lapeer County!

2. **Civic Pride** The Lapeer Chapter was established because of the unique features of Farmers Creek and the South Branch Flint River. Help clean it up! Last year over 50 students filled a dumpster with trash from city parks. Join the Lapeer Chapter April 25 from 9am-1pm for the Annual Flint River and Community Cleanup! All Volunteers check in at Cramton Park (off S. Main St.)

3. **Ecology** Learn about biological assessment and how living communities of benthic macroinvertebrates inform us of water quality and human impact. Help achieve the goals of monitoring all 10 sites in Lapeer County!

4. **Community Support** Lapeer is raising money for a new canoe landing. This project is currently in the permitting process with the DEQ. Help raise awareness and support for public recreation!

Contact Peter McCreedy, Lapeer Chapter Chair, to join his Awesome Team! pmccreedy@chatfieldschool.org
One of the FRWC’s oldest and most established programs is Flint River GREEN: 26 years and counting! The Flint River Watershed program is the largest of the Global Rivers Environmental Education Network (GREEN). GREEN provides opportunities for young people across the United States and Canada to learn more about the watershed they live in and to use scientific findings to create lasting solutions for pressing water quality issues.

Flint River GREEN provides middle and high school students from across Genesee and Lapeer counties with exciting, hands-on science programs to learn about watershed assessment and improvement. Local educators are connected with local partners, including GM environmental engineers, who assist with water quality monitoring, offer classroom support, help make community connections, and coordinate events. GREEN students assume leadership roles in solving local environmental problems, putting them in the driver’s seat towards creating sustainable solutions for the real world.

Flint River GREEN students and teachers will be fanning out across the watershed the week of Earth Day. Give them a honk and a wave if you see them testing your local water quality. Then on May 15th, our GREEN students will gather at Kettering University to share their results. Members of the public are welcome to attend and see what these great students have been up to.

The GREEN goal is to transform young people into active citizens who improve the environment and their communities now and in the future. At the same time, students are getting exposed to a variety of environmental and engineering career options that they may not otherwise know about or consider as a viable option. One of Flint River GREEN’s success stories is John Maksimchuk III. John is an environmental engineer at General Motor’s Flint Assembly Plant, and serves as a long-term mentor for Flint River GREEN and as a leader on the Flint River GREEN planning committee.

"Flint River GREEN provides a great opportunity for students to learn about sciences and the environment from local professionals. It is certainly one of my highlights as an environmental engineer,” said John. He is just one of the 150,000 students, teacher, and community leaders that have been positively affected by the GM GREEN program across the US and Canada...and right here on our Flint River.

We are thankful to the Genesee County Drain Commissioner for the consistent support of the FRWC’s efforts to monitor the health of our river and providing an opportunity for volunteers to come out and play in the water. If you are interested and don’t mind getting a little muddy, then contact Jaime Welch today at 810-767-7140 or jwelch@flintriver.org to learn how to volunteer.

New volunteers are paired with experienced team leaders who know the ropes. These leaders will mentor the team through the various monitoring tests and activities. Squeamishness quickly gives way to fascination with the benthic critters and the process of learning the special “quirks” of each species. The dragonfly nymph is a good example. They lie still and wait for prey to pass by. But if the prey doesn’t come close enough or they need to get somewhere in a hurry, they will draw water into their back end and shoot it out, propelling them along much like a jet pack. Crayfish are always a big hit and one even graciously consented to having his picture taken with one of his fans. At least one person always gets wet (normally to the great amusement of their team), but everyone gets caught up in finding and learning to identify the benthic. For all the fun that we have, volunteers do take their responsibilities very seriously. After all, the data we collect is shared with the county, state, and federal agencies that track watershed health trends. Volunteers learn how to complete a Habitat Assessment Form and properly identify species, collect data, review and discuss the implications of that data compared to past years’ findings, and assess how that stream is doing over the long term.

Spring is the busy season here in the watershed. It marks the beginning of all of our programs, including the two week craziness of water quality testing that occurs in early May. With over 36 sites spanning several counties, we can always use more volunteers to get a lot done in the short two-week window. It’s a lot of fun and we invite you to come out and give it a try.

John Maksimchuk III
A Big Thank You to Our
2015 Voice of the River
Annual Celebration Sponsors

Pike – $1,000 and above Sponsor Level

Waste Connections Inc.
Connect with the Future®
$1,500 Sponsor

SWM
Drain Commissioner
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GM
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Deborah Cherry, Genesee County Treasurer
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Vern’s Collision and Glass, Mr. Mike Herriman
The board and staff of the Flint River Watershed Coalition is so appreciative of the individuals and organizations that support our mission. The following membership payments were made over the 2014 Holiday season or early in 2015. If you see our supporters on the river, please join us in recognizing their generosity.

Kimberly Beard
David Beaulieu
Linda Berker & Donald James ***
Nancy Byder
Deborah Cherry, Genesee County Treasurer ***
David & Kathy Churchill ***
Thomas Cook and Anna Owens
Wanda Dowdall
Lauri Elbing
Debra Golden-Steinman
Michael Haley
Members of the Holloway Lake Association
Joseph Juno
Michael and Virginia Knag ***

Joseph & Lili Leonardi
Kenneth Lombard
Peter & Beth McCready
Philip McCrory
Maureen McMahon
Amy McMillan
Donald Mosher ***
Jack Nettleton
Anna Paulina Foundation ***
Terry Reechko ***
Ronald Shoemaker
Fred & Alycemae Townsend
Thomas & Rebecca Wickham ***
Karen Wilkinson & Reginald Lancaster

***denotes a contribution of $100 or more

The combined membership payments made by these individuals, families, and foundation is over $2500. These funds will help us promise:

• More than enough lunch for the middle school kids at the Flint River GREEN summit in May 2015, OR
• All of the gloves and garbage bags that will be used by our Flint River and Community Cleanup volunteers, OR
• Several pairs of waders for our Benthic Monitoring volunteers, OR
• Insurance and supplies for our canoers and kayakers.

Please consider renewing your membership today, or if you aren’t a member already, consider joining the organization. If you prefer to make a membership contribution in the traditional way, there is a membership form below. If you prefer to make your membership payments on line, you can do so from our website on the ‘Donate Now’ link.

Your funds help us provide materials to carry out our projects and organize recreational activities on the water. All contributions are tax deductible. We watch every dollar and pinch every penny to make sure that your membership dollars translate into real action and benefit for the Flint River watershed.

Become a member now!

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 deductible.

Please make checks payable to: Flint River Watershed Coalition or FRWC, 400 N. Saginaw Street, Suite 233 Flint MI 48502

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**Become a Member of the FRWC Today!**

SPRING/SUMMER 2015

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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.
April 11th  Earth Day at UM-Flint from 10AM – 3PM - Harding Mott University Center
April 25th  Flint River and Community Clean Up 9:00 am to NOON at various locations (see back page for more info)

May 3rd  Friends of the Flint River Trail Sunday Cycling: First Weekly Ride of the Season!
April 30-May 14th  Spring Water Quality Monitoring Season Begins (dates tentative)
May 15th  GREEN Summit at Kettering University
May 23rd  Memorial Weekend Paddle: Swartz Creek is the First Bi-Monthly Paddle of the Season!
May 30th  Columbiaville Paddle with Six Rivers Regional Land Conservancy

June 13th  2nd Annual “Fish the Bricks” Tournament (DNR Free Fishing Weekend)
June 20th & 21st  Ortonville Creekfest – Visit the FRWC Booth!

July 16th  “Love Your Lakes” Community Celebration Picnic at Flint Park Lake
July 23rd  "Love Your Lakes" Community Celebration Picnic at Thread Lake

August 8th  Second Annual Flint River Flotilla

September 26th  Paddle the Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge

October 3rd  17th Fall Water Quality Monitoring (dates tentative)
October 3rd  Last Flint River Paddle of the Year
October 25th  Last FFRT Sunday Trail Ride of the Year

Check our Calendar for the full schedule of activities and further details at www.FlintRiver.org

**FFRT Bicycle Rides**
Ride the Flint River Trail Every Sunday starting out from the old Flint Flint Farmer’s Market at 2 pm and join the FFRT to ride another mid-Michigan trail on the Second Saturday each month.

**Flint River Paddles**
Kayak or canoe the Flint River with us on the First and Third Saturday of every month and the midweek evening paddle every Fourth Wednesday.
REMINDER: Golden Gloves Award contenders are selected from this event
If you retrieve something interesting or unusual during the cleanup, take a picture then email it with your name and the site you found this treasure to Jaime Welch at jwelch@flintriver.org. YOU could WIN the prestigious Golden Gloves Award, chosen through a public poll and bestowed at the FRWC Voice of the River Annual Celebration in January.