

Flint River Focus

May 2002

A Note from the Executive Director -

As the newly appointed Executive Director of the Flint River Watershed Coalition, I am looking forward to helping make people more appreciative and communities more aware of the potential benefits of using our area's greatest natural resource, the Flint River Watershed.

Each newsletter will help us get the message out that the Coalition is embarking on a new journey. In addition to our current projects, others will be added over the coming months with the goals of increasing public education and involving individuals, families and organizations, both public and private, in worthwhile and fun activities.

Since taking this position, I have come to realize that there are a significant number of people, in all walks of life, and organizations that are working very hard to improve the quality of life in our communities. **I would like you to be one of them.** We fully intend to form partnerships with as many as possible so that a stronger voice can be heard in our communities.

It's no secret that increasing membership is one method of gaining resources, both people and money. These are essential if the Coalition is to extend its outreach and programs. I personally invite each reader to call me to discuss their interests and how we might work together to enhance our enjoyment of the place we call home. The articles in this issue will give you an idea of the kinds of projects we are conducting in the near future. Each newsletter will contain information on the watershed and what some communities are doing to use and improve the watershed.

I am looking forward to your call or email. Please call me at 810-767-6490 or email me at glefeber@umflint.edu.

Sincerely,

Glenn LeFeber



What Kinds of Fish can be found in the Flint River?

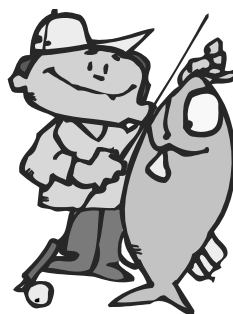
By Joe Leonardi
MDNR Fisheries

Based on post-1950 records, the present fish community of the Flint River and its tributaries is composed of 77 species. Their distribution is greatly influenced by a number of factors including water quality, stream discharge, water velocity, groundwater inflow, water depth, temperature, bottom substrate, instream habitat, and location. Fish tolerant of human activities such as carp can be readily found throughout the watershed. Environmentally sensitive fish like the mottled sculpin can only be found in isolated locations.

Most of the Flint River is classified as a warmwater stream supporting fish species tolerant of temperatures that can reach 80F. Warmwater streams in Michigan support diverse fish communities including a variety of minnow types along with important sport fish. Coldwater streams found in a few Flint River headwater tributaries have less diversity but fish present are often sensitive to environmental conditions.

Recreational angling opportunities occur throughout the river system...

A person with only a basic understanding of fish can make reasonable predictions of the types that might be present in a given area if habitat can be assessed. Assessing habitat requires thinking about influencing factors mentioned above. Is the water temperature cold or warm? Is



there sufficient water depth present to hold large fish? What type of instream habitat is available? If you can answer these questions, you can make educated guesses on what types of fish might be present.

See **Fish** continued on page 3

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

BENTHIC ORGANISM MONITORING

SATURDAY APRIL 27TH OR WEDNESDAY MAY 1, 2002

Volunteer teams assess water quality by completing several tests and collecting organisms from tributaries of the Flint River. Call Monitoring Coordinator Dennis Zicha for details

(810) 953-4954. Volunteers needed for Fall too.

'PRESS ON REGARDLESS' CANOE RACE ON THREAD CREEK- MAY 4TH

Sign up with Grand Blanc Parks and Recreation. Race starts at Kings Pointe Subdivision and ends at Russ Park in Grand Blanc. Details: call 694-0101. Separate categories for variety of canoeists.

FLINT RIVER VOLUNTEER CLEANUP

SATURDAY, MAY 18TH, 2000

10 AM TO 2 PM

4 LOCATIONS:

- Vietnam Veterans Park, James P Cole Blvd., north of Fifth Avenue in the City of Flint. Walk the banks or launch your boat at the site.
- Holloway Dam Canoe Launch, take Stanley Rd. east to Oak Rd. north, to Carr Rd. This section of the river needs lots of attention! Walk the banks, wade, or bring your canoe.
- Millville Canoe Launch, Lapeer County. Millville Rd. and Plum Creek Rd. Volunteers travel by canoe through this site.
- Cramton Park in the City of Lapeer. Corner of M-21 and M-24. Volunteers walk the banks here.

WEAR OLD CLOTHES, SUNSCREEN, WORK SHOES; BRING GLOVES AND A RAKE. FOR DETAILS, PLEASE CALL DOROTHY GONZALES AT (810) 257-3190.

PROJECT GREEN

Want your school to sample water quality and organisms in local streams? Contact Darren Bagley (810) 244-8524 or Bill Welch (810) 591-4442.

FRIENDS OF THE FLINT RIVER TRAIL

May through October – every Sunday a bicycle ride begins at the Farmer's Market 2 PM.

COALITION BOARD & EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

THIRD FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH. 8:30 AM, MOTT COMMUNITY COLLEGE PRAHL CENTER, GENESEE ROOM. EVERYONE WELCOME.

What's in a Word?

Words that apply to your watershed

Alluvial soil – material deposited by running water and typically found in the floodplain.

Anadromous fish – fish that live in lakes but ascend streams to spawn. In our watershed, the most common is the Walleye.

Benthic – plants and animals living on the bottom of lakes, rivers and streams.

Community – a group of interacting plants and animals inhabiting a given area.

Diversity – abundance of different species in a given location.

Endemic – plants or animals restricted to a given region.

Bog – a wetland ecosystem with an accumulation of peat, acid conditions and a dominance of sphagnum moss.

Fen – a wetland, only slightly acidic, dominated by sedges in which peat accumulates.

Lentic – pertaining to standing water.

Lotic – pertaining to flowing water.

Marsh – a wetland dominated by grassy vegetation such as cattails and sedges.

Plankton – small, floating or weakly swimming plants and animals in freshwater and marine ecosystems.

Animals are zooplankton and plants are phytoplankton.

Riparian – along the banks of rivers and streams including the floodplain.

Watershed – an entire region of land drained by a waterway that flows into a river, lake or reservoir.

Taking Responsibility...

By Glenn LeFeber

Executive Director FRWC

Our office received a call from a gentleman in Lapeer recently. He told me about persons and a construction company that dumped junk and construction materials over the riverbank and in the river. This person wanted to know who he could contact to remedy the situation. The Coalition does not get involved in local ordinance enforcement per se, but we will direct you to the proper agency for assistance. In general, you can call the DNR, 1-517-626-4600, the DEQ, 1-800-662-9278, or your County Health Department.

The person went on to say that he and his family have periodically removed trash from the river. This is a good example of both taking and not taking responsibility for your actions. This family will now become involved in our annual Flint River Clean Up, which is scheduled for

See [*Responsibility*](#) page 3

Hitting the Mark

The FRWC wants to be sure that we are providing you with the kinds of information you find useful. Help us to fulfill your needs by completing the short form below and mailing it to us. Send to:

Flint River Watershed Coalition

P.O. Box 3601

Flint, MI 48502

Attn: Glenn LeFeber

1. Is the newsletter: too long ? ____
 too short? ____
 OK? ____

2. How many issues would you like to receive annually?
 2____ 4____ more ____

3. Article types you would like to see(check all that apply)

Scientific ____

Watershed Information ____

Calendar of Events ____

Volunteer Opportunities ____

FRWC Projects ____

Other Environmental

Groups? ____

Other Articles? ____

If you checked any article types, please give a brief description. _____

Please provide your name and telephone number in case we need to contact you for additional information.

We will report the results in the next issue.

Fish -Continued from page 1

While most of us are particularly interested in the recreational sport fish, minnow diversity is important because it often indicates water quality. That is why Fisheries Division inventories streams of all sizes and types. Biological data collected during these surveys is used to make recommendations for management, protection, and restoration.

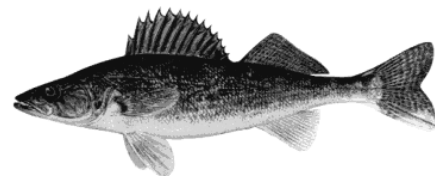
Recreational angling opportunities occur throughout the river system but are most concentrated in the Mott Lake, Holloway Reservoir, and Hamilton Dam Impoundment. Each of these water bodies has boat and shore access and provide good angling for opportunities sport fish. Channel catfish, walleye, smallmouth and largemouth bass, northern pike, and black crappie can be found in each of these locations. Some very good angling opportunities also exist downstream of Hamilton Dam. Most of us are aware of the spring walleye fishery but the area between Montrose and Flint also offers excellent opportunities for other sport fish such as smallmouth bass, white suckers, and an occasional northern pike. Be sure to consult your Fishing Guides for appropriate seasons and limits.

More information about the Flint River and its fisheries can be found in the Flint River Assessment located

on the web at:

www.dnr.state.mi.us/www/ifr/ifrlibra/special.htm .

Fisheries Division also distributes lake survey results from any public water body. Contact the Fisheries Management Unit where the water body is located and request a copy. ●



Responsibility Continued from page 2

May 18, 2002. Join us on that date to help us take responsibility for keeping our river and streams free from debris. For more information, contact Dorothy Gonzales at 257-3190 or visit our website: www.flintriver.org.

See you on the river. ●

JOIN OUR LIST SERVE BY EMAILING

MAJORDOMO@LISTSERV.MSUE.MSU.EDU AND TYPING

SUBSCRIBE FRWC INTO THE BODY OF THE MESSAGE. YOU CAN THEN RECEIVE UPDATED INFORMATION PERIODICALLY.

Become a member of the Flint River Watershed Coalition and further efforts to restore and revitalize the river!

Name

Agency/Club/Affiliation

Street Address

City State Zip

Telephone – Home & Work

Email

I have enclosed membership dues:

____ Individual Member \$20

____ Family \$40

____ Club/Organization/Agency \$50

____ Small Business/ Local Government \$100

____ Corporate/Government \$500

____ Watershed Protector \$500

____ Watershed Champion \$1000

____ Other _____

The FRWC is a non-profit organization with 501(c)3 status, making your donation tax deductible.

Make check payable to:

**Flint River Watershed Coalition
P. O. Box 3601
Flint, MI 48502**

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Comments or Suggestions (810) 257-3190
Or dgonzale@co.genesee.mi.us*



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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

