



# G.L.A.H. News

Great Lakes Aquatic Habitat

GLAHNF GREAT LAKES, CONNECTING COMMUNITIES

EARLY SPRING 2005 VOLUME 13 ISSUE 2

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## DID YOU KNOW?

*Nicknamed America's fourth sea-coast, the Great Lakes and their connecting channels played an important role in the history of North American transportation. Today, roughly 300 million tons - mostly coal, iron ore and grain - are shipped out of major ports in the United States alone!*

## SEWAGE "BLENDING" THREATENS WATER QUALITY

By Mike Shriberg, Great Lakes Advocate  
for the state PIRGs (Public Interest Research Groups)

The dangers of untreated sewage are well-known. The bacteria, viruses, worms and other disgusting and hazardous things in sewage make over 7 million people sick per year in the U.S., according to the EPA. We become sick when sewage contaminates our drinking water and food as well as our swimming beaches and fishing and boating areas. The impacts are particularly harsh on those who are least able to defend themselves: children, the elderly and immune-impaired individuals. Beyond the health impacts, improperly treated sewage causes economic impacts through beach closings as well as increased costs to treat water and, of course, health care costs and lost productivity of sick workers.



*While there is no proof that this plume is all sewage, this overhead image of the Milwaukee plume was taken by Butch Jorgenson in May 2004 after several days of heavy rains and a series of overflows that resulted in a total 4.6 billion gallon dump by the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewer District.*

Yet, over 30 years after the passage of the Clean Water Act, the U.S. is still releasing over 1.3 trillion gallons/year of untreated sewage into our rivers and lakes. This problem is particularly severe in the Great Lakes. Most sewage releases happen after a rainstorm or snowmelt. At these times, water infiltrates the old, crumbling infrastructure designed to treat sewage and heads toward the wastewater treatment plants. In order to prevent the plants from flooding or the sewage from backing up into homes, it is released directly into our water, untreated or with only partial treatment. These releases are designed into sewage systems and are being exacerbated by expanding populations and the attendant increases in impervious surfaces.

Rather than cleaning up this problem, the EPA has proposed allowing sewage treatment plants to dump inadequately treated sewage into our waters during rain storms. The "blending" policy (we prefer to refer to it as a "dumping" policy) would permit sewage treatment plants to mix partially treated sewage (primary treatment with or without chlorination) with fully treated waste and dump that mixture into waters around the Great Lakes. The key policy change is that EPA is proposing to

*continued on page 13*

## DIRECTOR'S NOTES

### COMMUNICATIONS COLLABORATIONS: CREATIVE OPTIONS

BY JILL RYAN



I recently had the pleasure of participating in the Biodiversity Project Great Lakes communications conference, *Making the Connection: New Strategies for*

*Great Lakes Public Education and Communication*. What a wonderful opportunity to share information, learn from colleagues and brainstorm new ideas for creative collaborations.

This gathering again impressed on me the importance of partnerships. In this case, partnerships to communicate important messages about the Great Lakes Basin. The benefits of such collaborative work are many: sharing ideas rather than reinventing the wheel, pulling together resources and expertise in order to have greater impact, and the fun of working with others on projects of similar interest.

*The Great Lakes, Connecting Communities Communication Toolbox* will soon be distributed and I encourage you to seek unique opportunities to utilize these tools in partnership with others. Look beyond your usual partners to find new opportunities and new benefits you may not even anticipate. Consider local units of government such as planning commissions, township boards and county supervisors; select businesses with common interests; government agencies including state parks and environmental agencies; and educational institutions such as schools, museums, and summer camps.

No matter who you choose to work with, I truly hope you find the partners and tools to get your message to your intended audience. To use an old cliché, let's think and communicate outside of the box!

*Good communication is as stimulating as black coffee, and just as hard to sleep after.*

— Anne Morrow Lindbergh

*Jill M. Ryan*



## Creative Communicating

### WRITING FOR THE WEB: PART 1

By Gerry McGovern



GERRY  
MCGOVERN

Writing for the Web is not the same as writing for print. People read differently on the Web. They scan read – jumping quickly from one piece of content to the next. People are much more action orientated on the Web.

They get online to get something done. Words should always be driving actions.

#### **Here are 10 rules for writing effective web content:**

1. Know your reader
2. Take a publishing approach
3. Keep content short and simple
4. Write active content
5. Put content in context
6. Write for how people search
7. Write great headings
8. Write great summaries
9. Write great metadata
10. Edit. Edit. Edit.

This issue we'll examine the first five rules.

#### **1. Know your reader**

All effective writing begins with knowing your reader. Write for your reader, not for your ego. Your reader is not everybody. The most effective writing is keenly focused on the specific needs of a clearly defined reader type. Is your reader a middle class, female American, with two kids, who lives in the suburbs?

Think like your reader thinks. Get to meet her. Once a month, talk to your reader. Read what she reads. Is there a common style and tone being used to reach her? Use it. Put a picture of your readers up on your wall. You shouldn't have more than 3-5 core reader types.

#### **2. Take a publishing approach**

Publishing is about getting the right content to the right person at the right time at the right cost. It's about getting and keeping attention with content. It's about driving actions. Publishing is about selling with content.

Back around 1995, if you went to many airline websites, you found a big picture of an aeroplane on the homepage. Now, you will find a booking process and special offers. Killer content. The first thing publishers must get right is their killer content. What content do you have that will really drive actions? Put that on your homepage.

#### **3. Keep content short and simple**

In publishing, less is nearly always more. Remember, the one word that describes the scan reader is impatient. Here are some guidelines for the length of your content:

- Headings: 8 words or less
- Sentences: 15-20 words
- Paragraphs: 40-70 words
- Documents: 500 words or less

Get rid of all your fancy words. Get rid of your ego. Writing effectively is not about showing off. It's about communicating. It's about driving actions. Write simply. Get to the point. Then stop.

#### **4. Write active content**

The most powerful word in the English language is 'YOU.' Write from the point of view of the reader. The reader has come to your website to do something. Your content should be written in an action orientated style. Every sentence should be moving them towards a purchase, a subscription, a solution.

#### **5. Put content in context**

The Web is about links and connections. Web content is classified and linked content. Never leave your reader at a dead-end on your website.

Be sure to look for "Writing for the Web: Part II" by Gerry McGovern in the next issue.

*Gerry McGovern provides website content management solutions. For more information, please visit:  
<http://www.gerrymcgovern.com/>.*



# Grassroots ~~Profile~~ Success!

## AN "ORDER TO RESTORE"

By Pat Dwight and Pat Krebs, Friends of Sheldon Marsh co-chairs

It will be nearly five years when the Army Corps of Engineers closes the file on the dike and channel project dug in the waters of Sheldon Marsh, adjacent to the State Nature Preserve. In July of 2000, using an improper Corps Permit, a nursery began construction of the project to connect their business to the waters of Lake Erie. Because of the marsh's exceptional wildlife habitat, and the rare, diverse and sensitive nature of the habitat, it is classified as a category 3 wetland, the highest wetland rating available. Due to its sensitive nature, all authorizing agencies (previously excluded from the permitting process) convened and stopped the progress on the dredge and fill activities in late July, 2000. The dike and channel (approximately 1500 feet long and 55 feet wide) have remained in place for the past five growing seasons as the issue was analyzed and argued. Permits were rescinded as issued in error; new permits were sought and consequently denied. Two Public Hearings took place with a great public outcry. State and Federal agencies and legislators participated in the comments. Environmental studies, hired consultants, agency statements, and our grassroots alerts and letters created masses of information and media coverage.

When the State of Ohio denied the coastal consistency and the 401 Water Quality Permit (the Permit required by the state to fill a wetland), the denials were appealed to the State and the Federal Department of Commerce. Friends of Sheldon Marsh (FOSM), with support from GLAHNF, retained counsel and became interveners in the appeals to support the OEPA's denial of the 401 Permit. Only days before the court date, the appeal was dropped and later the Federal appeal was withdrawn. Seven months later the Army Corps issued an "Order to Restore" the area to its original condition; however the completion date for the restoration was another year away, December 31, 2004. We have now waited these additional twelve months,

and the physical work of pushing the dike/berm back into the channel has, for the most part, been accomplished this past December 10, 2004. Pictures of the restoration work were taken Dec.15, 2004 show an opening left in the end of the channel area, which does not correspond with the ACE corrected restoration map. FOSM still questions this disparity, and awaits the comments from those in charge. The ACE has not yet closed the file so they can reassess the settling and planting yet to be done this late spring or early summer. Please see the Friends of Sheldon Marsh website for the ACE remarks at [www.sheldonsmarsh.org](http://www.sheldonsmarsh.org)

Friends of Sheldon Marsh hopes that the full restoration to the original condition of the Sheldon Marsh wetlands will be completed, and that the natural functioning of this rare coastal wetland can repair itself after five years of disruption. If the proper permits and all interested State and Federal agencies, as well as the public, had been involved from the beginning the costs and results would have been different. Without the support of GLAHNF, FOSM's grassroots outcry against this wetland destruction would have seen little success. This effort now offers a case from beginning through restoration to inspire others that, indeed, it can be done.



Looking east at mostly restored east-west channel. Lake Erie is in extreme upper left of picture. Berm (dike) still apparent in middle of foreground. Unrestored channel area is apparent in middle right of picture.

## GLAHNEWS:

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### Disclaimer:

*The Great Lakes Aquatic Habitat News is intended to provide a forum for the free exchange of ideas among citizens and organizations working to protect aquatic habitats in the Great Lakes Basin. The interpretations and conclusions presented in this newsletter represent the opinions of the individual authors. They in no way represent the views of the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council, the C.S. Mott Foundation, subscribers, donors, or any organization mentioned in this publication.*

# U.S. Great Lakes Region Update



CHRIS GRUBB

## PUBLIC COMMENTS NEEDED ON INVASIVE SPECIES

The United States Coast Guard is finally taking steps to address its flawed enforcement of the National Invasive Species Act – an oversight that has contributed to invasive species introductions to the Great Lakes at an average rate of one every eight months. The Coast Guard's Great Lakes program, initiated in 1993 following the arrival of zebra mussels, requires any ocean-going vessels equipped with ballast tanks entering the Great Lakes to exchange the tank contents in the open ocean, employ an approved alternative to treat hitchhiking organisms, or retain ballast contents and seal its tanks.

So what's the problem? For the past 12 shipping seasons, the Coast Guard has exempted ships declaring "no ballast on board" (or NOBOB) from its regulations. But scientists have known for years that NOBOBs do carry invaders in their residual water and sediment. Because more than 80 percent of oceangoing ships that enter the Great Lakes through the St. Lawrence Seaway are NOBOBs, Jen Nalbone of Great Lakes United has correctly described this loophole as being "big enough to drive a cargo ship through."

In the January 7th Federal Register, the Coast Guard acknowledged this loophole in its 12-year-old ballast water program to protect the Great Lakes, and announced it needs to develop a comprehensive program to address vessels classified as "no ballast on board". The Coast Guard is collecting public comments and will hold a public hearing on "no ballast on board" management strategies on May 9 in Cleveland, Ohio. Vocalizing your concern for the Great Lakes is needed, regardless of your expertise on the complicated issues of invasive species and international shipping. Have you been impacted by an aquatic invasive species that came from an ocean-going ship (like the zebra mussel, quagga mussel, round goby, Eurasian ruffe or spiny water flea?) Do you want to stress the importance of quick action to close the NOBOB loophole for the 2005 shipping season? Do you have specific recommendations on the best way to stop new aquatic invaders from entering the Great Lakes from ocean-going ships? Let the Coast Guard know!

If you would like more information about submitting public comments or attending the May 9 meeting in Cleveland, contact Jen Nalbone ([jen@glu.org](mailto:jen@glu.org) or 716-213-0408).

## REGIONAL UPDATE

### GREAT LAKES REGIONAL COLLABORATION UPDATE

As Joel Brammeier described in the last issue of GLAHNews, the work of the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration (GLRC) is underway. Along with federal agencies, the Great Lakes governors and mayors, local communities, Native American tribes, and regional bodies, many Great Lakes based environmental groups are actively engaged in the process. The GLRC is charged with designing a strategy to restore and protect the Great Lakes now and into the future.

Much of the work of the GLRC is being accomplished in eight Issue Area Strategy Teams which are focused on issues such as habitat, nonpoint sources of pollution, invasive species, Areas of Concern, and others. Different Strategy Teams are taking different approaches to their task, but all will be required to submit a 5-10 page document that outlines problems and recommendations specific to their issue area. These documents will be compiled by an Executive Committee that will release a comprehensive draft document in July, 2005. The Collaboration will then take 60 days of public comment on the comprehensive draft document before submitting a final report next December.

The environmental groups working on the various Strategy Teams are optimistic that the end product will drive a significant effort to

restore the Great Lakes, but realize it won't happen without a transparent process with multiple opportunities for the public to influence the plan. To that end, many of the environmental groups sent a letter to the GLRC Executive Committee requesting stakeholder input while the Executive Committee is compiling the Strategy Team drafts into the comprehensive draft document. The input and energy of GLAHNF members will be critical to making sure that the result of the GLRC is more than just another report that collects dust on the shelves of bureaucrats. It is indeed important to organize and coordinate restoration work across the basin in order to more effectively utilize limited financial resources. However, it is also imperative for restoration advocates to send the message that organization and planning alone will not restore the Great Lakes. In addition to the work of the GLRC, the federal government and states must commit to substantial and sustainable restoration funding before we will

see progress on the ground.

If you would like to learn more about the GLRC and ways you can help promote restoring the Great Lakes, please visit the Great Lakes restoration website at [www.restorethelakes.org](http://www.restorethelakes.org).



*Government and Tribal representatives hold official copies of the Great Lakes Declaration and Framework.*

# Canadian Great Lakes Region Update



KRISTYN TULLY

## ONTARIO'S CHOICE: HAVEN FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ROLE MODEL?

On February 14, 2005, the public comment period for a potentially poisonous new Ontario program came quietly to a close. There was no fanfare, no front-page newspaper articles or radio announcements. Across the province, few knew that the Minister of Environment was about to be confronted by one of her toughest challenges yet: protecting the Great Lakes in the face of corporate Canada's devious greenwashing efforts.

The proposal is harmless enough in name – the “Scrap Tire Diversion Program Plan” and the tagline on the Plan's front cover has a nice ring to it – “Recycling Tires to Benefit Ontario.” In its original conception, the Plan was supposed to outline a waste diversion plan for used tires in Ontario, to help keep them out of landfills and local creeks, for example.

In its finished form, the Plan is less about benefiting Ontario than it is about subsidizing pollution. The key to recycling tires in Ontario and eliminating old stockpiles is allowing the use of “Tire Derived Fuel” – tire burning – in cement factories across Ontario. Or, so says the Plan.

There are two major flaws with the Plan: it contravenes Ontario law and it threatens the health of our Great Lakes communities.

The cement industry is behind the push for tire burning: the Plan clearly states that the industry does not want government to develop markets for rubberized asphalt (made from recycled tires) because it is direct competition for the existing concrete road base market. Cement plants want permits to burn tires because it will help to reduce their fuel costs and because they will receive, according to the Plan, a \$1-million guaranteed payout.

If the Plan is approved, the cement industry will receive its benefits at enormous expense to our communities. Burning tires release some of the worst air pollutants known to humans – pollutants like dioxins and furans, which cause cancer, and fine particulates, which cause respiratory problems and cardiovascular disease. The Plan's own data shows that tire-burning will release more heavy metals and dramatically more particulates into the surrounding community than even coal.

It is not just local air quality that will suffer. The dioxins, heavy metals, and PAHs that are released by burning tires fall onto communities hundreds of kilometers away. Emissions from cement plants in Michigan were tracked all the way to Colorado and from Texas to Oklahoma. When the pollutants fall, they are unknowingly inhaled by humans or ingested by fish and wildlife. Once in the food chain, the pollutants begin to concentrate, affecting animal and plant species. These concentrated contaminants are often consumed later by human beings.

Much of the pressure to burn tires in Ontario results from fears that the American market for used tires is drying up. Programs such as New York's Waste Tire Management and Recycling program and Michigan's Scrap Tire program mean that Ontarians may no longer be able to send 50% of our scrap tires south of the border. The Plan explicitly states that the New York and Michigan markets could disappear and promotes the creation of new uses in Ontario – such as fuel for cement plants – to replace them.

And here the Plan's biggest flaw is revealed: It is not at all clear that this 200-page document offers an innovative answer to Ontario's used tire surplus. Rather, it appears to be a desperate attempt to compensate for improved environmental protection in the United States.

The solution proposed by the cement industry – burn tires in Ontario – is the worst possible response to increasing regulation in the United States. As the U.S. strengthens its environmental protections, Ontario should do the same.

When the Minister of Environment decides whether or not to approve the “Scrap Tire Diversion Program Plan,” she will be making a momentous decision. If she says, “Yes,” Ontario becomes a haven for polluters fleeing U.S. regulation. If she says, “No,” the Great Lakes region takes another step towards the best bi-national environmental protection in the world.



## INVITATION TO PROTECT LAKE ERIE



The Western Lake Erie Waterkeeper Invites You to Get Involved and Protect Lake Erie. In 1815, accounts of the Maumee River describe the fish as so numerous that a spear could be thrown and would rarely miss killing one. No less than 1,000 fish were caught in the downtown Toledo area and the shoals

of the Maumee Bay swarmed with ducks and geese. And Maumee Bay was one of the most prolific spawning grounds in Lake Erie.

The far western end of Lake Erie is the old Black Swamp now known as the Maumee Watershed Area of Concern. Over 4 million acres of land drain water into 3,920 stream miles forming the largest watershed in the Great Lakes. Lake Erie, the only Great Lake above sea level, is the warmest and shallowest in the Great Lakes with an average depth of only 25 feet in the Western basin. The Detroit River delivers over 80% of the water to Lake Erie. The basin is home to millions of people who live in urban areas like Windsor, Detroit and Toledo.

Western Lake Erie is where tourists gather on sandy beaches in the warm summer waters and access the best walleye fishing in the world. There are dozens of islands, several with outdoor dining and entertainment, and others with camping and views of shore birds and eagles. And the always popular Cedar Point.

While there are a number of great things about this area, there are also many concerns in the Western basin that require attention. The same beaches where tourists like to gather are often under advisory because of dangerously high bacteria levels. Raw sewage dumped into the waters from combined sewer overflows (CSOs) during rain events are often the cause of these beach advisories.

The Black Swamp was cleared and drained in the mid to late 1800's and much of the land was converted to agricultural use. Sedimentation and non-point source pollution from fertilizers, pesticides, and manure contaminate waterways throughout Northwest Ohio and may even contribute to the Lake Erie Dead Zone.

There are three coal-fired power plants here where nearly three billion gallons of water are used daily for cooling purposes. One power plant alone withdraws an amount of water equal to the entire volume of the Maumee River! According to the Clean Air Task Force, the cooling water intakes kill fish resulting in damage to fish populations and economic fishing losses. The water that is discharged from these power plants is much hotter than the average temperature of the Western basin.

In September 2004, the I.J.C. stated, "Environmental problems in the Lake Erie ecosystem function as early warning signs for the other Great Lakes. As the shallowest of the lakes, Lake Erie has the shortest water retention time (less than three years), but it also has the largest watershed relative to its size, the highest human



Map of Western Lake Erie courtesy of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

population density, the most farmland, and the largest number of major cities. These factors converge to make Erie the Great Lake where ecological disruption often shows up first." Lake Erie is the miner's canary of the Great Lakes. The report includes a number of issues affecting Western Lake Erie including: growing phosphorous concentrations, invasive species, urban sprawl, wetland loss, algae blooms, and declining fish populations. Despite all of these concerns, Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Watershed Restoration Plans in the Maumee River are not scheduled until 2011.

While tourism abounds in the Western Basin, the challenge is to improve the water quality, aquatic habitat, and fish populations and to reduce the sources of pollution including causes of fish consumption advisories like mercury.

I want to invite you to become a Western Lake Erie Waterkeeper Volunteer by adopting a mile of shoreline or riverbank. You can select a mile and complete a survey once a month of shoreline/bank observations which could include spills of suspicious substances and pollutants, dead fish, debris, raw sewage odors, and water clarity. This information will be placed in a database and on the Maumee Bay Association's website at the end of summer 2005. I have an outreach presentation on Western Lake Erie, Maumee Bay and the Maumee River that I can bring to your organization or community group. And folks can join in on clean-up projects throughout the basin. There are a number of ways to get involved and make a difference for Lake Erie, Maumee Bay, and the Maumee River.

There are many shoreline/river bank property owners who love the water and there are many fishermen and boaters that know that the water needs help. We are the advocates for the water and we can make a difference. This is the vision of the Western Lake Erie Waterkeeper. Join us at <http://www.westernlakeerie.org>.

*contributed by Sandy Bihn,  
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# Lake Michigan Basin Update



LAKE MICHIGAN FEDERATION

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## LAKE MICHIGAN OFFICIALS SPEAK OUT ON PROPOSED SEWAGE DUMPING POLICY

**K**ey elected officials from around the Lake Michigan basin are “just saying no” to a recent proposal from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that would allow the discharge of untreated municipal sewage into the open waters of the Great Lakes.

discharge of untreated municipal sewage into charge of viruses, parasites and pathogens from treatment plants. The proposed policy also relieves treatment plants from upgrading their facilities and making necessary repairs.

*For more information, contact Cameron Davis at 312-939-0838 x2 or [cdavis@lakemichigan.org](mailto:cdavis@lakemichigan.org)*

U.S. EPA's proposed new dumping policy would allow treatment plants to bypass the cleansing procedures that make sewage effluent safer for discharge into public waterways. Facilities would be able to divert sewage around secondary treatment measures and blend the sewage with treated water prior to discharge, resulting in the dumping of waste.

Illinois Lt. Gov. Pat Quinn joined the Lake Michigan Federation in denouncing the policy at a February press conference on the Chicago shoreline. Quinn attacked U.S. EPA's "Blending Sewage Policy" for violating the nation's most important water quality law: the Clean Water Act. "This Orwellian name is an attempt to mask the toxic reality of the proposal, which threatens water quality and human health," he said. Prompted by a recent report pointing to human sewage as a source of beach contamination in Door County, U.S. Representative Mark Green has also requested that U.S. EPA abandon the proposal. In January, Chicago Mayor Richard Daley urged the federal government to fund improvements of municipal sewage infrastructure that eliminate the need to discharge raw sewage rather than pursue a misguided policy.

While the policy purports to be for use only in times of severe storms when municipal sewers become overloaded, it could in fact be implemented any time it rains. Under current law, treatment plants are allowed to divert sewage, but only under limited circumstances. In effect, the new policy makes dumping the rule, rather than the exception.

The Federation, which is seeking bi-partisan opposition to the measure, has been working against the policy in the nation's capital. "This policy is unenforceable, a pollution permit writer's worst nightmare, and a dream come true for recalcitrant municipalities," said Federation board president Dale Bryson at a January briefing of some 60 congressional staff members.

The EPA justifies the proposed policy, arguing it will provide relief to treatment plants during heavy storms while still requiring compliance with water quality standards. However, current standards don't necessarily protect against the

## PRIORITIES FOR 2005

### CHICAGO WILDERNESS MAKES LAKE MICHIGAN A PRIORITY FOR 2005

**O**fficials of Chicago Wilderness (CW) – a tri-state coalition of over 170 organizations and agencies - have long recognized the value of Lake Michigan to its institutional plans. Aside from its prominence as a natural feature, the lake ties together the metro regions of Illinois, Indiana, and Wisconsin. As such, CW has had an interest in complementing its 1999 Biodiversity Recovery Plan with a similar road map for Lake Michigan coastal recovery.

Informed by years of state, municipal and grassroots work to restore and protect habitats along the southern Lake Michigan shoreline, CW has taken a major step towards adopting plans for Great Lakes restoration along the urbanized and natural coasts of southeast Wisconsin, Illinois, and northwest Indiana. In April, CW is hosting a members meeting to discuss the draft Lake Michigan Action Plan currently circulating within the coalition. After members have identified critical gaps and needs for the plan, public meetings aimed at municipalities and community members will continue through 2005, eventually culminating in official adoption of the Action Plan by CW.

The timing could not be better for the region. CW's adoption of action steps for restoring Lake Michigan provides a natural connection between the well-organized greater Chicago conservation community and the ongoing Great Lakes Regional Collaborative charged with creating a strategy for Great Lakes restoration. In Illinois, the CW coalition will be able to inform the development of the state's new coastal management plan under the federal Coastal Management Program. Mirroring the impact of CW's work on terrestrial habitats in the Chicago region, this new commitment to the Great Lakes will provide a forum for partners in restoration to better coordinate coastal projects throughout the southern Lake Michigan basin.

*For more information, contact Joel Brammeier at 312-939-0838x4 or [jbrammeier@lakemichigan.org](mailto:jbrammeier@lakemichigan.org)*



## UPPER SAGINAW RIVER PROJECT RAISES CONCERN



**A** proposed U.S. Army Corps of Engineers navigational dredging project in the Upper Saginaw River has advocates in the area asking tough questions about the best way to deal with the river's toxic legacy.

The proposal is to dredge 3.1 million cubic yards of sediment contaminated with mercury, dioxins, and other chemicals, and dispose of the sediments in a facility located in the floodplain and adjacent to a State Game Area. Few would argue against the importance of getting these toxins out of the river, or the economic benefits from shipping traffic in the area. But several organizations, such as the Lone Tree Council and Citizens Against Toxic Substances (CATS), as well as the Michigan DNR and U.S. EPA have expressed concerns with the project. Chief among the concerns is the lack of an Environmental Impact Statement regarding the site chosen for the Dredged Material Disposal Facility (DMDF).

### **Scarred Legacy, Committed Community**

The Saginaw River watershed – a butterfly shaped area covering 8,600 square miles – is the largest in the state, encompassing twenty-two counties in part or whole. The Saginaw River itself is a turbid, 22-mile long waterway, plagued by sedimentation from four major tributaries: the Cass, Flint, Shiawassee, and Tittabawassee, and waters fouled by years of industrial use. But nobody has given up on the river or its bay. Efforts to address the industrial pollution, particularly a \$28 million Natural Resources Damage suit settled by General Motors and other polluters, recently saw PCB hot spots removed, and renewed community efforts to address other impaired uses of the water. Unfortunately, recent sampling has uncovered high levels of dioxin in the river sediment, an awakening to the toxic legacy of a chemical company.

### **Flawed Process, Unacceptable Disposal Site**

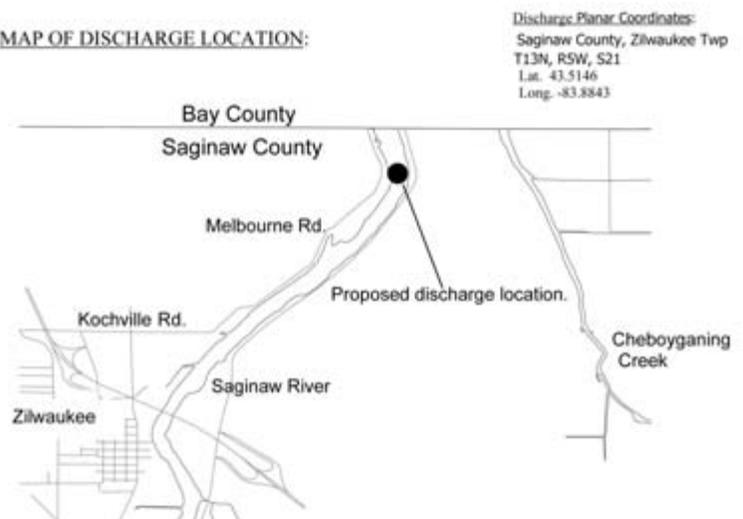
Because an existing Confined Disposal Facility has been declared full, there has been a push to find a new dredged spoils site. Championed by the Saginaw County Public Works Commissioner, and supported by shipping interests organized as the Upper Saginaw River Alliance, the search narrowed a list of 30 potential sites to three: an existing General Motors facility, a site some distance away from the river in Buena Vista Township, and 537-acres of farm fields in the floodplain of the river and adjacent to the Crow Island State Game Area.

It became clear from the onset of public meetings that there would be an aggressive push for the farm fields. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) should have been mandatory given the proximity to the river, the adjacent State Game Area, and opposition of nearby homeowners and the trustees of the host township of Zilwaukee. Interestingly, in a 1993 Preliminary Letter Report (essentially a prequel to an EIS) the Corps ruled out sites west of the Saginaw River (where the farm fields are located) because of poor clay soils and a high water table. Perhaps recognizing that an EIS for the site would likely find it unsuitable, the Corps has to date only conducted a short Environmental Assessment.

### **Ongoing Story**

A proposal of this magnitude requires the input of the public at many levels, and it will be important for concerned citizens to make their voices heard along the way. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) has issued a draft Section 401 Water Quality Certification for the proposed Dredge Material Disposal Facility and accepted public comments on the draft until March 7, 2005. MDEQ also held a public meeting to discuss the project on March 1st. If you are interested in learning more about this project, and how you can most effectively participate, please contact Terry Miller of the Lone Tree Council: (989) 686-6386.

MAP OF DISCHARGE LOCATION:



*The site now proposed for disposal of toxic sediments was ruled out by the Corps in 1993. River advocates are wondering what has changed since then.*



# Lake Superior Basin Update

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## SUPERSIZED PAVEMENT COLLIDES WITH TROUT STREAM

Plans to double the size of a Wal Mart in Hermantown, near Duluth, Minnesota, have drawn the community's attention to a small trout stream near the site. In February a coalition of community groups succeeded in bringing the debate to center squarely on their city council's need to protect Miller Creek by insisting on an environmental impact statement or EIS.

environmental impact statement or EIS.

The parking-lot runoff problem is not new to Hermantown, a suburban Duluth area that already sports dozens of sprawling, mall-style developments, each equipped with acres of impervious roofs and parking lots.

Regionally, pavement is a big and growing problem for Western Lake Superior. Since August of 2003, Wal Mart alone has either opened, started building or announced plans for four new "Supercenters", construction of which will add more than 40 acres of additional impervious roof and pavement, all within less than an hour of the Hermantown, Minnesota location.

The Miller Creek location where Wal Mart is looking to expand is within the most densely paved area in its watershed. Even without the bigger store's added pavement, wetland destruction, salt, sediment and water temperatures too warm for the brook trout have gotten Miller Creek listed on Minnesota's "impaired," waters list. Researchers mapping the watershed have measured the percentage of impervious surface in the area of the watershed near the malls at 22%.

Neighbors, retailers and unions joined forces under the name "Good Neighbors for Responsible Growth" to insist on the most careful scrutiny for past practices and the best practices in the future. Debbie Ortman is one of the leaders in Good Neighbors for Responsible Growth. As a member of a special task force for Miller Creek, Ortman was all too familiar with problems caused by runoff from large paved surfaces. Good Neighbors' research revealed that Wal Mart had failed to report on the performance of its stormwater retention pond, a revelation that gained substantial interest from local news media when the group brought it to the attention of the city council.

Ortman says the council showed interest in the information. "We were able to raise questions about the company's willingness to work to protect the sensitive environment at the site," says Ortman, adding; "concerned citizens packed into a

standing-room-only crowd at a city council meeting made good video for the news."

But technical questions arose. How much pavement could a watershed take before it sheds water too hot, muddy, full of crud for the fish? That question, along with educating the community on solutions occupies Minnesota Sea Grant's Jesse Schomberg. Schomberg and his team have put together an interactive web site that shows what happens to Miller Creek and other Duluth streams under a range of development scenarios. At 5% more impervious surface—an increase to 27% impervious—the entire portion of the creek downstream from the concentration of pavement where the Wal Mart expansion is proposed, turns dark brown, signifying unacceptably high levels of salt, solids and temperatures too high for the native trout.

Schomberg says that development in the Miller Creek watershed has been a problem for the brook trout for some time. "There are sections where they're [the trout] just gone," says Schomberg.

As to how much more pavement it will take to completely ruin the creek, the educator is insistent that won't be known until it's too late to take preventive action. "You can't find that one foot that crosses the line from cold and clear to warm and muddy," says Schomberg about the volumes of research data researchers have amassed on Miller Creek. "Each piece of pavement adds to the problem and the bigger the piece, the

bigger the problem," adds Schomberg. The actual percentage of pavement added by the Wal Mart expansion will be far less than 1%.

Fueled by media reports about less than responsible past practices that seemed to raise serious questions about how the company would behave in the future, the "Good Neighbors" group faced off with the city council mid-February for a vote on whether or not to ask for an EIS. Once again the council chambers were packed. Experts were there to testify that the environmental analysis in the environmental assessment worksheet or EAW was inadequate to predict what would happen to Miller Creek. The City Council voted 4-1 to accept the EAW and proceed with the construction.

*For a more in-depth look at Miller Creek and other Duluth Streams visit: [www.duluthstreams.org](http://www.duluthstreams.org).  
The animated illustration of a flash flood is available at: <http://seagrants.umn.edu/flashflood/>*



*Bigger stores, bigger parking lots = more runoff for Lake Superior.*



## GREY BRUCE CHILDREN'S WATER FESTIVAL

The annual Grey Bruce Children's Water Festival is a fun and educational event that gives grade four students hands-on learning about the importance of water resources in everyday life. Through over 45 activity centres, operated by volunteers,

students in Grey and Bruce Counties in the Lake Huron watershed learn about the careful use, conservation and protection of water and water sources and the role water plays in the environment.

By combining hands-on, interactive activities with messages relevant to their daily lives, students will soak up knowledge of the properties, uses, connections and importance of water. The key themes of the activities are water conservation, water protection, water science, water technology, and changing attitudes. One of the activities is described below.

Protection - Treating trash: How does a modern landfill operate? Students explore for themselves how we treat our trash today and compare this to the unsafe practices of the past. A landfill model provides a breakdown of the different stages of the treatment process and demonstrates the effect on groundwater if our trash is not disposed of properly.



*Children participate in the annual Grey Bruce Children's Water Festival by painting yellow fish near a storm drain.*

The 2005 event will be held from September 26 to 29. Students will be motivated to become better water stewards in their classrooms, at home and in their communities.

The Grey Bruce Children's Water Festival was launched in 2001, spearheaded by the Bruce Resource

Stewardship Network, the Grey County Forest Stewardship Network and the Sydenham Conservation Foundation, along with 14 other community organizations. It is now one of the 140 Ontario Nature member groups. The water festival is organized and delivered by a volunteer committee comprised of 18 community organizations and environmental agencies. The event is fully funded through the generosity of sponsors and requires over 600 volunteers.

*For more information visit [www.waterfestival.ca](http://www.waterfestival.ca)*

## VOLUNTEER MONITORING

### LAKE HURON "COAST WATCHERS"

The quality of Lake Huron's water and beaches has come into question in recent years. Beach postings, algal fouling, incidences of dead birds and fish washing onto beaches have contributed to the public's perception that something is wrong with Lake Huron's coastal environment. Government agencies have collected various segments of information related to environmental quality concerns along the coast, but the data collected has often been limited to snapshots in time, whereas local conditions can change quickly. A study prepared in 2004 by the Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation indicated that Lake Huron's near shore water quality has had a long history of bacterial and nutrient impairments, and that large gaps existed in the data that public agencies had been collecting in beach areas. At a water quality forum held at Goderich on Lake Huron in the summer of 2002, local residents endorsed the Coastal Centre's proposal to establish a community-based monitoring program.

In 2005, the Coastal Centre will develop a volunteer monitoring and stewardship program called "Coast Watchers." This is an initiative designed to engage the community to take an active part in both observing and helping to improve the quality of

our near shore waters through individual actions. Through Coast Watchers, community volunteers are trained to observe the coast and record shoreline conditions; to initiate beach clean-ups where debris is both qualified and quantified; and where community workshops and information resources are organized, to help inform and educate people about best coastal stewardship practices. Through Coast Watchers, volunteers are the eyes and ears of the lakeshore. With volunteers collecting information methodically and consistently along the lakeshore, it will be possible to track conditions and trends.

Coast Watchers is an opportunity to involve coastal residents in observing the conditions of their local beaches and comparing conditions with other parts of the lake. The quality of the lakeshore is coming under increasing scrutiny by the public, and citizens are becoming interested in participating actively in improving its quality. We see Coast Watchers as a way for the community to become more vigilant about lakeshore quality and active in coastal stewardship.

*contributed by Geoff Peach,  
The Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation  
(519) 523-4478 • [geoff.peach@lakehuron.on.ca](mailto:geoff.peach@lakehuron.on.ca)*



## SAVING ELLICE SWAMP

The Ellice Swamp, the largest wooded area in Perth County covering 2,115 acres, is located between Stratford and Milverton in the northeast portion of the Thames River watershed. The swamp is an important natural water storage/

recharge area in the watershed, helping to maintain stream flow and water table levels throughout the year. The swamp provides a high diversity of habitat communities for the numerous species of wildlife that frequent the area. Bird species are abundant and some, such as the golden-winged warbler, are found nowhere else in the county. Over the years, the characteristics of the swamp have been altered as large areas were planted in coniferous tree species. Other disturbances that threaten the area include snowmobile trails, gravel roads, the construction of drains through the swamp, and a railway right-of-way that cuts into the site.

Ellice Swamp is owned by the Upper Thames and Grand River Conservation Authorities. A number of community groups, including the Stratford Field Naturalists (one of Ontario Nature's 140 member groups), have banded together as Friends of the Ellice Swamp to work with the conservation authorities in developing and implementing a management plan for the future stewardship of the site.

One of the ongoing issues yet to be resolved is hunting. The Stratford Field Naturalists and several other local groups are opposed to hunting continuing to be a permitted activity within the swamp. The conservation authorities will need to make a decision on this matter.

*For further information, contact Jennifer Baker,  
Ontario Nature's Southern Region Coordinator:  
jenniferb@ontarionature.org or  
by phone at (905) 527-9477.*

## HOUSEHOLD WASTE

### RAISING AWARENESS OF HOUSEHOLD WASTE DISPOSAL

The Coves Subwatershed is a series of ponds and ravines located in the heart of London, Ontario. Most of the area that drains into the Coves ponds is privately owned, so residents and businesses can have a dramatic impact on the health of the Coves ponds. The Friends of the Coves Subwatershed Inc. (FOTCSI), one of Ontario Nature's 140 member groups, works with the community to ensure that the impact is a positive one. We do this by involving the community in programs and activities that promote sound ecological practices in the home and the neighborhood. An example is the Storm Drain Marking Program, where the schools of the Coves Subwatershed raise awareness about the need to properly dispose of household wastes.

The Friends of the Coves have carried out a series of in-class activities to help students understand how fish, wildlife and downstream drinking water are affected when household wastes such as used oils, chemical garden fertilizers, chlorinated pool water, paint and soap from car washes enter our urban storm drains. A watershed model helps demonstrate that each time it rains, stormwater runoff carries street litter and other contaminants into storm drains. Pollutants that make their way into roadside storm drains remain untreated and go directly into the Coves ponds, which lead to the Thames River and

ultimately to the Great Lakes. London obtains its drinking water from both Lake Huron and Lake Erie.

After learning how to correctly dispose of hazardous waste and other materials, the students take their message to the streets. They paint yellow fish symbols beside roadside storm grates and distribute fish-shaped brochures to nearby households. The FOTCSI follows the Yellow Fish Road™ program, which is a nation-wide environmental education initiative led by Trout Unlimited Canada. Since 1991, thousands of Canadian youth have learned about their water supplies and the impact those waters have on the health of their communities.

FOTCSI gratefully acknowledges funding for this project provided by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and our partners – the City of London and Trout Unlimited Canada. The City of London is considering expanding the storm-drain marking program city-wide.

*For more information on the program, contact the Friends of the Coves Subwatershed Inc. at 519-640-5397 or contact@thecoves.ca. contributed by Mary-Pat Mathers, Friends of the Coves Subwatershed*



## VISION OF A WILD LAKE ONTARIO

**A**s you read this, a quiet crusade is underway. Its leaders are residents of Wolfe Island, a rural community nestled in the current where Lake Ontario becomes the St. Lawrence River.

You have never heard their names before, never seen their groups at conferences or workshops. And while their

story has no villains to capture your imagination and arouse your sympathy, you should be telling the tale of the Wolfe Islanders for generations to come.

In Southern Ontario, 75% of wetlands have been lost because of human activities like draining and infilling. The remaining 25% of wetlands are stressed because of pollution, regulated water levels, and encroachment. Since the settlement of the first Europeans, areas like the Toronto-Niagara stretch of Lake Ontario's north shore have lost nearly all original coastal wetlands.

The Wolfe Islanders' story is the line in the sand. The Wolfe Island Wetland Corridor will be a two-kilometre (1.24 mile) long expanse of aquatic habitat for fish and wildlife. It will replace the overgrown canal that bisected the island from the late 1800s until 1932. The Wetland Corridor will also repair the cattail plug caused by a half-century of water level regulation.

Like all wetland restoration projects, the Wolfe Island Wetland Corridor will provide much-needed spawning areas for fish, staging areas for birds, and help to improve local water quality.

The Wetland Corridor is unique because it represents the future of Lake Ontario as envisioned by one of its oldest communities: a Wild Lake Ontario.

For more than 2,000 years, humans have fished from Wolfe Island. Its fishery has been a symbol of the Island's incredible natural wealth. First, there were the Point Peninsula, the Owasco, and the Iroquois First Nations. Then came the French, the Empire Loyalists, the Irish, and the Dutch. Each successive wave of settlement introduced its own culture, religion, and language to the Island. And every wave of settlement had one activity in common: fishing.

The waters of Wolfe Island support one of the last remaining commercial fisheries on Lake Ontario. They nurture fish and fowl for Islanders, many who still rely on the local ecosystem for their daily meals. The beaches, marshes, and open water also provide enchantment for the thousands of visitors that flock to the island each summer.

The natural wealth of Wolfe Island is not lost on Canada's business or political communities. There have been several attempts to develop the old canal in the past, including failed proposals in the 1960s and late 1980s. One of the more recent designs was pegged at \$5-million.

This time, a wildlife biologist is helping the community restore the wetland. The Islanders are confident that his science-based approach will cost a whole lot less – in the neighborhood of \$200,000 – and create better aquatic habitat than previous proposals.



*Members of the Wolfe Island Wildlife Association, Save The River, and Lake Ontario Waterkeeper discuss the Wetland Corridor, 2001.*

Remarkably, about 90% of the wetland would be on privately owned land. The support of these landowners is essential to the success of the project, and partnerships are being fostered through negotiation and dialogue – there is no talk of expropriation. This project, designed by the community, will benefit each member of the community.

The Islanders are, however, at the beginning of a long journey. This is a “bottom-up” project, spearheaded by local residents rather than politicians. The project design must be finalized. The municipality must be persuaded to allow partial reconstruction of a highway that plugs up the northwest entrance to the would-be wetland. Regulatory approvals must be secured. Private landowners must be educated and included. Funds must be raised to pay for the wetland. All of these things must be done, and done by ordinary folks without salary, and without experience.

There is a definite sense that the experts don't think we can do it. There is an equally definite sense that everyone hopes we can. Lake Ontario needs the Wolfe Island Wetland Corridor just as much as the Islanders need it themselves, and Lake Ontario Waterkeeper is committed to helping them wherever possible.

The magic of the Wetland Corridor is that it is no tamed-down re-creation of Lake Ontario, no petting zoo for fish and fowl. It defies all the rules of development. There is no human-centric focus. It is not designed for the sole benefit of an interest group or property owner. It rebels against the traditional cost-benefit formulas.

Yet, the value of the Wolfe Island Wetland Corridor and the dedication of the Islanders are unmistakable. Inspired by Environmental Non-Governmental Organizations before them, these unlikely activists are launching a new chapter of restoration and enhancement. With the aid of the Islanders, Wild Lake Ontario can be returned: it is a rare gift.

*To read biologist Doug Howell's proposal for restoring and enhancing the old Wolfe Island canal, please visit [www.waterkeeper.ca](http://www.waterkeeper.ca).*

## SEWAGE “BLENDING” CONTINUED



*While there is no proof that this plume is all sewage, this overhead image of the Milwaukee plume was taken by Butch Jorgenson in May 2004 after several days of heavy rains and a series of overflows that resulted in a total 4.6 billion gallon dump by the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewer District.*

make this a routine strategy for waste “treatment”, allowed during any rain event. Currently, the Clean Water Act explicitly prohibits “the intentional diversion of waste streams from any portion of the treatment facility” under normal operating conditions (such as rainfall).

This policy not only poses a serious threat to public health (researchers at Michigan State University found that health risks increase by 100 times with sewage blending as opposed to full treatment) and the environment, but also violates the Clean Water Act. The public has reacted strongly against allowing more sewage in our waters. In 2003, when the EPA first proposed sewage dumping, state environmental agencies, public health officials and tens of thousands of citizens made comments against the policy. The Natural Resources Defense Council (and, potentially, other groups) plans to sue if the EPA continues to pursue the blending policy. The state PIRGs (Public Interest Research Groups) has been mobilizing regional and national opposition to the proposed policy.

Despite this opposition, the EPA is reportedly preparing to finalize the sewage blending policy, which would then pass the responsibility to Great Lakes states. If the policy is released as a “guidance” (as expected), states will be able to “opt-out” of allowing blending in their pollution permits. Given the serious repercussions for watersheds around the

Great Lakes, it is important that local voices are heard in opposition to sewage blending. What the Great Lakes needs is more protection from untreated sewage, not less. We need more funding for wastewater treatment infrastructure, strict regulations on runoff from new and existing development, and strong enforcement of the Clean Water Act. Sewage “dumping” is clearly not the answer to the increasing public and environmental health risk of sewage.

One way to get involved is by contacting the EPA directly. Ben Grumbles, Assistant Administrator for Water, is the point person for blending and can be reached at 202-564-5700 or [grumbles.benjamin@epa.gov](mailto:grumbles.benjamin@epa.gov). At the state level, response to the Blending Proposal has varied. Michigan DEQ and Pennsylvania DEP have come out opposed to the policy and deserve recognition and support for taking this stance. The Ohio EPA is supporting (and, in several cases, implementing) the blending policy. Other state environmental agencies have largely been silent on the issue.

On the federal level, Representative Bart Stupak (Michigan) and several others have circulated a “Dear Colleague” sign-on letter, urging the EPA to drop the blending policy. Representative Stupak has also introduced a bill designed to ensure that blending is illegal. Individuals and organizations can get involved by writing Letters to the Editor and talking to reporters, editors and editorial boards of local newspapers to ensure coverage of this threat to Great Lakes water quality.

*Mike Shriberg is the Great Lakes advocate for the state PIRGs (Public Interest Research Groups), a network of state-based environmental and consumer advocacy organizations. He is based in Ann Arbor, MI, and can be reached at 734-662-6597 or [mshriberg@pirg.org](mailto:mshriberg@pirg.org).*

# Resources



## **Do you have a legal question?**

If you have a legal question regarding a bill currently pending in Congress or a state legislature, The Sea Grant Law Center can help. The general public is encouraged to submit legal questions through their local Sea Grant office. The center's standard response time is two weeks. For additional information on the Sea Grant Law Center and its services, contact Stephanie Showalter, director, at 662.915.7775 or [sshowalt@olemiss.edu](mailto:sshowalt@olemiss.edu).

**Heavy Metal: In a new report, Mercury in the Mid-Atlantic: Are States Meeting the Challenge?** New York receives mediocre grades for its efforts to reduce mercury pollution and exposure. The report, produced jointly by the National Wildlife Federation, Environmental Advocates of New York and the New York Public Interest Research Group, is available on the web at [www.eany.org](http://www.eany.org).

## **How much does using recycled paper help the environment?**

The Neenah Paper Company has created an Environmental Savings Account to show the amount of water, energy, waste and resources saved by choosing various grades of recycled-content paper. See [www.neenahpaper.com/ENVIRONMENT](http://www.neenahpaper.com/ENVIRONMENT) and click on the calculator icon for more information.

**Johns Hopkins develops promising catalysts for ground-water clean-up.** University researchers have developed new catalysts, called corrolazines, which can degrade chlorinated compounds in ground water into harmless components. While research is in early stages, the development could help at remediation sites with intractable ground-water contamination. See [www.jhu.edu/news\\_info/news/](http://www.jhu.edu/news_info/news/).

**Restoration announcement:** Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council



has launched a new action-oriented website to promote Great Lakes Restoration. The site is designed to be a one-stop-shop for advocates to learn more about and get involved in the current policy

initiatives to restore the Great Lakes. Visitors can also read and submit information about restoration projects around the Basin at [www.restorethelakes.org](http://www.restorethelakes.org).

## **NOAA Sea Grant Unveils Restyled National Web Site**



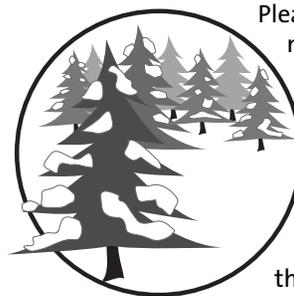
To learn about the latest Sea Grant research, education and outreach projects on a national basis, visit [www.seagrants.noaa.gov](http://www.seagrants.noaa.gov), the revamped National Sea Grant Web site.

## **NONPROFIT PROVIDES FREE INTERNET SERVICES TO CHARITIES**

Grassroots.org is a nonprofit organization working to change the world via the Internet at the local, national, and international level.

Grassroots.org serves other nonprofit organizations by providing free Internet services, including full-featured web hosting and email services, as well as free legal consulting on matters such as incorporation, application for tax-exempt 501(c)(3) status, general employment, and tax and risk management issues. Grassroots.org focuses on serving non-religious organizations involved in education, environmentalism, humanitarian relief, fighting disease, homeless issues, crime control, political freedom, government reform, consumer protection, youth issues, addiction and other non-legislative causes. Visit the above website for more information.

## **SAVE A TREE:**



Please email Marci at [marci@watershedcouncil.org](mailto:marci@watershedcouncil.org) if you have any changes to your contact information. If you wish to receive GLAHNF correspondence electronically, please include your email address and be sure to note "electronic subscription" in the subject of your email.

# Calendar of Events



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### **Wisconsin Waterfront Revitalization Conference - From Vision to Reality, April 13**

The conference will take place on Wednesday, April 13, 2005, from 8:30 am - 4:30 pm at Blue Harbor Resort and Conference Center in Sheboygan, Wisconsin. Hosted by the Great Lakes Commission, the conference is designed to improve local waterfront community awareness and use of existing state and federal programs available to assist with waterfront community revitalization. The conference will also focus on maximizing the use of existing brownfields and open space/coastal resources protection programs and promoting the development of teams and partnerships. If you have any questions or comments on this event, please contact Victoria Pebbles at [vpebbles@glc.org](mailto:vpebbles@glc.org) or Becky Lameka at [blameka@glc.org](mailto:blameka@glc.org).

### **Great Lakes Commission Semiannual Meeting, May 11 - 13, 2005,**

The Great Lakes Commission Semiannual Meeting will be at the Adam's Mark Hotel in Buffalo, NY. For more information, please contact Mike Donahue at [mtonahue@glc.org](mailto:mtonahue@glc.org).

### **Learn more about protecting your local wetlands!**

The Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council is pleased to announce a series of Michigan statewide workshops aimed at achieving greater wetland protection at the local level. Workshops are scheduled for the following dates and locations from 1:00 to 5:00 pm. Contact Jill Kimble at 231.347.1181 ext. 100 for additional information or to request a workshop registration brochure.

- June 1 Grand Rapids
- June 7 Traverse City
- June 8 Saginaw
- June 14 Alpena and Detroit/Oakland County
- June 16 Ann Arbor
- June 22 Marquette
- June 23 Lansing

### **IJC Biennial meeting on Great Lakes Water Quality June 9 - 11, Kingston, ONT**

This 3-day meeting will focus on the current science and issues regarding the health of the Great Lakes, with specific discussions of a wide range of topics fundamental to the review of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement and its future. For more information visit [www.ijc.org/2005biennial/about\\_en.php](http://www.ijc.org/2005biennial/about_en.php).

**Great Lakes United** will hold its annual General Meeting in conjunction with the IJC meeting. For information call Bonnie Danni 716.886.0142

### **Grey Bruce Children's Water Festival, September 26 to 29**

The annual Grey Bruce Children's Water Festival is a fun and educational event that gives grade four students hands-on learning about the importance of water resources in everyday life. For more information visit [www.waterfestival.ca](http://www.waterfestival.ca).



### **2005 GLAHNF Grassroots Symposium, Oct 14 and 15,**

Be sure to mark your calendar for the 2005 Grassroots symposium.

This year, the event will be held October 14th and 15th in Lakeside Ohio. More information and registration forms will be available soon at [www.glahnf.org](http://www.glahnf.org). We look forward to seeing you there!

## **SAVE THE DATES!**

### **You're invited to the 2005 Grassroots Symposium!**

*Symposium will be held  
October 14 & 15, 2005 in Lakeside, Ohio*

Communications is our theme for 2005. What better way to communicate with fellow advocates than at the 2005 GLAHNF Grassroots Symposium?

The symposium provides the perfect opportunity to meet fellow Basin advocates, participate in workshops, be inspired by a keynote speaker, and hone your communication skills!

***Be sure to save the dates.***  
Registration forms will be sent soon.

# Call for Presenters!

Grassroots advocates willing to share their aquatic habitat protection stories are needed for the 2005 Grassroots Symposium!

Please send a 100 word summary of your project story to Marci at [marci@watershedcouncil.org](mailto:marci@watershedcouncil.org).

Presentations highlighting communications efforts will receive priority.

*Travel stipends are available for presenters.*

# YOUR CONTRIBUTION COUNTS!

A donation to GLAHNF helps us continue to offer important services to grassroots groups and citizens just like you.



To make a donation, please use the enclosed envelope or call 231.347.1181 ext. 107. If you wish to make a donation in someone's name, please provide the name and address for your recipient and indicate "gift" after his/her name. We will send a beautiful card acknowledging your gift.

*Please consider making a donation today!*

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