



G.L.A.H. News

Great Lakes Aquatic Habitat

GLAHNF GREAT LAKES, CONNECTING COMMUNITIES

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YOUR VOICE IS NEEDED ON GREAT LAKES WATER SUPPLY PROTECTIONS

By Molly Flanagan, Water Program Associate, Ohio Environmental Council

The Great Lakes are one of the natural wonders of the world containing nearly 20 percent of the earth's fresh surface water and supplying drinking water to more than 40 million people who live within its watersheds. It is the only freshwater system of its kind in size and ecological diversity and is essential to humans and wildlife alike; providing homes, food, recreation, and economic sustainability.

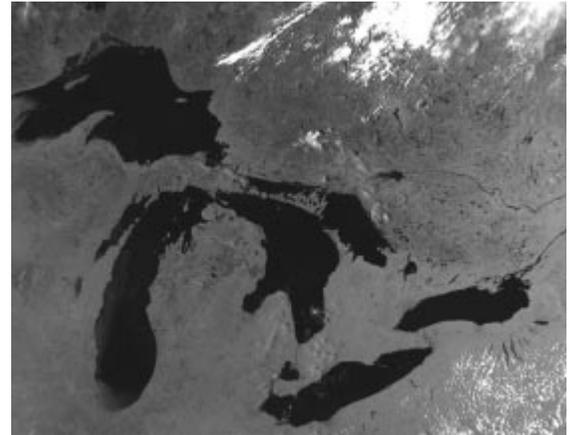


Photo courtesy of NASA.

Despite their vastness, the Great Lakes are vulnerable to degradation and depletion. The Great Lakes are actually a balanced system. Rainwater and snowmelt replenish only about one percent of the lakes, rivers, and underground aquifers that make up the Great Lakes Basin and this is balanced by loss to evaporation and flow to the Atlantic Ocean. The lakes are largely a gift from the last ice age. The finite water in the lakes coupled with a growing demand for water by domestic users—including utilities, agriculture, manufacturers, and housing—and proposals to export water to other parts of the U.S. and to foreign countries, is a cause for concern.

Without stronger protections, the Great Lakes' water supply could be siphoned off and frittered away. The Great Lakes region has already seen massive water withdrawal and export proposals and is experiencing local water shortages. For example:

- In 1998, a private company called the Nova Group proposed to ship water from Lake Superior to Asia in large tankers. Ontario approved, but later rescinded the permit.
- There is increasing pressure to access Great Lakes water by communities just outside the watershed divide.

Milwaukee sits right on the lake and is within the Basin, but growing suburbs to the west extend beyond the watershed divide. Some of these suburbs have depleted local water supplies and are looking to meet their needs by tapping into the Great Lakes.

- Near Akron, Ohio, water diverted from the Great Lakes Basin is replaced, in part, with water from water bodies outside the watershed.

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DID YOU KNOW?

Lake Superior was called *Kitchi-gummi*. The Chippewa words mean "Great Water." Lake Superior is clearly superior. Its 3,000 cubic miles of water could fill the other Great Lakes plus three additional Lake Eries.

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

BUT WE HAVE BEEN WORKING SO LONG...

BY JILL RYAN



Do you ever feel as though your struggle to protect your cherished lake, wetland or river has been going on forever? Do you grow tired of continuing to advocate for saving the important functions of your water resources for the benefit of the entire community?

I hear these refrains often from the dedicated and essential citizens across the Great Lakes Basin who are working so hard. Folks often feel they are struggling alone and without encouragement.

YOU ARE NOT ALONE! GLAHNF regularly communicates with about 1,700 citizens and grassroots groups all working with similar goals in mind, to protect their local community resources. Ultimately, all of these similar and critically important struggles add up not only to protect a particular river, lake or wetland in a particular place, but to the protection of our water resources across the entire Great Lakes Basin.

Your collective actions and stories do resonate with decision-makers and regulators. Because your work is echoed many times over in community after community, it begins to make an impact beyond one local jurisdiction and influences all of us fortunate enough to call this wonderful place home.

While I certainly understand how much effort and determination is required to keep moving forward on local protection battles, I encourage you to continue in your efforts. Without all of these collective voices, our water resources would tell a different story of the impacts humans can bring to their environment.

The spirit and determination of the people to chart their own destiny is the greatest power for good in human affairs.

Matt Blunt



YOUR VOICE IS NEEDED ON GREAT LAKES WATER SUPPLY PROTECTIONS

continued from page 1

Current laws simply are not strong enough to protect the Great Lakes. In most US jurisdictions, there are no standards for how we use water or protect freshwater ecosystems from water withdrawals. Without stronger protections, the Great Lakes' region could lose its valuable water resources. Better water management is necessary throughout the Great Lakes Basin to protect the waters that we depend on for life.

The Great Lakes Governors and Premiers, recognizing the seriousness of this challenge, signed the Great Lakes Charter Annex in 2001, commonly referred to as Annex 2001. The agreement established fundamental principles for management of Great Lakes water:

1. Preventing or minimizing water loss through return flow and implementation of environmentally sound and economically feasible water conservation measures;
2. Preventing significant adverse individual or cumulative impacts to the quantity or quality of the waters and water-dependent natural resources of the Great Lakes Basin; and
3. Improving the waters and water-dependent natural resources of the Great Lakes Basin.

In the agreement, the Governors and Premiers committed to develop a binding agreement to apply these principles to all water withdrawals within the Great Lakes Basin, including tributary surface waters and groundwater.

The challenge now is for Great Lakes' Governors, Premiers, businesses, environmental and conservation organizations, municipal water providers, and other interests to come together on legally binding standards that are fair, predictable, and protective of the Great Lakes. Great Lakes leaders have a responsibility to keep the region's freshwater resources safe for future generations.

Last summer (2004) the Governors and Premiers released a draft of the Annex Implementing Agreements for a 90-day public comment period. Overall, these agreements were more protective than current laws, but they were not as environmentally protective as many organizations and citizens across the Basin had hoped. During the comment period, citizens flooded the Governors and Premiers with more than 10,000 comments from around the Basin.

The Governors and Premiers recently finished incorporating these numerous comments into new drafts of the Annex Implementing Agreements. While we have not yet seen these documents, we understand that portions of these new drafts are stronger than the previous drafts and other portions are weaker. Overall, the agreements are stricter on out-of-Basin diversions of water and more lenient on in-Basin uses of water. The Governors and Premiers are expected to release these new documents for a 60-day public comment period this Summer (2005) and hope to sign the agreements by the end of the year.

It will be critical that the Governors and Premiers hear comments demanding strong, environmentally protective standards in the agreements. GLAHNF will keep you updated about the upcoming comment period and will send out a postcard with local hearing locations as soon as that information is available. So, watch your mailbox and get ready to be a part of history in the making. This promises to be one of the most important environmental protection opportunities of the century, and we will need voices from all around the Great Lakes Basin to make sure that the promises of Annex 2001 are realized.



Grassroots Profile

SULFIDE MINING IN THE U.P. - A FIGHT FOR OUR WATERS

By Cynthia Pryor, Yellow Dog Watershed Preserve, Inc.

In the summer, our little community of 540 registered voters swells to almost a thousand folks who are here to enjoy one thing - the waters and lands of the north country of the Upper Peninsula (U.P.) of Michigan. Located in the heart of the Huron Mountains, even in the depths of winter, people here know how to have fun. The innocent joy of the "fun" of this land has diminished to a dull ache of fear and dismay, due to one thing - the prospect of a sulfide mine in the middle of our most cherished areas - the Yellow Dog Plains.

Many companies are looking for massive sulfide deposits containing nickel, copper, uranium, gold, platinum products, and even diamonds in the wild lands of the Upper Peninsula. One company wants a mine NOW to remove an ore body mostly owned by the State of Michigan and valued in the billions. This ore body is sitting directly under a pristine trout stream called the Salmon Trout River, the last habitat for the native Coaster Brook Trout on the south shore of Lake Superior. The proposed mine is in the middle of one of the state's Escanaba River State Forests. It is also in the middle of a huge aquifer recharge area that feeds at least five watersheds that are part of the high quality waters of the Lake Superior basin.

Why is Sulfide Mining a battle ground for the Lake Superior basin? One reason: Sulfuric Acid. The western U.P. has been targeted by the United States Geologic Survey as having the greatest potential for undiscovered massive sulfide ore deposits. When sulfide rock, ore, or dust comes into contact with two basic earth elements: water and air, it starts creating SULFURIC ACID or battery acid immediately. Any back filling or reclamation activity to close a mine must be monitored for decades to ensure that the mining company has used the right technology, the right mix of neutralizers, the right methodologies to have actually stopped the creation of Sulfuric Acid or Acid Mine Drainage (AMD). Nowhere has anyone stopped AMD from happening.

Who is going to fight the battle for the lands, waters, wildlife...and the rights of the



Lower Falls on the Salmon Trout River - home of the last native coaster brook trout on the south shore of Lake Superior. Photo courtesy of John Coleman - Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Commission, WI.

people of the State of Michigan to enjoy our natural resources on state and public lands? It often falls to environmental grassroots groups like the Yellow Dog Watershed Preserve, Inc. The resources we would normally use for water monitoring, public outreach, student education programs, landowner interface and education all are now being targeted to pay scientists to perform environmental baseline studies, to develop public outreach material and hold public forums to educate the public, to work within state agencies to promote a fair legislative process, to work with township, county and state officials, and to take calls from people who are asking "What can we do to help to fight this mine?"

The streams, rivers, springs and lakes of this region feed into Lake Superior, our Lake Superior. It is worth more than gold, silver, nickel or any other precious metal. It is Our Water, Our Legacy and Our Responsibility, and it is also our fight. The people of the State of Michigan must understand the issues of Sulfide Mining. This is not a benign mining process that may only inconvenience a few who do not want a mine in their backyard - this is an issue that will affect many, now, and for future generations.

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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 Basin Update



FEDERAL LEGISLATION TO STOP AQUATIC INVADERS REINTRODUCED

By Jen Nalbone, Great Lakes United

Our nation's waters face increasing threats from aquatic invasive species, so Senators Carl Levin (MI) and Susan Collins (ME), and Representatives Wayne Gilchrest (MD) and Vernon Ehlers (MI) have reintroduced legislation to protect U.S. waterways from the invasion of aquatic invasive species and the environmental and economic damage they cause. The Senate bill is numbered S. 770; the House bills are numbered H.R. 1592 and H.R. 1593.

The National Aquatic Invasive Species Act of 2005 would reauthorize and strengthen the National Invasive Species Act of 1996. NAISA covers all the bases - it is a well-thought-out, comprehensive approach to preventing and controlling aquatic invaders across the entire nation.

The bill provides for development and implementation of a strong permanent ballast water discharge standard that will eliminate the risk of introductions from the No. 1 pathway of entry for aquatic invasive species- the release of ballast water from ocean-going vessels. NAISA also provides for rapid response when new invaders are discovered, controlling those species that are established, and for researching pathways of introduction as well as prevention and control technologies.

This is the third attempt to pass NAISA, which, in previous attempts in 2002 and 2003, has failed to get out of committee. Its failure to pass so far is due, at least in part, to a few advocates who are concerned about how the law could impact private property owners. However, the truth is NAISA avoids taking control of the property of individual landowners and stops invasive problems at our borders - before they start. This type of prevention comes by enforcing ballast water discharge standards or placing the burden of proof that a species will cause no harm on the shoulders of the importer. In fact, invasive species protections support private enterprise, from utilities and manufacturing associations to sporting goods shops and marinas. It's time for Congress to focus on the facts, science and accurate interpretation of the impacts of invasive species policy and make passage of this bill a top priority.

The introduction of the bill comes at a time when state lawmakers, federal agencies and even the courts are reviewing policies to prevent and control aquatic invasive species. In April, a federal court in San Francisco ordered the U.S. EPA to repeal its exemption that allowed ships to discharge ballast water without a Clean Water Act permit.

The U.S. Coast Guard is reviewing its ballast water program which exempts more than 80 percent of the vessels entering the Great Lakes from regulation.

Cooperative state and federal efforts are needed to ultimately protect the Great Lakes from aquatic invaders. In the long run, it will be federal legislation and regulation in both the United States and Canada that best protect the Great Lakes, because as we have seen with the zebra mussel, some invaders rapidly expand their range across watersheds, causing extensive damage along the way. Federal protection from ballast water and other invasive vectors is the best insulation from invaders that could migrate to the Great Lakes.

However, state level efforts to set standards for controlling ballast water specifically in the Great Lakes certainly puts pressure on the federal government to stop foot dragging. Lawmakers in New York, Illinois, and Minnesota have introduced legislation in 2005 to clamp down on ballast water discharge due to inaction by the federal government. Perhaps most notably, Michigan legislators have passed a bill to regulate discharges of ballast water under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System, defusing any remaining myth that biological pollution should not be on par with its chemical counterpart when it comes to protecting our

waterways. Other states are likely waiting in the wings to follow Michigan's lead.

If your organization would like more information on NAISA, state efforts and aquatic invasive species news in the Great Lakes, please feel free to contact Jennifer Nalbone at Great Lakes United, jen@glu.org or 716-213-0408, or subscribe to a free email list by sending a plain text, blank email from the address you wish to subscribe: join-ais@list.glu.org



Invaders like the round goby and zebra mussel have already arrived in the Great Lakes, but scientists are warning that there are more invaders on their way being carried in ballast tanks. Federal legislation is needed to stop new aquatic invaders from entering the Great Lakes, and help control those already here. Photo courtesy of Dirk Platvoet and Jaime Dick.

Canadian Great Lakes Basin Update



LINDA PIM

SOME EXTRA HELP FOR ONTARIO'S WETLANDS

By Linda Pim, Ontario Nature

On March 1 of this year, a new policy came into effect in Ontario that affords better protection for some wetlands, new Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) under the Planning Act.

Southern Ontario, where most of the province's farmland is located and most of the population is based, has lost at least 70 percent of its wetlands since the time that European settlement began (about the year 1800) due to various human uses of the land. We have therefore lost the vital ecological functions provided by wetlands (fish and wildlife habitat, groundwater recharge and discharge, water quality protection, flood and erosion control) and the increased biodiversity that wetlands provide. The remaining wetlands, both in the north and the south, are havens of biological richness, and include marshes, swamps, bogs and fens.

In the version of the PPS that was in effect from March 1996 to February 2005, there was a prohibition on development and site alteration in "Provincially Significant Wetlands" (PSWs) located south and east of the Canadian (Precambrian) Shield, that hulk of granite bedrock that sheaths northern Ontario and extends in a broad "V" into southeastern Ontario near Kingston on Lake Ontario.

But there were two problems with the 1996 policy: First, the area of Ontario south and east of the Shield is a relatively small part of the province, although it is the area experiencing the most intense development pressure. It includes all of the Lakes Erie and Ontario basins and part of the Lake Huron basin. For the rest of the province, development was permitted in PSWs as long as it could be demonstrated, usually by developers' consultants, that there would be no negative impacts on the features or functions of the wetland. Second, in making their land use planning decisions, municipalities only needed to "have regard for" the policies in the PPS, which could mean as little as reading it and putting it back on the shelf. With a very few notable exceptions, such as the Cloud Bay



Photo courtesy of Bruce Peterson

Provincially Significant Wetland on Lake Superior south of Thunder Bay where a citizens' group partly funded by GLAHNF saved the PSW, wetlands on the Shield – including all of northern Ontario – received very poor protection.

The new Provincial Policy Statement does two important things for wetlands: It extends much further northward the "no development" line for PSWs. All lands in what the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources calls Ecoregions 5E, 6E and 7E benefit from the "no development" rule. The line now begins in the west roughly at Montreal River near Sault Ste. Marie and runs east to Lake Timiskaming on the Quebec border, well north of North Bay. By shifting the "no development" line this far north, the area of Ontario covered by the new policy has more than doubled. The second improvement is that municipalities must make their planning decisions "consistent with" the PPS, rather than merely "have regard for" it. This latter improvement had been advocated by environmental groups for many years – and we won!

On the face of it, there may seem to be a gap, and there is: The "no development" area excludes almost all of the Lake Superior Basin in Ontario. It also excludes the vast area of Ontario north of the three-ecoregions' northerly limit. However, there is at least some new hope for both Lake Superior and all the other Great Lakes in that, for the first time, the PPS now states that there will be no development and site alteration in "significant coastal wetlands." The "significant" part is defined through a wetlands evaluation system established by the Ministry of Natural Resources. "Coastal wetlands" are defined as any wetland located on one of the Great Lakes or their connecting channels (Lake St. Clair, St. Mary's, St. Clair, Detroit, Niagara and St. Lawrence Rivers); or any other wetland that is on a tributary to any of the above-noted water bodies and lies entirely or partly downstream of a line located two kilometres (1-1/4 miles) upstream of the 1:100 year floodline of the large water body to which the tributary is connected.

Happily for wetlands but sadly for all other natural features in Ontario, wetlands were the only class of features that were accorded extended protection in the new Provincial Policy Statement. And even for wetlands, there's a catch – the definition of "development" excludes most infrastructure projects, meaning that a road, highway or sewer line could be rammed right through the middle of a Provincially Significant Wetland. But Ontario grassroots groups can be counted on to fight to try to protect every wetland in their communities, whatever the lines are on the maps or the words are in the definitions.

To read the Provincial Policy Statement, the direct link is: www.mah.gov.on.ca/userfiles/page_attachments/Library/1/789108_ppsenglish.pdf. The wetlands policy is in Section 2.1. Look at the map and definitions near the end of the PPS.



RECOGNIZING THE CRITICAL LINK BETWEEN LAND USE AND WATER QUALITY

Land development significantly impacts water quality and aquatic habitats in the Lake Erie basin. Recognizing the critical link between land use and water quality, the Ohio Lake Erie Commission appointed a Balanced Growth Task Force to make recommendations about the protection and restoration of Lake Erie

and its watersheds, and to assure long-term economic competitiveness, ecological health, and quality of life.

After two years of discussion and research, the Task Force recommended that the state provide a voluntary, incentive-based program for balanced growth in the Lake Erie basin. The planning framework includes:

- A new focus on land use and development planning in the major river tributary watersheds of Lake Erie with a goal of linking land-use planning to the health of watersheds and the Lake.
- The creation of Watershed Planning Partnerships (WPP) composed of local governments, planning agencies, nonprofit organizations, and other parties in each watershed.
- The locally determined designation of Priority Conservation Areas (PCAs) to protect critically important ecological, recreational, agricultural, heritage, public access, and other critical areas, and Priority Development Areas (PDAs) where growth and/or redevelopment should be supported.
- The development of suggested model regulations to help promote best local land use practices that minimize impacts on water quality.
- The alignment of state policies, incentives, and other resources to support watershed planning and implementation for Balanced Growth.

The recommendations were accepted on April 14, 2004 and can be viewed in detail at: <http://www.epa.state.oh.us/oleo/>.

Now the Balanced Growth Task Force is ready to put their recommendations to the test. They are requesting proposals for pilot projects to develop watershed balanced growth plans and establish Watershed Planning Partnerships. WPP's must be open, inclusive, and focused on consensus-building in the communities within the project watershed. WPP's will require diverse stakeholders to work together to create land-use plans that encourage habitat protection and water quality improvement in Lake Erie and its tributaries and development in areas that maximize development potential, increase the efficient use of infrastructure, promote the revitalization of existing cities and towns, and contribute to the restoration of Lake Erie.

The Task Force is making the most of electronic communication through postings on the Lake Erie Commission's website and



Land development significantly impacts water quality and aquatic habitats in the Lake Erie basin. The Ohio Lake Erie Commission's Balanced Growth Task Force is working to promote locally-driven development and preservation within watersheds in the Lake Erie basin.

e-mails send out about the grant proposal. They are also working with partners like the Ohio Environmental Council and many others to spread the word through their contacts and lists. The goal of this communication

blitz is to obtain high quality applicants that can serve as valuable models for balanced growth in the watersheds of Lake Erie.

Priority consideration will be given to locally driven watershed planning partnerships from three diverse watershed types (one each for an urban watershed with significant redevelopment needs, a suburban watershed experiencing fast suburban growth and a rural watershed on the fringe of a suburban area with sufficient time to plan for likely future development). Once the pilot plans are completed, they will be released for public comment and submitted to local governments for acceptance. After a significant majority of the jurisdictions in the watershed have accepted the plan, it will be submitted to the Ohio Lake Erie Commission for acceptance and endorsement. Upon endorsement, State of Ohio agencies will be notified that the Watershed Balanced Growth Plan represents a locally determined plan, and they will be expected to honor its recommendations in making funding and other decisions.

The Balanced Growth Task Force has encouraged the State of Ohio to support implementation of watershed plans by developing a Lake Erie Balanced Growth Strategy that would describe how state programs, policies, and incentives will be aligned with local efforts to focus development efforts in PDAs and promote successful conservation efforts in PCAs. The specific incentives to be offered for implementation of Watershed Balanced Growth Plans are available at <http://www.epa.state.oh.us/oleo/> and will be expanded throughout the year.

Up to \$200,000 will go to each of three projects that test the Balanced Growth Task Force's planning recommendations. The money, which is provided by the Ohio Water Development Authority, will be distributed over three years and will require no local match. Proposals are due July 1, 2005. For more information about Ohio's Balanced Growth Program or for information on applying for a pilot watershed grant, please visit the Lake Erie Commission web site at <http://www.epa.state.oh.us/oleo/> or call 419-245-2514.



BIODIVERSITY IN THE LAKE ERIE WATERSHED ... AND BEYOND

By Heather Web, Ontario Nature

*You're glumping the pond where the Humming-Fish hummed!
No more can they hum, for their gills are all gummed.
So I'm sending them off. Oh, their future is dreary.
They'll walk on their fins and get woefully weary
in search of some water that isn't so smeary.
I hear things are just as bad up in Lake Erie.*

-Dr. Seuss, *The Lorax*

That last line was removed sometime after the publication of my dog-eared, torn-and-taped, cover-less, circa 1974 edition of Dr. Seuss's cautionary tale. I hope the fish read my Lorax, rather than the later, more common and politically correct version. These days, the poor Hummers would be just as likely to choke on an invasive spiny water flea as Gluppity-Glup.

Biodiversity in Lake Erie and the other Great Lakes are facing assaults on all fronts. Pollution and invasive species are just two threats to the Basin's wildlife, but habitat loss, over-harvesting and other cumulative impacts are also having their effects. Much less is known about aquatic biodiversity than terrestrial biodiversity. So we're fortunate that the Great Lakes are among the most-studied inland bodies of water in the world. However, Lake Erie's shallow depth and large basin population make it especially vulnerable to biodiversity depletion.

Enter the Ontario Biodiversity Strategy (OBS). This Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources document will guide the province in meeting its national and international commitments to biodiversity conservation. The strategy was prepared by over 100 participants from more than 40 government, industry, academic and non-governmental organizations. Thirteen writing teams addressed a wide range of issues, including invasive species, human settlement, education, protected areas and information management. The resulting document describes the major threats to Ontario's biological diversity, and includes a suite of action items that could be implemented within the next five years.

Canada was the first industrialized country to ratify the international Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The Canadian Biodiversity Strategy, prepared under Article 6 (see box 6 (a) to right.) of the CBD, was released to the public in 1996. In Canada, the federal, provincial and territorial governments share legal responsibility for managing biological resources. The Ontario Biodiversity Strategy will therefore help achieve the goals outlined in the Canadian strategy (see box Biodiversity Strategy to right). This in turn will help Canada satisfy the Convention's 42 articles. To date, the United States has not ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity.

ARTICLE 6(A)

Article 6(a): General Measures for Conservation and Sustainable Use:

Each Contracting Party shall, in accordance with its particular conditions and capabilities:

(a) Develop national strategies, plans or programmes [sic] for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity or adapt for this purpose existing strategies, plans or programmes which shall reflect, inter alia, the measures set out in this Convention relevant to the Contracting Party concerned.

Source: *Convention on Biological Diversity*

BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY

Federal, provincial and territorial governments, in cooperation with members of the public and stakeholders, will pursue strategic directions set out in the Strategy according to their policies, plans, priorities and fiscal capabilities.

Canadian Biodiversity Strategy: Canada's Response to the Convention on Biological Diversity, 1995

In creating the OBS, the Ministry of Natural Resources took a new approach and invited the public to participate with the writing teams in drafting the strategy. An Ontario Biodiversity Strategy website provided a forum in which interested parties could view and comment on the document as it evolved. In the end, website participation was lower than the writing teams might have hoped. The reasons for this are not entirely clear; however, it has been suggested that the opportunities for participation were not widely publicized. Nevertheless, this novel approach to public policy formation may provide a model for other similar exercises.

The comment period for the OBS website has now closed. However, the next draft of the strategy will be posted on Ontario's Environmental Registry for a formal comment period as prescribed under the Environmental Bill of Rights. For more information on biodiversity legislation and policy, please visit the links below:

www.mnr.gov.on.ca/mnr/biodiversity

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources
biodiversity website

www.obs-sbo.ca

Ontario Biodiversity Strategy website

www.cbin.ec.gc.ca

Canadian Biodiversity Strategy website

www.biodiv.org

Convention on Biological Diversity website



Lake Huron Basin Update - U.S. Side

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CHRIS GRUBB TAKES NEW POSITION AT NWF, WILL CONTINUE AS GLAHNF LAKE ADVISOR

In lieu of an issue-specific column for this issue of GLAHNews, I am instead announcing that I have accepted a position with the National Wildlife Federation's (NWF) Great Lakes Natural Resource Center. I am joining

NWF as a Water Resources Coordinator focusing on the Great Lakes Charter Annex ("Annex 2001"), and on a campaign to restore the Great Lakes. While I will certainly miss the wonderful and talented staff at Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council – not to mention the beachcombing, snowshoeing, and fly fishing opportunities abundantly found near Petoskey – I am very excited about my new position at NWF, and look forward to continuing to work with grassroots groups as a GLAHNF Lake Advisor.

During my tenure as a policy associate at Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council, I was fortunate to gain experience working on issues at a variety of geographic scales: from providing testimony on development proposals before local planning commissions to coordinating a statewide network of wetland advocates to writing a book of ecosystem restoration success stories across the Great Lakes. I am confident that these multiple scales of reference will serve me well as I make the transition to NWF and focus more specifically on basin-wide policy and advocacy.

I look forward to continuing to work with grassroots activists as GLAHNF Lake Advisor for the U.S. basin of Lake Huron. The watersheds of Michigan's often overlooked "sunrise side" – from the 29 county Saginaw Bay watershed to the globally significant Cheboygan River watershed – are truly worth fighting to protect. I see great opportunity to redouble our efforts in this region, and encourage readers to contact me with project and proposal ideas.



Chris Grubb (center) is pulled by Andy Buchsbaum, Director of the National Wildlife Federation's Great Lakes Natural Resource Center (left) and Wil Cwikel, Policy Director, Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council (right).

Have we pulled the plug in Lake Huron?

According to a study released recently by W.F. Baird & Associates Coastal Engineers of Toronto, and commissioned by the Georgian Bay Association, Lakes Michigan and Huron have permanently lost a foot of water from erosion in the St. Clair River caused by dredging and other man-made causes. The Baird study puts the permanent loss of Lake Huron water at 845 million gallons per day.

Rob Nairn, a principal with Baird has said, "It's like a drain hole at the bottom of a bathtub. The drain hole is getting bigger, and the water is going out faster. It's something very alarming that no one has talked about or reported until now." The U.S. and Canadian governments have taken notice. The International Joint Commission recently indicated in a press release that it would investigate the issue in an upcoming study of the Upper Great Lakes that could begin as soon as this Fall. Representative Candice Miller is also seeking funding through the reauthorization of the Water Resources Development Act for a follow up study. Visit <http://www.georgianbay.ca/index.html> to learn more.

Advocacy opportunities for historic Great Lakes policy developments

This summer presents at least two important opportunities for Lake Huron advocates to have their voices heard. The Great Lakes Regional Collaboration – the interagency and multi-stakeholder group developing a comprehensive plan to protect and restore the Great Lakes – is expected to release its first draft document in early July. The draft release will be followed by a 45 day comment period as well as several as yet unannounced public hearings. Please visit www.restorethelakes.org to stay up to date on the Regional Collaboration and the Great Lakes restoration initiative.

Also this summer, the Great Lakes Governors and Premiers are expected to release for public comment a second draft of the Great Lakes Charter Annex 2001 – an interstate compact and bi-national agreement that addresses water diversions in the Great Lakes. After receiving over 10,000 comments following last summer's release, there will likely be significant changes to the Annex. It will be equally important for grassroots advocates to weigh in on this second draft to ensure that control of Great Lakes water stays within the Great Lakes.

Chris Grubb, Water Resources Coordinator
National Wildlife Federation
Great Lakes Natural Resource Center

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NUCLEAR WASTE STORAGE CONCERNS BRUCE COUNTY RESIDENTS

By Douglas Lonsdale, Saugeen Field Naturalists

As Ontario Power Generation (OPG) moves forward with plans to expand the Western Waste Management Facility (WWMF) at the Bruce Power site on the shores of Lake Huron, the concurrent Deep Geologic Repository Proposal brings the reality of long-term nuclear waste storage to Bruce County.

The WWMF, covering approximately 19 hectares (47 acres), has been in operation since 1976. Currently, the facility stores low-and intermediate-level radioactive waste generated by the Bruce, Pickering and Darlington nuclear generating stations (the latter two on the north shore of Lake Ontario east of Toronto). With major refurbishments scheduled at all of Ontario's nuclear stations, increased waste storage space is required. In addition, two new waste forms – steam generators and reactor components – will be stored in steel and concrete in-ground containers. The Refurbishment Waste Storage Project (RWS) triggers a federal environmental assessment, which will continue through most of 2005. With approval anticipated by the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission, the expanded site will be in operation by late 2006.

The Deep Geologic Repository Proposal would place a nuclear waste repository 660 metres (2,165 feet) below ground level in what is termed low-permeability limestone. In a rather unique hosting agreement between OPG and the municipality of Kincardine, OPG will provide Kincardine and adjacent communities with \$35 million over 30 years – but only if the communities remain supportive of the project. The first installments are about to be disbursed.

In the midst of these proposals, the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (representing producers of nuclear power, including OPG) continues its studies, charged by Canada's Nuclear Fuel Waste Act with solving the problem of long-term storage of high-level radioactive waste. This report will be presented to the Canadian government by November 15 of this year. Is the storage of high-level waste at the Bruce site a possibility? OPG says no, and their hosting agreement specifically rules out this eventuality. Still, the transportation of medium-level waste has unnerved several local groups and questions remain as to the capacity and security of these sites. Recent documents released by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment indicate the continued release into the groundwater of heavy metals and contaminants from landfill sites and waste dumps at the Bruce site.

If these dumps cannot be secured, there remain serious concerns about placing nuclear waste disposal sites on the shores of Lake Huron.



The Bruce Nuclear Generating Station on the shores of Lake Huron near Kincardine, Ontario. Photo courtesy of Cameco Corporation.

Local groups, including the Saugeen Field Naturalists, will continue to monitor the process as it moves forward. At the local open house presentations, in many cases the OPG presenters have outnumbered the attendees.

Concerned local groups like the Saugeen Field Naturalists are dealing with a combination of complacency and cynicism surrounding this issue, in the face of a genuine lack of alternatives in dealing with the whole problem of nuclear waste. These unanswered questions remain as the legacy of our commitment to and reliance on nuclear power generation in Ontario.

For information on the nuclear waste storage in Bruce County, visit OPG's website at www.opg.com/ops/RWS1.asp.

To keep in touch with the Saugeen Field Naturalists, please email doug.lonsdale@bellnet.ca.

LAKE HURON

PROSPECTS FOR FISH COMMUNITIES IN LAKE HURON

By Linda Pim

At the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, the Lake Huron Office of the Upper Great Lakes Management Unit is working on Environmental Objectives (EOs) for Lake Huron. The objectives document provides a summary of the major environmental impediments to achieving Fish Community Objectives in Lake Huron. The draft EOs were developed under the auspices of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission (GLFC) by the Lake Huron Technical Committee's Environmental Objectives Working Group, with funding from the GLFC.

A copy of the entire draft EOs can be found on the GLFC website: www.glfc.org/research/reports/Liskauskas/pdf

The Environmental Objectives for Lake Huron represent a preliminary effort at developing a strategic approach towards addressing the environmental constraints affecting fish communities throughout Lake Huron.

Although at publication date of this edition of GLAHNews, the deadline for comments on the draft EOs has just passed, please visit the above website and for further information, contact Arunas Liskauskas, management biologist, at arunas.liskauskas@mnr.gov.on.ca or call (519) 371-5927.

Lake Michigan Basin Update

ALLIANCE FOR THE GREAT LAKES

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COURT HALTS LIVESTOCK FACTORY EXPANSION, CITES DNR FAILURE TO EVALUATE EFFECTS ON AIR AND WATER

By Russ Tooley, President of Centerville Citizens for Air, River and Environmental Solutions

The Manitowoc County Circuit Court ruled on Thursday, June 9, 2005, that the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) failed to adequately review the potential negative effects on air and water in southern Manitowoc County that could be caused by the expansion of Maple Leaf Dairy, one of the largest livestock factories east of the Mississippi River.

The Court's ruling was in response to a lawsuit by Centerville Citizens for Air, River, and Environmental Solutions (Centerville CAREs) filed in December of 2004 challenging the DNR's environmental review of Maple Leaf Dairy's expansion plans.

The Court held that the DNR failed to consider significant information showing that Maple Leaf Dairy's operation would harm streams that drain to the fragile shoreland area of Lake Michigan.

The Court also noted that the DNR failed to consider air quality data indicating that Maple Leaf Dairy would pollute the air with significant levels of ammonia and hydrogen sulfide.

The Court ordered the DNR to prepare an air impacts study of Maple Leaf Dairy's ammonia and hydrogen sulfide air pollution – the first formal study of its kind in Wisconsin.

Members of Centerville CAREs have suffered the gagging air pollution caused by Maple Leaf Dairy for years and are concerned that Maple Leaf Dairy's manure management practices are worsening the algae blooms that wash up on Lake Michigan's shore every summer.

"We turned to everyone we could think of for help – the DNR, local officials and our State Senator, Joe Liebham. When they failed to step in, we finally turned to the court for justice," said Russ Tooley, president of Centerville CAREs. "Now the court's decision confirmed what we already knew – the DNR has not given our community a complete accounting of the air and water pollution that will result from Maple Leaf Dairy's expansion."

"Even giving the DNR the benefit of the doubt, the Court reached the only reasonable conclusion that it could after reviewing the facts of this case – the DNR failed to address credible scientific data showing Maple Leaf Dairy's past, present and future impacts on the air and water in southern Manitowoc County near Lake Michigan," said Andrew Hanson, attorney with Midwest Environmental Advocates, a nonprofit environmental law center that provided legal representation to Centerville CAREs.

"We think the DNR could have done a better job evaluating Maple Leaf Dairy's impacts, but legislative cuts by the powerful Joint Finance Committee are preventing the DNR

from fulfilling even the most basic mandates of Wisconsin's environmental laws," said Hanson.

Senator Joe Leibham, who represents the district in which Maple Leaf Dairy planned to expand its operation in Sheboygan and Manitowoc Counties, sits on the Joint Finance Committee, which plays a significant role in creating the DNR's budget. Maple Leaf Dairy currently confines 3,798 cattle at its Main Facility on County Trunk Highway X and five "satellite facilities." In the past, Maple Leaf Dairy has submitted formal plans to the DNR to expand its operation to approximately 9,000 cattle. Although Maple Leaf Dairy claims that it only proposes to expand its cow numbers through "slow growth and reproduction," a report submitted by Maple Leaf Dairy to the DNR shows a master plan of a major expansion of thousands of cattle and up to 35.5 million gallons of animal waste. Further, Maple Leaf Dairy has already obtained the building permits necessary to expand the cattle confined and animal waste produced at its operation.

"Given the court's decision that the DNR's environmental review was inadequate, Maple Leaf Dairy must also halt construction of its expansion facilities immediately until the DNR has complied with its environmental review responsibilities," concluded Hanson.

NEW NAME

GLAHNF LAKE MICHIGAN ADVISOR ROLLS OUT NEW NAME

Thirty-five years after becoming what is now the oldest Great Lakes organization in North America representing citizens who care about the region's waters, the Lake Michigan Federation is changing its name to the Alliance for the Great Lakes. The Federation will remain a project of the Alliance to work on issues of particular concern to the largest lake within U.S. borders.

With the announcement, the Alliance will continue working on Basin-wide policies including the Council of Great Lakes Governors' water conservation agreement, while mobilizing local efforts to punctuate the need for such policies. The Alliance will also continue to work in partnership with other organizations already doing excellent work in the Basin. Key goals for the coming years will be implementation of the Alliance's volunteer Adopt-a-Beach program on other lakes, enhancement and broadening of our educational curriculum and urban habitat recovery initiative, and other programs throughout the region.

For more information on the new Alliance for the Great Lakes, contact Cameron Davis at the Alliance for the Great Lakes at 312-939-0838x2 or cdavis@lakemichigan.org.



WHY A GOOD STORY IS YOUR SECRET WEAPON

Members of the grassroots, ultimately, have the most powerful tool for affecting change in their communities: riveting, unique stories.

The foundation of a fascinating story is one single, central fact. Case in point is the recent Kingston sewage scandal. In April 2005, millions of litres (14-million gallons) of raw sewage washed up on the shores of Wolfe Island, at the eastern tip of Lake Ontario.

Fifty-two million litres of raw sewage dumped condoms by the dozen, hypodermic needles, and feminine hygiene products onto the normally pristine beaches. Fourteen million gallons of raw sewage rushing past the island, downstream to the St. Lawrence River, meant Kingston's sewage was on display for all the world to see.

Since the 1970s, the City of Kingston has admitted to the Province of Ontario that it has a "problem" with its sewage system. But since admitting its problem a generation ago, Kingston has made little real progress in cleaning up its waterways and revamping the century-old system.

So what makes the recent sewage spill so "scandalous"? Why are area residents confident that this time, things will be different? The answer: One set of facts and a powerful story.

On April 4, 2005, Wolfe Island resident Colin Mosier noticed condoms and needles lapping ashore on his property. Colin, with no specialized training in environmental work, but as a long-time volunteer with Lake Ontario Waterkeeper, knew that the nearby City of Kingston regularly dumps its raw sewage in the spring and worried that there might be a connection. Because Colin was informed and aware, he spotted a potential problem instantly.

Colin immediately contacted Waterkeeper, who was three hours away in Toronto, and then telephoned a live call-in radio show. His concern rallied the community, who took turns notifying the appropriate government officials and local leaders. While he waited for the government and press to arrive, Colin and his family and friends documented the sewage spill, taking numerous photographs and videotape recordings. His father-in-law, Christopher Mattson, offered to take water samples for Waterkeeper, collecting them from the river and the shore well, and delivering them to our local laboratory.

Quick-thinking volunteers proved what scientists and activists have not had the opportunity to prove before: sewage spills have a real impact in the Kingston area.

It sounds silly. Who doesn't know that sewage spills are bad?



Sewage, dead fish and other debris wash ashore after Kingston bypasses 52 million litres of wastewater in April, 2005.

But in a historically polluted area like Lake Ontario, evidence to support common sense is often hard to come by. Let's see what Colin's actions proved:

- 1) Because he called the authorities right away, Colin proved when the spill had occurred.
- 2) Because Colin and his friends documented the contamination extensively, they proved the magnitude of the spill.
- 3) Because Colin invited the media, he gave the world the images it needed to understand the impacts of sewage dumping.
- 4) By taking water samples right away, Colin's family also proved that the river and his drinking water well were contaminated with E. coli. (A second set of samples taken after the spill was cleaned up confirmed that the river and shore well were once again clean.)

Those are the facts. But what makes them so powerful? Why did Colin's quick-thinking prompt a series of front-page news stories, province-wide editorials, and an investigation by Ontario's environmental police force?

The simplest answer is that, because Colin documented everything he could, his story is indisputable. Colin's story resonated with government, media, and community members because he's a regular guy who let the facts tell his story. Colin's plight could be anyone's plight, a truism that gives his experience a unique power. It's common enough among the grassroots and it's our greatest strength as a movement.

Volunteers and other individuals who speak out about personal, factual experiences of pollution in their communities offer one thing that no PR firm can manufacture and no spin-doctor can conjure up: credibility. Their stories, like Colin's, are straightforward and poignant. Even the most jaded observer can sympathize and decide they never want it to happen in their community again. And that is a powerful step to winning back our waterways.

Lake Superior Basin Update

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JILL RYAN

SAVING WHAT WE HAVE

By Dorothy Lagerroos, J.D., Professor of Government and Environmental Studies, Northland College

Watershed groups in the western Lake Superior Region are busy protecting the relatively pristine waters and woods of the region. The Bad River Watershed Association (BRWA) continues to monitor water quality to establish base line information, since state and federal agencies have not yet gotten around to that. Five years of carefully collected base line data will help protect the region when development increases or industrial activities occur.

Bad River Watershed Association

The Bad River Watershed Association grew out of activities of the Ashland Bayfield County League of Women Voters, with assistance from GLAHNF. The BRWA also collects data on the more than 1,000 road crossings in the watershed. The group aims to prioritize culverts needing replacement or repair. Finding funding for repair is part of the plan to restore water quality. Helping towns obtain training and using that training during normal road maintenance is another part of the equation. New statewide rules governing town activities in waterways will be the subject of an upcoming educational effort, jointly conducted by Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) and BRWA.

Activities of the BRWA attracted the attention of River Alliance of Wisconsin, a statewide umbrella group for river activists. BRWA and four other groups out of 165 were chosen "top tier" groups, earning themselves River Alliance's focused attention for training and capacity building. River Alliance, with funding from Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, also made available scholarships to the national River Rally in Keystone, Colorado. BRWA is sending a delegation of three members to River Network's annual training event. Thanks, WDNR!

Friends of the White River

Friends of the White River organized themselves to protect the only remaining stretch of this high quality trout stream not yet in public ownership. Landowners showed such strong support for protection that the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources stepped in and designated the area suitable for public acquisition as land becomes available from willing sellers. But the Friends aren't done yet. Now they plan to let landowners know of various conservation actions they can take, from selling to the DNR when they are ready, to drafting conservation easements. Bayfield Regional Conservancy, a local land trust, advises the Friends, who are associated with the

BRWA, since the White River is within the larger Bad River watershed.



Assessing culverts keeps BRWA busy.

Kayak Symposium

The Inland Sea Society is counting down to its sixteenth annual Kayak Symposium, June 16-19, in Washburn, Wisconsin. The event features on-water instruction, Apostle Island paddle tours, seminars and entertainment, all promoting "stewardship through recreation." Contact Inland Sea Society and 715-682-8188.

Sustainable Chequamegon

But the real buzz around the Chequamegon Bay these days is the enormous support that a totally new kind of effort is generating. Torbjorn Lahti, from Sweden, explained the Swedish model of Eco Communities, engaging more than 200 residents, including city and tribal officials, at a planning session in late February. About 75 people continue to plan for "Sustainable Chequamegon." Information sessions on sustainable energy, sustainable business, and sustainable housing promote the idea using The Natural Step to guide development. These new activities join existing sustainability-promoting endeavors, including several community supported agriculture operations, many organic farms, the Living Forest Cooperative, Clear Water Folk School, and the Black Cat, an organic, vegetarian, made-from-scratch coffee house. All are working to save what we have for the future's children.

Creative Communicating



WRITING FOR THE WEB: PART 2

By Gerry McGovern



**GERRY
MCGOVERN**

As we said in the last issue, writing for the Web is not the same as writing for print. People read differently on the Web. 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.

There are 10 rules for writing effective web content. We highlighted the first 5 rules in the last issue of GLAHNews. In this issue, we'll highlight rules 6-10:

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.**

Writing for the Web requires careful planning. Your content needs to fit well within the context of your website. When a reader finds your content, they need to be able to scan it quickly. That's what metadata is about. Metadata is data which provides information about a resource. In order for your website to be found, you need to write for how people search.

6. Write for how people search

Write to be found when people are searching. That means using the words your target readership is using. Before you begin writing, you need to sit down and plan the keywords you will use in your content. <http://www.wordtracker.com/> is an excellent website that will help you do this.

7. Write great headings

Headings are the most important piece of content you will write. That's because:

People scan read and the first piece of content they often read is the heading. If it's not interesting, they're gone.

The heading is often used as title metadata. This is what the search engines use on the search results page.

The heading may be placed on a homepage as a link to the content.

When writing headings:

- Keep them to eight words or less
- Make sure you include the most important keywords
- Cut out as many adjectives and prepositions as possible (and, the, a, of)
- Be clear and precise. Avoid Shakespearean references. Avoid being clever

8. Write great summaries, sentences, paragraphs

The summary is the: who, what, where, when, how. It's about getting the facts across in 50 words or less. An objective of a summary is to make people want to read on. Keep them punchy and factual.

Sentences should be between 15-20 words. Paragraphs should be between 40-70 words. Remember, people scan read. If the first sentence in the paragraph is not interesting, they'll move on. So, always lead off a paragraph with a factual sentence.

9. Write great metadata

If you can't write good metadata (data about data), you can't write for the Web. Metadata gives web content context. You need to see metadata as an extension of grammar. You might say that metadata is web grammar.

Classification (categorization or the act of distributing things into classes or categories of the same type) is metadata. Focus on what classification terms are used on your website. Focus on how your content is classified. It is your responsibility to ensure that your content is properly classified. Misclassified web content might as well not have been written.

Headings and summaries are metadata. Date of publication and author information are metadata. If there's one piece of metadata that every webpage must have, it's title metadata. Every webpage should have a unique title that precisely describes the content on that page.

10. Edit. Edit. Edit.

If at all possible, get someone else to edit your content. If you are editing someone else's content:

- Take your time. Good editing can take anything from 30-50 percent of the time it took to write the original content.
- Aim to do about three edits.
- Edit first for style and tone. Ask these questions: Is it clear? Is it necessary? Is there a shorter way to say this? Is there a simpler way to say this?
- Leave the checking of grammar and spelling until last. For a thorough edit, print out the content. Get a ruler. Place the ruler at the end of the content and read backwards.

Gerry McGovern provides website content management solutions. For more information, please visit:

<http://www.gerrymcgovern.com/>.

RESOURCES



Are you missing out on this FREE resource? The Great Lakes, Connecting Communities Toolbox is now available!

The Great Lakes, Connecting Communities Communications Toolbox provides FREE, focused, ready-to-use tools and communications products related to water quality and quantity issues, habitat protection and invasive species in the Great Lakes Basin.

The Toolbox CD-ROM includes hundreds of organized royalty-free images, up-to-date media contacts for each Great Lake state and Canada (thousands of targeted names in print, radio, television and Web publications); communications tips, audience research, and more!



If you haven't already applied for your free copy, you can do so by visiting glhabitat.org and clicking on "Connecting Communities Toolbox" or call Marci at 231.347.1181 ext. 107

Resources to strengthen nonprofit Boards of Directors

"BoardSource: <http://www.boardsource.org/>, a nonprofit organization dedicated to increasing the effectiveness of nonprofit organizations by strengthening their boards of directors, provides practical information, tools and best practices, training, and leadership development for board members of nonprofit organizations worldwide.

Nonprofit Provides Free Internet Services to Charities

Grassroots.org: <http://www.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.

Green Media Toolshed

Green Media Toolshed (GMT) is a nonprofit organization that provides online media and communications tools to the environmental community. In brief, the tools include access to a comprehensive, searchable online media database that features over 350,000 contacts in North America and 175,000 international media contacts. GMT also provides access to over 6,000 photos that members can use in their media work as well as on their own website, a fully branded online press room, a community calendar and several web enhancement tools that allow groups to manage campaigns and volunteers in a secure, online area.

Contact: Bobbi Russell,
bobbi@greenmediatoolshed.org, 202-326-8709
Website: www.greenmediatoolshed.org

Restoration On-Line Resource:



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.

Helping Citizens Clean Up Polluted Habitats

Help is on the way to former industrial communities in the Midwest looking to shed their tarnished Rust Belt image. "A Community Guide to Contaminated Sediment Cleanup," published by the Alliance with funds from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, encourages communities to get involved in local contaminated sediment cleanups. The guide provides background information on contaminated sediments, describes the basic steps in a cleanup process, and highlights the value of strong community involvement throughout the process. Designed for community leaders or local groups to refer to at the start of a cleanup, it provides a basic overview of what to expect and why the community should become involved. The guide and a companion Power Point presentation can be downloaded from the Alliance for the Great Lakes web site at www.greatlakes.org/elimination/guide.asp.

Notes of Interest



Help Protect Habitats!

"GLAHNews has increased our awareness of issues and the organizations working on them around the Great Lakes Basin."

– GLAHNF Network Member



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

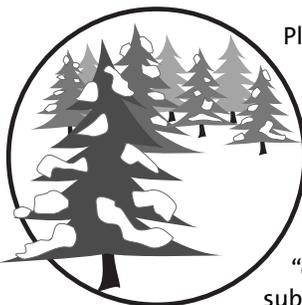
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***You can make a difference.
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SAVE A TREE:



Please email Marci at 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.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



2nd Annual Great Lakes Aquatic Habitat Network and Fund Grassroots Symposium October 14 & 15, This year's symposium will be held on October 14 & 15, 2005 in Lakeside, Ohio. Lodging, Meals, and

Registration costs are ONLY \$100 per person. Travel scholarships and some registration scholarships are available. If you wish to learn more or register, please visit www.glahabitat.org or email marci@watershedcouncil.org.

The world's largest lake has its own day of recognition! **July 17**, Celebrate Lake Superior Day, July 17, 2005, by hosting an event in your environmental organization or department. The Lake Superior Binational Forum is promoting this Basin-wide event to highlight the personal, environmental, economic, and spiritual connections people have to this unique world treasure. This event is held annually on the third Sunday in July.

Join the festivities by hosting an activity or event in your organization or community. Visit the Forum's website for a list of activities useful for environmental groups: <http://www.superiorforum.info>

Great Lakes Aquatic Habitat Network and Fund Grants Programs Application Deadline September 30, 2005, Applications are requested for the Project Grants Program and Technical Assistance Grants Program. For more information and requests for proposals please visit www.glahabitat.org or call Marci at (231)347-1181, ext. 107.

August

- Stream Bioassessment Institute 2005, August 15 - 19
- Benthic Macroinvertebrate Identification Program, August 22 - 26

Complete information is available at: www.hudsonBasin.org then click on workshops.

Rural Land Uses: Development, Conservation and Farming in Ohio August 23, This one day seminar is designed for attorneys, engineers, planners, developers, surveyors, zoning board members, project managers, city council and board members, architects and land use officials. Speakers include: Kirby Date, AICP Countryside Program, Amalie Lipstreu, Center for Farmland Preservation in Northeast Ohio, Jean Mackenzie, Chagrin River Land Conservancy, Jill K.B. Clark, The Ohio State University.

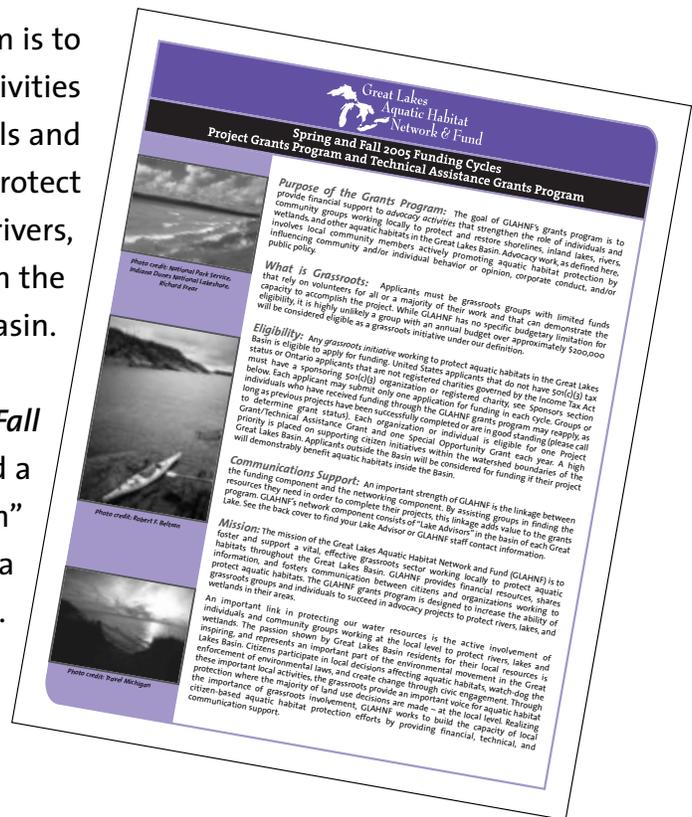
Where: Independence, Ohio Clarion Hotel & Conference Center
When: 8:30 am- 4:30 pm.

For more information, please visit <http://www.centerforfarmlandpreservation.org/calendar.html>

Don't Miss the Fall GLAHNF Grant Cycle Application Deadline 9/30/2005

The goal of GLAHNF's grants program is to provide financial support to advocacy activities that strengthen the role of individuals and community groups working locally to protect and restore shorelines, inland lakes, rivers, wetlands and other aquatic habitats in the Great Lakes Basin.

If you would like to apply for the *2005 Fall Grant Cycle* and haven't already received a 2005 RFP, please click on "Grants Program" at www.glahnf.org to download a copy of the RFP and application.



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