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SAVE A TREE

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FRESHWATER FUTURE: NEW NAME, NEW LOOK SAME SERVICES YOU CAN COUNT ON



Freshwater Future Staff - Left to Right: Cheryl Mendoza, Gina Middaugh, Ann Baughman, Jill Ryan, and Kate Duggan.

Citizens Concerned for Michipicoten Bay, a citizens group in Wawa, Canada, is working to protect eastern Lake Superior coastal habitat from a proposed quarry. Another citizens group, Root River Council, is developing a plan to revitalize the Root River in the City of Racine, Wisconsin. The citizens group, Anishinabek of the Gitchi Gami near Thunder Bay, Ontario is drafting a vision for the protection and sustainable use of the Fort William First Nation's water resources. The Niagara River Area Property Owners Group is taking steps to protect a "provincially significant wetland" in the Lake Erie region.

These groups have at least two things in common—1) they are small grassroots efforts working to protect the waters of the Great Lakes; and 2) they have received financial and/or technical support from Freshwater Future.

Perhaps your citizen-led effort received funding from us in past years—or you're interested in applying for funding. Freshwater Future is here to help, as a powerful resource investing in the people and communities for our Great Lakes.

"Our board recognized the need to more clearly communicate through a new name

the critical role our organization plays in community efforts to preserve the freshwater seas. Our new name better reflects the work that we are doing to protect the Great Lakes and recognizes the importance of freshwater issues." stated Jill Ryan, Executive Director.

A new logo accompanies the new name and visually captures the human connection to Great Lakes waters, and symbolizes the hope that each day brings for the future of this global treasure. Freshwater Future

also has a new membership program—providing more ways for you to engage with our programs while helping to support us financially.

Great Lakes neighbors care deeply about their towns and waters. The Great Lakes are more than a resource in our backyard—they are a global treasure for the entire world. "We are inviting any one who cares about the Great Lakes and wants to help local communities improve their corner of the Great Lakes to become a member of Freshwater Future," added Ryan.

The list of membership benefits is long (newsletters, discounts for events, special "Action Alerts," recognition) but perhaps the most valued benefit is the satisfaction of knowing you are helping to preserve and protect a global treasure.

There are many other new things happening at Freshwater Future—we hope you will be just as excited about them as we are. Following are highlights about our grants program, our new Advocate Mentor Program, and plans for the 5th Annual Grassroots Symposium.

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DIRECTOR'S NOTES

MAKING TIME FOR CREATIVITY



JILL RYAN

When we are in the middle of a project and it seems there is no time to spare, is often when we most need to take the time to find a creative solution. The issues that community groups tackle often seem daunting and can even create hard feelings among friends and community members.

What I have noticed from the groups we are working with as well as from our own work is that it can be so easy to find one solution and want to stick with it. The danger here of course is that we can become so focused on our first solution or idea that we miss other opportunities that may provide more benefits and may be more appealing to a wider audience.

While making time to do creative brainstorming may seem daunting, it can often result in an array of benefits that may take our project to wonderful new heights. I hope that you will try to make time on a regular basis to reassess your project, talk it over with others and see whether a creative new solution may offer a welcome resolution.

Creativity requires the courage to let go of certainties.

– Erich Fromm

Jill M. Ryan



Organization News

Welcome Gina



Gina Midaugh has joined Freshwater Future's staff as our Grants and Publications Specialist. Gina will be working with our grantees on projects and reporting, as well as with our grant readers for selecting projects to fund. Gina will be organizing future publications, as well as *GLAHNews*. Gina is a native of Gainesville, Florida where she graduated from the University of

Florida with a Wildlife Ecology and Conservation degree, specializing in Biology. She taught middle and high school science for seven years, and worked as a nature guide. After living in Florida, California and Colorado, Gina made her way to northern Michigan, where she lives with her husband, Yaro, and their two dogs, Davos and Kestral.

Advocacy and Events Calendar

Want to know about advocacy happenings and events around the Great Lakes Basin? Check out our "Advocacy and Events Calendar" on our website at www.freshwaterfuture.org. Be sure to let us know what you think or if you would like an issue or event added! Email Cheryl Mendoza, Policy and Networking Specialist with Freshwater Future at Cheryl@freshwaterfuture.org.

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FRESHWATER FUTURE: NEW NAME, NEW LOOK CONTINUED



Grants: Freshwater Future offers 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. The Request for Proposals (RFP) and application form have been changed, so please be sure to visit www.freshwaterfuture.org for additional information. If you have any questions, contact Gina Midaugh at (231) 348-8200.

Advocate Mentor Program: One of the biggest strengths of Freshwater Future is the connection we have to skilled grassroots advocates and citizens. This May, we will launch the Advocate Mentor Program to share these connections with others. The Advocate Mentor Program

will link each of our 2008 grant recipients with an experienced environmental advocate. The Advocate Mentor Program is designed to foster new relationships, share skills and experience, and provide inspiration. For more information about the Advocate Mentor Program, contact Kate Duggan at (231) 348-8200. The program will be kicked-off at our 5th Annual Grassroots Symposium.

5th Annual Grassroots Symposium: Please join us May 2, 2008 at the Sawmill Creek Resort in Huron, Ohio to learn, network, have fun and be inspired. You may register for the Symposium at www.freshwaterfuture.org. In addition, Symposium attendees are encouraged to stay the weekend and attend River Network's River Rally. Limited scholarship opportunities for the Symposium and River Rally are available. Please call Kate at (231)348-8200 for details.

Please join us as a member, a grant applicant, a symposium participant—so we can work together to build a bright and healthy future for our waters and the Great Lakes.

Action Alert Updates



MAKE IT CLEAR - EXPANSION OF THE ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY IS NOT AN OPTION!

After a two year study that considered expanding the St. Lawrence Seaway, an alteration that would be so radical it would threaten the world's most important freshwater system, the United States and Canadian Federal governments came out silent on the issue. In their Final Report of the Binational Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Study, the expansion was not considered – pleasing environmentalists around the basin. However, they can and should make this clear by swiftly and conclusively altering their 2002 Reconnaissance report to remove any recommendation to further study navigation system and Seaway expansion.

You can help by providing feedback on the final report, which will be provided to the seven U.S. and Canadian departments and agencies involved in its development for their consideration. In addition to removing any previous recommendations to study the expansion of the Seaway, they should also:

- Quantify the operational environmental costs and benefits
- Take on the responsibility to reduce environmental degradation in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River
- Address the continued threat of invasive species introductions
- Provide cost and benefit estimates for short sea shipping
- Provide concrete justification for predicting increases in container traffic

You can read the full report at <http://www.glsls-study.com/>
Send your comments to:

In Canada:

Transport Canada, Seaway and Domestic Shipping Policy (ACFS)
Tower C, 25th Floor,
Area B 330 Sparks Street
Ottawa ON K1A 0N5

In the U.S.:

David Wright, Project Manager
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,
Detroit District
477 Michigan Avenue, P.O. Box 1027
Detroit, Michigan 48231-1027

For more information, contact:
Jen Nalbone, Campaign Director for
Great Lakes United at jen@glu.org

Jennifer Caddick,
Executive Director of Save the River at
Jennifer@savetheriver.org

Canada Seeking To Simplify Pollution Laws

Municipal Wastewater Effluent (MWWE) is one of the largest sources of pollution, by volume, discharged to surface waters in Canada. MWWE is currently managed through an array of policies, by-laws and legislation at the federal, provincial/territorial and municipal levels, creating confusion and complex situations for regulators, system owners and operators.

After receiving public input, the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment is closer to implementing a Canada-wide Strategy for the management of MWWE. The Strategy will work to harmonize regulatory framework, coordinate science and research, and develop an environmental risk management model for pollutant impact on the environment.

For more information,
contact Cheryl Mendoza at
Cheryl@freshwaterfuture.org
or 231-571-5001

GLAHNEWS:

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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 Freshwater Future, the C.S. Mott Foundation, subscribers, donors, or any organization mentioned in this publication.

Lake Superior Update



LAKE SUPERIOR: WILL IT REMAIN THE MOST PRISTINE OF THE GREAT LAKES?

By Melissa Malott



Can you help with the letter-writing campaign? Can you help us offset costs with a donation? Do you own or know someone who has property in the Lake Superior area?

In recent years we have seen a revolution in environmental awareness and a dedication to addressing human-caused environmental problems. Federal, state and local governments are working to address greenhouse gas emissions; the Congress is striving to pass Great Lakes restoration funding and legislation; entire industries are working to clean up their operations and protect our water and air.

The petroleum industry is looking to expand development of oil sands. Oil sands, also known as tar sands and bituminous sands, are a heavy form of oil, mixed in with clay and sand. Extraction of oil sands is inefficient and incredibly environmentally destructive; on average, two tons of oil sands are needed to make one barrel of oil, and in the process wetlands are drained, and forests and vegetation stripped. One of the many toxic by-products of oil sands production is a collection of tailings ponds, chemical slurry lagoons that will never be recoverable and so large you can see them from space with the naked eye. According to the Pembina Institute, each barrel of raw oil sands extracted requires 2-5 barrels of water and between 250-1000 cubic feet of natural gas. Worse yet, because of the intensity of the extraction, upgrading and refinery processes, oil sands have approximately three times the greenhouse gases (GHGs) as conventional oil production.

Of the handful of proposed industry expansion projects, one of them is in Wisconsin. Superior's Murphy Oil refinery is looking at a seven fold increase in size to develop oil sands, from production of 35,000 barrels per day to 235,000 barrels per day. With this, Murphy would increase its energy consumption by 12 times. This expansion would significantly increase the size of the refinery, and Murphy has stated that their proposals involve filling up to 500 acres of wetlands. Furthermore, Murphy is planning to withdraw 5 million gallons per day of water from Lake Superior, approximately 2.5 million of which will be lost to evaporation. While Murphy Oil is preparing an Environmental Impact Assessment, they have not shared any details on increases in air or water pollution.

In exchange for this potentially significant pollution of our air, water, and massive destruction of wetlands, Murphy is promising a \$6.2 billion project that will bring a few thousand temporary construction jobs to the Superior area, and will increase Murphy's labor force by up to 400 permanent, high-paid union positions.



*Lake Superior South Shore, Wisconsin.
Photo courtesy of Minnesota Extension Service, Dave Hansen*

There is no denying that the prospect of 400 new high-wage jobs in Wisconsin is an exciting prospect. But the question for Wisconsinites is about the cost-benefit-analysis: are the ramifications of the proposed Murphy Oil expansion worth the benefits? We don't yet have all the facts as to the consequences of Murphy's pollution, but we do know a lot about the history of environmental harm in Wisconsin and the real costs to us.

We are learning more about the value of the Great Lakes. While Murphy claims this proposal will improve Wisconsin's economy, we know that the economic security of the Great Lakes region relies on healthy Great Lakes to drive the multi billion dollar industries of tourism, recreation, shipping, manufacturing, and agriculture, not to mention the high quality of life in the surrounding states and provinces. This enormous economic engine is driven by clean water, not dirty refineries.

An expansion of the refinery would increase that facility's potential to emit global warming gases, mercury pollution and sulfur dioxide threatening public health and impairing water quality. The Murphy Oil plant expansion would also likely require certain rules and regulations protecting Wisconsin's environment be bypassed or changed, thus opening up other natural areas throughout the state to development or exploitation. Moreover, Murphy Oil has a dismal track record when it comes to environmental compliance. Clean Wisconsin found that in the early 2000s, Murphy was prosecuted for violations of the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act and Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, and "withheld information knowingly and intentionally" from the Wisconsin DNR regarding its permits. Their proposed expansion would jeopardize not only the economic value of Lake Superior,

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Lake Michigan Update



SMALL TOWN, BIG SEWER ENVIRONMENTAL THREAT

By David Brigham, President of Leelanau Forum



Fish/Trout Derby is held annually at Mill Pond on Northport Creek. Photo courtesy of Sharon Kalchik.

The village of Northport lies near the end of the Leelanau Peninsula on Grand Traverse Bay. Native Americans of the Ottawa Chippewa Tribe lived here before the early settlers. The agricultural community grew from the early settlers who realized the hilly landscape near Lake Michigan and Grand Traverse Bay was suitable for fruit crops. The beauty of the area and proximity to Lake Michigan and Grand Traverse Bay has drawn tourists for many years. Today, Northport is primarily a retirement community.

In the beginning, most citizens supported the concept of a sewer for Northport to enable the downtown commercial district a greater opportunity to re-develop and to repair and upgrade the marina septic. However, they never imagined they would be forced to hook up to such a large sewer system. It is the most expensive sewer system, per household, that the Michigan State Revolving Fund ever sponsored. While the cost and size were shocking, the citizens became very dismayed when they discovered that the design called for a groundwater discharge to Northport Creek, a designated coldwater trout stream. If the community had realized these basic facts up front, the support may not have been there. Why did it have to be this way? This was the question that led the Leelanau Forum and others to take a stand and attempt to influence design change before the permits were issued. The Forum contends that Northport Creek should never be part of a sewer. It is unnecessary. There are alternatives.

In early summer of 2007 the Forum and private citizens filed a complaint in circuit court under the Michigan Environmental Protection Act. The complaint contends that the Northport Wastewater Treatment Plant will likely pollute the environment, Northport Creek and Grand Traverse Bay. Four experts, including a Hydrogeologist and Professional Engineer specializing in wastewater treatment have submitted sworn testimony explaining why the Northport sewer, as designed, will fail.

Our concerns today are even greater than previously stated. A Freedom of Information Act request revealed that the Wastewater Treatment Site is “contaminated” with inorganics. Contaminants found in the groundwater samples include arsenic, lead, manganese, sodium, and ammonia. The source of contamination is old hospital lagoons that are now closed, which are directly adjacent to Northport Creek. The lagoons have leaked and the plume of contamination has migrated off-site onto adjacent property, into Northport Creek and Grand Traverse Bay. Experts contend that the discharge of 132,000 gallons per day of sewer effluent into wet soils adjacent to the Creek will exacerbate existing contamination impacting the quality of Northport Creek and posing a public health threat.

The reasons to protect Northport Creek are obvious to local residents. The Creek corridor is mostly wild, undeveloped and a special natural resource. Young people with a bicycle and fishing pole can access Northport Creek. The Northport Sportsman’s Club, established in 1933, holds an annual trout derby at the Mill Pond on the Creek. The derby has become a popular Northport tradition for approximately 30 years that offers young people the opportunity to catch their first fish, while beginning to realize and appreciate the value of our natural resources. The Creek pathway, as it enters and passes through the Village, becomes a special natural feature. Man cannot create anything this unique but has the opportunity to hold it in high regard and protect it.

As stewards of the environment and with the financial support of organizations like Freshwater Future, the Leelanau Forum will continue to inform citizens and protect the natural environment of Northport Village and the surrounding area.

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*For more information, please contact the Leelanau Forum,
a Michigan non-profit corporation organized in 1987.*

*P.O. Box 25, Northport, Michigan 49670
(231) 386-5785.*

Lake Huron Update



WHAT IS HAPPENING TO GREAT LAKES WATER LEVELS?

By Mary Muter, Georgian Baykeeper for Georgian Bay Association Foundation



Should we care about Great Lakes water levels? They seem like such huge lakes and in fact they do contain about 20 percent of the world's fresh surface water. But only one percent is renewed each year through precipitation, keeping the system in balance. The rest is a

glacial deposit left when the last ice age retreated. When water levels remain low, wetlands dry up and are converted to grass meadows. So, yes, we should care when water levels decline and remain low for now eight years as they have for Lakes Michigan and Huron and Georgian Bay.

Last summer the water levels of all the Great Lakes declined, and Lake Superior set record lows. With increased precipitation, Lakes Superior, Erie and Ontario recovered, but Lakes Michigan and Huron and Georgian Bay continued to decline. They are now about 10 inches below where they were at this time last year, and about 20 inches below the long-term mean. They are well below what the International Joint Commission (IJC) identified as "crisis conditions" in their extensive 1993 Levels Reference Study.

The Levels Reference Study was done at the request of the Canadian and US federal governments. Its purpose was to propose and evaluate measures that governments could take, under crisis conditions, to alleviate problems created by high and low lake levels.* The Study recommended interim measures that could be taken during these crisis conditions, such as reducing the flow in the St. Clair and Detroit Rivers. These measures would help restore the water level of Lake Michigan and Huron.

In the years since the Study was published, the Georgian Bay Association Foundation determined that ongoing erosion, shoreline alteration and historical dredging of the St. Clair River has resulted in an increase in the outflow of Lake Huron, thus contributing to the current low water levels on Lakes Michigan, Huron, and Georgian Bay (see the Baird Report posted under water levels at www.georgianbay.ca).



*Low Lake Levels in Leland, Michigan (Lake Michigan) in January 2008.
Photo courtesy of Mark Breederland, MI Sea Grant*

So here we are in 2008, poring over a fifteen-year old document that nailed the problem on the head, a \$20 million report (1993 dollars) that spelled out in great detail what the fix should be in the St. Clair River – because the lakes are currently in crisis, we should put in the St. Clair River interim measures identified in the 1993 Levels Reference Study. By taking action now, we can ensure that the water that has been here for thousands of years will be here for generations to come. It will also help restore wetlands that are essential for spawning and nursery habitat for fish. This should be done before we lose any more precious water.

.....
Contact: Mary Muter
Vice President, Environment
Georgian Bay Association
Georgian Baykeeper for GBA Foundation
416-489-8101

**Levels Reference Study Annex 6 Crisis Conditions Responses, 1993*

Lake Erie Update



GRASSROOTS ENVIRONMENTAL DEMOCRACY IN ERIE

By Timothy Reim, with Keep Erie's Environment Protected (K.E.E.P.)

In March 2007, Erie Renewable Energy, LLC (ERE) held a public meeting to unveil their plans to construct a waste tire to energy facility on a portion of the now vacant International Paper Hammermill property. This facility, if constructed, would incinerate 800 tons of waste tires a day to generate electricity in a residential urban setting. It would be the largest such facility in the United States surpassing a similar tire derived fuel (TDF) facility in Sterling, Connecticut that is less than half its size. The plan has met with vocal opposition from concerned citizens, local college and university faculty, and the Erie environmental community. As a result of many community meetings, a new grassroots environmental group was formed. This network of concerned citizens and environmental activists has named itself K.E.E.P. (Keep Erie's Environment Protected). K.E.E.P.'s objective is to prevent the largest energy plant fueled by tires from being built within the Erie city limits.

Part of the K.E.E.P.'s effort has focused on raising community wide awareness of the proposal and its potential serious health and environmental effects. Door to door leafleting was begun and a petition to Erie City Council is being circulated. Additionally, donors to K.E.E.P. paid for the ordering of 500 yard signs for residents to display. Later donations have paid for a series of billboards in the city calling for citizens to call Erie City Council about their concerns regarding the proposed tire-burning plant.

The September meeting at Erie City Council chambers drew a crowd of citizens estimated at over 250. Afterwards, Erie City Council passed, by a 4-3 vote, a resolution to ask ERE to voluntarily submit an Environmental Impact Study for the proposed plant. As of the time this article was written, ERE had not responded to Erie City Council's request.

After the September meeting, Kathleen Jackson, President of the Lawrence Park Township Board of Commissioners, released a letter detailing its opposition to the construction of the proposed tire-burning plant. The letter cited not only critical environmental concerns, but also questioned the impact of the proposed tire-burning plant on property values, regional tourism, and local traffic congestion. The letter stated: "It has been said that this is the best technology available but experimental. This does not mean it is safe. County and City Councils have a great opportunity to protect its residents by not permitting this proposed plant."

Since the Lawrence Township letter, the Townships of Harborcreek and North East Board of Supervisors have jointly added their voices in opposition to the proposed tire-burning plant. Citing their requirements to act at all times to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of its residents, the two Townships have acted, "By virtue of opposing the proposed tire plant, we are fulfilling that duty."

Adding its voice to the issue, the Wesleyville Borough Council stated its formal opposition, as well. Taken together, the resolutions by the four Townships represent over 30,000 Erie County residents.



Pile of Tires. Photo courtesy of Minnesota Public Radio

The full extent of ERE's plans for the Erie region were unveiled December 7th with its submission of an Air Quality permit with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. Yearly emissions as reported in ERE's Air Quality permit application include: nitrogen oxides-354.12 tons a year; sulfur dioxide-99.25 tons a year; particulate matter (dioxins and furans)-229.95 tons a year; volatile organic compounds-27.9 tons a year.

At their December meeting, K.E.E.P. introduced plans for a Continuous Emissions Monitoring System Ordinance to be submitted to Erie City Council. Passage of such an Ordinance would preclude any "Major Air Polluting Facility" from being constructed within the City of Erie. Citizens throughout Erie County are asked to call upon the Erie City Council to protect the community's environment and consider adopting such an ordinance.

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For more information contact:
Keep Erie's Environment Protected (K.E.E.P.)
www.stopburningtires.com
Tim Reim: (814) 838-1193; (814) 572-6653
Randy Barnes: (814) 875 6304

To contact the City of Erie:
www.erie.pa.us

Lake Ontario Basin Update



PROTECTING A GEM OF THE ELEVEN FINGER LAKES

Q & A with Marty DeVinney, President of the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Alliance (CLWA)

What is the mission of the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Alliance?

The group formed over thirty years ago to respond to Canandaigua Lake's deteriorating water quality. Scientific studies we've sponsored identified five major causes: erosion from agricultural operations and residential development, pollution from pesticides, failed septic systems, and motor boats. Concerned citizens started the Canandaigua Lake Pure Waters Association.

Like Freshwater Future, our work helped us grow into a new name. We realized that to preserve the Lake, we needed to be concerned with the entire watershed, not just the shoreline. That's when the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Alliance was formed. An enhanced water quality monitoring program and professional watershed study developed into a Watershed Management Plan to address causes of degradation. The Plan was adopted by all municipalities in the watershed and, importantly, New York State. The Plan is updated every five years.

Today CLWA is a non-profit, volunteer, community-based organization with individual and corporate members. Our work is to study, educate and promote methods to conserve, improve, and protect the natural resources, water quality and overall environment of the Canandaigua Lake Watershed.

How do you do that?

Basically, we are involved in four efforts:

- 1) We monitor water quality as part of comprehensive programs throughout the watershed.
- 2) We develop educational programs for young people and adults to increase public awareness of issues that impact the environmental quality of the watershed.
- 3) We act as a partner and technical resource to local government and non-governmental organizations on water quality, lake level issues and watershed management practices and policies.
- 4) We promote patterns of development that have a positive impact on the lake and watershed.

That's an impressive list. How large is your staff?

We are a volunteer organization with active board members. Plus, we're lucky to be able to partner with highly qualified people at Finger Lakes Community College and municipal agencies such as the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Council and the New York State DEC to promote our goals.

We are also extremely fortunate to engage the services of an effective, experienced environmental consultant, Steve Lewandowski, who grew up in Canandaigua and has worked extensively on Finger Lakes conservation initiatives. No one can vet a

500-page development proposal or respond to an environmental impact statement as quickly and thoroughly as Steve. That helps us move effectively when there is a threat to the Lake.

How do you engage young people?

One of our Board members, Nadia Harvieux, is a terrific science teacher. She grew up on the Lake and recently returned to the area to raise her family. She and a colleague, Sharon Radak, designed a watershed-themed environmental stewardship curriculum that aligns with New York State's science standards. They provide hands-on workshops to elementary and middle school students in the districts that are part of the Watershed. The classes are a big hit with students and teachers, and we think that they will have a long-term impact on the health of the lake. When kids see that the Lake is not just a place to fish or swim on a hot day, but part of a complex system that makes this region one of the most beautiful in the world, they get excited about doing their part to keep it healthy.

What do you do to keep membership growing?

The Lake is the source of drinking water for more than 60,000 area residents, so people have an incentive to pay attention. They like that we're a watchdog, willing to fight for the integrity of the Watershed Management Plan. The Lake is central to the area's economic stability. It is a source of recreation and tourism. People come here to vacation. Some like it so much they stay to raise their families. Companies relocate to areas where there are rich recreational opportunities. This is a beautiful area. We know that the Watershed is the life blood of our region. That's why we work so hard to manage it wisely.

.....
Canandaigua Lake Watershed Alliance
P.O. Box 323
Canandaigua, NY 14424



*Hands-on workshops for students.
Photo courtesy of Canandaigua Lake Watershed Alliance*

Regional Action Center



GREAT LAKES RESTORATION CAMPAIGN GEARS UP FOR 2008 ELECTION YEAR

By Chris Grubb, National Wildlife Federation

The 100-plus member Healing Our Waters® (HOW) Great Lakes Coalition is heading into the important 2008 U.S. election year with wind at its back. The coalition continues to push elected officials and the presidential candidates to implement and fund the manageable solutions contained in the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration (GLRC) Strategy because every day we wait the problems facing the Great Lakes get worse, and the solutions get more costly.

A fall 2007 report released by the public policy think-tank Brookings Institution confirms in dollars and cents what most of us already know from our daily experiences: the health of the Great lakes will determine the health and prosperity of our communities. Their "Healthy Waters, Strong Economy" report demonstrates that investing in the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategy would lead to \$80-\$100 billion in economic benefits to the regional and U.S. economy.

Hundreds of advocates will descend on Washington, D.C. this February as part of Great Lakes Day to remind elected officials about that return on investment for the Great Lakes. You too can be a part of the solution for the Great Lakes by reaching out to your elected officials and the presidential candidates asking them to fund the GLRC Strategy. Visit www.healthylakes.org to learn more and get involved.

GREAT LAKES PROTECTIONS ARE ON THE MOVE!

Guidelines for sound water management, preventing harm to our magnificent water resources and stopping far off diversions are closer to becoming a regional law for the Great Lakes basin. For this to happen, each of the eight Great Lakes state legislatures must pass the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact. Then, it needs Congressional approval. Minnesota and Illinois have done their part by passing the Compact and significant progress is being made in the other states. Such progress includes (as of the time of printing):

- New York unanimously passed the Compact out of the Senate and Assembly and it is now being delivered to the Governor's desk.
- Indiana passed the Compact out of the Assembly and Senate. It is awaiting the Governor's signature.
- Pennsylvania passed the Compact out of the House. It is now in the Assembly Environmental Resources and Energy Committee.
- Ohio almost unanimously passed the Compact out of the House and it is on its way to the Senate where support is building.
- Michigan has bills in the House and Senate, with additional legislation to implement the Compact in their respective committees.
- Wisconsin is expected to introduce a bill and has had an informational hearing on draft Great Lakes Compact legislation.

On the Canadian side, the provinces have agreed to implement similar laws to ensure the entire Great Lakes basin is protected.

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Lake Superior Update continued

but would also threaten our cleanest Great Lake and our way of life. The costs of expansion in terms of public health risks and environmental degradation outweigh the potential return on investment.

Rich with natural resources, Wisconsin has other options to consider. Six billion dollars is the investment amount needed for the expansion. If this same amount was invested in clean, renewable energy technologies, it could create thousands of high-wage, permanent jobs without polluting the lake that drives much of the rest of the region's economy.

When all the consequences are analyzed, Murphy Oil's proposal is a bad investment for Wisconsin and the surrounding Lake Superior neighbors. Great Lakes neighbors deserve and can achieve a healthy economy that doesn't take a toll on public health and our environment.

Clean Wisconsin is optimistic that common sense and stewardship will prevail but we need your help.

Can you help with the letter-writing campaign? Can you help us offset costs with a donation? Do you own or know someone who has property in the Lake Superior area?

Tell us your concerns! Your input will help us strengthen our case. As we discuss this case with our legislators and governor, we will share your concerns with them. If Murphy moves forward and applies for permit applications to expand its operations, we will bring your concerns into the administrative and judicial process. Call Melissa Malott at (608) 251-7020 extension 13 or email her at mmalott@cleanwisconsin.org



Events and Deadlines

River Network's River Rally comes to the Great Lakes!

May 2nd- 5th, 2008 - Sawmill Creek Resort, Huron, Ohio

The River Rally brings together hundreds of friends of rivers, water keepers, monitors, watchdogs, stewards, guardians, and others involved in watershed protection and restoration. River Rally is an exceptional training opportunity for Great Lakes conservation organizations and watershed partnerships. Participants inspire and teach each other, and celebrate efforts for healthier, sustainable communities and cleaner waters. This is the first time the Rally has been in the Great Lakes – let's give it a Great Lakes welcome and turnout.



National River Rally 2008

Freshwater Future's 5th Annual Grassroots Symposium

We hope you'll join us for a day of networking, training opportunities, tons of practical information, and tools on how to make our organizations more effective. The Symposium brings together grassroots advocates from throughout the Great Lakes basin to share, network, and reenergize. Please see back page for more information.

Spring Grant Cycle Deadline!

The deadline for Freshwater Future's spring grant cycle is fast approaching! The deadline is **3/28/2008!** Make sure to visit to our website, www.freshwaterfuture.org and check out the **NEW** Request for Proposals. For more information or to discuss your proposal call Gina at (231) 348-8200.

HELP FRESHWATER FUTURE GROW!

Make a difference! Join Freshwater Future today. We all share responsibility for the future of our Great Lakes community. By becoming a member of Freshwater Future, you are directly supporting community efforts to protect and preserve Great Lakes waterways and wetlands. Freshwater Future depends on individual financial support to build effective community-based citizen action for protecting and restoring the water quality of the Great Lakes basin. Your contribution will help us help you. Together we can achieve the ultimate goal of a healthy, sustainable Great Lakes community! Please call or visit our website for details on membership benefits.

Membership Levels:

- Student \$25
- Member \$50
- Supporter \$100
- Organization \$100 (budget under \$200,000)
- Sponsor \$250
- Friend of the Lakes \$500
- Founder's Circle \$1,000
- Organization \$250 (budget over \$200,000)
- Sustainer's Circle Pledge \$84 or greater a month

Name: _____ Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Country: _____ Lake Basin: _____

Phone: (_____) _____ Email: _____ Amount: \$ _____

- Yes, I want to receive update emails from Freshwater Future.
- Please don't print my name in the newsletter or annual report.

Check enclosed (Please make checks payable to Freshwater Future)

Charge to VISA MC (circle one)

Card Number: _____ Security Code: _____ Exp. Date: _____

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Freshwater Future is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit and all donations are tax deductible in the United States. Sorry, Canadian tax receipts are not available at this time. Mail to: Freshwater Future P.O. Box 2479, Petoskey, MI 49770 or donate online at www.freshwaterfuture.org/donation.html.

Thank You



Thank You to All of Our 2007 Donors:

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Thank you to the following Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) volunteers from Emmet and Charlevoix Counties for helping with our winter mailings:

Alice Hill
Gloria Krusell
Betty Luebke
Maxine McDowell
Irene Phelps
Josefa Tamez
Marilyn Zirbe

Sponsorship opportunities are available for the 2008 Grassroots Symposium. If you or your organization would like to be a sponsor, please contact us at 231-348-8200.

Freshwater Future Happenings



Freshwater Future Grant Applications Due March 28th, 2008!

Freshwater Future's Project and Technical Assistance grants offer assistance for grassroots river, lake, and wetland protection efforts throughout the Great Lakes. Grants range from \$500 to \$5,500 USD for specific project expenses and/or technical expertise to build your group and improve the success of your efforts. Visit our website www.freshwaterfuture.org to learn about eligibility requirements, the types of activities we fund, past projects, and how to apply!

Advocate Mentor Program Launched!

We are thrilled to announce the launch of our Advocate Mentor Program! The Program will be a unique opportunity for new and experienced advocates to share strategies, approaches and past experiences on an ongoing basis. We anticipate that the Program will not only strengthen connections within our grassroots network, but also allow participants to strengthen their technology, fundraising and organizational management skills. For more information about the Advocate Mentor Program or to apply to become a mentor, please contact Kate Duggan at (231) 348-8200.

Save the Date!

5th Annual Grassroots Symposium
May 2, 2008 - Sawmill Creek Resort, Huron, Ohio



Sawmill Creek Resort, Huron Ohio

Please plan to join us **May 2, 2008** from 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM at the Sawmill Creek Resort in Huron, Ohio! This year's sessions will include "Keeping the Work Positive," "Campaign Planning," and a Restoration Workshop. A special focus of this year's event will be the kickoff of our new Advocate Mentor Program. Registration for the Symposium before March 28th is \$40 for members, \$65 for non-members. After March 28th, registration for members is \$50 and \$75 for non-members. Registration includes all sessions, breakfast, and lunch. Registration ends April 18, 2008. For more information, please see www.freshwaterfuture.org or call us at (231) 348-8200.



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