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G.L.A.H. News

Great Lakes Aquatic Habitat

GREAT LAKES: CONNECTING COMMUNITIES

LATE FALL 2006 VOLUME 14 ISSUE 4

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CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Judy Trembl of Luxemburg, WI!

*Judy is the Grassroots
Citizen-Advocate 2006 Award
recipient. Stay tuned to
the next GLAHNews
issue for Judy's story.*

CARP BARRIER: KEEPING INVADERS AT BAY

By Joel Brammeier, Alliance for the Great Lakes

“The electrical Asian carp barriers in the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal were a hot topic at the September, 2006 Healing Our Waters (HOW) coalition conference in Cleveland, Ohio. Listed as a top priority for full federal funding during fiscal year 2007, the permanent Barrier Two today sits half-constructed and unable to operate.

The experimental Barrier One has slid past its design life of 3 years and has 3 failing electrodes. For now, the protection of the Great Lakes depends on this barrier, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has assured the region that it will not go down on their watch.

What happened? A scant two years ago the Illinois DNR was diligently gathering funds from around the basin to pay the states' share of Barrier II cost while the USACE found dollars to put toward project completion.

Unfortunately, safety concerns have intruded. Potential electrical sparking between barges that are tied together has always been a concern on this commercial waterway. Experts believed that this problem could be eliminated through appropriate management practices, such as avoiding barge fleeting above the barrier site.

But another problem reared its head. Not long after phase one of Barrier Two was completed and tested, it became obvious that electrical current was spilling downstream beyond the limits initially claimed by project designers. The current extends to a dock where coal barges offload, making the risk of sparking too great to allow Barrier Two to begin operating.

Design and installation of enhanced safety measures is now chewing through the original Barrier Two budget. USACE needs additional authorizations and appropriations during fiscal year 2007 to complete Barrier Two and take over full operation, maintenance and upgrade responsibilities for both barriers.

Language supporting these needs can be found in the *Water Resources Development Act*

of 2006. Citizens around the region will be looking anxiously to their elected officials to take the next step in protecting the Great Lakes from invasive species.

.....
For more information about invasive species and the Chicago Waterway System:
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Alliance for the Great Lakes president Cameron Davis holds a bighead carp caught on the Illinois River in 2003. Credit: Marc Gaden.

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

FEELING TOO BUSY? YOU ARE NOT ALONE!



JILL RYAN

With pressures of work, family, service to our community and participating in local water issues, we can all feel overburdened and overworked at times. Not to mention, when is there time to relax and have fun!

While I certainly can't take those pressures or time constraints away for any of us, I do hope that a gentle reminder to take stock in ourselves might bring some inspiration. In another part of my life, I participate in my local Kiwanis Club. While I occasionally question whether I have time to attend a meeting or participate in another service project, I try to bring myself back to my most critical question: what good will it do in the community? As I recently reviewed all that our club had accomplished in the past year I was astounded at the great things a few dozen people had accomplished by coming together with the goal of serving the community.

I believe if we take stock of our projects to protect our local water resources we will find we are similarly astounded and inspired. Each of our efforts to ensure the health of our communities for future generations is multiplied by those around us working on similar issues. Not just those efforts in our own localities, but around the Great Lakes and around the world.

So please, take a few minutes, sit back and relax and take stock of all of the good things you and those around you are doing to make this world a better place now and into the future. Then consider sharing those great things with other members of your group. It is in the moments we stop to help others that I believe we find the most meaning in our time.

Seek to do good, and you will find that happiness will run after you.

— James Freeman Clarke



Grassroots Update

Advocates,

The following is the first edition of (and the inspiration for) a new section of GLAHNews. This section will be reserved for ~ 200 word vignettes of local issues in the GLB. We want to celebrate and recognize the day-to-day struggles we're all fighting with anecdotes from local advocates – YOU! Please send your story to emily@watershedcouncil.org. We'd love to hear a) your local success and b) what we should call this column (!).

Dear GLAHNF,

What I find could add to your mission of the newsletter are some of the smaller 'brush fires' I am sure play out daily around the lakes. This came to mind when I attended a grassroots initiated meeting to stop the development of a skateboard park at the Col. Sam Smith Park here in Toronto's west end. The decision where to site this concrete skateboard facility was made behind closed doors between the city council member Mark Grimes and the city planning people.

Many people had fought successfully to have Sam Smith as a natural park, a serene sanctuary for wildlife and native plants which included a wetland area. The proposed skateboard facility would virtually abut to the wetlands and threatened the basic intent and design of the park.

It appears the community including the skateboarders themselves rallied against the whole process (but not the skateboard park itself, just the location) and it probably will not be built on this sensitive area.

Little news flashes like this probably occur daily around the lakes. Perhaps a column dedicated to little vignettes on these lesser issues would be welcome to GLAH readers. It would also be welcome support to those front line troops who take on issues like this and fight doggedly to prevent them impacting the local environment – which added up makes an important contribution to preserving the Great Lakes environment, flora and fauna.

Regards,

*W. R. (Bill) Thuma, Geophysicist Consultant,
International Marketing Geotec/Plus Ultra
Toronto, Ontario*

GREAT LAKES WATER QUALITY BILL VETOED IN NY

By Vince Agnello, Residents for Responsible Government

Residents for Responsible Government, Inc, based in the northwest corner of New York State, were appalled when Governor Pataki recently vetoed the Great Lakes (Water Quality) Systems Protection Bill (A-11713). This was a "missed opportunity," stated RRG's President Vince Agnello, "a last chance to leave office with a legacy of truly being an environmental governor." Pataki signed two related bills, one to establish a New York Ocean and Great Lakes Ecosystem Conservation Council.

"The purpose of all three bills was to protect our Great Lakes watershed and the millions of people who depend on that water, both sides of the border," explained Bill Choboy, RRG legislative liaison. The vetoed bill would have protected the Great Lakes System from the potential of leaking commercial hazardous waste landfills. Niagara County has the northeast's only commercial hazardous waste facility, and it can take over 400,000 tons annually, which it currently receives from 30 states, Canada and off shore. It is only two miles from Lake Ontario and the Niagara River, and a mile from a school with 3,000 students and staff.

RRG has built a credible community response to the activities of Chemical Waste Management's 700 acre site, with water sampling, legal actions and public awareness. Recently, RRG sponsored a strategy session, drawing state and local legislators, many residents and environmental groups from across the state. Both state legislators, who sponsored the bill in Albany, after it was initiated and unanimously passed by the Niagara County legislature, were on-hand to discuss various options.

At the meeting the group strongly agreed on the need to get more details out – around the state, throughout the Great Lakes states, and to build a strong Canadian connection – and asked RRG to take the lead. At this point, a concentrated effort is unfolding to get broader media coverage on water quality concerns, and to especially collaborate to expand Canadian awareness and support.

.....
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Lake Ontario Basin Update

STREAMLINING DEMOCRACY: QUEEN'S PARK TAKES A VACATION

By Krystyn Tully, Lake Ontario Waterkeeper



Environmental issues were front-page news this summer. Energy woes, waste diversion (aka, garbage), and sewage overflows are affecting each of

us. And even though the legislature has just wrapped up for the summer, we may see the Government of Ontario make some of its most important environmental decisions in the coming months.

Perhaps most alarming is the concerted effort to streamline major Ontario environmental assessments. These kinds of changes are hailed by the Toronto Star, which accuses opponents of landfills and incinerators of trying to, "block them using the environmental assessment process for political, rather than scientific, reasons."

While business-like rhetoric that promotes efficiencies, science, and expertise might sound good in the press, it rings hollow in communities who are faced with massive environmental projects such as energy plants, mine sites, and landfills.

In early June, the Minister of Environment reassured Ontarians that all new nuclear plants will undergo a full federal environmental assessment. The problem is, according to most environmental lawyers, a nuclear plant also requires a provincial environmental assessment, a different and equally important legal process. This is an especially important check, given the Government of Canada's stake in the nuclear industry.

Waste issues like landfills, incineration, and alternative fuels are also top-of-mind in many Ontario communities. Unfortunately, decisions are being made on a case-by-case basis, without connecting to a broader provincial strategy.

For example, York and Durham are set to launch a new incineration program that could provide the fuel pellets for a cement kiln in Bath, Ontario. In the case of an alternative fuels project, the studies are all paid for and conducted by the company itself, without independent verification by the province. Both the York/Durham and the Alternative Fuels Project public study periods will continue over the course of the summer.

Accountability for infrastructure is also being downloaded to municipalities, the same institutions that are responsible for paying for upgrades and maintenance. As a result, many communities are seeing little investment in aging pipes and municipalities are ignoring the voluntary environmental standards meant to eliminate leaky combined sewer systems.

"Taking steps to address source water protection without fixing the pipes through which the water flows, is futile. Our new clean water is still traveling through old and corroding pipes to our homes. Our wastewater is still flowing through aging pipes that allow sewage to pollute our lakes and rivers," wrote one spokesperson from the sewer and water main construction industry.

continued on page 9



Stack at Lafarge cement plant in Bath, Ontario. Photo courtesy of Lake Ontario Waterkeeper.

GLAHNEWS:

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SAVE A TREE



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Lake Erie Basin Update - U.S. Side



DAMS, BARRIERS AND BARRISTERS ON THE CUYAHOGA RIVER

By Elaine Marsh, Friends of the Crooked River



Like the crooked Cuyahoga River that the project threatens, the hydro-electric proposal in Gorge Metro Park in Summit County, Ohio has been through some twists and turns in the last few months.

This proposal seeks to seize the use of a public park for private profit against the will of park managers, dozens of agencies and organizations and scores of individuals. It will destroy public land, degrade water quality in the Cuyahoga River and diminish the recreational and aesthetic experience for the 140,000 citizens who use the park each year. This "revitalization" of a hydro operation, which ceased in 1958, will produce electricity for about 1,000 homes. If a license is granted by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), it will perpetuate, for fifty years, one of the most significant impediments to water quality on the Cuyahoga River, the dam, itself. (See Volume 13, Issue 5, Grassroots Update for more information.)

As part of its Integrated Licensing Process, the FERC requires the applicant to hold "stakeholder negotiations" to determine the appropriate study plan protocol. The applicant sponsored five days of such "discussions." In addition to Friends of the Crooked River, Metro Parks, Serving Summit County, American Whitewater, Friends of Metro Parks, Ohio EPA, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Park Service joined the applicant in debating what studies should be required to determine the public cost/benefit in this project. And while the lively and usually cordial discussions warmed the early winter, it wasn't clear that there was any stakeholder interest in the results of the stakeholder process.

Somehow, the fact that this project is in a public park and opposed by park management, a duly authorized political subdivision of a sovereign state, does not seem to impact FERC's decision-making in any significant way. FERC favored the applicant over the land-owner, the National Park Service, Ohio EPA and local interest groups in the study-plan determination. FERC denied all but minor alterations suggested by these agencies and organizations. And the applicant cited their time and their cost as reasons for refusal of the studies requested by stakeholders. And they did so while declaring their intention to fully cooperate with park officials.

On May 1, 2006 Metro Parks, Serving Summit County, asserted its rights. Park Commissioners declared their belief that Ohio Edison's easement had been abandoned. (A lease of this easement was the vehicle used by the applicant to gain standing on the property.) Days before the equipment was scheduled to enter the park, Metro Parks blocked access to the public property.

On July 24, 2006 the applicant filed suit in federal district court, in order to obtain a temporary restraining order to gain access to the land. Currently, we are awaiting a decision of that court. Stay tuned. This project has a long way to go before the public and park managers will ultimately prevail.

Interestingly, the applicant has offered to abandon its quest in exchange for \$5 million. Imagine! The public paying a private company millions of dollars to retain the use of its own park.

.....

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The section downstream of the dam is the best intermediate whitewater in northeast Ohio. This project threatens the recreational use of the river. Photo courtesy of Friends of the Crooked River.



Gorge Metro Park is a 140 acre natural preserve in the urban core of Akron and Cuyahoga Falls. The proposed hydro project will require building roads, parking lots, a power house, transmission lines, concrete supports and a plume. This construction will cause erosion on steep slopes, loss of natural habitat in the urban core and water quality degradation. Photo courtesy of Friends of the Crooked River.

Lake Erie Basin Update - Ontario Side



REDUCING THE TRANSFER AND INTRODUCTION OF INVASIVE SPECIES IN LAKE ERIE

By Cherish Elwell, Niagara Restoration Council



As of January 1, 2007, commercial bait harvesters on lakes Erie and Simcoe must complete a Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) training program, and produce an approved HACCP plan on preventing the spread of invasive species to receive their annual

licence. These training courses will be held by the Bait Association of Ontario (BAO) with help from the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR) and the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH).

Designed to reduce the risk of transferring non-target species through baitfish operations, these programs provide harvesters with a systematic approach to identifying and controlling hazards in their operations that could potentially result in the spread of invasive species. The revised one-day course will now have bait harvesters completing a hazard control plan before their departure. This plan will then be forwarded by the harvester to their district OMNR office for approval. All plans require harvesters to maintain records that will be monitored by district staff to ensure the plans are implemented and maintained.

Lakes Erie and Simcoe were identified by the OMNR as being high-risk areas because of the number of commercial harvesters in these areas, the nature of the invasive species that have been documented in these areas, and the distribution range for bait harvested in both of these areas. Currently, there are 24 licensed commercial bait harvesters on Lake Erie, and many harvesters ship bait to areas north of the Lake Erie watershed, increasing the risk of transfer. This new condition is one of many that have been put into place in recent years as the number of introduced species (the majority introduced by the dumping of ballast waters from ocean going vessels) and their ranges, expand. Aside from adhering to current bait harvesting regulations as per the provincial fishing regulations, which include restrictions on harvesting methods and equipment as well as a leech ban, Lake Erie bait harvesters could face future restrictions on the harvesting of crayfish and frogs (These EBR postings are closed for comment but can be viewed at www.ene.gov.on.ca, posting number PBo6E6006 and XBo5E6804.)

The Bait Association of Ontario, the OMNR, and the OFAH have been working closely with Lake Erie's commercial bait harvesters to reduce the transfer of invasive species. Despite these efforts, all parties were dealt a recent blow from the federal government's proposed amendments to ballast water regulations.

Under past regulations, ships containing no ballast on board (NOBOB's) were not required to perform a ballast exchange. Studies have shown that vessels designated as NOBOB's still run the risk of introducing invasive species through residual sediment and water contained in ballast tanks, and ballast exchanges minimize the risk of new introductions.

Following a public comment period in the summer of 2005, the Ballast Water Control and Management Regulations came into effect in June 2006. The new regulations do address vessels designated as NOBOB's, however, the regulation provides these vessels with the choice to either exchange ballast OR partake in listed "best management practices," which include a ballast exchange whenever practical. When time and money are an issue, many wonder if operators would ever see a ballast exchange as being "practical."

The new ballast water regulations can be viewed at <http://canadagazette.gc.ca/part1/2005/20050611/html/regle6-e.html>. The Ontario Minister of Natural Resources, David Ramsay, stated his concern with the regulations in a recent press conference in August. He has requested a meeting with the Minister of Transport, Lawrence Cannon, to discuss the potential to change a single word in the regulations that would remove the choice currently available to captains of NOBOB vessels, and result in a requirement for all vessels to conduct a ballast exchange before entering the Great Lakes.

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Lake Huron Basin Update



A MODEL OF WATERSHED COLLABORATION: LESSONS IN STRUCTURE

By Geoff Peach, Lake Huron Center for Coastal Conservation

Working collaboratively at the grassroots level has become a normal mode of business for most environmental organizations. In southwestern Ontario, a local watershed based agency has formalized inter-organizational collaboration in what is called the Maitland Watershed Partnership. This partnership has brought agencies, farmers, business, industry and ENGO's together to dialogue, strategize and at times embark collectively on environmental improvement projects.

The Maitland River watershed is located about midway along the southern Lake Huron shoreline, and is primarily a rural, agriculture-based watershed. Its area covers approximately 2500 square kilometers. It has had a decades long issue with poor surface water quality, which has contributed to the posting of area beaches warning of risks to swimming due to high bacteria. In addition, high amounts of nitrate and phosphorous have been a concern from the standpoint of enrichment of local waters and harm to aquatic organisms. On the landside, concerns included the relative lack of forest cover (18% for the watershed), and the effects of increasingly intensive agricultural operations.

The Maitland Watershed Partnerships (MWP) project was initiated to improve the self-reliance of organizations in the Maitland watershed. The goal of the MWP is to identify innovative approaches to improving the long-term social, economic, and environmental health of the Maitland watershed.



Maitland River near Goderich, Ontario. Photo courtesy of LHCCC.

The project objectives were:

- To develop a better understanding of the major natural resource management issues,
- To build a capacity of local service providers to deal with these issues, and
- To build alliances among service providers to deal with these issues.

In March 1999, 27 organizations and agencies with mandates relating to natural resource management came together to identify and evaluate resource management issues facing the Maitland watershed. Three priority topics were identified: aquatic systems, terrestrial or natural areas systems, and ecological agriculture.

The Maitland Valley Conservation Authority (MVCA) housed and staffed the project from its office in Wroxeter, Ontario. The Project Coordinator, MVCA technical staff, and resource experts assisted with the project.

Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC) provided seed funding in January of 1999 to initiate the project. This funding was used to provide facilitators, technical and administrative support to the Steering Committee and the service teams as they developed collaborative management strategies.

As organizations joined the project they provided additional financing in the form of in-kind and cash contributions. Contributions from participating organizations were directed towards demonstration and research projects to help build a better understanding of the socio-economic-environmental attributes of the watershed.

The MWP represents a diverse group successfully involving local community members in watershed initiatives designed to improve the ecological health of the watershed, and the quality of the waters it contributes into Lake Huron. The MWP is an ongoing project, and both the Water Team and Terrestrial Team meet quarterly to discuss current issues. These groups work to identify small grassroots projects, like riverbank rehabilitation, water testing programs, and other small scale initiatives involving local community members, organizations and agencies.

A CD was produced outlining how the MWP project was structured and the lessons learned from the process. The CD also includes descriptions of the research and demonstration projects undertaken by the service teams. For more information on this project, contact the MVCA office (tel: 519-335-3557 or email: maitland@mvca.on.ca) to obtain a copy of the CD.

.....

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Lake Michigan Basin Update



STRONGER PROTECTIONS FOR 1,100 MILES OF NORTHERN WISCONSIN RIVERS ALMOST FINALIZED: CITIZEN DATA SOUGHT

By Lori Grant, River Alliance of Wisconsin



The “anti-degradation element” of the Clean Water Act requires states to keep their cleanest waters clean by limiting degradation of “high quality waters” and strictly protecting “outstanding waters.” The state of Wisconsin implements this requirement by classifying its most pristine waters as “exceptional” or “outstanding” resource waters, respectively.

ly. These classifications set a very high bar for any new sources of pollution, significantly limiting new point-source discharges and requiring careful evaluation for any in-stream work. In August, 2004, the River Alliance of Wisconsin, Midwest Environmental Advocates, and over 40 statewide and local conservation organizations joined together to petition the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to classify 100 rivers in northern Wisconsin as Exceptional or Outstanding Resource Waters. After review of all available stream data, DNR determined that 45 of the 100 rivers, totaling 1100 river miles, should be reclassified. The proposal has passed muster at a series of public meetings, and as of August 24, 2006, no objections were raised by the Senate Natural Resources

Committee. The Assembly Natural Resources Committee has yet to provide their blessing, but will be the final hurdle to increased protections for these 45 rivers.

In addition to providing increased stream protections, the petition to DNR has leveraged action on a number of related issues. DNR’s response to the petition revealed they have little to no water quality data for many of the rivers and streams in the state, and they do not have a standardized process for evaluating rivers to determine their appropriate classification and regulatory regime. This has sparked interest within DNR to train citizens to help gather needed data, and they have begun revising their rules for river classification to create a standardized process and clear criteria for new classifications. Over time, with DNR-trained citizen stream monitors gathering data and a new process for river classification, the remaining 55 rivers and more could also enjoy the strong protections they deserve.

.....

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MUSKEGON COUNTY

REDUCING PHOSPHORUS: MUSKEGON COUNTY LEADING THE WAY IN MICHIGAN

By Annoesjka Steinman, Mona Lake Watershed Council



In June 2006 through efforts initiated by the Mona Lake Watershed Council, Muskegon County, Michigan

became the first county in the state to ban the sale and use of lawn fertilizers that contain phosphorus. Phosphorus bans in Dane and Madison Counties of Wisconsin as well as a ban in the State of Minnesota were the inspiration for the Muskegon ban. Several cities and townships in Michigan had have passed local ordinances as a way to address phosphorus inputs to lakes and streams.

However, Muskegon County municipalities saw no need to piece-meal the effort and therefore helped the Mona Lake Watershed Council urge the County Commission to pass the first county-wide ordinance.

Senator Kuipers (R-Holland) then introduced SB 840, which would force the repeal of any local ordinances that dealt with phosphorus fertilizers. Numerous environmental groups, including the Mona Lake Watershed Council, voiced strong opposition to SB 840. After much wrangling over the issue, the bill was eventually passed in July as a mere fertilizer labeling update, with all references to phosphorus removed from the Bill.

Efforts are now under way by other Counties in MI, including Kent and Ottawa, to adopt similar phosphorus bans. In addition, new initiatives are underway in Illinois and Indiana to ban phosphorus in automatic dishwasher detergent. Eventually, we will get the phosphorus inputs to our Great Lakes and local bodies of water under control.

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Lake Superior Basin Update



THE GAPEN'S POOL PROJECT AND COASTER BROOK TROUT: THE LAND – WATER CONNECTION

By Brian Christie, Lake Superior Conservancy and Watershed Council



In mid-July, 2006 the call went out from a consortium of conservation advocates, including; Trout Unlimited in Canada and the U.S., Nature Conservancy of Canada and the Nipigon Bay RAP Public Advisory Committee for help to protect spawning habitat of the once abundant and

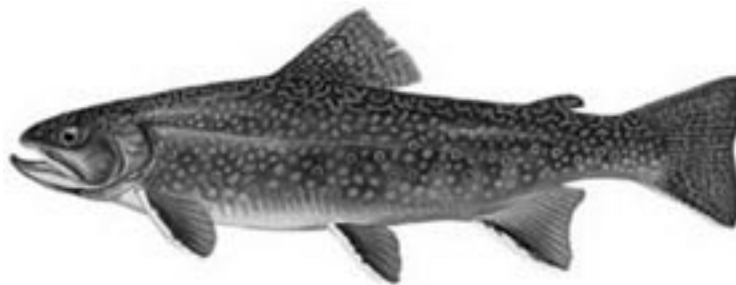
legendary, now scant coaster brook trout on the Nipigon River. The Nipigon is thought to be one of the last strongholds for brook trout on the north shore of Lake Superior, if not for the lake as a whole. Where previous protection initiatives were focused on mitigating the impact of hydro dam development within the river corridor, this time the focus was on lands adjacent to and critical for the sustaining of scarce spawning areas.

So what brought this once abundant brook trout population to its knees? Researchers suggest that the combination of its' past abundance and availability and being attractive to anglers for its larger size and beauty led to vast over over-fishing. The cumulative destruction of primary habitat by logging and mining activity over the past century significantly contributed to its decline. In recent decades the introduction of competition in the form of other salmanoid species such as brown trout, Pacific salmon, and steelhead has put additional pressure on this indigenous species.

Lake Superior coasters have taken on a certain mystic. They are recognized as a natural legacy and "link to the past." Once romanced by avid fishers for their vast abundance in the late 1800's, now the challenge is to protect and revive the "coaster." Over the past decade or so a multitude of government agencies, ENGOs and learning institutions have taken up the challenge of learning what it will require to restore this heritage fish.

At one time perhaps 120 or so tributaries around the Lake Superior basin supported a resident population of brook trout from which the coaster brook trout are derived. Today on the south shore of Lake Superior only three viable populations of "coasters" are known to reside, two in the vicinity of Isle Royale and one in the Salmon-Trout River. Remnant populations have also been located along the northwest shore. The most prodigious colonies however, reside on the north shore in Nipigon Bay with critical spawning habitat in its main tributary the Nipigon River.

While researchers are now collaborating to learn more about the relatively unknown ecology of the "coaster," and fisheries authorities have put in place regulations such as seasons, catch size and limits to protect a fragile population, recognizing and



Coaster Brook Trout, courtesy of University of Minnesota Sea Grant.

assessing remaining habitat presents a challenge.

What we do know is that the coasters typically spend part of their life in the big lake, and migrate back to tributary streams, estuaries or near-shore locations in the late summer and early fall to spawn. Coasters seek out sheltered, well-oxygenated, cooler waters with spawning habitat compromised of loose, silt-free gravel or coarse sand over an area of percolating groundwater. This describes to a tee Gapen's Pool, one of only three known spawning areas on the lower Nipigon River.

While great strides have been made to define the significance of the coaster brook trout and address concerns through water management planning on the river, protecting land areas critical to preserving spawning habitat is imperative to the long term sustainability of this species.

"The coaster brook trout have very specific needs and require sites with substantial underwater springs for successful reproduction, says Nuttall." "The land adjacent to Gapen's Pool

continued on next page

Lake Superior Basin Update



serves a critical hydrological function filtering, collecting, storing and percolating groundwater into these seepage areas beneath the river,” adds Nuttall. Previous research by Dr. R. Allen Curry of the Canadian Rivers Institute confirmed the direct link between reproductive habitat and groundwater. Adjacent landscapes control the pathways and flow rates of groundwater to the river at these critical habitat locations.

Currently the land above Gapen’s Pool is being considered for commercial development due to its desirable location at the junction of Northwestern Ontario’s two major highways. Development will result in compacted soil, paving, and point and non-point source drainage issues, all posing serious threats to groundwater function, quality and quantity at the site. “Unfortunately, it is not enough to protect the spawning beds alone. It is also imperative to protect the lands and critical functions adjacent to these beds,” said Doug Cressman, CEO of Trout Unlimited Canada in a letter to the then Minister of the Environment for Canada, Stephane Dion.

As we speak, the consortium is raising funds to purchase the property above Gapen’s Pool. If successful, the intention is to



Gapen's Pool spawning area. The land above the pool and proposed for acquisition is located at the northeast corner at junction of Hwys. 11 and 17 and the Nipigon River Bridge approx. 1 hour northeast of the City of Thunder Bay, Ontario.

donate the property to Parks Canada for management as part of the proposed Lake Superior National Marine Conservation Area, the largest freshwater marine conservation area in the world.

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For more information about the Gapen's Pool Proposal visit the Trout Unlimited Canada website at: www.tucanada.org or contact Dave Nuttall at dave@superiorvisits.com.

To learn more about the newly formed Lake Superior Conservancy and Watershed Council visit www.lscwc.org or E-mail: info.lscwc@ontera.net.

continued from page 3

QUEEN'S PARK TAKES A VACATION... CONTINUED



Ironically, as the government dances around these important decisions, the public is left only with the weakest environmental process. We get notification through the Environmental Registry, but announcements are often cryptic and information easily slips through the cracks. We get environmental assessments, but only those led by the proponents of a project. We get “Town Halls” but no hearings where experts testify under oath and can be questioned by citizens.

When we try to “streamline” democracy, we’re left with shoddy processes that truly are confusing and, as a result, slow. And that is what’s costly.

People can get involved in the federal environmental assessment process (www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca to see what’s active) or the provincial permitting process (www.ene.gov.on.ca, click “Environmental Registry”).

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For more information:
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 Website: www.waterkeeper.ca



Darlington Nuclear Power Plant, candidate site for Ontario's expanded Nuclear power program. Photo courtesy of Lake Ontario Waterkeeper.

Calendar



NOVEMBER

Audubon State Assembly, Columbus, Ohio, November 10 - 11, 2006

Registration is now open for the Audubon Ohio State Assembly. "The Bird Conservation Event of the Year" will be held on Friday, November 10 and Saturday, November 11 at the Holiday Inn on the Lane in Columbus. Enjoy a variety of events including an optional all-day outing to Ohio's famous Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area, optional three-hour visit on Friday afternoon for to the Whittier Peninsula or Keynote speeches by Dr. Jerome Jackson and Pete Dunne on Friday and Saturday evenings.

For more information: www.audubonohio.org, or by calling the Audubon Ohio office at (614) 224-3303.

CAFO Regional Caucus, Cleveland, Ohio, November 13 - 14, 2006

Join national, regional, state and local environmental leaders and activists to share ideas on best practices, discuss legislative strategies and participate in grassroots organizing training sessions. Limited travel scholarships are available. Contact CWN's Natalie Roy at Nroy@nrdc.org or call 202-298-2395 to inquire about travel assistance and for more information.

DECEMBER

Restore America's Estuaries' Conference

New Orleans, Louisiana, December 9 - 13, 2006

The 3rd National Conference on Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration will bring timely national attention to the challenges and opportunities to comprehensive coastal ecosystem restoration throughout the U.S., and especially in Coastal Louisiana and the northern Gulf Coast. Habitat restoration at all scales is essential to the very fabric of our lives - the social, economic and ecological well being of humans in the coastal landscape. Through field sessions, participants will see first-hand how the city, the parishes and coastal Louisiana are being rebuilt and restored. We will work to ensure that the Conference supports the recovery process.

*For more information please visit: www.estuaries.org/conference
<http://www.estuaries.org/conference>*

FEBRUARY

12th Annual Wetland Science Forum: Riverine Wetlands: Connections, Corridors and Catchments, La Crosse, WI, February 1-2, 2007

The conference program will begin with an overview of riverine wetland ecology followed by a keynote address, several topical oral sessions, a poster session, working groups and field trips, all related to the conference theme.

Wisconsin Wetlands Association invites you to submit an abstract for presentation at our 12th annual Wetland Science Forum, Riverine Wetlands: Connections, Corridors and Catchments. We seek presentations on riverine wetlands research, restoration and management projects. Abstract submission forms available online at: www.wiscwetlands.org/2007CFP.htm.

Abstract Deadline: Wednesday, November 1, 2006.

We also have a limited amount of scholarship funds (for registration and travel) to support student participation in the conference. To be considered for a scholarship, please complete a scholarship application form and email it to programs@wiscwetlands.org by Friday, December 8, 2006.

For more information, please visit:

*<http://www.wiscwetlands.org/2007forum.htm> Laura England,
Outreach Programs Director, Wisconsin Wetlands Association*

MARCH

Grant Deadline, March 31, 2007

Great Lakes Aquatic Habitat Network and Fund Spring Grants Program Application Deadline.

*For more information please visit us on the web at
www.glahabitat.org.*

Visit our interactive Great Lakes Calendar at www.glahabitat.org

Thank You



We wish to thank the following 2006 donors for supporting local advocates in their river, lake & wetland protection work:

James Austin
Don & Mary Brown
Lee Deanne, *in honor of Glen Dale*
David & Lucy Downs,
in memory of Janet Downs
Kathleen Evans
Molly Flanagan
Donald Geiger
Wally Gemignani
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Jill Whelan
Bob Zenz

Firelands Audubon Society
Friends of the Bayfield River
National Resources Defense Council
Ohio Environmental Council
Southeast Environmental Task Force

Resources



When a Factory Farm Comes to Town: Protecting Your Township from Unwanted Development: 2006 Edition of MN Township Zoning Guide Now Available

The 52-page guide, *When a Factory Farm Comes to Town: Protecting Your Township From Unwanted Development*, was developed using input from some of Minnesota's foremost experts on township zoning. It focuses on how township supervisors and residents can use an interim ordinance to promote responsible development. An interim ordinance allows a township to apply a temporary ban or moratorium on major development while the citizens consider creating or amending zoning ordinances and a comprehensive plan. The manual includes examples of interim ordinances enacted by Minnesota townships in recent years, as well as a list of resources.

The 2006 edition of the manual reflects changes that have been made to state laws over the past several years. These changes have not weakened township powers but do affect the process of adopting an interim ordinance.

When a Factory Farm Comes to Town is available at no charge on the Land Stewardship Project website at www.landstewardshipproject.org/PDF/township_manual06.pdf. Copies can also be purchased for \$8.00 (that price includes the 6.5 percent Minnesota state sales tax) by calling the Land Stewardship Project at 612-722-6377.

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Economic Value of Great Lakes Coastal Marshes Proves Protection is Worthwhile

A report released in July 2006 found the value of Saginaw Bay coastal marshes is worth \$239 million dollars, which breaks down to \$3,596 per acre. The report, *Economic Values of Saginaw Bay Coastal Marshes With a Focus on Recreational Values*, is the culmination of a study coordinated by Ducks Unlimited (DU) with support from the Coastal Management Program, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ); the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation; U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Great Lakes National Program Office; Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council. The study was designed to quantify the economic contribution to society of Great Lakes coastal wetlands. This report highlights the important economic value of intact, healthy, wetlands along the Great Lakes shoreline.

For more information, visit: <http://www.ducks.org/Conservation/GreatLakesRegionalOfficeContacts/2602/GreatLakesAtlanticRegionalOfficeContacts.html>

Minnesotans for Responsible Recreation Launches New Website

After overcoming a mountain of technical difficulties MRR's new website - www.MnResponsibleRec.org - is finally humming along.

New on MRR's Website:

- MRR call to action focuses on reforming or abolishing \$15 million in public funding of motorized recreation: <http://mnresponsiblerec.org/action.php>
- MRR Contracts for Services provide private property owners and community groups immediate access to MRR services while focusing member dollars on institutional change: <http://mnresponsiblerec.org/productsandservices/services.htm>
- Thought-provoking presentation topics at <http://mn-responsiblerec.org/productsandservices/workshops-presentations.htm>
- Got snowmobile noise? Check out MRR's Restoring Winter Quiet program! <http://mnresponsiblerec.org/productsand-services/restoringwinterquiet.htm>
- What people say about Minnesotans for Responsible Recreation - from MRR's new video A Celebration of Quiet Places <http://mnresponsiblerec.org/productsandservices/WhatpeoplesayaboutMRR.htm>

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Two Comprehensive Resources on Illinois Funders

The *Directory of Illinois Foundations*, our popular print resource now in its ninth edition, offers profiles on more than 3,000 grant makers. The new *Directory of Illinois Foundations* will be available on December 5, 2006. If you **order** the *Directory of Illinois Foundations, ninth edition* by **November 10**, you will receive a **20% discount**.

Illinois Funding Source (IFS) allows you to search the same profiles via an online database. And, IFS is continuously updated to ensure the most current information is available.

If you have any questions, please direct them to info@donorsforum.org.