



G.L.A.H. News

Great Lakes Aquatic Habitat

GLAHNF GREAT LAKES, CONNECTING COMMUNITIES

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DID YOU KNOW?

The Great Lakes were formed by glaciers. They probably began as river valleys akin to that of the St. Lawrence, but were carved to their current form by nearly 500,000 years of repeated glacial advancement and retreat.

COMMUNICATING FOR TODAY AND TOMORROW

John Russonello, Belden, Russonello & Stewart

Call it the “long term vs. short term” dilemma, or the “education vs. mobilization” choice. Whatever term you use, environmental advocates are constantly working to achieve two different, valuable, and obtainable communications goals at the same time. They seek first to send messages that will energize environmental true believers into immediate specific action; and second, to build a greater appreciation over time of environmental issues among the persuadable public.



*Severe storm in April 1997, Grand Haven, MI.
Photo courtesy of Edward Post.*

Over the past few years, thanks to the inspiration and funding demonstrated by the Joyce Foundation, the Belden Fund, and others, and the initiative taken by the Biodiversity Project and Clean Wisconsin, BRS has been able to conduct a considerable amount of public opinion research in the Great Lakes states, with a special focus on attitudes of Wisconsinites. Our work has taught us many lessons both for energizing the believers and inspiring the agnostics.

Energizing the base of support

First, our work has taught us that environmental advocates for the Great Lakes (and any environmental issue) have a better chance igniting a fire under the environmentally-minded if they:

- Focus on a threat to residents’ health, recreation, well-being, or security that is already apparent. This means reinforce feelings rather than introduce a new topic. Pollution in Lake Michigan is more salient than declining water levels in Lake Superior because people can see and feel the pollution, but the northern lake’s water levels are more remote.
- Present a solution to the threat, because if you do not have a solution there is not enough reason to become involved.

- Place people in the solution. Give them something to do that is not overly onerous but meaningful, such as asking voters to question policies at a town meeting about how much development should be allowed on the shores of lakes, or asking voters to ask about a candidate’s position on pollution enforcements.
- Make sure what you are asking of your supporters is timely, relevant and will have some impact. The believers do not need to be convinced that there is a problem, but rather that there is a solution that makes sense and that needs their involvement in particular. Urgency of action is often more important than urgency of the issue for the true believers.

Building a broader, deeper constituency

Building a stronger appreciation of the environment over time is an even bigger challenge than energizing the believers. Some insights from the research:

- Creating greater appreciation is not the same as creating more knowledge. We often hear environmental advocates describe their long-term communications goals as increasing environmental education, or environmental literacy,

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DIRECTOR'S NOTES

FOCUS ON STRENGTHS



JILL RYAN

As we approach the end of the year, I find this is a good time to take stock of strengths; personal strengths as well as organizational strengths.

We often tend to focus our time trying to "fix" our shortcomings rather than plowing forward at what we do so well. By spending our time on our strong points, we will generally accomplish a great deal more than if we spend our time trying to struggle with the tasks we find most difficult.

You might ask, if we don't spend time on our weaknesses how will we get all the work done? There are several suggested strategies an organization can utilize to manage their weaknesses. First, survey your members to find the strengths of each individual so you can divide up tasks into things people enjoy and at which they excel. Second, for the things for which no internal strength can be found, seek out the advice of an expert in that area. Finally, collaborate with other organizations in order to complement each group's areas of strength.

In the end, a few minutes spent thinking about strengths and how you can capitalize on them, as well as areas of weakness and how you can cope with rather than correct them will help your work flow more smoothly in the coming year.

"The keystone of high achievement and happiness is exercising your strengths, not correcting your weaknesses."

Martin E.P. Seligman



Grassroots Symposium

GRASSROOTS SYMPOSIUM SUCCESS!

This October 70 Great Lakes advocates gathered on the southernmost Lake Erie shore in a little town called Lakeside, the "Chautauqua on Lake Erie" for the 2005 Grassroots Symposium. It was an empowering experience to be meeting on the shore of Lake Erie, once the most polluted and desecrated Great Lake. People enjoyed break-out sessions and visits on the Lake, a visual reminder of the very resource we strive to protect.

Our communications theme was the focus of the Symposium. We kicked off the weekend with sessions to introduce us to Lake Erie. We dove into our theme with Jeffrey Potter's Values Based Messaging workshop.



Vickie Diesner and Lori Hayes

People spoke about how grateful they were to practice drafting effective messages. Kelly Dardzinski energized the group with her introduction to our 2006 theme, Stormwater: From Runoff to Renewal.

For many, the most important and useful piece of the 2005 Grassroots Symposium was networking with other people struggling to protect the same resources, fighting on behalf of the earth and future generations. This was accomplished through conversations over meals, walks on the shore and strategy sessions helping each other develop messages. There was also time to network specifically with others from one's basin.

continued on next page



Tim Montague and Jeffrey Potter

GET YOUR MATERIALS!

2005 GRASSROOTS SYMPOSIUM MATERIALS AVAILABLE

- *Great Lakes: Connecting Communities Communications Toolbox* CD-ROM, a project of the Biodiversity Project and GLAHNF. The Toolbox includes:
 - communications training,
 - audience research,
 - Great Lakes images,
 - media lists and more.

Visit <http://glhabitat.org/toolbox.html> for your online version.

- *Waterways At Risk: How Low-Impact Development Can Reduce Pollution Run-off in Michigan*, a report by the

Public Research Interest Group in Michigan and American Rivers
Contact Kelly Dardzinski at kelly@pirgim.org to request a copy of the Report.

- *2005 Grassroots Symposium Workbook*, a self-guided tour through the Symposium's major topics and workshops

Contact Emily at emily@watershedcouncil.org to request a copy of the Workbook.



The Symposium ended on a perfect note Saturday evening. We were privileged to present the first two Grassroots Citizen Advocate Awards. Then we were entertained by a Great Lakes Advocate of another sort, the author and storyteller Jerry Dennis regaling us with stories from his book "The Living Great Lakes: Searching for the Heart of the Inland Seas." In closing, Jill Ryan asked that we each take our water glasses, and ponder a moment the wonderful and invaluable resource to which



Mary-Pat Mathers & Andrew Kett

we are so intricately attached. The group of advocates, who fight passionately for a resource that is so utterly important and literally joins all of our lives, all raising their glasses in appreciation, was truly inspiring. We hope you'll join us next year!



Grassroots Panel



Jerry Dennis



Lisa Brohl

For more information on 2006 Grassroots Symposium,
Stormwater: From Runoff to Renewal
 watch our web site glhabitat.org

GLAHNEWS:

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Disclaimer:

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

Grassroots Profile



NEW CONTROVERSY ON THE CUYAHOGA RIVER

By Elaine Marsh

The Cuyahoga River, the infamous burning river, is the center of another controversy with far flung implications for the Clean Water Act. The 100 mile river falls 700 feet from its source to Lake

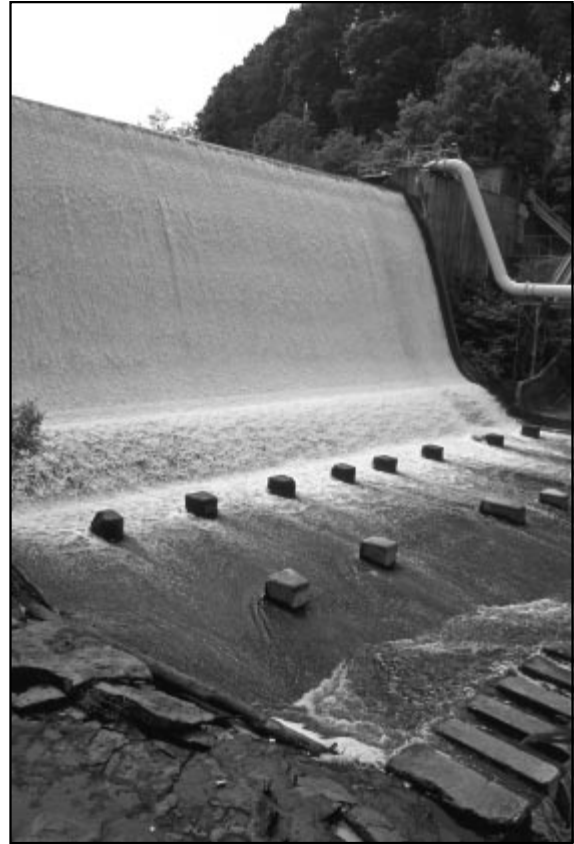
Erie at its mouth. Thirty percent of that drop, over 200 feet, occurs in a two mile stretch through the City of Cuyahoga Falls, creating a series of spectacular cascades and rapids.

Since the mid 1800's, the power of the Upper Falls was captured in a series of dams, used for mills, turbine power and cooling water pools. At the same time, the High Bridge Glens and Caves resort, which occupied the Great Gorge and Lower Falls, was the region's greatest tourist attraction.

By the turn of the century, deteriorating water quality was impacting the resort's business. Property changed hands. Northern Power and Light Company purchased land to build a dam and power house for hydroelectricity output at the site of the "Great Falls". During the 1913 construction, concerns about the river's hydro-generation capacity added a coal-fired power plant to the design to guarantee electrical output from the site. In 1958, the owners of the dam, then Ohio Edison, abandoned the site as a hydro electric source, due to unpredictable water flow and low efficiency. Since that time, several entities have investigated reestablishing hydroelectric operations at the site. All schemes were abandoned until 2003 when Advanced Hydro Solutions began the application process with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to obtain a license on the dam that would last for fifty years.

This proposal has raised objections from around the watershed. Nearly 400 people attended a FERC public meeting in July 2004. Seven governmental entities opposed the project. Eighteen nongovernmental organizations opposed the project. Of the 87 speakers, not one supported the project.

The project site is in the middle of Gorge Metro Park. The Park District opposes the project on the grounds that it will have serious environmental, aesthetic and recreational impacts on park lands and visitors and that it produces very little power. The applicant claims that 2,000 households will be served. There are 235,136 dwelling units in Summit County. Over 140,000 residents use the park each year. Despite the Park District's opposition, the applicant was able to gain standing as they were granted an easement from First Energy, current owner of the dam, who claims easement rights in the park.



This is the Gorge Dam.



This is the site of the proposed power house.



This is the Great Falls of the Cuyahoga circa 1890.

We believe that this project is headed in the wrong direction. Since the Clean Water Act, public treatment works and private companies have spent over a billion dollars cleaning up the Cuyahoga. The elimination of sewer overflows will cost another billion dollars. Dams and their negative effects on the attainment of aquatic life standards have focused Ohio EPA attention on the removal and modification of non-functioning Cuyahoga dams. In the last five years, over 7 million public and private dollars have been invested in removing and modifying two dams along the river. Three others are being studied for removal.

If a license is granted by FERC, it will perpetuate, for fifty years, one of the most significant impediments to water quality on the Cuyahoga River, the dam, itself. Water quality experts, municipalities, and citizens all feel strongly based on the Preliminary Application Document forwarded by Advanced Hydro Solutions will have serious impact to water quality on the Cuyahoga and jeopardizes all future efforts to revitalize the river.

The dewatering of over 800 feet of the River will seriously compound combined sewer overflow pollution causing increased threats to aquatic and human populations. The actual construction of the project will accelerate soil erosion and sedimentation into the River. The minuscule power production, and the loss of public benefit to a for profit company operating on our public lands is untenable to almost all in our region, except the project applicant.

Friends of the Crooked River is partnering with other organizations and agencies in opposing the FERC application. We believe that removing the dam and Freeing the Great Falls would provide untold economic benefits as a tourist attraction and as a destination for advanced white water paddlers. For more information, go to www.summitmetoparks.org. Or contact ohgreenway@aol.com.

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V is for victory. Free the Falls!

U.S. Great Lakes Basin Update

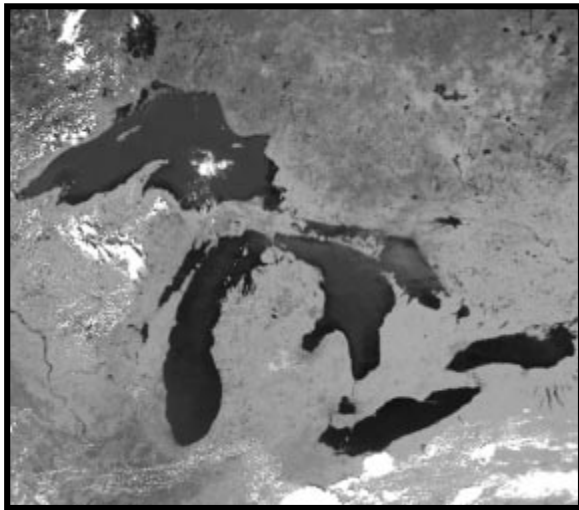


U.S. GREAT LAKES RESTORATION PLAN SIGNED IN CHICAGO *Coalition's challenge is to keep the dust away!*

By Chris Grubb

Scanning the shelves of most Great Lakes institutions - be they government, academic, non-profit, or otherwise - one is likely to be struck by the prevalence of large, black binders looking unopened and covered in dust. Over the past 12 months, more than 1,500 people have been deeply involved in a process, called the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration (GLRC), which has produced an "Action Plan to Protect and Restore the Great Lakes" that will undoubtedly be delivered to these same Great Lakes institutions in big black binders. The Action Plan contains many strong recommendations for restoring the health of the Great Lakes. The challenge for grassroots advocates now becomes persuading state and federal governments to act on the plan and not let it be filed and forgotten.

- Substantial new investments to upgrade sewage systems and stop the dumping of raw sewage that closes our beaches and fouls our waters;
- Passing federal legislation with the provisions contained in the pending National Aquatic Invasive Species Act to prevent the spread of invasive species that are destroying the Great Lakes food web;
- Restoring 550,000 acres of wetlands to provide habitat and filter polluted runoff;
- Increasing authorizations of the Great Lakes Legacy Act that helps pay for cleanup of Great Lakes Areas of Concern (the most toxic areas in the Great Lakes Basin).



*Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory,
G. Leshkevich, 1995.*

Keeping the Dust Away

The Healing Our WatersSM- Great Lakes Coalition has formed this year to make sure that we not only plan for restoring the Great Lakes, but that we actually do it! Led by the National Wildlife Federation and the National Parks Conservation Association, and with over 70 member organizations, the coalition aims to build a regional and national campaign to restore the Great Lakes for our children and future generations.

Next year will be critical for the campaign to restore the Great Lakes. Early in 2006 we expect to see the Great Lakes Congressional delegation get behind a single Great Lakes Restoration bill that will invest in implementing the consensus recommendations of the GLRC plan. In addition, the entire House of Representatives is up for re-election in 2006; and, six of the eight Great Lakes states could have new Governors.

Passing Great Lakes restoration legislation will not be easy, and we need the support of grassroots groups across the region. The Healing Our WatersSM- Great Lakes Coalition is currently working with the Biodiversity Project to create a Great Lakes restoration message kit that will contain a number of fact sheets and other materials to help you communicate the importance of restoring the Great Lakes in your community. The message kit will be available in 2006 - in the meantime if you would like to learn more about Great Lakes restoration, please visit www.restorethelakes.org.

A Look at the Plan

Kicked off in December 2004, the GLRC has included representatives from government, industry, agriculture, shipping, environmental/conservation groups, and other stakeholders. Eight issue area strategy teams focused on things like invasive species, habitat/species, polluted runoff, and coastal health. These Great Lakes stakeholders developed consensus recommendations to address the most pressing restoration needs in the region. Some of the major consensus recommendations that are included in the final plan are:

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Lake Erie and Lake Huron Basin Update - U.S. Side



LOOPHOLES IN ONTARIO WETLANDS PROTECTION

By Linda Pim

In Ontario, we have a tendency to boast about our provincial wetlands protection policies compared to those in some other jurisdictions around the Great Lakes. We know the policies are imperfect and not geographically broad enough in their application, but we tend to think they're pretty good. And the policies got a bit better with the approval by the Ontario government of the new Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) under the Planning Act, effective March 2005.

However, our long-held reservations about Ontario wetlands policies were again brought to the fore with the October 2005 release of the annual report of the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario. The Commissioner, an officer of the Ontario Legislature, is an environmental auditor whose reports are always welcomed by the Ontario environmental community. Commissioner Miller pulls no punches in his reports, uncovering the failings of provincial ministries to protect the environment and making recommendations for action.

In his October report covering the 2004-2005 fiscal year, Miller takes a close look at the new Provincial Policy Statement. The PPS provides guidance to Ontario municipalities, as they draft or review their Official Plans (municipal land use plans), on what the provincial interests are in land use with which municipal documents and decision must be consistent. The new PPS certainly is an improvement over the previous one (in effect 1997-2005) in that its policies are expected to more effectively rein in urban sprawl and protect prime farmlands. You can read the PPS at www.mah.gov.on.ca (click on Land Use Planning). You can read the Environmental Commissioner's annual report at www.eco.on.ca (see pages 36-47 in particular).

Ontario environmental organizations have long raised concerns about the definition of "development" in the PPS because of its massive loopholes. Yes, there is to be no development in Provincially Significant Wetlands and significant Great Lakes coastal wetlands. But as Miller points out, "project approvals that involve infrastructure, such as sewage systems or transportation corridors, are typically approved under other legislation and are not bound by the PPS. The term 'development' specifically excludes activities that create or maintain infrastructure authorized under an environmental assessment process; works subject to the Drainage Act; or the mining of minerals, or advanced exploration on mining lands in some areas. 'Infrastructure' also includes water systems, sewage treatment systems, waste management systems, electric power generation and transmission, communications and telecommunications, transit and transportation corridors and facilities, oil and



Marsh in Ontario, Canada. Photo courtesy of M.J. Thomson.

gas pipelines and associated facilities." One could be forgiven for wondering exactly what development is prohibited in significant wetlands under the PPS; the main prohibition is urban development.

The PPS is about all provincial-level interests in good land use planning, not just the protection of natural heritage. As Miller writes, "The PPS... is the collection of quasi-rules that underpins Ontario's approach to planning. They guide the practice of planning, literally shaping the landscape of the province... It is evident that some land uses are given clear priority over others... Environmental planning and protection – natural areas, wild species and water quality – are not given the same importance as economic drivers. ...Few of the critical elements of the natural environment – significant woodlands, wetlands, valleylands, species, sensitive water features – are adequately protected. In fact, virtually none of them are protected from urban-development activities such as aggregate extraction or highway construction. Natural features are often treated simply as end-stage checks on development. Many natural features do not even have to be identified or comprehensively planned for by municipalities. The approach taken by the PPS often forces the defence of environmental interests on a case-by-case, woodlot-by-woodlot and wetland-by-wetland basis.

"Supporters of natural heritage often bear the burden of proving the ecological significance of such areas... Rather, the onus – starting at the very onset of the planning process – should be placed on the development pressures themselves to

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Lake Erie Basin Update - U.S. Side



STOP THE ILLEGAL GIVEAWAY! *Groups urge lawmakers to abandon attempted giveaway of Lake Erie Coast*

By Kristy Meyer

“Stop now, before you rob the Lake Erie shore from Ohio’s 11 million citizens and hand it over to a relative handful of upland private property owners.” That’s what

conservation groups and former Ohio Department of Natural Resources directors are warning state lawmakers.

The debate revolves around Ohio House Bill 206 and Ohio Senate Bill 127, which propose to strip thousands of acres of Lake Erie shoreline from the public and hand it over to adjacent private property owners.

The groups, including the Ohio Environmental Council, the League of Ohio Sportsmen, Audubon Ohio, and the National Wildlife Federation, strongly opposed proposed legislation, pointing out that the two bills amount to a giveaway of public lands.

If passed, this legislation will have many negative consequences for Ohio:

- Privatize exposed and submerged lake lands that lie land-ward of the water’s edge, but lake-ward of the ordinary high water mark – lands that Ohio has forever since the statehood held in trust for all of the people of Ohio.
- Turn families, bird-watchers, anglers, beach-goers, and waders that utilize Lake Erie’s coastal lands adjacent to upland private property into criminal trespassers.
- Scuttle the Ohio Department of Natural Resource’s authority to comprehensively review proposed lakeshore projects for their potential impact to navigation, water commerce, fishery, environmental quality, and public recreation, resulting in a loss of millions of dollars of federal aid to Ohio and shoreline communities.
- Result in a free-for-all of residential and commercial development along the Lake Erie coast that will be beyond the legal control of not only the state, but also of local governments, threatening the fragile environment of the Lake Erie coast. In just a few years, oil rigs, fences, and private piers could stick out into the lake from Toledo to Ashtabula.
- Imperil Ohio’s share of a multi-billion dollar Great Lakes restoration effort.
- Threaten sensitive marshland and other lake lands that provide nurseries and critical habit for fish and wildlife with uncontrollable development.

“This bill is Robin Hood in reverse. It robs from the public and gives to the privileged few. It’s grand larceny, and the public gets nothing in return,” said Jack Shaner, a spokesperson for the Ohio Environmental Council.

Under Ohio law, the state can allow private landowners with property next to the lakeshore to build boat docks and other structures to access the lake or to protect their adjacent property from erosion. Some upland landowners are upset that the state requires a permit and lease fees for permission to place a structure on the lakeshore.

Larry Mitchell, League of Ohio Sportsmen President, said that the proposed legislation would privatize the lakeshore, keeping many anglers from enjoying Lake Erie. “Most sportsmen can’t afford a fancy boat. They take the family bank-fishing so the kids can wander down the shore, skipping stones and exploring. This legislation takes away that heritage and our birthright to the coast.”

“Senators DeWine and Voinovich are pushing hard for billions of dollars in federal funding to restore the Great Lakes. Of all lakes, Lake

Erie needs that funding to clean up toxic pollution, control dangerous invasive species, and expand public access. Ohio’s state lawmakers will look pretty silly if they give away the shoreline and open it up to anything-goes development,” said Jerome Ringo, chairman of the National Wildlife Federation and a sportsman from Louisiana.

Michigan recently faced a similar shoreline issue. But on July 29, 2005, the Michigan Supreme Court unanimously ruled in *Glass vs Goeckel*, that the Public Trust Doctrine applies to the shores of the Great Lakes, and upheld the public’s right to walk the Great Lakes shoreline below the ordinary high-water mark. The public trust doctrine serves to protect resources shared in common by the public.

“Ohio’s statehouse debate sounds like a rebroadcast of the Michigan Supreme Court debate,” said attorney Pam Burt of Harrisville, MI. “Same script, just different players. But the Ohio attempt to subject public trust lands of Lake Erie to purely private ownership and control would, if successful, amount to one of the biggest public land giveaways in American history.”

The conservation groups warned that any attempt to tamper with the high watermark would be illegal and a violation of the public trust doctrine.

Elaine Marsh, longtime advocate for the lake and founder of Friends of Crooked River, pointed out that public investment in Lake Erie pays dividends to all. “The economic, environmental and recreational value of Lake Erie is totally dependent on public dollars, public recreation, and public participation. If the state wants to keep public support, then the state should not give away any of the public trust.”

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Ohio Department of Natural Resources

Lake Huron Basin Update - U.S. Side



PRESS DAY ON THE BAY *National Wildlife Federation, Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council, and partners host successful Press Day on the Saginaw Bay, Lake Michigan*

By Chris Grubb

At the end of the day, reporters walked away a bit tired, but with full notebooks and armed with new contacts and a renewed appreciation for an incredible natural resource. Outdoor columns and news stories already generated from this event have demonstrated that the Press Day on the Bay events were a resounding success!

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With the passing of December, GLAHNF is saying goodbye to 2005's communications theme. Lest we forget the importance of communication with the excitement of the new storm-water runoff theme, I want to reflect upon a recent successful event on Saginaw Bay focused on getting aquatic habitat and Great Lakes issues in the media.

In my short career in environmental advocacy, it has become abundantly clear that the media plays an important role in shaping public perceptions of an issue. Readers of this column will surely remember the "beach grooming," a.k.a. coastal wetland destruction, a.k.a. "battle of the weeds," issue that led to the first substantive weakening of Michigan's wetland protection Law in 2003. One particularly frustrating aspect of working on this issue was that several news stories mischaracterized the issue as the big bad government vs. the poor private property owner. The critical value of coastal wetlands to the Great Lakes ecosystem (i.e. coastal wetlands are utilized by over 90 percent of Great Lakes fish species at some point in their life cycle) was completely lost.

Press Day on the Bay is Born

As a leader in the fight to protect wetlands in Michigan, the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council (Petoskey, MI) hatched a plan to hold Press Day on the Bay events in the "beach grooming" hotspots of Grand Traverse Bay and Saginaw Bay. The events were designed to build relationships among conservation/environmental groups and outdoor/environmental reporters, and to drive home the importance of coastal wetlands to the Great Lakes. The events were organized by the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council, the National Wildlife Federation, Ducks Unlimited, The Nature Conservancy, Michigan United Conservation Clubs, as well as local groups like the Watershed Center Grand Traverse Bay and the Lone Tree Council.

With expert assistance from Grand Valley State University's Dr. Don Uzarski – a well recognized coastal wetland expert in the Great Lakes – the reporters were able to greatly increase their knowledge about these unique ecosystems. As the Press Day on Saginaw Bay caravan pulled up to an expansive Saginaw Bay coastal marsh, Dr. Uzarski had participants rolling up pants, sliding on rubber boots, and strapping on waders – we were about to get wet! As birds flittered around and frogs darted out of hidden refuges, the reporters got a sense of the dynamic nature of Saginaw Bay's coastal marshes, and had the chance to pepper Dr. Uzarski with questions.



Reporters experience coastal wetlands first hand with expert, Dr. Don Uzarski on Saginaw Bay.

Lake Huron Update continued on page 13

Lake Ontario Basin Update



PROSPECT OF NUCLEAR POWER IN ONTARIO

By Krystyn Tully

On September 14, 2005, Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty announced that the province is considering investing “billions” in new nuclear plants. One month later, the McGuinty government announced a deal to refurbish reactors on Lake Huron. All fall, lobbyists, public interest groups, and editors have been filling the newspapers with their responses to the McGuinty energy plan.

Perhaps the most eloquent appeal to include the public in the decision-making came from Murray Campbell writing in the *Globe and Mail*. His call for meaningful public debate mirrors the position of many of Ontario’s leading environmental and community organizations, including: Citizens for Renewable Energy, Families Against Radiation Exposure, Greenpeace, Georgian Baykeeper, Sierra Club, Port Hope Community Health Concerns Committee, Port Hope Nuclear Environmental Watchdogs and Lake Ontario Waterkeeper.

Unfortunately, the nuclear industry’s long-standing aversion to public scrutiny appears to be shared by the mainstream media, federal regulators, and Ontario’s governing party.

The province’s governing party - clearly supports nuclear energy. To affirm its support, the Ontario Liberal Party (OLP) passed a resolution in November, 2004, recognizing that, “an appropriate supply mix” includes, “a viable nuclear component that utilizes installed and new capacity.” In his September 14, 2005, speech, Premier McGuinty reportedly told the audience that he’s willing to take a political hit for building nuclear plants even if they prove unpopular.

At the federal level, the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission repeatedly rejects pleas for increased public scrutiny. The independent regulator is currently overseeing two major nuclear expansion projects: the introduction of new enriched uranium fuel, and the reconstruction of reactors on Lake Huron.

With the exception of Murray Campbell, the mainstream media is also embracing McGuinty’s new nuclear plan. “Ontario needs more nuclear power plants,” wrote the *Globe and Mail*. The

paper’s main concern was whether the new plants would be owned by public or private interests.

Meanwhile, the *Toronto Star* also expressed staunch support for nuclear power, dismissing the idea of an informed decision-making process altogether: “Ontario is running short on time. We shouldn’t waste over-much of it debating the inevitable, controversial though nuclear power is. Rather, we should be discussing where new plants should be located.”



*Pickering Nuclear Generating Station on Lake Ontario.
Photo courtesy of Lake Ontario Waterkeeper.*

To hear the OLP, the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission, or the Canadian media, you’d think that we already have all the answers we need to go forward: Ontario’s obsolete energy program will be a thing of the past if only we build more nuclear plants.

Don’t be fooled by their exuberance: The push for a public hearing is not about being right or wrong, pro-nuclear or anti-nuclear. It’s about making the most informed decision possible.

As Murray Campbell says, “the province’s future hangs on it.”

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Lake Superior Basin Update



ST. LOUIS RIVER ESTUARY THREATENED BY MASSIVE DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL

By Bob Cragin

The St. Louis River estuary, 20,000+ acres, is located at the western-most tip of the Great Lakes with the mouth of the estuary being surrounded by the metropolitan areas of Superior, Wisconsin and Duluth, Minnesota. Clough Island, 370 acres of land and surrounding bays, is in the very heart of the estuary and had been in private ownership for over 100 years.

A Twin Cities-based development company has purchased Clough Island. The development company has a high intensity development concept for the Island with very questionable feasibility. The City of Superior administration has heavily promoted this development concept for which there has not been a detailed plan or a professional feasibility study to indicate that it would work.

The Friends of the Superior Municipal Forest-St. Louis/Pokegama Estuary is highly concerned about this high intensity development concept because of the potential for increased taxes for residents and destruction of Municipal Forest and estuary. The Friends are concerned that public lands will be lost to private interests, that there will be a precedent set for further road building and development in the Municipal Forest, that the community will see greater erosion and stormwater impacts, and that habitat will be destroyed for migrating birds and natural wildlife corridors.

The estuary's natural resources are presently utilized by the public and promoted for hunting, fishing, skiing, hiking, bird watching, skating and boating. The sport-angling fishery of the St. Louis River estuary draws several large tournaments and in 2003 provided 300,000 hours of angler pleasure.

As a result of the estuary being located at the western-most tip of Lake Superior and the Great Lakes, there is a unique funneling of an extraordinary number of migrating birds. The estuary is an international destination for birding enthusiasts. A total of 230 bird species have been documented in the estuary, 115 of which are known or are likely to breed there. Out of these, 21 species are included as part of the restoration or protection goals of five major national management plans. Of the breeding birds, 96% of the species are listed under the Migratory Bird Management Plan.

The strategic location of the St. Louis River estuary and Clough Island also results in high biological diversity. Clough Island is the largest ecologically significant island in the largest estuary of the largest Great Lake. There are 33 plant and animal species identified as federal or state endangered, threatened, and of special concern.



The view from the popular Thompson Hill Observatory highlights Clough Island as the centerpiece of the estuary.

GLAHNF support came at a key time to assist the Friends of the Superior Municipal Forest-St. Louis/Pokegama Estuary with a communication strategy. The Friends have been able to organize around public information and education, potential for permanent protection of the municipal forest, economic analysis and acquisition, and the environmental permitting process. Many wonderful, talented people have come forth to produce newspaper ads, a Powerpoint presentation, participate in TV and Radio interviews, guide boat and hiking tours of the area and conduct speaking engagements. The Friends have been able to work on several issues related to Clough Island aimed at increasing the public awareness of this very large resource and to draw attention to the magnitude of the threat against it.

The strategy also helped members of the Friends frame many of their concerns for the City Council meetings and public hearings. Although the Friends voiced opposition, the Council granted "Conditional approval upon receipt of a Plan" to a request by the current owners for rezoning of the Island from Rural to a Planned Development District. This reinforces the need for the Friends to continue their grassroots efforts.

For more information:

Bob Cragin

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Lake Michigan Basin Update



INDUSTRIAL RIVER CORRIDOR GETS A REFRESHER

By Joel Brammeier

Citizens on Chicago's southeast side are gearing up for restoration of a river corridor in the heart of one of the Midwest's most heavily industrialized zones.

Much of the six-mile long Calumet River has been channelized using steel sheetwall and poured concrete, a far cry from its days as a home to plentiful sturgeon and yellow perch in the 19th century. Industrial landowners use the riverbank for port operations, while its currents are governed by a combination of treated sewage flow and the natural water level of Lake Michigan.

By partnering with local business Carmeuse Lime and Beemsterboer Slag and Ballast, the Southeast Environmental Task Force (SETF) has opened a door to revitalization of landscapes near the rivers edge. These landowners control properties approximately two miles from Lake Michigan at a truck route crossing on either side of the Calumet River.

Building on a community visioning session under SETF's "Good Neighbor Dialogues" with industrial partners, a site cleanup held in Spring 2005 has set the stage for site restoration. SETF has now secured nearly \$20,000 in donated materials and services.

Besides reestablishing native plant species in developed areas and reducing stormwater contaminants entering drains and the Calumet River itself, this project is being used to promote conservation awareness among minority residents. Having translators present at community planning sessions has provided Spanish-speaking neighbors an opportunity to direct the use of preferred native species and learn about the value of restoring biodiversity. SETF used a combination of real-time translation and visual communications to ensure full community participation.

Given the volume of industrial property potentially available to serve as buffer for the Calumet River, a successful demonstration of partnerships for conservation between corporations, civic groups, neighbors, and chambers of commerce should promote duplication throughout the southeast side.

For more information, contact Aaron Rosinski of the Southeast Environmental Task Force at 773-646-0436. You can read more about the Task Force's work on the Calumet River corridor at www.southeastenvironmental.org

MUSKEGON, MI

COMMUNITIES UNITE FOR A COMMON CAUSE

By Stephanie Smith

Cynthia Price has seen a lot of garbage strewn along Lake Michigan shores during her 15 years as volunteer beach cleanup site coordinator at Pere Marquette Park in Muskegon, MI, as part of the annual September Adopt-a-Beach event coordinated by the Alliance for the Great Lakes.



Calvin College students spend their Saturday cleaning up the beach near Muskegon, MI

"Thanks to thousands of volunteers like Cynthia, this program is truly making a difference," says Stephanie Smith, education program manager with the Alliance.

For 15 years, the Alliance has brought together a diversity of interests united for a common cause: to clean up our magnificent coasts in Illinois and Michigan and contribute to a similar world-wide effort coordinated by the Ocean Conservancy. This year, a record 3,900 volunteers collected more than 16,300 pounds of food wrappers, bottles, balloons, car parts, and other types of coastal debris.

To adopt a beach in your community, go to www.greatlakes.org, or email adoptbeach@greatlakes.org.

LAKE MICHIGAN GROUPS FORGE RESTORATION ALLIANCES

By Jamie Morton



Connie Clay of Save the Dunes Council- Indiana and Judy Johnston of League of Women Voters-Illinois talk Great Lakes at the Summit

Along a remote stretch of shoreline in Benzie County, MI, members of the Partner Network, an alliance of grassroots and regional groups, gathered in September to build partnerships for Great Lakes restoration.

Hosted by the Alliance for the Great Lakes, with support from the Joyce Foundation and Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation, more than 30 individuals participated in Summit 2005 at the historic Inn at Watervale on Lower Herring Lake.

The summit kicked off with updates on important Great Lakes policy initiatives, including: Great Lakes Restoration, Great Lakes Water Use Policies, and the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement.

The groups also explored existing partnerships within the region that are resulting in real, on-the-ground restoration. By the close of the summit, each group had created plans for a restoration project within their respective communities, and some also developed blueprints to pursue other restoration partnerships.

Updates Continued



COMMUNICATING FOR TODAY AND TOMORROW

Cover story continued from page 1

among the public. But our research in the Great Lakes states and elsewhere suggests that education of facts about the environment does not guarantee appreciation. For example, in one study we investigated what information, feelings, and associations among the public nationally most closely predicted a person being committed to protecting the oceans. We found the residents most committed to ocean protection were not those who had the most knowledge about the oceans, but rather those who had an emotional connection to the oceans from events in their lives, such as going the beach in childhood.

- Find the values that will be more salient than facts. For example, the facts of water diversion in the Great Lakes and shrinking water levels are

not immediate concerns. Therefore, asserting that something remote to people's lives is an urgent problem does not increase saliency, or even educate, because it will fail to command attention when residents compare it to getting adequate health care, good schools, a job with decent pay, or safe neighborhoods. When environmentalists talk about the lowest levels in 50 years, residents either think you are exaggerating, or surmise it is a cyclical thing.

- Repeat your same message of values with information. As you comment on the issues of the moment that are newsworthy – in the case of the Great Lakes, pollution and zebra mussels – include a consistent values message, followed by a piece of information that will lead to greater appreciation. For example, the sense of pride and responsibility that residents feel

about the Lakes is heightened when residents gain a sense of the Great Lakes as an ecosystem – a place that is a national treasure and an essential system for life in the region – rather than simply bodies of water. A message that describes the lakes as this large system for life will build greater appreciation over time.

Environmental communicators can achieve both goals of energizing the believers and creating more believers over time if they see both goals clearly and strategically, and they never stop listening to what their neighbors are saying is important in their lives.

Special thanks to the Biodiversity Project for sharing John's work. John Russonello is a partner in the public opinion research firm, Belden, Russonello & Stewart, and has played the leading roll in the Biodiversity Project's research projects on fresh water issues and biodiversity.

LOOPHOLES IN ONTARIO WETLANDS PROTECTION

continued from page 8

justify need. Taking such an ecologically sensible approach might require that individual development activities demonstrate their own 'significance' and societal need to merit intrusion on a natural heritage system."

The PPS, as a set of minimum standards for municipalities to follow, does not prevent municipalities from exceeding its specific requirements unless doing so would result in conflict with other components of the PPS. Brave, environmentally progressive municipal councils in Ontario should be encouraged to challenge the wetlands "protection" provisions of the PPS next time a proposal to destroy a wetland comes knocking.

For more information:

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LAKE HURON BASIN UPDATE U.S. SIDE *continued from page 9*

INVASIVE SPECIES

REP. MILLER HOLDS "FIRST OF ITS KIND" HEARING ON INVASIVE SPECIES

Congresswoman Candice Miller, chairperson of the House Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs, recently held a "first of its kind" congressional hearing at Anchor Bay High School in Ira Township, Michigan on the issue of aquatic invasive species in the Great Lakes. The hearing focused on the introduction of invasive species like the zebra mussel into the Great Lakes by way of discharges from the ballast water of ships.

"It's downright scary to think that there are at least 180 invasive species prowling on our precious Great Lakes water," Representative Miller said. "We need federal agencies to tackle this problem in a more aggressive way."

Local residents, as well as officials from the State of Michigan and federal agencies gave testimony at the hearing. Many of those who testified expressed frustration at the snail-like pace with which the Coast Guard has proceeded in addressing the ballast

water problem. Current regulations exempt ships that declare No Ballast on Board (NOBOB) from requiring inspection, even though it has been documented that NOBOB ships can harbor live organisms. Michigan Attorney General Mike Cox argued that the EPA should be the lead agency and not the Coast Guard – an argument backed up by a recent 9th Circuit Court of Appeals ruling that said ballast water discharges should be regulated by EPA under the Clean Water Act.

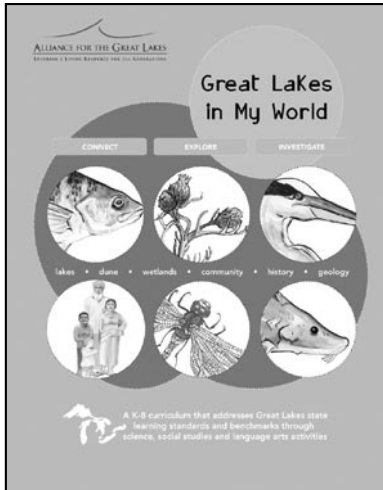
It's promising to see Representative Miller, an avid boater, bringing her colleagues from around the U.S. to the Lake Huron basin to discuss such a critical issue for the Great Lakes. Hopefully that spotlight will help generate some badly needed momentum to close the NOBOB loophole and pass the National Aquatic Invasive Species Act.

*For more information, visit:
<http://candicemiller.house.gov/>
or <http://www.georgianbay.ca/index.html>*

Resources



Great Lakes Educational Curriculum Available Now



Great Lakes in My World

For three years the Alliance for the Great Lakes has collaborated with educators throughout the region to develop Great Lakes in My World, a resource that is now available to teachers, nature centers, museums and families. This kindergarten through eighth grade educational kit contains:

a 480-page book with 80 hands-on/minds-on activities (indoor and outdoor) for students that address state learning standards and benchmarks for Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and Wisconsin, a set of 60 illustrated and informative Great Lakes Creature Cards and a compact disc with supplemental materials. The kit is available for \$40.00 plus shipping. To order a copy, email education@great-lakes.org or contact the Alliance at 312-939-0838x5.

Great Lakes Invasive Species Posters

Designed for young audiences, this new poster set presents key facts about some of the most harmful aquatic invasive species in the Great Lakes. Colorful illustrations, photos and lively text help kids understand why each species is a problem and what can be done. The species featured are: round goby, Eurasian ruffe, spiny and fish-hook water fleas, sea lamprey, purple loosestrife, Eurasian watermilfoil, and zebra mussels. Seven small posters describe individual species. An eighth larger poster combines the illustrations from the other posters with general information about aquatic invasive species. The Invasive Species Posters are one of many products available from Minnesota Sea Grant. For more information please visit: <http://www.seagrant.umn.edu/pubs/>

GLAHNF's Great Lakes Connecting Communities Communications Toolbox Now Available Online

This free resource gives non-profit, grassroots organizations the tools they need to effectively deliver their message. Specific applications include sample press releases, print and radio ads, and a primer on conducting high-impact media campaigns. The toolbox also contains public opinion research to ensure that advocacy on behalf of Great Lakes ecosystems is tailored to the right target audience. Toolbox may be found at glhabitat.org/toolbox.html.

CompassPoint's Board Caf 

Board Caf  is the electronic newsletter exclusively for members of nonprofit boards of directors. Short enough to read over a cup of coffee, Board Caf  offers a menu of ideas, information, opinion, news, and resources to help bring you a cornucopia of "Little Ideas," as well as one "Big Idea" you can use in your board work.

SAVE A TREE

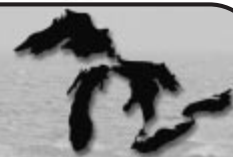


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Please email Emily at emily@watershedcouncil.org if you have any changes to your contact information.

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.

Notes of Interest



MARK YOUR CALENDAR



Great Lakes Regional Collaboration December 12, 2005, Summit II Chicago, IL, The final Great Lakes Restoration and Protection Strategy will be released.

Coastal Allies Network (CAN) Brown Bag Lunch Series Wednesday, Jan. 25, 12-1 p.m. Chicago.

Focus: Great Lakes Issues 101. Learn about local, regional and national policies that need your attention – now! Join us, for this informative session on how you can help protect your Great Lakes! Location to be announced. For more information or to RSVP, email coastalallies@greatlakes.org.

Wisconsin Wetlands Association February 2-3, 2006, Wisconsin Wetlands Association 11th Annual Wetland Science Forum: Wisconsin Wetlands: Biodiversity and Threats: Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center, Madison: more information, 608.250.9971 or programs@wiscwetlands.org

Invasive Plants Association of Wisconsin Annual Conference February 4, 2006, Invasive Plants of Wetlands, Madison, WI: more information, email info@ipaw.org

Adopt-a-Beach Party Thursday, Feb. 23, 7 p.m., Come to Chicago's Heartland Café- 7000 N. Glenwood, as our year-round and September cleanup event beach adopters gather for a night of memories, laughs and awards as we gear up for the 2006 season. Interested and seasoned adopters of all ages are welcome! Feel free to invite your friends! For more information or to RSVP, email coastalallies@greatlakes.org.

2006 Annual Ontario Nature General Meeting and Conference: Greenways & Waterways – June 2-4, 2006.

Join us in Kitchener for exciting field trips, informative programs and innovative ideas. Ontario Nature - Federation of Ontario Naturalists and our hosts the Kitchener-Waterloo Field Naturalists invite you to our 75th Annual General Meeting and Conference. More information is available at <http://cobalt.golden.net/~kwfnconference>. The conference website will be updated throughout the year. Registration will begin in the spring of 2006. We can't wait to see you there! For more information, please contact Jennifer Baker: jenniferb@ontarionature.org.

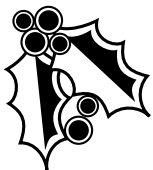
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Save Lake Superior Association
Tinkers Creek Land Conservancy, Inc.

GIVE THE PERFECT GIFT!



Looking for the perfect gift for everyone on your list this holiday season?



Give the gift that will keep on giving for generations to come – the protection of the rivers, lakes and wetlands in the Great Lakes Basin.

By making a gift donation to GLAHNF in someone's name, you assist local grassroots groups in engaging the public on local water issues. Your gift of healthy rivers, lakes and wetlands will outlast the eggnog and fruitcake this holiday season and will be a gift everyone can enjoy year-round.

To make a donation, please provide the name and address of your gift recipient and indicate "gift" after his/her name on the enclosed envelope. You may also make a gift donation by calling 231.347.1181 ext. 107. Your gift will be announced to your recipient with a beautiful card depicting an image of the water his/her gift will protect.



**Thank you and happy holidays
from all of us at GLAHNF!**

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