



G.L.A.H. News

Great Lakes Aquatic Habitat

FALL 2003

VOLUME 11 ISSUE 4 (OCTOBER)

IN THIS ISSUE:

Heritage Coast Eyed for Gravel 1

Project Profile 4

Hub Profile 5

Northerly Island Going Public (IL) 6

Jeorse Park Clean-Up (IN) 7

Beach Closings (NY) 8

Important Bird Area Status for Purple Martins (PA) 9

Women's Water Walk 2003 10

Water Use Issues (OH) 11

New Wisconsin Wetlands Association Director (WI) 12

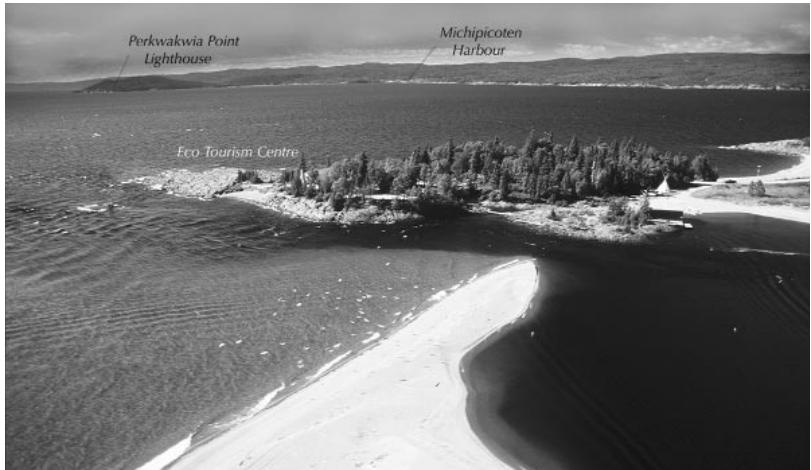
Coalition Defends the North Shore (MN) 14

Mark Your Calendar 15



CANADA'S LAKE SUPERIOR HERITAGE COAST EYED FOR GRAVEL EXTRACTION

By: MARY JO CULLEN



Michipicoten River, Credit: Daniel Klassen

Michipicoten Bay, just west of the town of Wawa, Canada lies in the midst of the longest virtually undeveloped stretch of Lake Superior. To the north for 200 kilometres lies a roadless wilderness culminating in Pukaskwa National Park, jewel of Lake Superior. To the south for 100 kilometres lies Canada's Lake Superior Provincial Park, whose mountainous headlands, sandy coves and dramatic rivers, leave travelers along adjacent Highway 17 awestruck.

The Bay itself is incredibly beautiful. Seven sand beaches ring the Bay like pearls on a necklace. And the centerpiece of this 'tableau' is the mouth of the Michipicoten River, a totally enchanting place of sand spits, dunes, beaches and fast water.

An eco-tourism operation established at the rivermouth ten years ago has been

growing rapidly. This operation is in line with the expectations of the Ontario government who have 'designated' this area as the Great Lakes Heritage Coast (GLHC), both to preserve it and to establish a world-class eco-tourism industry that would help sustain local communities and provide an alternative to the traditional boom and bust cycles of the northern resource extraction economy.

In its designation of the GLHC the Ontario government requested that communities encourage private land development on their shorelines that harmonizes with the GLHC vision for the Coast – a vision in which eco-tourism lodges and First Nation Interpretive Centres would be more welcoming to tourists and would leave a smaller footprint than pulp mills and mining operations.

continued on page 2

CANADA'S LAKE SUPERIOR HERITAGE COAST EYED FOR GRAVEL EXTRACTION



DIRECTOR'S NOTES



LEADING THE WAY

BY JILL RYAN

Last week I had the good fortune of attending an Institute for Conservation Leadership event called "Leadership Learning Exchange." The event was such an outstanding opportunity to share and learn from experienced conservation leaders that I have been thinking a great deal about my personal idea of leadership.

Webster's defines leadership simply as "the act of leading," and an Internet-based book seller offers over 10,000 titles on leadership, while there seem to be a virtually unlimited set of personal definitions. However, in my position with GLAHNF, I realize that the citizens and groups we communicate with regularly provide the best definition of leadership for me.

The citizen leaders that take on their local aquatic habitat protection and preservation battles around the Basin have many of the following leadership characteristics in common, all of which I greatly admire: 1) ability to see and understand a problem (i.e. a wetland being filled), 2) capacity to communicate the problem and its likely results to others (loss of habitat, flood control and filtering capabilities), 3) vision for remedying the problem (alternatives to filling such as avoiding the wetland area), 4) passion for the solution (saving a wetland and its values for the community), and 5) talent for turning the passion into inspiration in order to have others assist in securing a solution (signing on members or supporters to provide volunteer support, financial support, expertise, etc.).

All of you that have tackled local problems in your community are true leaders in my eyes, and my hat is off to you for all you do.

Thanks!

Jill M. Ryan

To facilitate this 'new economy', the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources has led the way by investing millions of dollars in infrastructure, partnerships, and promotion of the area.

Despite this vision, a U.S. company has purchased 1,000 acres in Michipicoten Bay, and has been given the green light by the Township of Michipicoten to establish an aggregate processing operation. The property includes 2.5 kilometres of Lake Superior Shoreline. The property would be clearcut, stripped of soil, and then the ancient bedrock would be drilled, blasted, crushed into gravel, and shipped to Michigan by freighter for road building. The owners estimate the lifetime of the operation at 50 years.

Rock of the Michipicoten area is likely to contain both sulphides and arsenic. Arsenic has contaminated First Nation wells, less than a kilometre from the proposed site, and past mining operations inland near the town of Wawa have left a legacy of arsenic contaminated soils.

If the rock in the project area of Michipicoten Bay does contain sulphides, there is a high level of risk of a phenomenon known as acid rock drainage. Sulphides, exposed to air and water create sulphuric acid, which in this case could end up in Lake Superior. A scenario that could be disastrous for the lake trout that spawn off the property dock, for the white fish that spawn a short distance away, and for the sturgeon - one of only 9 self-sustaining populations on

Lake Superior - that feed on the bottom of near-shore waters in Michipicoten River and Bay.

Dust from the operation is a concern for local residents; as is the possibility of pollution from the many thousands of freighters that will load aggregate at the site over the expected 50-year lifetime of the operation, and of the potential proliferation of exotic species that could be transported in ship ballasts. In addition, a caribou 'corridor' established along the shores of the Bay would be blocked by the operation, which will blast within 50 meters of the waterline.

The proposed operation appears incompatible with the needs of the growing eco-tourism operation at the mouth of the Michipicoten River, and with the desires of tourists who would come for clean air and water, for silence, and for the ageless, primitive call of an intact boreal landscape.

Seeking to raise awareness of this threat to the Superior North Shore, widely perceived as a planetary treasure, the U.S. environmental group Lighthawk has just completed a unique airplane flight along the coastline. Arranged by the National Wildlife Federation in the United States, Lighthawk took a member of the media and a representative from the office of the Governor of Michigan to see first hand what would be at stake in the Michipicoten Bay undertaking.

CANADA'S LAKE SUPERIOR HERITAGE COAST EYED FOR GRAVEL EXTRACTION



A caribou "corridor", currently established along the shores of the Bay, would be blocked by the aggregate processing operation." Credit: Daniel Klassen

"Most Michiganders would not want their roads built by destroying part of the longest, wildest stretch of natural Lake Superior shoreline," says Michelle Halley of the National Wildlife Federation in the U.S., organizer of the Lighthawk event. "Governor Granholm will be aware of this. We're hoping that her office will place conditions on where the materials used in Michigan road-building are sourced."

"To our minds this coastline is a national, if not a planetary, treasure," said Mary Jo Cullen of Citizens Concerned for Michipicoten Bay, a local grassroots group concerned about the potential environmental effects and destruction to the lakeshore from the proposed quarry. "It is within a day's drive of populations in Southern Ontario and the U.S. mid-west. It must be protected for people on both sides of the border, and for future generations."

Citizens Concerned for Michipicoten Bay and other critics of the quarry have petitioned the Ministry of the Environment for an environmental assessment of the project. The Ontario government is presently considering this request. The grassroots group has also raised the issue of inadequate zoning for a quarry project on this property, with the result that the project is on hold until the municipality makes a decision on a rezoning proposal by the proponent.

**For further information please contact:
Mary Jo Cullen (705) 366-9393 or
(416) 922-0151**

GLAHNews:

Great Lakes Aquatic Habitat News is published five times a year and distributed by the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council, a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization. Funding for the publication is provided by readers' subscriptions, contributions, and a grant from the C.S. Mott Foundation.

Director: Jill Ryan
Program Assistant: Alicia Edwards

Address correspondence to
Great Lakes Aquatic Habitat News,
c/o
Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council,
426 Bay Street, Petoskey, MI 49770

Phone:
(231) 347-1181

Fax:
(231) 347-5928

Jill's extension: 106
e-mail: jill@watershedcouncil.org

Alicia's extension: 107
e-mail: Alicia@watersehdouncil.org

Visit us on the web at:
www.glahabitat.org, and
www.GreatLakesDirectory.org

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 Project Profile



URBAN LAND PROTECTION FOR ONE OF OHIO'S MOST POPULATED AREAS

BY: GREG KUTSKO

About West Creek Preservation Committee

The West Creek Preservation Committee is a community based, non-profit environmental group serving the neighborhoods of the West Creek Watershed. Our mission is to conserve, protect, and enhance the natural, historical, and recreational resources of the West Creek Watershed through the creation of a nature preserve, greenway, and recreation trail network, providing an enhanced quality of life for present and future generations.

Who We Are:

Greg Kutsko; Watershed Coordinator,
West Creek Preservation Committee
PO Box 347113, Parma, OH 44134
P: (216) 749-3720 F: (216) 749-3730
E-mail: gkutsko@westcreek.org
<http://www.westcreek.org>

A watershed project is continuing to gain momentum and success on the south side of the greater Cleveland, Ohio area. The West Creek Preservation Committee, a community-based non-profit environmental group, has been spearheading an initiative for urban land protection in the neighborhoods of one of Ohio's most populated areas, located in the West Creek Watershed.

Framed by neighborhoods, the West Creek Watershed is 14 sq. miles with a population of approximately 37,000 people. West Creek travels through the West Creek Preserve and then through the communities of Parma, Seven Hills, Brooklyn Heights, and Independence, in a journey resplendent with scenes of steep shale cliffs, and scenic woodland vistas. At its mouth the waters of West Creek are joined with the waters of the Cuyahoga River.

The goal of the West Creek Preservation Committee is to protect the entire run of West Creek, creating a vibrant greenway system that would link the surrounding communities with the Cuyahoga Valley National Park and the Ohio and Erie Canal Towpath System. The group has worked to accomplish this goal in a variety of ways.

In 1998 and 2000, the voters of Parma passed a measure to provide funding for the purchase of approximately 160 acres of woodland with the intention of conserving this area as a part of the West Creek Preserve. The Preserve will anchor a network of Greenways, which will link it to other regional parks such as the Cuyahoga Valley National Park and the

Cleveland Metroparks' Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation, as well as neighborhoods, schools, and business districts.

Today, the West Creek Greenway System consists of 263 acres, but the vision of the West Creek Preserve and Greenway has evolved to include up to 500 acres of riparian corridor, wetlands, and upland forest as a new nature preserve and passive recreation area in the heart of a densely developed and populated community. Funding has been secured to acquire an additional 128 acres, and negotiations are currently in progress for these acquisitions.

The West Creek Preserve has much to offer as a place to appreciate the beauty and mystery of nature, as well as a place to exercise the body and the mind. Educational opportunities abound in the Preserve. Dr. George Wilder of Cleveland State University identifies and inventories plant species – some rare to this area, as he conducts an on going flora and fauna study in the West Creek Preserve. In the spring of 2002 Professor Terry Greathouse of Cuyahoga Community College Western Campus enlisted his students to plan for and implement the restoration of a wetlands in the Preserve entrance area to serve as a working example of natural water purification.

Even in it's infancy, the West Creek Preserve has become the focus of a number of environmentally diverse projects carried out by both groups and individuals. As such, the West Creek Preserve enjoys a variety of support from the community.



The West Creek Valley, Credit: David Vasarhely



THE OHIO ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL: EMPOWERING CITIZENS TO PROTECT OHIO'S ENVIRONMENT

By: MOLLY FLANAGAN

IN EACH ISSUE OF THE NEWSLETTER, GLAHNF PROFILES ONE OF ITS HUB COORDINATORS OR ADVISORY PANEL MEMBERS. IN THIS ISSUE, WE'RE PLEASED TO TELL YOU ABOUT MOLLY FLANAGAN AND THE OHIO ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL. MOLLY HAS SERVED AS A GLAHNF HUB COORDINATOR SINCE JANUARY 2003.

As Water Program Associate for the Ohio Environmental Council (OEC) and GLAHNF's Ohio Hub, Molly Flanagan has been able to fulfill a dream of working to protect and improve Ohio's environment. Molly began her work as an environmental advocate at the tender age of four when she used to chastise her friends for throwing their gum on the ground, calling them litter-bugs. Her environmental ethic blossomed throughout grade school and high school and eventually landed her at Denison University where she pursued a degree in environmental studies. Molly explains, "The natural world has always been awe inspiring to me. I knew from an early age that I wanted to work to protect it for future generations. I feel honored to have a job I love that allows me to do the work that I always dreamed of doing. I believe that every single person can make a difference and that is what I aim to do every day; to make a difference for Ohio's lakes, streams, and groundwater, and the people and wildlife that depend on them."

Molly has been with the OEC since June of 2002 and has realized how important it is to be able to work with a variety of stakeholders on environmental issues throughout the state and in the Lake Erie basin in particular. "Working at the OEC allows me to be a strong advocate while partnering with diverse interests in Ohio—sports and recreation enthusiasts, families, local environmentalists, family farm advocates, local and state government, and local, state, regional, and national environmental groups—to improve water quality policy for all Ohioans. It's so important to have a strong environmental voice for the conservation of Ohio's environment and the conservation of our natural resources."

Molly's work in the OEC's water program is focused primarily on issues affecting Lake Erie. In September 2002, Molly helped to organize and launch the Northeast Ohio Watershed (NEOW) Council with a two-pronged mission to provide networking and mentoring opportunities for watershed groups in Northeast Ohio and to provide a forum for advocacy positions to be taken on local, regional and state water quality issues.

Additionally, Molly is actively involved in the OEC's fish consumption advisory program that aims to educate the public about potential risks from eating contaminated fish

and to empower them to make educated decisions regarding their health and the health of their families. Molly has helped the OEC take the lead role in the State of Ohio on creating an enforceable water management system for the protection of Ohio's water supplies from overuse, exploitation, and diversions from the non-binding principles established in the Great Lakes Charter Annex— a regional Great Lakes campaign.

Molly was delighted to become GLAHNF's Ohio Hub because she realized the close relationship between GLAHNF's mission and the OEC's own mission, which is to inform, unite, and empower citizens to take action to protect and restore Ohio's wetlands, streams, rivers, and lakes. She continues to be impressed by the critical support that GLAHNF provides to grassroots groups throughout the Great Lakes Basin.

As the Ohio Hub, Molly hopes to be able to bring value to the network by sharing the many experiences that the OEC has had with Ohio's watershed groups. The OEC's Clean Water Program provides conferences and one-to-one assistance to local groups on organizational development, technical, regulatory, and political issues. In her ongoing involvement with these groups, Molly sees the challenges they face in dealing with the media, in building their memberships, in mounting successful campaigns, and in choosing winning strategies. She believes that GLAHNF can help Lake Erie groups to meet and overcome these challenges, so that they are even better prepared to fight for the lakes, streams, and wetlands they love.

Molly is excited about her role as the Ohio Hub for GLAHNF. Molly recalls, "It was a pleasure to attend my first GLAHNF Hub meeting in January 2003. I was really impressed by the commitment of other attendees to protect and restore the ecological integrity of the Great Lakes Basin. It was obvious to me from the very beginning that GLAHNF has the expertise and commitment to be a positive, effective force in the Great Lakes environmental community." For more information about the Ohio Environmental Council, please visit www.theoec.org or contact Molly Flanagan at molly@theoec.org or (614) 487-7506.



NORTHERLY ISLAND IS GOING PUBLIC

By: JOEL BRAMMEIER



The city of Chicago is preparing to open Northerly Island, formerly Meigs Field airport, to the public for the first time in more than 60 years, and the Lake Michigan Federation's volunteer-driven natural area plan will help guide usage of the urban site. "We are interested in the Federation leading [the Northerly Island] broad-based planning and outreach efforts in cooperation with the Chicago Park District," said Mary Ann Smith, Chicago 48th ward alderman and chair of the city's Committee on Parks and Recreation.

The Federation first presented its recommendations for the conversion of Meigs Field into a nature preserve to the Chicago Park District in 2001. Now, with the permanent closure of the airport, Chicago citizens are anticipating a natural open space on the shores of the largest city in the Great Lakes Basin.

"What's good for fish and wildlife is good for people," says Joel Brammeier, Federation habitat coordinator. "With the right plan and assistance from local and regional stakeholders, this site will offer an experience found nowhere else in the Great Lakes."

The Federation's plan for the peninsula will introduce ecosystems familiar to the lakefront that existed before Chicago was settled, including small protected harbors, dunes, and woodlands. The plan builds on the 1909 Plan of Chicago, which called for the Lake Michigan shore to be "a haven - an urban sanctuary - for people and nature."

"Chicago can show the world that nature can thrive in a world-class city" says Gary Wilson, chair of the Lakefront Task Force, the Federation volunteer group that has worked more than two years to develop and support the Federation's plan. "We're building on Mayor Daley's 1996 plan to establish Chicago's prominence as the leading waterfront nature city on the globe."

With the Mayor's signing of the Urban Conservation Treaty for Migratory Birds and the Chicago Park District's endorsement of the 1999 Chicago Wilderness Biodiversity Recovery Plan, the city has become more focused on its need to protect and enhance our natural environment. The Federation plan offers some important new innovations that address these needs by calling for an outdoor nature museum, with a shoreline prairie and wetland habitat that attracts fish, birds, and other wildlife to spawn, nest, and forage, but requires little maintenance. The plan also will make the point a key stopover along the international migratory bird flyway that runs through the Chicago region.



An architect's rendering of the Northerly Island plan
Credit: Edward Heinen

The city intends to "green" Northerly Island by the end of 2003. This simply entails removal of the airport tarmac and demolition of several small buildings. Once the site passes inspection for any remaining contamination, it will be planted with a mix of grasses and native plants to facilitate public access to the site. By next spring, the planning process should be in full swing with the Federation working with other local community groups to move towards a naturalized landscape on Northerly Island.

UNDER SCRUTINY

Evanston Marina Study Under Scrutiny

Several months ago, the city of Evanston requested and received federal authorization of \$100,000 for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to conduct a reconnaissance study on marina development in Evanston near South Boulevard beach. The study should be completed by the fall, and will include an assessment of boater needs as well as community reactions to the proposed project.

Spurred by the city's moves, a group of Evanston residents has formed a new organization called Citizens for Lakefront Preservation. With high numbers of boaters up and down the Illinois lakefront looking for slips, the group fully expects to see pressure to expand marina services. However, it is clear from initial meetings organized by community members that many residents near the lakefront have misgivings about this project moving forward. Residents cited increased pollution, massive lakefill, erosion problems, and a glut of vehicular traffic as problems likely to be associated with marina construction. While no firm project proposals have been circulated, Citizens for Lakefront Preservation is continuing to watchdog the process and solicit input on the issue from other Evanston residents.



JEORSE PARK BEACH CLEAN-UP

By: SANDRA L. WILMORE

Jeorse Park Beach in East Chicago was closed to the public for almost 10 years. The reasons cited varied from general neglect by those responsible for the beach to unacceptably high E. coli counts, inability to staff lifeguards, and large amounts of rubble and construction debris rendering the area unsafe. There was a permanent sign posted “Beach Closed: No Swimming”. In a recent Gary Post-Tribune article, Jeorse Park was labeled “Northwest Indiana’s Worst Beach”. Now, with recent interest and activism, the beach is again open.

Dozens of workers from the East Chicago Park Department, under the direction of Superintendent Joe Valdez, worked from dawn to dusk with heavy construction equipment removing large rocks and debris from the beach and swimming waters. Their efforts have turned a cluttered, debris-ridden landscape into a clean sandy beach. Already, there are four wooden swings on the beach that have been popular with community senior citizens and romancing couples. Top-of-the-line volleyball nets have also been set up in preparation for an upcoming tournament that has received fifteen team entries. On its opening weekend, August 9, more people flocked to the beach than to the city’s public pools. Needless to say, this is amazing for a beach that has been closed for 10 years. No longer do East Chicago

residents need to travel to Whiting or Gary to recreate at a Lake Michigan beach. They have their own.

Save the Dunes Conservation Fund (SDCF) is working with the East Chicago Parks Department to provide a native plant installation at the beach. Over time, these plants will stabilize the sand, reduce maintenance costs, and conserve and exhibit the natural dune environment native to Northwest Indiana.

According to Greg Smith of SDCF, “The proposed native landscaping could provide a whole community of residents with a first-hand example of the natural dune landscape right in their own backyards. Not only will this once-neglected beach be open for recreation, but it has great potential for being a valuable educational tool.”

So far the cooperation between SDCF and East Chicago has been encouraging. Lines of communication have also been clarified between East Chicago’s Health Department, which monitors the waters at the beach, and the Parks Department, which owns and maintains the beach. This coordination is critical to providing Jeorse Park beachgoers with prompt and accurate health risk information about swimming in the water.

There is no doubt that if these efforts and cooperation continue, Jeorse Park Beach, despite its past reputation, could become one of Northwest Indiana’s best beaches.

SHOOTER DITCH SEDIMENT PROJECT

The Shooter Ditch sub-watershed, constituting roughly 450 acres of drainage, is the primary source of sediment loading into Coffee Creek in Indiana’s Lake Michigan Basin. Shooter Ditch cuts through what was historically a large wetland complex and drains agricultural and residential land. On a per acre basis, despite being the smallest of Coffee Creek’s four sub-watersheds, Shooter Ditch contributes the largest amount of sediment.

Accordingly, the Coffee Creek Watershed Conservancy (CCWC) identified the Shooter Ditch subwatershed as a priority for restoration efforts and nonpoint source pollution reduction. In a unique cooperative effort among diverse stakeholders, the CCWC is now moving forward with a project to restore between 10 and 25 acres of wetlands along the legal drainage ditch.

The Shooter Ditch restoration site is upstream of the 167-acre Coffee Creek Watershed Preserve, which includes recently restored stream, prairie, and wetland communities. The Coffee Creek

Watershed Preserve is under private ownership, and the ditch itself is managed under the authority of the Porter County Drainage Board. The CCWC is working with the private landowners to establish easements for restoring and managing the wetland. Porter County Suveyor Kevin Breitzke, who attended the USEPA Watershed Academy course in Michigan, is supportive of the project (provided that drainage is not impaired). His support is critical, and along with that of the Porter County Drainage Board represents major progress for Indiana, where typical drainage ditch maintenance involves short-term fixes such as dredging and vegetation clearing.

The Shooter Ditch Sediment Project, funded in part by a grant from the Great Lakes Commission, demonstrates how open communication and cooperation can result in substantial on-the-ground improvements to our natural environment. The restored wetland is expected to reduce the sediment load to Coffee Creek by 92 - 412 tons/year.



STUDY PROVIDES INFORMATION ON NEW YORK BEACH CLOSINGS

BY KAREN DE VITO

This past July, the Natural Resource Defense Council (NRDC) published the thirteenth edition of their vacation beaches water quality guide. The report, *Testing the Waters 2003: A Comprehensive Guide to Water Quality at Vacation Beaches*, is the result of a NRDC study that examines beach closings, beach water monitoring, and public-notification programs in coastal and Great Lakes states. Although the report finds that America's waters are generally cleaner now than they were 25 years ago, the report states that none of New York's 577 Great Lakes shoreline miles fully support designated uses. Nonpoint source pollution is the number one cause of water quality degradation, which accounted for 92 percent of quality-impaired Great Lakes shoreline.

According to the New York State section of the report, New York does not require counties to monitor swimming beaches. Instead, the state's county health departments are responsible for making sanitary surveys of all beaches. Under current law, water quality standards for bathing beaches are based on fecal and total coliform. The EPA however, recommends using a bacterial standard based on E. coli for freshwater bodies.

Out of the nine counties that border Lake Erie and Lake Ontario in New York, only four routinely monitor beach water. Of those four, Chautauqua, Niagara, and Monroe Counties monitor their beaches at least once a week.

In terms of issuing advisories or closing beaches, there are five counties, plus New York City, that issue advisories or close beaches based on rainfall amounts. Erie County health departments issue advisories after significant rainfall events and Monroe County has a preemptive closure policy for several bathing beaches. Cayuga County regularly monitors 92 percent of its beaches less than once a week, Orleans and Oswego Counties only monitor several times per season, and Wayne County does not monitor their beaches.

The chart below compares beach closings and advisories for counties along New York's Great Lakes shoreline over the past three years. Out of the 143 days in 2002 that beach closings occurred, thirty-two percent were due to monitoring that revealed elevated bacteria levels. Elevated bacteria levels were due largely to wildlife sources (54 percent), with just seven percent resulting from a sewage leak or spill.

**Great Lakes Basin Beach Closing and Advisories by County:
Year-to-Year Comparison**

COUNTY	2002		2001		2000	
	TOTAL DAYS	EXTENDED/ PERMANENT CLOSINGS	TOTAL DAYS	EXTENDED/ PERMANENT CLOSINGS	TOTAL DAYS	EXTENDED/ PERMANENT CLOSINGS
Cayuga	16	0	33	0	54	0
Chautauqua	0	0	0	0	34	0
Erie*	70	0	9	0	97	0
Monroe*	10	0	?	?	35	0
Niagara	9	0	27	0	12	0
Oswego	19	0	0	0	0	0
Seneca	0	0	1	0	NA	NA
Tompkins	0	0	7	0	NA	NA
Wayne	19	0	0	0	14	0

*Source: NRDC Report: *Testing the Waters 2003: A Guide to Water Quality at Vacation Beaches*

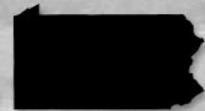
For a complete listing of New York beaches that had a closing/advisory in 2002, visit www.nrdc.org/waters/oceans. If you are interested in obtaining a copy of the report contact Karen De Vito at 518-462-5526 ext. 235 or kdevito@eany.org.

continued on page 13



Pennsylvania Update

LAKE ERIE-ALLEGHENY EARTH FORCE; SERVING AS HUB COORDINATOR IS ANNETTE MASHALL, OSB
6270 E. LAKE ROAD ERIE • PA 16511
(814) 899-2572 • (814) 899-0253 (FAX)
ANNETTEMARSHALL@ADELPHIA.NET • WWW.EARTHFORCE.ORG



Annette Marshall

PRESQUE ISLE BAY RECEIVES IMPORTANT BIRD AREA STATUS FOR PURPLE MARTIN ROOST

BY: SUSAN A. SMITH AND JAMES R. HILL, III, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
PURPLE MARTIN CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

Researchers at the Purple Martin Conservation Association (PMCA) have been studying a spectacular Purple Martin roost in Presque Isle Bay for ten years. The roost is located just outside the boundaries of Presque Isle State Park, on a pair of isolated cattail islands, tucked in the western end of Presque Isle Bay, near the port of Lake Erie. The PMCA estimates that from early July through early September upwards of 100,000 Purple Martins congregate nightly at this site.

These cattail islands (only 4.5 acres in size, combined) are not islands in the conventional sense of the word, as there is currently no dry land. The leaves of the plants are just densely-packed, emergent vegetation. The birds land on the leaves, matting them down horizontally, and sleep, side-by-side, very near the water of the bay.

For years, the PMCA and the local birding community have kept the exact location of this roost a relative secret and out of the news media, in hopes of protecting it from unregulated human visitation, potential development, and other unforeseen threats.

Recognizing the international significance and potential vulnerability of the roost location, the PMCA nominated the site as an Important Bird Area (IBA) earlier this year, and have recently received word that their nomination was granted. It is one of the PMCA's most important accomplishments. Being designated an IBA will offer protection to this fragile roost located in the neck of the bay, an area popular with boaters, jet skiers, anglers, kayakers, and curious visitors.



Presque Isle Bay,
Credit: James R. Hill, III



Purple Martins, Credit: James R. Hill, III

According to banding studies conducted by the PMCA, this roost draws martins from at least a 250-mile radius, including birds from Ontario, New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Indiana. The PMCA theorizes that Purple Martins are attracted to this site for at least three reasons. First, because of nearby Presque Isle State Park with its natural wetland habitats and superabundance of flying insects, allowing the birds to fatten up prior to their migration to South America. Second, the isolated cattail beds are a safe place for large concentrations of martins to sleep away from terrestrial predators. And finally, because the shallow bay waters are a huge heat sink, absorbing heat during the day and staying 30-40 degrees warmer than surrounding night air. Martins roosting on the cattail islands, within inches of the warm waters, are able to conserve valuable energy.

The PMCA is very pleased to have secured IBA status for this significant roost. Conserving the site will have direct benefits for martins, and will help preserve the state's biodiversity as well as this fragile ecosystem, which is also used by waterfowl and marsh birds and a variety of swallows. By focusing attention on the most essential and vulnerable areas, the Important Bird Area Program promotes habitat conservation. While not all martin roosts will qualify for IBA status, some will. We encourage martin landlords throughout North America to assist in identifying, monitoring, and, if appropriate, nominating roosts in their area for IBA status. Please contact the PMCA (www.purplemartin.org) and/or your state Audubon office for assistance.

IBA SITES

The following criteria are used to select IBA sites:

1. Any site having exceptional concentration or diversity of birdlife.
2. Sites with a significant population of state or federally-listed endangered or threatened species
3. Sites supporting a significant population of one or more species on Pennsylvania's special concern list.
4. Sites containing representative, rare, threatened or unique habitats, with birds characteristic of those habitats.
5. Sites where long-term avian research or monitoring is ongoing.

Indigenous Peoples Update

GREAT LAKES UNITED

GREAT LAKES UNITED BUFFALO STATE COLLEGE-CASSETY HALL
SERVING AS HUB COORDINATOR IS MARIA MAYBEE
1300 ELMWOOD AVENUE • BUFFALO, NY 14222

(716) 886-0142 • (716) 886-0303 (FAX) • M.MAYBEE@GLU.ORG • WWW.GLU.ORG



WATER WALK 2003

BY JOSEPHINE MANDAMIN



Maria Maybee

On Monday, May 26, 2003, we reached the same location where we had begun. On a cold and rainy Easter Monday morning, April 21, 2003, we began the First Annual Water Walk around Lake Superior. As we approached our destination, approximately 1,300 miles later, we were greeted by a group of well-wishers and Mide supporters who provided us rest. The walkers who did the final stretch of the walk were: Mario Wassaygeesic, Violet Caibaiosai, Melvina Flamand, Thecla Neganegijig and yours truly, Josephine Mandamin. In the Mide Schoolhouse, we gathered for the spiritual celebration and kind words from the Grand Chief E. Benton-Banaise-Bawdwayadun.

Our Grand Chief was the initiator of the idea of the walk for water during a Sundance Ceremony at Pipestone, Minnesota last year. Bawdwayadun told of a prophecy that in thirty years the abuses of the water will result in severe shortages and only those that can afford it will have water to drink, and if we don't do anything about it, our water will cost the same as gold. As in all prophecies there is hope. In this prophecy the hope is the word, "if". Bawdwayadun, in ending his teaching, hauntingly, asked of the audience, "What are you going to do about it?"

Each day of the walk for water began with a cleansing of the pail of water and the eagle staff, at 5:00 a.m., and ended approximately 6:00 or 7:00 p.m. The eagles have shown themselves to us to remind us of their work and the work of the feathers on the eagle staff that traveled with us. The high noon connected with us through the centre of our beings with the universe. We shared our thoughts with the Creator as we prayed for the sick and the less fortunate. The offering of our Pipe each fourth day reminded us where we came from and connected us with our ancestors and the Creator with the tobacco offering. The water we carried in our copper pail, always reminded us of our womanly responsibilities as givers of life as Mother Earth gives us, her children, life. Without our mother the earth and her water, life would be arid and dead.

The numerous, daily water songs that we sang for the water are now forever embedded in nature as we saw it and were welcomed by it. The words of the water songs made us ever humble as we walked with the copper pail of water. The copper reminded us of its element from the universe and how it formed to be a part of Mother Earth in her tender beginnings. The heaviness in our hearts was unbearable when we saw the destruction of the forests, the earth being



Josephine (left) at the Sault Ste. Marie border



Josephine (right) leaving Thunder Bay, Ontario

gouged by machines, the rivers and creeks dying in the human filth amid green slime and brown, poison fluid flowing into the cleaner rivers. The death along the highways was sickening; of deer, fawn, moose, rabbits, porcupine, skunks, and birds killed by traffic. These scenes always reminded us that progress has no value for life. We can be knocked down at any time for getting in the way.

The experience was humbling in that I knew at last what we were doing. Words cannot fully describe what we were doing. We did it for the water, for the earth, for the animals, for the insects, for the trees, for all the two leggeds. To remind all those we came across, that the walk was for them. Not us. The walk was for the next generations, we walked with the water for them also. They will know, as Mother Earth knows that we walked with the water for all of creation. When the walk got tiring and painful, this was ever on my mind that I walk with the water for whomever needs it and I would walk the distance to bring the water to those who need it. The next generation will remember the Water Walk, our grandchildren will remember the water walk, and so on to the next generations. Not one of us was separate. We walked as one.

We laughed together, we cried together. These were the greatest moments. These were the moments when we were closely united in spirit. We all took care of each other. We look forward to Water Walk 2004 around Lake Michigan. We will begin on Easter Monday again. The women who live around the lake are gearing up for the walk. It is their lake!

Miigwetch! Thank you!

Josephine Mandamin

628 N. Harold Street, Thunder Bay, Ontario Canada P7C 4E3



WATER USE ISSUES BUBBLE TO THE SURFACE IN THE LAKE ERIE BASIN

BY: MOLLY FLANAGAN

On August 18, 2003, citing growing threats to Great Lakes water supplies, conservation groups urged Ohio's Governor Taft to pursue stronger legal protections for Lake Erie and the Great Lakes. The groups want Ohio and all the Great Lakes states along with Ontario and Quebec to pass common laws for judging all new or increased water withdrawals and diversions from the Great Lakes drainage basin.

To punctuate their point, representatives of the Ohio Environmental Council, the National Wildlife Federation, and the League of Ohio Sportsmen handed more than one thousand postcards and petitions to Ohio Department of Natural Resources Director Sam Speck at the Ohio Statehouse. The cards and petitions call on Governor Bob Taft to help turn a set of voluntary principles agreed to by the Great Lakes states and provinces "into an enforceable law with no loopholes."

"Without stronger protection, the Great Lakes' vast water supply could be siphoned off and frittered away," said Molly Flanagan, Water Program Associate of the Ohio Environmental Council. "Every day, more than four billion gallons of water is withdrawn from the Lake Erie drainage basin alone. We need Governor Taft to continue his strong leadership to press hard to protect the Great Lakes from foreign export schemes and unrestrained domestic use."

As chair of the Council of Great Lakes Governors, Taft's leadership is critical to broker enforceable standards to make the voluntary water supply principles agreed to in 2001 by the eight Great Lakes governors and two premiers of Ontario and Quebec legally binding. The principles, known as the Great Lakes Charter Annex 2001, are aimed at controlling in-Basin water withdrawals and out-of-Basin diversions.

The groups are pushing for Taft and his counterparts to develop effective standards that will protect all water users, from farms to cities, and fish to forests. The groups are calling for:

- turning the general principles for protecting Great Lakes water under Annex 2001 into enforceable law with no loopholes;
- applying protections to the entire freshwater system, including groundwater and small streams that feed the Great Lakes; and
- involving citizens, businesses and communities in decisions that affect their freshwater resources.

Holding one fifth of the world's freshwater supply, the Great Lakes are actually a limited resource. Rainwater and snowmelt replenish only about one-percent of the lakes, rivers, and underground aquifers that make up the Great Lakes basin. The remaining 99 percent is finite and non-renewable. That fact coupled with a growing demand for water by domestic users, including utilities, agriculture, manufacturers, housing developments, and existing proposals to export Great Lakes water to foreign countries and other parts of the United States, has conservation groups concerned about the Great Lakes' future.

"Legal protections from unrestrained water uses are at best weak and at worst nonexistent throughout the Great Lakes region," said Noah Hall, Great Lakes Water Resources Manager for the National Wildlife Federation. "Better water management is necessary to protect the people and wildlife that depend upon the lakes for their very livelihood. What affects one lake affects the entire system."

The groups cite massive water withdrawal proposals and local water shortages in recent years around the Great Lakes as evidence that more protections are necessary, including:

- In 1998, a private company called the Nova Group proposed to ship 156 million gallons of Lake Superior water to Asia in tankers. Ontario approved, but later rescinded the permit.
- Water demand from uncontrolled housing growth surrounding Green Bay, WI and South Elgin, IL is outstripping available groundwater supplies.
- Stone quarrying operations near Toledo, OH and Monroe, MI are dropping water tables and drying up nearby wells.

continued on page 13



Wisconsin Update

WISCONSIN WETLANDS ASSOCIATION

WISCONSIN WETLANDS ASSOCIATION; SERVING AS HUB COORDINATOR IS BECKY ABEL
222 S. HAMILTON STREET – SUITE 1 • MADISON, WI 53703
(608) 250-9971 • (608) 256-4562 (FAX)
DEREK@WISCWETLANDS.ORG • WWW.WISCWETLANDS.ORG



Becky Abel is Wisconsin Wetland Association's new Executive Director

WISCONSIN WETLANDS ASSOCIATION HIRES NEW DIRECTOR

BY: BECKY ABEL

Wisconsin Wetlands Association is pleased to announce the hiring of Becky Abel as the organization's new Executive Director. Ms. Abel comes to the Wisconsin Wetlands Association from The Nature Conservancy where she worked for the past seven years

with the state chapter and most recently as Conservation Planner for the International Migratory Bird Program. Ms. Abel's strong background in conservation planning, ecological field-work, coalition building, and program outreach were deciding factors in selecting her as the new Executive Director. With a Master's of Science in Wildlife Ecology from the University of Wisconsin - Madison, Ms. Abel has strong roots in Wisconsin's conservation community.

As a graduate student, Ms. Abel focused on Trumpeter Swan re-introduction - a project that gave her a special

appreciation for the state's wetlands. "For months I spent eight to ten hours a day in a floating blind rearing swans," said Ms. Abel. "Spending that much time, day after day, in the same wetland was remarkable. I was able to observe the subtle activities of the natural community that the casual observer might miss. That experience, more than any other, impressed upon me the value and importance of preserving Wisconsin's wetlands," she concluded.

Ms. Abel's broad career experience includes work with Wisconsin's Department of Natural Resources, National Audubon Society, and international projects, in addition to her work with The Nature Conservancy. Coordinating federal, state, and local landowner partnerships taught her to focus on identifying and working toward common conservation goals. "Planning for the long term conservation of jewels such as the Chequamegon Bay watershed and the Military Ridge Prairies really showed me how much people care about their special, local places. These valuable resources really belong to the whole community so it's important that the whole community work to preserve them."

BIG CITY NEEDS

Big City Needs Big Wetlands

Milwaukee, a city which has had problems with recurrent untreated sewage spills into Lake Michigan, has turned to Mother Nature for some help in remedying this problem. The Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District's Flood Control Program involves purchasing undeveloped lands in the watersheds that affect Greater Milwaukee and turning them over to land trusts, municipalities, and other local owners who will protect them in their undeveloped state forever. At the same time, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources is developing a map of restorable wetlands in the Milwaukee River Basin.

WETLAND RESTORATION FOR DEVELOPERS

Wisconsin Wetlands Association is hosting its first wetland restoration workshop for developers. We've held several of these very popular workshops for landowners and have taught many how to restore their favorite wetlands for the joy of owning beautiful, rich habitat. Now we're taking this message to people who stand to save thousands of dollars by using wetlands instead of pipes to control stormwater, people who can increase their sale prices by incorporating the natural beauty of wetlands into their developments. What's more, our message is being promoted by the developers themselves - the Metropolitan Builders' Association of Milwaukee. Our workshop, on September 18th, covered wetland types and values, permitting and mitigation requirements, and basic wetland restoration techniques.

Assemblyman Mounting Major Attack on Wisconsin's Public Trust Doctrine

Wisconsin's Public Trust Doctrine states that the waters of Wisconsin shall remain forever free, or in trust, to the people. This doctrine has stood the test of time and has been invoked to protect the people's right to use and protect waterways in several very important cases. Now, Representative Scott Gunderson of Union Grove (District 83) is proposing legislation that would redefine which waters are considered public waters. The current definition states that a waterway is considered navigable if it can ever float a vessel. Gunderson's proposal would limit the definition of navigability to waters that can float a canoe with a person in it for at least 6 months of the current calendar year!

This proposed definition would remove legal protection from many of our seasonal streams. It would also change the way that forestry Best Management Practices are applied, since several practices, such as construction of erosion-preventing river crossings, apply only to navigable waters. As of August 22nd, Representative Gunderson has not found a co-sponsor for this bill. Wisconsin Wetlands Association will continue to monitor progress of this attempt to limit the public's right to protect its waters. For more information please contact Derek Strohl at derek@wiscwetlands.org or (608) 250-9971."

New York Update: Great Lakes Navigation System Supplement Study Update: Senator Clinton Urges Congress to Limit Scope of the Study



Great Lakes ship, Credit: Michigan Sea Grant

As the debate over the expansion of the St. Lawrence Seaway continues, another New York politician has come out in opposition to the project. On July 25, 2003 Senator Hillary Clinton voiced her opposition to expanding the Saint Lawrence Seaway in a letter addressed to the Chair and Ranking Member of the Senate Appropriations Committee. Within the letter, Senator Clinton describes the risks associated with expanding the seaway and asserts how detrimental expansion would be to the Great Lakes ecosystem and coastal habitats, as well as the region's tourism industry.

In order to maintain the ecological integrity of the Great Lakes Region, Senator Clinton requested that the Great Lakes Navigation Study be "conducted in a balanced manner," and that "any such study be limited to the existing configuration of the Great Lakes – St. Lawrence Seaway." Although Senator Clinton is against expansion of the Seaway, she does support funding for a study that would "properly balance environmental and commercial concerns for the Great Lakes region." By limiting the study to the existing Great Lakes configuration, Senator Clinton contends that in addition to preserving the valuable aquatic habitats that currently exist in the Great Lakes Region, billions of taxpayer's dollars would be saved.

For more information on the status of the Great Lakes Navigation System Study contact Karen De Vito at kdevito@eany.org



Watershed or drainage basin of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River System, Credit: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District

WATER USE ISSUES BUBBLE TO THE SURFACE IN THE LAKE ERIE BASIN



Careful management of the Great Lakes is especially important to Ohio. More than 11 million people depend on Lake Erie as the source of their drinking water. The lake is a center of commerce and industry, supporting agriculture, shipping, heavy manufacturing, and electricity generation. Lake Erie supports a multi-million dollar sports fishing industry and the Lake Erie shoreline contributes \$2.5 billion a year in travel revenue to the Ohio economy – a third of all travel revenue in the state.

As the shallowest of the Great Lakes, Lake Erie is the most biologically productive but also the most ecologically sensitive of the Great Lakes. Protecting the lake and its interconnected system of streams and underground aquifers is critical to its future

"It's not a question of whether there will be a water war, but when it will be fought. And more important, who will win," said Larry Mitchell, President of the League of Ohio Sportsmen. "The Great Lakes are a world-class resource, and they deserve world-class protection. We need Governor Taft to do all he can to keep Lake Erie a truly great lake."



COALITION FORMS TO DEFEND THE NORTH SHORE

BY: JENNIFER TAHTINEN



Lake Superior's North Shore, running from Duluth up to the Canadian border, is famous for its rugged beauty. It has some of the most spectacular scenery in the country and

is a destination for thousands of tourists every year. But, the thriving tourism industry has introduced immense development pressures. These pressures threaten the very image of pristine natural beauty that draws people to the area and that residents enjoy.

A group of concerned citizens and environmental groups have formed a "watchdog" coalition, the North Shore Watershed Watch, in order to help shape the changes affecting the North Shore. David Syring, northeastern organizer for the Minnesota Environmental Partnership and one of GLAHNF's Advisory Panel members, facilitates the coalition. Several environmental organizations in northeastern Minnesota are involved in the effort, along with residents along the North Shore who are concerned about the health hazards, use of natural resources, and damage to the fragile Lake Superior ecosystem that commercial development often brings with it. This region-wide group has formed to move beyond the typically polarized discussions about development to work with local officials and regulatory agencies. The group acknowledges that development will continue to change the North Shore. But Watershed Watchers also know that there are ways to develop the North Shore to benefit local communities while having less environmental impact than developments that are put into place without informed citizen input.

The desired outcomes of the coalition include increased citizen effectiveness, a result of outreach and education on issues affecting these people's lives and communities. The hope is that if citizens have a better understanding of zoning processes and land use planning in their area they will be able to participate in planning decisions that affect their local communities and environments. The coalition hopes to become a "one-stop place" for information on how citizens can help assure that development is done in environmentally sound ways, as well as in ways that benefit the economies of local communities.

The coalition is also striving for on-the-ground changes or protections for areas along the North Shore. These may include better monitoring of water quality, no decreases of lot sizes along the shore, increasing "green" or low-impact industry and

business, no net loss of wetlands in the watershed, a decrease in industrial pollution, no light or noise pollution, protecting the scenic viewshed, wiser development practices, and habitat protection. All of these things are vitally important to maintaining the character of the North Shore and its fragile ecosystems.

The development of a coherent, comprehensive approach to zoning and development decisions with a regional focus that results in controlled, sane growth is an important goal of the group. Issues such as transportation, the building of private docks and dredging along the shore, and better control of marinas need to be addressed. The group plans to work with community leaders to help educate each other on development-related issues and to best represent the will of constituents in development planning. The coalition hopes to encourage local governments to provide better and earlier information on development proposals, as well as improving requirements for public input on all projects.

The coalition has begun by pinpointing some specific problems and developments that are already in progress, including a series of developments on the Two Harbors waterfront and continued developments in the Poplar River watershed that have

raised the likelihood the Poplar will be listed as an "impaired water" under state guidelines. The group hopes that a region-wide approach, bringing each community together to shape the North Shore's future, will result from their work. Working on a region-wide scale should bring attention to the cumulative impacts of developments, with better decision-making and citizen effectiveness in enforcement as the result.

All of these issues are interconnected. With citizens who are educated about the planning processes in their communities and who care about protecting the North Shore come the physical changes and protections. As educated citizens become involved with their community's planning methods and learn of proposed developments, communities will have to provide better zoning and planning processes, at the demand of their constituents.

More than 30 people have participated in forming the North Shore Watershed Watch, with plans in process to expand the group's base in the next year. The coalition represents a broad array of interests, experience, and abilities that will hopefully become a powerful tool for protecting the North Shore and empowering the people who live there to shape its future.



A scenic overlook on the North Shore near Grand Marais, Minnesota Credit: Martha Decker, 1997



WEB RESOURCES

www.great-lakes.net/gis

Visit this section of the Great Lakes Information Network website for maps and GIS information for the Great Lakes Basin.

www.nemw.org/greatlakes.htm

Visit this section of the Northeast Midwest Institutes, website for a comprehensive list of links to Laws and Agreements Pertaining to the Great Lakes.

www.glr.org

The Great Lakes Radio Consortium is a news service committed to revealing the relationship between the natural world and the everyday lives of people in the Great Lakes region. Visit the site to read stories of Great Lakes interest.

<http://water.usgs.gov/ogw/pubs/WR1004008>

For a report on the importance of ground water in the Great Lakes Basin visit this site of the U.S. Geological Survey.

www.ene.gov.on.ca

For information or resources from the Ontario Ministry of Environment visit their home page.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



October 15-17, 2003,
2003 Canadian Coastal Conference,
Kingston, Ontario
Hosted by Queen's University, a variety of themes and sessions in coastal science, management and engineering including numerical

and physical modelling, coastal GIS, monitoring, shore protection, with a special session on Great Lakes shoreline management planned.

Contact: Bill Kamphuis, Phone: 613-533-2148
E-mail: ccco3@civil.queensu.ca

October 21-22, 2003, *Lake Michigan: State of the Lake '03 Conference,* Muskegon, Michigan

Hosted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Lake Michigan Forum and the Annis Water Resources Institute of Grand Valley State University, the theme of this year's conference will be "Connecting Watersheds to Lake Michigan."

Contact: Janet Vail, Phone: 616-331-3048, E-mail: vailj@gvsu.edu

October 24 – 25, 2003, *Michigan River Alliance Annual Meeting,* University of Michigan – Flint Campus, Flint, Mich.

If you care about Michigan's rivers, you won't want to miss this conference! Speakers from three nationally-recognized groups including River Network, Institute for Conservation Leadership, and American Rivers present national and Michigan river issues and training. For more information or to RSVP please contact Debbie Messer at 231-347-1181 ext. 116 or E-mail: Debbie@watershedcouncil.org

November 16-18, 2003, *TMDL 2003,* Chicago, Ill.

Sponsored by the Water Environment Federation, TMDL 2003 is designed to provide up-to-date information so that professionals can further advance their skills, discuss technical requirements for developing Total Maximum Daily Loads, MDLs, learn about new research and discuss regulatory and policy issues.

Phone: 703-684-2400 ext. 7010, E-mail: tmdl03@wef.org



Credit: Friends of the Detroit River

VICTORY FOR HUMBUG MARSH!

The Trust for Public Land (TPL) announced on September 30, 2003 that Humbug Marsh, 410 acres of marsh and upland along the Detroit River has been acquired. TPL now owns the land and will work with city, county, state and federal governments to develop a long-term conservation solution. "The vision to protect this land has evolved through a tremendous effort by many individuals and groups," said Cynthia Whiteford, Midwest Regional Director and Vice-President of the Trust for Public Land.

The Humbug Complex is made up of Humbug Island, Humbug Marsh, and adjacent undeveloped upland habitats. It includes 410 acres of unique fish and wildlife habitats in Gibraltar and Trenton, Michigan. Humbug Marsh represents the last mile of natural shoreline on the U.S. mainland of the Detroit River. Because they are home to such a high diversity of fish and wildlife, the marshes have been identified as globally unique and significant in biological diversity – nothing like this marsh exists anywhere outside the Great Lakes.

Printed on Recycled Paper



Great Lakes Aquatic Habitat News
c/o Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council
426 Bay Street
Petoskey, MI 49770

Address Service Requested

Nonprofit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Petoskey
PERMIT NO. 108

Lake Superior Beach
Credit: Michigan Sea Grant Extension, Carol Y. Swinehart