



## NEW STEPS IN VOLUNTEER WATER MONITORING:

### The Fifth Annual MiCorps Conference

October 26-27, 2009



Ralph A. MacMullan Conference Center



Higgins Lake, Michigan

## Conference Agenda

### Day One - Monday, October 26, 2009

**1:00 - 5:00 pm Workshop: Introduction to Stream Flow Monitoring and Geomorphologic Measurement**

(Education Building, Lower Level – then caravan to local stream site for demonstration)

*Ric Lawson, MiCorps Support Staff, Huron River Watershed Council*

*Rob Mylloyja, Hubbel, Roth & Clark, Inc.*

Workshop participants will get an introduction to methods for measuring stream flow and in-stream geomorphology to estimate channel stability. Presentations will provide an overview of techniques and data use. This will be followed by a trip to a stream site to gain hands-on exposure to equipment and methods. Participation is limited to 30 people on a first-come, first-served basis. **Advanced registration is required through our online registration form.**

**6:00 pm Dinner** (Dining Room)

*6:00 - 7:30 pm MiCorps Steering Committee Meeting (Dining Room) - Staff and Steering Committee Members Only*

**7:30 - 9:00 pm Reception** (Fireplace Lounge, Administration Building)

Volunteer monitoring programs will showcase their local river or lake management efforts through poster displays. Snacks and beverages (beer, wine, and nonalcoholic drinks) will be available. The room will be open at 7 pm for display set-up.

### Day Two - Tuesday, October 27, 2009

**7:15 am Breakfast** (Dining Room) – *Overnight guests only, please (included in lodging costs)*

**8:00 am Registration** (Education Building, Upper Level)

**8:30 am Welcoming Remarks and Review of Agenda** (Education Building, Upper Level)

*Elwin Coll, Chair, MiCorps Steering Committee*

*Dr. Paul Steen, MiCorps Support Staff, Huron River Watershed Council*

**8:45 am Keynote Presentation: The Critical Role of Volunteer Data Collection**

*Dr. Bryan Burroughs, Executive Director, Michigan Trout Unlimited*

**9:45 am Status of the MiCorps Program and Michigan's Surface Water Monitoring Program**

*Ralph Bednarz, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality*

*Dr. Paul Steen, MiCorps Support Staff, Huron River Watershed Council*

Speakers will provide an introduction to and status of the MiCorps program and its work and accomplishments during the program's fifth year, as well as an overview of Michigan's Surface Water Monitoring Program. This will include a discussion of the program's structure and goals, how staff use volunteer monitoring data, and trends in water quality in Michigan's lakes and rivers.

**10:00 am Break**

**10:15 am Introductions and Sharing our Stories**

*Moderator: Ric Lawson, MiCorps Support Staff, Huron River Watershed Council*

In an open-discussion framework, all conference participants will be asked to give a brief introduction of their volunteer monitoring experiences, followed by an open discussion of key topics with participants sharing their volunteer monitoring stories and interests.

**11:15 am**      **Awards for New MiCorps Members**  
*Presented by: Ralph Bednarz, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, and Elwin Coll, Chair, MiCorps Steering Committee*

**12:00 pm**      **Lunch** (Dining Room)

**1:00 pm**      **Afternoon Breakout Sessions**

Three breakout sessions will be held concurrently. Conference participants may attend one of the three sessions.

**Breakout Session 1: Groundwater Impacts and Volunteer Monitoring**

(Education Building, Upper Level)

*Moderator: Ric Lawson, MiCorps Support Staff, Huron River Watershed Council*

*Dr. Jo Latimore, Michigan State University*

*Dr. Bryan Burroughs, Executive Director, Michigan Trout Unlimited*

*Dave Hamilton, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality*

Experts will discuss the new water withdrawal laws and how they offer opportunities for volunteer monitoring. Groundwater impacts on stream fish and macroinvertebrates will also be explored.

**Breakout Session 2: Advanced Insect ID Training** (Education Building, Lower Level)

*Dr. Paul Steen, MiCorps Support Staff, Huron River Watershed Council*

Dr. Steen will provide tips for identifying mayflies and stoneflies to the family level. Practice your identification skills on these organisms with microscopes and preserved specimens.

**Breakout Session 3: Networking / Small Group Discussions** (Dining Room)

*Moderator: Joan Martin, MiCorps Steering Committee Member, Huron River Watershed Council*

Participants will be given the opportunity to discuss issues that interest them in an open environment. MiCorps staff will be available to provide reference and technical support.

**2:15 pm**      **Break**

**2:30 pm**      **Afternoon Breakout Sessions**

Two breakout sessions will be held concurrently. Conference participants may attend one of the two sessions.

**Breakout Session 4: Lessons Learned for a Successful Stream Monitoring Program**

(Education Building, Upper Level)

*Moderator: Kay Edly, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality*

*Heidi Frei, Director, Friends of the Shiawassee River*

*Kristen Jurs, Director, Friends of the St. Clair River*

*Elizabeth Coyne, Watershed Manager, Alger Conservation District*

Program managers from organizations that obtained MiCorps stream grants share their programs goals, successes, challenges, and tips for aspiring stream monitor leaders.

**Breakout Session 5: Presenting Data from Your Water Monitoring Program**

(Education Building, Lower Level)

*Moderator: Dr. Paul Steen, MiCorps Support Staff, Huron River Watershed Council*

*Dick Pastula, Houghton Lake, Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program volunteer*

*Howard Wandell, Blue Lake, Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program volunteer*

*Rick Meeks, Higgins Lake, Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program volunteer*

*Dr. Scott McNaught, Associate Professor, Central Michigan University, Director of the Michigan Water Research Center*

Experienced water monitors from the Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program (CLMP) and the Volunteer Stream Monitoring Program (VSMP) discuss their monitoring experiences and provide examples of different ways to analyze and share the data you have collected with a public audience.

**3:45 pm**      **Closing Remarks and Adjournment** (Education Building, Upper Level)  
*Elwin Coll, Chair, MiCorps Steering Committee*