



The MiCorps Monitor: April 2009

The newsletter of the Michigan Clean Water Corps, Issue 5

Welcome!

Welcome to the April 2009 edition of the *MiCorps Monitor*! As always, this edition is full of updates and information on the activities and individuals of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality's Michigan Clean Water Corps (MiCorps).

Please note: this PDF is a an archived version of the original, web-based newsletter. As such, some features (photos, captions, navigation) are not available, and links may be broken. We apologize for the inconvenience!

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MiCorps

Monitoring Michigan's Water Quality

www.micorps.net



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Article 1:

Fourth Annual MiCorps Conference:

Celebrating our Volunteers

The fourth annual Michigan Clean Water Corps (MiCorps) conference was held October 20-21, 2008 at the Ralph A. MacMullan Conference Center in Higgins Lake, Michigan. The conference featured presentations from MiCorps members from across the state of Michigan as well as presentations and training from regional experts, MiCorps staff, and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. We also celebrated the amazing work that is being done by the MiCorps volunteers to protect Michigan's lakes and streams.

Networking

Photo courtesy of the Great Lakes Commission.

Linda Green, University of Rhode Island (URI) Cooperative Extension, was the keynote speaker. Linda is a nationally-recognized leader and educator who has worked in the area of volunteer monitoring for over 20 years. Her presentation was very well received and was an inspiration to many attendees.

Four breakout sessions were also included in the conference and were well attended and well received. Two of these breakout sessions focused on the experiences of people who lead volunteer monitoring programs across Michigan. Patrick Ertel and Kevin Cronk spoke about how to start and grow a monitoring program, while Jean Roth, John Hayes, and Sally Petrella shared some of the lessons they had learned in making their programs successful. Margaret Smith from the Huron River Watershed Council led a very informative breakout session about strategies that groups can use when raising money. In a data analysis breakout session, Drs. Jim Martin and Paul Steen shared their experiences in working with macroinvertebrate data in the River Raisin and Huron River watersheds. In addition, Dr. Ace Sarnelle from Michigan State University shared results from a cyanobacteria research project that used data collected by CLMP volunteers.

An optional training session on Aquatic Macroinvertebrate Search and Identification was offered on October 20. Rainy weather did not stop the twenty participants from visiting the AuSable South Branch as it flowed through the town of Roscommon. The group was impressed by the large diversity of mayflies, dragonflies, and true bugs, as well as the extremely cold water, one of the AuSable's most famous characteristics. The group returned to the R.A.M. Conference Center to learn about insect taxonomy and identification, and had the opportunity to look at their AuSable insects under microscopes.

Feedback from the conference attendees was very positive. Many people commented on the quality of the presentations and appreciated being able to hear from their counterparts from across the state. Our thanks go to those MiCorps staff members and volunteers who contributed to making "MiCon '08" a successful event! For more information or to see the conference

presentations, go to: www.micorps.net/conference2008_proceedings.

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Article 2:

Volunteer Stream Monitoring Gains

Stream across Michigan's Upper Peninsula

The Central Upper Peninsula Volunteer Stream Monitoring Program began in the spring of 2007 with the goals of training volunteers to collect baseline water quality data and increasing stewardship of aquatic resources through community involvement and education. The watersheds initially targeted for this project – the Anna River watershed in Alger County and the Dead River watershed in Marquette County – were selected because of development pressure, growth patterns, nonpoint source pollution concerns, and interest from local stakeholders.

Watershed managers from the Alger and Marquette County Conservation Districts teamed up with the Upper Peninsula Resource Conservation and Development Council (UPRC&D) and Superior Watershed Partnership (SWP) to bring volunteer monitoring programs to the central Upper Peninsula. The watershed managers run the programs in their individual counties, relying upon the technical and scientific support from SWP and fiscal management from UPRC&D. This arrangement makes it possible for the one program to transcend political boundaries and bring volunteer monitoring all across the Central Upper Peninsula.

Volunteer Stream Monitoring Locations

Streams in the Dead River watershed in Marquette Township are being monitored because new subdivisions and big box stores have created more impervious surfaces. In the fall of 2007 nearly 500 linear feet of Brickyard Creek was reconstructed to prepare the site for a Lowe's Home Improvement Store. The highway is also a major contributor of nonpoint source pollution from the sand and salt that are used to maintain winter roads. Other urban streams including Nordwald and Wolner Creeks are being monitored for similar reasons. Approximately six volunteers make up the Dead River watershed monitoring team. Conducting stream habitat assessments and macroinvertebrate sampling north and south of the US41 crossing of Brickyard Creek is helping volunteers and local stakeholders gauge the impacts of non point source pollution on the aquatic community. Results so far have prompted leaders to consider land-use zoning that protects riparian areas.

Volunteer monitoring in Alger County is focused on two headwater tributaries of the Anna River, a state designated coldwater fishery in the 30,350 acre Munising Bay Watershed. The Anna suffers from severe sedimentation and the monitoring is intended to help evaluate the success of best management practices being implemented with a Clean Michigan Initiative grant. In the three monitoring sessions held so far, seven trained volunteers conducted habitat assessments and collected macroinvertebrate samples upstream and downstream of two badly eroding road stream crossings that are scheduled to be replaced in 2009.



In the spring of 2008, the monitoring program expanded into Baraga County to assist local stakeholders in collecting baseline water quality data on the Huron River watershed. The Huron River watershed is mostly wilderness; however land use dynamics in the last ten years have resulted in increased parcelization, development of riparian land for secondary homes and camps, ore prospecting along the Marquette Iron Range, and use of secondary access roads by off road vehicles. The goal of the stakeholders is to study the river and develop a plan that will improve, protect, and restore water quality and aquatic habitat in the Huron River watershed. Over 24 volunteers were trained in the MiCorps protocol to collectively monitor 10 sites in the 61,000 acre (95 square miles) watershed.

Stream Monitoring

Photo courtesy of Huron River Watershed Council.

The response from volunteers who have participated in the stream monitoring has been very positive. Constance Sherry, a volunteer with the Huron River watershed writes, "Learning about stream monitoring and the workshops you hold on macroinvertebrate sampling and identification have given us a whole new dimension of awareness in looking at other streams where we fish and have our camp - especially knowing the kinds of "bugs" that are characteristic of healthy streams with high oxygen content and being able to identify so many of them in other areas. It is fun to be able to do that."

The MiCorps protocol is also being used in the 130,000 acre (203 square miles) Big Two Hearted River watershed as part of the watershed management plan developed by SWP through a Michigan Department of Environmental Quality 319 grant. In all, over 30 volunteer monitors have participated in trainings, habitat assessments, sample collections and macroinvertebrate identification in four major watersheds in Marquette, Alger, Baraga and Luce counties in the northern Upper Peninsula. Contacts within the Two Hearted Chapter of Trout Unlimited also helped the SWP promote the MiCorps program to interested stakeholders in the Millecoquins watershed in Mackinaw County. After only three monitoring sessions the sampling results aren't conclusive yet, but the widespread interest and involvement of the volunteers promises to meet the goals of increased awareness and stewardship.

Guest Author:

Elizabeth Coyne
Watershed Manager
Alger Conservation District

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Article 3:

Volunteer Stream Monitoring Grants

Awarded for 2008

Since 2005, the MiCorps Volunteer Stream Monitoring Grant Program has awarded funding to Michigan organizations to develop volunteer programs to monitor the quality and health of their wadable streams and rivers. With funding from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) under the Clean Michigan Initiative, this program supports the monitoring of benthic invertebrate communities and stream habitat and provides technical assistance and training for grantees. Data collected with support from this program are used by the DEQ to identify areas requiring a more detailed assessment and as supplemental data for DEQ water resources management programs.

MiCorps Training

Matt Herbert, Aquatic Ecologist for The Nature Conservancy, and Debbie Thor, a Stream Team volunteer in Bancroft. Photo courtesy of The Nature Conservancy.

The MiCorps program is pleased to announce its support of four organizations under the 2008 Volunteer Stream Monitoring Grant Program, totaling nearly \$50,000 in grant funds. Funds awarded to these organizations will support volunteer stream monitoring programs, training and outreach over the next two years.

Friends of the St. Clair River Watershed

Project Title: Friends of the St. Clair River Watershed Stream Leaders

Watershed: St. Clair River Watershed

Funding Amount: \$13,297

Contact: Kristen O. Jurs, Ph: 810-987-5306, kojurs@stclaircounty.org

The Friends of the St. Clair River Watershed (FOSCRW) have proposed to assess habitat and conduct macroinvertebrate monitoring in the St. Clair River watershed. Additionally, FOSCRW plans to engage the public in monitoring St. Clair River watershed tributaries to support habitat restoration and protection efforts of St. Clair County Watershed Advisory Groups (WAG) and the St. Clair River Area of Concern.

Huron Pines

Project Title:

Pine River/Van Etten Lake Monitoring

Watershed:

Pine River/Van Etten Lake Watershed

Funding Amount: \$7,420

Contact: Patrick Ertel, patrick@huronpines.org

Huron Pines, in partnership with the Pine River/Van Etten Lake Watershed Coalition, plans to establish baseline benthic macroinvertebrate data on the



Pine River and Van Etten Creek and to monitor the health of the watershed to ensure that the river and associated feeder streams do not significantly degrade in their ability to sustain a cold water fishery. This project will also help to show any changes in the stream condition over time, as told through the macroinvertebrate populations.

Marguerite Gahagan Nature Preserve

Project Title: Upper AuSable River Watershed Water Quality Monitoring Project

Watershed: Upper AuSable River Watershed

Funding Amount: \$13,297

Contact: Irene Borak, boraki@kirtland.edu

The primary goal of this project is to produce quality-assured data on the water quality of the watershed to establish baseline data for the AuSable River. Specifically, site monitoring will include benthic macroinvertebrate specimen collection and identification to the family level, habitat assessment, and the monitoring of dissolved oxygen and pH levels. Success of this project will be measured by the production of verifiable data that is of use to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and others who make stewardship decisions within the AuSable River watershed.

The Nature Conservancy

Project Title: Shiawassee River Watershed Benthic Macroinvertebrate Monitoring Program

Watershed: Shiawassee River watershed

Funding Amount: \$13,297

Contact: Heidi Frei, Ph: 989-723-9062, hfrei@tnc.org

The Nature Conservancy in Michigan is working in partnership with the Livingston County Drain Commissioner's Office and the Friends of the Shiawassee River – a volunteer-based organization – to assess habitat and conduct macroinvertebrate monitoring in the Shiawassee River watershed in Shiawassee and Livingston Counties. With the assistance of aquatic ecologists, all samples will be identified to family level. Additional parameters, such as chemical analysis, habitat assessment, and sampling sites will be added as interest and volunteer numbers grow with the program.

Notably, two of the four 2008 grantees – Marguerite Gahagan Nature Preserve and the Pine River/Van Etten Lake Coalition – were also previously awarded funds during the first year of the Volunteer Stream Monitoring Start-Up Grant Program in 2007. The start-up program provides “seed money” for newly forming volunteer monitoring groups as well as access to MiCorps resources and training to enable them to conduct research on a monitoring project and develop a volunteer monitoring strategy. These smaller grants can be a good first step for individuals and communities to establish a solid foundation for a robust, high-quality volunteer monitoring program and can support these groups in developing a full proposal for the Volunteer Stream Monitoring Grant Program in future years.

2009 Volunteer Stream Monitoring Grant Programs to be Announced

The Michigan DEQ and the Great Lakes Commission, in partnership with the Huron River Watershed Council, look forward to announcing the Fiscal Year 2009 MiCorps Volunteer Stream Monitoring Grant Program awards for both full and start-up grants. Applications are currently being reviewed and recipients will be notified in April. For more information, visit www.micorps.net/streamgrants.html or contact Paul Steen, MiCorps Program Manager, at the Huron River Watershed Council at (734) 769-5123 x.14 or psteen@hrwc.org.

MiCorps Training

Paul Steen, of the Huron River Watershed Council, instructs volunteer stream monitoring grantees at the MiCorps summer 2008 training workshop. Photo courtesy of the Huron River Watershed Council.

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Article 4:

Highlights from the Cooperative Lakes
Monitoring Program (CLMP)

Focus on Ralph Vogel, volunteer from Corey Lake

Ralph Vogel, on Corey Lake in St. Joseph County, has been collecting lake data for 35 years through the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality's volunteer-based Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program (CLMP). Ralph was one of the original lake monitors back in 1974 when the CLMP program was called the "Self-Help Program." Ralph, Don Winne (executive director emeritus of Michigan Lake and Stream Associations), and the other members of the Corey Lake Association had always been very active in protecting the lake, and joined the Self-Help program because the lake was undergoing a large outbreak of swimmer's itch. Ralph has been monitoring every spring, summer, and fall since then; loves doing it; and plans to continue sampling for as long as he can. Ralph has collected over 1,500 data measurements or water quality samples in Corey Lake over the 35 years he has participated in the volunteer programs. This data record ranks as one of the best historical data records on any inland lake in Michigan.

Ralph Vogel

Ralph Vogel, long-time CLMP Volunteer.

Photo courtesy of Ralph Bednarz.

Every year, Ralph presents his results and the results from other lakes across Michigan to his lake association. In doing so, he stresses the need for proper lake stewardship and tries to convince the other lake association members to take practical steps in helping the lake, such as not fertilizing their lawns too close to the lake edge.

Ralph brings an interesting skill set to the CLMP. As a retired mechanical engineer, he possesses the technical know-how to design creative tools to aid his sampling efforts. For example, he built a mechanical arm to help him take phosphorus samples so he could keep his hands and arms out of the cold water in the spring. The mechanical arm makes sampling safer, too; Ralph uses a pontoon boat which is high off of the water. The long mechanical arm allows him to sample without bending over the side of the boat.

Ralph also makes the Secchi disks that other volunteers use in the CLMP program. He makes them in large batches of around eighty by taking a huge steel sheet and burning the disks out. To date, Ralph has built around three hundred of these disks. If you have a CLMP-provided Secchi disk, then you have Ralph to thank!

When not on the lake sampling, Ralph keeps his mechanical skills sharp by working as a consultant with his former employers. He is also in the process of designing and building a wind turbine at his house on Corey Lake. The electricity generated by his invention will be used to help heat his house.



Ralph's love for his lake has driven him to go above and beyond the duties asked of a CLMP volunteer. One winter, he drilled holes in the ice to take winter lake dissolved oxygen and temperature profiles, just because he was curious! His enthusiasm is infectious.

Ralph, we appreciate all the work you have done and we look forward to continuing this partnership for many years to come.

CLMP Headlines:

MLSA 2009 Conference

The Michigan Lake and Stream Associations is holding their annual conference on April 24 and 25 at the Comfort Inn Lakeside on Houghton Lake. On the first day of the conference, CLMP coordinators from MDEQ will train participants in the techniques that CLMP volunteers employ to monitor their lakes. On the second day, the conference will provide a large diversity of speakers who cover a variety of lake-related topics such as lake management, fisheries management, and legal issues facing lake associations. For more information and to register, please visit the MLSA website: www.mlswa.org.

2008 Enrollment and Annual Summary Report

Two-hundred fifteen lakes enrolled in the CLMP for the 2008 summer season. From Gratiot Lake on the tip of the Keweenaw Peninsula to Lake Diane on the border of Michigan and Ohio, hard-working volunteers continued the important task of collecting Secchi disk depths, phosphorus, chlorophyll a, and dissolved oxygen samples. Visit www.micorps.net/lakereports.html to download the 2008 Annual Summary Report and view data collected for your lake. Thank you everyone for another successful year of the CLMP!

Web-Based Program Enrollment for 2009

This fall, MiCorps staff kicked off a very useful tool: online enrollment in the CLMP. Although registration by mail is still available, the online enrollment function can help us cut costs and save you time. Register for the 2009 CLMP season now by visiting: www.micorps.net/CLMPregister.html. Sampling has already begun - so don't miss out!

Lake Water Quality Assessment Monitoring Program Plans for 2009

In 1998, the U.S. Geological Survey and MDEQ partnered together to form the Lake Water Quality Assessment (LWQA) monitoring program. Under this program, surveys are conducted during spring turnover and summer stratification periods in public-access lakes. The surveys monitor a variety of parameters that indicate the trophic status of the lake. One interesting component of this program is the use of remote sensing satellite imagery to assess the status of unsampled lakes. To learn more about the program and how the data are used, visit the [program website](#). Look for a more detailed report about the LWQA in the next issue of the MiCorps Monitor.

The following lakes will be sampled in 2009:

County	Lake Name	County	Lake Name
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Alger	Fish Lake	Mackinac	Brevoort Lake
Allegan	Big Lake	Mackinac	Little Brevoort Lake
Allegan	Duck Lake	Macomb	Stony Creek
Allegan	Kalamazoo Lake	Manistee	Impoundment
Barry	Baker Lake	Manistee	Bear Lake
Barry	Chief Noonday	Manistee	Pine Lake
Barry	Lake	Mason	Portage Lake
Barry	Gun Lake	Mason	Ford Lake
Barry	Lower Crooked	Mason	Hamlin Lake
Branch	Lake	Mason	Lincoln Lake
Branch	Payne Lake	Montmorency	Round Lake
Calhoun	Gilead Lake	Montmorency	Atlanta Lake
Calhoun	Lake Lavine	Muskegon	Gaylanta Lake
Chippewa	Goguac Lake	Oakland	Half Moon Lake
Chippewa	Prairie Lake	Oakland	Loon Lake
Delta	Caribou Lake	Oakland	Orion Lake
Genesee	Monocle Lake	Oceana	Squaw Lake
Genesee	Corner Lake	Ogemaw	Stony Lake
Hillsdale	Fenton Lake	Ottawa	George Lake
Hillsdale	Lobdell Lake	Ottawa	Lake Macatawa
Jackson	Cub Lake	Presque Isle	Spring Lake
Kalamazoo	Hemlock Lake	Presque Isle	Lake Emma
Kalamazoo	Vineyard Lake	Schoolcraft	Lake Esau
Kalamazoo	Barton Lake	Schoolcraft	Colwell Lake
Kalamazoo	Eagle Lake	Schoolcraft	Gemini Lakes
Kalkaska	Gourdneck Lake	Schoolcraft	Indian Lake
Kalkaska	Sugarloaf Lake	Schoolcraft	Kennedy Lake
Kalkaska	Big Twin Lake	St. Joseph	McDonald Lake
Kalkaska	Cub Lake	St. Joseph	Long Lake
Kent	Pickereel Lake	Van Buren	Thompson Lake
Lapeer	Starvation Lake	Van Buren	Bankson Lake
Luce	Reeds Lake	Wexford	Clear Lake
Luce	Big Fish Lake		Hodenpyl Dam Pond
	Bodi Lake		
	Twin Lakes		

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Article 5:

The Volunteer Corner:

An Interview with John Sanchez and Roy Tassava

Wanting to learn from and recognize the volunteers who give of their time and energy to monitor the health and quality of our lakes and streams, the MiCorps team decided to start a new section of the MiCorps Monitor dedicated to these individuals. For the first installment of the Volunteer Corner, the MiCorps team caught up with volunteers John Sanchez and Roy Tassava – an experienced team leader duo of the Tip of the Mitt Volunteer Stream Monitoring Program – during their off season.

John Sanchez and Roy Tassava

Volunteer Stream Monitors John Sanchez and Roy Tassava.

Photo courtesy of Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council.

MiCorps Monitor: First of all, thank you for your time and for letting us ask you a few questions. How long have you been a volunteer stream monitor with the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council?

Tassava: It's been about six years now, since 2002 or 2003.

Sanchez: Roy would remember. We started at about the same time.

MiCorps Monitor: *Time goes by quickly when you're having fun, right? What is your role as a stream monitor?*

Tassava: My role is as a collector. John [Sanchez] is the leader. I actually get in the stream with a net and dig under logs, rocks and other stuff in the stream. We're looking for sample organisms that can tell us a lot about the stream. What I find in the net gets dumped into a pail and carried up to the pickers. Then they dump the materials into pans and pull out anything that's alive – mostly macroinvertebrates – but occasionally we'll catch a few small fish. We put the fish back into the stream. John and I will help with the picking once we're done in the stream. We go through all the material and bottle the samples in alcohol to preserve them for lab identification.

Sanchez: As a team leader, I help to keep the group organized and do most of the paperwork. We also map out the collection area and document water depths, temperatures, weather, and other aspects of the site and the condition of the stream.

MiCorps Monitor: *Tell me about your monitoring team. Is it the same group of volunteers each time? How often do you sample?*

Sanchez: We usually work on the same creek, Mullet Creek, with the same crew. The team has a mix of people with different backgrounds, but mostly it's people who like to be outdoors. Some – like Roy – have a personal



interest in the creek since it runs through their property and into Mullet Lake.

Tassava: Usually we have a crew of four, but sometimes it's just John and me.

Sanchez: We go out twice a year, in the spring and fall – one field day and one lab day each time. And all volunteers also go through an initial training session.

Tassava: In addition to the Tip of the Mitt program, I'm usually out on my property sampling every other day. But that's because I'm interested in the fish biology and behavioral ecology and am working on a genetic study of brook trout. Plus, I like to know about the health of the stream and monitor what's happening as a result of agricultural practices upstream of my property.

***MiCorps Monitor:** How healthy is the stream, in your opinion? How quickly would you see a change in the conditions?*

Tassava: In general, Mullet Creek is pretty healthy. Although, there could be sudden changes from pollutants entering the creek way up stream, or you could observe changes over time like increasing water temperatures from global warming. You might see changes from impacts to the groundwater system or from practices on nearby farms. We have some dairy farms upstream and the whole area is pretty rural. We've had some problems with gravel from the road and sand from the ditches washing into the stream and filling in the trout holes. So I usually watch that.

***MiCorps Monitor:** Why did you decide to become a volunteer stream monitor?*

Tassava: Well, I'm a biologist by training – a retired geneticist from Ohio State University – and I have a personal interest in Mullet Creek and the brook trout. I even wrote a book about the brook trout here. I have 40 acres and the stream flows right through it. I'm interested in stream ecology, conservation, and maintaining the health of the stream.

Sanchez: I've been on the board of directors for the Mullet Area Preservation Society (MAPS) for 15 years and have been involved with Tip of the Mitt for a long time, so I volunteered to be a team leader.

***MiCorps Monitor:** What is your favorite part of being a stream monitor? Do you have a most memorable moment?*

Tassava: Something of interest always comes up. We're always finding new organisms. It's fun to be in the laboratory with the other crews from different streams and share information and stories about our experiences. Someone will find something interesting and we'll all stop and go over and check it out. Then there was the time the water went over my waders! That was pretty memorable.

Volunteers identify samples

Tip of the Mitt volunteers work to identify their samples collected from the stream. Photo courtesy of Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council.

Sanchez: Given the times of year that we go out to sample (spring and fall), the weather is always kind of iffy. But we always end up with the most perfect sunny days when we go out. It's a good time to be out in the woods. We'll take tables and chairs out to our site, so it's really nice to be able to sit down and visit with the other folks while being tucked back in the woods. We always look forward to being with the team.

MiCorps Monitor: What's the most interesting thing you've ever found in the stream?

Tassava: I really like seeing the little brook trout we catch in the net. And the mottled sculpin fish and brook lamprey. I once saw a mother leach with hundreds of little babies.

Sanchez: We've found little houses or shelters made out of casings or wood or pebbles in various shapes. I also like to see the damselflies. And the water mites, which can be the size of a pinhead. Most of the stuff we find is so small. But under a microscope these mites can be either bright green or bright red. And they look like a scary little spider.

MiCorps Monitor: What words of wisdom do you have for others who may be interested in volunteering as a stream or lake monitor?

Sanchez: Volunteering can be very interesting, especially if you have concerns about the environment or water quality in your area. And it's a lot of fun – enjoy doing it! It's exciting and somewhat challenging – you never know what you'll find. There are certain things that you expect to find, of course, but there are other unusual finds. Take pride in finding the unusual, finding good quantities, and being thorough.

Tassava: Find time to volunteer. It's an important job to do! The information we collect on the "critters" in the stream tell us about the water quality. And if changes are observed, that means the stream is struggling and we need to figure out what's happening. Be aware and observe what's happening in the environment. Make sure there's nothing happening that would have an adverse effect.

Sanchez: It's a good excuse for grown adults to play in the water and pick out bugs!

Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council

*Photo courtesy of the
Huron River Watershed Council.*

About the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council Volunteer Stream

Monitoring Program: Since 2005, the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council Volunteer Stream Monitoring Program has been hard at work structuring the program, developing a Quality Assurance Program Plan, purchasing necessary equipment and recruiting volunteers. Presently, the program focuses on streams that flow into Mullet Lake, Lake Charlevoix and Torch Lake. A total of 15 sites are monitored twice per year on seven streams. For more information on the program, visit: www.watershedcouncil.org/protect

[/volunteer stream monitoring/](#).

Do you know an extraordinary volunteer lake or stream monitor? Please send your nominations for future installments of the Volunteer Corner to Laura Kaminski, MiCorps Program Administrator, at laurak@glc.org.

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Article 6:

Michigan Department of Environmental Quality Five Year Watershed Assessment Cycle

In 1997, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) formed a water quality monitoring strategy that established a five year cycle in their monitoring of Michigan's watersheds. Listed below are the watersheds that MDEQ plans to visit in 2009, 2010, and 2011. Since it would be prohibitively expensive to monitor on every river and stream in watershed, the DEQ often contacts local water groups to get input on where their monitoring efforts would be most useful. This communication between local groups and the DEQ is an important component in effective management of Michigan's aquatic resources. If your watershed is on the list for 2009, we encourage you to contact your local DEQ office to discuss their monitoring plans. For a list of DEQ District locations and contacts, visit: michigan.gov/deq/0,1607,7-135-3306_3329-12306--,00.html.



2009	2010	2011
U.P. Watersheds	U.P. Watersheds	U.P. Watersheds
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carp River (Mackinac County) • Charlotte & Upper St. Mary's • Millecoquins • Manistique • Munuscong & Lower St. Mary's • Pendill's Creek • Pine (Mackinac County) • Tahquamenon • Two Hearted • Waiska 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Au Train-Chocolay • Cedar • Escanaba • Fishdam • Ford • Rapid • Sturgeon • Whitefish 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carp River (Marquette County) • Misery • Portage Lake • Sturgeon • Salmon Trout • Tobacco
L.P. Watersheds	L.P. Watersheds	L.P. Watersheds
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Big Sable • Clinton • Grand, Lower (Maple River to Lk. Michigan) • Kalamazoo • Manistee • Rifle • Saginaw 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black (Cheboygan County) • Cheboygan • Kawkawlin-Pine • Macatawa • Maumee Tributaries • Ocqueoc • Pentwater • Pere Marquette • Rouge • Shiawassee • St. Joseph, Upper • Swan Creek 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Au Gres/Tawas • Cass • Detroit • Grand, Upper (Headwaters to Maple River) • Muskegon • Paw Paw • Red Cedar • St. Joseph, Lower

- Thunder Bay
- Wiscoggin

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Article 7:

MiCorps Updates

Staff Transitions

As with most things, change is to be expected. This, too, is true of the MiCorps team. Since the last issue of The MiCorps Monitor, we have undergone some staffing changes. We have said goodbye to some familiar MiCorps faces and welcomed some new faces to the team.

Dr. Jo Latimore

Dr. Jo Latimore

One such familiar face, Dr. Jo Latimore, has left the Huron River Watershed Council and her role as the MiCorps Program Manager to replace another Cooperative Lakes Management Program (CLMP) partner, Howard Wandell, who recently retired from his position with the Michigan State University (MSU) Cooperative Extension Program. In her new role with MSU's Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, Jo continues to work closely with the Cooperative Extension Program and Michigan Lake and Stream Associations, Inc., to promote the stewardship of aquatic resources under the CLMP. Jo will continue to play an important role within the MiCorps team and will oversee the administration of the Lake Leaders Institute in this new capacity. Jo can now be contacted at latimor1@msu.edu.

Dr. Paul Steen

Dr. Paul Steen

Replacing Jo as the MiCorps Program Manager is Dr. Paul Steen who joined the Huron River Watershed Council in early 2008. Paul is a recent graduate of the University of Michigan's School of Natural Resources and Environment, where he earned his MS and PhD with a focus in landscape ecology, fish community ecology, and fish model development. Paul brings new experiences and enthusiasm to the team and will be coordinating many of the day-to-day MiCorps activities, including training and outreach programs with our volunteers and other water quality organizations around the state. Paul can be reached at psteen@hrwc.org.

The MiCorps team has also recently said goodbye to Matt Doss, MiCorps Program Administrator, at the Great Lakes Commission. Matt has transitioned into a new role as the Commission's Policy Director and will be focusing his efforts on advocacy and legislative activities within the Great Lakes region. We will certainly miss his expertise and his thoughtful guidance and stewardship of the program's resources over the last four years. Matt's efforts have helped to strengthen the MiCorps program and enable its sustainability as the premier volunteer stream and lake monitoring program within the state of Michigan.

Laura Kaminski

Laura Kaminski



Replacing Matt as the MiCorps Program Administrator is Laura Kaminski of the Great Lakes Commission. Laura is new to the MiCorps team but has been with the Commission for six years, focusing much of her efforts on nonpoint source pollution prevention and control within the Great Lakes region. Laura recently completed two master's degrees at the University of Michigan, one in business administration at the Ross School of Business and the other in resource policy at the School of Natural Resources and Environment. Laura will continue to provide oversight and guidance to the MiCorps team and will help to carry forward the excellent work that Matt has started. Laura can be reached at laurak@glc.org.

It is with great sadness that we also announce the departure of another familiar face from the MiCorps team. Earlier this fall, Beth Johnson, one of the hardworking MiCorps program staff, announced her decision to leave the Great Lakes Commission to pursue a new career in the arts. Many of you have worked closely with Beth in recent years and understand what a great loss this has been for the MiCorps team. Laura Kaminski will be assuming many of the day-to-day tasks for which Beth has been responsible.

Laura Andrews

Laura Andrews

Assisting Laura Kaminski with some of Beth's previous responsibilities will be yet another new team member, Laura Andrews, at the Great Lakes Commission. Laura Andrews joined the Commission in August as their new design manager and will be responsible for the development of MiCorps outreach materials such as The MiCorps Monitor and periodic e-communications and announcements about the program. Laura can be reached at landrews@glc.org.

Michigan Lake and Stream Associations, Inc., one of the primary MiCorps partner organizations who many of you may know through their administration and support of the Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program (CLMP), has recently undergone some of their own staff transitions. First, ML&SA Executive Director, Don Winne, has retired from the organization after 31 years of service in this capacity. Don is a well-known and respected member of volunteer lake monitoring networks around the state and has played a key role in advocating for the protection of riparian property owners' rights. His expertise and commitment to the preservation of Michigan's inland lakes and streams will truly be missed.

Scott Brown

Scott Brown

In response to Don's retirement, the ML&SA Board of Directors appointed Scott Brown to the role of Executive Director. Scott was formerly a regional Vice President for five years within the ML&SA structure and had been working as the Acting Executive Director during Don's transition into retirement. Scott is now working hard in his new role to reinvigorate ML&SA's work both with MiCorps and with other partners in support of their mission. Scott can be reached at scottb52@hughes.net.

Earlier this year, Pearl Bonnell announced her retirement as the ML&SA Director of Operations and Treasurer after 17 years in this role, effective March 1st. Many of you know Pearl as the day-to-day "face" of the CLMP and have had the pleasure of working with her to protect the health of our

inland lakes. Pearl's dedication to her work and continued development of the program has earned her much respect within the volunteer lake monitoring community. Pearl will continue to support the Michigan Lakes and Streams Foundation as its Treasurer. We will miss her tremendous spirit and wish her all the best as she transitions into this new chapter in her life.

Jean Roth

Jean Roth

Stepping up to fill Pearl's shoes as the primary CLMP point of contact for ML&SA is Jean Roth. Jean has been involved in much of the behind the scenes work for the CLMP program in recent years and we are fortunate to now have her overseeing much of the daily work as the new CLMP Coordinator. We are confident that Jean will continue to provide exceptional support to the program in this critical role. Jean can be reached at jarupanorth@centurytel.net.

Please join us in welcoming Paul, Laura K., Laura A. and Scott to the MiCorps team and saying a fond farewell to Howard, Matt, Beth, Don and Pearl!

CLMP Team

Current and previous CLMP staff, from left to right: Ralph Bednarz, Howard Wandell, Don Winne, Ric Lawson, Jo Latimore, Pearl Bonnell and Jack Wuycheck. Photo courtesy of Huron River Watershed Council.

MiCorps Monitor Gets a Facelift

In order to cut down on the paper and costs involved with doing a paper mailing of the MiCorps Monitor, we have transitioned to a fully-electronic format and delivery of the newsletter. As you have probably noticed by now, this semi-annual publication of the MiCorps program will now be arriving by email rather than in your office or home mailbox and will only be accessible via the internet. All previous issues of the MiCorps Monitor will be available in pdf format from the program website at micorps.net/newsletter.html.

While this new format definitely has a new look and feel to it, we also hope that it will be more convenient for you to quickly access the most interesting articles that appeal to you and to forward select items to your colleagues by email. In the spirit of saving paper, we also encourage you to consider the environment before printing out paper copies.

We are still working out some of the "bugs" of this transition and would love to hear your thoughts. Please contact Laura Kaminski, MiCorps Program Administrator, at laurak@glc.org or (734) 971-9135 with your comments or concerns.

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The MiCorps Monitor: April 2009

The newsletter of the Michigan Clean Water Corps, Issue 5

Article 8:

Discussion Topic: What do you (want to) monitor?

Since MiCorps began, there has been discussion about what types of monitoring MiCorps should support. This question actually has several implied questions within it. First, MiCorps is a program to support volunteer monitoring in Michigan, so we have to ask what kinds of monitoring can volunteers effectively do? In one of her factsheets for the Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring National Facilitation Project (available at: www.micorps.net/links.html), Linda Green – this year’s MiCorps Conference keynote speaker – lists a wide array of parameters that volunteers can consider for monitoring. These include watershed assessments like road crossing surveys or habitat assessments; chemical parameters like nutrients, pH, metals, or dissolved oxygen; physical measures such as stream flow, lake level, or channel morphology; and biological parameters like macroinvertebrates, aquatic vegetation, bacteria or fish. There seem to be few limitations.

MiCorps Training

Stream Team volunteers from Shiawassee and Livingston County gear up to search the Shiawassee River. Photo courtesy of The Nature Conservancy.

Second, as a statewide program with limited resources, how should MiCorps focus its efforts? Initially, MiCorps staff, under guidance from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the program’s steering committee, chose to focus on a limited set of parameters for lake and stream monitoring to establish statewide standards and provide a baseline of comparison across all watersheds in the state. Also, support can take many forms from monetary to technical advice, methods establishment or review, lab analysis, data management, etc. What form should MiCorps support take?

So, what do you think MiCorps should support? What are you currently monitoring and why? What would you like to monitor and what support would you need to make it happen? We want to hear your thoughts via our listserv discussion list. Jump into the discussion by signing on to the list at www.micorps.net/listserv.html and posting your thoughts – or, just respond to this newsletter if you received it via the listserv. We want to hear what you think.

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