



LITTLE RIVER NEWS

FALL/WINTER 2016

**MAY THIS HOLIDAY SEASON BRING YOU PEACE,
HEALTH, JOY, AND SERENITY**

ANNUAL MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT TIM PHILLIPS

This past year has been very productive with LMWCC accomplishing several goals. Our website — **lmwcc.org** — has in-depth information on all of our various activities, and I recommend that you check it out!!! Membership on the council has grown, and it is only through the commitment of our members that the LMWCC can be an effective force in preserving, protecting, and improving the special resource that is The Little Manistee River; so THANK YOU!!! **(continued page 3)**



LMWCC President, Tim Phillips

SYERS CREEK DAM

In 2012, using a grant from Patagonia, the LMWCC completed a habitat restoration project on the lower end of Syers Creek, a major tributary to the Little Manistee. The purpose of the project was to reclaim the section of the creek above its confluence with the mainstream just below M-37 and restore its historical condition as a viable brook trout spawning area. Within two years, however, the flow in Syers Creek had been reduced to a trickle. The culprit — inadequate water control through an earthen berm spanning the creek upstream. The dam impounds Syers Lake, traditionally a seasonal wetland but now a 600 plus acre lake.



A section of the 2012 habitat project

Working with CRA, MDNR, and seeking assistance for funding from Natural Resources Conservation Service and government agencies, LMWCC is committed to the removal of the dam. Not only has

the structure in question nullified the effects of our 2012 restoration project, it prevents fish migration, adds a high amount of sediment to the downstream portion of Syers Creek during heavy precipitation and high water events, and considerably raises the temperature of the flow in the creek when water is able to pass through the dam. Removing the structure will in the short term: restore a perennial flow to the creek; restore fish passage; reduce thermal effects on the creek; eliminate a source of sedimentation into the creek, and restore the natural wetlands above the present site of the dam. It is also hoped that our habitat project may once again serve as a spawning area for native brook trout.



The dry streambed in the restoration area

LMWCC has pledged \$10,000 to the project, and CRA is seeking additional funds through grant requests.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (cont. from page #1)

We completed the annual Bug Survey and H₂O Quality tests, and the results are included in this semi-annual newsletter. The **SWAT team** has worked diligently to keep a clear navigational channel from Johnson's Bridge downstream. Our **River stewards** program continued with its valiant efforts to preserve the pristine conditions we all enjoy along our great river corridor. The **"Salmon-in-the-Classroom"** program continues to be a success and has expanded its outreach to include high school students.

We are extremely fortunate to have been gifted/granted several thousands of dollars to support our on-going efforts to remediate erosion sites as well as improving fish habitat in Sections I and III of the **Trout Unlimited Instream Fish Habitat Assessment**. Based on the **Eroding Stream Bank Assessment** completed in 2014, the Board of Trustees has determined to remediate sites identified as severe, moderate and minor in that order whether on public or privately held land. This year, in cooperation with the MDRN, we completed work on 5 severe sites on public land; we supported further work on 5 severe sites on land running through the Indian Club, and another 3 sites on private land below Johnson's Bridge. Trout Unlimited oversaw work upstream of 71/2 Mile Rd. on a private parcel, and we have been in contact with several other landowners requesting their permission to access sites on their property. We hope to remediate those sites next year as well as 5 remaining moderate sites on public land with the help of the MDNR. Using money from a major grant from a private foundation we are planning fish habitat improvement projects on 3 sites in Section III of the Habitat Assessment that will be completed in 2017. Below is a photo of the TU work. **(Please see next page)**



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With our partner, Conservation Resource Alliance and a \$65,000 grant from NFWS, we completed the placement of large woody debris in Section III. We are seeking grant monies to undertake a major channelization project in an appropriate site to be selected. Finally, in close association with CRA we are planning and seeking funds for the removal of Syers Creek Dam that has deteriorated to the point of severely blocking the creek's flow from its headwaters at Syers Lake (**see page #2**). We continue the process of developing a viable Watershed Management Plan that addresses the needs and concerns of groups and individuals concerned with protecting the entire watershed. We are pursuing grants to provide funds for completing this plan within the next two years.

Your board, trustees you elect, assume many responsibilities. Among the most visible: Administrative Assistant, Volunteers Coordinator, SWAT team supervisor, Project Manager, Legal Counsel, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, H₂O Quality testing and Macro-invertebrate Survey director, Membership Chairman, Newsletter editor, Website manager, River Stewards program coordinator, Joint Partnership Committee representative, and Grant Writer. We also plan and organize the Annual Meeting, soliciting raffle and auction items and preparing the annual report. All of this is necessary in ensuring LMWCC's continued viability. There are other responsibilities that are vital to our participation with the Little Manistee Partnership Council which is made up of the National Forest Service, Michigan DNRE, the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, and the road commissions of the three counties through which the Little Manistee flows. I attend this council's meetings as well as the annual meetings of Conservation Councils from the various watersheds in the Lower Peninsula

What the Council does and is depends on you — our membership, people who volunteer their time, energy, and yes, money. Anyone interested in joining the board or assisting in any capacity should not hesitate to contact a trustee. All council members or guests are welcome to attend our regular monthly meetings on the first Saturday of every month. The LMWCC is strongly positioned to continue its work in improving and maintaining our river. The need for everyone's support is and will remain of paramount importance to perpetuate the great legacy of our organization established through our efforts for the last twenty years in Protecting, Preserving, and Enjoying the Little Manistee River.

2016 ANNUAL MEETING

The 20th annual meeting of LMWCC was held on July 9 at Skinner Park in Irons, and it was one of the best attended, most informative, and profitable in the Council's history. President, Tim Phillips opened the meeting with a welcome to all attendees and an overview of the work of the council over the preceding year.

The principal speak was Kayla Knoll of the Manistee Conservation District. Kayla's talk included a discussion of invasive species in the Great Lakes and the need for careful riparian stewardship, stressing the idea that "Somebody Lives Downstream."



Kayla Knoll of Manistee Conservation District

LMWCC trustee, Joyce Durdell discussed the status of the Watershed Management Plan and introduced key figures assisting LMWCC with that monumental project. Tim Ervin of the Alliance for Economic Success in Manistee and Laura Heintzelman of



Tim Ervin of AES

the Manistee County Community Fund spoke of the roles their organizations have assumed in the task of funding



Laura Heintzelman of MCCF

the actual writing of the plan. Also Greg Goudy of MDEQ outlined the advantages of LMWCC completing a watershed Management plan that meets the strict guidelines of both MDEQ and the EPA. Also Jack Bails of Public Sector Consultants detailed his firm's responsibilities for writing the plan.



Jack Bails of PSD

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Various other trustees discussed the roles they play on the board in making sure the Council's work is consistent with its mission statement and keeping members informed of its activities.



Lou Fitz manning the entranceway

A raffle followed the business portion of the meeting, raising \$6,255, almost double the amount generated last year. Everyone who contributed items for the raffles and all who participated in those, we thank you. The Council is indebted to Blake Krueger and Wolverine Worldwide for their support as well as John Gouker of D-Loop (formerly Schmidt's Outfitters) for donations to the auction. As always members of the Indian Club provided lunch for all in attendance, and we are extremely grateful.

It is hoped that all who attended found the meeting informative, useful, and enjoyable, and we look forward to seeing you again next July.



Members gather at the annual meeting

A LMWCC FAMILY TRAGEDY

It is with great sadness that we report that in late summer, trustee emeritus, Kaye McDonald, tragically lost his wife and daughter in a fire that consumed their home.

Kaye was an original member of the board, and until his resignation a few years ago, his quiet love of the river, his reasoned voice, and his sense of humor pervaded our deliberations.

The board is in discussion of the most appropriate ways to express our gratitude for all Kaye gave to the organization. We share our deepest condolences with Kaye for his incredible loss, and we express our sincerest best wishes.

On the following pages: data from the weir and results from the annual macro-invertebrate and water quality surveys.

LMWCC Water Quality Survey - July 11, 2016

GLWL Lab ID#	LMWCC Site # & Time Collected	Collection Location	Total Coliform colonies/ 100 ml	E. coli colonies / 100 ml	Ammonia mg/L	Nitrate mg/L	Phosphorus (Total) mg/L	pH in pH units	Dissolved Oxygen mg/L	Chloride mg/L	Nitrite mg/L	Air Temp. F°	Water Temp. F°
16071113	1 - 10:15a	L.M. Below Luther Dam	158.5	85.7	<0.05	<1.0	<0.05	7.8	8.3	<5	<0.05	67	64
16071114	2 - 10:07a	L.M. Above Fairbanks Creek	1299.7	178.5	<0.05	<1.0	0.063	7.8	8.2	<5	<0.05	68	62
*	3	Fairbanks Creek below Old M-63											
*	4	L.M. above Twin Creek											
*	5	Twin Creek											
16071115	6 - 9:49a	L.M. above Syers Creek	1203.3	137.6	<0.05	<1.0	0.097	7.9	8.4	11	<0.05	68	60
16071116	8 - 9:37a	L.M. @ Spencer Bridge	1986.3	104.3	<0.05	<1.0	0.030	7.8	8.4	10	<0.05	70	60
16071117	9 - 10:30a	L.M. @ Johnson Bridge	1119.9	104.6	<0.05	<1.0	0.035	7.9	8.4	8	<0.05	65	60
16071118	10 - 10:45a	L.M. @ Dewitts Bridge	920.8	224.7	<0.05	<1.0	0.007	7.9	8.4	7	<0.05	65	61
16071119	11 - 11:00a	L.M. @ Poggensee Bridge	2419.6	178.5	<0.05	<1.0	0.016	7.8	8.3	8	<0.05	66	60
16071120	12 - 9:53a	L.M. above Cool Creek	920.8	146.7	<0.05	<1.0	0.042	7.8	8.3	8	<0.05	64	56
16071121	13 - 9:58a	Cool Creek @ 18 Mile Bridge	1046.2	133.3	<0.05	<1.0	0.068	7.9	8.6	6	<0.05	64	62
*	14	Cool Creek above Stronach Creek											
*	15	Stronach Creek above Cool Creek											
16071122	16 - 10:10a	Cool Creek @ Cool Lake	547.5	3	<0.05	<1.0	0.010	8.1	8.6	5	<0.05	67	65
*	17	Cool Creek @ 12 Mile											
16071123	18 - 9:55a	Cool Creek @ Hamilton Road	1119.9	150	<0.05	<1.0	0.014	7.9	8.3	5	<0.05	68	63
16071124	19 - 10:07a	L.M. @ 9 Mile Bridge	1119.9	77.1	<0.05	<1.0	0.024	7.8	8.1	8	<0.05	64	60
16071125	20 - 10:20a	L.M. @ 6 Mile Bridge	1203.3	93.2	<0.05	<1.0	<0.005	7.9	8.3	8	<0.05	64	58
16071126	21 - 10:39a	L.M. @ DNR Weir	1119.9	81.6	<0.05	<1.0	<0.005	8.0	8.3	8	<0.05	64	59
16071127	22 - 10:47a	L.M. @ Stronach Road	920.8	117.8	<0.05	<1.0	0.005	7.9	8.3	7	<0.05	65	58
16071128	23 - 10:15a	Cool Lake @ Campground	648.8	6.3	<0.05	<1.0	0.046	8.1	8.6	5	<0.05	65	70

* Sites not sampled this year.

Note: Weather was cloudy and a light rain began to fall about 10:15 am. Precipitation levels were slight and likely not to have affected results.

To the VOLUNTEERS who made this project possible, a BIG > **THANK YOU!** < from the LMWCC Board and Members.

Test Results Prepared By: BG/GILL - GreatLakesWaterQualityLaboratory, Inc. www.greatlakeswaterlab.net - Certification #0091

**LITTLE MANISTEE RIVER
MACROINVERTEBRATE SURVEYS 2007 — 2016**

COLLECTION SITES:	YEAR >	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	AVG.
	Day >	5/6	5/23	5/5	5/13	5/7	5/11	5/16	5/31	5/16	5/21	2007-2016
Below Queen's Highway		45	35	37	36	27	36	42	36	52	40	39
Old Grade Campground		49	40	35	36	35	56	54	42	46	44	44
Johnson Bridge		20	31	32	37	NS	33	45	59	51	29	37
Dewitt's Bridge		24	35	28	30	36	34	43	50	43	36	36
Poggensee Bridge		NS	33	NS	28	51	23	36	22	39	25	32
Cool Creek		47	23	32	NS	NS	48	22	35	35	38	35
Bear Track Campground		25	18	23	28	27	38	46	43	43	NS*	32
9 Mile Bridge (south)		35	5	36	39	46	26	43	42	35	45	35
Bowman's (Cross Hole)		45	25	31	26	47	32	28	39	NS*	NS*	34
6 Mile Bridge NW Access		NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	47	15	47
AVERAGE/YEAR/SITE>		36	27	32	33	38	36	40	41	43	34	36

RATING:

EXCELLENT **> 48**
GOOD **34 — 47**
FAIR **19 — 33**
POOR **< 19**

LITTLE MANISTEE RIVER WEIR STATISTICS FOR STEELHEAD SINCE 1996

96/97	5,249	08/15	11/06	7,096	03/12	04/18	12,345
97/98	915	08/15	11/07	4,005	03/02	04/16	4,920
98/99	888	08/17	11/06	4,484	03/12	04/19	5,372
99/00	662	08/18	11/09	4,236	02/28	04/06	4,898
00/01	319	08/17	11/09	7,029	03/13	04/12	7,348
01/02	2,262	08/16	11/08	6,290	03/12	04/17	8,552
02/03	120	08/16	11/04	3,209	03/17	04/24	3,329
03/04	1,404	08/15	11/10	2,571	03/12	04/23	3,975
04/05	1,074	08/16	11/08	3,483	03/21	04/14	4,557
05/06	665	08/15	11/09	2,949	03/15	04/14	3,614
06/07	417	08/15	11/08	2,880	03/14	04/10	3,297
07/08	738	08/16	11/07	3,441	03/17	04/17	4,179
08/09	406	08/15	11/05	4,191	03/10	04/16	4,597
09/10	343	08/11	10/20	1,961	03/15	04/21	2,304
10/11	91	08/13	10/25	3,196	03/10	04/14	3,287
11/12	901	08/13	10/25	4,818	03/1	03/29	5,719
12/13	283	08/15	10/18	3,667	03/14	04/25	3,950
13/14	988	08/15	10/17	2,767	03/17	04/24	3,755
14/15	392	08/14	10/21	2,857	03/17	04/23	3,249
15/16	51	08/14	10/21	1,834	03/9	05/05	1,885
Average	1,887			4,769			6,656

LITTLE MANISTEE RIVER WEIR STATISTICS FOR SALMON AND TROUT SINCE 1996

Year	Spring Steelhead	Fall Chinook	Fall Coho	Fall Steelhead	Fall Brown Trout
1996	9,057	17,090	2,572	5,249	174
1997	7,096	15,433	781	915	123
1998	4,005	7,170	1,463	888	28
1999	4,484	18,621	519	662	39
2000	4,236	13,029	600	319	74
2001	7,029	18,279	911	2,262	59
2002	6,290	19,385	538	120	38
2003	3,209	14,419	616	1,404	43
2004	2,571	15,618	1,102	1,074	60
2005	3,483	11,075	2,100	665	53
2006	2,949	12,772	238	417	56
2007	2,880	10,946	303	738	50
2008	3,441	5,169	172	406	58
2009	4,191	8,274	126	343	86
2010	1,961	5,776	203	91	32
2011	3,196	14,124	1,815	901	40
2012	4,818	12,327	1,333	283	103
2013	3,667	6,427	1,021	988	80
2014	2,767	2,781	760	392	79
2015	2,857	654	259	51	65
2016	1,834	1,379	528	310	44
TOTAL	233,677	815,962	672,938	91,706	3,749
Average	4,769	16,652	13,733	1,872	77

YOUR TRUSTEES**2014**

Tim Phillips	President
Jim Squier	Vice President
Dan Sernick	Treasurer
Greg Block	Project Co-ordinator
Evelyn Furman	Secretary
Dale Downes	Membership
Joyce Durdell	Water Testing
David Spruance	Newsletter
Joe Rogers	SWAT
Armas Soorus	WMP
John Miller	Corporate Membership/River Stewards
John Gorys	Emeritus
Kaye McDonald	Emeritus
Gordon Lewis	Emeritus

OTHER NON-TRUSTEE CO-ORDINATORS

Anna Jo Rogers	Web Site
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Membership renewal forms will be sent out before year's end. Please take a moment to renew your annual membership and consider adding to your dues with a contribution. Remember the monies donated to the **Howard Roberts Memorial Fund** are used solely for in-stream improvements and habitat enhancement. And you can now renew at The LMWCC website using Pay Pal. Also please consider what you can do for the Council in non-monetary ways. We always need volunteers to assist with our on-going work: Water Quality and Macro Invertebrate surveys, in-stream work projects, and solicitation of donations for the annual meeting.

OUR MISSION

Is to bring together persons and organizations who have an interest in the resource conservation and restoration of the Little Manistee River and its watershed. Our goals are to restore, protect, and preserve the natural character of the watershed by communicating resource problems and then offering and implementing problem resolution. We are a state chartered non-profit, tax-exempt organization. All contributions are tax deductible under §501{3} of the IRS code. Our business is conducted by a council of trustees elected by the membership. All positions are voluntary, non-compensated.