



LITTLE RIVER NEWS

Spring/Summer 2020

A river can be a friend in a special way. It talks to you with splashy gurgles. It cools your toes and lets you sit quietly beside it when you don't feel like speaking. —
Joan Walsh Anglund, *A Friend is Someone Who Likes You*

NOTICE OF ADJOURNMENT OF ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

The Board of Trustees of the Little Manistee Watershed Conservation Council has adjourned the annual meeting of members of the LMWCC indefinitely. The adjournment is because of the COVID-19 epidemic. The Board's paramount concern is the health and safety of our members and guests. The Board believes that under current circumstances it would not be practical to hold a meeting of members and achieve a quorum while observing current government requirements and best practices for social distance and sanitation.

The current Trustees will continue to serve until an annual meeting of members is held. The Board of Trustees has the ability to appoint trustees to fill vacancies. If you are a member and wish to serve as a trustee, please contact our President, Tim Phillips, at petertphillips@aol.com.

— Tim Phillips, President LMWCC

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.

Homeowners Guide



The mainstream of the Little Manistee River stretches for approximately 60 miles, from its headwaters in Ellsworth Township of Lake County to the watershed's exit point at Manistee Lake in Manistee County. A dam at the village of Luther impounds a millpond of about eight acres. From there to the mouth – about 55 miles – the river is free-flowing. In addition to the river and its tributaries, the Little Manistee River Watershed includes 28 named lakes.

The Little Manistee River is a “coldwater” stream supplied primarily by cold, clean groundwater and as such is a globally rare resource. Soils in the watershed are primarily coarse glacial sands and gravels. These soils allow quick infiltration of rainfall and snowmelt, contributing to rapid recharge of groundwater aquifers. Trout and other Coldwater adapted fish have evolved in these types of systems as a result of their requirement for a high concentration of dissolved oxygen (DO) - a uniqueness in itself because the colder the temperature of water, the more oxygen may be dissolved in it. Trout and other coldwater fish pass this cold, oxygen rich water across their gills. However, with warming of the water, the lower DO concentration in the stream results in shrinkage of the habitat utilized by these fish. The loss of stream side shading is the primary culprit in the unnatural warming of coldwater streams like the Little Manistee River and most of its tributaries.

The Little Manistee was originally a pure Grayling Stream but presently supports five species – Brook, Brown and Rainbow Trout as well as Coho and Chinook Salmon. All but the Chinook are wild, naturally producing populations. Fish eggs harvested annually from the river's population of wild steelhead trout support a hatchery system that supplies waterways in Michigan and adjacent states. A weir that is put in place in early March blocks all salmon from moving upstream and all but the young steelhead until the egg quota has been reached, which is usually sometime in middle to late April. In the fall, the weir is in place from Mid-August to Mid-November, but only the salmon are blocked.

A major reason for people to come to the Little Manistee River Watershed is the wild nature and natural beauty of the area. Whether we are here to live, work, fish, enjoy paddle sports or one of many other recreational activities our presence and activities impact the environment we come here to enjoy.

Homeowners Guide (continued)

You can do your part as a riparian landowner to protect the river by:

- Maintaining an un-mowed vegetative buffer between your home and the river (50' would not be too much), use native plant species of trees and shrubs that can block at least some of the sun's rays and shade the river.
- Do not fertilize your lawn or do so only sparingly. Also, if you have a drain field/septic tank system have it pumped and maintained regularly. The nutrients from fertilizer and drain fields promote weed growth in the river which slows and causes it to become shallower and wider - the result of which is warming of the water through increased surface area exposed to direct sunlight.
- Leave wood in the stream for fish cover.
- If you want a groomed river access point, keep it small as possible within a vegetative buffer to filter surface runoff entering the river. Sand and Gravel soils have relatively limited filtering capacity and materials on the surface can easily leech deeply in the earth and contaminate the aquifers – If you don't want it coming out of your faucet, don't put it on the ground.
- Use native species for landscaping. Be watchful for invasive species of land and aquatic plants and animals.
- Clean and dry fishing equipment before and after use, remove debris.
- Dispose of unwanted bait in trash.

Related Organizations:

Little Manistee Watershed Conservation Council - LMWCC.org

Conservation Resource Alliance – rivercare.org

Shoreline Management - MichiganShorelinePartnership.org

NorthCountryInvasives.org or 231 429 5072

Trout Unlimited - Fish Habitat/ Conservation - <https://www.tu.org>

Manistee Conservation District, Bear Lake: 231-889-9666

Mason-Lake (west) Conservation District, Ludington: 231-757-3707

Osceola-Lake (east) Conservation District, Reed City: 231-832-5341

MI DNR - Fisheries – 517 284 5830 or DNR-Fisheries@michigan.gov

Michigan EGLE - Cadillac District Office - Phone: 231-775-3960

Nat. Forest Service: Baldwin: 231 745-4631, Cadillac: 231 723-2211

References:

My Healthy Stream – A Handbook For Streamside Owners, Trout Unlimited

Managing Your Septic System – Michigan State University, Document E-3350

Michigan Fishing Regulations - <https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/>



Nitrate Water Testing

Clean drinking water is essential to our health. Unfortunately, water can become contaminated with bacteria found naturally in the environment or with man-made chemicals from industrial waste and fertilizers. In Michigan, private wells that serve less than 25 people are not regulated by the Safe Drinking Water Act. This means that it is up to the private well owner to make sure the drinking water is safe. The DEQ does investigate drinking water well contamination, oversees the water well drilling industry, and oversees remedial activities where groundwater contamination has affected private drinking water wells. District Health Department #10 (DHD#10) administers DEQ programs for private wells. DHD#10 has an in-house drinking water lab located at the Mason County office. They perform drinking water testing and analysis for the bacteria known as coliform, including *E. coli*, as well as for nitrates, which are man-made chemicals often used in fertilizer. Stop in to DHD#10 in your area to pick up a water testing kit. You can have both bacterial analysis and chemical analysis performed, or just one or the other.

Bacterial Testing Kit: Cost = \$20 – All bacterial testing kits come with a sample bottle and a pre-addressed envelope to mail the sample back.*

Nitrate Testing Kit: Cost = \$20 – All nitrate testing kits come with a sample bottle, pre-addressed envelope, gel pack and cooler to send your sample back.*

Get Involved

Please take a moment to renew your annual membership and consider an additional contribution. Remember, money donated to the Howard Roberts Memorial Fund are used solely for in-stream projects. We also need volunteers to assist with ongoing work. Please visit the website at www.lmwcc.org to renew your membership or sign up to volunteer.



**AMAZON SMILE**

AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. When you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice. To shop at AmazonSmile simply go to smile.amazon.com from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. You will be asked to select a charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases. Select the Little Manistee Watershed Conservation Council as your charity. This is a great way to continue your support of the LMWCC and its programs.

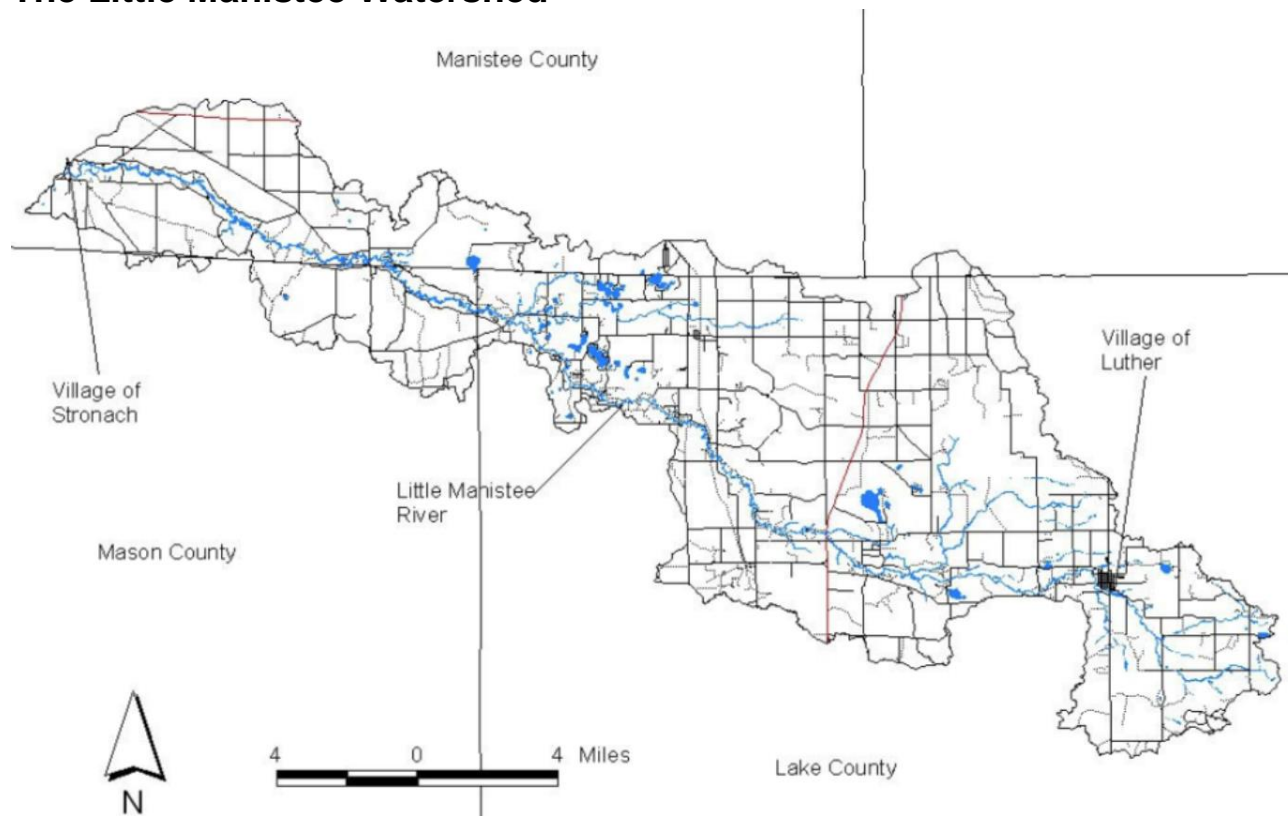
River Volunteer Meeting

The 2020 River Volunteer Meeting was scheduled to be held at the Carl Johnson Center in Cadillac on April 17. The Little Manistee Watershed Conservation Council was scheduled to host the event. **The meeting was cancelled in response to the Stay Home, Stay Safe order issued by the Governor.**

2020 ANNUAL EVENTS

- Bug Survey- Thursday, May 19th and Friday, May 22nd
- Water Quality Survey-July 13th
- Private Projects — Continue to monitor and assist owners with the permitting process.
- Membership — Pursue the mass mailings to riparian owners begun last year.
- Annual Meeting — Secure permits, print raffle tickets. Procure raffle prizes and solicit donations for the auction.
- Newsletter — published three times a year; mailed to members and posted on the LMWCC web site. We are excited to offer an e-newsletter as an option beginning in the Spring of 2020.
- SWAT — the team will clear the river periodically or as needed.
- Fundraising — Continue to explore fundraising options. Sell LMWCC logo merchandise. Identify organizations and groups as potential sources of support for on-going projects.
- Web Site — Make sure all significant and current information is available to members on the site. Provide links to other related organizations and partner groups PayPal has now been implemented allowing members to renew on-line and make donations to the council.

The Little Manistee Watershed



Little Manistee Watershed Conservation Council

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