



Celebrating our Volunteers:

**The Fourth Annual
MiCorps Conference**

October 20-21, 2008 ❖ Ralph A. MacMullan Conference Center ❖ Higgins Lake, Michigan

Conference Agenda

Day One - Monday, October 20, 2008

1:00 pm **Workshop: Aquatic Macroinvertebrate Search and Identification**
Paul Steen, MiCorps Support Staff, Huron River Watershed Council

We will visit a local stream to take aquatic macroinvertebrate samples, and then head back to the lab to identify these to order-level, and for more advanced participants, to family-level. Optional talks will be given for both beginners and advanced participants. Participation is limited to 30 people on a first-come, first-served basis. **Advanced registration is required through our online registration form.**

5:30 pm **Dinner**

6:30 pm **Reception and Bonfire**

Volunteer monitoring programs will showcase their local river or lake management efforts through poster displays. All programs are invited to display a poster. There will be snacks and beverages (beer and wine) and a bonfire on the adjacent patio.

Day Two - Tuesday, October 21, 2008

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

8:30 am **Welcoming Remarks and Review of Agenda**
Ric Lawson, MiCorps Support Staff, Huron River Watershed Council
Elwin Coll, Chair, MiCorps Steering Committee

8:45 am **Keynote: The Ripple Effect of Volunteer Monitoring**
Linda Green, USDA-CSREES Extension Volunteer Monitoring Network

9:45 am **Overview of the MiCorps Program and Michigan's Surface Water Monitoring Program**
Ralph Bednarz, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
Ric Lawson, MiCorps Support Staff, Huron River Watershed Council

Introduction and overview of the MiCorps program and its work and accomplishments during the program's third year. Overview of Michigan's Surface Water Monitoring Program, including the program's structure and goals and how staff use volunteer monitoring data. Discussion of trends in water quality in Michigan's lakes and rivers.

10:00 am **Break**

10:15 am **Introductions and Sharing our stories**
Moderator: Joan Martin, Huron River Watershed Council

11:15 am **Awards for MiCorps Members**

11:45 pm **Lunch**

1:00 pm **Afternoon Breakout Sessions**

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

Breakout Session 1: How to Analyze and Use Volunteer Collected Data (Education Building, Upper Level)

River Raisin Stream Invertebrate Results 2002-2008

Jim Martin Ph.D., Associate Professor, Adrian College and Director of the River Raisin Watershed Council Adopt-A-Stream Program

Data Analysis Examples from the Huron River Watershed

Paul Steen, Ph.D., Huron River Watershed Council

Relative Importance of Zebra Mussels Invasion and Phosphorus on Concentrations of the Natural Toxin, Microcystin, in Michigan

Orlando Sarnelle, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Fisheries and Wildlife, Michigan State University

Breakout Session 2: How to Start and Grow a Program (Education Building, Lower Level)

Patrick Ertel, Huron Pines

Kevin Cronk, Tip of the Mitt

Linda Green, USDA-CSREES Extension Volunteer Monitoring Network

Moderator: Joan Martin, Huron River Watershed Council

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 breakout sessions.

Breakout Session 3: Lessons Learned for a Successful Monitoring Program (Education Building, Upper Level)

Jean Roth, Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program

Sally Petrella, Friends of the Rouge

John Hayes, Glen Lake Association, Inc.

Moderator: Joan Martin, Huron River Watershed Council

Breakout Session 4: Asking for Money and Telling Your Story (fundraising, marketing and chocolate) (Education Building, Lower Level)

Margaret Smith, Development Director, Huron River Watershed Council

Acquire some basic knowledge about fundraising and marketing to help you raise more money for your cause and tell more people about your work. For starters, we will discuss the three most important things you need to know about both asking for money and telling your story. The session will end with a divine chocolate tasting for all participants.

3:45 pm **Closing Remarks and Adjournment**