



Michigan Clean  
Water Corps

**People Protecting  
Michigan's Water:**  
The Second Annual  
MiCorps Conference

October 2-3, 2006



Ralph A. MacMullan Conference Center



Higgins Lake, Michigan

## Preliminary Conference Agenda

### Day One - Monday, October 2, 2006

**1:30 pm Registration**

**2:30 pm Workshop: Getting Started in Volunteer Monitoring**

*Facilitator/presenter: Joan Martin, MiCorps Support Staff, Huron River Watershed Council*

*Panel: Terry Stilson, Muskegon River Watershed Assembly; Sally Petrella, Friends of the Rouge; Jim Fackert, Five-Lakes Association; and Kevin Cronk, Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council*

Information for people who want to start a volunteer monitoring program or who have recently organized a volunteer group and need help strengthening their program. This session will feature short presentations and open discussion on key topics. A panel of volunteer monitoring coordinators will also be present to share their experiences and lessons learned. All are invited to come and share their knowledge and expertise.

**2:30 pm Starting from Scratch**

**3:00 pm Designing a Program**

**3:30 pm Break**

**3:45 pm Funding the Early Stages**

**4:15 pm Ensuring Success From the Start**

**5:00 pm Dinner**

**6:00-7:30 pm Workshop: Aquatic Macroinvertebrate Identification**

*Jo Latimore, MiCorps Support Staff, Huron River Watershed Council*

Hands-on training for identification of macroinvertebrates. The level of identification will depend on the needs of the participants. Participation is limited to 20 people on a first-come, first-served basis. Advanced registration is required.

**6:30 pm Reception and Poster Session**

Volunteer monitoring programs will showcase their local river or lake management efforts through poster displays. All programs are invited to display a poster.

Thanks to the Michigan Clean Water Corps partners for supporting this conference:



## Day Two - Tuesday, October 3, 2006

**8:00 am Registration**

**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 Speaker**

*Mike Wiley, Professor of Natural Resources, School of Natural Resources and Environment, University of Michigan*

Dr. Wiley will discuss our current knowledge of rivers across Michigan and present projections of the future of our rivers over the next 24 years, highlighting where we expect major changes in stream conditions and how volunteer monitoring data should respond to these changes. He will also present a paradigm of assessment for both rivers and lakes and discuss different expectations for surface waters in different parts of the state.

**9:45 am Introduction and Overview of the MiCorps 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 second year.

**10:00 am Overview of Michigan's Surface Water Monitoring Program and Trends in Water Quality in Michigan's Lakes and Rivers**

*Gary Kohlhepp, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality  
Ralph Bednarz, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality*

Managers of Michigan's Surface Water Monitoring Program will review the program's structure and goals, explain how staff use volunteer monitoring data, highlight quality control requirements, and discuss trends in water quality in Michigan's lakes and rivers.

**10:30 pm Awards for MiCorps Members**

**10:45 am Break**

**11:00 am Morning Breakout Sessions**

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

**Session 1: Recruiting and Retaining Volunteers** - Learn how to successfully recruit and train volunteers, how to sustain their involvement, and how to structure volunteer activities.

*Joan Martin, MiCorps Support Staff, Huron River Watershed Council  
Sally Petrella, Friends of the Rouge  
Jim Fackert, Five-Lakes Association  
Kevin Cronk, Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council*

**Session 2: Managing Your Volunteer Monitoring Data** - Learn how to effectively manage your volunteer data, including using the MiCorps database, using other database programs, and safeguarding your data.

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

**Session 3: Designing Your Monitoring Strategy** - This session is intended to help program coordinators design an effective monitoring strategy. It will cover topics such as determining which monitoring methods are most appropriate for your program, how to select monitoring sites, developing a quality assurance plan, and more.

*Mike Wiley, Professor of Natural Resources, School of Natural Resources and Environment, University of Michigan*

12:15 pm

**Lunch**

1:30 pm

**Afternoon Breakout Sessions**

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

**Session 1: Fundraising** - Learn how to identify funding sources and develop a fundraising plan to support your monitoring efforts. Includes tips on preparing successful MiCorps grant applications.

*Ann F. Clark, Development Directions, Inc.*

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

**Session 2: Using Your Volunteer Monitoring Data and Other Ways to Make Your Program Successful** - What can you expect from your data? Learn how to interpret your volunteer monitoring data, present it to various audiences, and use it to retain volunteers and educate the community.

*Joan Martin, MiCorps Support Staff, Huron River Watershed Council*

*Mike Wiley, Professor of Natural Resources, School of Natural Resources and Environment, University of Michigan*

*Jo Latimore, MiCorps Support Staff, Huron River Watershed Council*

**Session 3: A Watershed Perspective for Lake Monitoring** - Learn how you might have a greater impact with lake monitoring and how to network with other lake associations in your area.

*Howard Wandell, Michigan State University*

*Jim Fackert, Five-Lakes Association*

*Scott Brown, Michigan Lake and Stream Associations, Inc.*

*John Hayes, Glen Lake Association, Inc.*

2:45 pm

**Break**

3:00 pm

**Panel Session and Open Forum: Opportunities for Engaging the Volunteer Monitoring Community in Protecting Michigan's Water Resources**

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

This open forum is an opportunity for conference participants to make recommendations for strengthening the MiCorps program and supporting and engaging Michigan's volunteer monitoring community. Representatives from the MiCorps Steering Committee and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality will respond to the conference discussions and answer questions.

4:00 pm

**Closing Remarks and Adjournment**