

The EARLY ADOPTER

Winter Stonefly Hunt Results

**Thank You
To All Of Our
Volunteers!**

**The Adopt-A-
Stream Program
depends on the
help of volunteers.**

**Thanks for joining
us for the Winter
Stonefly Hunt!**

**Michelle Beloskur
Rick Berry
Russ Bodell
Pegg Clevenger
Lori Fitzgibbons
Melissa Kim
Jerome Krakowiak
Kathy Kulchinski
Russ Monasmith
Kenny Price
Josiah Rentschler
Kurt Rudolph
Jim Seitz
Jim Waggener**



At the end of January a small group of volunteers bundled up and spent a sunny Saturday afternoon searching for stoneflies in the Upper Grand River Watershed as part of our second Winter Stonefly Hunt.

We visited three sites in the watershed and found stoneflies at each! We were looking for Capniidae and Taeniopterygidae, which are families of stoneflies that emerge during the winter. We visited the Center Lake Outlet at Falahee Road, the Grand River near the Liberty Dam and Sandstone Creek at Minard Mills Park. We found Capniidae at all three sites and Taeniopterygidae near the Liberty Dam and in Sandstone Creek (see table below). Although the

number of stoneflies found may seem low, we weren't searching for them very long and their presence is still good news!

These winter stonefly families require lots of oxygen and are found in the winter in the cold, oxygen rich waters. They are important because they are sensitive macroinvertebrate families. They are intolerant of pollution which often depletes the water of oxygen. When stoneflies are present, it indicates that those portions of the river are healthy.

**Check out the Creature Feature
on Page 2 to learn more about
Winter Stoneflies**



2010 Winter Stonefly Hunt Results		
Site Location	# of Capniidae Found	# of Taeniopterygidae Found
Center Lake Outlet @ Falahee Rd.	4	0
Grand River @ Liberty Dam	1	1
Sandstone Creek @ Springport Rd. (Minard Mills Park)	7	4

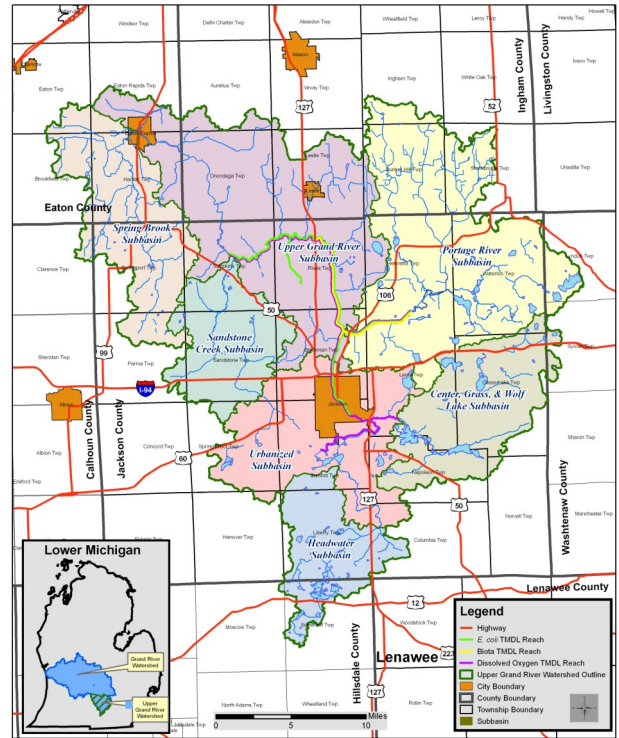
What is Adopt-A-Stream?

Adopt-A-Stream is a program where volunteers monitor water quality, describe the habitats in and around the river, and collect “benthic macroinvertebrates” to track the health of the river system.



What is a “Benthic Macroinvertebrate?”

Benthic means “bottom”, “macro” means large (large enough to see without a microscope) and “invertebrates” are animals with no backbones. So, we’re talking about things like snails, clams, insects, worms, and crayfish. “Bugs” for short.



Upper Grand River Watershed
 Data from the Michigan Center for Geographic Information
 Funded in part by the Michigan DEQs
 Nonpoint Source Program under project 2005-012

CREATURE FEATURE



Kingdom: Animalia
Phylum: Arthropoda
Class: Insecta
Order: Plecoptera
Family: Capniidae and Taeniopterygidae (winter stonefly families)

Capniidae (Small Winter Stonefly)

- Smaller of the 2 winter stoneflies
 5 - 10 mm (0.2 - 0.4 inches) in length
- Lighter colored
- More common of the 2 winter stoneflies



Taeniopterygidae (Winter Stonefly)

- Larger of the 2 winter stoneflies
 10 - 20 mm (0.4 - 0.8 inches) in length
- Darker colored (brown to black)



Sources:

Guide to Aquatic Invertebrates of the Upper Midwest, Identification Manual for Students, Monitors, and Aquatic Resource Professionals.

The Chironomidae Research Group <http://www.entomology.umn.edu/midge/>

Upcoming Watershed Events

Spring Adopt-A-Stream Events

Looking for something to do outside this spring?

Join us for the Spring Adopt-A-Stream Events! Volunteers do not need experience in water quality or macroinvertebrate identification. All training and equipment will be provided to volunteers. Children 12 and up are welcome to participate if accompanied by an adult.

- On Collection Day, volunteers will work in teams to collect macroinvertebrates (“bugs”) from different sites along the Upper Grand River. Volunteers can either wade in the water and collect bugs, or stay dry on land and help sort out the bugs.
- On Bug ID Night we will use microscopes and reference materials to identify the bugs we have found on collection day.

*New volunteers will need to attend a training session in order to participate in Collection Day.

Please contact Alison Rauss at the Jackson County Conservation District if you are interested in volunteering for any of these events:
(517)784-2800 Ext. 5 or alison.rauss@macd.org

Summer Adopt-A-Stream Event

Habitat Assessment



In August we are planning on conducting our habitat assessment portion of the Adopt-A-Stream program. We won't be collecting any bugs at this event, but we will still need volunteers to make and record observations of the conditions of sites along the Upper Grand River. We will be collecting data on things like stream depth, stream flow, erosion, plants and overall habitat quality.

We plan on holding volunteer training in early August and assessments will take place in late August.

Exact dates will be announced soon!



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday April 17, 2010

9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Spring Collection Training Day

Meet at The Dahlem Center

7117 South Jackson Road, Jackson

Please RSVP by Monday April 12th

Tuesday April 27, 2010

6:30-8:30 pm

Spring Collection Training (Ingham County)

1030 West Dexter Trail, Mason

*Please RSVP to Ingham Conservation District
(517)676-2290 by Friday April 23rd

Saturday May 1, 2010

1:00-4:00 pm

Spring Adopt-A-Stream Collection Day

Meet at The Dahlem Center

7117 South Jackson Road, Jackson

Please RSVP by Monday April 26th

Tuesday May 4, 2010

5:30-8:30 pm

Bug ID Night

Jackson County Community College

McDivitt Hall (Room tba)

2111 Emmons Road, Jackson

Please RSVP by Monday May 3rd

Upper Grand River Adopt-A-Stream

The Upper Grand River Adopt-A-Stream Program is a partnership between the Jackson County Conservation District (JCCD), The Dahlem Conservancy, The Upper Grand River Watershed Alliance, the Grand River Environmental Action Team (GREAT), the Jackson Urban Area MS4 Communities, ASTI Environmental and volunteers throughout the Watershed.

Funding for the program is provided by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources & Environment through the Upper Grand River Implementation Project (UGRIP), by the Jackson Area Storm Water Committee, and a grant through the Michigan Clean Water Corps (MiCorps).



Jackson County Conservation District
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If you have any questions, or are interested in volunteering, please contact the Adopt-A-Stream Staff.

Adopt-A-Stream Program Staff

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