



Welcome to the Friends of the Shiawassee River Annual Meeting, 2009

Feb. 16, 2010

care. share. enjoy.



- Recap of conservation activities in 2009
 - River Cleanup
 - Stewardship
 - Stream Team
 - Riparian work
 - Thank you to our partners and volunteers
- Looking ahead

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Outstanding business



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The Nature Conservancy
Protecting habitats. Preserving life.

THE RIVER VIEW

News From The Nature Conservancy & Friends of the Shiawassee River

A Seasonal Publication of The Friends of the Shiawassee River • Founded 1995 • Winter 09/10 • Vol. 13, Issue 3

New 'Dam' Structure in Chesaning Helps Fish & Economy

courtesy of Wade Trim engineers

One of Michigan's greatest gifts is the numerous waterways that flow through our communities providing picturesque landscapes and a source of economic gain. The Village of Chesaning has demonstrated an excellent example of maximizing the potential economic benefits of the river by facilitating public access to waterways.

The Chesaning Dam served as a vital piece of infrastructure during the economic development when settlers first moved to the Village. The Dam, located on the Shiawassee River, was originally built in 1865 to create power and soon became a key element to Chesaning's success as a lumber hub in the mid-1800s. However, arrival of rail lines and improved land transportation changed the role of the Dam in the local economy. The Dam deteriorated to the point where maintenance and repair was not a viable option

for the Village of Chesaning.

Later damage to the Chesaning Dam put the future of the Chesaning Showboat Festival, a key piece of local culture and economic vitality, in jeopardy. In the spring of 2005, excessive flow and ice damage caused a partial collapse of the dam. Local officials were faced with the danger of losing the Dam, as well as the prospect of having to discontinue the Showboat Festival. Due to signs of serious structural problems, emergency actions were required in the spring of 2005 to prevent total failure. A number of private citizens donated or pledged money needed to make temporary repairs, and the Village was able to avoid an imminent failure.

Faced with increasing urgency to resolve the issue before the dam failed, the Village took action and hired Wade Trim, to evaluate river restoration and funding

alternatives. This evaluation compared the costs and benefits of both dam rehabilitation and the removal of the dam and restoration of the river. The system they proposed would remove the current hazards caused by the dam, while stabilizing the river channel and restoring a nearby 150-year old natural habitat.

Restoration of the Shiawassee River to allow fish passage was a common goal of several regulatory agencies and private organizations. Engineers have developed a solution that restores fish passage, reestablishes a natural river habitat, and reconnects a fragmented aquatic habitat, while eliminating the long term liabilities associated with a failing Dam. Restoration of natural habitats are a common goal of both environmental and wildlife protection agencies alike.

Man-made rapids in the form of a rock ramp with boulder arch weirs were see Chesaning Dam, page 2.



Photo courtesy of Wade Trim.

Partnership with City of Owosso will Plant Trees along Shiawassee River by Heidi Frei, Director, FOSR

Through funding provided by the Michigan Departments of Natural Resources, Urban and Community Forestry Program, the City of Owosso will be planting trees in the critical riparian area along the river in the Spring of 2010. The project will plant a diverse assemblage of trees native to Michigan along the Shiawassee River downtown and at Harmon Partridge Park. Partnering with the Friends of the Shiawassee River and The Nature Conservancy, the City will plant nearly 50 trees with the aid of volunteers and classrooms. These trees will provide habitat for wildlife along the river and will also protect the river and its habitat by providing a number of environmental services.

see Riverbank Trees, page 2.

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Volunteer Service



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Volunteer Service



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Outstanding Board



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2009 Activities



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River Cleanup

- 12th Annual Shiawassee River Cleanup



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River Cleanup

- 12th Annual Shiawassee River Cleanup



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40 yards of debris
1 truckload scrap metal

Tire Collection

2008: 112

2009: 236

Total: 348



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Stream Team

- Monitor habitat throughout the watershed



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Stream Team Science



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Riparian Recovery

- Stewardship
- Tree Planting



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Community

- Volunteer hours
 - Spring Cleanup= 270 hours
 - Invasive Species= 60 hours
 - Summer River Cleanup= 312 hours
 - Tree Planting= 17 hours
- Total 819 hours = \$16,584.75
- Not inclusive of summer tire efforts or intern hours

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- Looking ahead
 - Connectivity on the River
 - Recreational development
 - Partnerships



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- Upcoming dates

ShiawasseeRiver.org

- 2/23 Speaker Series, David Lossing
- 3/18 Speaker Series, Lois Wolfson
- 4/10 Garlic Mustard begins
- 5/1 Spring River bank cleanup
- 5/1 and 5/8 Stream Team
- 5/15 Tree Planting

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Thank you!

The Nature Conservancy

Cook Family Foundation

The Great Lakes Commission

MDNRE

MiCorps

DeVries Nature Conservancy

Shiawassee County Health Dept.

Livingston County Drain Office

Saginaw Conservation Distrit

USFWS

City of Owosso

Waste Management

Wells-Fargo Advisors

Mancino's

Wrought Iron Grill

Gilbert's True Value

Cheff's Canoe Rental

Main Beverage Co.

Roma's

Gilbert's True Value

MSU Extension

All our volunteers!

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