



# Huron River Report

*The newsletter of the*

## Huron River Watershed Council

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## Taking a Fresh Look at the Algae Problem

*HRWC Partners with University of Michigan in New Study*

The U.S. EPA has awarded a three-year, \$750,000 grant to University of Michigan researchers who are partnering with HRWC. The EPA is taking a fresh look at the middle Huron River in an effort to reduce or eliminate obnoxious algal blooms that for years have plagued Ford and Belleville lakes. Researchers currently are conducting their first field season of intensive sampling at 12 sites along the river from Zeeb Road to Haggerty Road, as well as within Barton Pond, and Ford and Belleville lakes. They are probing the chemistry and biology of the River plus analyzing interactions with weather and water flow.

The project is led by Dr. John Lehman, Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University. The research team includes faculty, students, and staff from the College of Literature, Science and Arts and the School of

Public Health. HRWC is collaborating with the project by providing access to its knowledge base about the River, including land use and other GIS data, and by serving as a liaison to the public about research findings and their potential for improved management of the River.

Findings are being shared with the Middle Huron Initiative Partners as well as citizens' committees in Van Buren and Ypsilanti townships. Dr. Lehman notes, "This project has a strong research component, but it also reaches out to municipalities and organizations like HRWC because it takes educated citizens and their representatives to implement remedial measures, if they choose to do so."



*Blooms of blue-green algae explode in Ford Lake every summer.*

Watch for updates and progress reports about this research in future issues of the *Huron River Report*.

-Elizabeth Riggs  
and Donna Lehman

photo: John Lehman