



# WORKING 4U & CONSERVATION NEWSLETTER

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## DID YOU KNOW?

- The most diverse population of threatened and endangered mussels in Michigan, are found in the Belle River
- You won't really feel it, If you turn down the temperature on your water heater a couple degrees—but your bank account might!
- Nearly 90% of energy used when washing clothes comes from heating the water. Cold cleans just as well.
- Don't rinse the dishes. No need to waste the extra water, let your dishwasher do the work.
- Shortening showers and turning the tap off when brushing your teeth can make big difference.

## Why is it Necessary to Keep Our Water Resources Healthy? Part 2

The [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC) reports that water is considered “the most important resource for sustaining ecosystems, which provide life-supporting services for people, animals, and plants.”

**From wetlands to the Great Lakes our care and management are crucial for energy and food production, health and survival, healthy ecosystems, socioeconomic development and sustainable development.**

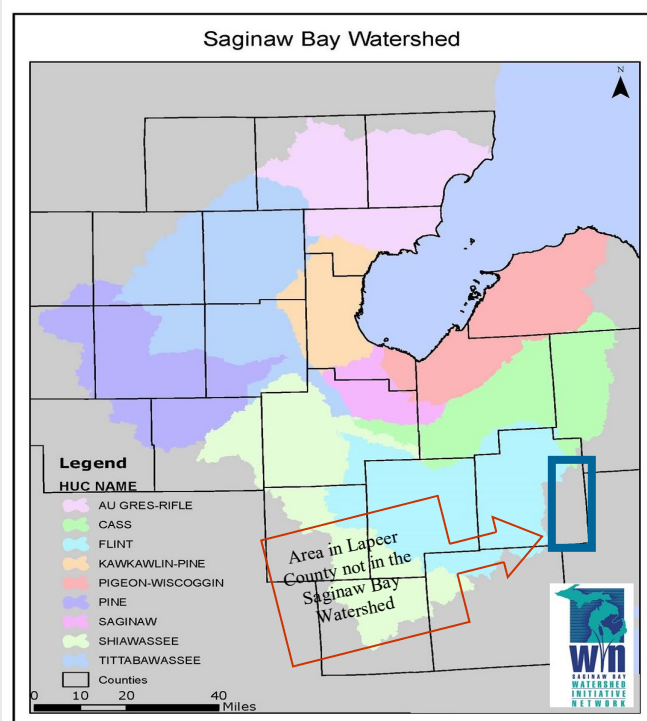
Our watershed here in Lapeer County is predominantly the Saginaw Bay Watershed **BUT** we do have a few other watersheds located on the south east portion of Lapeer County.

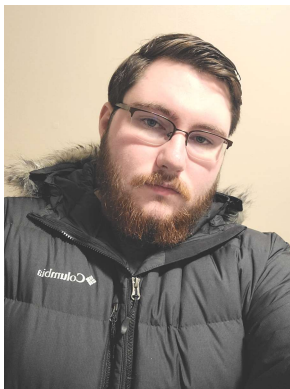
Beginning in Attica Township's Long Lake the **Belle River** flows 73.5 miles southeast to Marine City, mainly through St. Clair County, where it flows into the St. Clair River. The river drains 145,451 acres and is home to 31,715 people. The Belle River Watershed covers 227 square miles in parts of Lapeer, St. Clair, Oakland, and Macomb Counties (Figure 1.1) and has 150 miles of rivers, streams and drains (Knutilla, 1969).

The **Clinton River** is in Almont Township and flows through Almont. The Clinton River Watershed is a 760 square mile area

that is comprised of thousands of lakes, ponds, wetlands, marshes and bogs – as well as coldwater tributaries, brooks and streams. These streams and rivers all drain into one common body of water, Lake St. Clair. The most populated watershed in the state of Michigan, the Clinton River Watershed is a large area that stretches through four counties including Oakland, Macomb, Lapeer and St. Clair.

Mill Creek just north of Imlay City flows into the Black River that flows into the St. Clair River. The Black River Watershed (BRW) encompasses 459,542 acres in Lapeer, Sanilac, and St. Clair Counties. The river system begins in northern Sanilac County and eastern Lapeer County (Mill Creek), draining large areas of agricultural land and outlets into the St. Clair River.





## Please Welcome Our New Conservation Technician, Ryan Foley

Ryan graduated from the University of Michigan with a degree in Earth and Environmental Science. He states he grew up loving the outdoors. Math has always been his strong point and had wanted to pursue math as a degree but took a few introductory environmental science courses during his first few semesters at U of M and loved them. We (office staff) see that Ryan also has a technical mind and is really good with computers. He says, "It feels great being able to help people pursue their goals while helping people conserve their land."

Michigan is known throughout the world as a top producer of dry edible beans.

- Michigan produces more than 400 million pounds of edible beans, ranking second nationally in production of dry beans.
- Michigan is first in the nation in the production of black beans, cranberry beans and small red beans.
- Rich farmland in Michigan's "thumb" counties produce more beans than any other place in the state.
- More than 40% of Michigan dry beans are grown in Huron County, making it one of the top dry bean-producing counties in the country.
- Aside from meat products, dry beans are the highest source of protein available.
- Beans have more fiber than any other unprocessed food..
- Dry beans will expand 2.5 to 3 times their original size during cooking.

(From Cultivate Michigan)

### Christmas is coming up fast and here are a few ideas:

- 1) 'Be a Tree' written by Maria Gianferreri A delightful children's book.
- 2) A Rain barrel—Rain barrels capture water from a roof and hold it for later use such as on lawns, gardens or indoor plants. Collecting roof runoff in rain barrels reduces the amount of water that flows from your property. It's a great way to conserve water and it's free water for use in your landscape.
- 3) Solar yard lights or Solar garden lights—Solar lights for the garden are small lights that take the energy of the sun and convert it into light in the evening. Most solar lights run between 6 and 10 hours on a full battery charge. This is purposefully designed so that lights can run all night after a day of average sunlight.

### WILD TURKEY FACTS:

They can reach up to speeds of 55 mph!

A group of turkeys is called a "rafter".

Wild turkeys stay in Michigan year round.

The fleshy caruncle that grows above the beak is the snood.

The caruncle under the Tom's throat is called the wattle and fills up with blood and turns bright red to attract females and can turn blue if the turkey is scared. (facts from Michigan DNR)



### A SWEET FACT:

The color of honey is a good indicator of how it will taste. The lighter the honey, the milder the flavor, and the darker the honey the stronger the flavor. (from MDARD)

"Despite all our accomplishments we owe our existence to a six inch layer of topsoil and the fact it rains."

*By Farm Equipment Association of Minnesota and South Dakota*

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Our mission is to deliver information and technical assistance through educational programs and professional services in order to conserve and enhance the natural resources of Lapeer County now and for future generations.