

Rouge Education Project News

Spring 2003

Spring Monitoring Day 2003

Spring Monitoring Day, May 14, is upon us! Eighty-eight schools will participate in monitoring of the Rouge River this spring, along with 37 College Student Assistant volunteers, more than 20 corporate volunteers, and countless parent volunteers. A total of 93 schools are involved in the 2002-2003 Rouge Education Project, including 183 teachers and more than 6,200 students. These schools are located in 30 different communities. What do all these numbers mean? A lot of people care about our local environment--enough to spend their valuable time assessing the health of a river once on the verge of death. In *Sand County Almanac* Aldo Leopold wrote, "When we see land [and water] as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect." It looks like we're well on our way.

Rouge Rescue/River Day: June 7, 2003

Rouge Rescue/River Day is an annual event celebrating the Rouge River, first organized by Friends of the Rouge in 1986. This year's Rouge Rescue will feature sites around the watershed with projects ranging from clean ups to nature walks. Check the Friends of the Rouge web site (www.therouge.org) closer to the event for site locations and projects. Volunteers are always needed.

West Nile Virus: What you should know

Information from the Wayne County Dept. of Public Health West Nile Virus Conference

West Nile Virus (WNV) is a mosquito-borne virus that can cause encephalitis or meningitis. Mosquitoes become infected by biting a bird carrying WNV. The virus is spread to humans by the bite of an infected mosquito. Less than 1% of mosquitoes are infected with WNV, and less than 1% of people who are bitten and become infected get severely ill. Children are not at a greater risk than other people for becoming infected with WNV. Mosquitoes tend to be most active from dusk until dawn, and the species of mosquito researchers most closely associate with the virus at this time (*Culex pipiens*) is most active in late summer. Additionally, mosquitoes breed in still water, not flowing water such as rivers and streams. As a precaution, when in areas with weeds, tall grass or bushes, dress in protective clothes such as long pants, loose-fitting and long-sleeved shirts, and socks. Consider using an insect repellent containing DEET. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends products with 10% or lower DEET for children ages 2-12. Do not place on a child's hands or mouth, and wash off repellent after coming indoors.

Please make safety the primary consideration as you make decisions regarding monitoring, especially if the river is flooded on Spring Monitoring Day.



Rouge Rescue volunteers in Wayne constructed birdhouses last year to increase wildlife habitat.

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2002-2003 Rouge Education Project schools

Schools are listed by the community in which they are located. New schools are in italics. Schools participating in fall monitoring only are marked with an asterisk.

Beverly Hills

Detroit Country Day Middle School

Birmingham

Lincoln Street Alternative High School
Roeper Middle/Upper School
Seaholm High School

Bloomfield Hills

Academy of the Sacred Heart
Cranbrook Institute of Science
Hickory Grove Elementary*
Lahser High School
Marian High School
Roeper Lower School

Canton

Canton High School
Field Elementary
Plymouth High School
Salem High School
Tonda Elementary

Dearborn

Divine Child Elementary
Divine Child High School
Edsel Ford High School*
Henry Ford Academy
Long Elementary
Snow Elementary
Stout Middle School

Dearborn Heights

Crestwood High School

Detroit

Bagley Elementary
Barbara Jordan
Cass Tech High School
Cody High School
Drew Middle School
Frederick Douglass Academy
Henry Ford High School
Herlong Cathedral School
Lodge Elementary
Logan Elementary
Mackenzie High School
Osborn High School
Renaissance High School
University Public School
Webster Elementary

Farmington

East Middle School
Farmington High School
Power Middle School
Warner Middle School

Farmington Hills

Dunckel Middle School
Harrison High School
Home School
North Farmington High School*
St. Fabian
Steppingstone School

Garden City

Garden City High School

Hamtramck

Horizon High School

Inkster

Daly Elementary

Keego Harbor

Roosevelt Elementary

Livonia

Frost Middle School

Melvindale

Strong Middle School

Northville

Amerman Elementary
Meads Mill Middle School
Silver Springs Middle School
Winchester Elementary

Novi

Franklin Road Christian School

Plymouth

Farrand Elementary*
Our Lady of Good Counsel
Starkweather Education Center

Redford

Bishop Borgess High School
Hilbert Middle School
Pierce Middle School

Riverview

Riverview Community High School

Rochester Hills

Avondale Meadows Upper Elementary

Romulus

Romulus Middle School

Salem

Salem Elementary

Southfield

Arthur Ashe Academy
Birney Middle School
Schoenhals Elementary
Southfield High School
Thompson Middle School



Schools (continued from page 2)

Troy

Smith Middle School
Troy High School

Walled Lake

Mary Helen Guest Elementary

Wayne

Franklin Middle School
Wayne Memorial High School

West Bloomfield

Doherty Elementary
Ealy Elementary
Green Elementary
Bloomfield Model High School
Scotch Elementary
West Bloomfield High School
West Hills Middle School

Westland

Edison Elementary
Huron Valley Lutheran High School
Jefferson-Barns Elementary
John Glenn High School
Marshall Middle School
Schweitzer Elementary

Wyandotte

Wilson Middle School



Teachers and College Student Assistants practice sampling for benthic macroinvertebrates at the LaMotte and Hach Certification workshops March 22, 2003.

Water sample collection sites

If your school does not have the equipment to run turbidity, total solids or fecal coliform-filtration method tests, you may take a water sample to one of the collection sites listed below **on May 14, 2003 before 3:30 p.m.** (Note: Schools that use Coliscan Easygel for fecal coliform can conduct their own tests). Samples left at the collection sites will be delivered to Crestwood High School where students there will run the tests. Results from your sample will be relayed to you by the Rouge Education Project staff.

Turbidity and Total Solids Sample Instructions

- Collect at least 150 ml of river water in a clean, plastic bottle (a disposable water bottle is recommended). Containers will NOT be returned.
- Label the container with your school name, teacher name and the tests you want performed (turbidity, total solids or both).

Fecal Coliform-Filtration Sample Instructions

- Follow the filtration method procedure up to the point where the petri dish is ready to be placed in an incubator (you must have your own petri dishes and ampoules).
- Mark each petri dish with the amount of river water used, your school name and teacher name. After incubating for 24 hours, the colonies will be counted for you.

COLLECTION SITES

Birmingham

Seaholm High School
2436 W. Lincoln, Main Office
Contact: Renee' Moore, 248-203-3700

Dearborn Heights

Crestwood High School
1501 N. Beech Daly Rd., Main Office
Contact: Diana Johns, 313-278-2276

Detroit

Logan Elementary School
3811 Cicotte, Room 116
Contact: Diane Sampson, 313-596-4702 or
313-596-4703

Farmington

Farmington High School
32000 Shiawassee, Main Office
Contact: Dave Hendershot, 248-426-2905

Westland

Huron Valley Lutheran High School
33740 Cowan Rd., Main Office
Contact: Steve Grosinske, 734-525-0160

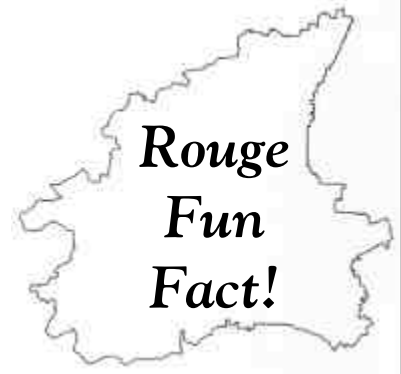
Thank you to Diana Johns and her students at Crestwood High School for running all the tests, and to the collection sites for their help!



THANK YOU to the 2002-2003 Rouge Education Project sponsors!

\$10,000 and higher: Denso International America, Inc.
\$7,500-\$9,999: General Motors Corporation
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\$1,900-\$4,999: Camp, Dresser & McKee
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GM Detroit/Hamtramck Assembly
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Up to \$500: BASF Corporation
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With shrinking education budgets, the Adopt-a-School program is becoming more important than ever. The program partners local businesses with schools to help support schools' participation in the Rouge Education Project. **We are looking for leads on businesses and organizations in your community that we may approach to become sponsors of schools in the Rouge Education Project for 2003-2004.** Please contact Christina Bartoli by phone at 313-792-9626 or via e-mail at ascoordinator@therouge.org with any information such as business names, addresses, phone numbers, contact people, etc. Thank you for your help!



The Woodland Indians were the first to settle in the Rouge River watershed (1700-1850) followed by the French, British and Americans. Because the Rouge supplied them with food, water and a mode of transportation, all these early settlers depended upon the Rouge River for their survival.

Friends of the ROUGE

24401 Ann Arbor Trail
Dearborn Heights, MI 48127

Non-profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Dearborn, MI
48120
Permit No. 242

Don't forget to enter data at www.therouge.org by May 21 and return teacher and volunteer participation tracking forms by May 28!