



# Your Environment

*A collaborative information resource for the Muskegon County Community*

## Winter 2012

The presentation, Sustainable Drinking Water in Haiti, at the MCECC annual meeting was given by Rick Rediske, PH.D, Senior Program Manager at AWRI, and our water resources expert discussed his recent trip to Haiti. The CREW (Community-based Resources for Empowering Water) is continuing their effort to assist in providing sand-filters, chlorine, and water tests, which helps Haitians bring clean drinking water into their rural households. GVSU staff and students continue to impress everyone with how much they can accomplish with the scholastic grant money they manage to procure.

Most of us are aware of the desperate poverty in Haiti, which is the result of many things, including a history of political unrest; loss of their aboriginal population; slavery; also cultural practices (religion, education, tradition); as well as geologic instability due to plate convergence which causes earthquakes. There are very few jobs, too little money, and no substantial infrastructure, including water and septic. Water is abundant, and it is invariably contaminated. Cholera outbreaks are frequent. The average Haitian lives to age 52.

An ordinary day in the life of a Haitian means a long walk, barefoot, to carry gallons of water to their rural home. If they're good, they can carry 3 containers... one in each hand, and one balanced on their head. If they're wealthy, they have a donkey to help carry the load, and an ox to plow the land. After all this work, almost no one bothers to filter and chlorinate the water to purify it. The CREW found that only 12% of households purify their water, and 90% of them are mothers with young children. It is at great expense to their minimal means to buy the chlorine, and it takes time from their busy workload to filter the water. With more grant money to Dr. Rick Rediske and the CREW, the Grand Valley State University Annis Water Resources Institute can continue to carry on this good work.

### Good Websites Good Information

EPA CARE Program  
[www.epa.gov/care](http://www.epa.gov/care)

EPA Lead Safety  
[www.epa.gov/lead](http://www.epa.gov/lead)

E-Waste Recycling  
[www.reconnectpartnership.com](http://www.reconnectpartnership.com)

County-wide Health Concerns  
[www.muskegonhealth.net](http://www.muskegonhealth.net)

Link from National Wildlife  
Federation  
GARDENER'S GUIDE TO  
GLOBAL WARMING  
Challenges and Solutions:  
[www.nwf.org/gardenersguide/  
Gardeners\\_Guide.pdf](http://www.nwf.org/gardenersguide/Gardeners_Guide.pdf)