

JORDAN VALLEY VOICES

FRIENDS OF THE JORDAN NEWSLETTER

NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT



What a phenomenal year! I can't believe another one has nearly passed us by. As the winds of fall herald the changing seasons, painting the hills in brilliant colors, the air has turned crisp and clean. The woods have taken on a wondrous aroma of freshly fallen leaves and the frigid waters of the Jordan River glimmer in crystalline clarity. It is as if autumn is nature's special gift to remind us to pause in reflective appreciation before we hunker down for winter and begin planning for next year.

As president of a volunteer organization who asks busy people to give of themselves, I too must pause in sincere appreciation for your generosity. From clean-ups to workbees, contributions to programs, I'm the lucky person who gets to see the best in people. I'm privileged to witness all the pieces of elaborate plans, sometimes spread over many years and accomplished by numerous individuals, come to fruition. The events described in this newsletter are only a fraction of the progress and work that has been accomplished. I wish I could write it all down and acknowledge these many efforts. But for now I can only say a heartfelt thank-you. Our strength lies in our mission, "To conserve the natural resources and protect the environmental quality of the Jordan River Watershed," and in all of you who value this natural treasure.

As I watch the progress at the Watershed Center sometimes I have to pinch myself to make sure its real. What a facility, born from a collaboration of dreams. I think back to a cold windy autumn day five years ago when the musty insulation released from the gutted walls covered the trees like snow, and piles of junk were everywhere. Then I have to pinch myself again to realize we are on the threshold of utilizing this campus as an environmental education center. I can finally see beyond construction and permits and focus on how best to use this marvelous place.

As I ponder the challenges of implementing programs, seminars and exhibits I once again look toward to the many talented and resourceful people in our midst for help. We now have the opportunity to draw from a whole new pool of talent. I invite those of you who wish to share your special skills or hobbies to help build and shape the programs of our future. I also welcome ideas and suggestions regarding topics, workshops and informational seminars.

While it has been said, "It takes a village to raise a child", it can also be said, "It takes a community to protect its watershed." We should pause and proudly savor what we have accomplished and then, together look forward to forging the paths into this new era.

John Richter

GETTING CONNECTED

The Friends of the Jordan is now available to everyone with a click of the mouse. Jack Moran has designed a beautiful website and will keep you posted on events and activities throughout the year. You will find news and photographs of recent activities, reference material on the organization, maps, FOJ merchandise and links to other environmental organizations. Visit us at www.friendsofthejordan.org. If you wish to submit news or information to share with FOJ members you can send it to Jack at webmaster@friendsofthejordan.org.

Margaret Moran is also working to build an e-mail distribution for FOJ members. If you would like to receive e-mail about FOJ activities please send your current e-mail address to members@friendsofthejordan.org.

THE FIRST VISIONS OF THE VALLEY

On Saturday afternoon, September 17, 2005, Friends of the Jordan held its first “Visions of the Valley” – a photograph contest that went on during the summer months culminating in the gathering on Saturday. The idea came from Wayne Cattanch, a renowned fly fisherman and bamboo rod maker of the area. Melissa Kendzierski and Margaret Moran then picked up the idea in May and never stopped until the job was done.

The first big effort by the two ladies was to get the word out about the photograph contest to occur during July and August. People were contacted, posters were distributed throughout the area and the information was made available on the website. The effort was a success resulting in over 140 submissions. Various businesses and professionals were contacted and commitments received for about \$1,000 in awards. Randy McCune, a professional photographer, agreed to do the judging of the photographs for the awards.

With the 17th approaching, the Watershed Center was cleaned, Kerry Ovaitt prepared display panels as well as accenting the building with autumn décor while Jerry Aydrott, with assistance from the C2 Gallery in Charlevoix, framed the photos and as a last step, Peggy Midener formed a group of members to hang the photographs. About 2:00 pm Saturday, people began arriving. Scott Kendzierski and Paul Nachazel showed their culinary skills on the “brats” and burgers. For the next two hours, a steady stream of people kept coming who carefully studied the exhibits, enjoyed the refreshments and the background music provided by Dale Parsons and Rob Dunne. In regard to the exhibits, many comments were heard about the great quality of the photographs that were submitted. One activity that peaked the interest of the visitors was the opportunity to vote for the Viewer’s Choice Award. In spite of 140 photos from which to pick, a resolution was required to solve a tie.

At 4:00, John Richter and Margaret started the awards presentation. The awards, the funding sources and the winners were:

- Grand Prize (\$250 Charlevoix State Bank) – Anne Zukowski
- President’s Choice (\$100 Jordan Valley Animal Clinic) – Hank Moczul
- Youth Award (\$100 East Jordan Iron Works) – Sierra Roberts
- Viewer’s Choice (\$100 East Jordan Plastics) – Alicia Richards
- Cover Award (\$50 Bay Winds Federal Credit Union) – Rick Hawley

The photographs can be seen on the organization’s web site, www.friendsofthejordan.org. The calendar were made from the photographs that can be ordered on our website or by contacting John Richter at 536-3132.



People pondering Viewer's Choice



Anne Zukowski in front of her winning photograph

Other winners whose photographs are in the 2006 calendar are:

Kris Busk, Durinda Chamberlin, David Christiansen, Rick Hawley, Deb Vanloo, Marybeth Wakulat, William Wilson, an anonymous source, along with two honorable mentions Alicia Richards and Katie Folsom. Cash awards for these winners came from Bay Winds Federal Credit Union, Dr. Greg Klinker and the Competitive Edge. Cafe Casa and Galleria of East Jordan donated two urns of gourmet coffee for the event. Saturday 17th was a beautiful, late summer day for holding “Visions of the Valley” and everything came together to make a great event for all participants. Even two eagles cooperated by sitting on their perch during the afternoon. In regard to the exhibit, John summed it up beautifully with “every picture was a winner”.

Following the “Visions of the Valley”, was the Annual Meeting for Friends of Jordan. Increasing the board from twelve to fifteen was approved. Margaret Moran was elected to the board and Peggy Midener, Bob Sayer, Joanne Beemon and Terry Ryan were all reelected for three year terms. Joanne Beemon was presented with this year’s “Director of the Year” award.

HANK ROSS


FRIENDS OF THE JORDAN CALENDERS AND NOTECARDS

The 'Visions of the Valley' Calendars are available now! These are beautiful, full color, professional quality calendars produced from the winning photographs from our photography contest. Those of you who had the opportunity to see the exhibit at the "Celebration" in September know what wonderful photographs were submitted. If you did not get a chance to attend, you can see the winning photographs and all the entries at our website www.friendsofthejordan.org.

In addition to the calendars, we also have available now four variations of notecards. They are 5"X7" glossy, full color cards with envelopes, sold 8 to a pack for \$7, or a mix of all 4 designs (12 cards) for \$10. The designs use the wonderful photographs from our contest. Gems of the Jordan, has images of beautiful flowers. Wild and Wonderful uses the delightful animal pictures. Four Seasons shows the view in all four seasons and River Scene is an image of springtime on the Jordan with marsh marigolds in bloom. Pictures of the designs are on the website also.

The calendars and notecards can be ordered through the website or using the order form below. Proceeds support the Friends of the Jordan, so think of them as gifts for Christmas for family, friends, business associates and buy several! The Watershed Center will be open on November 6, 2005, from 2pm to 4pm so you can pickup your notecards and calendars and save on shipping.

Margaret Moran

Friends of the Jordan Merchandise Order Form			
Name: _____			
Address: _____			
City: _____		State: _____	Zip: _____
Phone: _____		e-mail: _____	
Item	Price	Quantity	Total
Wall Calendar	\$15		
Jordan Valley Voices Book	\$15		
Note cards - <i>Gems of Jordan</i> (floral)	\$7		
Note cards - <i>Wild & Wonderful</i> (animals)	\$7		
Note cards - <i>4 Seasons</i> (collage)	\$7		
Note cards - River Scene	\$7		
Note cards Mix - 3 of each (12 cards)	\$10		
Method of payment: Check, Money Order or Cash. Send to <div style="text-align: center;"> <i>Friends of the Jordan</i> <i>P.O. Box 412</i> <i>East Jordan, MI 49727</i> </div>		SUBTOTAL Shipping add 10% TOTAL	
Details of the items can be viewed at www.friendsofthejordan.org . A portion of all sales supports the Friends of the Jordan River Watershed. FOJ is a 501(c)(3) organization - your contributions are tax deductible.			
THANK YOU for your GENEROSITY!			

Friends of the Jordan - River Water Institute for Kids

This summer, students from local school were invited to attend the River Water Institute for Kids hosted by the Friends of the Jordan. Bill Chase and Paul Nachazel facilitated the four week workshop. Students were introduced to a variety of freshwater educational topics including, entomology, the Earth's water, parts of a watershed and water quality. Students performed water quality tests on two portions of the Jordan River, one at Sportsman's Park and another at Pinney Bridge. The final session, canoeing down the river, was cancelled due to rain. Although participation was limited, the enthusiasm the students showed was remarkable. All of the students involved felt that the program should continue next summer as well.

Paul Nachazel



Maybe we don't put our young people in situations often enough where they're allowed to fail. When you fail you gain experience, and with enough experience, you don't fail as often. Colin Powell

Friends of the Jordan River Watershed, Inc.

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OFFICERS

President – John Richter

Vice President – Joe Nerone

Treasurer – Hank Ross

Secretary – Melissa Kendzierski

Executive at Large – Bob Sayer

DIRECTORS

Joanne Beemon

Franny Bluhm

Bill Chase

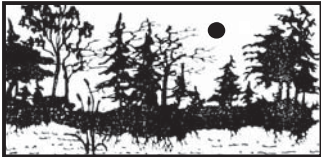
Peggy Midener

Margaret Moran

Paul Nachazel

Terry Ryan

Rick Westerhof



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AN IDEA BLOOMS TO REALITY

The Native Wildflower Project began with an idea, turned into a dream and eventually a reality. It happened something like this:

A couple of years ago I mentioned to my son, John, that I had some errands in Petoskey. He suggested that I stop at Tip of the Mitt and inquire if they had brochures or any information about native wildflowers. Of course, they did and Jennifer, an employee and about-to-be landscape designer offered to help the Friends of the Jordan with a plan. Several meetings and conversations later it was determined that FOJ did not have the funds to pursue her beautiful plan.

Armed with several wildflower books, a list of growers, time and advice from people more knowledgeable than me, I continued researching the possibility of a native wildflower project at the Watershed Center. Along the way, the East Jordan Garden Club discovered they had an unused wildflower fund. FOJ applied for the fund which was granted and the project was born.

The rest is history. Plants were ordered and a volunteer planting day was organized. Have you ever looked at 700 (more or less) thriving native wildflowers awaiting their journey to life and wonder what in the world you had gotten yourself into? At the end of that day it was obvious this was a daunting project. Thanks to the East Jordan Garden Club for supplementing a caretaking grant. FOJ quickly hired several part time people to finish the planting and care for the plants for the summer.

Twenty-three species were planted. They didn't all survive (the rabbits loved the native asters) but most did. They didn't all bloom this season but FOJ and East Jordan have the beginning of a wildflower trail that will grow and multiply over the years and enhance the mission and vision of FOJ. It wouldn't have happened without the support of the East Jordan Garden Club, Tip of the Mitt and all the others that helped.

Another idea and dream came to fruition and next season I hope to add permanent plant markers.
Addie Richter



TU 2 FLY ON THE JORDAN

On June 4, 2005, eleven fishermen gathered to see if they could outwit the Jordan's resident trout. The concept was that each fisherman was limited to two flies of two fly patterns. When these four flies were gone, the fisherman's contest fishing time was over. The event was organized by the local Trout Unlimited chapter (Miller Van Winkle). At the end of the day, the winners were declared: Dale Parsons, the grand Champ, followed by Jim Howell and Jim Truchan. Nice prizes went to the winners: a pontoon boat, fishing vest and a net. Based on the low numbers of fish caught, it's not clear if the fish or the fishermen won – oh, well, it was early in the season. By the way, catch and release was the rule for the day.

Miller Van Winkle started this event in 2003 and is organizing for the third "2 fly" next year. Friends of the Jordan has agreed to have a "2 fly" plaque hung in the Watershed Center.

Hank Ross

FOJ BIRD TOUR

May 21, 2005

The annual FOJ Bird Tour took place at the new FOJ Watershed Center this year. There were 15 people that joined us this fine spring morning. After a few minutes of socializing, our group went outside for a brief discussion on observing the sites and sounds of a great number of different birds. As we headed towards Sportsman Park, our list of bird sightings started to grow. My complete list is at the end of this discussion. The migration was coming along with the usual small groups of similar birds. It took the group some time to travel out to the viewing platforms on the river as there were so many birds we were trying to identify. The group was surprised by the sighting of a coyote out in plain view, apparently after the new deer that were being born across the river from us. There were two does giving birth across the river from us. It seems that the coyote knew it was happening. The deer were not interfered with by the coyote, at that time. We all got to observe the young bald eagle on the nest. It was quite a site to see. The young eagle was very energetic, running around the top of the nest. We did see the adult eagles that morning as well.

Jerry Aydlott

Birds Observed

Eastern Kingbird
Great Crested Flycatcher
Song Sparrow, male and female
Common Yellow Throat, male and female
Starlings
Tree Swallows
Barn Swallows
Chimney Swifts
Robins
Sandhill Cranes
Sharp Shinned Hawk
Common Crackles
Red Winged Blackbirds
Mallard Ducks, male and female
Two unidentified shore birds (very small)
Herring Gull
Bald Eagle, male and female
Canada Geese
Mourning Doves
House Finch
Goldfinch
Bluejays
Yellow Shafted Flicker
Rose Breasted Groesbeck, female



JORDAN FACTS

Brown trout were introduced into Michigan from Germany in 1884. Initial stocking was in the Pere Marquette River. However, in 1889, brown trout were stocked in an inlet to Deer Lake in Charlevoix County. Once established in Deer Creek, they spread quickly to the Jordan River mainstem and tributaries.