

JORDAN VALLEY VOICES

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF THE JORDAN RIVER WATERSHED • FALL/WINTER 2013

FOJ's Young Friends Enjoy Great Summer

Our fourth annual Young Friends program had another successful summer with classes taking place from the end of June to late July. John Thompson, a veteran science teacher and Fischer Jex, resident naturalist at the Wagbo Farm, led the classes again this year. Student attendance was good, but could be improved with help from friends and families spreading the word about this wonderful program. Student enthusiasm was nothing short of inspiring; they were all brimming with excitement over nearly everything we talked about and discovered. Several students had attended last summer and often would be overheard teaching the other kids things they learned the previous year. Nothing makes an educator more proud than that.

John Thompson took responsibilities for the first week of Session 1 and the last week of Session 2, which included water quality testing by students and exploring for salamanders and other organisms as part of the Michigan Herp Atlas Project.

The second week of Session 1 and the first week of Session 2 were led by Fischer Jex

See YOUNG FRIENDS page 3



Instructor Fischer Jex identifies plants with several of FOJ's Young Friends.



Grand Prize, Damselfly by James Walsh of Alden, Sponsored by Charlevoix State Bank. More photographs on pages 4 and 5.

2014 'Visions of the Valley' Calendar Debuts at Celebration

The Judge's decisions have been made, the online viewers' choice decided, youth and the FOJ president's choices too. The result is another spectacular "Visions of the Valley" calendar in this 9th annual edition. This year's theme was "The Rhythm of the River." All of the photographs gracing the new 2014 calendar appear on pages 4 and 5 on this issue just to give you a taste of what you're missing if you haven't gotten yours yet. Perfect gifts for the upcoming holidays, they're the perfect reminder everyday of what we all love about the Jordan River.

PHOTO BY TIM GOODWIN



Friends of the Jordan did their part for the Northern Michigan RiverSweep, joining volunteers from the Boyne, Bear, Maple, Sturgeon and Pigeon rivers on a single, sunny Saturday in August to clean their respective rivers. Some 130 volunteers turned out for the event across the region. They celebrated that evening with a barbeque at Boyne Mountain Resort, hosted by Boyne Outfitters.

PHOTO BY ANNE ZUKOWSKI



FOJ members Lynne Goodwin, John Teesdale and Bruce Walker [l to r] search for macroinvertebrates from Jordan River water at Pinney Bridge this fall as part of Tip of the Mitt's stream monitoring program. The Jordan River consistently scores at the top for water quality in northern Michigan streams.

FOJ volunteers tackled M-66 Adopt-a-Highway Three Times this year

The Friends of the Jordan River Watershed took to the highway three times this summer, in May, July and September, during the state of Michigan's Adopt-A-Highway program. The FOJ covers a two-mile stretch on M-66 south of Graves Crossing.

Former board member and now member volunteer Joe Nerone (pictured) has spearheaded efforts since the FOJ first adopted a stretch of road. After many years, Joe is hoping to hand over responsibilities to a like-minded FOJ member/volunteer. If interested, contact the FOJ (info at the bottom left of this page).



This year's spring cleanup (featured in the spring/summer issue of *Jordan Valley Voices*) is always the toughest after a long winter. Since then there have been two more highway cleanups.

Thanks to volunteers who made it so in July, who included Darcie Dietrich, Rich Dietrich, John Richter, Joe Nerone, Norma Petrie, and Lynne and Tim Goodwin. And in September, who included Joe Nerone, John Teesdale, John Richter, Steve Umlor and Tim Goodwin.

The Adopt-A-Highway program began in 1990, about the same time the FOJ began. Both are still going strong.



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The Friends of the Jordan River Watershed, Inc. is a grassroots, nonprofit 501 (C) (3) non-governmental organization with the mission to "conserve the natural resources and protect the environmental quality of the Jordan River and its watershed."

Sherm's Vision Lives On Along the Jordan River

Sherm Thomas, cofounder of the Jordan River Action Group, and strong advocate of the Keep the Jordan River Clean campaign, died October 8, 2013, at the age of 94.

Sherm and wife Peggy lived on the River by Rogers Bridge for many years. Before Peggy died she made Sherm promise her that he would do what ever he could to keep trash out of the river.

Sherm inspired cofounders Tressa Youmans and Tom "Tinker" Breakey to help him in this task. So, in 2009 the group formed, calling itself "The Jordan River Action Group", and started looking for funding to build River Houses for the collection of trash and returnables. Also, the purchase of "River Bags" for river trips to put their things in so that in the event of a tip over, things would stay with the craft. Booths were placed at the access sites, and became a sudden hit for the collection of trash and returnables. To date the average collected is 140 bags of trash and 15,000 returnable cans and bottles per year.

Monies collected from the returnables have helped area scouts purchase equipment, send several scouts to Scout Camp, and award several scholarships to EJHS Band members, who took the project on for two years.

Sherm Thomas will be sadly missed, but through his vision, and dedication to wife Peggy, the Jordan River will continue to remain the clean beautiful river that it is.

- Tom "Tinker" Breakey



PHOTO COURTESY CHARLEVOIX COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



PHOTO BY ANNE ZUKOWSKI

Folks protesting fracking in downtown Kalkaska October 19.

Day of Action Against Fracking

Two events took place in northern Michigan Saturday, October 19 as part of a day of action across the nation protesting the devastating effects of fracking. Events took place in hundreds of towns across the country and globally in 25 countries.

In Petoskey, a standing-room only crowd of some 60 people attended a showing of *Gasland II* at the Carnegie Library. The film was sponsored by Don't Frack Michigan and Food & Water Watch. Many people stayed afterward to talk and take information to give to friends and neighbors. Plans were made to show the film in other towns in the area.

In Kalkaska, the epicenter of fracking in northern Michigan state forests, Encana Corp. is setting national records for water use and contamination. They recently received permits from the DEQ to drill three wells, each using 31.5 million gallons of groundwater, and have applied for permits to use over 35 million. Kalkaska also is home to headwaters and watersheds of the Manistee and Rapid rivers.

Twenty-five people, organized by the Manistee Water Guardians, lined the street downtown with signs demanding an end to fracking and an end to the large-scale destruction of the water that defines our state.

- Anne Zukowski

Young Friends...

continued from page one

and began with the kids exploring the Roger's Preserve for signs of wildlife and wildflowers. Despite the rain, we identified many wildflowers and caught a few frogs and crayfish. For the next adventure we made our way to the Wagbo Farm where we played nature awareness games and made a pizza topped with edible wild plants that the kids learned to identify and harvest. We hiked from the Deadman's Hill Overlook and got caught in a torrential downpour, but nonetheless the kids kept playing and eating

berries until the sun came back. We explored a beaver lodge and dam where we were able to catch a Northern water snake and see a variety of waterfowl. In keeping with tradition we concluded the sessions with a rafting trip down the Jordan. Much thanks to the East Jordan Public School for providing free lunches for each session.

Emily Pentecost was able to attend again this year as our student volunteer assistant and continues to be of a great help. She is a great role model for the kids, being both fun and authoritative and readily takes on responsibilities where she is needed.

- Fischer Jex



Northern Water Snake, by Lynne Goodwin. Sponsored by Dr. Richter and Jordan Valley Animal Clinic.



Coming Through, by Heather Outman. Sponsored by Jordan Valley Outfitters.



President's Choice Award, Morning Glory, by Alan Leese. Sponsored by East Jordan Plastics.



Viewers' Choice Award, Mink, by Cece Pless. Sponsored by Bay Winds Federal Credit Union.



Rich Dietrich and Darcie Dietrich announce the winners in this year's photography contest.

Celebrating the Winners in FOJ's 9th Annual 'Visions of the Valley' Photo Contest

More than 50 people turned out for the FOJ's annual celebration in September at the Jordan River Watershed Center announcing

the winners of its ninth annual *Visions of the Valley* photography contest and the debut of its 2014 calendar, "Rhythm of the River." Over \$1200 was awarded.

Top prize winners were: Grand Prize, "Damsel" by James Walsh, sponsored by Charlevoix State Bank; Viewers' Choice Award, "Mink" by Cece Pless, sponsored by Bay Winds Federal Credit Union; President's Choice Award, "Morning Glory" by Alan Leese, sponsored by East Jordan Plastics; Youth Award, "Jordan Valley Footprints" by Lacey Kotalik, sponsored by EJ; and Back Cover, "Swan" by Cece Pless, sponsored by Abdeen Jabara and Holly Maguigan.

Also claiming a calendar month and cash award were: "Coming Through" by Heather Outman, sponsored by Jordan Valley Outfitters; "Northern Water Snake" by Lynne Goodwin, sponsored by Dr. Richter and the Jordan Valley Animal Clinic; "Laundry" by Lucy Pless, sponsored by Bier Art Galley; "Fifty Shades of Green" by Anne Zukowski, sponsored by Sodalicious and Marty's Cones; "River Fun" by Jan Goodwin, sponsored by Barb V. White; "A Fall Walk" by Heather



Laundry, by Lucy Pless. Sponsored by Bier Art Gallery.



Fifty Shades of Green, by Anne Zukowski. Sponsored by Sodalicious & Marty's Cones.



Youth Award, Jordan Valley Footprints, by Lacey Kotalik. Sponsored by EJ.



River Fun, by Jan Goodwin. Sponsored by Barb V. White.



A Fall Walk, by Heather Outman. Sponsored by Central Lake Pharmacy.

Outman, sponsored by Central Lake Pharmacy; "Spent Salmon" by Gerhard Osterbeck, sponsored by Dr. Kaysserian and Access Dental; "River Master" by Preston Cole, sponsored by John and Phyllis Dedoes; and "Frosty Morning at the Jozifek Homestead" by Rob Stucky, sponsored by Dr. Thomas and Lakeside Chiropractic.



Judge this year was noted area photographer and college photography educator Art Curtis of Bellaire.

Entertaining Celebration goes was multi-instrumentalist and singer Roger Lilak (at left), who performed on acoustic guitar and wind synthesizer. Allison MacKay (at right)

provided a tasty assortment of refreshments.

All winning photographs and all 126 photographs entered can be viewed on the Friends' website at www.friendsofthejordan.org, where readers can also order the new 2014 calendar. The prize winning photographs are also on display at Jordan Valley District Library through the end of December.

Special thanks to FOJ volunteer Darcie Dietrich and FOJ board member Rich Dietrich, who took on the effort this year of running the contest and calendar.

The Friends also announced the theme for next year's contest as "Splash of Seasons."



Swan, by Cece Pless. Sponsored by Abdeen Jabara and Holly Maguigan.



Frosty Morning at the Jozifek Homestead, by Rob Stucky. Sponsored by Dr. Thomas & Lakeside Chiropractic.



Spent Salmon, by Gerhard Osterbeck. Sponsored by Dr. Kaysserian & Access Dental.



River Master, by Preston Cole. Sponsored by John and Phyllis Dedoes.

Fracking: And They Call This Process Safe?

STORY & PHOTOGRAPHS
BY ANNE ZUKOWSKI

My husband and I recently vacationed in Roosevelt National Park in western North Dakota. We hiked through fantastically beautiful and rugged rock formations, saw herds of buffalo and antelope and watched soaring golden eagles.

We also saw firsthand how large-scale fracking devastates rural towns and farmlands, turning them into heavy industrial sites. We saw fracking wells and facilities everywhere with barracks-like housing and trailer parks thrown up around them to accommodate out-of-state workers. Exorbitant prices for everything from rent to food often force out local residents. Crime increases and public health is impacted by increased air pollution. Unending lines of tanker trucks carrying everything from heavy equipment to toxic fracking chemicals and waste whiz through small towns and down narrow two-lane roads (similar to our county roads in northern Michigan). Noise and diesel fumes fill the air.

What really caught our attention were the “Danger, Hydrogen Sulfide Gas...” signs posted on gates of drilling facilities. Hydrogen sulfide (sour gas) is a byproduct of deep-shale drilling. Atop all fracking facilities was an orange flag (at right) to indicate wind direction in case of a major hydrogen sulfide leak (run upwind). The flags were even attached to street signs in residential areas near wells. Low-level leaks are quite common — we detected the rotten-egg smell of hydrogen sulfide on two occasions while there. Imagine constantly living under the threat of a possible poison gas cloud engulfing your neighborhood.

It has happened in Michigan. Christmas Eve, 2011, a valve failed at an injection well in Crawford County, allowing 80 percent hydrogen sulfide gas to spew into the atmosphere for over four hours over much of northern Michigan. DTE Energy received numerous calls from people who thought the rotten-egg smell was coming from a gas leak in their home. The DEQ seldom investigates leaks because hydrogen sulfide was eliminated from the Clean Air Act list of



Methane flares off in North Dakota. It's what they drill for in Michigan.

hazardous substances by powerful gas and oil lobbyists.

The insanity of fracking hit me one night as we watched the sunset in North Dakota. As darkness descended, the sky lit up with hundreds of flares from fracking wells surrounding the park. Fracking in the Bakken Shale is done for oil. Oil is more profitable than methane (natural) gas,

so the gas that comes up with the oil is flared (burned) off into the atmosphere as a waste product. Meanwhile, multinational corporations such as Encana are grabbing up our state land at rock-bottom prices, clearcutting our forests, destroying recreation and wildlife areas that provide habitat for animals and tourism dollars for residents — so they can drill for the very same gas that is considered a “waste” product and burned off into the atmosphere in North Dakota! This is insane.

It gets worse. Since they get the water for free, the fracking industry has set national records for water use and contamination here in Michigan, using 16-25 million gallons to frack each well. And they are not stopping there. Encana recently applied for permits from the DEQ to use and contaminate 35 million gallons of groundwater. To get an idea of how much water 35 million gallons represents, stand in front of Tahquamenon Falls, the largest waterfall in our state. Roughly 5,000 gallons of water flows over the Falls every second (US Forest Service estimates). Watch the water cascading over the Falls for two hours. That represents the amount of water mixed with toxic chemicals and removed forever from the hydrologic cycle to frack a single well. Droughts and water shortages are becoming more common and severe. Our Great Lakes water levels are dropping. We should not allow our water to be squandered, poisoned and destroyed.

There are alternatives. Imagine what could be accomplished if our state government stopped subsidizing fossil fuel extraction and developed an energy policy to improve and expand renewable energy technology — we would see remarkable changes in a short time. American ingenuity is a creative and powerful force. Fracking has been banned in Vermont and in three Canadian provinces. New York State has a moratorium, and over 400 municipalities across the country, including in Michigan, have passed resolutions restricting or banning its use. We must ban fracking in Michigan!





Before there was Facebook

This black and white photo postcard of the Jordan River was sent from Elk Rapids to a Miss Mattie Hirner in Saugatuck on October 29, 1907. Postage was a penny. The message on the card says, "Got this last June to send to you. It has been quite a long time since I wrote. Guess the Saugatuck feller has gone back on the ER fellers. Going to a Halloween party. Will write and tell you how scared I was. Never been to a Halloween party in my life. Cis." The photographer was named Boswell. From the collection of Tim and Lynne Goodwin.

NOTABLE

Leadership Charlevoix County, a plain aire group from the Jordan River Arts Council, and a local Red Hat Society have all made use of the FOJ's Jordan River Watershed Center recently. The FOJ makes the center available to local nonprofit groups.

* * *

Board members Jo Anne Beemon and Anne Zukowski recently spoke about fracking at a Rotary meeting in East Jordan. Jo Anne also addressed the Charlevoix Kiwanis Club this summer. Anne Z recently addressed an NCMC Sustainable Living class in Petoskey and was on a League of Women's Voters panel debating fracking in Alpena.

* * *

Thanks to members Margaret and Jack Moran for their guiding hands this year with the 2014 Visions of the Valley Calendar.

* * *

Board member Tim Goodwin represented the FOJ this fall at Leadership Charlevoix County's Environment and Natural Resources Day held at Raven Hill Discovery Center.

Perfect in any Season!

Stuck for the perfect gift idea this season? Maybe even for yourself? This 31" by 25" 3-dimensional topographic chart of Grand Traverse Bay, recently donated to the Friends of the Jordan River Watershed by David Michael of Ellsworth, might just fill the bill.

According to the company, Wood Chart, they start with a bathymetric chart (the underwater equivalent of a topographic map), then use laser-cutters to carve the contours into sheets of Baltic birch and glue them together to create a powerful visual depth. The result is a stunning, layered, contour map of the bay.

It is available for \$250 or more to the FOJ. To find out more, contact foj@friendsofthejordan.org, or call 231.536.9947.



Support the FOJ. Stay in Touch with Your River.

Your membership and tax-deductible financial support helps the FOJ to continue its work of "protecting and conserving" the Jordan River Watershed. Your river is depending on you.

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The Friends of the Jordan River Watershed is a charitable 501 (c)(3) organization. Contributions are tax-deductible under federal law.

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Please make checks payable to: Friends of the Jordan River Watershed, PO Box 412, East Jordan, MI 49727



PO Box 412
East Jordan, MI 49727



We call upon the waters that rim the earth, horizon to horizon, that flow in our rivers and streams, that fall upon our gardens and fields, and we ask that they teach us and show us the way.

— Chinook Blessing Litany

2014 'Visions of the Valley' Calendar Now Available

The Friends of the Jordan's 9th Annual calendar is now available for purchase. Fourteen photographs from 126 submitted in this year's contest were chosen, all taken in the Jordan River Valley, and all represented here in glossy full color on heavy stock, each one a reminder of what we love about the Jordan River Valley. Calendars are available at the Jordan Valley Animal Clinic in East Jordan, Bier Art Gallery in Charlevoix, from Board members, and online at www.friendsofthejordan.org. Cost is \$15 each, or two for \$25.



Restore the Public Trust

BY DR. JOHN RICHTER

President, Friends of the Jordan River Watershed, Inc.



It is outrageous that a major foreign corporation can lease public lands at bargain rates, withdraw vast volumes of fresh water for free, repeatedly violate Michigan's Water Withdrawal Assessment Tool, pollute these waters with toxic chemicals they don't have to disclose and then permanently dispose of this waste deep underground. Recently over 20 million gallons of fresh ground water was used this way to frack just one natural gas well. There are plans to drill thousands more of these wells using even larger volumes of water. If so, the total volume of water to be withdrawn, polluted and permanently removed from the hydrologic cycle will deplete groundwater aquifers and forever threaten what's left by underground toxic waste disposal.

Michigan was once a national leader in conservation. Management policies and environmental regulations enacted following the senseless carnage of the logging era fostered Michigan's miraculous rebirth. While it's still a work in progress, the rejuvenation of our natural resources is legendary. Our state parks, forests and bountiful natural resources, especially our abundant clean fresh water, are the envy of the world.

This legacy is now being threatened. I cannot recall a time when there have been so many attempts to dismantle environmental protective statutes. This seems incredulous at a time when the threats to our environment are unprecedented. Some of these threats are the result of the need to feed and fuel an ever expanding human population. But others are caused by the deliberate manipulation of laws and regulations to facilitate the reaping of private profits from public natural resource assets. The public's interests in our state's natural resources are being usurped by the oil, gas and timber industries in collaboration with our state government and those responsible for oversight. The DNR's budget has

been slashed, and it's been stripped of regulatory oversight. Senior managers have been forced into early retirement, leaving a void in institutional knowledge and experience. Citizen advisory boards have been abolished and the Natural Resource Commission politicized. Even time tested statutes like the Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act and Safe Drinking Water Act are being ignored, unenforced or diluted in the name of jobs, profit and economic growth. Wholesale leasing of public lands for oil and gas drilling (fracking), high volume water withdrawals forever contaminated with toxic chemicals, and enhanced logging operations constitute real present day threats to our environment and the Public Trust.

I fear modern society has entered a "new normal" that looks hauntingly similar to the early 20th century. Back then, abundant human and natural resources were over-exploited by a powerful elite. Immense fortunes were made at the expense of the public and nature. Virgin forests were clear cut, waters polluted, communities stricken by water-borne diseases, and lands despoiled. These calamities culminated in the Dust Bowl and the Great Depression. That unregulated rush for wealth and disregard for the environment brought colossal prosperity to a few but ruin to most others. In Michigan vast primal forests were ravaged followed by massive forest fires. Our great rivers and lakes were choked and poisoned, and once prolific wildlife was driven into extinction. People realized too late that nature and a healthy environment were integral to their own quality of life and prosperity.

Fortunately, far-sighted leaders emerged. Having witnessed first hand this wasteful decimation, they vowed to prevent this kind of reckless destruction and profiteering from ever happening again. They enacted visionary policies and laws that allowed our wounded lands and waters to heal. Large tracts of tax-reverted lands were placed in public ownership and designated a Public Trust. The lands, air, waters and natural resources of the state were thereafter managed for environmental quality and the public's benefit. State government was

Editor's Note: For more than 20 years the Friends of the Jordan River Watershed, Inc. has defended the Jordan River and its watershed against exploitation and pollution, whether from vested interests, or sadly, sometimes from our own government, the very people we would expect to protect it for us. We must remain ever vigilant. Find out more about the Friends of the Jordan River Watershed at www.friendsofthejordan.org, or join us on the third Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. beginning in January at the Jordan River Watershed Center in East Jordan.

charged with the duty to protect our publicly owned assets from pollution, impairment, waste, exploitation and destruction.

These concepts, collectively known as the “Public Trust Doctrine” were enshrined in Michigan’s Constitution, which reads, in part; “The conservation and development of the natural resources of the state are hereby declared of paramount concern in the interest of the health, safety and general welfare of the people. The legislature shall provide for the protection of the air, water and natural resources of the state from pollution, impairment and destruction.” Other fundamental provisions in our state’s governing documents such as the Organic Act of 1913 and Michigan’s Environmental Protection Act (MEPA) of 1970 reinforce the Public Trust Doctrine and are codified in Michigan law. Repeatedly, through time, Michigan courts have reaffirmed that state lands and natural resources be held in the Public Trust and be managed for biodiversity, sustainability and public benefit. The results of these actions have been a resounding success.

Today Michigan is at a crossroads. Vast deposits of natural gas lie beneath our diverse state forests where timber has regrown to once again be valuable. Governor Snyder has declared that natural gas extraction and timber harvests will lead Michigan out of its economic slump. The Governor-appointed Natural Resource Commission has leased thousands of acres of public land to multinational corporations for the drilling of oil, gas and water wells. Fracking has been permitted on our public lands and even exempted from major environmental protection laws. Environmental impact studies are not required prior to the drilling and industrialization of our rural communities. Newly enacted management guidelines for our 4.6 million acres of state forests rejected the recommendations of a bipartisan core advisory board and instead call for increased timber harvests and protect nothing for Old Growth or Natural Areas. Incredibly, Michigan’s Senate voted to abolish biodiversity and sustainability as management guidelines for our publicly owned natural resources. This one act alone would open the floodgates for the commercialization of our state forests and parks and contravene the Public Trust Doctrine.

Michigan is poised to repeat some of the most egregious mistakes of our past. We need to remember history and heed the warnings of respected scientists and outcries of citizens who have borne first hand the full impacts of fracking. Recent experiences and graphic examples from neighboring states clearly demonstrate the crushing impacts fracking has on fragile ecosystems,

In Michigan the road to prosperity will not be found by paving the roads for fracking.

farm lands, water, forests and rural communities. The same natural gas for which some are willing to sacrifice our states natural beauty and pure waters for instant profit is being burned (flared) as waste in North Dakota. Is this gas that important or is this rush to drill just mere profiteering? Who stands to gain from this exploitation? How does this benefit the citizens of Michigan or the environment?

In this era of political gridlock and economic uncertainty average citizens are overwhelmed. We feel manipulated and deceived, powerless to have meaningful input to this rigged game. People have been systematically shut out of the decision making process by those who stand to gain. Property owners, conservationists and entire communities feel powerless to protect their vital interests from these industrial scale developments. Many activities related to fracking were carefully exempted from regulatory oversight and are actually subsidized with tax-payer’s money. Townships and communities were stripped of their normal zoning authority. Many homes and personal properties with or near gas wells cannot get insurance or mortgages and are deemed worthless. As witnessed a century ago, we need leaders to emerge who strive to a higher calling other than selfish wealth and power. Providing for the future quality of life for our children and grandkids is one of them. Protecting the sanctity of our states natural resources is another.

In Michigan the road to prosperity will not be found by paving the roads for fracking. Degrading our public lands and permanently polluting our pristine waters does not lead to economic prosperity or future sustainable growth. Our challenge in this modern era is to responsibly steward our abundant but finite natural resources for the public good and the environment using biodiversity and sustainability as our guiding axioms. Use but don’t abuse. Everyone shares the common needs of clean air, pure water, wholesome food and open space to freely pursue our interests. Reaffirm the Public Trust Doctrine and respect the wisdom of nature. We cannot disassociate ourselves or our wellbeing from the quality of the environment. Mankind must balance our activities and consumption with the needs of nature much like a trust fund spends the interest on its investments but not the principal. Let future generations be able to enjoy the fruits of a healthy environment and gratefully applaud the prudent decisions we make today.