

JORDAN VALLEY VOICES

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF THE JORDAN RIVER WATERSHED • FALL/WINTER • 2014-2015

FOJ Announces Photo Contest Winners



Grand Prize Winner Preston Cole's *Autumn Reflections*

"It was not an easy task," said this year's photography contest judge, Dianne Carroll Burdick, but in the end she chose Preston Cole's *Autumn Reflections* as Grand Prize winner in the Friends of the Jordan River Watershed's 10th Annual Visions of the Valley photo and calendar contest.

"This photograph held rich color, seasonal interest, and a different point of view, not the ordinary pedestrian point of view," Burdick elaborated.

Preview all of the winners in this year's contest — grand prize, online viewers' choice, president's choice, and youth, along with all the months — on pages four and five of this issue of *Jordan Valley Voices*.

The 2015 calendars are now available online and in selected area stores.

To see all the entries, visit www.friendsofthejordan.org.



Young Friends Explore the Valley

BY JEN LEWIS

The Summer of 2014 marked another year of the Young Friends Program, and my first as Administrative Coordinator/ Program Assistant. Fischer Jex, program director, proclaimed it "the best year yet!" out of his four. We undoubtedly had a great, if small, bunch of kids (14 in Session I, 12 in Session II) — personable and sweet and fun to get to know. This age (3rd to 8th grade) is quite loveable because so often they are still so fabulously themselves. Thinking creatures they are but still

a bit impulsive, experiencing things fully as yet unhindered by the inexorable peer pressure to come. A great mix for our program goals!

With perfect weather each time we met, the Young Friends took the Jordan Valley by storm. The participants jumped right in, sometimes literally, to field trips throughout the watershed: from the bottom (the river's end at the Watershed Center) to the top (Landslide Overlook).

Each session provided us with up-close-and-personal experiences:

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PHOTOS / ANNE ZUKOWSKI

FOJ team collects macroinvertebrates from the Jordan

It was a cool but sunny day September 21 as FOJ members conducted their fall macroinvertebrate collection, part of Tip of the Mitt's stream monitoring program. Above [l to r] John Teesdale, Steve Umlor, Lynne Goodwin and Bruce Walker sort their finds, including the "giant water beetle" [*lethocerus americanus*] in the two photos at left, which they released back into the river. The greater the number of macroinvertebrates in a river, the greater the river's health. The Jordan has ranked consistently high among rivers in northern Michigan.

The North Woods Call Ceases Publication, at Least for Now

We note regretfully that *The North Woods Call* has ceased publication, at least for now, according to publisher Mike VanBuren, due to family and medical considerations.

Its last issue, Vol. 61, No. 19, was published in late September.

Calling itself "Michigan's Conservation Sentinel," it has been published since 1953, first by founder Marguerite Gahagan, then for 32 years by Glen and Mary Lou Sheppard. VanBuren became publisher and owner in 2012, following the death of publisher Glen Sheppard.

Along the way it became an institution in Michigan and one of the environment's best friends.

The FOJ extends its best wishes and hopes to Mike and his family, and for the future of *The North Woods Call*.

UP AND COMING

2015 Board Meetings – 3rd Thursday every month. 6:30-9PM, Jordan River Watershed Center. Members and public welcome.

Calendar photo winners from this year's FOJ "Visions of the Valley" contest will be up at the Jordan Valley District Library through December 31.

Now's the time to think about FOJ's photography contest and 2016 calendar. Details, rules, theme and summer deadlines will be announced soon on the website at www.friendsofthejordan.org.



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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."

\$300,000 Secured So Far for New Bridge

Plans continue to move forward on replacing the culverts at the Jordan River and Old State Road crossing with a clear span bridge.

At a recent meeting at the Jordan River Watershed Center, project leader Kim Balke, of the Conservation Resource Alliance (CRA), reported that \$300,000 had been committed to date for the proposed \$850,000 project.

Also represented at the meeting were the Charlevoix County Community Foundation, Antrim County Road Commission, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Friends of the Jordan River Watershed, Prein & Newhoff Engineering, HH Engineering LTD, Antrim Conservation District, Antrim County Board of Commissioners, Jordan River Action Group, Jordan Township, Swiss Hideaway Canoe and Kayak Livery, Jordan River Zoning Review Board and East Jordan Chamber of Commerce.

Concerns continue to be shared that a proposed new canoe and kayak landing site be in place before work begins on the bridge.



PHOTO / TIM GODWIN

Dr. Tom Luhring, a post-doctoral researcher at Michigan State University, spoke to the FOJ this July about his group's work on lamprey control methods on the Jordan River. The presentation was videotaped and will be available at www.friendsofthejordan.org in the near future.



Look, up in the trees, it's a plane, it's a superman, no it's a pair of fledging eagles in the Jordan River Valley spied this summer by FOJ's Young Friends in Session I.



Young Friends

continued from page one

with fledgling eaglets and beaver dams, with springs that feed the Jordan River and a feeder stream of the Big Lake herself. A golden rule of "fun" was established and was followed with games like Herons & Otters and the impromptu How Many Salamanders Can We Find in a Day? We witnessed frogs and trout and snakes in the flesh and followed the tracks of deer, muskrat and heron. We met challenges like off-trail hikes and an icy cold river and were simultaneously exhausted and fulfilled when each day came to an end.

Our *grande finale* for each session was the annual float down the beautiful splendor of the Jordan. Alternately raucous and reverential, two rafts full of kids and two chaperones (many thanks to them!) loaded up to follow the winding river herself, checking out the flora and fauna, all the while frolicking like otters! We picked up and packed out garbage at our rest stops, and then pic-

nicked at the Watershed Center before bidding our final farewells.

The Summer Program builds friendships with the river, its inhabitants and each other. Guiding a band of Young Friends and future protectors of the Watershed on these adventures renewed my appreciation for their perspective and all that we have to learn from (and for) them. We couldn't possibly squeeze in all that we had hoped in the time allotted, which just has us looking forward to next year!

For dates and information about next summer's Young Friends program check back with the FOJ at friendsofthejordan.org as the end of the school year approaches next spring.



10th Annual 'Visions of the Valley'

Top Award Winners



GRAND PRIZE / Cover

Autumn Reflections
by Preston Cole

Sponsored by Bay Winds
Federal Credit Union



YOUTH AWARD / August

Simply Beautiful
by Elliot Ruggero

Sponsor / EJ



PRESIDENT'S AWARD / Back Cover

A Reflection of Richter
by Rick Hawley

Sponsor / East Jordan Plastics



VIEWER'S CHOICE AWARD / December

Ballet Practice
by Nik Ury

Sponsor / Charlevoix State Bank

Friends of the Jordan River Watershed salutes the winning photographers in this year's contest and offers its sincere thanks to those companies and individuals who stepped forward as sponsors. Thank you too, to all who entered, and to our judge, Dianne Carroll Burdick. Together we make it what it is, a celebration of community bound by our love of the Jordan River Watershed, one of the most pristine natural river systems in Michigan. All photographs were taken in the Watershed. Stay tuned to *friendsofthejordan.org* and Facebook for information on next year's contest. Open to all who love the Jordan.



Preston Cole, of Mancelona, next to his Grand Prize-winning photo, "Autumn Reflections," at the FOJ's photo exhibit and celebration in East Jordan.

The Friends of the Jordan River Watershed recently announced the winners of its tenth annual "Visions of the Valley" photo contest and the debut of its 2015 calendar, "Splash of Seasons."

More than \$1200 was awarded in prizes at the FOJ's fall celebration September 20 at the Watershed Center in East Jordan. The 2015 calendar is dedicated to Dr. John Richter, longtime president of the Friends and one of its founders, who died earlier this year.

Top award winners were: Grand Prize, "Autumn Reflections" by Preston Cole of Mancelona, who also earned a calendar month for "Home Sweet Home"; Viewers Choice Award, "Ballet Practice" by Nik Ury of East Jordan; President's Choice Award, "A Reflection of Richter" by Rick Hawley of East Jordan; and Youth Award, "Simply Beautiful" by Elliot Ruggero of Austin, TX.

Also claiming calendar months and cash awards were: "Undisturbed" and "A New Day" by Heather Outman of East Jordan; "Frosty Morning, Frosty Woodpile" and "Dragon Fly's Lair" by Jan Goodwin of East Jordan; "Afternoon Walk" by Courtney McKenzie of East Jordan; "Trillium Glow in the Valley" and "Winter Fun at Pinney Bridge" by Teresa Cole of Mancelona; "Pink Coneflower Bumpers" by Sheri McWhirter of Elmira; and "Last Stand on Cinder Hill Road" by Teresa Payne of Greenfield, TN. All photos were taken in the Jordan River Watershed. This year's juror was photographer Dianne Carroll Burdick of Grand Rapids.



Photo Contest Winners & Calendar

Monthly Award Winners



January

Undisturbed
by Heather Outman
Sponsor / Steve and
Amy Umlor



February

Frosty Morning
– Frosty Woodpile
by Jan Goodwin
Sponsor / Central Lake
Pharmacy



March

Afternoon Walk
by Courtney McKenzie
Sponsor / John and
Phyllis Dedoes



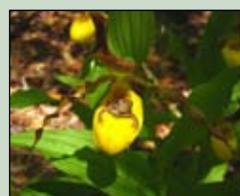
April

A New Day
by Heather Outman
Sponsor / Bier Art Gallery



May

Trillium Glow in the Valley
by Teresa Cole
Sponsor / Riparia Ltd



June

Home Sweet Home
by Preston Cole
Sponsor / Abdeen Jabara
and Holly Maguigan



Additional thanks to singer,
songwriter, and musician Bruce
Walker, and to Charlevoix County
Events and Catering.

Winning photographs and all
photographs entered are up for
viewing at www.friendsofthejordan.org,
where readers may also order
the new 2015 calendar. A portion of
the proceeds from calendar sales
support the FOJ's Young Friends of

the Jordan summer program for grades three to eight.

The original photographs pictured here will be on
display at the Jordan Valley District Library November 1
through December 31.



July

Dragon Fly's Lair
by Jan Goodwin
Sponsor / Sodalicious
and Marty's Cones



September

Pink Coneflower Bumpers
by Sheri McWhirter
Sponsor / Dr. Kaysserian
and Access Dental



November

Winter Fun at Pinney Bridge
by Teresa Cole
Sponsor / Jordan Valley
Animal Clinic



October

Last Stand on Cinder Hill Rd.
by Teresa Payne
Sponsor / Barb V. White

Remembrances of Dr. John Richter

Family, friends and pets gather at Watershed Center to pay their respects



It was a sun-filled afternoon June 14, 2014 at the Jordan River Watershed Center as family and friends reminisced and paid tribute to Dr. John Richter, founding member and president of the Friends of the Jordan River Watershed, who died May 28.

John touched countless lives, as a father, friend, veterinarian, and protector of the Jordan River Watershed. We offer below a few of the remembrances left that day, without the nuance of names.

* * *

“John is a visionary and an inspiration – present tense intended. The world is a little less special and a lot less protected in his passing. I will never forget him, his patience, countenance and strength of purpose. A hero for me for sure.”

* * *

“Words seem so useless through our tears of love. We have hugged you, laughed with you and cried huge tears with you...now all memories of a lifetime without.”

* * *

“The world has lost a most wonderful and caring friend of all life and our environment. He treated my cat and dogs with wonderful care and concern. He will be forever missed by all who were fortunate enough to have known him.”

* * *

“To honor a wonderful man who did so much for his community and patients. Doctor Richter will be forever remembered in our hearts.”

* * *



Celebrating the life of Dr. John Richter

PHOTOS/ TIM GOODWIN

“John was our solid friend, our dedicated vet, and our constant inspiration. We will feel his absence in our lives in so many ways. We will continue to honor him and our shared beliefs with our actions daily. As we all walk on in this world without him by our sides, may we all keep his example and his wisdom within our hearts and minds.”

* * *

“We give this little bit with remembrance of the huge gifts John gave to all of Northern Michigan. An inspirational life that will keep us growing plus.”

* * *

“I have fond and special memories of serving on the FOJ board with John for the first 12 years of the group. John was a force of nature, and Northern Michigan and the Jordan River are a better place for his having come their way.”

* * *

“Your loss is Northern Michigan’s loss. John touched a lot of lives and was a real advocate for our beautiful environment.”

* * *

“John’s legacy will live on in the writings he has left us, in the Water-

shed Center, and in the feelings he inspired in so many to treasure what Nature has provided to protect it and conserve it to share with future generations. He is daily missed.”

* * *

“John was a visionary. He was insatiably curious. John was inspiring. He had great faith in so many and believed that with the right information, people would do the right thing. He will be greatly missed!”

* * *

“John’s spirit is surely soaring with the eagles. I believe his spirit soared with the eagles in life, too. After all, eagles make use of a special vantage point—whether perched in a tall white pine or soaring above the trees. They can see the whole landscape, the bigger picture. But at the same time they can hone in on the smallest detail—such as a fish in the water—within that big picture. John was the eagle. He had vision and the passion to protect what was dear to him, the ability to convey that vision and knowledge to a broader audience, and the courage to carry through. And at the same time he could hone in on those details that were so essential to accomplishing the bigger goals.”

NOTABLE

Thanks to **John Hunter**, who shared a local citizen's group's preliminary vision of a downtown Jordan River hiking trail at a recent FOJ board meeting. The FOJ looks forward to hearing more about their plans as they come together.

* * *

Welcome to new FOJ board member **Dave Peterson**, of Alden.

* * *

Thanks to **Rich Dietrich, Darcie Dietrich** and **Tim Goodwin** for producing the 2015 FOJ calendar. And to **Jack and Margaret Moran** for their quiet behind-the-scenes work on the website, and **Steve Umlor** for his care of the Watershed Center.

* * *

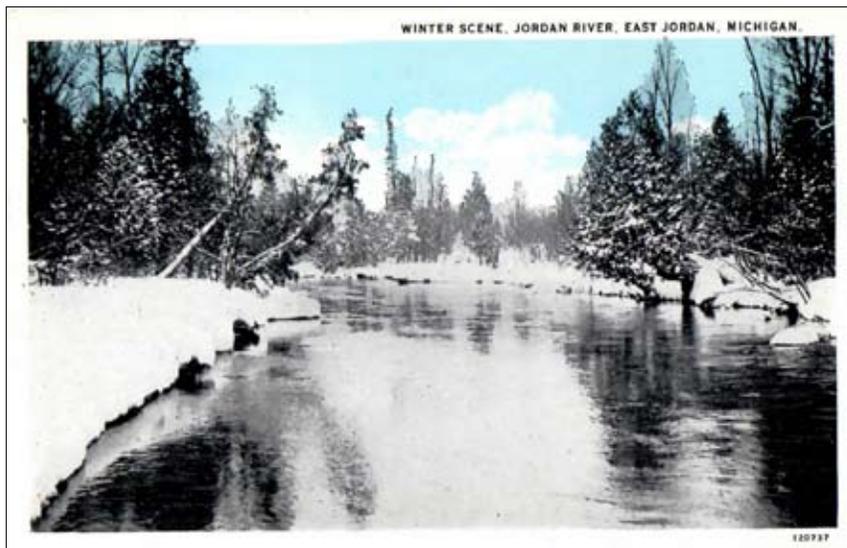
Conservation Resource Alliance led a meeting about the Old State Road crossing at the Jordan River; **Charlevoix County Dems** hosted a "get out the vote" drive; and the **Charlevoix Area Spinning and Weaving Guild** had their recent meeting at the Jordan River Watershed Center. The FOJ makes the center available to area nonprofit groups.

* * *

Hats off to **Lynne Goodwin, Rich Dietrich** and **Tim Goodwin**, who braved a cool damp September day along M-66 picking up the litter of others as the FOJ's part in Michigan's Adopt-A-Highway program.

* * *

Change of address, change of circumstances? Let the FOJ know at foj@friendsofthejordan.org and we'll make the changes in our mailing list.



The Jordan in Winter, Once Upon a Time

There is no message, date or postage on this colorized postcard, since it was never used, but it was likely sometime in the 1920s to 1940s. The color appears to have been hand tinted before it was printed. Whenever it was, it was printed by the C.T. Company of Chicago. You can see the color version online soon at www.friendsofthejordan.org, under "newsletters". From the collection of Tim and Lynne Goodwin.

The Perfect Gift!

This 31" x 25" 3-dimensional topographic chart of Grand Traverse Bay, donated by David Michael of Ellsworth, is for sale to benefit the FOJ and makes a perfect gift.

Starting with a bathymetric chart (an underwater topographic map), laser cutters carve contours into sheets of Baltic birch, which are glued together to create visual depth. The result is a layered, contour map of the bay.

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



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.

- \$15 Individual
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- \$25 Business/Organization
- \$50 Hawk
- \$100 Owl
- \$250 Osprey
- \$500 Eagle
- Other \$ _____

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PO Box 412
East Jordan, MI 49727

Don't miss
the 2015 Calendar
photo winners
inside this
issue!



'Have you also learned that secret from the river; that there is no such thing as time? That the river is everywhere at the same time, at the source and at the mouth, at the waterfall, at the ferry, at the current, in the ocean and in the mountains, everywhere and that the present only exists for it, not the shadow of the past nor the shadow of the future.'

- HERMANN HESSE,
SIDDHARTHA

2015 'Visions of the Valley' Calendar Now Available

It's here, the 10th annual edition of the Friends of the Jordan River's "Visions of the Valley" calendar. The 2015 calendar, titled *A Splash of Seasons*, features 14 photographs of the Jordan River Watershed, each one a reminder of why we love the Jordan River and Valley. They make the perfect holiday gift and are available at the Jordan Valley Animal Clinic or Busy Bridge Gifts and Antiques in East Jordan, Bier Art Gallery in Charlevoix, or online at www.friendsofthejordan.org. Cost is \$15 for the first calendar, and \$10 for each additional one in the same order. To see the rest of the calendar pages, see pages 4 and 5 of this issue.

