

JORDAN VALLEY VOICES

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF THE JORDAN RIVER WATERSHED • FALL/WINTER 2015/16

FOJ Names 2015 Photography Contest Winners

Without a doubt, the photo that had the most impact, as well as being technically excellent, was Bill Dietrich's photograph 'Eye on the Jordan,' enthused this year's Visions of the Valley photography contest judge, Margaret Moran. "The posture of the eagle is assertive, and the look in his eye challenges anyone to invade his territory."

Dietrich's photo (at right) took Grand Prize in the FOJ's 11th annual photography contest and calendar.

"Each photograph spoke to me about something that was dear to the photographer...all were interesting and a pleasure to evaluate," Moran added.

More than \$1,200 in prizes were awarded at the FOJ's annual celebration September 19 at the Watershed Center.

Preview all of the winners in this 11th annual photography contest—including grand prize, viewers' choice, president's choice, and youth award—on page three of this issue. All entries can be viewed on the FOJ website.

Thanks to all who entered, and thanks to our many sponsors, who help make it all possible.



Grand Prize winner Bill Dietrich's "Eye on the Jordan"

See all the winners on page 3

Young Friends Make the Most of 2015 Summer Program

The Young Friends of the Jordan Summer Program concluded another season this past July of fun and watershed education for youth third-to-eighth grade.

Led by the Martha Wagbo Farm and Education Center's Jennifer Lewis, and Maria Wesslerle, the two summer sessions covered a lot of ground in the Jordan River watershed, from the hills of Wagbo Farm to the Jordan River in the valley, to Deadman's Hill overlooking the valley,

and even to Lake Michigan, where the Jordan eventually drains through Lake Charlevoix.

Among the activities this year were hikes through the Rogers Preserve and Landslide Overlook, and visits to the Antrim Creek Natural Area, Wagbo, Bennett Creek, and the Jordan River Fish Hatchery. Young Friends made the Watershed Center home base, where they created their

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The FOJ held its annual meeting November 7 at the Watershed Center.

FOJ Members Approve Bylaws Amendments, Re-elect Board Members at Annual Meeting

Friends of the Jordan River Watershed approved amended bylaws and reelected several board members at its annual general membership meeting Saturday, November 7 at the Watershed Center.

FOJ president Anne Zukowski took members through FOJ activities over the past year. Among them were the planting of a chestnut tree in memory of John Richter, longtime president of the FOJ; removal of invasive buckthorn trees around the Watershed Center (see photos on page 4); the "Visions of the Valley" photography contest and calendar; Young Friends summer program; progress on the Old State Rd. bridge replacement over the Jordan; action on the Enbridge Line 5 pipeline under the Straits of Mackinac; macroinvertebrates monitoring on the Jordan; and Adopt-A-Highway along M-66. The FOJ also

opened the Watershed Center to numerous nonprofit groups to use over the past year. Zukowski closed with many thank yous to individuals who contributed to the efforts. Her report is available online at www.friendsofthejordan.org

Treasurer John Teesdale reviewed FOJ's balance sheet and discussed the benefits of the recent change to Quickbooks.

Members voted near unanimously for the revised bylaws (available at www.friendsofthejordan.org). Voting took place online, by mail and at the meeting.

Also discussed was the planned clearcutting by the DNR of the Mason tract near the Ausable River. The FOJ opposes the DNR plan.

Re-elected to the board of directors were John Teesdale, Anne Zukowski, David Peterson, and Norma Petrie.

JRAG Conducts River Clean-up in September

The Jordan River Action Group (JRAG) collected more than 200 returnable bottles and cans and 80 pounds of trash during its river cleanup in September. For the season, the group collected about 100 bags of trash and 7,000 returnables.

"Weather plays a big part in making plans for a cleanup," said JRAG President Tom Breakey. "We're hoping that next year more people will show if we can just get Mother Nature to grace us with a nice, sunny day."

Breakey thanked the East Jordan Lions Club, whose members took charge of collecting trash at the landings and returnables this season.

He also thanked the Charlevoix County Community Foundation, which provided a grant to be used to buy garbage bags and disposable gloves for next year's river pickups and sites.

Collection bins have been removed from sites for the winter, Breakey added.

UP AND COMING

Thru December. Winning photographs from this year's FOJ contest on display at the East Jordan Public Library.

2016 Board Meetings - **3rd Thursday every month** [except December]. 6:30-9 pm, Jordan River Watershed Center. Members and public welcome.

Check the FOJ website for additions, details and/or changes to events 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."

11th Annual 'Visions of the Valley' Photography Winners



GRAND PRIZE / Cover-Eye on the Jordan
by Bill Dietrich
Sponsor / Charlevoix State Bank



JANUARY
Take a Number
by Nikolas Ury
Sponsor / Dr. Kaysserian and Access Dental



FEBRUARY
Blowing in the Wind
by Dave Christiansen
Sponsor / Jack and Margaret Moran



YOUTH AWARD / MARCH
Feather by the Jordan
by Elliot Ruggero
Sponsor / EJ



PRESIDENT'S AWARD
APRIL
Finch / by James Walsh
Sponsor / East Jordan Plastics



MAY
Mom, Mom...Are You Listening to Me?
by Heather Outman
Sponsor / Jordan Valley Animal Clinic



JUNE
Persicaria Amphibia (Swamp Milkweed)
by Janell Thomas
Sponsor / Bier Art Gallery



JULY
Flying Around
by Jan Goodwin
Sponsor / Sodalicious and Marty's Cones



AUGUST / Sunflower Buzz!!
by Sandra Kotalik
Sponsor / Abdeen Jabara and Holly Maguigan



SEPTEMBER
Jordan Valley Troutman
by Preston Cole
Sponsor / Central Lake Pharmacy



OCTOBER
Golden Fall Day
by Julie Christiansen
Sponsor / Anne Zukowski and John Teesdale



NOVEMBER
Autumn Colors
by James Walsh
Sponsor / John and Phyllis Dedoes



DECEMBER / Follow the Leader
by Courtney McKenzie
Sponsor / Barb V. White



VIEWER'S CHOICE
Back Cover / Itsybitsy Spider
by Amilie Ruggero
Sponsor / 4Front Credit Union



Friends of the Jordan River Watershed salutes the winners of the 11th Annual "Visions of the Valley" photo contest, pictured above. Grand Prize was awarded at the September 19th celebration to Bill Dietrich (near right) for his photograph *Eye on the Jordan*. Bruce Walker (far right) entertained attendees with his folk stylings, and Gretchen Bender with EJ Catering (231.350.0760) provided refreshments. Thanks to all who entered the contest, the sponsors who made it possible, and to this year's judge, Margaret Bachman-Moran. The winning photographs will be on display at the East Jordan Public Library through the end of December 2015.





Young Friends of the Jordan covered the Watershed in this past summer's sessions, ranging from the Jordan River Valley to the Lake Michigan shore. A good time was had by all.

Young Friends of the Jordan

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own "nature museum," went on scavenger hunts and made fritters.

As they have most years since the FOJ started Young Friends, kids wrapped up the sessions with a rafting trip down the Jordan, followed by a cook out at the Watershed Center.

"The kids experienced many aspects of the Jordan through field trips and exploration," said Young Friends leader Jen Lewis. "They liked unstructured play the best, hands down. Putting them in a cool place to do so and actually allowing them this freedom was a rare treat."

Look for information on next summer's program at www.friendsofthejordan.org in spring of 2016.



Among the FOJ volunteers lending a hand at a recent "chipping" party were [l to r] Norma Petrie, Heidi Shaffer, David Heick, Jinny Heick, Anne Zukowski, Tim Goodwin and Lynne Goodwin.



Above [l to r]: Huron Pines habitat specialist Brian Marshall, Vista volunteer Jared Elm, FOJ's Heidi Shaffer, habitat specialist Ken Reed, and Invasive SWAT Team member Samantha Palmer.



Lynne Goodwin [left] accepts a check from the Charlevoix County Community Foundation's Maureen Radtke.



Volunteer Andrew Boyer runs the chipper.



Jim Shaffer came from Alpena to share a little volunteer time with daughter Heidi and Jake the dog.

FOJ Tackles Invasive Buckthorn at the Watershed Center

The FOJ begin reclaiming the space behind the Watershed Center this fall from the invasive buckthorn that over the years had taken over. Helped along by a \$1,000 grant from the Charlevoix County Community Foundation, the FOJ brought in the Huron Pines Invasives Strike Team to tackle the initial cutting and treatment, while FOJ volunteers took to chipping up the woody debris, a job that will

be finished up in the spring. Given the pervasive nature of buckthorn, the process will be repeated again next fall. The space will eventually be landscaped for wildlife, with a pathway and native plants and trees. Once the buckthorn is brought under control, and an inventory of the remaining native flora is taken, a site plan for landscaping and a trail will be designed.

FOJ Holds Pipeline Presentation, Joins Flotilla at the Straits

BY ANNE ZUKOWSKI

Over 100 people attended a presentation by Dr. Ed Timm titled “Oil Spill in the Great Lakes? How Safe Are the Pipelines?” at the Charlevoix Public Library on August 4.

Dr. Timm, a retired Senior Scientist and Consultant to Dow Chemical’s Environmental Operations Business (EOB), recently prepared an engineering opinion for the lawyers at FLOW (For Love of Water) on corrosion and structural issues with Line 5 pipeline.

Line 5 pipeline runs 645 miles from a pipeline hub in Superior, Wisconsin, through the Upper Peninsula, under the Straits of Mackinac where it splits into two pipelines, down Lower Michigan then crosses the St. Clair River to its final destination at a refinery in Sarnia, Ontario. The pipeline crosses at least 45 waterways and 23 counties.

Dr. Timm explained that while the pipelines were well-built using state of the art technology in 1953, 62 years of corrosion, stress from the buffeting effects of strong currents in the Straits, loss of protective covering, structural impacts from zebra and quagga mussels on the pipeline exterior, have taken their toll. The flow of oil through the pipelines has been increased 80 percent from its original recommended carrying capacity, further stressing the aging pipes. And while Enbridge, Inc., owner of the pipelines states the lines are safe and in excellent condition, they are under no obligation to release results of their inspections to Michigan regulatory agencies or the public. Enbridge’s 40-year-old Line 6B pipeline ruptured in 2010, spewing over a million gallons of oil into the Kalamazoo River and its watershed. The fatal flaw in Line 6B was known to Enbridge management for 5 years without triggering their repair process, and once the line ruptured, they continued to pump oil through the broken line for 17 hours, assuming they were receiving false alarms on the drop in pressure. Dr. Timm concluded that the Straits pipeline poses an unacceptable risk to our Great Lakes and that risk increases exponentially with each passing day. To see video of presentation, go to www.friendsofthejordan.org.

The presentation was sponsored by



PHOTOS: ANNE ZUKOWSKI

Raise Your Paddles!

Several FOJ members joined the “Pipe Out Paddle Protest” at the Straits of Mackinac in September as part of a demonstration against the 62-year-old Enbridge Line 5 oil pipeline running under the straits.



Friends of the Jordan River Watershed, WATCH, Inc. (Water Air Team Charlevoix), NMEAC (Northern Michigan Environmental Action Council), FLOW (For Love of Water), Oil and Water Don’t Mix, Don’t Frack Michigan, Friends of the Boyne River.

On September 6, a “Pipe Out Paddle Protest” took place in the Straits of Mackinac. FOJ members joined a flotilla of kayakers and canoeists protest calling for Gov. Snyder to protect Lakes Huron and Michigan from a catastrophic oil spill and shut down Enbridge’s Line 5 oil pipeline. Demonstrators also gathered on land and cheered as the flotilla raised two banners over the waters of Lake Huron saying “Water is Life” and “Shut Down Line 5.”

Three weeks later on September 24, Enbridge, the Coast Guard, and numerous other governmental agencies conducted a mock Oil Spill Response Drill. The weather was beautiful, the lakes were unusually calm and the exercise was declared a “success.” It is important to see how high (or low) Enbridge and our governmental agencies set their “success” bar. Charles Usher, president of Marine Pollution Control in Detroit, is the contractor Enbridge hires to respond to oil spills. According to Usher,

traditionally in oil spill recovery “if you’re able to recover about 30 percent, a third of the oil, that’s a pretty good number.” He elaborated, “You can’t put a hard and fast number on how much you’re going to be able to recover no matter how much equipment you have. There are so many unforeseen factors like Mother Nature that you just can’t predict.”

Usher also explained that in a real-life spill, it would take 12-24 hours for most manpower and equipment to arrive on the scene. If the spill occurred in rough waters and “unsafe conditions for the company’s response boats, we’d have to wait. You can’t put assets out on the water, and put lives and vessels at risk.” (Detroit Free Press article by Keith Matheny, 9/25). Given the powerful currents in the Straits which often reverse direction every few days, oil could be dispersed many miles down Lake Michigan and Lake Huron shorelines devastating ecosystems and the economy before containment work could even be started.

Aaron Payment, chairperson of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, summed up what is at stake if the pipeline is not shut down, “For

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New Bridge over the Jordan Moves Closer to Reality

At an October 7 meeting at the Jordan River Watershed Center, Conservation Resource Alliance's Kim Balke reported that \$750,000 had been raised to replace the Old State Road/Jordan River culverts with a clear span bridge.

Balke said the design was complete and permits were being sought towards a 2016 goal. An estimate of the project anticipates an \$812,000 cost, though Balke added they would like to go into construction with \$1,000,000, which would include contingency funds.

Major funders to date include the

Towsley Foundation, Herbert & Grace A. Dow Foundation, Frey Foundation, Great Lakes Fishery Trust, Sustain Our Great Lakes, Great Lakes Basin Fish Habitat Program, and the Charlevoix County Community Foundation.

Michigan DNR's Rich Hill and Annamarie Bauer unveiled tentative plans for a put-in/put-out landing on the southwest side of the bridge, which would include off-road parking. Given the economic impact of the river, representatives of local civic and business groups, including the FOJ, continued

to press the need to have a landing in place before work on a bridge begins.

Antrim County Road Commission's Burt Thompson suggested it would make sense to tie the landing to the bridge construction, as opposed to after, considering the mobilization of equipment and resources.

Funding possibilities for a landing were discussed. Maureen Radtke, of the Charlevoix County Community Foundation, indicated the CCCF's interest in helping to fund a landing.

Bridge, Landing Good for the Jordan

It's curious some should be opposed to replacing the Old State Road culverts on the Jordan River. Installed in the 1950s, the structure has seen better days, and, whether a bridge is built or not, the site would require serious work at taxpayer expense to maintain the existing culverts.

The proposed new bridge would cost local taxpayers nothing. The \$750,000 raised by the Conservation Resource Alliance to date comes from grants from foundations and trusts, money that would have gone to other worthy projects elsewhere.

Identified almost 15 years ago as an environmental problem by a Tip of The Mitt Watershed Council study, the culverts inhibit upstream passage of some fish and other aquatic species. Because the culverts were originally set wrong, the velocity of water through the culverts is five times greater on the outlet side than the inlet side, creating a swirling plunge pool below it. Increasingly it has become an erosion, safety, and private property issue too, as more and more paddlers discover the joys of the Jordan.

FOJ has maintained since the project began that a landing upstream was needed before construction of a bridge. On that score, local parties all agree. It's an economic issue to the community. The Old State Road is the only crossing on the Jordan without a dedicated landing.

The Friends of the Jordan River Watershed supports the Conservation Resource Alliance's leadership on the bridge. And it supports the Michigan DNR's effort to create a landing on state property just upstream. There is no reason why this shouldn't be a win-win for the Jordan Valley community.

The Jordan will never be the natural river it was 150 years ago, before logging denuded the old growth forests along its banks. But we should aim to restore the Jordan to as near a natural river as we reasonably can. The Jordan was, after all, the first river designated as "wild and natural" by the state of Michigan in 1971.

We should be proud of that. It's why people love the Jordan.



PHOTO: ANNE ZUKOWSKI

Straits of Mackinac Pipeline

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four to six months of the year, the Straits are ice-covered, making adequate spill response impossible. The waters that would be impacted by a spill in the Straits include the shoaling, spawning and nursery areas for critical fish species in Northern Lake Michigan and Huron. Further, a catastrophic oil spill in the Straits would shut down water intakes for numerous communities, devastate our shorelines and island ecosystems, and lay waste to our fishing and tourism industries."

Line 5 is not the only aging pipeline in the state. 70,000 miles of pipelines run throughout Michigan, close to, or under wetlands, rivers, lakes and streams, natural areas, including within the Jordan River Watershed. Many of these pipelines are over a half century old and at risk for failing weld joints and corrosion. Aging energy infrastructure will continue to cause worsening problems for our communities, economy and environment. Oil and gas drilling, waste injection wells, pipelines, will likely increase as the demand overseas increases. It is time to say enough is enough—we can live without oil but we cannot live without clean water. It is insane to allow a private multinational corporation to call the shots with our most precious resource—our Great Lakes fresh water. We need to demand that our government stop subsidizing gas and oil industry and start investing in a serious transition to renewable energy such as wind and solar.

NOTABLE

Congratulations and best of luck to long-time East Jordan residents **Dan and Melanie Bennett**, who took over **Jordan Valley Outfitters** this past summer.

* * *

Special thanks to **Steve Umlor**, who recently stepped down as a board member. Steve also took care of the Watershed Center building.

* * *

Thanks to FOJ members **Betty Goodwin** and **Lynne Goodwin** and FOJ board members **Jinny Heick** and **Tim Goodwin**, who worked the Adopt-A-Highway litter pickup along M-66 this September. . . .And thanks to **John Teesdale** and **Anne Zukowski** for conducting the macroinvertebrate study of the Jordan River this fall.

* * *

Hats off to the **Jordan River Action Group (JRAG)** for its efforts to keep the Jordan River clean. Check out their numbers for this year's cleanups on page 2 of this issue.

* * *

The **East Jordan Garden Club**, **Conservation Resource Alliance**, **East Jordan High School class reunion planning group**, and the **East Jordan All Acoustic Jam Group** all made use of the Watershed Center in recent months. The FOJ makes the center available to area nonprofit groups.

* * *

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



PHOTO: ANNE ZUKOWSKI

East Jordan All Acoustic Jam Group in performance at the Watershed Center.



ONCE UPON A TIME East Jordan was known as the Swan City, as this black and white photo postcard of an ice sculpture attests. Swans would flock at the mouth of the Jordan River where it meets Lake Charlevoix. The postcard above was sent August 29, 1962 by a Bill and Marie to a Katherine and Herb in Detroit. With tongue in cheek, it reads "Bill and I got here Saturday about 11 a.m. We have been working on this swan all day. Sure cool. See you soon." It cost 3¢ to mail. From the collection of Tim and Lynne Goodwin.

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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- \$100 Owl
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Friends of the Jordan River Watershed,
PO Box 412, East Jordan, MI 49727



PO Box 412
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“It is not required that we know all of the details about every stretch of the river. Indeed, were we to know, it would not be an adventure, and I wonder if there would be much point in the journey.”

— Jeffrey R. Anderson,
Author

2016 ‘Visions of the Valley’ Calendar Ready for the New Year

The 11th annual edition of the Friends of the Jordan River’s “Vision of the Valley” calendar is now available. Titled *The Jordan River: Up Close & Personal 2016*, the 2016 calendar features 14 photographs taken in the Jordan River watershed. They remind us why the FOJ works to “conserve the natural resources and protect the environmental quality of the Jordan River and its watershed.” And they’re the perfect gift, one that keeps on giving every month. Calendars are available at Bier Art Gallery in Charlevoix, Jordan Valley Animal Clinic in East Jordan, Jordan River Arts Council, Busy Bridge Gifts and Antiques in East Jordan, or online at www.friendsofthejordan.org. Cost is \$15 for the first calendar, \$25 for two, or \$10 each for three or more. To see the rest of the calendar photographs, see page 3 of this issue.



2016 Calendar Cover Photo by Bill Dietrich