

JORDAN VALLEY VOICES

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF THE JORDAN RIVER WATERSHED • FALL/WINTER 2016

Construction of New Bridge over the Jordan River Slated for 2017

Construction of a new Chestonia Bridge over the Jordan River at Old State Road is slated for 2017, according to Conservation Resource Alliance's Kim Balke, CRA biologist and project manager.

The new concrete span bridge will replace double 16-foot wide culverts installed decades ago.

"This is a high priority project for CRA because these culverts speed up stream flow to the point where some fish and other aquatic species cannot get upstream," a recent CRA update reads. "In addition, the nearby eroding streambanks and worn access trails are dumping unnaturally high levels of sediment into the river."

CRA has raised more than \$1.2 million in grants towards the project.

"Both the health of the river and making this a safe, accessible site for recreationists are top priorities," the update noted.

Funding includes design of a Cokirs Creek crossing to facilitate a recreational landing and river access on state land on the southwest side of a new Chestonia bridge. It is the only major crossing along the Jordan River without a dedicated access landing and parking.

Bids for both were to be opened at the December meeting of the Antrim County Road Commission when timelines and costs will be known, which will also determine if there will be sufficient funds to cover both projects.

Michigan DNR is separately funding a design for a recreational landing, with conceptual designs and an informational public meeting planned in the coming months.



Grand Prize Winner

Anne Zukowski [right] of Ironton claimed Grand Prize in the FOJ's 12th Annual "Visions of the Valley" photography contest and calendar with her image above, "Ball of Frogs in a Mud Hole." More than \$1200 in prizes were awarded to 14 winners at FOJ's annual fall celebration in late September. Check out all the winning entries to this year's contest on page 3 of this issue.



FROM THE PRESIDENT

FOJ has begun a comprehensive plan to monitor the physical, chemical and biological characteristics of the Jordan River. We will establish baseline data and trend analysis at several sites on the Jordan River in order to observe and document any significant changes in the water quality of the Jordan River. I have signed contracts totaling \$11,000 with Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council and Great Lakes Environmental Center to collect samples and will receive reports at the beginning of 2017. FOJ is also taking the first step in monitoring the Jordan River for chemicals used in the fracking process. The FOJ board approved the expenditure of an additional \$11,000 for the sampling and reporting by Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council. Thank you to all who have donated to the FOJ and for making it possible to do this invaluable stream monitoring of the water quality of the Jordan River.

— David Peterson, President, Friends of the Jordan River Watershed



PICK-UP STICKS AT THE READY, (left to right) Kevin King, Gena King, Ginny Heick, Rich Dietrich, Hilary Buell, Tim Goodwin, Lynne Goodwin, and Anne Zukowski get ready to tackle the last Adopt-A-Highway pick-up for the year along the FOJ's stretch of M-66 in late September. This year marked the 15th year FOJ has participated in the Michigan Department of Transportation effort.



FRIENDS OF THE JORDAN RIVER WATERSHED T-SHIRTS are now available in most sizes in the colors above. T-shirts are available for a \$20 donation through the FOJ. Contact: foj@friendsofthejordan.org.

UP AND COMING

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

2017 Board Meetings – **3rd Thursday every month** [except December]. 6:30–8 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

NOTABLE

Congrats to FOJ's spring/summer part-time program director, **Ashley Cousens**, who recently accepted a full-time position as executive director of the Boyne Area Chamber of Commerce. We wish her the very best.

Thanks to musician **Bruce Walker** and **Sisters' Catering** of East Jordan for the music and treats at the annual FOJ Fall Celebration, photo exhibit and 2017 "Visions of the Valley" calendar release in September.

And to **Norma Petrie** and **Heidi Shaffer**, who recently retired from the FOJ Board of Directors, our thanks for your efforts on behalf of the Jordan River.

Shop on Amazon? Amazon will donate 0.5 percent of your purchase price to the **Friends of the Jordan River Watershed, Inc.** every time you shop. Check www.smile.amazon.com/about to sign up. The company has contributed some \$40 million to nonprofit organizations since the program began.

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



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www.friendsofthejordan.org
EMAIL: foj@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."

12th Annual 'Visions of the Valley' Photography Winners



GRAND PRIZE / COVER
Ball of Frogs in a Mudhole
 Anne Zukowski
 Thanks to 4Front Credit Union



JANUARY
Winter on the Banks of the Jordan / Lynn Carson
 Thanks to Central Lake Pharmacy



FEBRUARY
Early Morning Reflections
 Janell Thomas
 Thanks to Abdeen Jabara and Holly Maguigan



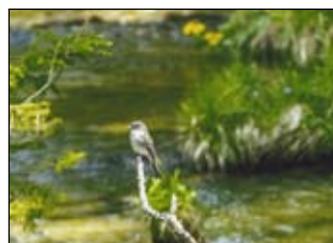
PRESIDENT'S AWARD / MARCH
Up the Lazy River / Bob Omland
 Thanks to East Jordan Plastics & Porter Creek Fish House



APRIL
Skinny Water Brook Trout
 Brian Kozminski
 Thanks to Darcie Dietrich / Real Estate One



MAY
Purple
 Amelie Ruggero
 Thanks to Barb V. White



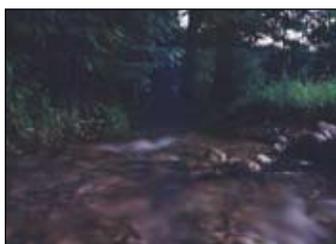
JUNE
Jordan River Phoebe
 Teresa Cole
 Thanks to Jordan Valley Animal Clinic



JULY
My Tranquility
 Elizabeth DeKorne
 Thanks to Barber-Galvin Memorial Scholarship / Sweaty Yeti Run



AUGUST
Jordan Valley Green Snake
 Preston Cole
 Thanks to Bier Art Gallery



YOUTH AWARD / SEPTEMBER
Pebble Brook / Nolan Kelley
 Thanks to EJ & Sommerset Pointe Yacht Club



OCTOBER
Finch Snacks on Fall's Bounty of Seeds / James Walsh
 Thanks to Valley Graphics Printing



NOVEMBER
Homestead Lane Sunset
 Jan Goodwin
 Thanks to John and Phyllis Dedoes



DECEMBER
Patricia Lake
 Sandra Kotalik
 Thanks to Jordan Valley Outfitters



VIEWER'S CHOICE AWARD / BACK COVER
Just a Beaver / Courtney McKenzie
 Thanks to Charlevoix State Bank



Visitors take in FOJ's Fall Celebration in late September.

Friends of the Jordan River Watershed salutes the winning photographers in this year's contest and thanks those companies and individuals who stepped forward as sponsors. Thank you too, to all who entered, and to our judge, Kim Ritsema-Mettler. 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 Jordan River Watershed. Be sure to visit friendsofthejordan.org and Facebook in spring 2017 for information on next year's contest. Open to all who love the Jordan.

Protecting Our Water to Save Ourselves

PHOTOS: ANNE ZUKOWSKI



Dr. Ed Timm addresses a recent rally on Line 5 under the Straits of Mackinac.

By ANNE ZUKOWSKI

Twenty-three million gallons of oil continue to flow every day under the Straits of Mackinac through old rusting 63-year-old pipes. The Straits bottomland, owned by the State of Michigan, is leased to Enbridge, Inc., a multinational corporation who is using Michigan as a shortcut to transport oil from western Canadian oil fields to eastern Canadian refineries and sale on the international market. A rupture or leak in Line 5 spewing toxic oil into Lakes Michigan and Huron, especially in winter when the Straits are ice-covered, would impact not only fish and wildlife, but drinking water and jobs for millions within the Great Lakes watershed (of which we are all a part.)

Sixty-one municipalities (most recently Lansing and Kalamazoo), 11 Native American Tribes, over 200 businesses and 66 organizations (including FOJ) have passed resolutions calling on Governor Snyder to protect our Great Lakes and shut down Line 5 oil transport by using his authority to terminate the easement with Enbridge. (See www.oilandwaterdontmix.org for complete list and resolutions.)

Scientists and lawyers at FLOW (For Love of Water) have documented numerous easement violations by Enbridge including cracks, dents, corrosion, structural defects in the pipes, and withholding of safety inspection data from the public. See www.flowforwater.org for more information.

Countless educational meetings and protests have been held around the state. Legal actions to address easement violations have been initiated. Petitions have been circulated, thousands of citizens have written comments.

Given the enormity of the risks to our environment and economy, the aging and deteriorating condition of the pipes, and given Enbridge's poor safety record (including the pipeline rupture in 2010 which spewed over a million gallons of oil into the Kalamazoo River watershed,) and given the overwhelming bipartisan support for shutting down Line 5 — *why haven't state officials acted?*

The answer may lie in North Dakota where the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe is waging a similar struggle to protect their water, environment and cultural heritage from construction of the Dakota

Access Pipeline by Energy Transfer Partners which would carry 450,000 barrels of oil a day under the Missouri River near their homes and drinking water supplies.

The Dakota Access Pipeline, which replaces the Keystone Pipeline rejected by President Obama earlier this year, will carry Bakken oil to refineries in the Gulf of Mexico and the East Coast. The biggest banking institutions in the world including Bank of America and Wells Fargo are pumping billions of dollars in loans and commitments into this pipeline. Touted as a way to achieve “energy independence,” Energy Transfer Partners CEO presentation to stockholders in August told the real story, calling the Dakota Access Pipeline a key element in plans to “capitalize on US energy exports.” In other words, as with Line 5, the oil will be sold to the highest bidder on the open market.

Calling themselves “Water Protectors” and chanting “Water is Life,” the Standing Rock Sioux and thousands of supporters have taken on the biggest oil companies and banking institutions in the world. Their nonviolent protest has become a rallying cry for environmental conservation, protecting water and indigenous rights. They have been attacked by private security forces using dogs and pepper spray. Militarized police forces have attempted to remove protesters from their camps, using rubber bullets and water cannons. Hundreds, including journalists, have been arrested. Yet they have remained strong, their numbers have grown and millions of people around the world are hearing their message.

On December 4, the Water Protectors won a huge victory when the Army Corps of Engineers denied a permit to the Dakota Access Pipeline to cross under the Missouri River at Lake Oahe near the Sioux tribal land and cited the need to conduct an environmental review to explore alternative pipeline routes. Energy Transfer Partners, however, is appealing the decision. For more information, updates, to see how you can help, go to www.ocetisakowincamp.org.

The fight to protect our water, whether the Jordan River, Missouri River, or the Great Lakes, are all connected. We have to stand together and support each other. True energy independence, a clean livable environment, sustainable jobs and economy, are achievable only through a transition to clean, renewable wind and solar energy.





PHOTOS: TIM GOODWIN

Rich Dietrich Named FOJ Board Member of the Year

Rich Dietrich [above left] was named FOJ Board Member of the Year this fall by President Dave Peterson [right]. Peterson presented Rich with a stunning photograph of the Jordan River on metal to mark the award. Coincidentally, the photograph was taken by Rich's brother, Bill Dietrich, a noted area photographer and grand prize winner in last year's FOJ photography contest.

Rich oversaw the effort to put a new sign [above right] atop the Watershed Center. Local sign maker Mark Postma also painted the cast iron eagle popping out of the sign, which was donated by the family of the late Dr. David Pray, an early river guide and protector of the watershed. Working with FOJ Program Director Ashley Cousins, the City of East Jordan, and Northern Lakes Economic Alliance's Amanda Baker, Rich also saw his idea to add FOJ street banners [at right] along Main Street in East Jordan realized, an idea born from a summer trip to Colorado.

All this in addition to coordinating the annual FOJ "Visions of the Valley" photography contest and calendar. Thanks Rich!



New Banners Celebrate the Jordan

The new street banners in East Jordan promote the natural environment of the Jordan River Watershed, while recognizing the Friends of the Jordan River Watershed. Using photographs from the FOJ's annual calendar photography contest by [I to r] Teresa Cole, Dave Christiansen, Bill Dietrich, and Jan Goodwin, the banners were designed by FOJ board member Tim Goodwin. The City of East Jordan hopes it will inspire other local organizations to step up and sponsor their own banners.

STAY IN TOUCH WITH YOUR RIVER. SUPPORT THE FOJ.

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.

▲ NAME _____

▲ ADDRESS _____

▲ CITY _____ ▲ STATE _____ ▲ ZIP _____

▲ EMAIL _____ ▲ PHONE _____

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

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

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



*“Then as it was,
then again it will be,
and though the
course will change
sometimes, rivers
always reach the sea.”*

— LED ZEPPELIN
Ten Years Gone

12TH ANNUAL ‘VISIONS OF THE VALLEY’ CALENDAR

The Lure of the Jordan

The 12th annual edition of the Friends of the Jordan River’s “Visions of the Valley” is now available. The 2017 theme, “The Lure of the Jordan,” is a spell we all fall under when it comes to the Jordan River. The calendar features 14 full-page, full-color photographs, all taken in the Jordan River Watershed, as well as smaller photographs representing all of the entrants in this year’s annual photography contest. They remind us why the FOJ mission is to “conserve the natural resources and protect the environmental quality of the Jordan River and its watershed.”

Calendars are available at Bier Art Gallery in Charlevoix, and at the Jordan River Arts Council and 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. Proceeds support FOJ activities.

Check out page 3 of this issue for all the winners in this year’s photography contest and calendar.



2017 Calendar Cover Photo by Anne Zukowski