

JORDAN VALLEY VOICES

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF THE JORDAN RIVER WATERSHED • FALL/WINTER 2017

FOJ Welcomes Four New Board Members

The Friends of the Jordan River Watershed welcomed four new board members at its November 16 regular meeting. Joining the FOJ board of directors were Adrienne Winchester, Ethan Winchester, Bert Webb, and Mitchell Heick.

They were among the more than 20 people who had attended the FOJ's recent "meet and greet" Happy Hour held for prospective board members at the Watershed Center. They came to learn what it means to be an FOJ board member, where they heard from FOJ President Dave Peterson, followed by a presentation from Freshwater Future's Ann Baughman on what it means to serve as a board member. Current FOJ board members also gave their own personal reasons for joining the board. Bottom line was the importance of preserving Michigan's first designated "wild and scenic" natural river.

If you have an interest in deepening your involvement in FOJ activities, drop a line to Friends of the Jordan River Watershed, PO Box 412, East Jordan, MI 49727, or by email at: foj@friendsofthejordan.org.



Grand Prize Winner

James Walsh of Alden won Grand Prize in the FOJ's 13th annual "Visions of the Valley" photography contest and calendar with his image "A Finch Enjoying a Fall Time Snack." More than \$1200 in prizes were awarded to 14 winners at FOJ's annual fall celebration in September. See all the winning images on page 3.



New Chestonia Bridge Over the Jordan Opened in July

The new Chestonia Bridge over the Jordan River at Old State Road opened this past July, a little more than four months after work was begun to replace two aging, under-sized culverts with a clear span concrete bridge.

The \$1.27 million project, spearheaded by the Conservation Resource Alliance and funded by private foundation and governmental grants, also included a small bridge over Cokris Creek to facilitate access to a new Michigan DNR watercraft landing and a state snowmobile trail.

Funders included the Charlevoix County Community Foundation, Conservation Resource Alliance, Herbert H. & Grace A. Dow Foundation, Harry A. & Margaret D. Towsley Foundation, Great Lakes Fishery Trust, Frey Foundation, J.A. Woollam Foundation, Oleson Foundation, Grand Traverse

Band of Ottawa & Chippewa Indians, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Antrim County Road Commission, Michigan Department of Natural Resources [Aquatic Habitat Program], National Fish & Wildlife Foundation [Sustain Our Great Lakes Program], U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service [Great Lakes Basin Fish Habitat Program], U.S. Environmental Protection Agency [Great Lakes Restoration Initiative], and DTE Energy Foundation.

Partners included Antrim Conservation District, Friends of the Jordan River Watershed, and Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

The bridge was designed and engineered by Prein and Newhof. Construction was by Grand River Construction.

See bridge photos — page 4



Adopt-A-Highway

Friends of the Jordan River Watershed completed their final Adopt-A-Highway pickup for the year along its two mile stretch of M-66 on September 24, marking FOJ's 16th consecutive year of participation in the Michigan Department of Transportation program. Aiding the cause this time around were [l to r] Jeanni Gaymer, Bill Webb, Lynne Goodwin, Kamryn Webb, Terry Ryan, Hilary Buell and Rich Dietrich. Not pictured are Mike Heck, Jinny Heck and Tim Goodwin.



FOJ's Young Friends' summer program collaborated with Raven Hill Discovery Center this past July. Eighteen kids, ages 4-14, participated in the week long Nature Lovers Camp, exploring river, pond and woods in the watershed.

PHOTOS COURTESY RAVEN HILL DISCOVERY CENTER

AuSable Institute Students Visit the Watershed Center

Students attending classes through the AuSable Institute visited the Jordan River Watershed Center this summer, where they heard from True North Trout's Brian Kozminski [center, standing in guide boat] on his role as a fishing guide. Students also heard FOJ board member Jinny Heck, who shared the history of the Friends of the Jordan River Watershed and the Watershed Center. The Christian-based AuSable Institute's academic program "offers field-based, university-level courses in environmental studies and environmental science" at their Mancelona campus for the Great Lakes region, as well as in the Pacific Northwest, South India, and Latin America with academic credit offered by more than 50 colleges and universities.



PHOTO: ANNE PRAY



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www.friendsofthejordan.org
EMAIL: foj@friendsofthejordan.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dave Peterson, *President*
Tim Goodwin, *Vice President/Editor*
John Teesdale, *Treasurer*
Jo Anne Beemon, *Executive at Large*
Ray Bier
Dennis Choate
Rich Dietrich
Jinny Heck

Mitchell Heck
Terry Ryan
Bert Webb
Bill Webb
Adrienne Winchester
Ethan Winchester
Anne Zukowski

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."

13th Annual 'Visions of the Valley' Photography Winners



GRAND PRIZE / COVER

A Finch Enjoying a Fall Time Snack / James Walsh

Thanks to Charlevoix State Bank



JANUARY

Jordan River Winter Wonderland / Janell Thomas

Thanks to Jordan Valley Outfitters



FEBRUARY

Waiting
Tim Goodwin

Thanks to Abdeen Jabara and Holly Maguigan



MARCH

Jordan Sweetness
Sandra Kotalik

Thanks to Jordan Valley Animal Clinic



APRIL

Listen to Your Mother
Bill Dietrich

Thanks to Bill Dietrich / Darcie Dietrich / Real Estate One



YOUTH AWARD / MAY

Buzzy Morning
Gracie Thomas

Thanks to EJ



JUNE

Mom Said No
Courtney McKenzie

Thanks to John and Phyllis Dedoes



JULY

Gone Fishing
Elizabeth DeKorne

Thanks to Barber-Galvin Memorial Scholarship / Sweaty Yeti Run



PRESIDENT'S AWARD / AUGUST

Serenity
Charlotte K. Downey

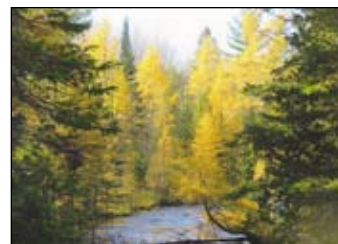
Thanks to East Jordan Plastics



SEPTEMBER

Fall Reflections
Anne Zukowski

Thanks to Bier Art Gallery



OCTOBER

Jordan River Tamarack Beauty / Jan Goodwin

Thanks to Valley Graphics Printing



NOVEMBER

November Hike, Deadman's Hill / Adrienne Winchester

Thanks to Barb V. White



DECEMBER

Autumn Snow on Deadman's Hill / Preston Cole

Thanks to Central Lake Pharmacy



VIEWER'S CHOICE AWARD / BACK COVER

Windswept / Nolan Kelley

Thanks to 4Front Credit Union

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 also to all who entered, and to our judge, Lisa Lirones. 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. For information on next year's contest be sure to visit friendsofthejordan.org and Facebook in the spring. Open to all who love the Jordan.

2017 Chestonia Bridge Construction



February 2017



November 2017



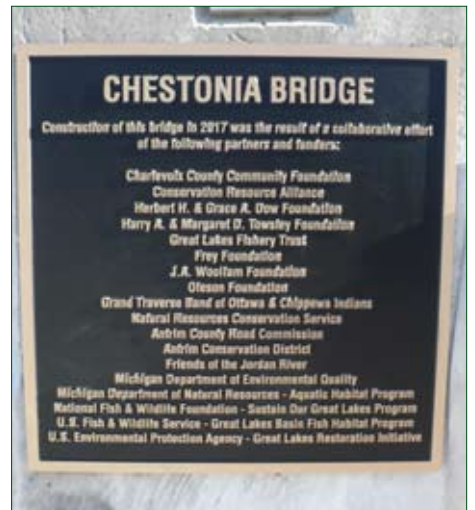
February 2017



May 2017



March 2017



July 2017



April 2017



June 2017



June 2017



June 2017

NOTABLE

Congratulations to board member **Anne Zukowski**, whose photograph of a diving merganser duck took top honors in the Michigan Nature Association's annual photo contest last year. The photograph, taken in the channel between Charlevoix's Round Lake and Lake Michigan, also appeared as the cover [above] on MNA's *Michigan Nature Magazine* in spring of this year.



And kudos to **Anne** for also organizing the FOJ's records, all now neatly placed in three-ring binders in the FOJ Library at the Jordan River Watershed Center for easy reference.

* * *

Thanks to volunteers **Heidi Shaffer** and **Megan Chase** from the Antrim Conservation District, and to FOJ members **Bill Webb**, **Tim Goodwin**, and **Lynne Goodwin** for their continuing efforts on the garden space behind the Watershed Center.

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Congratulations to Antrim County Road Commission's **Burt Thompson**, who received a Conservation Resource Alliance "Outstanding Partner" award for his efforts facilitating the new

Chestonia bridge over the Jordan on Old State Rd. [See bridge photos page 4]

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Welcome to **Dusty Jordan**, Antrim Conservation District's new invasive species coordinator for Antrim County, who assumed the role earlier this year.

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Congratulations to **Tim Goodwin**, who was named FOJ board member of the year.

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The **AuSable Institute** and the **East Jordan Garden Club** each made the Watershed Center a destination this past summer. The FOJ makes the Center available to area nonprofit groups.

UP AND COMING

Thru December 31 — Winning entries from FOJ's "Visions of the Valley" **Photography Contest** on display at the East Jordan Public Library.

2018 Board Meetings — **3rd Thursday of every month** [except December]. 6:30-8:00 p.m. Jordan River Watershed Center. Members and public welcome.

Check the FOJ website for additions, details and/or changes to events at www.friendsofthejordan.org. You can find the FOJ on Facebook too.

JRAG: Keeping the Jordan River Clean

The Jordan River Action Group posted another successful season keeping the river clean, according to JRAG president Tom Breakey.

"The East Jordan Lions Club did a super job, with close to 100 bags of trash and more than 7,000 returnable cans and bottles collected," said Breakey. "They also had a raft trip/river cleanup and found very little trash during their float trip. It seems evident that the collection sites are working. Excluding some vandalism this year, it was a very good year."

The group clears their collection totes from landings by November 1 each year, in line with their agreement with the Michigan DNR, which administers the natural rivers program.

Breakey also thanked the Friends of

the Jordan River Watershed for a recent donation to the effort. "We are out of our red river bags and will be ordering more for next year. The cost has gone up, so we hopefully can find several more businesses that would like to add their names to the bags."

Breakey noted the group is developing a logo and looking for ways to market themselves and what they strive to accomplish, "which is keep our Jordan clean of trash. We have many ideas in progress and can only hope for success, as what has been in the past, has been successful."

JRAG received their 501(c)3 IRS designation last year, allowing for tax deductible donations. Their address is: JRAG, PO Box 215, East Jordan, MI 49727.

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



*“The River,” corrected
the Rat. . . . “It’s my world,
and I don’t want any
other. What it hasn’t got
is not worth having, and
what it doesn’t know is
not worth knowing.
Lord! the times we’ve
had together!”*

— KENNETH GRAHAME,
The Wind in the Willows

13TH ANNUAL JORDAN RIVER WATERSHED CALENDAR

Copies of the FOJ’s 2018 calendar, “The Magic of the Jordan,” are still available for purchase. As always, this 13th annual edition celebrates the natural wonders of the Jordan River Watershed, featuring full page, full color winning entries in FOJ’s yearly “Visions of the Valley” photography contest, and includes thumbnail photographs from all who entered, more than 80 photographs in all taken in the 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.”

Calendars are available at Bier Art Gallery in Charlevoix, and 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 all the winning entries on page 3 of this issue.