

JORDAN VALLEY VOICES

WHO VALUES THE JORDAN RIVER WATERSHED?

The Jordan River Watershed has long been known for the river activities it provides and scenic overlooks. In the past year public awareness has increased because of the proposed Alba deep injection well. This cherished valley has its future health threatened for years to come. Support is needed like never before, but where do the concerned citizens come from?

Those making direct use of the river could be one source of support. A trout fisherman wading in the early morning water, casting for that elusive trout hidden under a fallen tree or an undercut stream bank values the river for its beauty and stress reducing effects. Canoers and kayakers can be found on the river on most summer days. Many enjoy the social aspect of paddling down the river with family and friends. Still others may choose the early morning to silently paddle, attempting to become one with the river. A quiet trip may encounter a Blue Heron feeding along the river's edge. It may flush well ahead or remain motionless, hoping to be unnoticed to passersby. Often seen are young trout, jumping after insects and ducks dabbling along the banks. Many visitors may just enjoy the river from its banks. Watching the ripples and eddies on an ever changing surface has a calming effect to a quiet observer.

Enjoyment may come from activities away from the water. Hikers may travel only the short distance to the Deadman's Hill overlook, from there, choices are a 3 mile loop, 9 mile one-way to Pinney Bridge or the 9 mile trek back to the overlook. Varied habitats from white cedar swamps along the river to the hardwoods on the ridges are found on the hikes. Spring brings wildflower and mushroom seekers to the valley. At this time the forest is alive

with exuberant growth from the forest floor to the blossoming trees. Birders use the unique habitat for observation of resident and migrant birds.

Although the Jordan Valley forest is past prime deer habitat, it still provides opportunity for wildlife observers and hunters. The rolling terrain that envelops the valley makes the hunt a greater challenge. Ruffed grouse can be heard drumming in the spring, and provide

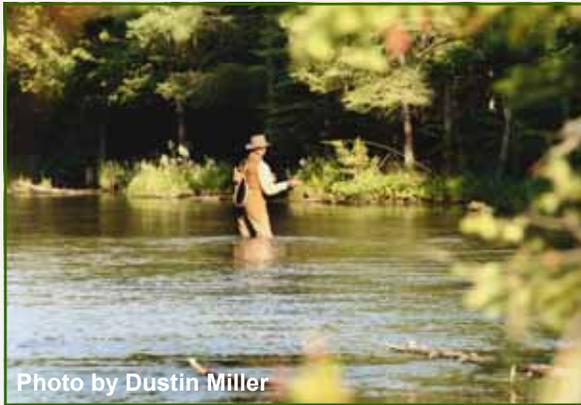


Photo by Dustin Miller

hunting opportunities in the fall. In both cases, knowing where the preferred foods are located increases hunting success.

The most utilized part of the Jordan Valley is probably Deadman's Hill, whose beauty at any season is breathtaking. The fall colors increase visitor numbers to the overlook, though most will only wander along the cedar fence for different views, but their appreciation for this resource may be just as great as a more involved user.

Many of us may never visit a national park, just as many in the state will never visit the Jordan Valley. Those individuals can still have a desire to preserve these resources, just because it is the right thing to do.

So where does the support for the environmental integrity of the Jordan River Watershed come from? Hopefully from all who enjoy its recreational opportunities and from those who just desire for the watershed to remain in as pristine a condition as possible.

by Bruce Barber

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The **POWER** COALITION
Protect Our Water and Environmental Resources

In June of 2008, FOJ established a new sub-committee called the POWER (Protect Our Water and Environmental Resources) Coalition. This group is comprised of individuals and representatives of other organizations with the mission, "To facilitate the cleanup at Bay Harbor without contaminating other places in Northern Michigan."

Because the proposed waste injection well near Alba is such a complex issue it was necessary to pull together a bigger and broader group of concerned citizens to study, understand and voice our concerns. The injection well and the myriad of problems at Bay Harbor affect many people outside the Jordan River Watershed and FOJ. The POWER Coalition brings together these different interests and the legal partners, Star Township and Antrim County in opposing this well. FOJ's board also felt it was necessary to place the Alba well issue separate from the normal functions of FOJ and not let it consume our other programs.

FOJ believes the Alba well to be a real and

present danger to the Jordan River Watershed. We do not think it is necessary and that other alternatives to dispose of Bay Harbor's toxic waste exist. To us, this well is a mistake, an injustice and an insult. We will continue to do everything we can do to stop it. We will need your continued support and thank the many of you who have already contributed to this worthy cause.

NOTE: As of the publishing of this newsletter, the EPA's Environmental Appeals Board has denied our appeal. This essentially exhausts the administrative remedies we have sought to stop the well. FOJ and our partners are currently researching what steps to take next. See our website for further details. www.friendsofthejordan.org/alba



Alba Well Community Forum by Heidi Lang

On a beautiful cold sunny day in March 2008, a group of concerned citizens met in Alba to voice their concerns yet again about the deep injection well slated to be the conduit to dump millions of gallons of contaminated leachate into the ground near Alba weekly for 10 years. Friends of the Jordan and Star Township hosted this meeting to gather information about peoples' concerns with the Alba well, and send those sentiments to the MDEQ and the EPA in hopes to reverse their February 7, 2008 decision to permit the well. More than 150 people attended this forum, including local and state politicians, and money was raised to go to the legal fund to STOP the Alba well. A video tape and transcript of the forum were made and sent to the MDEQ and the EPA.

During the summer of 2007, a public hearing was held in Alba to hear the concerns of citizens before the EPA and DEQ made their ruling on the permit. Despite the emotional and scientific concerns voiced by the citizens at this public hearing, both the EPA and MDEQ totally discounted the concerns presented at the public hearing and permitted the well. A similar well was allowed in Romu-

lus, Michigan, and those citizens are now plagued by chemicals and poisons leaking out of this well contaminating their water and their community. Once ground water is contaminated, it is virtually impossible to clean it up. Are we going to have another contaminated aquifer in the County of Antrim like we have in the Village of Mancelona all the way up to Schuss Mountain? Are we going to have to pay millions of dollars to install a county wide water system because of these contaminations?

Whatever happened to a government for the people by the people? What ever happened to an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure? This well is located at the headwaters of 6 major watersheds in Northwest Michigan and lies at the heart of some of the most beautiful pristine landscapes in Northern Michigan.

This forum, and others that have been held since then, are giving voice to the people. We may not feel like we affect a difference in Washington, but we definitely have a say in what happens in our little corner of the world. Stay involved! Attend the informational meetings offered! Together we can make a difference.

Board of Directors seeking members to fill vacancies

Several members of the FOJ Board of Directors are retiring or have terms expiring and wish to step down at the end of their terms, leaving 3 vacancies on our Board of Directors. The Board meets on the 3rd Thursday of the month from 6:30-8:30 PM at the Jordan River Watershed Center. The only requirement is that you are willing to serve. If you are interested please contact John Richter. 231 536-3132 or contact us at foj@friendsofthejordan.org.



Photo by Jane Korthase

HOW CAN I HELP?

Learn the FACTS about the proposed well and discuss it intelligently with friends and neighbors

Stay informed through forums, the website, articles.

Write your legislators, editors, business contacts about your concerns.

Ask about your local candidates position, advocate for their support and VOTE

Post a sign in your yard voicing your support

FOJ Calendars raise funds, and communicate the message. Give them as gifts, hang them in your office, home. Sell them to your friends.

Donate to the Alba Legal Action Fund.



Photo by Mike Schlitt



Celebrating the Jordan

The Friends of the Jordan welcomed the community to its Fourth Annual Celebration on Saturday, Sept 20, 2008 at the Jordan River Watershed Center. For the fourth consecutive year, the weather cooperated with sunny skies and mild temperatures as visitors gathered to view the photographs from the 2008 Photography Contest. \$1200 in prize money was awarded with Jane Korthase of Boyne City taking the Grand Prize Award of \$250, sponsored by Charlevoix State Bank. Mary Jane Ulrich of Petoskey, who judged the contest, stated that "the reason I chose the grand prize winner is because I saw it as the "Real Thing...It gave me a feeling of why the health of the Jordan River Watershed is so critically important." The Youth Award of \$100 went to Dustin Miller of East Jordan, Sponsored by East Jordan Iron Works. The only other youth to enter, Crosby Boettger was given honorable mention and a prize of \$25. The President's Choice Award, chosen by Dr. John Richter, president of Friends of the Jordan recognized the photograph that best depicted the theme "The Jordan,

Ours to Protect" and was awarded to John Porter of Presque Isle, sponsored by East Jordan Plastics. His photograph "Log Slide Vista" is a panoramic view of the Jordan Valley and will serve as the cover photo for the 2009 calendar. A new premium prize, the Designer's Choice Award was selected by the designers of the calendar for the photograph that they felt was the most visually stunning. That went to Jan Goodwin of East Jordan for "Still Waters" a gorgeous autumn sunset on the river. Jan sent a note stating that "your contest spurs me to get out there and search for unique treasures in nature."

Throughout the afternoon, Acoustic Stew, a local folk music band provided entertainment playing a mix of folk, country, soft rock and world music. Chef Lisa Dunson and Baker Allison MacKay, both of East Jordan provided a delicious variety of treats that were almost as popular as the photography! A majestic Bald Eagle flew over as the awards were presented giving true meaning to the theme The Jordan, Ours to Protect. By Margaret Moran



Some of the 2008 Photography Contest Winners

L-R Calendar Designers Jack and Margaret Moran, Designer's Choice Award Winner Jan Goodwin and her husband Marvin. Calendar prize: Donna Ellis, Youth Award winner: Dustin Miller, President Choice Award winner: John Porter, FOJ President Dr John Richter, and calendar prize winner Anne Zukowski.

View all the entries and cast your vote for the Viewer's Choice on our web site.

THANK YOU to all of the talented photographers who submitted entries and a special Thank You to our judge for the 2008 Photography Contest Ms. Mary Jane Ulrich of Petoskey. This contest would not be possible without the support of our sponsors. The Friends of the Jordan River sincerely appreciates the generous support of our Photography Contest sponsors, The Grand Prize Award was sponsored by Charlevoix State Bank, Viewer's Choice Award sponsored by Bay Winds Federal Credit Union, the Youth Award sponsored by East Jordan Iron Works. The President's Choice Award was sponsored by East Jordan Plastics and the Designer's Choice Award was sponsored by John and Phyllis Dedoes. Calendar Award sponsors include BC Pizza, Central Lake Pharmacy, Greg Klinker, DDS, Lakes of the North, Jordan Valley Animal Clinic, The Computer Center, Stark Realty, Valley Graphics and Floyd and Nancy Wright.

2008 WINNERS

GRAND PRIZE

Jane Korthase

Viewers Choice

Julie Christiansen

Youth Award

Dustin Miller

President's Choice

John Porter

Designer's Choice

Janet Goodwin

Calendar Awards

Tim Goodwin

Donna Ellis

Ann Marie Boettger

Jan Korthase

Julie Christiansen

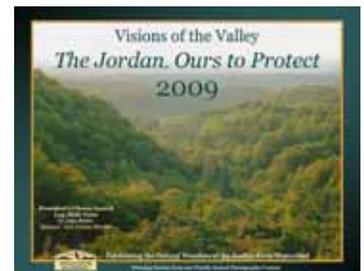
Jan Goodwin

Rosie Evans

Thomas Tuck

Connie Hagelshaw

Anne Zukowski



2009 CALENDARS

ON SALE NOW

\$10.00

Available through the website and at these businesses
 Jordan Valley Animal Clinic
 The Computer Center-EJ
 Bier Gallery-Charlevoix
 Central Lake Drugs
 Bear Country Store in Elmira

The JORDAN RIVER - My Past Association With It - Your Future's Choices

In the long life of a river like the Jordan, my relationship with it is such a short time although it has lasted 83 years and counting. The waters I learned to love and navigate using a pike pole and drag chain in a famous "Teddy Kotowich built" long boat have moved on and had their own adventures and courses as have most of my dear companions, fellow artists and fishermen.

It was the end of an era. The lumbering days were long over - although traces of them are still visible in the pilings that poke their remains out of the waters near the Bank parking lot at the end of the city bridge. They once supported sturdy docks where large sailing vessels unloaded supplies for the villages and camps, then returned, low in the water with fresh cut - clear cut lumber. Higher up the river, near Rogers Bridge the tips of railroad pilings supported the tracks that brought the train (with mail and milk) to the nearby camps and settlements. The engine now stands in Memorial Park, where the round house (the turn-around) was the end of the line - how true it is now.

The age of transportation, communications, industries, corporations, big cities, declining small towns and farms, wars, depressions, unemployment, restructuring ... that was the era I was born into (sound familiar?).

The river still flowed from its pristine source, perhaps oblivious to the speeding changes the surface world wrestled with, but it was no longer a tool of the lumber kingdoms, part of a convenient commodity - it was now a tourists and fisherman's paradise ... a free flowing, trout filled, ice cold body of water enjoyed by native wildfowl and animals, surrounded by young forest, thriving undergrowth and areas of cedars that overhung the river's banks and formed a lush, darkly green barrier protecting the wetlands they grew from. They did such a good job of filtering run-off that any water re-entering the river from these places seemed equally pure.

It was an enchanted place - so different from our noisy "civilization". A place that respected stillness - reflected peacefulness and restored our intuitive need to re-connect with nature. I had idyllic days floating down the river. I often did watercolors, sitting in the bow of the boat, dipping my brush over the side, quickly catching the changing aspects of the banks while my sculptor husband gracefully poled the boat away from the cedar "sweepers" and into the current - maybe giving him a few moments to try his new skills at fly casting. There were so many "keeper" trout in those days that bringing home your limit was rarely a problem. What a great way for tired, vacationing teachers to clear their minds, breathe deeply and exchange that "aren't we lucky" look without saying a word.

Perhaps it was around this time that we began to see and become part of a fast changing society that offered confusing choices to generations of people who knew more frugal ways. We saved things: Christmas wrapping paper, string, rubber bands - had worn shoes repaired, took up or let down hems, darned socks, handed down clothes and had metal appliances fixed whenever possible. If things finally ended up in the local "dump" there was always someone to sort through and find uses from our discards. Little was wasted.

New Science, with its myriad discoveries and creations led us into the new world of nuclear physics, bombs and medicines. Plastics and amazing synthetics could be turned into mass produced items that were cheaper to use and throw away than to repair. It was the age of planned obsolescence. It was a time of advertising, over packaging, sales pitches, competitions and bottom lines. Most people worked hard, earned enough to buy things that they didn't need and didn't last.

What endless piles of waste we created and how carelessly we threw things out. If you were lucky enough to have a summer cottage on the lake or river, the forest or isolated wetlands were good places to toss junk. If you couldn't see it, it didn't matter. Bottles and empty beer cans littered beaches and the edges of the river where they caught between roots and fallen logs. There was no deposit on them so it saved having to carry them home again.

But the Jordan had an excellent steward in Teddy Kotowich. For years he and his guides had regular clean-up days, gathering trash and removing obstacles that impeded the flow of the current. His philosophy was that if you loved it and benefited from it you'd damn well better take care of it. We all learned from his example.

I mustn't forget the wondrous mosquito and fly panacea, DDT. A few good sprays and no more bugs. Clouds of it really handled the pests when you were fishing or boating. Water front properties especially needed its good services. Thankfully, Rachel Carson finally proved to us that chemicals could be toxic and take a devastating toll on our fish and wildlife - but it really hit home when people also absorbed the toxic ingredients and had a range of cancers to prove it.

Most of us were guilty of some of these things because of ignorance. We didn't know the consequences of toxins leaching out of products we had thrown into ditches or back roads. It was the way it had always been done so it must be OK. Old habits die hard but there's no excuse now. We do know better than to continue practices that introduce poisonous levels of toxic materials into our soil and ground water. Just a short time ago most of us hadn't a clue about watersheds, permeable surfaces, run-offs, waste water and food chains for aquatic life forms. It has taken nearly 50 years for specialists in the fields of Hydrology, Geology, Ecology and lots of other "ologies" to convince us that our own behavior has public consequences. We have responsibilities. There are now laws on the book that exist to protect public health and our natural resources. Every year more non-profit groups of committed citizens are forming to help educate both users and abusers of these precious watersheds in Michigan.

For many years Friends of the Jordan River Watershed has been a leader in this effort. I have learned so much from their research and courage to defend their ideals when the river has been in jeopardy. It may presently face its greatest threat in any of our lifetimes. You will doubtless read other articles in this newsletter explaining the danger it faces so I only offer my response to this ongoing dilemma.

I am outraged and personally offended that the CMS thinks they can treat us like fools who know nothing about the methods they have chosen to dispose of toxic leachate into a hole so deep we can forget about it and just trust these nice people who stand to lose more than their shirts if they are forced to use alternative measures of disposal. They are messing with OUR river, OUR resources, OUR drinking water, OUR future - not theirs alone. We have learned to put our trust in open research and honest answers and will not tolerate chicanery - political or otherwise. We have our mission not only toward the healthy life of the watershed, but for the continuance of our "Natural River" designation. We can't let anyone destroy this pristine heritage for our children and their descendents.

Too many people have given too much time and energy over the years to see it so blatantly mistreated. We are in the right and it is worth fighting for!

Tired but game,

Peggy Midener - one of the River Rats





Activities and Events 2008

From Nature Hikes to an up close and personal interaction with a Red-tailed Hawk, the Friends of the Jordan offered a variety of activities and programs in the past year to help the community engage with the Jordan, the environment and with our role in protecting it. The year started with a morning snowshoe hike, with hot chili to warm up afterward at the Watershed Center. The February Full Moon was the setting for an evening river raft trip down the Jordan with the Jordan Valley Outfitters. Unfortunately we have no photos of this event so if you participated and have some pictures we would love them for our records. Winter Sundays were the opportunity to engage in discussions about the threats to the planet using the Planet Earth Series. With spring, we focused on the re-awakening of the Jordan with a trail cleanup on Earth Day with the help of volunteers from the EJHS National Honor Society. FOJ members then joined the Little Traverse Conservancy volunteers in clearing the abandoned buildings and debris from the Jordan River Nature Preserve. Spring was slow to arrive so the Nature Hike in April was cancelled due to snow and the one in May focusing on mushrooms was disappointing. A large group searched high and low for the elusive morels but several of us were happy to docu-

ment the spring flowers that were emerging. A small group participated in the Bird Walk and was rewarded with sightings of courting Orioles, a Yellow Throated Warbler and Magnolia Warbler. We anxiously watched the Eagle's nest for evidence of fledglings but although the adults nested and incubated eggs, it appeared the young did not survive the cold spring. Joel Evans and Glen McCune brought their expertise to the Watershed Center along with an impressive Red-tailed Hawk to tell us "All About Eagles." With summer, the Nature hikes were less well attended. The Full Moon River trip in July and the Morning River Trip in August were beautiful and enjoyable to those who were lucky enough to attend. The Friends of the Jordan continued with their commitment to the Highway Cleanup program. We clean up the river and the access sites as well. The Visions of the Valley photography contest was the focus of the summer with 93 photographs entered and exhibited during the Celebration. The Education committee welcomes suggestions and would love to have 2-3 more members join us in planning and presenting programs. Please contact Margaret Moran if you would like to help with this committee. mmoran@friendsofthejordan.org.



FOJ Responds to Statements and Questions about the Alba Injection Well.

THE ALBA WELL IS VERY DIFFERENT THAN EXISTING BRINE WELLS.

 THIS STUFF CONTAINS SIGNIFICANT HEAVY METALS AND TOXIC ORGANIC CARBON COMPOUNDS

 TEN TO FIFTEEN HUGE TANKER TRUCKS WILL TRAVEL TO AND FROM BAY HARBOR, 365 DAYS A YEAR WITH NO END IN SIGHT.

 THE WELL IN ALBA DOES NOT SOLVE THE PROBLEMS AT BAY HARBOR (ONLY A FRACTION OF THE CKD WILL BE DISPOSED OF THIS WAY)

CMS says that science supports the existence of more than 100 other oil and gas wells and three other disposal wells located in the area. In fact, more than 12 other disposal well permits have been approved in the area since early 2006. So, what’s the difference about this one? “

Natural gas wells are relatively shallow and are not comparable to disposal wells except they penetrate the groundwater aquifer. Should they fracture or leak, as many have, they could contaminate groundwater with brine much like what has happened throughout Midland, Saginaw and Bay Counties. Brine disposal wells inject gas well wastes back into the earth where they came from, although in a deeper formation. They pose much the same risks.

I’m curious what scientific proof CMS has that supports the existence and safety of the proposed Alba injection well. The only “proof” I have seen is that none of the existing brine disposal wells have been shown to fail, yet. DEQ’s senior geologist, Ray Vugrinovich, states that the acceptance of brine wastes from the gas wells by the Dundee Limestone (receiving formation) “suggests” that it is a suitable repository. To me and many others, that is hardly scientific proof. Furthermore, EPA’s evaluation was based on very narrow UIC (Underground Injection Control) Rules, ignored more recent geological strata data and refused to respond to technical criticisms in the permit raised by PhD geophysicists Dr. Patterson. (See FOJ’s website for her critique)

The Alba well is very different than existing brine wells. First, the CKD leachate is toxic. The “non-hazardous” classification is by semantic definition only. This stuff contains significant heavy metals and toxic organic carbon compounds some which have yet to be identified. The volumes of

material destined for Alba greatly exceeds that of brine wells and could go on for centuries. Do the math and trace amounts of contaminants end up measuring in the tons. Millions of gallons of contaminated groundwater, which should flow clean into Little Traverse Bay, will be diverted and disposed in a deep underground formation. The Alba well would be the first industrial waste well in Antrim County (one of three in the State) and sets a dangerous precedent. Why not two or three or a dozen? There is no way to fix contamination or problems should they occur and the required bond is ridiculous. Moreover, the existing brine disposal wells, not designed to the same standards as a Class I well, could serve as conduits for upward migration of injected leachate.

The people of Alba and Antrim County do not want this well. They receive no benefit or royalty check every month and only stand to lose. The social injustice of an affluent resort dumping their waste on a less affluent rural community is obvious. Trucking this waste from a distant local and foreign watershed is unprecedented. Ten to fifteen huge tanker trucks must travel to and from Bay Harbor each day, 365 days a year with no end in sight. These tankers will pass by people’s homes and their kid’s bus stops on country roads with no compensation for road wear and tear or plans for first responders.

Most egregious of all is that this well in Alba does not solve the problems at Bay Harbor (only a fraction of the CKD will be disposed this way) yet has the potential to contaminate a pristine aquifer that feeds many of Northern Michigan’s most revered rivers.

Dr. John W. Richter;
President – Friends of the Jordan

Jordan River Watershed Center gets all spruced up!



Using grant funds provided by the Charlevoix County Community Foundation, the FOJ was able to keep the Watershed Center building in top condition by power washing, re-staining and painting the exterior this summer giving it a nice new fresh look, just in time for our annual Celebration. Thanks to the Charlevoix County Community Foundation and to Nate and John Richter, Heidi Lang, Steve Umlor, Ed Strelzinski, Jack and Margaret Moran and others who helped with the project.



Jordan River Stream Monitoring

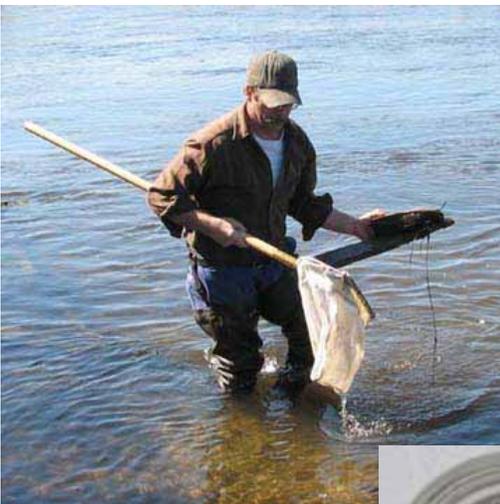
Every spring and fall FOJ volunteers participate in the “Volunteer Stream Monitoring Program” sponsored by Tip of the Mitt. For the past two years we have gone to two locations on the Jordan and collected macro invertebrates “bugs” and compared them to the number and species found in rivers across northern Michigan. By comparing the number of macro invertebrates, such as aquatic insects, crustaceans, snails, and leeches we can determine the biological health of our river.

A few weeks after field data collection, an indoor identification session is held at North Central Michigan College. During the indoor session the volunteers sort the bugs into species and classifications. They then sit down with experts in taxonomic identification of aquatic macro invertebrates. Of course the results from this fall’s collection are not in yet. But the results we do have show our stream to be very healthy.

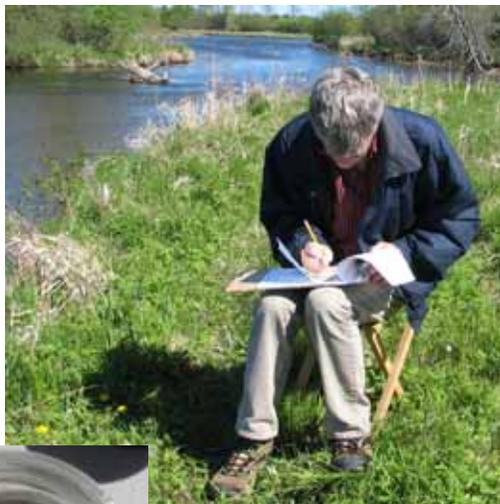
Stream Name	Location	Date	Total Taxa	EPT Families	Sensitive Families
Jordan	Webster Road	5/17/08	18	10	5
Jordan	Fair Road	5/17/08	21	10	5
Jordan	Webster Road	9/22/07	28	12	8
Jordan	Fair Road	9/22/07	23	10	6
Jordan	Webster Road	5/19/07	17	10	5
Jordan	Fair Road	5/19/07	18	11	6
Average for all streams			17.3	12.5	3

Monitoring the number and types of bugs in our river is vital to maintaining the health of the river. If a pollution problem does occur it affects the bugs long before anything else would be noticeable. This is going to become even more important in the future. If the Alba injection well becomes a reality, the stream monitoring program just may be the first to detect a failure in the well. We will let you know the results for this fall as soon as they are available. And we are always looking for new volunteers. We will send out a notice next May and anyone who wish’s to join us will be welcome.

By John Teesdale



Tom Krause collects samples from the Jordan River



John Teesdale logs data at the site of the sample collection



Pickers sort through the sediment looking for macro-invertebrates ...”bugs”



A variety of life forms indicates a healthy river which supports diverse species of fish, birds and other wildlife.

5th Grade Field Trip to the Jordan River Watershed Center

May 15th and 22nd The East Jordan 5th grade classes spent the afternoon exploring the JRWC. FOJ Board members John Richter, Joanne Beemon and John Teesdale worked with the students studying ecosystems, food chains etc. The students gathered water samples from the river and used projecting microscopes to view aquatic insects, they explored the nature trail, learned songs about the environment and discussed our role in conserving and protecting water and wetlands. As an added bonus both bald eagles appeared on the nest for the students to view. Some of their comments are listed here....

Brandon ... I appreciated learning all the cool things about habitats and that we learned about other kids of animals.

Ashley ... Thank you for showing us all the things we can do to help our environment.

Alex ... I like the way all the eagles were nesting and the way they looked and all the cool things you had there ... the plants and animals.

Emily ... My favorite part was seeing the Bald Eagle on the perch and learning the habitat song.

Lucas ... Thank you for teaching us the habitat song.

Bailey ... I thought it was cool that we got to see two Bald Eagles through the telescope.

Nikki ... I think it is really cool how they are trying to save the environment and I liked the baby turtle.

Savannah ... It was awesome to hear the music that the birds make.

Daniel ... It was very cool that they put a path through the woods to walk on.

Brandyn ... It must have been so hard to move that building across town.

Candace It was so interesting to look at all of the bugs under the microscope and to think they are right in the water.

Noah... I learned that there are many different kinds of fish and insects right here in East Jordan!

Bronte... Thank you Dr. Richter for letting us look in the telescope at the eagle's nest!

Katie H... I heard birds singing songs to each other. I loved the whole thing, thank you very much!!

Gracie .. The dead tree trunk that we saw was cool because it held more life than a living tree.

Kirsten... Thank you for teaching us some history about the boats coming down the river. Miss Joanne-the song was delightful, thank you for teaching it to us.

Jordan P... I learned not to mess with wildlife!

Andrew D... John told us that they count the bugs in the river so they know if there are too many or too few because it can mess up the watershed.

Jarica... I couldn't believe how deep the water used to be, now it is so shallow.

Katie S... It was so cool to hear the yellow finches talk back and forth. I loved learning the "Habitat Song"

James... I saw a toad, four types of fish and lots of birds.

Jordayn C... I heard crickets and saw the grass and the trees waving!! I can't wait to come back.

Memorials and Remembrances

The Friends of the Jordan has been the recipient of contributions to honor significant life events including birthdays and even a wedding. The contributions made in memory of a loved one are most sincerely appreciated. Over the years, donations have been made in memory of some of the pioneers of the organization such as Bud Jones and Dr Pray, and in the name of family members Charles Richter and Adelaide Richter, parents of John Richter and Roselle Bier, Joann's Beemon's mother. Some chose to honor a loved one's passion for the river or the environment as with the gift in memory of a young man who was an avid fisherman, Nick Sauro. Memorials were also received in honor of Richard Hoffman, Bryce Vance, Mary Vance Carpenter, and Al Cesaro. Some contributions are designated for specific purposes such as purchase of wildflowers from the East Jordan Garden club in memory of their friend and member Addie, from the family and friends of Marilyn B. "Jan" Erratt for the construction of the beautiful deck at the Watershed Center and donations toward the purchase of the Jordan River Nature Preserve in memory of Donna Guerin. What ever the cause, whatever the purpose, the Friends of the Jordan is grateful to be the recipient of your donations and honors the memory of your family and friends.

At the time of publication we learned of the passing of our long standing supporter and friend, Marvin Goodwin. We wish to extend our sincere condolences to Jan Goodwin and the Goodwin Family.

Photo by Mary Jane Ulrich



Jordan River Watershed Center as a Community Resource

As a gathering place, the Jordan River Watershed Center is being utilized not only for Friends of the Jordan activities but also as a gathering place for community groups from the East Jordan Garden Club, to bible study groups. It has been used for the Volunteer Luncheon by the Little Traverse Conservancy and was the site of a Forestry Field Day. The Friends of the Jordan offers the Watershed Centers as a location for meetings, presenta-

tions to not-for-profit community groups at no charge but does accept donations of funds and/or labor to help cover utilities and maintenance of the facilities. Groups are expected to provide their own supplies and to return the setting to as good or better condition prior to leaving the building. An application for use can be requested by e-mail at foj@friendsofthejordan.org or can be found on the website.



What's on the Web?

History of the FOJ

Upcoming events

Pictures and descriptions of recent events

2008 Photo Contest entries and winners

Opportunity to vote for Viewer's Choice Award

Documents and articles relating to the Alba well Opposition.

Past Newsletters

Order form for calendars and other merchandise

How to join the FOJ

Contact information

And much more at....

www.friendsofthejordan.org

The North Country Trail and the Jordan River Pathway

The North Country Trail: 4600 miles of beautiful backcountry trails extending from New York to North Dakota. You can explore the trail through New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and North Dakota at the website www.northcountrytrail.org, or you can visit a section of the trail right here in your own backyard in the Jordan River Valley.

The round trip on the Valley trail is 18 miles. There are varying trail lengths from easy to moderate hiking in the Jordan Valley. The views are breath taking from Dead Man's Hill or Landslide Overlook – especially right now with the splendor of fall colors. Around every corner on the trail are gifts to tantalize the senses. Come explore! It is worth the effort.

The Tittabawasee Chapter of the North Country Trail (who maintains the Trail in the Jordan River Valley), Friends of the Jordan, Antrim Conservation District, The Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality are working together to secure the necessary permits to do needed maintenance on the Trail in the Valley. This cooperative effort is strengthening our partnerships and is ensuring that the needed work gets done properly in the most cost effective manner. The North Country trail guidelines are being used to design the structural measures needed to make the Trail safe and protect the natural resources in the Jordan River Valley. All of us working together will make the trail maintenance work! Hats off to everyone involved!



Volunteers from the North Country Trail Association, the Friends of the Jordan and East Jordan High School National Honors Society work on the Earth Day Trail Cleanup





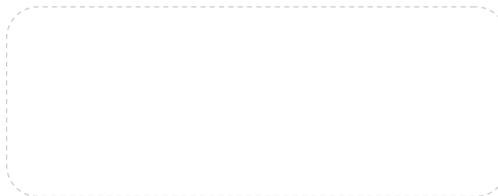
Friends of the Jordan River Watershed Inc.
PO Box 412
East Jordan, MI 49727

NOTICE

Friends of the Jordan
Annual Membership
Meeting

November 20, 2008
7:00-9:00 PM
Jordan River
Watershed Center

Please plan to join us!



Recognition for the FOJ



*FOJ President
John Richter
receives the NMEAC
2008 "Environmental
of the Year" award!*

2008 was a memorable year in which the Friends of the Jordan was the honored recipient of several prestigious awards. In January, the East Jordan Chamber of Commerce awarded the FOJ with the Renaissance Award "for their magnificent restoration and renovation of one of East Jordan's oldest commercial buildings - not only is it the place where several communities meet - but it will be the catalyst for the future as East Jordan continues to carve its niche as a nature based tourist destination."

On April 16, 2008 the Northern Michigan Environmental Action Council (NMEAC) presented Friends of the Jordan President Dr. John Richter with the "Environmentalist of the Year" award recognizing individuals who best represent the most outstanding individuals involved in environmental advocacy and action throughout northern Michigan "for his leadership of Friends of the Jordan River Watershed, in efforts to stop gas and oil drilling within the boundaries of the Jordan River Natural Area, and for valuing and protecting this wonderful natural resource as his life's work". In August, the East Jordan Family Health Center recognized the Friends of the Jordan as a "Community Health Champion" for the efforts to protect the environment which impacts the health of the entire community. We appreciate the recognition for the work of all of the volunteers who contribute their time, talent and passion to achieve the mission and goals of the organization.

FOJ Receives Grant

FOJ is pleased to announce the receipt of a generous grant of \$20,000.00 from the Grand Traverse Bay Band of Odawa and Chippewa Indians. These funds will help support Phase II (year 2) of the Jordan River Sedimentation Study being conducted by MSU's Dept. of Geological Sciences.

These funds were requested in cooperation with the City of East Jordan and will greatly enhance the research needed to complete this important project. Very special thanks to the Grand Traverse Bay Band, the City, Ann Baughman (project manager), MSU and all those who have contributed to this effort.