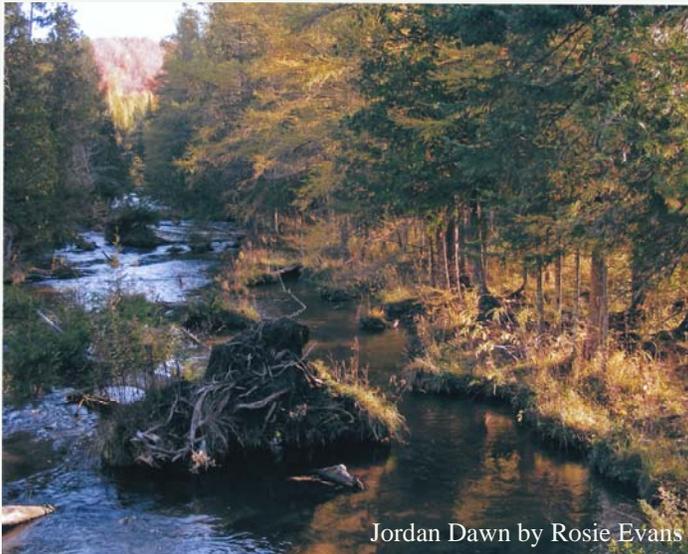


JORDAN VALLEY VOICES

ALBA WELL PUT ON HOLD

On August 14th 2009, Judge Thomas Power of Antrim County's 13th Circuit Court granted an indefinite "stay" in the impending trial over the Alba industrial waste injection well. A "stay" basically freezes the case allowing time for intermediations while avoiding the expense and trauma of a trial. The stay was granted at the request of CMS/Beeland Group following months of intense behind the scenes negotiations and a surging public relations campaign conducted by Friends of the Jordan (FOJ) through its subcommittee, POWER Coalition.



Jordan Dawn by Rosie Evans

The plaintiffs in this case, FOJ, Antrim County and the mineral property owners welcomed this halt in legal proceedings. The case was about to escalate into an extensive discovery phase requiring both sides to expend huge sums of money for expert witnesses and professional

testimony. Proceeding with the trial would have ratcheted up the rhetoric and hardened attitudes making compromise or reconsideration much more unlikely. Fortunately, an unnecessary battle was avoided.

Around the same time, EPA announced plans to form a Regional Stakeholders Group (RSG) through its Technical Assistances Services for Communities Program. An independent consulting firm from Virginia, E2 Inc., was hired to conduct an assessment of the many diverse interests and issues surrounding the "Bay Harbor Cement Kiln Dust Site" (Bay Harbor). Numerous interviews were conducted with local and state governmental representatives, non-profit organizations, members of the business and industry community, residents of Bay Harbor and others. FOJ had previously called for this action, actively participated in the assessment and will be part of the Regional Stakeholders Group. We expect that the RSG will provide a vital, officially sanctioned, public forum for citizens to weigh in on important discussions and decisions about the cleanup at Bay Harbor.

It is hoped that through this process proper cleanup methods at Bay Harbor will be identified and implemented and that the CKD leachate can be disposed safely in a manner which does not contaminate other places. FOJ's Vice-President, Ray Bier, will be our representative on the RSG. Cont. on Pg 2

Friends of the Jordan River Watershed, Inc.

PO Box 412
East Jordan, MI 49727
Phone/fax 231 536-9947
www.friendsofthejordan.org
Email:
foj@friendsofthejordan.org

OFFICERS

President: *Dr John Richter*
Vice President: *Ray Bier*
Treasurer: *John Teesdale*
Secretary:
Margaret Bachman-Moran
Executive at Large:
Joanne Beemon

DIRECTORS

Stacey Jo Chipman
Dennis Choate
Nelson Green
Terry Ryan
Bob Sayer
Tom Sothard
Steve Umlor

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Alba Well Statement</i>	1
<i>Dreamtime</i>	3
<i>Electrical Barrier Removal</i>	4
<i>Photo Contest Winners</i>	5
<i>Summer Events</i>	6
<i>Young Friends Program</i>	7
<i>Jordan "Trashed"</i>	8

The groups listed below have signed resolutions or spoken out to Stop the Alba Waste Injection Well.

Alba Fire Department
 Antrim County Board of Commissioners
 Charlevoix County Board of Commissioners
 Chestonia Township
 Jordan Township (Antrim County)
 Kearney Township (Antrim County)
 Star Township (Antrim County)
 Village of Ellsworth
 Village of Bellaire
 East Jordan City Council
 Antrim County Conservation District
 WATCH (Water and Air Team Charlevoix)
 NMEAC (Northern Michigan Environmental Action Council)
 Anglers of the AuSable (Grayling)
 Trout Unlimited Headwaters Chapter (Gaylord)
 Trout Unlimited Michigan Chapter
 Friends of the Boyne River
 Friends of the Cedar River
 Friends of Clam Lake
 Friends of the Jordan River National Fish Hatchery
 Six Mile Lake Association
 Intermediate Lakes Association
 Great Lakes Aquatic Habitat (Fresh Water Future)
 North Woods Call (newspaper)
 Jordan River Action Group
 Antrim County Democratic Party
 U.S. Representative Bart Stupak
 State Representative Kevin Elsenheimer
 State Senator Basham
 Lakes of the North
 Community Resource Development, Inc. (Mancelona)
 Alba Sportsman Club
 Linda Beers Aydlott - Sacred Sparks of Jordan Valley Studio, East Jordan
 Jerry Aydlott - Jordan Valley Studios, East Jordan
 Debra J. Carey - Marty's Cones and Carry Out, East Jordan
 Karen Parks - Up North Morgans, Bellaire
 Ted Bagholder - Maple Ridge Stables, Vanderbilt
 Ink-Spirations by Jan Rocher - Bellaire

In addition, nearly 1,000 citizens have signed petitions, resolutions, or written letters opposing the Alba Waste Disposal Well.

Alba Well Put on Hold CONTINUED FROM Pg 1

Ray has been intimately involved in these issues from the beginning and is a skilled, knowledgeable and passionate negotiator. Ray's participation will require a huge personal sacrifice of time and energy along with the burden of representing the hopes of so many. Good luck Ray and thank you!

The RSG is welcomed and urgently needed. Up until now, the public has largely been shut out of the decision making process at Bay Harbor. FOJ will be an honest and determined partner in these proceedings. But remember, EPA and DEQ have already issued permits for the Alba waste disposal well and blueprints exist for its construction. Furthermore, both EPA and DEQ have denied our appeals based on narrow, out-dated rules and disregarded compelling and irrefutable scientific evidence about the hazards of CKD leachate disposal down the Alba well. Remember also that we only reached this new juncture with the RSG because we filed a lawsuit and prevailed. We conducted our own research, consulted noted experts and pushed hard both privately and publicly, at great expense, for better answers and solutions. Our lawsuit was upheld through Circuit Court, Michigan's Court of Appeals and even the Michigan Supreme Court.

FOJ and the POWER Coalition have literally worked night and day for over two and a half years to stop the Alba well. It's amazing what this small group of dedicated volunteers has accomplished. The individuals involved in this campaign deserve our deepest gratitude. The Antrim County Board of Commissioners and the property owners also merit our sincere appreciation. They stood firm, against heavy pressures, for what was right. We are deeply grateful for the groundswell of public support we received from individuals, businesses and organizations from all across the state (and nation). We could not have done this without you. (See list of organizations) Finally, heartfelt thanks belong to our skilled attorneys and the incredible technical experts who spent untold hours sifting through the mountains of reports and data to illuminate and put into proper context, the pertinent facts. FOJ is both humbled and inspired to know so many supported us and joined the fight to protect the Jordan River Watershed.

This fight is not over yet but thanks to all of you the ill-conceived Alba waste injection well has been stopped. From the beginning it has been clear that new law and better safeguards need to be enacted that protect communities and water resources from unwanted industrial wastes. 2000 foot "deep" Class I injection wells are dangerous and should be outlawed, at least in Northern Michigan. But thanks to the combined efforts of concerned citizens and dedicated volunteers, there exists a new opportunity to finally conduct a proper cleanup of Bay Harbor.

Thank you!

Dr. John W. Richter;
 President FOJ
 Chairman, POWER Coalition



Photo by Thomas Tuck

The Dreamtime

*“Go to the very edge, where the old world ends.
 And something else begins, something else begins.”
 Ruth Barrett from “The Year is a Dancing Woman”*

The sky is steely grey and cold. A V of geese fly overhead, calling out to anyone who will listen that the wheel is turning, the season is changing, and winter is coming. They are followed soon by another strand of geese, then another. Their cries begin in the Northern Skies, and trail off mournfully into the South. Meanwhile, the Trees speak with rattling breath of the coming of the dark time. Orange and yellow leaves hang in stark contrast to black trunks, and one by one they release from the branches and fall to the ground. The fields are brown and withered. Harvest has been gathered, and Mother Earth is calling Herself back to Herself.



Photo by Jan Goodwin

An ancient myth recalls Demeter and Persephone. This Goddess and Her daughter deeply loved each other, and expressed this love by providing the people of the Earth with endless harvest. In one version of this story, Persephone is abducted by Pluto, the Lord of the Underworld, and taken far underground to dwell in the Land of the Dead. Demeter, in her deep grief, stops all vegetation from growing. Plants shriveled and died, blooms fell wasting to the ground, and fruit rotted and dropped from the trees. Zeus, dismayed at the dying of the Earth, ordered that Demeter and Pluto make a compromise. It was decided that Persephone would return to her mother each Spring, but would stay in the Underground with Pluto in the Winter. Thus began the turning of the Seasons, as Demeter mourns each Winter the loss of Persephone, and rejoices with green and blossom her return in the Spring. This story reminds us that Winter doesn't last... and neither does Spring. It is the way it is supposed to be.

But what does Persephone do while she is underground? In another version of the myth, Persephone voluntarily goes to the underground in order that she may greet the souls who have left their earthly bodies and assist them as they prepare for the mystery of rebirth. Winter, then, becomes a process of dying, composting, and preparing for new life. The plants, once green and verdant, die back and become brown and

shriveled. The plant returns to the soil, where it breaks down into elements such as carbon, nitrogen and oxygen, and is absorbed as food to create new life in the Spring. The new plant grows, flowers, fruits and dies, and the process becomes a spiral, always creating new life from the old. What seems dead is not really dead, but becomes a creative medium for life!

Winter is also called the Dreamtime by some cultures. Our dreams are our creative medium, and it is there that we reflect on our last year, and decide how to manifest our next year. We compost, keeping those attitudes and behaviors that were helpful, and challenging those that were not. Composting can be painful business. Giving up a destructive attitude or behavior becomes a “dying” to an old, familiar way of being. It can be hard to have faith that something good will then grow in its stead. But, it is also a time to appreciate and celebrate those attitudes and behaviors that we want to keep. Composting is dismantling, but it is also feeding. Winter is a time to feed your dreams!

So... when evenings are long, and the wind howls outside your door, put a log on the fire, and wrap a blanket around you. Gaze into the flames, and dream your next year. What will you keep? What no longer serves you? What will you create? How will you grow? What will you manifest? Allow your dreaming mind to weave and spin new possibilities! Allow yourself gratitude for last years harvest, and plant the seeds for next year's creation. In the meantime, sweet dreams.

By Stacy Jo Chipman



Winter Reflections by John Porter

Jordan River Electrical Barrier Removal – One Down One to Go

In February 2008, Mark Johnson from the Conservation Resource Alliance (CRA) began his quest to obtain funding for the removal of the Jordan River electrical barrier. As most people know, the electrical barrier, since 1988 was used to prevent sea lamprey and salmon from ascending the Jordan River to spawn. However, the barrier became ineffective and repair costs were estimated to be approximately \$250,000. So in 2004, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) decided to stop operation of the non-functional barrier. Though the electrical barrier was inoperable, it still inhibited migration of resident trout species and other native fish. Removal of the barrier became a priority for resource managers as the Jordan River is a state designated Wild-Scenic River (1972) with only a few obstacles left that inhibit fish passage and recreational users in the watershed. By the way, just in case you were worried about sea lamprey, the USFWS turned to chemical treatments for control. Mark began the fund raising campaign by contacting numerous partners and writing proposals for the removal of the barrier. A total of \$55,000 was obtained with donations coming from the Charlevoix County Community Foundation (\$10,000), Great Lakes Fishery Trust (\$25,000), MDNR Inland Fisheries Grant Program (\$10,000), and USFWS Sea Lamprey Program (\$10,000). Unfortunately, Mark left CRA to teach young kids about natural resources and environmental stewardship in the Cadillac area, but his legacy of spearheading the removal of the electrical barrier will live on.

Upon Mark's departure, Kim Balke took the reins for the project. Kim, just like Mark brings a wealth of knowledge, experience and leadership skills to the project. So on a beautiful spring day, Kim got interested parties (CRA, MDNR Fisheries, Natural Rivers, and Parks and Recreation; Friends of the Jordan River; City of East Jordan; and USFWS Sea Lamprey and Green Bay National Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office) together to tour the electrical weir and to develop a coordinated plan to remove the barrier. The wooden electrical structure in the water, fencing along the river, retention walls, small concrete building, backup generator and equipment will all be removed and the site will be restored to its natural condition. Removal of the barrier and nearby structures was

started on Monday, Oct 25, 2009 and should be completed within a week.

The two wooden platforms upstream and downstream from the electrical barrier will stay, as they provide a safe platform for visitor's to access and view the river. The site will continue to be maintained by the MDNR Parks and Recreation staff.



**Removal of the Electrical Barrier
on the Jordan 10/25/09**

Once completed, approximately 21 river miles will be open to all fish species and other aquatic resources in the Jordan River. The Jordan River was the first state designated Wild Scenic River in Michigan and she is getting closer to that condition with the removal of the Jordan River electrical barrier. PS – if there are enough funds leftover the salmon weir in East Jordan will be removed too.

Rick Westerhof, USFWS

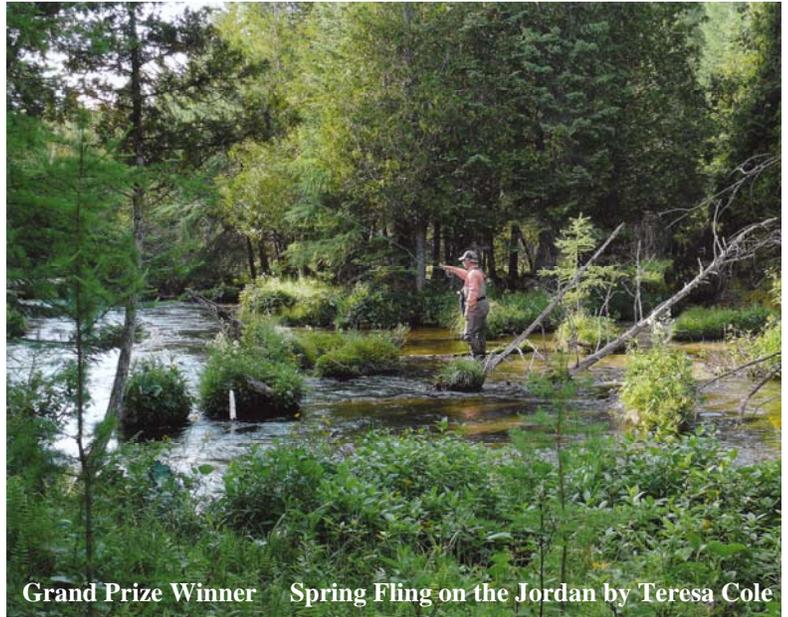
Kim Balke, Conservation Resource Alliance

MSU Sediment Study on the Jordan River Continues

MSU is currently working on Phase II of the Jordan River Comprehensive Sediment Study that will develop a model to help target restoration projects to protect and improve the health of the Jordan River. Periodic updates will be posted regularly on the website and in future newsletter issues on the status of the Jordan River sand trap, stream monitoring data, and results from the ground profiling radar. If you would like more information, please feel free to contact Ann Baughman at 231-330-9268

2009 Photo Contest Winners

It was a “family affair” at the Friends of the Jordan annual Celebration on Saturday 9/19/09 as the winning photos were announced. The Grand Prize was awarded to Teresa Cole of Mancelona for her photo “Spring Fling on the Jordan” a stunning photo of a fly fisherman on a crisp spring morning on the Jordan River. Her husband Preston Cole’s photograph graces the cover of the 2010 FOJ calendar and daughter-in-law Stacey Cole’s picture of her husband playing guitar before a crackling campfire won a spot in the calendar as well. The Youth Award went to Ella Porter Lynas for her “Relaxing Bug” and her mother Kristen Porter was chosen for one of the calendar photos. Ella was eager to take the award ribbon to show off to all of her friends in Holland. Her grandfather John Porter, although not a winner this year has consistently been a calendar award winner and was the President’s



Grand Prize Winner Spring Fling on the Jordan by Teresa Cole

Choice winner for 2008. This year the President’s Choice Award went to Rosie Evans of East Jordan for her glowing photograph “Jordan Dawn.” This award is chosen by John Richter, President of the FOJ for the photo he feels best represents the natural beauty of the Jordan valley. Rosie stated that this award is the most meaningful for her and she was honored that her photograph was chosen. Viewer’s Choice went to Anne Marie Boettger. 9 other photographers were selected and are represented in the 2010 calendar. Mike Schlitt of Charlevoix, an international nature photographer judged the 90 entries and was impressed with the quality of the submissions. He attended the Celebration and was able to meet the photographers and share some feedback about their work. The celebration was a huge success with delicious refreshments catered by Alison MacKay and weather that Richter described as “heavenly” matching the beauty of the harp music provided by Jan Goodwin of East Jordan and “blessed” by a fly over by the Bald Eagle as if on cue as the ceremonies came to a conclusion.

Calendars of the winning photographs may be purchased at the Jordan Valley Animal Clinic or through the website www.friendsofthejordan.org. The price of the calendar is \$15 each or 2 for \$25. Photo Note cards are being printed for sale as well. Package of 8 w/envelopes for \$10.

Margaret Moran

2010 Photo Contest Theme: Treasures of the Jordan



ARRGH Mateys, there be a new twist on the Photo Contest for 2010....

Entrants to the photo contest will be asked to identify the location where their photo was taken on the Watershed Map. As part of the next calendar we will print a Treasure Map identifying the location of the 14 pictures

chosen for the calendar so that people can take the opportunity to explore parts of the Valley that they may not have visited previously so as you are taking pictures this Winter and Spring, pay attention to your location and maybe keep some notes if you have a picture that you think may be a winner. Maybe we’ll find a way to hide a real treasure at one of the locations!

2009 Photo Contest Sponsors

Charlevoix State Bank: Grand Prize
 Bay Winds Federal Credit Union: Viewers Choice,
 East Jordan Iron Works: Youth Award
 East Jordan Plastics: President’s Choice Award.
 Bier Art Gallery,
 EJ Family Health Center,
 Stacey Chipman Counseling,
 Glens Market,
 John and Phyllis Dedoes,
 Floyd and Nancy Wright,
 Spicy Bob’s Italian Express,
 Jordan Valley Animal Clinic,
 VFW Post 7580 and VFW Auxiliary
 In memory of Dr. Greg Klinker.

Your generous support of the Friends of the Jordan
is greatly appreciated

Summer Events and Activities-Attendance Effected by Weather?

It is interesting, as I was reviewing the events of this past summer to write this article, certain words kept appearing in the descriptions, “cold,” “wet”, “dreary,” “windy” which reaffirmed my gut impression that 2009 was the Summer that never was. Maybe the weather accounted for some of the poor turnout at our events, maybe there are lots of competing activities or maybe the word is not getting out reliably. Whatever the reason, we found that there was less participation than in previous years. With some notable exceptions- the Moonlight River Trip, for example, had 19 people turn up for a beautiful, enjoyable and stimulating river trip and potluck; overall, attendance was sparse. There were 3 nature hikes in with no one attending. We had to cancel the highly anticipated Autumn Afternoon River Trip when temps dropped to the low 40’s and rain/snow mix was predicted. Our Young Friends program which was highly advertised and promoted was almost cancelled as we had only 2 participants registered at the deadline. With phone calls and an extension of our deadline, we were able to attract 16 kids who had a great time with the activities over the 6 sessions. The May bird walk had better than average attendance for a chilly day, unfortunately the birds did not show up. They were keeping warm and out of sight or decided to delay their migration a week or so. We are committed to providing opportunities for our members and the community to learn about this precious resource, to have interesting ways to learn about the environment, conservation and nature and to make sure that there are opportunities for children to learn to value these resources to assure that our stewardship goals will be carried into future generations.

We are trying to analyze the situation so that we will be planning activities that are interesting, at times that are convenient to most and with enough advanced planning that there is time to get the word out using various media. To assist in planning we are developing a survey to assess your interests, times that seem to work best and ways that you prefer to be notified about events. This will be posted on line or you can complete the form in this newsletter and return it by mail. We recognize that many of you are seasonal, that families have many choices and competing demands but anything you can tell us that will help us better plan for YOUR interests will help us in our planning. We appreciate your input and thank you for taking time to share your opinion with us. Margaret Moran



May Nature Hike



Freedom Festival Float



Solstice River Trip



Moonlight River Trip



Fall Highway/River Cleanup



October Nature Hike

Young Friends Program Judged a Big Success!

By all accounts the Young Friends Summer Nature Program for 2009 was a big hit with participants and their families. It involved 15 students, grades 4 to 8 over six sessions. Each session focused on a different area of nature found in the Jordan River Valley. John Thompson, the program instructor, said, "The students loved learning about the Jordan River and the valley that serves as the watershed." He added, "Some students got so excited that they asked to attend sessions that they hadn't signed up for." The highlight of the program according to most of the kids was rafting trip down the Jordan River in big rubber rafts provided by the Jordan Valley Outfitters. Fourth grader, Joshua Z. said "It was fun." despite the fact that he took an unexpected swim in the river when his raft ran into a low hanging tree. All of the kids worked



hard to paddle the big blue rafts down the river, with Johnny B. refusing to take a break even after 2 hours of paddling. In another session, "nature" put on a show for the students. During the session Mighty, Mighty Birds, while looking out onto the south arm of Lake Charlevoix at the duck and geese families, the kids saw an adult Bald Eagle swoop down to the water and catch a large fish in its talons. It flew right over the group as it returned to the nest to feed the two baby eagles. Back at the Watershed Center, the students were able to use a telescope to watch the adults feed the fish to their young. Eli K said "I really liked the plants and the critters." The group captured and observed some interesting spiders, dragonflies and a frog. His brother, Evan was excited to see the big fish at the National Fish Hatchery on the Jordan River. Evan added, "I love fishing, lets do that next year!" Joshua Z was impressed when he got to see a tiny fish under the microscope and could see the heart beating, the skeleton and organs. Kara D. said, "I loved going to Deadman's Hill and hearing the story of how it got its name." The other students were in awe of the view they saw from the hill of the entire Jordan River Valley. Savannah D. summarized the program by saying, "I benefited from this experience and it was very educational. I never realized that birds can be identified just by their listening to their calls." A grant from the Charlevoix County Community Foundation was the primary support for the program and Thompson recognized the assistance of Margaret Moran, Tom Sothard, Jan Korthase and Jerry Aydlott. We hope to offer a similar program next summer and welcome any suggestions and will be looking for additional sponsorship to provide for interesting and educational experiences for the students.

Shop FOJ for Your Christmas Gifts

Gift suggestions:

- * FOJ Calendars: great for your out of town friends,
- * FOJ Bookmarks: These beautiful wood inlay designs make great stocking stuffers
- * FOJ Notecards: 4 designs from the 2007-2009 photo contests Pack of 8 cards with envelopes
- * Gift Memberships for friends or family.
- * Donations to the FOJ in someone's name. We will send a gift acknowledgment to the recipient.

These can be ordered from the website or by mail with a form in the upcoming year end mailing or call 231 536-9947





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

NOTICE

*It will soon be time to
renew your membership
for 2010.*

*Watch for our mailing
in December with a
renewal form.*

*Thank you for your
continued support.*



What's New on the Web?

*Videos of programs,
activities, informational
meetings.*

*What's In Bloom-photos and
labels of flowers, by season*

*The latest news on the Alba
Well Opposition*

*Pictures and descriptions of
recent events*

*2009 Photo Contest entries
and winners*

*Past and current
Newsletters*

*Order form for calendars
and other merchandise*

*Form to update your
Contact information*

And much more at....

www.friendsofthejordan.org

The Jordan is "Trashed"

"The Jordan River has more trash on it than any river I have paddled in Northern Michigan... You need to do something about this!" This is the message received by John Richter from a caller who is an avid kayaker. The caller cited bans on bottles and cans in place on other rivers and suggested that we work to pass that type of ordinance for the Jordan. Last year, the Jordan River Action Group (JRAG) formed to tackle just this problem. They built containment booths to collect bottles and cans at river access sites but faced hurdles and red-tape from the DNR that had to be overcome. With the help of the FOJ, they were granted permission to install and maintain the collection booths. They also had mesh bags distributed to the canoe liveries so that loose items can be contained in the boats rather than dumped in the river when people capsize. Members of JRAG and the liveries as well as the FOJ do regular cleanup events but it is a challenging task with the fast flowing current, the tangles of trees and deep holes where debris tends to collect. The best solution would be for this to never get dumped out in the first place. Although a ban on cans and bottles might help, it would be difficult to enforce. The liveries are doing their part by communicating to their customers but many people launch their own boats and do not interact with the liveries taking coolers, cases of beer and bottles down the river, with much of this likely to end up on the bottom or strewn along the shores. As stewards of the river it is our responsibility to identify problem behavior when you see it. Mesh bags are free at the liveries, at the Watershed Center and through the Jordan River Action Group at the collection sites. If you are a regular user, have one for each of your boats and take some extras to pass out to people you see launching who may have loose containers. Use only zippered or latched coolers. Put empties and loose items back in coolers or in bags that are tied to the boat. Point out problem behavior when you see it. Join in clean up events. If we all do our part, the Jordan will remain Wild and Scenic so that all can enjoy the beauty and for generations to come.