

# JORDAN VALLEY VOICES

## *RETROSPECTION: Friends of the Jordan at 20 Years Old*

This year marks the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Friends of the Jordan River Watershed Inc. This milestone embodies a shared vision of environmental advocacy and natural resource conservation. From the beginning there has always been a conviction that the Jordan River Watershed is a priceless natural treasure. This uncompromising belief has united FOJ with the many outstanding individuals who have contributed so much over the years to keep it that way.

I have had the privilege to be an FOJ board member since its birth. I have personally lived and witnessed the early organizing, growth, development, successes and setbacks. While this journey has been profoundly rewarding to me, I've recently tried to view these past 20 years with a critical lens. Instead of just listing our many accomplishments, I've tried to use this occasion to examine our history in a more fundamental way. Has FOJ been effective? Have we been true to our mission? Has all the time, effort and money been worth it? Would things be different without us? Have we made a positive difference? Have we been successful?

How do we measure success? Remember that FOJ has tackled some difficult and controversial issues when no one else would and against great odds. At times these issues were thrust upon us and for which there were no precedents. We were sorely tested but at all times stuck to our principles and mission. I can recall the many hours of research, discussions, consultations and deliberations. That resolve has earned FOJ the respect of others and the reputation of the little organization that can. It also created a strong camaraderie among us. I have the highest regard for those individuals who stayed at the table wrestling with thorny issues until they were resolved. It wasn't all work though; we did a lot of fun things too.

Looking back, it is interesting to see how far we have come. FOJ is financially solid and a deep rooted fixture in the community (I still remember our first \$100 donation). Our Watershed Center and pavilion stand testament to the commitment and value we all place on the environmental quality of the Jordan River Watershed. This beautifully renovated facility not only serves the organizational and educational needs of FOJ, but other groups as well. We have hosted numerous educational seminars and activities and sponsored programs all designed to increase our knowledge and heighten awareness and appreciation of the Jordan River Watershed. You should all have a copy of our latest calendar. Our school kids are now taught the meaning of a watershed and what makes the Jordan Valley special. They have compiled 15 years of water quality data. Our library of knowledge is ever expanding and reaching for better and deeper understanding all the time. We have written an excellent book for reference. Our membership base is strong and loyal and our network is respected and extends to many levels. We have a superb website. There are no oil and gas wells on the public lands. No Class I industrial waste injection well pumps pollutants into our watershed. The Natural Rivers Program remains strong. Cleanups are well attended and effective. The lands along the river corridor are nearly all protected. Bald eagles nest and fledge their young along the banks of the Jordan.



A Majestic Symbol by Heather Outman

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## *Friends of the Jordan River Watershed, Inc.*

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*Terry Ryan*  
*Bob Sayer (emeritus)*  
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*Steve Umlor*  
*Tressa Youmans*  
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FOJ and our members have been recognized and received high honors locally, regionally and statewide. We have been advocates for environmental issues and have acquired the capacity to video record important events for public broadcast. FOJ has played a vital role in the conservation and protection of this crown jewel of Michigan's watershed ecosystems. To me, these are clear measures of success and we should all take great pride in our collective accomplishments in this most successful endeavor.

These remarkable things didn't just happen. They were the result of numerous dedicated people who built and managed an organization beautifully designed to fill an important niche. In 1990, the founders of FOJ consisted of some of the most ardent advocates and forward thinkers in the conservation and environmental arena. They were also steeped in the legacy of the Jordan Valley wrought by champions who came before us. People whose names we don't hear much of today like Governor Milliken, Howard Tanner, Gordon Guyer, David Pray, Jan Fenske and Teddy Kotowich, to name just a few. The vast institutional knowledge and skill harnessed and brought together then provided the solid foundation upon which FOJ was born and allowed to grow and prosper ever since.

FOJ's mission statement," To conserve the natural resources and protect the environmental quality of the Jordan River Watershed", combined with our goals and objectives are the cornerstones upon which all of our activities are measured. Together they frame the principle of "Watershed- Based Ecosystem Management." This simple yet profound concept identifies water and the watershed as the fundamental entities that drive and sustain life on Earth. This axiom crosses traditional geo-political boundaries requiring a diverse understanding of the many forces, both natural and man-made, interacting within the watershed. It links humans to the environment and provides a means to manage and balance sustainability and quality of life. It is this basic framework that has driven FOJ and allowed for multiple individuals to contribute in meaningful ways over time.

As I look back on the last 20 years, I'm humbled and awed at the same time. I can recall back to a time when many of what are now accomplishments, were just thoughts and dreams. Those thoughts and dreams would never have reached fruition had it not been for the support of all of you and an organization that could carry them forward. While my mind can bask in the pleasant memories of our many accomplishments, what stands out the most is remembering all the amazing people who have helped shape this incredible journey. People who, from all walks of life, have graciously given their time and money united in a common goal of protecting this marvelous place.

I want to close with an old proverb. "A river is the memory of the lands through which it has flowed." That certainly speaks to the watershed concept and applies directly to the Jordan River Watershed. But it can also serve as a metaphor for FOJ. I'm hopeful that over the next 20 years, with the continued support of our

dedicated members like you and careful direction of the board, FOJ's memory, like the Jordan River will continue to flow clean, vibrant and pure. Thank you all.

By Dr. John W. Richter; President,  
Friends of the Jordan River Watershed  
11/18/2010



Serene Scene by Kristen Porter

### *In Loving Memory*

Over the past year memorial donations and Honorarium were received in memory of

Stanley Gibbard,  
Larry Phaneuf,  
Billy Beemon,  
Bas McKay

and in honor of David Loving ESQ.

Funding for construction of the Pavilion provided by the Elizabeth and Frank Proulx in memory of Neil T. Proulx and by the Pray Family in memory of Dr. David Pray.

The Pray family donated an authentic Flat Bottom River Boat used by Dr Pray as well as displays of the early years when Pray and Teddy Kotowich and others provided guide service on the Jordan using these river boats. These will be a permanent display at the pavilion.

We sincerely appreciate family and friends remembering their loved ones by supporting the Friends of the Jordan.



### *Research Study on Jordan River Looks to Find Sources of Sand*

Where is all the sand coming from? That is the question the Friends of the Jordan River Watershed has asked MSU Department of Geological Sciences to answer. The MSU research team led by Dr. David Hyndman gave an update presentation, Thursday, October 28, 2010 at the Friends of the Jordan River's Watershed Center in East Jordan on what they are doing to learn more about how sand is moving in the Jordan River and what may have caused the large amounts of sand now found throughout the River.

Although sand is common in northern Michigan left by the glaciers over 10,000 years ago, too much sand in rivers is harmful to fish. The Jordan River is a blue ribbon trout stream and the Friends of the Jordan members, as well as anglers have been concerned about sand in the river for decades.

Using sophisticated tools and a computer model, the MSU research team is gathering interesting data about the Jordan River. The Jordan River is almost entirely fed by groundwater and springs. Because of this the River is extremely stable, meaning the flows are steady with little to no flooding and that the water level quickly returns to a typical flow even after a large rain event.

Preliminary results of data collection and modeling indicate that the Jordan River may be cutting a deeper channel in response to lower lake level of Lake Charlevoix, which is connected to the Great Lakes. The computer model named Integrated Land Use Hydrology Model, also shows that sand movement in the Jordan River may be connected to the removal of the forests and forest fires at the turn of the century. Although over 100 years ago, it takes an ecosystem like the Jordan River a long time to heal from such large scale events.

Over the next year, the MSU research team will be gathering additional data to finalize the study. One of the elements that they would like to add is to gather more historical and anecdotal knowledge of the Jordan River and its tributaries.

**If you have photos or can provide details on what the Jordan River was like previous to 1970, the research team would like to hear from you.**

Please visit [www.friendsofthejordanriver.org](http://www.friendsofthejordanriver.org) for more information about the project and a video recording of the proceedings of this meeting.



Dr. Anthony Kendall, Dr. David Hyndman from MSU show Terry Ryan and John Richter the Acoustic Doppler Profiler that has been used to gather data on stream flow, velocity and discharge.

### *Video-recording puts a "Face to the Voice"*

Rick Beemon has become the Jordan's own Michael Moore, documenting events entertaining, educational and controversial. At the 2010 Annual meeting it was stated that the River cannot speak for itself but Beemon noted that the videos put a face to the voice and allow all interested to stay informed of advocacy activities. He noted the importance of recording the discussions of the RSG groups, the comments and opinions of regulating groups, CMS statements and timelines that are presented in these meetings. It lets the public see something more than the promotional materials published by CMS. Most meetings are held during work hours, out of town or are not open to the public. By taping the events everyone can participate, statements can be reviewed and clarification sought at future meetings. State of the art video and editing equipment was funded by the a grant from Freshwater Futures and the Friends of the Jordan. Beemon noted that it takes as many as 20 hours to tape, edit and produce the videos that are then presented on Up-North Media Cable access networks, are posted on the FOJ website and archived on DVDs for future reference. He has recorded the proceedings of the Regional Stakeholders Meetings held twice monthly, the Annual Celebration, the presentations of the MSU Sedimentation Study, and a number of other events.

This is a valuable resource to the Friends of the Jordan and the community. Rick Beemon was recognized for his contribution as the 2010 Volunteer of the Year.



### *Update on Bay Harbor CKD Leachate Disposal Planning by Regional Stakeholders Group.*

In spring of 2007, CMS applied for a permit to construct an injection well within the Jordan River watershed for disposal of a million gallons of industrial waste per week. This high pH, heavy metal and sediment laden leachate from the Bay Harbor Little Traverse Bay (LTB) Cement Kiln Dust (CKD) Release CERCLA site, was to be trucked from Bay Harbor west of Petoskey to outside the little town of Alba.

The mission of Friends of the Jordan is to preserve and protect the Jordan River Watershed. Experts in scientific and public safety communities warned that transport and disposal of millions of gallons of leachate could pose public health risks and endanger water quality. Antrim County, Friends of the Jordan, Star Township and private parties successfully challenged the CMS/Beeland injection well proposal and 13<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court Judge Thomas Power issued a temporary injunction against the well.

In late summer of 2009, the EPA called a regional stakeholders group (RSG) together under the professional facilitator E2, Inc. to share information and work to find solutions supported by the consensus of the RSG. Friends of the Jordan penned a [position letter](#) in early 2010 clearly stating its position regarding cleanup. While CMS frames the CKD challenge as a “Water Disposal” activity, Friends of the Jordan continues to assert that this is a CKD management challenge. The final remedy should stop production of leachate by preventing water from coming in contact with the 2 ½ million cubic yards of cement kiln dust. From the beginning, FOJ stated that a multi-faceted local solution, that did not include trucking, was needed. Dry CKD is inert. If CKD had been encapsulated prior to development, there would be no problem today. But CKD was not isolated and contained. When Bay Harbor was developed, CKD piles were bulldozed to create 3 world class golf courses.

One hundred years of cement production and poor CKD management complicate remediation and will make for uncontrolled release of leachate to Little Traverse Bay for hundreds of years. When CKD reaches close to thirty percent saturation it begins to leach. Seeps from CKD piles test high in pH, heavy metals, sediments and other COCs. FOJ has consistently advocated for sequential encapsulation of CKD in onsite cells. Targeted removal of CKD along with capping and isolation is essential for proper cleanup of the site. CMS has deemed the environmental, political, economic and social costs of removing the CKD too costly to justify major targeted removal of kiln dust and disruption at the golf course.

While FOJ was invited to be part of the Regional Stakeholders Group to help in coming up with options for a publicly accepted cleanup of the Bay Harbor site, Friends of the Jordan is one voice among many. The chosen final remedy is out of the control of Friends of the Jordan.

All members of the RSG agreed that a local Bay Harbor solution that does not involve trucking of leachate is essential. This consensus was adopted and sent to the federal and state agencies. It

is now obvious that trucking leachate is not feasible due to the safety concerns, environmental and financial risk, along with road wear and tear. Because major, targeted removal of CKD was considered to be unfeasible, CMS plans to capture and dispose of over a million gallons of leachate each week into perpetuity. CMS claims that diversion wells, leachate collection systems, and engineering controls have cut production of leachate and that they now capture the vast majority of leachate generated by saturated CKD at Bay Harbor and East Park. Unfortunately, all leachate disposal options have downsides. There is no obvious best option. FOJ agreed with the DNRE and EPA that CD leachate disposal through the Petoskey Waste Water Treatment Plant was worthy of consideration. But CMS Land and the City of Petoskey could not agree on financial obligations or on responsibility for infrastructure, so the negotiations ceased. FOJ is on record as being disappointed, believing that this solution was a win/win for the parties involved.

CMS has proposed onsite treatment of leachate from the development to neutralize pH and to drastically bring down levels of COCs including bioaccumulative mercury though new ultra-filtration technology. The treated leachate would then be mixed with non-contaminated water, to further reduce mercury concentrations before release to Lake Michigan. CMS has applied for a NPDES permit to release treated leachate to Lake Michigan.

The DEQ and EPA have asked CMS to pursue the feasibility of a deep injection well at Bay Harbor. FOJ has been consistently opposed to deep well injection of waste because it can encourage an out-of-sight, out-of-mind mentality when clean and responsible industry practices are needed. However, it is of our belief that if it is determined that an injection well is absolutely necessary to remove mercury in the CKD leachate from the environment; the injection well needs to be constructed at the site of contamination. The proposed Bay Harbor injection well would be very deep (two and ½ times the depth of the proposed Alba well) in the Mt Simons Sandstone and would not require trucking of leachate.

[See FOJ website for a position paper on deep injection wells](#)

Because of poor decisions and lax environmental oversight all parties have paid a heavy price for contamination at Bay Harbor, and CMS has spent millions on remediation remedies that should not have been needed. We must all realize protecting our environment should never be compromised by political or corporate belief. We must all come together to conserve and protect our natural resources. Clean, uncontaminated water is Michigan’s greatest resource, the cornerstone of our economy and quality of life. Friends of the Jordan is proud to be the guardian of and voice for the pure waters, lands and eco-systems of the Jordan River Watershed.

A hearing on the NPDES permit will be held December 9<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm at the Petoskey Middle School. Information and question and answer sessions will precede the hearing.

By Ray Bier and JoAnne Beemon

*Phragmites in Antrim County and the Jordan River Valley*

Phragmites is an invasive grass that takes over shorelines and wetland habitat. It can grow up to 15' tall and the stands can become so dense that even an adventuresome band of Huck Finn enthusiasts couldn't penetrate the massive wall of green. Phragmites first showed up on our radar about five years ago, when Loraine Mottern, a Torch Lake Resident who moved up from downstate, brought phragmites to the Antrim Conservation District's attention. She has seen Saginaw Bay and St. Clair Shore's shorelines devastated by the plants complete take over in southern Michigan. Kelly Martin, of the Charlevoix Conservation District, hosted a regional meeting in early 2009, bringing together the stakeholders in the region to learn about invasive phragmites. Since that time there has been a groundswell of cooperative efforts to control the invasive phragmites.



There is a regional on-going effort from Benzie County up to Emmet County to eradicate the invasive phragmites on the Lake Michigan shoreline. We are also working on identifying and eradicating this invasive in our inland waterways and wetlands. There is a native and an invasive phragmites, and it is the invasive variety we are concerned about.

**Antrim County Phragmites Eradication Efforts**

**2009**

Identified invasive phragmites on the Bay and GPSed the locations  
 Sprayed the invasive phragmites in the fall on Banks, Torch Lake and Milton Township shorelines

**2010**

Removed sprayed dead seed heads and stalks in the spring  
 Hosted five educational events on invasive phragmites  
 Sprayed phragmites after Labor Day 2010 on the Lake Michigan shoreline in Elk Rapids, Milton, Torch Lake and Banks Townships

**2011**

Resurvey the Lake Michigan Shoreline, GPS the location of the remaining phragmites stands  
 Spray the identified stands in the fall

**NEWS FLASH**

Invasive phragmites has been found in the Jordan River Valley near the base of Deadman's Hill. Anyone hiking in the Jordan beneath Deadman's Hill has walked through this green tunnel of phragmites.

Together with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the Environment (DNRE) and Friends of the Jordan, the Antrim Conservation District is working to develop a plan to stop this ½ acre stand before it spreads to the rest of the Jordan Valley Watershed. The Valley is a beautiful unique watershed that phragmites could totally disrupt and takeover if left untreated. Unfortunately, the only means to effectively control phragmites is to spray with a mixture of roundup and imazapahr in the fall when the plants are pulling their reserves down into their roots to store up for the winter taking with them the chemicals. These are systemic herbicides, and they are absorbed either by roots or foliar parts of a plant and are then absorbed within the plant system. Care must be taken to ensure chemicals are applied only to the target plant. This means that only a licensed professional applicator should do the treatment. We are working with the DNRE to obtain permissions and permits to treat the phragmites and have a cost estimate of \$875 from a licensed applicator to treat the stand.

Friends of the Jordan and the Antrim Conservation District are looking for ways to pay for, monitor, and re-treat this ½ acre stand of phragmites beneath Deadman's Hill before it impacts the rest of the Jordan's ecosystem. The eradication can take up to three successive yearly chemical applications and must be monitored to ensure it does not reinvade. Any monetary assistance folks can give to this project would be greatly appreciated! Any questions can be directed to Heidi Shaffer at the Antrim Conservation District: 231-533-8363.



## Young Friends 2010

The first two weeks of July were busy for 20 young people involved in the Friends of the Jordan “Young Friends” program, a six session summer environmental education program for students in grades 4 to 8. Participants came from East Jordan, Central Lake, Mancelona, Ellsworth and Boyne City schools. Each of the 6 sessions focused on a different area of nature found in the Jordan River Valley. Students used microscopes and conducted chemistry experiments to assess water quality and see the different organisms that live in the water, they learned about threats to the water and our role in protecting this valuable resource. Session 2 took them fishing with Bud Gee teaching about state laws, types of fish, bait and equipment. Each student had their own rod and reel and learned to cast and catch and release fish. There were no “keepers” but the little perch put up enough of a fight and everyone took pride in their catch. Session 3 divided the kids into teams to explore the Jordan Valley on a nature hike with each team tasked with learning about trees, flowers and grasses, ferns and fungus, or bugs and butterflies. Everyone looked for evidence of animals and the students created posters of their finds. Session 4, Jerry



2010 Young Friends Participants

Aydlott came to teach about migrating birds, how to identify them by sight and sound, how to use binoculars and field guides. The highlight each day was checking on the status of the eagles nesting in the Jordan River with the nest visible through a telescope at the Watershed Center. When both adults were on the nest feeding one of the eaglets, everyone wanted their chance to see. Session 5 covered the geology of Michigan and the formation of the lakes and valleys. There were fossils and interesting rocks to identify.



Young Friends preparing to cast off for a 3 hour trip down the Jordan

The final session and the highlight of the program was a Rafting trip on the Jordan on the big blue rafts provided by the Jordan Valley Outfitters. Everyone had to work to paddle these rafts through the tangle of tree branches, snares and log jams that are common on the Jordan but no one got dumped out. We took a break for some swimming in the cool river on this hot muggy day. John Thompson of East Jordan was the instructor for the program and was assisted by members of the FOJ Board of Directors, parents and family members.

Margaret Moran

**YOUNG FRIENDS 2011** The Charlevoix County Community Foundation has awarded a grant supporting the 2011 Young Friends Program. Watch for details in the Spring! Teachers, naturalists, who would like to be considered for position of instructor for the 6 session program may contact Margaret Moran at [mmoran@friendsofthejordan.org](mailto:mmoran@friendsofthejordan.org).

## River Activities were a Big Hit for 2010

3 River events were hosted this year, a Summer Solstice morning paddle trip in June, The Moonlit River Trip in August and an Autumn Afternoon Color Tour in October. Each had 15 or more participants, some returning for all 3 events. The weather was great for all three events and everyone enjoyed the camaraderie, stunning scenery and great food following each trip. We plan to repeat these events in 2011. Look for dates and times in the Spring.



John Teesdale enjoys a “leisurely” paddle down the Jordan at the Autumn River Trip

*Update on Wood Burning Biomass Issue*

The Friends of the Jordan played a role in an important victory to protect our forests. Due to intense public opposition, Traverse City Light and Power Company (TCL&P) has shelved plans to build up to 4 wood burning biomass plants. A proposed wood burning incinerator in Manacelona has also been put on hold.

Each of these plants proposed to draw from a 75-mile radius for tree harvesting, putting the Jordan River Valley and surrounding areas directly in the cross-hairs. Huge amounts of government subsidy money fueled the drive to build as many of these plants as quickly as possible, under the guise of being carbon neutral and renewable. Burning wood for energy, however, is not carbon neutral - these plants emit 50% more CO2 into the atmosphere than do coal plants. And it is not renewable - it takes minutes to burn a tree, decades to grow a new one. (Please refer to last FOJ newsletter, or the website at [www.friendsofthejordan.org](http://www.friendsofthejordan.org) for more information).



Jordan Valley Twin Towers by Darcie Dietrich

TCL&P's attempt to "sell" biomass to the public as a sustainable, green energy source backfired. Hundreds of people attended and spoke out at TCL&P's public forums. Several public informational meetings were organized by a coalition of environmentalists (including FOJ members), health care providers, politicians and concerned individuals. Friends of the Jordan was the first environmental group to take a stand against wood burning biomass. Our position paper and our petition to Governor Granholm were printed in numerous publications and widely circulated through mailing lists and websites throughout northern Michigan. The groundswell of public opinion finally forced TCL&P in July to abandon the use of biomass, and to begin looking at other sources to meet their 10% renewable energy mandate. A side note; in October, TCL&P announced that it is now producing 7% of its energy from 5 windmills.

Similar struggles have occurred in other states including Maine, Florida, Oregon and Washington. In Massachusetts, 120,000 signatures of registered voters were collected to put a proposal on the ballot to stop the use of wood burning biomass for energy. The ballot initiative was withdrawn, however, when the Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs issued a statement requiring biomass incinerators to meet strict standards for forest protection and greenhouse gas emissions, and ended issuance of renewable energy credits to these plants.

In May, the US EPA issued a tailoring rule which will require emissions from biomass plants to be treated the same as other sources of greenhouse gases. This rule will take effect in January, 2011, when the EPA formally begins to regulate heat trapping gases through the Clean Air Act. This ruling could eliminate government subsidies to wood burning plants, which, according to industry analysts, would make them unprofitable.

These are all very positive developments, however, we must remain vigilant. The EPA ruling is riddled with loopholes and industry lobbyists are trying to further water it down. Five biomass plants currently operate in Northern Michigan, and are using an ever-expanding range from which to harvest fuel. Several other biomass plants have been proposed, including a large one in Kinross in the UP which would devour 375,000 cords of hardwood each year to produce ethanol. We have, however, set an important precedent in protecting the forests of the Jordan River. And we would like to thank all FOJ members and supporters who signed petitions, talked to friends and neighbors, and donated money to help make this victory possible.

By Anne Zukowski





## *2010 Photography Contest was a Huge Success*

At the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebration on Saturday, Sept 18, the Friends of the Jordan announced the winners of the Treasures of the Jordan Photography contest. Dr. John Richter, president of the FOJ noted the exceptional quality of the photos entered this year and thanked Tim Goodwin of East Jordan for taking on the daunting task of selecting the “winners” from the 142 entries submitted. This year there were a total of 35 photographers represented, 6 of them were students, and 21 were new entrants, This is the best response ever and the quality of the photographs was superb! They just get better every year.



The Grand Prize Award went to Heather Outman of East Jordan for “Synchronized Flight.”



Youth Award for “First Day Out” went to Trista Karskin of East Jordan.



President’s Choice Award went to Dustin Miller of East Jordan for “Shine your Light.



Viewer’s Choice Award was presented to Bill Dietrich of Charlevoix for “The Old Mill Pond.”



Trista Karskin. Youth Award  
Heather Outman. Grand Prize

Other photos chosen for the 2011 calendar were submitted by Steve Hawkins and Rosie Evans, of East Jordan, Jane Korthase of Boyne City, Anne Zukowski and Julie Christiansen of Charlevoix, Bill Norton of East Lansing, Tianne Cole of Mancelona, and John Porter of Presque Isle. Entertainment was provided by Mr. Ggz of Boyne City and Alison MacKay catered the event. The Calendars are beautiful and were mailed to all members on record with the hopes that they would generate donations and make it easier for people to get a calendar. This proved to be very successful, generating more than \$4000 in donations. There are just a few left so call or email if you still want to purchase one.

We particularly want to thank our sponsors: Bay Winds Federal Credit Union, Charlevoix State Bank, East Jordan Iron Works, East Jordan Plastics, Bier Art Gallery, Central Lake Pharmacy, Stacey Chipman Counseling, John and Phyllis Dedoes, Abdeen Jabara and Holly Madvigan, Jordan Valley Animal Clinic, Jordan Valley Outfitters, Sodalicious and Marty’s Cones, Barb White, Floyd and Nancy Wright.

In keeping with our current emphasis on Biodiversity, the theme for the 2011 Photo contest will be  
**The Jordan, For All Creatures Great and Small**

### *Treasure Hunt Results*

Those who followed the Friends of the Jordan Treasure Map through the Jordan Valley were treated to their share of the Booty when prizes were drawn on Sunday 11/7/2010. Participants had a month to complete the trek using a map found in the Friends of the Jordan 2011 Calendar, travelling to locations where the photographs in the calendar were taken. The prizes awarded were Wine Tasting for 20 at the Rowe Inn won by Paul and Margaret Visser of Charlevoix; Gift Certificate to the Blue Pelican won by Rob and Tamara Weidlich of East Jordan; Gift Certificate to Murrays Bar and Grill won by Versile Spence of East Jordan. Dinner for 2 at the LumberJack Grill by Kim Shafer of East Jordan, a Subway Gift Card to Robin Moyer of East Jordan; Pizza from the Top Ten Party Shoppe was won by Neila Barnes of Central Lake. Ralph Kenning and Anne Pray of Boyne City each won an Art Poster donated by the East Jordan Chamber as did Gary Batka of East Jordan and Richard Siebert of Charlevoix and finally Coralee Howard of East Jordan won a set of photo notecards . There was a prize for everyone who participated. Thank you to all of our fine sponsors.



Paul and Margaret Visser of Charlevoix,  
First to complete the Treasure Hunt.



## *Volunteer Stream Monitoring Report*

### **Jordan River: Grade = A**

The pristine nature of the Jordan River watershed and the fact that there is little development or human activity along the river help preserve and protect stream water quality. The high quality waters of the Jordan are evident in our biological assessment, which shows great diversity in the macroinvertebrate community and impressively high numbers of sensitive families. Monitoring on the Jordan River began in 2007 at two sites and, as expected, diversity has been high at both the mid-stream site at the boat launch off of Webster Road and downstream approaching the spreads and mouth at Fair Road. The Jordan River is currently the record holder for the greatest number of sensitive families with a total of 11 found at the Webster Road site in the fall of 2009 – yea!



(Tip of the Mitt 2010 Volunteer Stream Monitoring Report)

Reflections by Peggy Schafer

## *River Cleanup Group Defines 3 Goals*

The Jordan River Action Group (JRAG) was created in the effort to protect the Jordan River from the abuse it receives as a popular recreation destination. The group has outlined several goals for the organization. To reach these goals JRAG has joined forces with Friends of the Jordan. Our goals are to

- 1) reduce the amount of litter introduced into the river
- 2) educate those who use the river about the issues that can arise from irresponsible recreational activities
- 3) reduce the impact that users have on the banks of the Jordan River.

We believe that the largest area of abuse along the Jordan River is the introduction of litter by users. Most people would greatly reduce the amount of litter they produce if they had more readily available trash receptacles along the shoreline and reusable trash bags within their canoes. In an attempt to achieve these goals, we have purchased easily draining, reusable trash bags (River Bags) which are provided to each canoer entering the Jordan River, free of charge. At this time we have purchased 12,000 River Bags. Four recycle stations (referred to as “River Houses”) have been placed at the Rogers Bridge, Webster Bridge, Graves Crossing, and Old State Bridge for users to collect and dispose of refuse generated during their recreational activities. We expect to see a drastic drop in the amount of litter left within the river system. We believe, given the amount of refuse that was removed from the River Houses, in addition to feedback from local canoe liveries, that we are successfully achieving one of our goals. This will be an ongoing project.

In an attempt to educate our next generation we have teamed with local students. Beginning in May thru November, the East Jordan Band Boosters and volunteers with JRAG maintained the River Houses by collecting 3 to 8 bags of trash each day, and recyclables. We stock the River Houses with free River Bags, and clean up around each site. In the 2010 Paddle season there were 8,852 returnables donated. That is up by 3,200 from the 2009 paddle season. The funds from the returns are given to the East Jordan Band Booster and students in the form of scholarships. Many thanks for the volunteers for helping keep the Jordan River clean. We hope to broaden awareness of our program in the community to encourage stewardship.

Our third goal is more challenging. There are concerns on the erosion problems at different sites along the Jordan River. We have identified a couple sites that need immediate attention. “Frog Island” and Old State are our major concerns. We need to armor these sites to protect the banks from serious erosion. A number of options are being considered and a meeting with the decision-makers has been held and hopefully we will have something in place by spring.

Tressa Youmans



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### *What's on the Web?"*

*New Layout with better photo and video presentation.*

Information and Video on the  
MSU/FOJ Sedimentation Study

Information on Biomass and FOJ  
Position paper in opposition.

Photos from 2010 Photography Contest

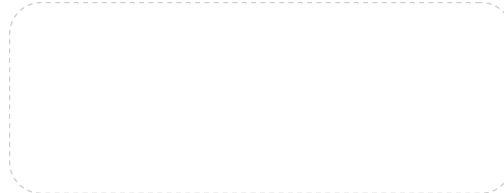
Recognition of FOJ advocacy efforts

Description and photos of events

FOJ position on Biodiversity

Activity Calendar

*And so much more!!!*



### *Recognition for FOJ and its Leadership*

On April 16th, 2010 Northern Michigan Environmental Council (NMEAC) held its 30th Annual Awards. For the third consecutive year the Friends of the Jordan and its leadership have been recognized for environmental advocacy efforts. This year, FOJ's Vice President, Ray Bier, was voted "Environmentalist of the Year" in the Volunteer category for his long term commitments to protecting the Jordan River Watershed and especially for his work to stop the Alba waste injection well. Ray led FOJ's strategic and highly successful public relations campaign to stop the Alba well and has represented FOJ on the Regional Stakeholders' Group (RSG). This diverse group has been meeting twice monthly for nine months trying to identify proper cleanup and disposal methods for the massive cement kiln dust contamination at Bay Harbor Resort. His efforts require enormous amounts of time, energy and dedication, all done on a volunteer basis. Congratulations Ray for this much deserved award. FOJ Members Anne Zukowski and Michelle Nerone were also nominated for recognition for their energetic volunteer contributions to FOJ and environmental protection activities. Both of these individuals perform the many behind the scenes tasks that are essential for any organization to function. Finally, Dr. Ed Timm was nominated in the Professional category, even though all the work he did for FOJ was on a volunteer basis. Dr. Timm poured over the mountains of technical data regarding the contamination Bay Harbor and the Alba waste injection well.

Dr. John Richter received the "Honor Award" on behalf of the Friends of the Jordan River Watershed from the Michigan Chapter of The American Society of Landscape Architects in Lansing on 10/7/10. The award is given to non-landscape architect for advocacy for natural resources, environmental advocacy. Richter was given the award for Alba well opposition and establishing a position in opposition to Biomass and advocating development of a biodiversity stewardship zone. Over the past 4 years, the Friends of the Jordan River Watershed, led by Dr. Richter with eloquence, imperturbable determination and great technical acuity, has fought to prevent the Alba well. Funds to support this protracted legal battle, like the friends of the watershed itself, have literally come from all over the world, an indication of the rare quality of the resource and the high standards of stewardship devoted to its protection.

At its Annual meeting on 11/18/2010 The FOJ recognized Steve Umlor and Anne Zukowski as Directors of the year, Steve for his work on Forestry and Biodiversity issues and Anne for her opposition to wood-burning Biomass. Rick Beemon (videography) and Jack Moran (webmaster) were recognized as Volunteers of the year. The FOJ sincerely appreciates this recognition which comes only through the dedicated efforts of these and other members who are committed to maintaining the pristine nature of the Jordan Valley and northern Michigan.