

# JORDAN VALLEY VOICES

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF THE JORDAN RIVER WATERSHED • SPRING/SUMMER 2013

## Michigan Fly Fishing Club Awards FOJ \$5,000 Grant

The Friends of the Jordan River Watershed (FOJ) has received a \$5,000 grant from the Michigan Fly Fishing Club to help in FOJ's efforts to create two permanent landings on state land along the Jordan River near Old State Road in Jordan Township.

The FOJ is working with the Michigan Departments of Natural Resources and Environmental Quality to address erosion and stabilization issues associated with the growing popularity of the Jordan River's quiet waters with kayakers, canoeists, tubers, and rafters looking for places to stop along the river. When there are no places to stop, people too often create their own, eroding banks and adding silt and dirt to the riverbed, to the detriment of fish and other aquatic species.

"Conservation Grants awarded by the Michigan Fly Fishing Club are based on merit," said Terry Drinkwine, chairman of the MFFC's conservation committee. "The FOJ is a proven force in the restoration and preservation of the Jordan River and its fishery. MFFC looks forward to the improvements the grant will help bring about."

The Old State Road site is the only crossing without permanent landing sites, but is one of the Jordan

*see MFFC on page 5*



John Richter receives his award from its namesake, Clarence Kroupa.

## Dr. John Richter Named NMEAC Environmentalist of the Year

Dr. John Richter, president of the Friends of the Jordan River Watershed, received the Clarence Kroupa Award for Lifetime Achievement from the Northern Michigan Environmental Action Council (NMEAC) at the 25th Annual Environmentalist of the Year Awards held this spring in Traverse City.

The Clarence Kroupa Award as Environmentalist of the Year recognizes "outstanding leadership in addressing a major environmental issue in the region" and "serves as a model of ecological sensitivity for others in the region to follow in daily life and work."

Clarence Kroupa was recipient of the first NMEAC Environmentalist of the Year in 1988. Kroupa was on hand to present the award named in

his honor.

"For over 20 years, John has guided and encouraged the Friends of the Jordan in being a voice for the Jordan River Watershed and for the Rivers and Watersheds of the state of Michigan," read the entry in NMEAC's program. "From campaigns for Natural Rivers, to implementing rules for oil and gas, from clean-ups to community education; from battles against the transfer of toxic leachate to the Mancelona Basin, to summer watershed school sessions for children, John has forged the way.

"Never being intimidated, but acting carefully with resolve, John has led Friends of the Jordan in being a voice opposing burning of living trees (biomass), a voice

*see NMEAC on page 5*

## Local Environmental Leaders Remembered at Watershed Center

The Friends of the Jordan River Watershed said goodbye to two longtime local environmentalists who died this spring, John "Jack" Norris of Rapid City and Carl E. Stahl of Bellaire, by planting trees at the FOJ Watershed Center following the annual spring cleanup. Also remembered with trees was Bob Sayer, former FOJ board member, who died last year [see Spring 2012 issue of *Jordan Valley Voices* online].

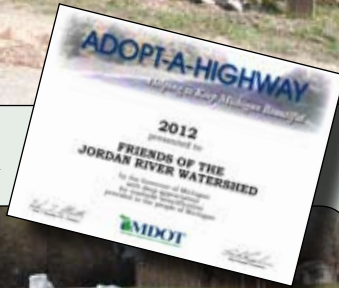
**Jack Norris**, 91, was for many decades the voice and conscience of the Three Lakes Association (TLA), dedicated to preserving the water quality of Torch Lake, Clam Lake and Lake Bellaire. He attended his last TLA meeting via video conferencing from his home a week before his death. A decorated WWII veteran and active in local government, Jack was an inspiration to many involved in local environmental efforts.

**Carl Stahl**, 77, an avid outdoorsman and sportsman, was a Forest Fire Officer for the Department of the Natural Resources for 40 years, earning him the sobriquet "Smokey the Bear" for the many forest fires he fought in Michigan and elsewhere. He was also a friend of the FOJ, which has received a number of donations given in his name.

Among the trees dedicated at the FOJ Watershed Center were chesnuts in memory of Bob Sayer, oaks for Jack Norris, and white pines for Carl Stahl.



Photos by  
Tim Goodwin



### Volunteers Make Short Work of Trash

A troupe of 14 made short work of a winter's worth of trash and debris during a May cleanup detail, the first of three cleanups scheduled for this summer. Teams took to the Jordan River, landings along the way, and the FOJ's two-mile stretch of M-66 south of Graves Crossing as their part in the spring statewide Adopt-A-Highway program.

Participating this spring were (above top, left to right), Tim Goodwin, Jinny Heck, Mitchell Heck, Steve Little, Lynne Goodwin (kneeling), John Bell, John Richter, Joe Nerone, Anne Zukowski, John Teesdale, Darcie Dietrich with daughters Hilary and Kaylah, and Rich Dietrich. Meanwhile (at left above), FOJ board member and grillmaster Steve Umlor readied lunch back at the Watershed Center.

Join the FOJ for the next cleanup Sunday, July 21. Beat the heat and meet at Pinney Bridge Road and M-66 at 9:00 a.m.



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The Friends of the Jordan River Watershed, Inc. is a grassroots, nonprofit 501 (C) (3) non-governmental organization with the mission to "conserve the natural resources and protect the environmental quality of the Jordan River and its watershed."



# FOJ's Young Friends Summer Program Returns for 2013

Friends of the Jordan River Watershed's 2013 Young Friends Program is back for another summer season of fun and environmental education for kids in grades 4 to 8.

Two sessions of six classes each will introduce students to their natural environment in a hands on approach to water quality testing; finding and identifying birds, flowers and insects; searching for salamanders and other organisms for the Michigan Herp Atlas Project; hiking and exploring the Jordan River valley; and visiting the Wagbo Farm for edible plants, animal tracking, and nature awareness games. The sessions will culminate with a rafting trip down the Jordan River and picnic at the FOJ Watershed Center.

Leading classes again this summer will be veteran science teacher and outdoor educator John Thompson and resident naturalist at the Martha Wagbo Farm and Education Center, Fischer Jex. They each bring a wealth of experience and enthusiasm to the Young Friends Program.

The first session began June 24. The second session runs July 15, 17, 19, 22, 24 and 26. Classes are 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Class size is limited to 20 students. Cost per session is \$12, or \$20 maximum for students from the same family. Scholarships are available upon request.

Deadline for registration for the second session is July 1.

More details and application forms in a printable brochure are available on the FOJ's website at [www.friendsofthejordan.org](http://www.friendsofthejordan.org). For further questions, contact John Thompson at 231.222.0237 or Fischer Jex at 231.373.3275.



## *Jordan River Scores at the Top of Tip of the Mitt's Stream Monitoring Report*

**F**OJ members collected macroinvertebrate samples this May in the first of two samplings this year as part of the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council's Volunteer Stream Monitoring program. Macroinvertebrates are collected, sorted and identified to determine the health of the river, the more species collected the better. Diversity and species sensitivity are key factors in determining water quality. The Jordan River has scored consistently at the top of the list of the Tip of the Mitt's assessments, earning an "A", or excellent, in its 2013 report.

"Pristine conditions throughout most of the Jordan River Watershed and limited development along the river's edge result in a very healthy stream ecosystem, which is evident in our biological assessments," read the report. "A variety of pollution sensitive stoneflies, mayflies, and caddisflies portrays a healthy ecosystem and high water quality." Good news for wildlife and fisherfolk.

The spring team took macroinvertebrate samples at Rogers Road and Pinney Bridge. They'll repeat the process in early fall. Participating in May [above in photos clockwise from top left] were Peg Myers emptying her net; Anne Zukowski, Lynne Goodwin and John Teesdale searching for specimens; and John Richter and Anne recording water temperatures. Photos by Tim Goodwin.

In 2012, almost 100 local volunteers monitored 37 sites on 15 different area rivers and creeks. The Jordan River tied with the Sturgeon River for the greatest number of sensitive families, with 11 found at both Pinney Bridge and Webster Bridge Road.

# From the President's Desk: Biodiversity Matters

BY DR. JOHN RICHTER

Friday, February 22nd, 2013 marks one of the darkest days in Michigan's natural history. That was the day Michigan's Senate quietly



passed S.B. 78, which specifically removed "Biodiversity" from the long held stated goals and policies by which our state has managed our public-owned natural resources. No longer will nature, diversity of species or environmental quality be considered or stand in the way of logging, mining or drilling for oil and gas in our State Forests.

Few people recognize the significance or implications of this act. The concept of "Biodiversity" is the pillar upon which conservation and environmental protection is built. Modern science has determined that one of the best ways to measure environmental health and quality of life is the diversity of plant and animal species within a given community. Biodiversity also confers biological integrity, which means that all the necessary components are present and viable to promote ecological health. Managing our State Forests to include biodiversity requires that we recognize and respect those elements that provide for the rich, balanced and diverse plant and animal communities upon which we all depend. It also requires that we avoid those things that fragment, pollute and destroy that delicate balance.

Following the travesties of the logging era, the citizens of Michigan and their representatives enacted a series of laws and policies to ensure that such a thing would never happen again. They had witnessed, first hand, the wholesale destruction of Michigan's virgin forests, extinction of species and the ensuing degrada-

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**EDITOR'S NOTE: Michigan Senate Bill 78 has been in the Michigan House of Representatives since March 5, where it is awaiting action by the Michigan House Committee on Natural Resources, before going before the whole House for a vote. Should it pass in the House, it would then go to the governor for his signature or veto. It's not too late to let your State Representative or the Governor know where you stand on this important issue.**

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tion of our rivers and streams. Clearly etched in their minds was the wasteful result of unfettered exploitation of our shared natural resources. They declared of "paramount importance" to: forever prevent such large scale deforestation and degradation; protect our natural heritage for the Common Trust and future generations; and promote policies and goals which would foster biodiversity and ecological health. The concept of biodiversity was incorporated into our State's natural resource management policies and goals. The era of Conservation was born.

Until recent years, the conservation and management of our public lands has been largely successful. For many years Michigan was considered a world leader for fostering the rejuvenation of abundant public lands. Michigan's forests have regrown to become viable forest ecosystems with valuable timber. They have also healed to provide the diversity of plant and animal species as was hoped for and intended. As a result, the waters of our streams and rivers run cleaner and faster. This rejuvenation has also provided a vast diversity of opportunities and uses for people who like to hunt, fish, canoe, hike, bird watch, snowmobile, ORV or just want to get outside. It also provides for the sustainable harvest of high quality timber and the extraction of minerals. This was made possible because respect for nature was the priority and biodiversity was a vital management goal that kept the forest ecosystem healthy and vibrant.

Now, times have changed. Our re-born forests are seen as a commodity, open to the highest bidder. Our public lands have been leased for oil and gas extraction at unprecedented rates. The new, revised State Forest Management Guidelines are focused squarely on logging with few spots spared. There are no provisions for Old Growth Designation or Natural Areas. Our pristine waters are being squandered, contaminated and permanently disposed of in alarming volumes. The oil and gas industry has found ways to extract the vast reserves of natural gas lying buried deep beneath our public lands through a process called fracking. These extractive and industrial scale operations fragment, pollute and destroy natural habitats and ecosystems. They are not compatible with the principles or goals of biodiversity. In order for these exploitations to proceed, biodiversity must be removed as a management goal. S.B. 78 is a dark traitor to the proud legacy wrought by those heroes who fought and struggled to reclaim Michigan's natural heritage and restore its environmental quality.

But wait! These are public-owned lands, our lands! These are my lands. These are your lands, our children's and grandchildren's lands (and waters too!). They were set aside and protected for good reasons. Who gave the okay to turn them over to the oil and gas and timber industries to exploit for private (even international) profit?

Governor Snyder heralded the

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advent of these ventures when he proclaimed that these industries will help lead Michigan out of its recession. The MDNR has enabled these industries by leasing millions of acres of State land for oil and gas extraction. The new State Forest Management Guidelines focus squarely on timber harvest and leave few places unscathed. MDEQ refuses to adequately regulate fracking and allows the toxic contamination of millions of gallons of fresh potable groundwater. Nowhere through the course of these events has the public been honestly engaged or properly informed by our State's officials. Instead, these decisions have been made quietly in closed rooms as witnessed by the passage of S.B. 78, or crammed through during a lame duck legislative blitzkrieg. The groundwork has been laid for the commercialization of our public assets.

I urge all who read this letter to look into these issues seriously and soon. Sadly I sense that the general public is too overwhelmed and worn out to put up much of a fight. The industries have mounted and sustained a massive and very effective advertising campaign filled with marvelous half truths. It's no wonder that people are confused and struggling just to make ends meet. Jobs and cheap energy sound pretty good right now. However, we have not been informed of the short and long term costs associated with these activities.

Removing biodiversity as a goal and management tool of our public lands will open the floodgates of industrialization and pollution of our most special places. The scars these activities leave behind may never heal and they have the potential to pollute our beautiful Great Lakes State forever. Are we willing to sacrifice our quality of life and that of future generations for a short term profit most of us will never see? **Restore and sustain biodiversity.**



### ***Annual Membership Meeting***

The FOJ held an all day strategic planning meeting for board and members in April, led by Jennifer Booher of the North Sky Network. The planning session was part of the 22nd Annual Membership Meeting. Look for results in the next edition of *Jordan Valley Voices* and online at [www.friendsofthejordan.org](http://www.friendsofthejordan.org).

## **Richter Named NMEAC Environmentalist**

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calling for a ban on fracking and a clear, strong voice reminding us that biodiversity is the cornerstone of a healthy and vibrant forest. The gift John brings to every person working with him is one of affirmation and untiring support. John's great and gentle love for the works of nature and the wonder of the forest and rivers; for all the "critters," is the irrepressible force that fuels hope for the future of the forest and our children."

Founded in 1980, NMEAC is

the oldest grassroots environmental advocacy and stewardship organization in the Grand Traverse region, serving the counties of Grand Traverse, Antrim, Kalkaska, Benzie, and Leelanau.

For more on NMEAC and other 2013 award recipients, visit [www.nmeac.org](http://www.nmeac.org) online. Among others receiving Environmentalist of the Year awards were Paul Brady and Matt Wandel, authors of *respectmyplanet.org*. You can read about their work in documenting fracking practices in Michigan in the story by Anne Zukowski on page 7.

## **MFFC Awards FOJ \$5,000**

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River's busiest. Permanent landings along the river already exist at Graves Crossing, Webster Bridge and Rogers Road. Plans for the landing at Old State Road also would address parking, trash and toilet facilities; and encroachment on private property at Old State Road. The second landing is about a mile downstream from Old State Road, where a natural

gas pipeline crosses under the river, a site already much abused as a recreational stop-off.

Assisting in the project is the Antrim County Soil Conservation District and the Jordan River Action Group.

For more details on the landings project, see the last issue of *Jordan Valley Voices*, available on the website at [www.friendsofthejordan.org](http://www.friendsofthejordan.org).

# Living with Fracking: an Oxymoron?

STORY & PHOTO BY ANNE ZUKOWSKI

**W**hat is it like to live next door to a horizontal fracking well? Horizontal fracking is a new extreme fracking technology first used in Michigan in 2010. The process uses and contaminates millions of gallons of groundwater. Mixed with sand and toxic chemicals, it is pumped at high pressure into deep shale layers to fracture the rock and release the gas. Most of this toxic brew returns to the surface where it must be disposed of in more shallow injection wells.

What is it like to live next door to a heavily industrialized natural (methane) gas horizontal fracking well? JoAnne Beemon from Friends of the Jordan and I interviewed neighbors of Encana Corporation's Westerman Well in Kalkaska County.

Bernard and Phyllis Senske live in a farm house that has been in her family for over 100 years. Phyllis was born there. They raise cattle and are surrounded by rolling hills, forests and farm land. Part of the Elk River Chain of Lakes Watershed, the Rapid River and Rugg Pond are a half-mile away. Phyllis described the fox, deer, sandhill cranes and turkeys that frequented the area. Stars were easily visible at night.

All that changed last fall when construction of the Westerman Well began. Five acres of heavily wooded land was clear cut and graded flat for a well pad. Truck traffic has been constant and at one time last winter their two-mile rural road was completely blocked with trucks and they were unable to get out.

Horizontal fracking operations run trucks, compressors, drilling machinery and bright lights 24 hours a day, every day. During an eight day period in early June when the actual fracking was taking place the noise was so overpowering that a family near the well was forced to go to a hotel (paid for by Encana). The Senske's turned down an offer to leave temporarily saying they would not be forced out of their home by a gas company. And they needed to stay to take care of their cows and their



dog. Neighbors described the noise as being next to a jet engine plane during take-off, constantly, night and day. The Senske's described parts of the drilling process that made the ground around their house vibrate, the windows rattle and pictures shake on the walls. People living a mile away were bothered by the noise. Water coming out of their tap was milky and their pump often sputtered air from a drop in water pressure. Clouds of silica sand dust drifted over when the wind blew or when trucks carrying it passed by. A house and trees next to the drilling site were covered in fine silica sand dust. Silica sand dust when inhaled can cause silicosis, similar to black lung disease.

What alternatives do people have? One neighbor stated that most people in Kalkaska County do not own their mineral rights and worried that if gas drilling companies wanted to drill on his property, he would be unable to stop them. As he put it, if you have no mineral rights to your land, you have no rights. He has been told by real estate agents that his house is worth 40 percent less because of the fracking and that it would be a waste of time to list it.

Fracking operations in Michigan are setting national records for water use and contamination. Excelsior Well 3-25 HD1 used and contaminated over 20 million gallons of water to frack a single well. Encana's Westerman well was permitted by the DEQ to remove

8.6 million gallons from the aquifer. According to the DEQ's Water Withdrawal Assessment Tool, 900 gallons per minute could be removed from the aquifer. However, after drilling eight water wells, they still didn't have enough, so they sent trucks into Kalkaska to take water from the municipal well. (Information brought to public attention through the local website [www.respectmyplanet.org](http://www.respectmyplanet.org)).

Highly industrialized fracking operations change the character and quality of life in our rural communities. Most of the fracking in Michigan, however, is occurring on state land. The DNR leases state land for as little as \$10 per acre, and they give away the water. Thousands of acres of our state forests are being clearcut to build well pads, roads and pipelines. Noise, air pollution, massive water withdrawals affecting the vitality of our rivers and lakes, damage to wetlands and wildlife will have a profound effect on our "Pure Michigan" tourist economy. This damage, like the damage to rural communities, cannot be undone. We need to end federal and state environmental exemptions and subsidies to gas and oil companies. There are alternatives to fossil fuels. By utilizing and developing them we can save our environment, our health and our economy.

*For more on the consequences of fracking, visit the website at [dontfrackmichigan.org](http://dontfrackmichigan.org)*

# Water Withdrawals Skyrocket for Horizontal Hydraulic Fracking in Northern Michigan

By ANNE ZUKOWSKI

**H**ow much water is used to frack methane gas wells in Michigan? That was the subject of a recent presentation to the Friends of the Jordan's frack committee by Paul Brady, co-author with partner Matt Wandel, of the website [respectmyplanet.org](http://respectmyplanet.org).

Brady, a resident of Kalkaska County, has visited and photographed numerous well sites. He and Wandel track DEQ well applications and permits, and document water usage on their website RespectMyPlanet. His power point presentation documents in graphic detail the devastation unleashed in our state forests — to land and water that should belong to all the people of Michigan.

Horizontal fracking into the deep Collingwood/Utica shale layer was first done in Michigan in 2010. That first well, Pioneer Well in Missaukee

County, used and contaminated over five million gallons of clean, fresh water to frack the shale. This represents approximately 500 times more water than was typically used to frack more shallow Antrim shale wells. But they didn't stop there — water usage and contamination continues to skyrocket. Recently Encana Corporation set a national record for water use of over 21 million gallons to frack a single well.

Most of the horizontal fracking for methane gas in Michigan is done on state land. Encana, the biggest driller in our area, purchases state land leases from the DNR for as little as \$10 per acre. They take and contaminate enormous volumes of groundwater, free of charge. This groundwater, mixed with toxic chemicals, can never be returned to the hydrologic cycle and must be disposed of in injection wells. Most of these horizontal "super fracking" wells have failed the Water Withdrawal Assess-

ment Tool (WWAT). No problem for the drillers, they are exempt from water withdrawal rules. The DEQ simply does a "site specific" review from their offices then issues the permits.

Brady showed before and after photos of forested land clear-cut to build 5-10 acre well pads. Roads are built, often through wetlands, to build pipelines, haul in heavy equipment and haul out toxic flowback wastewater to injection wells. Following are a few specific examples.

A cluster of 12 Excelsior wells within the Mackinaw State Forest in Kalkaska County will use and contaminate over 300 million gallons of groundwater. The increasingly higher volumes of water and chemicals are needed because Encana is using increasingly longer horizontal legs and fracturing more segments of shale. The shale is exploded and

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## Statewide Anti-fracking Conference Held in Barry County

A statewide anti-fracking conference was held February 22-24 at Circle Pines in Barry County. Over 50 people attended the weekend retreat, representing 30 different organizations.

The conference was organized by Food & Water Watch and Michigan Land Air Water Defense. Groups participating included Friends of the Jordan, Don't Frack Michigan, FLOW (Attorney Jim Olson and FLOW are drafting sample ordinances for townships to restrict fracking activities and promoting the concept of water and forests as a public trust), Michigan Citizens for Water Conservation (group that fought Nestle's water bottling plant in Mecosta County), Citizens Against Drilling on Public Land (Central Michigan University students who have organized protests at the DNR public auctions of state land to oil and gas drillers), Deep Water Earth First (Western Michigan University student group), Friends of the AuGres/Rifle River Watershed, West Michigan Environmental Action Council, Sierra Club, and many others.

Goals of the conference were to build relationships between groups, lay groundwork for future activities and

assess the need for a statewide anti-fracking coalition. The conference opened with introductions. Attendees were amazed and energized by the number and scope of groups that have organized in every corner of the state to protect our water and forests from the ravages of fracking. Since then, participants organized a statewide network to exchange information, ideas and to build local actions. Group participants organized a protest of about 50 people at the May DNR auction of state land in Lansing, where over 37,000 acres of public land were leased to gas and oil drilling with minimum bids of \$10 per acre.

The conference's importance cannot be overstated. Industry plans call for building pipelines and processing plants on the West Coast to liquefy natural gas for export to overseas markets, which will increase the drive for more fracking. Michigan state land is especially attractive to gas companies because they pay rock-bottom prices to use (and destroy) the land, and they get as much water as they want for free (which they contaminate with chemicals and must be removed permanently from the hydrologic cycle).

*– Anne Zukowski*



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pulverized every few feet along the one to two mile long horizontal legs to release the maximum amount of gas. An expansion of five more wells off Sunset Trail through wetlands is being planned. Some 115,500,000 gallons of water will be needed. No WWAT application has been filed for this location, but Encana has assured the DEQ that they will keep them in the loop.

State Roscommon 1-8HD1 has been permitted to use over 16,800,000 gallons of groundwater. The groundwater will be removed from a 51 foot deep well located 1,361 feet from the Muskegon River. Five more wells are planned on this site which could bring water use and contamination to over 100 million gallons. The pad for the Roscommon well was cut in Kirtland Warbler territory. Encana assured the DEQ that their wells would not impact the warbler because they are not planning on drilling between May and September during the warbler's nesting period. Apparently no one considered the fact that Encana clear cut the Jack Pines which the warbler relies upon for food and shelter. These wells were permitted by the DEQ over the objection of the DNR.

Six wells have been staked and flagged in Oliver Township, but no information is available on them and the DEQ claims to have no knowledge of them.

One Garfield well in Kalkaska County was permitted by the DEQ to use 15 million gallons of groundwater. Six more proposed wells on that pad will bring the total water contamination to over 100 million gallons of water. The Soil and Erosion Department okayed a permit to cut a road through wetlands. The road needs constant daily upkeep. The many high power diesel generators and pumps on site run 24 hours a day. Paul said after just a few minutes of exposure his eyes watered and his throat burned from the fumes. The workers on this particular site are from Wyoming.



### ***Yard Signs Now Available***

***Don't Frack Michigan*** yard signs are now available through the Friends of the Jordan River. The bold, colorful signs are free, though donations are welcomed to help defray cost. They are available at the Jordan Valley Animal Clinic, 800 W. Water St. in East Jordan, one block west of the intersection of M-66 and M-32 at the traffic light. Show your colors, *Save our Water!*

Encana and most other multinational corporations involved in horizontal fracking bring in their own workers who have experience on these super-sized sites and technology.

The Westerman well pad is located just 164 feet from a homeowner's property line. Coldwell Bank has informed the homeowner that their property has no value and cannot be listed for sale. Many banks nationwide no longer issue mortgages on properties leased for gas drilling. Nationwide Mutual Insurance will not cover damage to properties where drilling is taking place. This makes leasing state land especially attractive to gas drillers. Besides obtaining leases at rock-bottom prices and water for free, the environmental destruction takes place out of sight of most people.

Paul and Matt have also researched Antrim gas wells. These are typically shallow wells and use an average of 7,800 to 10,000 gallons of water. In the past few decades, 12,000 such wells have been drilled, which brings their total water usage to under 100 million gallons. Compare that to 300 million gallons used and contaminated in just a few days at the 12

Excelsior wells using horizontal super fracking methods. Antrim shale wells are being capped and plugged forcing layoffs of local workers. They cannot compete with multinational corporations such as Encana and Devon, even though initial research shows that the gas retrieved from horizontal super fracking sites is far less than expected. Even so, Encana is pushing ahead with plans to drill up to 1,700 more wells in our state forests.

The DEQ claims that fracking is safe and won't harm our environment. Yet multiple studies and reports from other states where fracking has occurred say this is not true. The DEQ also stopped keeping public records of contamination from gas and oil drilling in 1995. It was clear from the above presentation that fracking is destroying our groundwater, rivers and forests at an alarming rate and turning our state lands into heavy industrial zones. The damage cannot be undone. The Jordan River, our forests, and even the Great Lakes are threatened. Please contact us if you would like to be a part of FOJ's fracking committee and help us determine our next move.





This black and white photo postcard of the Jordan River, published by the L.L. Cook Co. of Milwaukee, was mailed from East Jordan June 5, 1956 at a cost of 2¢. The river boat in the photo, a favorite for fishing, is not unlike the one on display at the Friends of the Jordan Watershed Center in East Jordan. From the Tim and Lynne Goodwin collection.

## Northern Michigan RiverSweep

Join the Friends of the Jordan Saturday, August 24 when we take part in the **Northern Michigan RiverSweep**, a multi-river effort to rid Northern Michigan's premier rivers of trash and debris.

We'll meet at the FOJ Watershed Center in East Jordan at 9:00 a.m., Saturday, August 24, before tackling the river from 9:30-4:00 p.m. Lunch is on the FOJ. Elsewhere in Northern Michigan, teams will be working to clean up the Boyne, Bear, Maple, Sturgeon and Pigeon Rivers. All in all, 100 miles of rivers in one day!

Then from 5:00-8:00 p.m. that evening, we're all invited to attend an After Party Bar-b-que at Boyne Mountain Resort hosted by Boyne Outfitters. The Northern Michigan RiverSweep is sponsored by the Miller Van Winkle Chapter of Trout Unlimited.

To join the team, call the FOJ at 231.536.9947, or email at [foj@friendsofthejordan.org](mailto:foj@friendsofthejordan.org).



## NOTABLES

Welcome to new FOJ Board members **Rich Dietrich** and **Heidi Shaffer**.

\* \* \*

Congrats to FOJ board member **Anne Zukowski**, who was a nominee this spring in the Northern Michigan Environmental Action Council's 25th Annual Environmentalist of the Year Celebration for Grass Roots Groups.

\* \* \*

Hats off to volunteers **Jack Moran**, who tends the FOJ website; **Lynne Goodwin** and board member **Steve Umlor**, who are taking care of the grounds around the center; and to board member **Jinny Heck** for sprucing up the exhibit pavilion at the center.

\* \* \*

The FOJ was part of Leadership Charlevoix County this spring during its environmental awareness day held at Jordan River Fish Hatchery, where **Dr. John Richter** was among a number of area environmental leaders who spoke to the Leadership class of 2013. The group then took their lunch at the FOJ Watershed Center.

\* \* \*

**Tim Goodwin** was named Director of the Year for 2012 at the annual meeting of the FOJ held this past April.

\* \* \*

The FOJ has underwritten subscription costs for *National Geographic* and *National Geographic for Kids* magazines at the Jordan Valley District Library.

\* \* \*

Special thanks to **ABC Small Engine Repair** of Jordan Township for tuning up the lawnmower this spring for the FOJ Watershed Center.

### Support the FOJ. Stay in Touch with Your River.

Your membership and tax-deductible financial support helps the FOJ to continue its work of "protecting and conserving" the Jordan River Watershed. Your river is depending on you.

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

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

Make checks payable to: Friends of the Jordan River Watershed, PO Box 412, East Jordan, MI 49727



PO Box 412  
East Jordan, MI 49727



**W**hat makes a river so restful to people is that it doesn't have any doubt—it is sure to get where it is going, and it doesn't want to go anywhere else.

— Hal Boyle, Pulitzer Prize winning reporter, 1911-1974

## *Calling All Photographers!*

# FOJ Announces 9th Annual Photography Contest & Calendar

**T**he Friends of the Jordan River is pleased to announce its 9th Annual Visions of the Valley photography contest. The theme for the 2014 edition is “Rhythms of the River,” and, as always, must be photographs taken within the Jordan River Watershed. Deadline for entries is August 5, 2013. For submission guidelines and details, please visit the website at [friendsofthejordan.org](http://friendsofthejordan.org).

Photographers young and old, novice or pro, are invited to enter



their favorite photos reflecting the spectacular nature that is the Jordan River watershed. As in past years, 14 photographs will be selected by an independent judge for cash awards and

a page or cover in the 2014 *Visions of the Valley Calendar*.

Awards and calendars will be presented Saturday, September 21 at the annual Awards Celebration at the Jordan River Watershed Center, 101 Union St., in East Jordan, which will also feature fine music and food along with an exhibit of all the entries.