

JORDAN VALLEY VOICES

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF THE JORDAN RIVER WATERSHED • SPRING/SUMMER 2014

FOJ Mourns Loss of Dr. John Richter

Dr. John Richter, long-time president of the Friends of the Jordan and veterinarian to thousands of area animals, died Wednesday, May 28 at his home of complications from cancer.

As he wished, a celebration of his life will be held Saturday, June 14, 2014, 1-4 p.m., at the Friends' Jordan River Watershed Center, to which he gave so much of his life.

Please join family, Friends of the Jordan, and others as we celebrate his life in remembrances, music, noshes, and fellowship. His obituary follows.

* * *

Dr. John William Richter, 62, of East Jordan, passed away Wednesday, May 28, 2014, at his home. He was born December 2, 1951, in Clare to Charles and Addie (Popp) Richter, and graduated from Midland High School in 1970. John then graduated from Michigan State University as a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine in 1979.

He partnered with his brother, Dr. Tom

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FOJ's Young Friends Ready for Summer

"If we want children to flourish, we need to give them time to connect with nature and love the Earth before we ask them to save it."

- David Sobel, education writer, "place-based education"

School's out for summer! That means it's time for fun in the sun with the Young Friends of the Jordan Summer Program. Our Young Friends are our next generation of stewards of the land and water. What

finer preparation for that role than getting down and dirty in the Jordan River Watershed. And that is exactly what we have planned for the Young Friends Summer Program again this year.

The Young Friends Summer Program is for children entering the 3rd to 8th grade. There will be two two-week sessions offered (starting

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Joining the macroinvertebrate collection May 17 at Fair Road and Webster Bridge were [l to r] John Teesdale, Dan Myers, Bruce Walker, and Kristy Beyer, and her grandson, Andrew. Dan and Kristy represent Tip of the Mitt. Also on hand were Sheri McWhirter from the Petoskey News Review and Anne Zukowski. It was a cold day, but no black flies! A wide variety of bugs were found at both sites. Kristy was testing out a cool camera that takes pictures underwater in muck to look for bugs.

The Jordan: Still Its Healthy Self

The Jordan River continues to be one of the healthiest rivers in the region, according to the latest rating by the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council, which advocates for water resources in Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet and Cheboygan counties.

The Jordan once again earned an “A”, or excellent, based on a three-part ecological assessment that measures aquatic insects and other macroinvertebrates, their diversity and species sensitivity.

The Friends of the Jordan River Watershed participates in the assessment process by collecting macroinvertebrates at designated locations along the Jordan twice a year, which are subsequently categorized at North Central Michigan College in Petoskey,

along with samples from another 14 northern Michigan rivers and creeks.

“The Friends of the Jordan River help coordinate volunteer monitoring at four sample sites from Pinney Bridge to Fair Road,” summarized Tip of the Mitt’s 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 assessment.”

Also earning an A were the Boyne, Maple, Pigeon, and Sturgeon rivers, and Kimberly, Milligan, and Mullet creeks.

The next collection will be September 21, noon-3 p.m. Volunteers welcomed. Meet at the Jordan River Watershed Center at noon.

UP AND COMING

2014 Board Meetings – **3rd Thursday every month**. 6:30–9PM, Jordan River Watershed Center. Members and public welcome.

Photography contest and 2015 calendar submissions ongoing until **August 4**. (See this issue and *friendsofthejordan.org* for details and rules)

July 7 to 18 – Young Friends Outdoor Education Program SESSION 1 - Monday, Wednesday and Friday. 1–4 p.m.. Jordan River Watershed Center. (See *friendsofthejordan.org* for details and applications)

July 21 to Aug 1 - Young Friends Outdoor Education Program SESSION 2 - Monday, Wednesday and Friday. 1–4 p.m. Jordan River Watershed Center. (See *friendsofthejordan.org* for details and applications)

July 20 - Adopt-A-Highway Clean Up. 9 a.m.–Noon. Meet at Pinney Bridge Rd.

August 4 – Photography Contest deadline. Final date to submit photos for 2015 Friends of the Jordan River Calendar. (Judging/rules see *friendsofthejordan.org* for details)

September 20 – Photography Contest Celebration and Exhibit. 1–4 p.m. Jordan River Watershed Center. Music/Food and beverages/Prizes/Free to the public.

September 13 – Adopt-A-Highway Clean Up. 9 a.m.–Noon. Meet at Pinney Bridge Rd.

September 21 – Jordan River Water Quality Monitoring. Noon–3 p.m. Meet at the Jordan River Watershed Center.



PO Box 412 • East Jordan MI 49727
Phone/Fax 231.536.9947
www.friendsofthejordan.org
Email: foj@friendsofthejordan.org

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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.”

Dr. John Richter

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Richter, at Freeland Veterinary Clinic in Freeland from 1979-1984. In 1984, John moved to East Jordan with the dream of living "Up North," and to pursue his love and respect for the Jordan Valley. At that time, he started the Jordan Valley Animal Clinic where he's provided thirty years of compassionate care to thousands of animals and their beloved owners.

In his first years of business, John served on the East Jordan Family Health Center Board, became a member of the East Jordan Chamber of Commerce, and served on the committee of the East Jordan Freedom Festival. In 1990, he helped to found and become a devoted member of The Friends of the Jordan River Watershed. Serving as its President, he was instrumental in preventing drilling for oil and gas in the Jordan Valley, and fighting successfully the Alba Well injection of leachate from Bay Harbor into Antrim County. Dr. Richter was passionate about the preservation of the Jordan Valley, educating the community about biomass fuels and fracking, and educating the youth about the environment.

In 2008, he was chosen as East Jordan's Citizen of the Year. He was proudest of his accomplishments in earning



the Environmentalist of the Year in 2008 with the Northern Michigan Environmental Action Council, and receiving its Clarence Kroupa Lifetime Achievement Award in 2013, and the Friends of the Jordan "Honor Award" in 2009.

John is survived by his children, Lisa Christine (Kevin) Dunson-Richter of East Jordan, and Nathan Jarad Richter of Clare; grandchildren, Alicia (Mike) Whiteford, John Richards, Karlee Dunson, Karah Dunson, and Katlynn Dunson; great grandchildren Alexis and Parker Whiteford, brothers Charles Richter of Traverse City, and Thomas Richter of Onaway; nieces and nephew; significant other, Brenda Kirkpatrick of East Jordan. John is also survived by his former wives, MaryJo (Peacock) Richter of East Jordan, and Kerry Ovaitt of Clare. John's parents preceded him in death.

John also leaves behind many close friends, including the staff and clients of the Jordan Valley Animal Clinic, and board members past and present of his beloved Friends of the Jordan.

His family thanks Hospice of Northwest Michigan, and its team of nurses Cindy and Julie and social worker, Bob.

Please join in a celebration of Dr. John W. Richter's life, from 1-4 p.m., Saturday, June 14, at the Friends of the Jordan Watershed Center, 101 Union Street, East Jordan.

Memorial contributions may be sent to Friends of the Jordan River Watershed, PO Box 412, East Jordan, MI 49727.

The Penzien Funeral Home in East Jordan is assisting the family.

Young Friends

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July 7th and July 21st). Each session will meet Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons from 1 to 4pm. The cost is \$30 per child per session.

Fischer Jex returns for his fourth year as Program Director. He has developed an exceptional program that takes participants around the watershed to visit a variety of ecosystems, including swamplands, ponds, tributaries and the headwaters. Each session ends with a float down the beautiful Jordan River itself. Thanks to Jordan Valley Outfitters, who have helped sponsor these rafting trips.

This is an outdoor education program in every sense. Meeting rain or shine, participants explore on foot as they become natural detectives immersed in that which they study. Discovery is the name of



the game and our Young Friends are encouraged to observe, question and experience the wild world around them. By actively foraging for wild edibles, reading animal tracks and signs, and other games and activities, participants examine plant-animal (and human) relationships up close and personal; and with a bigger picture in mind. Each day includes a brief "independent study" and a themed field trip.

The Young Friends Summer Program emphasizes play and youth-led, hands-on engagement in the natural world. Through these activities we will foster a real and lasting connection with and love for the Jordan River Watershed. And beyond.

In addition to six afternoons of unique programming, participants will: receive a nature



notebook and lots of great experiences to write about; make their own shoulder bag to carry their notebook, etc.; receive a stainless steel water bottle with the Young Friends logo and a group photo of the Young Friends and Instruc-

tors; and design and hand-print their own Young Friends t-shirt.

Joining Fischer this year for the first time is Jennifer Lewis as Administrative Coordinator/ Program Assistant. Jennifer lives and works at the Wagbo Farm in East Jordan where she raises sheep, goats, chickens and her three young children. Also returning this year is Emily Pentacost as our Junior Program Assistant. Emily started out as a Young Friend four years ago and has been a welcome addition to our Program staff every year since.

You can download the brochure and application for the Young Friends of the Jordan Summer Program at www.friendsofthejordan.org/events/youngfriends.

-jennifer lewis

Bridge, Landings Proposals Presented at Meeting

Some 100 area residents and interested parties attended a public informational meeting March 25 at VFW Hall 7580 in East Jordan unveiling proposals to replace the bridge at the Jordan River and Old State Rd. and create two new canoe and kayak landings along the river. The event was hosted by the Friends of the Jordan River Watershed. Plans were presented and opinions offered in the give and take meeting.

"The Jordan River crossing at Old State Road is plagued with fundamental design problems," said the late Dr. John Richter, president of the Friends of the Jordan. "These ultimately result in pollution, erosion, congestion, and public health and safety problems. This is a popular spot, and nobody wants to deliberately harm the river, but unless we redesign this site, normal activities will degrade the river and accelerate problems that already exist."

The site was identified as a problem in a Lake Charlevoix Road / Stream Crossing Inventory completed in 2001, through a Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council initiative. The Jordan has seen a steady increase in recreational users and subsequent bank erosion since then.

Kim Balke, project manager with the Conservation Resource Alliance, which is leading efforts to replace the



bridge, addressed the proposed bridge plans, the result of an engineering study completed last year. A new clear span bridge would replace two constricting culverts, spanning the river from bank to bank, returning a natural flow to the river and allow fish and aquatic species upstream passage. Balke sees the \$850,000 project as a two to three year fundraising effort.

Heidi Shaffer, Antrim County Soil Erosion Officer and member of the Friends of the Jordan erosion control committee, presented FOJ's efforts to create two new landings along the river. One would be at the southwest corner of the river and Old State Rd. on state property, which would address safety, erosion, parking, private property, and public use issues at the popular site; the other 15 minutes downstream where a natural gas pipeline crosses under the river and has become a defacto stopping site, causing serious erosion and threatening pipeline safety.

Work is scheduled to begin early

this summer on the landing at the pipeline crossing on state land, thanks to funding from the Michigan Fly Fishing Clubs and DTE Energy. After considerable FOJ effort to create a new landing at the river and Old State, the state Department of Natural Resources has now shown an

interest in developing the site. The FOJ maintains that a site should be in place before the culverts are replaced with a new bridge.

Friends of the Jordan River Watershed, Michigan Departments of Natural Resources and Environmental Quality, Conservation Resource Alliance, Antrim County Road Commission, Antrim Conservation District, Charlevoix County Community Foundation, Jordan River Action Group and others have spent several years discussing options for the site.

- Tim Goodwin

For Further Study

To read more about this issue, see Jordan Valley Voices issues from Fall 2011, Spring 2012, Fall 2012, and Spring/Summer 2013 at www.friendsofthejordan.org and also the Conservation Resource Alliance at www.rivercare.org and search for project updates.

Sea Lamprey Researchers Work the Jordan

Ever seen a live sea lamprey up close and personal? Join with the Board of the Friends Thursday, July 17 at 6:30 p.m. at the Jordan River Watershed Center for a presentation by Post-Doctoral Researcher Tom Luhring. His group has been testing new controls using lamprey pheromones against the invasive sea lamprey in the Jordan River this summer, as part of a program through Michigan State University. Find out what they've learned. The event is free and open to all.



VIEWPOINT

NMEAC Says Ban Horizontal Hydraulic Fracturing Now

"If future generations are to remember us with gratitude, rather than contempt, we must leave them something more than the miracles of technology. We must leave them a glimpse of the world as it was in the beginning, not after we got through with it."

—LYNDON B. JOHNSON

Northern Michigan Environmental Action Council [NMEAC] has concluded that horizontal hydraulic fracturing, commonly known as fracking, should be banned. It poses a threat to the global environment and should be stopped immediately, everywhere. All methods of mining the earth for fossil fuels cause damage to the environment. However, fracking is one of the most damaging of all. Currently, the state of Michigan endorses fracking "if it is done right." But more regulations with better enforcement only pushes us further toward reliance on dirty fossil fuels that threaten our environment and human health.

Technologies such as fracking, tar sand processing and off-shore drilling are some of the more risky methods that have been devised to deceive us into believing that fossil fuels are inexhaustible. Fracking facilitates this deception. A popular idea is that natural gas can serve as a

bridge to cleaner sources of energy in the future. However, this ignores the economic reality that as long as natural gas and oil can be produced—at a lower cost than clean energy, through exploitation of natural resources at no cost to the fracking industry—the incentive to develop clean energy is severely challenged.

How can we justify to future generations the squandering of millions of gallons of water for each well drilled when pure uncontaminated water is becoming ever more scarce? Currently, fracking is not even subject to EPA clean water regulations. And fracking, by adding to current CO2 levels, actually contributes to one of the greatest problems facing the continued existence of life on our planet—global warming.

If fracking had to pay for the natural resources it damages, gas would not be cheap. We cannot allow horizontal fracking to further devastate our vital natural resources. Water and air are held in common and belong to all people. It is in our common interest to vigilantly protect them.

To that end, NMEAC supports an immediate ban on fracking so that our world can move as swiftly as possible from dependence on dirty fossil fuels to a clean energy environment.



Don't Frack Michigan yard signs are now available free, though donations welcomed to defray costs. Contact Anne Zukowski at 231.547.3467. Show your colors, *Save our Water!*

OIL DRILLING TO BE STARTED IN JORDAN TWP.

The development of natural resources in the East Jordan-Antrim County district is to be given impetus this week when drilling is to be started on the oil and gas well on the Adam Skrocki location in Section 15, Jordan township—about eight miles south of East Jordan.

During the past winter a block of acreage in this district has been leased by Eugene Fochtman of Petoskey, Mich., and his associates including H. D. Crider, Geologist and W. A. Hower, Field Supt. of the Muskegon Oil Corporation, and the process of drilling now climaxes the co-operation had from land owners who have been virtually 100 per cent in giving leases to make this development possible. Others who have not yet leased have assured that their acreage would be included for development in the near future.

The location in Jordan township which has been selected is based on the result of a geophysical survey and several test wells drilled in that vicinity several years ago. The survey and test wells indicated a high structure in that area—some of the tests having struck gas in the Upper Traverse, which lies at a shallow depth in this vicinity.

If the well now being drilled proves to be a successful producer of gas or oil other wells will be drilled and the benefits to the entire East Jordan community would be far reaching.

If It Sounds Too Good to Be True...

It was June 9, 1933 that the *Charlevoix County Herald* published the article above, more than eight decades ago. While it notes how far reaching the benefits would be for the "entire East Jordan community," apparently they didn't realize the benefits would be so far reaching that they reached right over us, not unlike the current rush to pollute our waters and beggar our resources in the name of far reaching benefits. All the way, it seems, to the multinational corporations orchestrating the process.

FOJ Past Preserved at Bentley Historical Library

"...a significant contribution to understanding late twentieth and early twenty-first century environmental advocacy within the state of Michigan..."

It's official. The archives and records of the Friends of the Jordan River Watershed are now catalogued and preserved at the University of Michigan's Bentley Historical Library in Ann Arbor. They are available at the library to view and research. While the contents are not digitized, a finding aid is available at bentley.umich.edu/general/reaccess.php, and through worldcat.org, the world's largest network of library content and services, which details the contents of the seven-box, seven-linear-foot archive.

The archive covers mainly materials from 1990-2012 and includes administrative files, annual and board meeting minutes, reports, publications, and studies. Records also cover the decades preceding the organization's founding and chronicle conservation efforts of similar groups in Charlevoix, Antrim, and Otsego counties of Michigan.

" [The] records make a significant contribution to understanding late twentieth and early twenty-first century environmental advocacy within the state of Michigan, especially in the Lower Peninsula's northwest corner as it relates to conservation of freshwater systems. Further, FOJ's engagement with state and local



The library is a part of the University of Michigan and located on the Ann Arbor campus.

government agencies illuminates the ways in which it has been able to increase the political and regulatory salience of environmental protection, despite and amidst the simultaneous rising influence of energy companies," concludes the Bentley Library's comments. "The records will be useful for any researcher seeking to explore these dynamics and many others related to environmental justice."

The FOJ donated the archives to Bentley Historical Library in late 2012. They were made available last year. The library has 7500 collections of "all aspects of state history, with an emphasis, at least since the '60s, on



PHOTOS BY TIM GOODWIN

conservation and environmentalism," Bentley's Leonard Coombs said at the time. "My job is to bring in collections that people are going to use."

There is no charge to use the Ann Arbor facilities, though you need to register once inside. For more information about the Bentley Library, visit www.bentley.umich.edu



Just Right for Cottage or Home!

This 31" by 25" 3-dimensional topographic chart of Grand Traverse Bay was recently donated to the Friends of the Jordan River Watershed by David Michael of Ellsworth to be resold to benefit the FOJ.

According to the company that makes them, Wood Chart, they start with a bathymetric chart (the underwater equivalent of a topographic map), then use laser-cutters to carve the contours into sheets of Baltic birch and glue them together to create a powerful visual depth. The result is a stunning, layered, contour map of the bay.

It is available for \$250 or more to the FOJ. To find out more, contact foj@friendsofthejordan.org, or call 231.536.9947.

NOTABLE

Welcome to new FOJ Board Members **Norma Petrie** of Jordan Township and **Paul Brady** of Kalkaska, who were named to the board at the April regular meeting.

* * *

Thanks as always to members **Jack Moran** for maintaining the FOJ website; to **Lynne Goodwin** for assuming responsibility for the FOJ's stretch of M-66 in Michigan's Adopt-a-Highway program; and to board member **Steve Umlor** for his care of the Watershed Center.

* * *

Please let the FOJ know if your address changes, so you can continue to receive FOJ mailings without interruption. Or if you prefer to no longer receive mailings, let the FOJ know that too.

* * *

Thanks to everyone who is assisting, attending, and/or remembering Dr. John Richter in celebration of his life Saturday, June 14.



Still Winding Its Way

This postcard, captioned at top as "Where the Jordan River winds its way. Near East Jordan, Mich." was mailed July 23, 1909 from East Jordan to a Miss Louise Hoffmaster in Battle Creek. The message on the other side says, "I suppose you've heard of some of these places before? I hope so - Love - from the O.M." Postage was a penny. No idea who the O.M. was. The card was published by Will P. Canaan Co. of Grand Rapids, though it was printed in Germany. From the collection of Tim and Lynne Goodwin.



Photo Contest

continued from back cover

- Winning entries will be published in the 2015 Friends of the Jordan Calendar.
- Entries become the property of the Friends of the Jordan, who may use the images, with recognition of the photographer, in calendars, merchandise, brochures,

educational materials and the FOJ Website.

- Deadline for entries is Monday, August 4, 2014.
- Proceeds from entry fees and Calendar sales help support our Young Friends Summer programs.

*Visit the website at www.friendsofthejordan.org for entry forms and more information. Information on our website will be available soon.

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.

▲ NAME

▲ ADDRESS

▲ CITY

▲ STATE

▲ ZIP

▲ EMAIL

▲ PHONE

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

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

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



PO Box 412
East Jordan, MI 49727

Celebrate the
Life of Dr. John
Richter, Saturday,
June 14. Details
inside.



Ask the river, where it comes from? You will get no answer. Ask the river, where is it going? You will get no answer, because the river lives inside this very moment; neither in the past nor in the future, in this very moment only!

— Mehmet Murat ildan,
Turkish novelist and
playwright

Announcing the 10th Annual 'Visions of the Valley' Photography Contest

This year's Theme is "A Splash of Seasons"

The contest is open to photographers of all ages. Any subject: flowers, animals, scenery, people, in all seasons, and taken within the boundaries of the Jordan River Watershed.

■ Enter an un-matted 8" x 10" print, accompanied by an entry form* and \$5.00 per entry fee. Youth may enter up to two photos for free. Photographers can enter as many times as they want.

■ Awards in excess of \$1,200 will be presented. Fourteen awards are available, including, Grand Prize, Youth Award, Presidents Choice and Viewers Choice.



Grand Prize cover shot by James Walsh.