

JORDAN VALLEY VOICES

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF THE JORDAN RIVER WATERSHED • SPRING/SUMMER 2015

Young Friends Aim for Old-Time Summer Fun



BY JEN LEWIS

For me, the summers that stand out from my own childhood are the ones where I could lose count numbering the mosquito bites on my legs, gained catching frogs in the wildish wetlands bordering our subdivision in southeast Michigan. Far fewer children are encouraged or even allowed to experience the type of freedom I had in those years. The Young Friends Program provides an alternative that just might be the next best thing.

Sure, we hope the participants in The Young Friends of the Jordan Summer Program go away having gained some knowledge of environmental ecology, but even more, we hope they have some good old fashioned "wild" summer fun. And yes, there's likely to be mosquito bites. :)

This year, the Young Friends will

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Summer fun from the 2014 edition of FOJ's Young Friends program.

Friends to Remember Dr. John Richter with Chesnut Tree

It's been a year since Dr. John Richter died. He had been president of the Friends of the Jordan River Watershed for many years, and was one of its founders and visionaries in the early 1990s, as well as veterinarian to countless area pets and injured wildlife since the 1980s.

The FOJ will hold a remembrance Saturday, June 6 at 11:00 a.m. with the planting of a chestnut tree in his honor at the Jordan River Watershed Center.

Chesnut trees were a favorite of John's, and he had a number growing at his home.

The tree was donated by Lise Sayer, daughter of the late Bob Sayer, another FOJ visionary, longtime board member, and John's good friend.

It will be a simple ceremony, but members and friends are welcome.

The Watershed Center is located at 101 Union St., East Jordan, MI 49727, next door to Sportsman Park.





The sun was shining and temperatures warming as volunteers picked up trash in late April along FOJ's stretch of M-66. Doing their part for Earth Day week were Rich Dietrich, Haylah Buell, Anne Zukowski, Tim Goodwin, Lynne Goodwin and John Teesdale.

Adopt-A-Highway Marks 25th Anniversary; FOJ Does Its Part Along Two Miles of M-66

Friends of the Jordan River Watershed took to the highway the last weekend in April for their part in Michigan's Adopt-A-Highway program.

The Friends scoured the roadsides along their two-mile stretch of M-66, north and south of Pinney Bridge Road, a section the FOJ has covered for more than a decade now.

This year marks the 25th for Michigan's Adopt-A-Highway program. Over those years some two million

bags of litter have been collected statewide. Currently almost 3,200 groups cover 6,700 miles of state highways, saving Michigan taxpayers an estimated five million dollars in 2014 alone. Since its inception, Michigan DOT estimates the volunteer services have been worth \$100 million.

The FOJ also has Adopt-A-Highway pickups scheduled this season for July 11 and September 26.

UP AND COMING

2015 Board Meetings – **3rd Thursday every month** [except December]. 6:30–9 pm, Jordan River Watershed Center. Members and public welcome.

May 31, Sunday, 12 noon – Macroinvertebrate Identification – North Central Michigan College, Petoskey

June 6, Saturday, 11 am – Chestnut tree planting in memory of Dr. John Richter at the Jordan River Watershed Center.

July 6-17 – Young Friends Nature Experience – Session 1 – Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays 10 am to 4 pm

July 11, Saturday, 10 am – Adopt-A-Highway Clean Up

July 20-31 – Young Friends Nature Experience – Session 2 – Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays 10 am to 4 pm

August 3 – Photography Contest Deadline [see details last page]

August 22, Saturday – American River Sweep – Details forthcoming

September 19, Saturday – Photography Contest Celebration and Exhibit at the Watershed Center. 1 pm-4 pm

Date to be Announced – Fall Macroinvertebrate Collection –

September 26, Saturday, 10 am – Adopt-A-Highway Clean Up

November 7, Saturday – FOJ Annual Meeting. Members and public welcome. Details as it nears.

Check the FOJ website for details and/or changes to events at www.friendsofthejordan.org



PO Box 412 • East Jordan MI 49727
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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.”

FOJ Moving Forward in the Spirit of the River

BY ANNE ZUKOWSKI

President, Friends of the Jordan River Watershed

It has been a year since Dr. John Richter passed away. John was a founder, president, and the heart and soul of Friends of the Jordan for over 20 years, and his loss is keenly felt. However, I think he would be pleased to see that the organization to which he dedicated his life is using his legacy to move ahead and thrive.

After all, it is the spirit of the River which unites us. It is the love of wild natural areas, not for what can be extracted from them, but for their own intrinsic value, which brings us together. The Jordan River Watershed provides us with a connection to nature. It allows us to appreciate and honor the complexity and biodiversity of life, from the tiniest mayfly and caddis fly larvae of the river, from the magnificent towering pines that inhabit the forest, to the eagles, otters, coyotes that thrive in the watershed. The spirit of the River helps us better understand our place and connection to the web of life beyond our urban areas.

We will always remember and honor John, and all of the past environmental leaders, because it was their vision and tireless work that allows us to receive this treasure today. And it is up to us to continue that work, to build upon this strong foundation, protect this gift and pass it on to generations to come.

We have a big job to do. Threats to our watershed and to special areas everywhere are increasing. Friends of the Jordan will continue to speak out and organize against gas and oil drilling in sensitive areas, pipelines and injection wells on state land, selling state land for industrial use, burning trees for biomass energy, all of which threaten the integrity of our watershed and our environment as a whole.

Friends of the Jordan River Watershed will hold its annual meeting Saturday, November 7 at the Watershed Center in East Jordan. Notice and details forthcoming as the date nears.

FOJ is working with Wagbo Farm and Education Center on expanding programs to educate and involve our youth (featured in this newsletter). Our photo contest and calendar help showcase and celebrate the beauty of the Valley, while supporting FOJ's summer Young Friends program. We are working with numerous governmental agencies, environmental and community groups on erosion control and fish habitat improvement projects that will allow continued use of the river while maintaining a high-quality experience.

The FOJ board is developing a strategic plan to strengthen our committee work as a way to move forward with our long term goals. Strong committees will help us better involve members and the community in achieving our mission statement to protect the environmental quality of the Jordan River and its watershed.

Your help is needed to take FOJ to this next level. At the right is a list of committees and what those committees worked on over the past year. It is an impressive list. But to continue and expand these projects, we need volunteers.

If you have ideas or would like to help out on any of these committees, please contact us at foj@friendsofthejordan.org. or send us a message with contact information to P.O. Box 412, East Jordan, 49727. Or come to a board meeting, held the third Thursday of the month, 6:30 p.m., at the Watershed Center, 101 Union St., East Jordan. Together we can make a difference.

▶ FOJ COMMITTEES

Education Committee

1. Young Friends summer program
2. Young Friends monthly winter programs with Wagbo Farm and Education Center
3. Board pre-meeting programs/presentations
4. Involving members in committee work
5. Planning an annual membership meeting in November

Stewardship

1. Responding to threats to our watershed from gas and oil drilling, pipelines, biomass, etc.
2. Erosion control and bridge projects, improving fish habitat
3. Stream monitoring, macroinvertebrate sampling and identification for water quality testing
4. Adopt-A-Highway and river cleanups
5. Baseline water testing
6. Identifying watershed boundaries

Community Outreach

1. Newsletter
2. Calendar, photo contest, summer celebration
3. Website, expanding use of face book and other social media
4. Maintaining and better utilizing our mailing lists
5. Natural Rivers education outreach project

Finances

1. Maintain financial records, monthly finances
2. Develop a budget
3. Building maintenance



Seen any of these creatures lately? Or others like them? The Michigan DNR would like to know as it creates the first ever statewide inventory of reptiles and amphibians, the Herp Atlas Project. Photos above, by Lynne Goodwin, were all taken in the Jordan River Valley. Clockwise, from top left, they include a snapping turtle, northern water snake, red-backed salamander, and a green frog.

Michigan DNR Calling on Citizen Scientists to Contribute to the Herp Atlas Project

Michigan's Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is calling all citizen scientists to help collect vital information about Michigan's reptiles and amphibians. Anyone can help by reporting sightings of turtles, frogs, toads, snakes, salamanders and lizards in Michigan to the Herp Atlas Project at www.miherpatlas.org.

"We need Michigan's citizen scientists to send us information about the reptiles and amphibians they see," said Herp Atlas Project coordinator Lori Sargent. "We need information on all species, no matter how common or rare they are."

The Herp Atlas Project is the first statewide inventory of reptiles and amphibians ever conducted in Michigan. Its purpose is to document the distribution of Michigan's reptiles and amphibians, collectively known as herpetofauna or "herps." Observations will be an ongoing effort, and data collected will be mapped to evaluate species' distribution over the entire state.

"With continued effort, we can document changes in herp popula-

tions," added Sargent. "The atlas will also serve as a baseline for looking at distribution changes."

The Herp Atlas Project recently held its first Herpathon, a volunteer event to identify amphibian and reptile diversity and distribution within Michigan's unique landscapes.

To learn more about Michigan's amphibians and reptiles, visit www.michigan.gov/wildlife and click "Wildlife Species." Find additional citizen science projects by clicking on Wild Science. Or interested parties can email SargentL@michigan.gov, call 517.284.6216 or write to DNR Wildlife Division, Herp Atlas, P.O. Box 30444, Lansing, MI 48909.

The Herp Atlas Project is managed by Herpetological Resource and Management. Citizen scientists can enter their sightings online at www.miherpatlas.org. There is also a mobile app available for download from the website to make field reporting quick and easy. The Mobile Mapper is available for Android and iOS (Apple) devices.

Harbor Springs Third Stop on the Enbridge Tar Sands Resistance Tour

FOJ board members Joanne Beemon and David Peterson attended the Tour stop held April 16 at the Little Traverse Bay Bands' Governmental Center in Harbor Springs. First Nations speaker Eriel Deranger related stories (via Skype) from Alberta Canada about their indigenous tar sands fight. An elected member of LTBB shared their perspective on the Enbridge-owned Line 5, the aging pipelines running under the Straits of Mackinac, and their resolution asking for the decommissioning of Line 5. Jim Lively, Michigan Land Use Institute, spoke about local resistance of Line 5. Phil Bellfy, Article 32.org, related his efforts in legal action against Line 5. Rebecca Glotfley presented a film that she had produced of line 6B, also owned by Enbridge, that ruptured and contaminated the Kalamazoo River. Valerie Jean and Lisa Leggio from MI-CATS (The Michigan Coalition Against Tar Sands) spoke about direct action in opposition of all tar sands development and infrastructure expansion.

Everyone agreed that the direct action for Line 5 under the Straits of Mackinac is the decommissioning of this line.

Andy Pearson, MN350.org, spoke about climate literacy and tar sands. Shane Davis, fractivist.org, spoke about the 54,000 fracking wells in Colorado. Winona LaDuke, Honor the Earth (White Earth Reservation/Minnesota) spoke about the fight against tar sands and stopping the proposed Sandpiper line which would carry the highly volatile Bakken Crude Oil through Minnesota to Superior, Wisconsin. Kendall Mackey, Energy Action Coalition, also spoke.

— David Peterson

Editor's note: For more information on actions challenging Enbridge's Straits of Mackinac pipelines, visit www.oilandwaterdontmix.org

Jordan River Action Group (JRAG) Now Their Own 501(c)(3) Organization

The Jordan River Action Group (JRAG) took a big step recently with IRS approval of their 501(c)(3) charitable organization designation. The new status means JRAG will be able to solicit tax deductible contributions to their efforts to keep the Jordan River corridor clean.

The group's immediate need is 3,000 river bags, mesh sacks for river enthusiasts to store their trash or pick up someone else's trash as they paddle the river. Bags will be placed at Graves, Old State, Webster, and Rogers bridges' crossings.

Businesses interested in underwriting the cost of the bags can have their name on the bags in quarter, third, or half page splits, or on a full bag. For more information and pricing, contact JRAG Secretary Daneen Dunnette at 231.620.4701.

Though the group has operated ad hoc since it came together several years ago, JRAG formed its first board of directors last fall, and will eventually have a website.

"For the present we are focused on keeping the Jordan River as clean as possible, with help from all who enjoy our area," said JRAG President Tom "Tinker" Breakey.

Breakey also urged those who see or hear of tampering at their four stations to call 911, noting there have been several incidents in recent years.

Additional board members include Tressa Youmans, treasurer [231.675.4707]; and trustees Tinea Spence [231.675.5592] and Gerry Argetsinger [231.582.7970]. Those interested in more information are invited to call any board member at the numbers above, or Tom Breakey at 231.536.7892.

Friends of the Jordan River Watershed has assisted and encouraged JRAG since their formative years. The FOJ wishes JRAG the best as it works to keep the Jordan River clean.



PHOTO / TIM GOODWIN

Addressing Soil Erosion on the Jordan

FOJ efforts to remedy one of the Jordan River's serious erosion problems were finally realized this past year at DTE Energy's underground and under river pipeline crossing north of Old State Rd. Work was completed at the site by a continuing education class for Michigan Certified Natural Shoreline Professionals through Michigan State University and assisted by Heidi Shaffer, Antrim County soil erosion control officer and FOJ board member.

The site had become a familiar, though undesignated, stop for recreational paddlers, unfortunately seriously eroding the banks. Campfires atop the natural gas pipeline were not uncommon. The Certified Natural Shoreline Professional (CNSP) training and certification program promotes the use of green landscaping technologies and bioengineered erosion control, which were employed at the pipeline crossing.

Materials and costs were covered by a donation from DTE Energy and funds through a grant from the Michigan Fly Fishing Club.



PHOTO / ANNE ZUKOWSKI

FOJ members collected macroinvertebrates recently from Jordan River sites at Pinney Bridge and Rogers roads, as part of Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council's stream monitoring program for Northern Michigan. At top, Lynne Goodwin and John Teesdale sort macroinvertebrate insects, while at right Anne Zukowski collects them from the river.



PHOTO / JOHN TEESDALE

Fundraising Continues for New Bridge over the Jordan

The Conservation Resource Alliance (CRA) and its partners continue to secure funding for a new bridge at Old State Road over the Jordan River.

A total of \$300,000 in grants of the estimated \$850,000 project had been committed by late 2014, which included \$50,000 from the Charlevoix County Community Foundation, \$150,000 from Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundation, and \$100,000 from Frey Founda-

New grant requests include the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation through their Sustain Our Great Lakes Program, and the Great Lakes Fishery Trust.

“Unfortunately, embankment erosion and slumping continues at the outlet,” noted Project Leader and CRA Biologist Kim Balke.

The project would replace two aging culverts with a clear span bridge, returning the Jordan River to a near nat-

ural state, while resolving erosion and safety concerns at the popular landing.

Michigan DNR’s Richard Hill, district supervisor of the Parks and Recreation Division, indicated recently that the DNR has “a general idea of the direction we want to go” for a rivercraft landing at the site, and “hope to put our ideas to paper very soon.”

The FOJ has long maintained a new site should be in place before construction begins.

ONCE UPON A TIME

from the May 23, 1941

Charlevoix County Herald

Guide Demonstration Project Builds Fishermen's Rest Shelters

The Guide Project which is sponsored by the City of East Jordan, has been up the Jordan River building fishermen's rest shelters for the use of fishermen to rest and cook their meals on the way down stream. Each of these shelters has a stove, table, and seats. The first one is completed and located $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile down-stream from Webster's bridge.

The Guide Unit, in their time off from building shelters, has, under the supervision of Supervisor Dent Ward and Foreman J. Warne Davis, been repairing boats and fishing rods. Irvin Reed, the project Taxidermist, who is licensed for this work, has been doing quite an amount of marine taxidermy, largely on fish.

The Guide Demonstration Project is considered by many people to be one of the most educational projects on the WPA program. If necessary, this project could be turned into a defense project, making snow shoes and skis for the use of the government.

Through the willing co-operation of the City, this project was able to turn out a large number of snow shoes, landing nets, and fishing creels during the past winter.

Young Friends

Continued from page one

meet on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays for two weeks, from 10am to 4pm. Session I begins July 6; Session II, July 20. We have doubled the daily program time from previous years in order to accommodate more of our favorite activities and allow a more relaxed pace.

Through daily activities at the Watershed Center and a different field trip each day, the Young Friends build relationships with each other and the beautiful Jordan Valley itself. The goal? To elicit the feeling that we are all a part of the landscape, and to encourage caring through this connection with a place. A lofty one perhaps. To put it in different terms, I hope that the Young Friends go away with a sense that 1) they live within (or have spent time in) a unique watershed that is way cool and 2) that they had a great time finding that out.

The Young Friends will get to explore the Jordan River Watershed from the well-trodden overlooks to the less visited “secret” treasures of the Valley found just off the beaten path. We’ll play the part of adventurer, observer, naturalist, protector, and as children, we’ll just play.

Daily activities are designed to suit many interests and the many avenues to experience the Valley: through recreation, by thoughtfully harvesting resources for food and dye, as artist or writer, with the open mind of a tourist and keen observer. We’ll honor a perspective of environmental protection, through nurturing a love of our surroundings.

I am super excited to be returning to Friends of the Jordan, this year as the Young Friends Program Director. And we are thrilled to have Maria Wesslerle coming on board as Program Assistant. As a former resident of the Jordan River Valley currently residing in Minneapolis, Maria joyfully returns bringing her years of nature study, tracking skills, sustainable foraging and programming experience. We look forward to working together for the Young Friends Program.

Sign up early — we have a limit for each session of 20 participants.

NOTABLE

FOJ board member **Heidi Shaffer** and **Kim Balke** of the Conservation Resource Alliance addressed the Rotary Club of East Jordan in February about the proposed new bridge over the Jordan River on Old State Rd.

* * *

FOJ Board members **JoAnne Beemon** and **Dave Peterson** attended an Oil & Water Don't Mix presentation in Harbor Springs challenging Enbridge's "Line 5" oil pipelines under the Straits of Mackinac. More information at www.oilandwaterdontmix.org

* * *

The **Charlevoix Area Spinning and Weaving Guild** met at the Watershed Center in April. The FOJ makes the center available to area nonprofit groups.

* * *

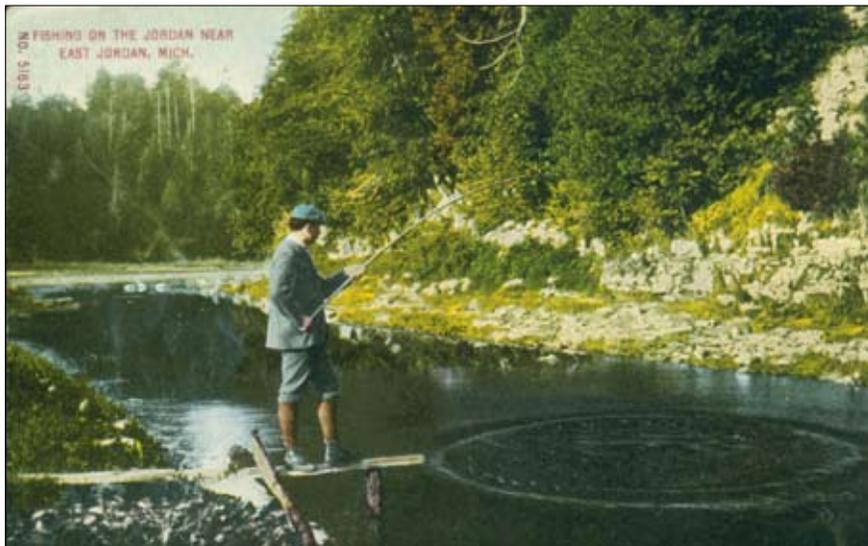
Thanks as always to member and webmaster **Jack Moran**; board member **Steve Umlor** for his care of the Watershed Center; and member **Lynne Goodwin** for organizing FOJ's Adopt-A-Highway effort.

* * *

FOJ Vice President **Tim Goodwin** represented the FOJ at **Leadership Charlevoix County's** Environment and Natural Resources Day at Raven Hill Discovery Center in April. The group of emerging leaders also visited the FOJ's Jordan River Watershed Center.

* * *

Change of address, change of circumstances? Let the FOJ know at foj@friendsofthejordan.org and we'll make the changes to our mailing list.



The Jordan, 115 years ago

This postcard, dated October 24, 1910, apparently was sent in an envelope, since the entire other side is given to correspondence. It starts "Dear Friend," and includes this passage, "Places such as is shown on this card are quite common on the Jordan. If you can come out you could take some pictures along the river and lake that would surely please you I know." That would be Pine Lake, as Lake Charlevoix was called until 1926. Had it been mailed as a postcard, it would have cost 1¢ in the United States, 2¢ foreign. From the collection of Tim and Lynne Goodwin.

Photography Contest

from back cover

Deadline for entries is Monday, August 3, 2015. Winning entries will be published in the 2016 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.

Proceeds from entry fees and Calendar sales help support our Young Friends Summer programs.

Photography Contest Celebration and Exhibit will be on Saturday, September 19, 2015, 1-4 p.m. at the Jordan River Watershed Center. Music/Food and beverages/Awards/Free to the public.

*Visit the FOJ website at www.friendsofthejordan.org for entry forms and complete details. 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

Young Friends
Summer Program
Beginning Soon!
See inside this
issue.



*We let a river shower
its banks with a spirit
that invades the people
living there, and we
protect that river,
knowing that without
its blessings the people
have no source of soul.*

- Thomas Moore

Announcing the 11th Annual 'Visions of the Valley' Photography Contest

**This year's Theme: 'The Jordan River,
Up Close and Personal'**

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 (available online) and \$5.00 per entry fee. Youth may enter up to two photos for free. Photographers may 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, President's Choice and Viewers Choice.



2015 Calendar Cover Photo by Preston Cole

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