

JORDAN VALLEY VOICES

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF THE JORDAN RIVER WATERSHED • SPRING/SUMMER 2017



PHOTO: KIM BALKE / CRA

NEARING COMPLETION. Work continues on the new Chestonia Bridge over the Jordan River at Old State Rd. with the laying of seven reinforced concrete beams the end of May. The \$1.27 million dollar project, begun the end of February, replaces two aging, undersized culverts with a clear span concrete bridge, marking a milestone in restoring the Jordan to a free flowing river. Construction is being handled through the Antrim County Road Commission, following a

successful fundraising campaign led by the Conservation Resource Alliance. The new bridge could open in early July. Paddlers are advised to check the road commission website at www.antrimcrc.org for occasions when the Jordan may be closed to river traffic due to construction. Michigan Department of Natural Resources is working on an adjacent public access site at the southwest corner on state-owned land that will include parking, toilet and launch facilities.

Calley McPherson Named First Recipient of Dr. John Richter Memorial Scholarship

Graduating East Jordan High School student Calley McPherson became the first recipient of the Dr. John Richter Memorial Scholarship, given this spring by the Friends of the Jordan River Watershed to honor the late founding member and president for many years of the FOJ.

The scholarship will be awarded annually to a graduating senior from EJHS, who will be continuing on to study environmental issues. The scholarship is for \$1000.

“Earning this scholarship from a group

that is enacting literally everything I’ve ever wanted to do with my life is an incredible opportunity,” said Calley. “It’s truly an honor that I’m excited to have received.”

Calley has been accepted into Michigan State University’s environmental engineering program for the fall. She already has earned some college credit while in high school, and last year was accepted into the Jordan River Fish Hatchery’s Youth Conservation Corps, where she spent the summer as a student intern

See Scholarship — page 5





CHILLY IT MAY have been, but at least the rain held off that last Sunday in April, as FOJ volunteers tackled their two-mile stretch of M-66 by the Green River in the first of three Michigan Adopt-A-Highway pickups planned for 2017. From left above are Tim Goodwin, Gena King, Kevin King, Jinny Heick, Mitchell Heick, David Heick, Bill Webb, Jeanni Gaymer, Rich Dietrich and Lynne Goodwin. This marks the 17th year the Friends of the Jordan River Watershed has participated in the Michigan Department of Transportation program.

UP AND COMING

Sunday, July 23, 10 a.m. Adopt-A-Highway pickup. Meet at Pinney Bridge Rd. and M-66.

Monday, July 31. Photography Contest Deadline. See details last page.

Saturday, September 23, 2 p.m. Annual Photography Contest, Exhibit and release of the 2018 "Visions of the Valley" calendar.

Sunday, September 24, 11 a.m. Adopt-A-Highway pickup. Meet at Pinney Bridge Rd. and M-66.

2017 Board Meetings — **3rd Thursday of every month** [except December]. 6:30-8:00 p.m. Jordan River Watershed Center. Members and public welcome.

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

NOTABLE

Many thanks to **Jen Lewis**, who has led FOJ's Young Friends of the Jordan program in recent years, putting some experiential fun into learning about our Watershed. Jen has decided to step down this year. We wish her the best.

Welcome to **Bill Webb**, who recently joined the FOJ Board of Directors.

Thanks to the **Jordan River Action Group** and **Jordan Valley Lions Club** for maintaining trash and returnable receptacles at the landings along the river. See more about their efforts, page 5.

FOJ President **Dave Peterson** represented the FOJ at **Leadership**

Charlevoix County's Environmental and Natural Resources Day at Raven Hill Discovery Center this spring. The group also visited the Watershed Center.

Congratulations to **Thomas Clement**, recently named District Manager for the Antrim Conservation District. Tom had been invasive species coordinator.

The **FOJ** and **Jordan Valley Outfitters** in East Jordan are teaming up once again this year to offer FOJ members a special discount, just to say thanks for being a member.

FOJ members can save **25% off** any weekday rental, between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m., on kayaks, canoes, or raft rentals. It's good until Labor Day.

Jordan Valley Outfitters offers a number of put-in, take-out options, dependent this summer on new bridge construction over the Jordan on Old State Rd. Discounts for sunrise and sunset hours may be available also. Contact Jordan Valley Outfitters for specifics.

To reserve your trip and rental craft, visit Jordan Valley Outfitters' website at www.jvoutfitters.com, or call their office at 231.536.0006. Be sure to reference coupon code FOJJVO7 to receive the discount. JVO staff are often tending trips with other clients, so don't hesitate to leave a message.

And, thanks again for being a member of the FOJ.



101 Union St. • PO Box 412
East Jordan MI 49727

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."

Young Friends Heads to Raven Hill this Summer

The FOJ's Young Friends summer program will take a different tack this summer as it partners with Raven Hill Discovery Center in presenting Nature Lovers Camp, July 17-21, a summer camp for nature enthusiasts ages 4-14.

The Nature Lovers Camp will take place on the Raven Hill campus, daily that week from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Campers will learn about the watershed's natural areas, from creeks to ponds to woods. They will create art with elements from nature, practice survival skills, and more as they learn about our natural environment. Special rates for the Nature Lovers Camp are \$90 for the week, or \$20 a day.

Campers will receive a reusable water bottle and a lightweight backpack to hold their camp gear. They will also receive an entry for each day they're there for a free family rafting trip down the Jordan River, provided by the FOJ through Jordan Valley Outfitters.

Campers will need to provide sunscreen, hat, bug spray, closed toed shoes for hiking and a change of clothes for when they get wet. Simple sandwich fixings will be available for lunch, or campers may bring a bag lunch.

Campers can register at the Raven Hill Discovery Center, 04737 Fuller Rd., East Jordan, or by calling 231.536.3369.

Raven Hill also offers options in childcare before and/or after camp to accommodate schedules.

A limited number of camp scholarships will be available through the FOJ.



PHOTO: ANNE ZUKOWSKI

Monitoring the Jordan No Contamination Found Related to Fracking

As FOJ President David Peterson outlined in the last issue, the FOJ has implemented a proactive program of water quality monitoring in our continuing efforts to monitor and protect the remarkable Jordan River Watershed. Efforts to monitor and protect this unique ecosystem and clean water source are made possible by the continuing financial support of FOJ members.

In 2016, Friends of the Jordan River Watershed contracted with Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council to conduct water quality monitoring to screen for impacts related to hydraulic fracturing operations within the Jordan River Watershed. Monitoring efforts were aimed at detecting any hydraulic fracturing-related contamination present in water or sediment at four locations throughout the Watershed.

Field activities consisted of water sample collection, physical water quality data collection via a hydrolab multiparameter sonde, and measurement of stream discharge. Sediment samples were collected at each monitoring site. All samples were sent to SOS Analytical in Traverse City. Sampling was completed September 19, 2016. Sampling was conducted during an extended period of dry weather to capture conditions when most of the river's flow was supplied by groundwater inputs, as opposed to runoff from rain events. Data entry and management, analysis, and report writing took place during early 2017 at the Watershed Council office in Petoskey.

Among the report's findings:

Results indicate that the Jordan River is

free of contamination related to hydraulic fracturing. Concentrations of some potential indicators are low and considered to be within the range considered to be natural for Northern Michigan rivers and streams. Methane and chloride are two examples of contaminants found in the environment under natural conditions, and whose concentration can be greatly increased when contamination from hydraulic fracturing takes place.

Gasoline and diesel range organic hydrocarbons, and oil/grease, are not naturally present in the environment, and were, for the most part, not detected in this study. A trace amount of gasoline range hydrocarbons was found in sediment in the Jordan River at Fair Road, likely originating from automobiles or other non-hydraulic fracturing activities.

A baseline of non-contamination has been established for the Jordan River Watershed. As the data collected by this project ages, it will carry less weight as a baseline. It is recommended that Friends of the Jordan River Watershed, as well as other organizations, remain vigilant against threats to water quality, such as hydraulic fracturing. Sharing the results of this study, and repeating this study prior to any hydraulic fracturing operations is recommended to ensure an accurate and valid baseline is established.

Continued and sustained public financial and volunteer support is vital to these efforts of monitoring and protecting the Jordan River Watershed, a rare ecological watershed in all the world. Please join our efforts.

Pipelines, Renewables and Clean Energy

By ANNE ZUKOWSKI

Data continue to mount exposing the potential for a catastrophic rupture of the Line 5 oil pipeline under the Straits of Mackinac. The aging 64-year-old twin pipelines, owned by Enbridge, transport 23 million gallons of oil daily through Michigan, 95 percent going to refineries in eastern Canada and sale on the international market. A rupture or leak in Line 5 spewing toxic oil into Lakes Michigan and Huron, especially in winter when the Straits are ice-covered, would impact not only fish and wildlife, but drinking water and jobs for millions within the Great Lakes watershed.

A National Wildlife Federation report written by retired DOW Chemical engineer Dr. Ed Timm demonstrates peak or maximum current speeds in the Straits are nearly double what engineers planned for in 1952 when the pipelines were built. "These peak current events have been calculated to apply enough force to the pipelines to permanently bend and fatigue exposed sections of the pipe..." said Dr. Timm, who concluded, "we are one peak current event away from catastrophic failure."

In a report released to the EPA last September, Enbridge specifically identified and mapped 19 areas, called "holidays," oil and gas industry euphemism for open areas on pipelines where anticorrosion protective coating has eroded or fallen off. At the Snyder-appointed Pipeline Safety Advisory Board (PSAB) meeting in Lansing on March 13, Kurt Baraniecki, Enbridge Director of Integrity claimed the reference to "holidays" was "merely hypothetical" and claimed "I believe this pipeline is in as good of condition as it was on the day it was installed." Over 300 people attended this PSAB meeting, many traveling from northern Michigan, to voice opposition to the continued use of the pipeline under the Straits. Comments can be sent to the Michigan Petroleum Pipelines website at mipetroleumpipelines.com/contact-us.

IN OTHER MICHIGAN PIPELINE NEWS, a US District Court judge ruled in March that Energy Transfer Rover Pipeline can immediately seize private property using eminent domain to construct a natural gas pipeline for transport of natural gas through southeastern Michigan to its final destination in Sarnia, Ontario. Eminent domain was originally designed to allow the government to take private property in rare cases involving public interest projects, such as roads. However it is increasingly used to expropriate private and public property to benefit corporate profits and interests and has been used extensively to build the Keystone and Dakota Access pipelines.



Growing world demand for gas and oil means more drilling, fracking and pipeline construction, which threatens our communities, health, national parks, wildlife and environment. Wood-burning biomass threatens to devastate our forests. It is only a matter of time before our Jordan River Valley is impacted in irreparable ways. Government subsidies to gas, oil and wood-burning biomass must end and we must transition to renewable wind and solar energy.

OVER 87,000 MICHIGANDERS WORK IN CLEAN ENERGY and the potential exists for thousands more jobs, as solar and wind energy prices continue to drop. In the first three months of 2016, the US electrical grid

added 70 times the amount of new energy capacity from renewable sources (mostly wind and solar) than it did from natural gas. No new capacity was added to the grid from coal, oil or nuclear power generation (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, "Energy Infrastructure Update"). Gas and oil extraction and transport continues to grow, however, because huge profits can be made through exports and sale on the international market.

A recent study from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) showed the technology already exists for the widespread use of renewable energy. "With existing transmission technology and use of the whole 48 states...we're ready right now to have a national system that has the same electric costs as today, with as much as 80 percent less carbon and just as reliable," explained Alexander MacDonald, co-author of the report.

What is needed now is the political will and initiative to make it happen on a large scale.

THE SIERRA CLUB LAUNCHED A PROMISING INITIATIVE in April called "Mayors for 100% Clean Energy." Mayors are asked to sign a pledge which states in part, "I believe that a transition to 100% clean energy is good for my community: It will make us stronger, healthier, and more resilient; it will create jobs and new business opportunities..." A copy of the resolution and participating cities (including Atlanta GA, Los Angeles, Boulder CO) can be found at mayors4cleanenergy@sierraclub.org. Michigan cities who have pledged to transition include Ann Arbor, Lansing, East Lansing, Grand Rapids (on track to meet their goals by 2020), Ferndale, and most recently, Traverse City and Petoskey.

Working together towards ending destructive energy extraction and use, and transitioning to solar, wind and energy efficiency may be one of the most important tasks we can participate in to protect the Jordan River Watershed and our surrounding communities.

Scholarship

Continued from page 1

doing conservation work and maintenance throughout the Jordan Valley.

She is the daughter of Scott and Alice McPherson of Elmira.

“From my love for the trees grew a passion for the environment that has only grown stronger with age,” Calley wrote in her scholarship application. “As I learned more about the natural world around me, the more dedicated I was to protecting and preserving it.”

“I love the environment, and nothing is more important to me than protecting it,” Calley says. The Friends of the Jordan River Watershed couldn’t agree more.

The Dr. John Richter Memorial Scholarship was created by the Board of the Friends of the Jordan River Watershed in 2017, to be given annually to a college-bound East Jordan High School graduate who will be studying environmental engineering, marine biology, conservation, watershed management, water quality, fisheries, biology, geology, horticulture, veterinary science or similar major.

Dr. Richter was instrumental in the formation of the Friends of the Jordan River Watershed in 1990, and led the FOJ as its president for many years. He was also the only veterinarian many area pets and injured wildlife ever knew during the three decades he practiced in East Jordan, until his death in 2014.



PHOTO: MIKE HEICK

BIRD’S EYE VIEW. Soaring high above the Jordan River Watershed Center, drone operator Mike Heick pilots his quadcopter over the Watershed Center grounds, offering a view that humans on the ground can never catch. Mike lent his talents and drone to the FOJ this spring for a series of photo stills and video of the grounds as the FOJ prepares for the next step in ridding the area of invasive buckthorn and creating a garden-like area behind the Center. Thanks Mike.

JRAG and Lions Tackle the Jordan River

With another big year behind them, the Jordan River Action Group (JRAG) will be at it again this season, collecting returnables and trash from receptacles at the landings along the Jordan River. Caretakers of the totes again will be the Jordan Valley Lions Club.

Last year’s efforts netted 120-plus bags of trash, and 12,000 returnable cans and bottles. Funds collected through the pickups by the Lions support their programs.

JRAG President Tom Breakey is putting out the call for fundraising ideas,

and/or donations for supplies for the independent nonprofit organization. Donations are tax deductible. Contact Jordan River Action Group, PO Box 215, East Jordan, MI 49727.

Since it began in 2009, JRAG has accounted for more than 1100 bags of trash and collected over 100,000 cans and bottles. Breakey credits the late Sherman Thomas for the feat, having promised his wife Peggy that he would do whatever it took to keep the Jordan River clean. JRAG is carrying the promise forward.

STAY IN TOUCH WITH YOUR RIVER. SUPPORT THE FOJ.

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 _____

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- \$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

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



PO Box 412
East Jordan, MI 49727



*'A river sings a holy song
conveying the mysterious
truth that we are a river,
and if we are ignorant
of this natural law,
we are lost.'*

— **THOMAS MOORE,**
*The Re-Enchantment
of Everyday Life*

Announcing the 13th Annual 'Visions of the Valley' Photography Contest: The Magic of the Jordan

This won't be a surprise to lovers of the Jordan River Watershed, but there is a magic to the Jordan, Michigan's first 'natural and scenic river.' So this year, the Friends of the Jordan River Watershed is inviting photographers of all ages and skills to look for "The Magic of the Jordan" in the "Visions of the Valley" Photography Contest.



More than \$1200 and 14 awards will be presented, including Grand Prize, Youth, President's Choice and Viewers' Choice. Photographs chosen will appear as a page in the FOJ's annual "Visions of the Valley" calendar for 2018. Proceeds from calendar sales support FOJ activities.

The rules are simple. All photographs must be taken in the Jordan River Watershed. Open to all. Simply enter an unmatted 8" x 10" horizontal print, a \$5 per photo entry fee and entry form, available online at friendsofthejordan.org, where you'll also find complete contest details. Photographers may enter as many times as they want. Youth 18 and under may enter two photos for free. **Submission deadline is Monday, July 31.**

Awards will be presented at the FOJ's annual Photography Contest Celebration and Exhibit, with the release of the 2018 "Visions of the Valley" calendar, on Saturday, September 23, 1-4 p.m. at the Jordan River Watershed Center in East Jordan.