

JORDAN VALLEY VOICES

OUT OF SIGHT, OUT OF MIND

How long does it take for the substance of a mountain to be eroded by the forces of nature and washed to the sea?

In this case the mountain represents the huge piles of cement kiln dust, 2.5 million cubic yards of hazardous waste, improperly buried and hidden underground at Bay Harbor and East Park.

The forces of nature eroding this mountain of hazardous waste are groundwater, irrigation and, to a lesser extent, precipitation. As water percolates through these waste piles it is transformed into an even more toxic brew, CKD leachate.

This toxic leachate, so potent it can kill or maim on contact, then flows not to the sea but into the largest body of fresh water on the planet, the Great Lakes, along the shores of a posh resort and township park.

The currently approved cleanup plans being proffered by CMS attempt to intercept the leachate before it enters the lake or shoreline, neutralize its highly caustic pH with sulfuric acid and truck it off site for disposal. CMS hopes to transport and then pump 135,000 gallons of this toxic substance into a "deep" injection well near Alba every day. Alba, a quiet un-zoned rural community with limited financial resources, lies on top of the Northern Michigan Aquifer, which feeds some of our most revered rivers and the Jordan River Watershed. Any mistake, leak, miscalculation or spill in the transport or transfer of this highly toxic leachate could contaminate this pristine aquifer and have far reaching, devastating effects that would be impossible to correct.

We have identified many flaws in the cleanup methods CMS has installed and in those being proposed. These proposed methods don't solve the problems at Bay Harbor. They merely transfer them to a distant pristine location and pass responsibility for them along future generations.

Our calculations show that it would take thousands of years to complete this cleanup under the current plans. **Thousands of years!** That means operating the high maintenance collection systems, diversion wells, flow-lines, sump pumps, forced mains and the like for perpetuity. That's like almost forever! How many tanker trucks and miles logged on our county roads will this take? How many more injection wells will be needed? Calculate one million gallons of toxic leachate per week, collected, neutralized, transported and pumped down the Alba well over thousands of years. How much is that?... Incalculable. Trace amounts of toxic heavy metals become tons when the variables of time and volume are factored in. This is especially important with toxins that are persistent in the environment like PCB's and dioxins or those that bioaccumulate like mercury.

The plans CMS has for cleaning up Bay Harbor and East Park are not sustainable, realistic or cost effective. They are therefore irresponsible and unethical. It is immoral to pass these toxic problems on to future generations, risk polluting our priceless surface and groundwater resources and divert untold volumes of water away from Little Traverse Bay.

Continued on page 2

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Watershed, Inc.*

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Alba Well Statement</i>	1
<i>Owl Eyes and Deer Ears</i>	3
<i>Solar Water Heater</i>	4
<i>FOJ Updates</i>	5
<i>2009 Events</i>	6
<i>Stewardship Activities</i>	7
<i>Young Friends Program</i>	8



Jan Korthase

OUT OF SIGHT, OUT OF MIND CONTINUED FROM Pg 1

Our cleanup plan is simple. It is what should have been done in the first place before any development took place and before the former owner was let off the hook for the wastes he left behind. Our plan solves the problems once and for all in a timely and cost effective manner without the risk of contaminating other places. **Entomb the CKD in impervious cells at Bay Harbor.** "Isolate and contain..." the CKD just like the 2005 EPA Order says. (And to which CMS agreed.

The process of entombment is widely used worldwide and not much different from building a standard hazardous waste landfill. To begin, a hole is excavated next to one end of a CKD pile. The location of the piles is well known. The hole is then lined with a material that is impervious to water and CKD, which will last forever. Next, excavate a portion of the adjacent CKD pile and place it into the lined hole or cell. Once the cell is full, cap it with the same material as the liner and proceed to line the newly created hole in the same manner as the first. Sequentially repeat the process until all the CKD is entombed.

This simple containment process halts the ebb and flow of water through the CKD piles and stops the generation of toxic leachate. Once complete there will be little or no need to truck leachate anywhere. There will be no need for injection wells in anybody's watershed. The lake and shoreline will be safe and the property owners at Bay Harbor can rest assured that their investments are secure. In addition, there is a cement plant just down the road that may be able to provide construction materials, create jobs and safely dispose of some of the leachate during the manufacturing and construction process.

The entombment of CKD could be completed in just a few years and work performed year-round, off season in a sequential manner, lessening the eye-sore

and minimizing the footprint. It will involve digging up the golf course and some other areas but only temporarily and not all at once. The CKD would only need to be moved short distances and the work requires just simple excavating equipment.

We concede that there could be resistance to this plan and engineering challenges to overcome. But the merits of simplicity, costs and finality of this plan far, far outweigh the perils of the unacceptable methods currently being deployed. The costs of our plan, when factored over time, are a mere fraction of what CMS currently proposes and there is almost no risk of contaminating other places.

The recent ruling by the 13th Circuit Court of Antrim County, issuing a temporary injunction against the drilling of the Alba injection well, was a clear and convincing victory for property rights, public health and the environment. We are at a crossroads. For the first time the Alba well is off the table, albeit temporarily. We have a new opportunity to seriously consider sane alternative methods for the cleanup at Bay Harbor and East Park. If CMS adopted this plan we propose we would endorse it and assist in its implementation. We hope those with decision authority will reconsider and recognize the **risks, costs and futility** of pursuing their present course. CMS has the power to stop this train wreck and spare themselves and everybody else a great deal of grief. In the mean time, until that decision is made, we must remain vigilant and viable to ensure proper alternatives are seriously considered. We ask for and need your support in this endeavor.

Dr. John W. Richter
President,
Friends of the Jordan River Watershed
Chairman, POWER Coalition

HOW CAN I HELP?

Learn the FACTS about the proposed well and discuss it intelligently with friends and neighbors

Stay informed through forums, the website, articles.

Attend Forums and public hearings to learn more and voice your concerns and support.

Write your legislators, editors, business contacts about your concerns.

Ask about your local candidates position, advocate for their support and VOTE

Post a sign in your yard voicing your support. They are available at the Watershed Center.

Participate in Fundraisers and donate to the Alba Legal Action Fund. Attorney fees will be significant with a 6 day trial planned for the fall!



Owl-Eyes and Deer-Ears

“By climbing up into his head and shutting out every voice but his own, “civilized man” has gone deaf. He can’t hear the wolf calling him brother; he can’t hear the earth calling him child.”

Ursula LeGuin

I tell myself stories. I tell myself that people don’t understand me, that certain problems in my life can be unsolvable, that I don’t have the money to pay the bills, that I have made too many mistakes in my life. I tell myself loud, self-depreciating, soul-harming stories. It gets really noisy in my head. Sometimes, I tell myself stories about other people. I talk to myself about how they make me mad. I tell myself that, if I could, I would tell them this, and I would tell them that. I have told off many people while standing in the shower or driving my car, including myself and the past President of the United States! Noise. I also mull over problems in my head. How do I fix this? How do I solve that? More noise.

I really needed a break from the noise in my head. I had a vague childhood memory of a certain peace that I felt in the woods, so there I went. But the noise followed me. I walked past laughing Rivers, under stately Beeches and flaming Maples and through tangles of Vines, only to carry my stories and noise with me. My inner chatter ruined my walk in the woods.

I had to learn how to quiet my head. I sought out many teachers, and tried many practices. I found that it didn’t work to just tell myself not to think about certain things. I had to learn what to do “instead”. I am going to share with you those things...those things that I learned to do “instead” of making “head noise”:

I practice gratitude. The Wilderness Awareness School begins each session with a prayer of Thanksgiving to Mother Earth, Brother Sun, Grandmother Moon, and all the beings. I learned to thank the Tree Nation, the Star Nation, the Plant People, the animals, the birds, and everyone else we share the planet with. This helps me remember my place in the web, in the community of life. This helps me notice the others, so that I can learn from them. It changes the lens through which I see the world.

I breathe a lot. When the noise is interfering with what I am experiencing, I breathe. Try it. Notice your breath. Ask yourself, “Where does my breath end and the atmosphere begin?” Hold your hand in front of your nose, and see how far out your breath reaches. How far into you does the atmosphere reach? Are you really separate?



Photo by Len Schneider

I practice Owl-Eyes and Deer-Ears.

An owl has excellent peripheral vision. What can you see if you notice what is in your peripheral vision? Hold your hands out to your sides, and bring them slowly forward until you can see them in your side view. How

much can you see? What do you see? A deer turns her ears to the direction of sound. What happens when you “turn” your ears? What do you hear? Where does the sound come from? What does the sound mean? How many different sounds can you identify?

I practice walking quietly, and I practice silence. I sit a lot. Have you noticed that wet leaves are quieter than dry leaves? That if you sit in one place for a long time, you will see more wildlife? That the birds will be quieter if you are moving (after their initial cry of warning), but will resume their speech when you are still and quiet?

I ask a lot of questions. Where does this water go? Where was it before it was here? Why is the bark peeled off this tree? What made that disturbance in the leaf litter? What IS dirt, anyway?

I am learning to change what is in my head. I am learning to see myself as part of the Great Web, and not separate from it. The more I am able to go into the woods and experience the Web, the better I like the stories I tell myself. And, it is a lot quieter in my head.

By Stacy Jo Chipman

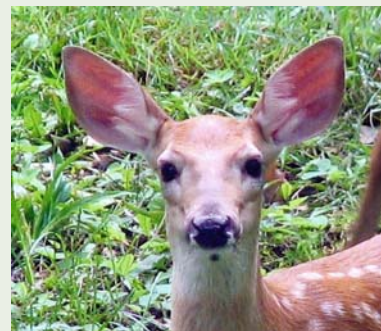


Photo by Paul Keiser

SMALL STEPS TOWARD A GREENER TOMORROW

My wife, Cheryl and I, live on a 40 acre homestead in Jordan Township, Antrim Co. We are, like many others, working at making our lifestyle more environmentally protective of the planet. Over the years we've made progress in some areas: recycling, cutting phantom loads, reducing to one vehicle, CF light bulbs, wood heat, etc. We know these efforts are only a small beginning to what is needed in helping heal and sustain our planet.

Four years ago we decided to look more seriously at alternative energy for our home use. After reading reams of literature and attending the Michigan Alternative Energy Fair in Onkama, we decided our first step would be to install a solar water heater.

Attending the energy fair turned out to be pivotal in fostering our confidence to move ahead with our plans. We met several excellent energy experts who helped us decide on an appropriate system and chose an experienced, reliable installer. They were fully knowledgeable about the latest innovations in this rapidly evolving field and walked us carefully through the all important Federal Energy Tax Credit information. August 2005 was chosen as the installation date.

The installation took 2 days and went without a hitch. The collector is an Evacuated-Tube Solar Collector which sets in our backyard approximately 60 ft. from the house. This type of collector is particularly suited to our Northern Michigan climate and is charged with antifreeze which circulates through a heat exchanger fitted into a 65 gal. insulated holding tank located in our basement. The solar heated antifreeze liquid transfers its heat into the hot water storage tank with impressive efficiency.

As I write this article on March 31, 2009 we are experiencing a very cool 38 deg F overcast day. The temp in the collector is a toasty 82 deg F. (During sunny days in summer or winter, the temps will range from 120-150 deg F). From the large storage tank the heated water travels to a conventional 30 gal. LP water heater for finishing or immediate use.

The system and installation cost was initially expensive running approximately \$7,000. The tax credit helped by refunding 30% or \$2100 for a net cost of \$4900. The system was warranted for 5 years and has worked perfectly. Our LP gas bill dropped from \$160 to \$80 per month for a



Sothard's Solar Water Heater

savings of about \$1000 per year.

Has this experience been positive enough for us to repeat it? Our answer is a solid "yes". The financial payback is slow but steady and the system will last the remainder of our lives. We have "mostly free" hot water from May to November and a nice temperature boost during the colder months. We also receive the daily satisfaction of knowing we are doing something to mitigate our wear and tear on the planet.

Readers of this newsletter are concerned people who are interested in living a more sustainable lifestyle. You may have thought solar water heating and our Northern Michigan climate were incompatible. We believe that a growing market for solar hot water coupled with effective tax credits will reduce the initial cost of ownership and make installations in this area both environmentally positive and financially practical.

We are pleased to share our experience with you in the hope that it might encourage you to explore solar water heating as part of your own sustainable energy future.

By Tom Sothard

Earth Day Trail Cleanup



The Friends of the Jordan River Watershed partnered with East Jordan High School National Honor Society students on Sunday, April 19, to clean up a 4 mile section of the Jordan River Pathway/North Country Trail. Cold damp weather did nothing to deter the enthusiasm of this fine crew! Luckily the rain stopped right before 1:00. When they could have turned around and headed back they opted to keep on hiking because they truly were enjoying themselves. The group removed downed trees and branches along the trail and picked up litter. Thank you NHS students!

Pictured from left: Dennis Choate, FOJ Board Member, EJHS National Honor Society members Katlin Keane, Monica Capelin, Maribeth Poindexter, Kayla Mousseau, Chris Berish.

By Peg Myers

Photography Contest Enters its 5th Year!

WOW, it is hard to believe that it was 5 years ago that John Richter, in his subtle, persuasive manner convinced me to join the Friends of the Jordan and planted the seeds of using photography to promote the FOJ and provide opportunities for fundraising. From that seed came the “Visions of the Valley” photography contest which has given me the opportunity to meet the many talented and interesting people who have shared their talents with the FOJ. Their work has been displayed in photography exhibits at the Jordan River Watershed Center, the Jordan River Arts Council and the East Jordan Public Library. It has enhanced our website, newsletters and brochures depicting the beauty and serenity of this vital resource. It has been a backdrop in slide shows for our efforts to protect the Jordan River Watershed from contamination, pollution and toxic waste disposal. The winning photographs have been marketed in a stunning calendar which serves as one of our main fundraising tools. In the future we envision a “coffee table book.” Now it is your chance, once again, to participate in this annual event. The theme for 2009 is “*The Jordan, Naturally!*” Details on entries and entry forms will be available on the website soon. Photographs must be taken within the boundaries of the Jordan River Watershed in any season so be sure to take your cameras and capture beautiful and interesting images as you hike, bike, paddle, fish or otherwise enjoy the Jordan Valley. And don’t forget to give your kids some camera time. We have very few entries for the youth award which offers a \$100 prize. That can go a long way toward buying new school clothes... just kidding! Hope to see your images in our next exhibit.

Margaret Moran



On a related note, we are thinking of forming a **Nature Photography Group** to meet 1-2 times per month to work on skill building through sharing, critique and working on tasks to help hone skills and learn the ins and outs of composition., lighting, subject selection etc. If you are interested please drop me a line and we will plan an organizational meeting.

Margaret Moran

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Introducing the 2009 FOJ Board of Directors

Retirement, family and work commitments and the need to pass the torch to some fresh blood has resulted in a turnover in the Board of Directors for the Friends of the Jordan. We would like to thank Hank Ross, Tom Krause, Bruce Barber, Heidi Lang and long time member of the Board, Peggy Midener for their dedication, support, time and energies as they turn over the reins to some fresh faces, some new and some who are long time members of the community.

We welcome to the Board of Directors, Ray Bier, owner of the Bier Art Gallery in Charlevoix and strong voice in the POWER Coalition, Dennis Choate a retired college instructor in Anthropology and Sociology who is also into fly fishing and bird hunting and Terry Drinkwine who splits his time between EJ and Royal Oak and is a writer and avid sportsman. Tom Sothard, a retired local Middle School teacher with experience on several other Boards and Steve Umlor who has retired to a home in East Jordan after years as a seasonal visitor are also joining the Board. We also expect to add Stacy Jo Chipman who is a counselor working with the EJ Family Health Clinic and former member of the Health Clinic’s Board of Directors. We are excited about these changes and looking forward to working with these talented people in the coming year!

RECOGNITION

We are proud to announce that the Northwest Michigan Environmental Action Council (NMEAC) acknowledges the Friends of the Jordan/ POWER Coalition as

2009 Environmentalist of the Year: Grass Roots Organization

for its advocacy and diligent efforts to oppose the Alba Injection Well and to offer reasonable and responsible solutions to the Bay Harbor environmental disaster.

We appreciate the support of our members and the community in these efforts and ask for your ongoing assistance in this vital work.



Something for Everyone in Planned Events

Marsh Marigolds are just starting to bloom and the eagles are nesting on their platform at the mouth of the Jordan. The Robins and some of us other “snowbirds” have migrated back north and it looks like spring has finally arrived. With that comes a flurry of activities planned for the Friends of the Jordan. Some are firm and others are tentative so be sure to check the website to confirm. Most activities will be at the Jordan River Watershed Center (JRWC) 101 Union St. East Jordan.

May 9, 2009, Saturday 8:00 AM Bird Walk. Meet at the JRWC. Our resident Bird Man Jerry Aydrott will help us identify the songbirds and shorebirds returning to the Jordan in the spring migration. Bring field guides, binoculars and your cameras.

May 9, 2009, Saturday - Noon: Stream Monitoring. With trained team leaders, you will gather samples from the river to be tested to assess the health of the river. Meet at the Jordan River Watershed Center. Wear shoes or boots that may get wet. Tools will be provided.

May 13, 2009 7:00-10:00 PM Public Educational Meeting FOJ/POWER Presentation: “Update on the Alba Well opposition activities.” Bellaire Senior Center 308 Cayuga St.

May 16, 2009 10:00 AM Saturday Morning Nature Hike “Feathers, Flowers and Fungi: Spring Returns to the Valley” See what is blooming in the early spring and hunt for the elusive morel and other spring mushrooms. Meet at the Pinney Bridge parking lot. Bring cameras, field guides and cameras, mesh bag for mushroom collection.

May 20, 2009 Wednesday 6:30 PM at the JRWC Rain Gardens, Green Roofs: Storm Water Control. Learn about these and other interesting ways to beautify your property to manage storm water runoff to decrease pollution of the watershed. Heidi Lang, the Antrim County Soil Conservation officer will present information on planning and constructing..

June Friends of the Jordan Annual Photography Contest begins accepting entries: Theme for 2009: *The Jordan, Naturally!*

June 13, 2009. Saturday 10:00 AM-Noon FolksaWalkin’ the Jordan River (Cascade Creek Trail) Landslide Overlook. This is an activity to increase awareness of the Jordan Valley and the pervasive nature of the streams, springs and creeks that feed into the Jordan. Meet at the Landslide Overlook on Alba Rd.

June-July YOUNG FRIENDS PROGRAM watch for more information

TENTATIVE June

18-20. 2009. Open Hours at the JRWC with educational displays during Freedom Festival, Kick off for the Photography Contest with Photo Exhibit.

June 21, 2009 Sunday 9:00 AM Summer Solstice River Trip. Greet the summer with a morning trip down the lower Jordan by canoe or kayak. Launch your canoe or kayak at the Rogers Rd Access site and paddle to Lake Charlevoix. Refreshments after at JRWC

TBA DATE? Saturday 9:30 AM-Noon: Adopt a Highway Cleanup.

July 18, 2009. 10:00 AM-Noon FolksaWalkin’ the Jordan River Pinney Bridge area. This is an activity to increase awareness of the Jordan Valley and River. Meet at the Pinney Bridge parking area off M-66, about 2 miles down Pinney Bridge Rd.

Aug 4, 2009 Deadline for entry in Friends of the Jordan Annual Photography Contest

Aug 7, 2009 Friday Moonlit River trip. Paddle down the lower Jordan under the light of an almost full moon. Bring your kayaks or canoes and meet at 8:30 PM at the Rogers Rd Access. Potluck to follow at the JRWC.

Aug 15, 2009. 9:30 AM Saturday Morning Nature Hike: location to be announced

Aug 22, 2009 Pig Roast Fundraiser to stop the Alba Well. Cedar Bend Farms 1021 Doerr Rd, Chestonia Township. Watch for more details.

Sept Date TBA: Adopt a Highway Cleanup and Jordan River Cleanup.

Sept Date TBA: Stream Monitoring.

Sept 12, 2009. 9:30 AM Saturday Morning Nature Hike: *Changed to Second Saturday due to FOJ Celebration* location TBA

Sept 19, 2009 Saturday Friends of the Jordan Annual Celebration

Oct 11, 2009 Sunday Autumn Afternoon River trip. Enjoy a relaxing trip down the river during the peak of autumn color. Paddle down the lower Jordan. Bring your kayaks or canoes and meet at 2:00 PM at the Rogers Rd Access.

Oct 17, 2009. 9:30 AM Third Saturday Nature Hike location TBA.

Stream Monitoring Results for Jordan River. Grade = A

This will be the third year we have monitored the Jordan River for macro invertebrates (bugs). The testing goes into the river at two locations and samples the bug population. By looking at the number and diversity of the bugs in the river we can determine the health of the river. When pollution problems start up in a river it affects the macro-invertebrates far sooner than anything else. By keeping track of the bugs we can spot a pollution problem long before you ever see the first dead fish.



The Jordan has now been monitored for two full years at two sites. The diversity of bugs has been high at both Webster Road and Fair Road sites, earning us a grade A rating. The high quality waters of the Jordan are due to little development and human activity along the river. The river has a great diversity of macro invertebrates with impressively high numbers of sensitive families.

This spring's monitoring will be on May 9th. We meet at the Watershed Center at noon and proceed to the Fair Road site. Half of the volunteers get samples out of the river. They scoop samples from under vegetation, logs, and gravel, and bring them on the shore where others look for the bugs. The bugs are placed in jars of alcohol. Weather and other data are collected before we move on to the Webster road site. Then on May 31st we meet at the NCMC college science building in Petoskey. We examine the bugs under microscopes where they are sorted, categorized, and counted.

We always are looking for volunteers to help us with the study. And it's a great activity for kids to learn about the river and how to take care of our environment. So if anyone wants to join us please contact me and I will fill you in on the details.

John Teesdale

jteesdale@friendsofthejordan.org

Help Wanted!

Help wanted? These words are not heard of much these days, let me explain...

Teresa Yeoman, Thomas Breaky Jr., and Sherman Thomas created the Jordan River Action Group to help the Jordan River. Their dream is to create facilities on the Jordan where canoeists and others can dispose of their cans, bottles, and trash so it doesn't end up in or around the Jordan River.

To work they went and in the summer of 2008 they started locating collection booths at various sites on the Jordan River. Unfortunately the D.N.R didn't approve. The DNR told the group to remove the booths until the proper permits were applied for. So you see there was a problem! Help wanted.

In the fall of 2008 Sherman Thomas asked to meet with The Friends of the Jordan board of directors concerning the problem of obtaining the proper permits. After a great discussion it was decided to give aid in the permitting process. F.O.J with it's past experience and non-profit status was able to help meet the permit requirements.

The permits were granted and the Jordan River Action Group will be allowed to put their trash and recycle booths in 3 locations along the lower part of the Jordan River. The locations will be Graves Crossing, Webster Bridge, as well as Rogers Bridge; these booths will be on location by May

1st of this year. Plastic mesh netting bags, donated by local merchants are being distributed to river riders to contain their full or empty cans. As the river riders reach a booth location they will be able to empty their bags into a recycle booth. All booths will be supervised by various groups during the summer season. Any profits made from the cans, bottles, and etc. will be distributed to local youth groups as well as foundations such as Cystic Fibrosis.

So remember to tell your friends to please HELP this group in keeping trash out of the Jordan River. By reaching out to groups with like interests we can proudly say, "Help is given." Good Luck!

Steve Umlor



Photo by Deb VanLoo



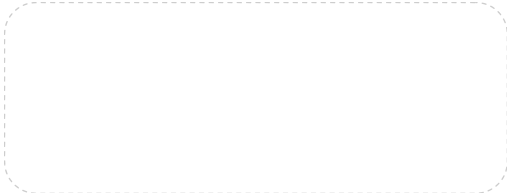
Friends of the Jordan River Watershed Inc.
 PO Box 412
 East Jordan, MI 49727

NOTICE

Friends of the Jordan
 5th Annual
 Photography Contest

Theme
 The Jordan, Naturally!

Entry information on
 the website by June 1



What's New on the Web?

- Upcoming Spring events*
 - Pictures and descriptions of recent events*
 - Information on upcoming Photo Contest*
 - Articles relating to the Alba well opposition including the Resolution to sign.*
- www.friendsofthejordan.org

FOJ WISHLIST

- Storage Shed
 - Wheelbarrow
 - Power Mower
 - String Trimmer
 - Binoculars
 - Spotting scope for birding
 - Bird identification book
 - Flower Identification book
 - Tree Identification Book
- If you wish to contribute any of these, Please contact us. **THANKS!**

“YOUNG FRIENDS” Summer Youth Program in Development

The Friends of the Jordan identified as a priority the development of educational programming directed toward children and families. With an all volunteer Board, no paid staff this has been difficult. In October we applied for and received a grant from the Charlevoix County Community Foundation to recruit and compensate an instructor for our “Young Friends” program to ensure a quality summer educational program for children. The “Young Friends” program will be targeted toward upper elementary and middle school students and will provide experiential, hands on activities designed to develop a critical understanding of the environment and our role in conserving and protecting natural resources. We are recruiting an environmental educator to develop and conduct the program. We are currently in the process of screening applicants and designing the program. It is likely to consist of 6 half day morning sessions. Participation will be limited to no more than 20 kids for each session. Kids may sign up for all or some of the sessions. There may be a minimal charge for some sessions. Details will be sent home with local students at the end of the school year and will be published in the local papers and on the website.

You may also send an e-mail expressing interest to be notified when the program is firmed up. Send a message with “Young Friends Program” in the subject line to mmoran@friendsofthejordan.org.

Margaret Moran



Photo by Jack Moran