



Friends of the Boyne River

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Friends of the Boyne River

“The purpose of the Friends of the Boyne River is to improve and conserve the environmental health and recreational quality of the Boyne River and its watershed.”

2022 Spring Boyne River Bulletin

The Friends of the Boyne River is pleased to plan member activities after a two-year COVID hiatus. Speakers cancelled in 2020 are back, along with some new faces. Our non-profit runs on volunteer energy, and you are invited to plenty of opportunities listed inside.

To kick off the year, the board focused on annual long term goals:



2021 Beetle Release

- * Award scholarships (three this year!)
- * Fish line containers maintenance at the river
- * Partnering with the other area environmental groups
- * Planting at the BRNA rain garden
- * Assuring river dams are operating in the best interest of the river



Fish line container

- * River quality monitoring each spring and fall (We donated to Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council for new monitoring equipment.)
- * Citizen Scientist river depth gauges maintenance (Keep Texting!)
- * Invasive purple loosestrife control on the Mill Pond (Loosestrife-eating beetles are ordered)

Then we added 2022 new goals:

- 1 Install a bike rack at the Boyne River Nature Area (BRNA) where the new Boyne Valley Trailway passes.
- 2 Rent a porta-potty May-October for a more family friendly experience at the BRNA and for groups using the pavilion. (Call City Hall to reserve the pavilion.)
- 3 Add nature educational signage along BRNA boardwalks, and invasive water species awareness signs at the river.
- 4 Plant bird-friendly woody shrubs at Riverside Park to encourage wildlife and to protect the water.



2022 \$1,500 Marie Zoberski College Scholarship Winners

Scholarships are awarded annually to students in environmental fields

There were more applicants than usual this year, especially from well qualified students. The final selection was difficult so the committee upped the number of awards from two to three.

Paxton Giem, 2022 BCHS graduate, will study Environmental Sciences and Marketing at Adrian College

Anna Richards, 2022 EJHS graduate, will study Environmental Sciences at Alma College

Garrett Wilson, 2022 EJHS graduate, will study Natural Resources Management at North Central Michigan College

Congratulations, Paxton, Anna and Garrett!

Thank you to all the applicants

Join us for these guest speakers at the **Boyne District Library community room.**
Bring a friend. No reservation needed.

April 13, Wed., 7pm

Michigan's Arctic Grayling Initiative:

Restoring a Michigan Native
Ed Eisch, MDNR - Fisheries



Ed Eisch w bass

A 1986 graduate of Lake Superior State University, Ed has been working for Michigan DNR – Fisheries Division's Fish Production Program for over 33 years.

He worked 9 years as a Fisheries Technician, 4 years as a Hatchery Biologist, 12 years as a Hatchery Manager with the DNR, and is the Statewide Fish Production Program Manager.

In this role, Ed has headed up the Fish Production Core Team since the inception of the Michigan Arctic Grayling Initiative.

June 8, Wed., 7pm

Boyne River Fisheries Management

Heather Hettinger, MDNR
Fisheries Management
Biologist



Heather Hettinger

Heather will give a brief history of fish stocking, fisheries surveys, and general fisheries management of the Boyne River.

Hear about the MDNR's current objectives for the Boyne River fisheries and what they are doing to improve habitat and the fisheries in the area.

Oct 12, Wed., 7pm

Movie Night! Horton Creek Experience

Gary Osterbeck



Gary Osterbeck

Gary spent several years creating a photographic essay of the entire Horton Creek.

"I have experienced joy, respect, awe, endless beauty, continuous silence and mesmerizing history. I walked the hallowed ground that Ernest Hemingway walked and wrote about. There are few people of this day who have seen it."

Join us for movie night to see his first two 15-minute videos and hear filming adventures that involve rolling his kayak, breaking through the ice, and walking through shoulder high ferns.

May 11, Wed., 7pm

Victory for Water

Sam Day, Water Quality Biologist
Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa
Indians



Sam Day

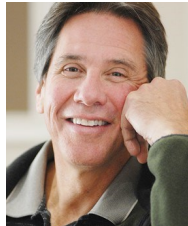
With recent major state and federal investments in infrastructure funding, there has never been a better time to implement eco-friendly green infrastructure projects in Northern Michigan.

Join us to learn how the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians (LTBB) are working to increase green infrastructure and protect the Tip of the Mitt region's waterways. Hear about green infrastructure at LTBB's Victories Square development, and how green infrastructure applies to LTBB's current and future road stream crossing projects.

Aug 10, Wed., 7pm

Solo Lake Superior Kayak Paddle

Tom Renkes



Tom Renkes

Tom decided to take a solo kayak journey of 1,000 miles on Lake Superior for his 60th birthday—a final stamp on his recovery from a decades old depression and a suicidal recklessness. This was an unwired journey with no smartphone, laptop, GPS, wristwatch, GoPro or trailing vehicle.

Join Tom on a journey of immersion into nature and the rhythms of the Universe, while along the way to finding revelations of a lost humanity.

More activities on page 3.

Join Us! — Save These Dates, Too

- April 29 (Fri)** Arbor Day shrub planting, Riverside Park, Boyne City *(see below)*
- May 14 (Sat)** Join the STREAM TEAM, volunteer river monitors, 9am-noon*
- June 28 (Tue)** “Spruce Up” at Boyne River Nature Area *(see below)*
- July TBD** Purple Loosestrife-eating beetles distribution
- Aug 20 (Sat)** Boyne River Sweep, 9am-noon. Meet at Veterans Park boat launch*
- Sept 14 (Wed)** Annual Membership meeting, Veterans Park Pavilion, Boyne City
- Sept 17 (Sat)** Join the STREAM TEAM, volunteer river monitors, 9am-noon*
- Dec 10 (Sat)** Christmas Social at Boyne City Hall



Rain Garden Planting 2020

Details shared later via email, boyneriver.org and Facebook/Boyne River

*** Questions? Call 231-330-2923 for volunteer information. It’s a great way to spend a morning outside at the river.**

Arbor Day Planting

Friday, April 29, 1pm, *rain or shine*

We are excited to plant “small bird-friendly” shrubs at Riverside Park, a designated birding site. A member of the Petoskey Regional Audubon Society helped select ideal plants.

Trees and shrubs provide food and protection for wildlife, slow rain water runoff, reduce flooding, prevent riverbank erosion, and are a cost-effective way to improve water cleanliness, stabilize riverbanks and protect wildlife habitat.

We purchased 100 Ninebark, Silky Dogwood, Elderberry, Buttonbush and Meadowsweet from Birdsfoot Native Nursery in small, 1 gal. pots. Thank you to the owners who also donated six Highbush Cranberry shrubs.

We need volunteers! Bring a shovel to the park at 1pm. Riverside Park is off Spring St., behind Consumers Power.



Riverside Park

Boyne River Nature Area Spruce Up

June 28, Tuesday, 10am, *rain or shine*

Help us spruce up the nature area pavilion and rain garden area in preparation for the July 4 holiday. We’ll mulch some trees, pull weeds, weed-whack the upper 1/4-mile trail, pull vines encroaching memorial trees – general yard work. The nature area is on the Boyne Valley Trailway (non-motorized) and we anticipate summer visitors to the boardwalks and pavilion.



Eric Hartlep 2021



Welcome to the BRNA!

Please join us! Bring gloves and garden tools. With a dozen volunteers, we anticipate a one or two-hour project. Thank you.

The BRNA is in the Boyne Business Park on M75 S. Turn into the park on Moll Dr., then go right at the stop sign.

The Purple Boat

Marie Zoberski, a 1998 FoBR founding member, lived on the Mill Pond. She waged a battle with purple loosestrife, a purple-flowered stubborn invasive species that chokes out native plants, eliminating food and habitat for local wildlife. Marie would row out to harvest it, initiating the FoBR’s efforts to control it.



Painted purple in her honor, it is a reminder that purple loosestrife is invasive and needs to be controlled. The boat became the FoBR’s mascot, was seen in July 4 parades, and was displayed on Pearl St. in Marie’s yard, then later in neighbor Tom Sheel’s yard. Today it is hosted by Suzie Dickow on State Street.

Today the boat is past repair

Our mascot, unfortunately, is past its prime. Should you have a small, wooden boat to donate, please call any board member.



Seen in many July 4 parades

~ Story compiled with input from original members.

Invasive Didymo “Rock Snot”

Didymo, called “rock snot” because of its mucus-like appearance, is not native to lower Michigan. Identified in the upper branch of the Manistee River last fall, it thrives in cold, low-nutrient streams (ideal for trout).

A fresh water alga with a coarse wooly texture, it can grow to cover rocks and river bottoms in large masses, reducing macroinvertebrate habitat—important food for fish (caddisflies, mayflies, etc.) There is currently no effective didymo eradication method.

Didymo can work its way here unless the public is aware and takes precautions before it becomes a problem.

Spread by anglers, kayakers, canoeists, tubers and boaters, it hitchhikes unseen on waders, boats, clothing and lures. It can foul water inakes and fishing gear, and impact fishing and swimming.

To stop the waterways spread, it is critical for recreational users to take five minutes to **Clean** off mud and debris, **Drain** bilges and wells, and **Dry** or disinfect waders, equipment and boats after each waterway use.

If you observe it in the water as small cotton ball-sized patches or thick blankets with rope-like strings flowing in currents, take photos, note the location and report it to the Midwest Invasive Species Information Network (MISIN) online reporting tool or use the smart phone app.

More information at Michigan.gov/invasives (Invasive species: Identify & Report)



Didymosphenia



“Rock snot” will spread



Pirates! Arrrgh!

Thank you to the Boyne City PirateFest for a \$1,000 donation!

On November 29, pirates awarded \$1,000 each to the Friends of the Boyne River, Friends of the Jordan River and the Lake Charlevoix Association.

A non-profit organization committed to furthering education and protecting natural resources, they recognized the groups for their water education efforts.

The PirateFest is held the 2nd weekend in August. boynecitypiratefest.com

2022 Board and Officers

The Friends of the Boyne River Board of Directors meets fourth Wednesdays, 6pm, Boyne District Library or outside in nice weather.

L-R: Nancy Cunningham, Secretary
Suzie Dickow, Exec. Comm. Member at Large
Joe Manary, Vice-President
Adam Kennedy, President
Bob Greene, Treasurer

Directors

Candy Greene, Sharon Kemp, Brian Kozminski,
Gow Litzenburger, Sheri Rhoads, Marie Sheets



2022 Board of Directors Officers

Thank you for renewing your 2022 membership.

Your support of river activities is appreciated.

Please invite a friend to join - a sign-up form is on www.boyneriver.org

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