



Friends of the Boyne River

Annual Accomplishments

August 9, 2023

Dear Members,

We've had a busy 2023! The Board met monthly, starting with goals and budget setting in January. Our goals are to increase our membership, continue partnering with other environmental groups, continue monitoring the health of the river in partnership with the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council, and continue communications about the Boyne River Hydroelectric Dam license renewal process with the Federal Electrical Regulatory Commission (FERC).

We planned five speakers, two events, and kept up with annual projects.

March: ~ The Scholarship Committee awarded \$1,500 scholarships in March to Paxton Giem (2nd time), and to Ellen Dhaseleer and Mailey Hamilton. They are studying in environmental fields.

April: ~ Guest speaker Darrell Lawson talked about the science of how birds migrate.
~ We joined the City's Arbor Day celebration and partnered with the Boyne Valley Garden Club to purchase and give away small deciduous trees. Boyne City, a "Tree City USA", gave away small evergreen trees. FoBR volunteers planted ten 12' trees in Veteran's Park, Peninsula Park and the Boyne River Nature Area. Board member Gow Litzenger inventoried all the trees on City property, and with Larry Taylor, made an online walking Arboretum that is certified by the Arnold Arboretum. The Certificate was presented to the City as part of the Arbor Day event.

May: ~ Guest speaker Skylar MacNaughton, Michigan Butterfly Habitats, talked about monarchs with photos.
~ We monitored the Boyne River for macroinvertebrates that are sensitive to pollution. Each spring and fall, Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council organizes the events and maintains the records. September 9th is the next monitoring. If you are interested, talk to Adam or Nancy.

June: ~ Kim Balke, Conservation Resource Alliance, spoke about work they've done removing dams and failing culverts on Michigan rivers, with photos of the Jordan River and the Maple River projects.
~ We had our annual clean-up at the Boyne River Nature Area. Volunteers trimmed the rain garden, planted some additional native flowers, pruned and mulched shrubs and trees, and weed whipped the upper trail and around plantings.
~ We are sponsoring a porta-potty again this summer for BRNA guests, situated along the adjacent Boyne Valley Trailway, with a sign crediting the FoBR.

July: ~ Purple loosestrife control efforts continued in Riverside Park. We purchased and released purple loosestrife-eating beetles along the river. We've made progress over the past few years tackling the problem, and now the loosestrife along Spring St. is eliminated.
~ This is the 8th year of the FoBR-initiated July 4 campaign to keep water balloon scraps out of the river. Not one balloon was seen this year.

August: ~ The annual river sweep is August 19th (Saturday). Talk to Adam if you want to help.
September: ~ Guest speaker Shelby Adams, DNR, on Pigeon River State Forest elk herd management.
October: ~ Movie night with Brian (Koz) Kozminski presenting "Rolling on the River".
December: ~ Christmas party, December 2

Nancy Cunningham, Secretary
Friends of the Boyne River

