

President's Message

Well summer seems to have vanished into fog, rain, lower temperatures, and occasional sun. We have had a lot of rain storms this year and it made work on the Boyne River Nature Area difficult. It is now near completion we are waiting to hear from Boyne City regarding efforts to control erosion from draining the Industrial Park.

Saturday, October 12, is our annual fall outing. This year we meet at Boyne Mountain and ride the chair lift to the top for some wonderful views of the fall colors, weather permitting. After the event we meet back at my house for a potluck cook out.

I would like to welcome our new board members, Jerry Swift, Mike Durbin, and Steve Sawyer. We should all thank retiring board member Suzie Dickow, for her long and tireless service to the Friends Of Boyne River.

We have lots of work to do in the upcoming months and we will need lots of volunteer help. Please remember to check the web site and recruit a new member. Well it is starting to rain again adding to the 2 plus inches we have had in the last two days. Enjoy the season,
Your president, Carl Wehner.

Friends of the Boyne River Annual Meeting

August 14, 2013 (Summary and images by Sheri Rhoads)

The Friends of the Boyne River (FoBR) held the 2013 Annual Meeting at 5:30pm in Boyne City's Veteran's Park Pavilion. Fifty-five members and friends shared barbecue chicken and a potluck meal.

Following dinner and review of the annual financial report, the past year's projects were highlighted. They include:

- Hosting monthly speakers to discuss pertinent environmental or recreational topics
- Maintaining Boyne City's Old City Park river bank with native anti-erosion plant species
- Taking nature programs to area schools
- Performing spring and fall insect species monitoring to determine the river's ecosystem health
- Working to mitigate erosion problem areas that deposit sand into the river

Also, our newest conservation project, the Boyne River Nature Area, opened with newly constructed boardwalks and benches. This project significantly improves and conserves wetland areas along the river as well as provides educational opportunities. A parking area and ravine walkway is the next construction phase.

AWARDS and PRESENTATIONS

The winner of the 2013 **FoBR Marie Zoberski Scholarship** is Alex Wangeman, who also won last year. He will receive \$1,000 towards his environmental engineering studies at MSU. Congratulations, Alex!

The annual **Paddle Award**, presented to someone who contributed significantly to the FoBR in the past or past year, was awarded to two 2013 recipients. Both Candy Greene and Marie Sheets were recognized for their numerous contributions.

To close the program, Scott Moody sang the rousing Irish song he wrote about the river's colorful history called, "The Boyne".



FoBR Treasurer, Bob Greene reviews FoBR's financial health at the 2013 Annual Meeting, right: Darryl Parish with help from Carl Wehner talk about soil erosion on the river banks



Above:Paddle Award Recipients: Candy Greene and Marie Sheets
right: Adam Kennedy joins in a smile with long time FoBR members (L-R), Ruth Sheets, Gen Varnum and Pat Wulff

Northern Michigan River Sweep

(Summary and photos by Sheri Rhoads)

Friends of the Boyne River joined volunteers across northern Michigan for the first annual six-river clean up on Saturday, August 24, 2013.

Northern Michigan River Sweep participants walked river banks and floated the rivers collecting trash along 100 river miles of the Boyne, Jordan, Maple, Bear, Pigeon and Sturgeon Rivers. Our Boyne River group collected 170 pounds of debris from the river itself and from four road crossings in the watershed.

The event was organized by Ethan Winchester of Boyne Outfitters with major support from American Rivers – National River Cleanup. Several groups coordinated activities on specific rivers:

- * Friends of the Boyne and Boyne Outfitters cleaned the Boyne River
- * Friends of the Jordan cleaned the Jordan River
- * Petoskey's Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council took on the Bear River
- * Boardman River Clean Sweep cleaned the Sturgeon
- * Gaylord-based Headwaters Chapter of Trout Unlimited and Huron Pines cleaned the Pigeon River

Additional support came from Conservation Resource Alliance, Big Bear Adventures, Charlevoix Conservation District, Michigan Department of Natural Resources and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

A cookout for all volunteers was held at Boyne Mountain Resort at the end of the day. It was sponsored by Miller Van Winkle, Trout Unlimited and New Belgium Brewing Company.



Caught in the Act: Boyne River Trash Collectors Extraction Team: John & Angie Willis and Adam Kennedy

Welcome New Members

Jane and Ora Smith
Joyce Cather
Martha Bryan and Dale Hutzler
Ken Davies
Warren and Carol Duane

Adam's River Journal

Adam's River Journal Entry: September 30, 2013

Two buddies joined me for a Boyne River paddle in the sunny fall afternoon. There are tons of salmon running upstream! Our kayaks were bonked and we were splashed several times by the single-minded spawning fish. There weren't many anglers, maybe because it was a Monday. But we saw a pair of eagles, a few deer, and then a hawk swooped over my kayak. A beautiful river run!

Adam's River Journal Entry: September 20, 2013

The Boyne River is high and murky due to the abundance of recent rain. I couldn't see salmon, although I know they are heading upstream to spawn.

I passed several fishermen on my solo trip, some having reached the river via the Nature Area's new boardwalks. Two were sitting on one of the wooden benches and both had beards. I said, "Nice beards!" as I floated by. They replied, "So is yours!" We all had grins. There is a certain brotherhood among men with beards sharing a river!

Adam's River Journal Entry: September 9, 2013

The salmon are beginning their fall voyage up the Boyne River to spawn. My kayaking buddy, Michael Ryan, and I saw six or seven great big ones as they zoomed around our boats headed up stream. One was clearly visible in direct sunlight – a wonderful experience.

Attention Birders! The birds were everywhere on this trip. A great blue heron flew up in front of us and headed downstream. We disturbed another large bird from a tree in the woods, but couldn't decide if it was a hawk or an osprey as it flew the other direction. Kingfishers, blue jays, cedar waxwings, mallards, mergansers and a swan graced our presence. The best part, however, was seeing *several* of the elusive green herons!



pictured is Adam Kennedy on the Boyne River

River Trivia: *The Boyne River's north and south branches have approximately 20 miles of mainstream. The North Branch of the river is 5.9 miles long; the South Branch of the river is 10.5 miles long.*

Boyne River Ecosystem Monitoring

The Friends of the Boyne River volunteered for the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council's River Monitoring Program on Saturday, September 28, 2013. Two teams spent four hours collecting river data and insect samples, and enjoying the beautiful fall weather.

One team, consisting of Nancy Cunningham, Tom Terry, Adam Kennedy and Sheri Rhoads, led by team leader Brian Kozminski, recorded water temperature, depth and river conditions, and collected data and insects at Old City Park and on the South Branch of the river at Dobleski Road. The other team, Ed and Diane Strzelinski, Darryl Parish and Jerry Swift, collected data and samples below Dam Road and on the North Branch along Thumb Road. On Sunday, October 6, 2013, an insect identification session was held by the Watershed Council at North Central Michigan College where insect "experts" helped team members sort and identify the insects taken from the Boyne River sample sites.

The data and insects are used to determine the river's ecosystem health.

The teams monitor the river once each spring and fall, as do teams on several regional rivers. The Watershed Council provides insect identification and procedures training, and completes the collection analysis. Volunteers are welcome.

Adventures of a Fishing Guide

(Summary by Sheri Rhoads)

Boyne City fly fishing guide, Brian "Koz" Kozminski, shared his passion for fly fishing at FoBR's September 11, 2013, General Membership meeting.

He opened with the short film, "A Deliberate Life", which captures fly fishing through the eyes of professional anglers and the deliberate lifestyle it instills. Koz commented that in the fly fishing industry, "we are brethren who care about the rivers, water and environment."

In his PowerPoint presentation, "Fly Fishing for Trout in Michigan", Koz showed maps of Michigan highlighting specific fish zones, locations of rivers best known for fishing, dates of river insect hatches (and which hatches fish prefer), among others.

Koz reflected on fishing several Michigan rivers and noted that *Field and Stream* named Michigan "Best State for Fly Fishing in the USA" in April 2011.

He also told us that Trout Unlimited was formed on the banks of the AuSable River in 1959, that salmon were introduced in Michigan in 1964, and that carp have become the #1 fly fishing challenge. Carp are sensitive to sound, so they are difficult catch. Beaver Island is quickly becoming known as a hotspot for fly fishing carp.

As a bonus, Koz demonstrated fly tying, explaining why colors and textures are important to make ties realistic to fish.

To read Koz's articles, learn more about fly fishing and see beautiful photos of the fishing experience, visit his blog at www.truenorthtrout.com. His guide service is www.truenorthtrout.net. You can also join him on Facebook

**Some fish that live in the Boyne River:
Salmon, Brook Trout, Brown Trout, Rainbow Trout**

Latest News about the Friends of the Boyne River's Boyne River Nature Area

Right now, the Boyne River Nature Area is in a slight pause. Some parts of the project are still going forward but other parts are on hold. This is all because the erosion in the ravine going down into the Nature Area has become severe.

When there is a very heavy rain, water rushes down the ravine and the bottom of the ravine becomes a large swimming pool. We have had discussions with the City about the situation and they have been very supportive. At one point, they were going to build a retaining pond up at the top to handle the situation.

In August, the whole situation changed when the EDC and the LDFA (the independent boards that, along with the City, manage the Industrial Park) hired an engineering firm to do a study of the storm water drainage in the east end of the Industrial Park and make recommendations for fixing the problem. We are not the only ones who are concerned about water problems in that part of the park. Both Precision Edge and Classic Instruments have had problems with water. Last spring, Classic Instruments was so flooded that they could not access their loading deck – the area was a large pond. Seeing as Classic Instruments is expanding, something needed to be done to alleviate the situation. So, while the engineering firm is doing the study, we are waiting. I think that it will take until next spring before the study is complete and the recommendations are implemented. Until then, that part of the Nature Area will just have to wait.

In the meantime, the signage is being worked on by the Woodshop. We will have that finished and installed before the end of fall. The brochures to advertise the Nature Area are being planned. The parking area is in the planning stage and if all goes well, that will happen in the spring. When the parking area is finished, the raingarden and the other plants and trees will go in and then the project will be finished. In the meantime, the stairs, boardwalks and decks are done and you are welcome to go down and see how lovely the area is in the fall and how wonderful and peaceful the river is. Enjoy!

Nancy Cunningham

• **Boyne River Tidbits!**

- **Boyne River to Get Crowd Source Monitoring!** Later this year, five water level monitoring sites will be set up on the Boyne. This project is a collaborative effort with the USGS Michigan Water Science Center, University of Buffalo, Boyne Outfitters, and FoBR. For more info, see www.crowdhydrology.org
- **Boyne River Erosion Control Plan Takes Shape!** FoBR's Darryl Parish has started identifying and prioritizing bank erosion sites downstream from the Dam. If left unchecked, bank erosion can destroy important fish habitat and reproductive cycles. The project goal is to review and propose cost effective action steps to repair each significant erosion site.

FoBR Upcoming Events

October 12, 2013 will be our fall outdoor event. We will meet at the base of the main chairlift at Boyne Mountain at 11:30 a.m. The chairlift goes up the face of the hill at noon. We will be able to see the scenic sweep of wooded land that contains the North Boyne River. Afterward, around 1:30 p.m, we will be gathering at Carl and Char Wehner's for a potluck. Please bring food to share and a beverage. If you need directions to Carl and Char's house, please call 989-906-0415

November 13th at 7:00 p.m., we will be meeting in the Community Room of the Boyne District Library. The speaker will be Kira Davis and her co-worker, Kevin. Kira is the water quality specialist for the Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa's and a former board member of the FoBR. She will be speaking about the monitoring that they have done on the Boyne River. Kevin will give his results on testing of the fish in our local lakes for mercury and other contaminants.

December 14th at 6:00 p.m., will be our Holiday Party. Suzie Dickow will host the party at her house again (848 State St., Boyne City). Please bring a dish to pass and your favorite beverage. You can bring your environmental guests and you should be prepared to enjoy good conversation.

Check out our website: www.boyneriver.org