

FRIENDS OF THE BOYNE RIVER

Summer 2013 Bulletin

PRESIDENT'S LETTER JULY 2013: Summer is in full swing and so are the Friends of The Boyne River. The Nature Area is nearing completion. Three boardwalks lead down to three decks and benches on the banks of the Boyne. There is also a picnic table and a bike rack at the entrance. Take some time and walk down to the river. I promise it is a wonderful experience.

Other upcoming projects include: 1) FoBR's participation in the National River Sweep on August 24th; 2) Board member, Darryl Parish's compilation and prioritization of erosion sites between the dam and Dam Road. From this survey, we will develop an action plan for bank stabilization. Of course, we will need volunteers for both projects. Mark your calendars for the Annual Meeting August 14th and don't forget to visit our web site: www.boyneriver.org.

A special thanks goes to Jim White of Ace Hardware. Jim donated the bus and driver for our tour of the river crossings. Stop in the hardware and let him know we appreciate his generosity. Carl

FoBR Strives to Educate

Boyne River Nature Area News: The BRNA is partly finished but it is already starting to be used. The Little Traverse Conservancy has just finished having three of their Family Nature Discovery Programs at the BRNA. The three programs were "River Wildlife", "Bugs and Blooms" and "Feathered Friends". All three programs were very well attended with more than 30 kids and adults having lots of fun. The July 6th front cover of the Petoskey News-Review's Saturday paper featured the kids enjoying the River Wildlife during the first of the three programs.

Because the programs were so successful, there is a possibility of more this fall. I have emailed the Saturday news article to all of the foundations that gave us grants so they can see that their money is being well used.

The wetland part of the area is finished. The three sets of stairs, boardwalks and decks are done and they look beautiful. They are very easy to walk on and to climb. Denny Erickson, our builder, did a super job. He has also made us three benches along the pathway and a picnic table and bike rack at the beginning of the area. The top entrance area is the part that is not finished.

I am talking with Bayko Concrete about putting in a permeable surfaced parking area for three cars beside the road. Having such an environmentally good parking area will depend on the cost. If we can't do that, the parking will be gravel. As well as parking, the entrance area will have the bike rack, a trash barrel, the large sign with the name and the logos of the FoBR and the City of Boyne City, a smaller sign with the rules for the area, and a large raingarden to catch the runoff from the road. Everything except the raingarden will be finished this summer if all goes according to plan. The raingarden will be put in this fall to take advantage of wetter weather.

Nancy Cunningham

FoBR at Camp Daggett: It was early June when the 6th graders from Boyne Middle School headed to Camp Daggett for their annual adventure. Suzie Dickow and Candy Greene were leaders during 2 afternoon activities at the main lodge. Susie led several groups in edible flowers and their identification. Samples of Suzies' homemade mushroom soup were also available. Candy led several groups in wildflower identification, followed by games of "Wildflower Bingo". A fun time was had by all.

FoBR at the Library: The Boyne Library's Adventure Club for pre teens, meets every Wednesday during the summer. The Friends' education committee (Suzie Dickow and Candy Greene) were leaders one recent eve in July and Suzie led the children on a nature walk, pointing out various flowers, weeds, erosion, trees and other natural growths. The walk was followed by an art activity with leaves. We are hoping we get invited back next summer!!!

FoBR at Experience Lake Charlevoix: In May, FoBR Volunteers also participated in the 2013 Experience Lake Charlevoix Program. Among several environmental topics, students learned what a watershed is and how land use activities impact water quality.

Mark Your Calendar!

Friends of the Boyne River Annual Meeting/BBQ is Wednesday, August 14, 2013, at Veteran's Park pavilion in Boyne City. Social hour begins at 5:00 PM and chicken, ribs and corn will be served around 6:00. Following a short meeting reviewing our accomplishments, the honored member of the year will be announced. New and interested members are especially invited. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. For more information call 582-2434.

Our September speaker is Brian "Koz" Kozminski who will talk about his "Adventures as a Fishing Guide." The meeting date is September 11, 2013 @ 7:00 in the Community Room of the Boyne District Library... As always, refreshments!

Adam's Boyne River Report

Friday, July 26, 2013: **Two words:** low water; **Two more words:** deer flies!

The Boyne River water level is low due to lack of rain. However, paddling conditions are fine with a few bumpy spots but no portages. Of course, the water level can change overnight depending on rain.

Seasonal deer flies are prevalent on the first half of the river from Dam Road. Generally they don't bite, but tend to swarm around and land on our heads. This is very annoying but as the river opens and widens towards Lake Charlevoix, the pesky flies all but disappear. They may be around for a couple more weeks.

So, think about paddling, talk about paddling, then call a friend and JUST DO IT!
Adam Kennedy

FoBR Tours River Crossings

On June 18, FoBR members traveled to Boyne Valley Township to view the river crossing restoration and modern timber bridge where the North Branch of the Boyne River crosses Springbrook Road. A significant improvement has been engineered at the site, a result of several years of fundraising, planning, and partnering for further, engineering and construction. What we can see and experience at this site now is what a healthy solution can accomplish. Many partners were involved. Friends of the Boyne River will celebrate the completion of the project in August-September. More news to come then, and at the Annual Meeting, August 14, at Veteran's Park with a brief report for our members. Marie Sheets

Thank You Suzie!

We thank Suzie Dickow for her dedication, creativity, energy, and generosity for serving on our board for over 12 years!!!!

Need a membership application? Find one on our website:
www.boyneriver.org

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