“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.”

Winter 2018 Boyne River Bulletin

~1998~ Friends of the Boyne River Celebrates 20 Years! ~2018~

Inspired by a group passionate about the river, the Friends of the Boyne River was established to:

- Protect the water quality
- Educate the public about issues involving the river
- Promote wise resource management on public and private lands within the watershed
- Preserve and restore the aesthetic value and character of the river and watershed

Exciting projects the FoBR completed over the years were supported by City, Township, non-profit and/or private sector groups:

- Created the Boyne River Nature Area on City property at the back of the business park. Using grant funds, we built a trail and three boardwalks to the river, a pavilion for group gatherings and classes, an upper trail overlooking the river, and a lush rain garden filled with native plants to filter storm water runoff before reaching the river.

- Promoted and supported local efforts to keep unused and expired prescription drugs and over the counter medications out of our watershed.

- Solicited grant funding to stabilize the 2-block bank of Old City Park with rocks and native plants, steps down the bank to fishing platforms, and a kayak take out on East St.

- Educated and inspired area organizations to discourage the use of July 4 water balloons in the Boyne River and Lake Charlevoix

- Completed a river bank stabilization project at Dam Road, including steps for fishing along the river below the dam

Annually, we:

- Conduct stream monitoring with Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council twice a year to look for water quality indicators like aquatic insects and crustaceans, and pursue eliminating invasive purple loosestrife from the river

- Invite the public to a river sweep collecting litter and previous era debris

- Offer youth classes to grow an appreciation for the river at an early age

- Hold monthly meetings/speakers that continue addressing environmental issues, promote river recreation and encourage member friendships

You are Invited! Saturday, June 16, for a 20th Anniversary Party

More on page 2
Join us for these guest speakers at the Boyne District Library community room.
Refreshments provided. Bring a friend. No reservation needed.

Wed., March 14, 7 pm
Kris Dey, Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians’ Hatchery Manager, invited FoBR members last summer to help tag cisco and sturgeon fingerlings at the tribe’s Levering hatchery. The sturgeon are destined to be released in the Sturgeon River and the Cisco into Lake Michigan. Kris will tell us about the tribe’s restoration efforts and the coded wire and PIT tagging programs. Learn what’s involved and how to volunteer next year!

Wed., April 11, 7 pm
Jen Buchanan, Watershed Projects Director, Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council, is a landscape architect and restoration ecologist. She works on shoreline, streambank and wetland restoration using native plants. Jen will share her experiences building rain gardens - a shallow landscaped depression designed to capture and treat stormwater runoff. The plants and soil in the rain garden facilitate infiltration and pollution removal. Come learn the basics about building one on your property!

Tues., May 15, 6:30 pm
Winner of the Michigan Library Association’s 2017 Author Award, life-long state resident and PBS-featured canoeing & kayaking author, Doc Fletcher, will return to share stories from his updated Weekend Canoeing in Michigan book. His program, “So Many Rivers, So Little Time,” allows patrons to get the paddler’s perspective of the Great State of Michigan, winding through dense forests, around fallen trees, tall bluffs and merging creeks, heading downstream on a virtual tour of several rivers stretching from the Lower to the Upper Peninsula.

The FoBR is co-sponsoring Doc with the Boyne District Library. Note the date/time.

Save the Date Events
Details will be shared via email, boyneriver.org and Boyne River Facebook as events near

March 1  Scholarship Apps due, p. 3
May 19  Stream monitoring. Join us 9 am-12 pm to collect aquatic insects. Call for details 231-330-2923.
June 16  FoBR 20th Anniversary Party! Picnic on the river, noon until ?. Lunch provided. Gow Litzenburger’s home, 411 Pearl St., Boyne City. Paddle to the party. Enjoy food, games and friends. Rain or shine. We especially encourage past members to celebrate with us.
July  Nature workshops at the Boyne River Nature Area for kids and grown ups, p. 4
August 8  FoBR Annual Meeting and potluck dinner at the new Boyne City pavilion, 5:30 pm
Aug 11-Sep 23  The Smithsonian Water Ways exhibit/programs at Raven Hill and throughout the community, p. 3
September 12  Share Mary Campbell & John Larch’s Appalachian Trail experience, 7 pm.
Smithsonian Water Ways Statewide Exhibit
Raven Hill Discovery Center, Aug 11-Sept 23

Raven Hill was recently selected by the Michigan Humanities Council as one of six sites for the Smithsonian Museum exhibit. Water-related programs by local organizations, including FoBR, will be offered. It’s a chance to highlight the importance of northern Michigan’s water as a natural resource to be treasured, as well as water’s historical and cultural importance.

A website is in the works. To get involved, contact Cheri Leach at Raven Hill: 231.536.3369, www.info@miravenhill.org, www.MiRavenHill.org

New Kayak Launch at BC Marina

The City installed a kayak launch adjacent to the boat launch last summer.

It enables paddlers to easily pull themselves in or out of the water, and stabilizes the boat for entering or exiting.

Andrea Erratt tries out the new paddler’s launch

Reminder
March 1 Scholarship App Due
Are you studying for a career in marine biology, conservation, watershed management, water quality, fisheries and wildlife, DNR related fields or similar subjects? Do you live in the Boyne River watershed or Charlevoix County?

You may eligible for the FoBR’s Marie Zoberski $1,000 scholarship.

Visit boyneriver.com, click About Us, Education Scholarships, for details and the application form.

WATER|WAYS

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Citizen Scientists and the NSF-Funded Stream Forecasting Project

Dr. Chris Lowry, University at Buffalo, and our FoBR team are updating five Citizen Scientist water height gauges, adding water temperature readings. The Boyne River was selected in part for this enhanced research project because local Citizen Scientists actively text data year-round from the gauges.* Water heights can change hourly so please keep texting.

*Readable from the river bank, gauges are located at the Boyne Mountain main entrance, Springbrook Road bridge, Dam Road access site, the first boardwalk at the Boyne River Nature Area, and Old City Park at the East St. Bridge.

More Data = More Accurate Forecasting!

We thank the Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians for supplying Surface Water Quality Assessment Program data to supplement scientists’ research and Citizen Scientist data.

In September, Dr. Jason Knouft’s team, Saint Louis University, surveyed fish using a backpack electrofisher that won’t harm fish. From the Boyne River Nature Area, they counted and released a long nosed dace, logperch, white sucker and a salmon less than a year old.

We will host our research scientists in the next few months as they each visit to study our river.

Hear the PBS interview by Ben Thorp with Dr. Lowry at http://radio.wcmu.org/ost/citizens-and-scientists-team-create-riverforecasts#stream/0 or visit www.boyneriver.org. FoBR members Mike Durbin and Adam Kennedy are part of the interview.

Dr. Knouft (c) & team survey fish

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New Kayak Launch
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Andrea Erratt tries out the new paddler’s launch
Thank you for renewing your annual membership to the FoBR! You are providing needed financial and volunteer support to keep our organization healthy for the benefit of the beautiful Boyne River. The FoBR has no paid staff and is a 501c3 non-profit organization.

If you misplaced the renewal form mailed to members in January or would like another one to invite a friend to join, it is available on our website boyneriver.org or call 231-330-2923.

THANK YOU!

We use email to keep in touch with members. Please make sure we have you current address so you get event details, speaker notices and project updates. boyneriverinc@gmail.com

Calling Curiosity Seekers!
July Nature Workshops at the Boyne River Nature Area

Explore woods and water to answer “What is it? Where is it? Is it good for anything?”

Collect specimens for nature projects—weave a cattail mat.

Try wild dishes like salmon, trout, wild asparagus, chicory coffee, weed salad.

Come prepared to be amazed.
All ages welcome. Adults encouraged.

Details will be announced this spring on www.boyneriver.org, Boyne River Facebook and by email to FoBR members.

LTBB of Odawa Indians
Water Quality Summary Report

Since 2000, the LTBB tribal Surface Water Quality Protection Program has monitored water quality at 19 river and stream sampling stations and 17 sites of northwest Michigan lakes/reservoirs/ponds. Samples are analyzed for physical/chemical parameters such dissolved oxygen (DO), conductivity, pH, temperature, total phosphorus (TP), total nitrogen (TN), chloride, etc.


To reserve the Boyne River Nature Area pavilion for meetings and gatherings, call Boyne City Hall (231)-582-6597

Spend some time at the rain garden, stroll the .25 mile upper trail, or walk to the river where three boardwalks end at benches overlooking the serene Boyne River.

Use east entrance to the business park on M-75 at Moll Dr. At the stop sign, turn right on LexaMar Dr. to the nature area.
Koz’s Corner

What is "Native"?

Since 2016, I have been following the proposed re-introduction of 'Grayling' Thymallus Articus to once native Michigan waters. Under the Michigan Arctic Grayling Initiative, there have been funds secured via the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians and Michigan Tech University to complete research for viable feeder stream options in the Manistee River watershed.

Many have thought the extirpation of the Grayling was inevitable, due to loss of habitat in the 1900’s post logging era. Many rivers and landscapes were barren, and the fish were reportedly so easy to catch many anglers would hook 3 or 4 on a single cast. They became yet another export and exploitation of the once wild and gorgeous up north habitat, feeding many restaurant goers in greater Chicago. Catch and Release had not become a forefront on the anglers’ conservation platform. Yet another consideration for the gorgeous slate blue and speckled dorsal Grayling will be competition from other species—food available in the drift and spawning space, not to mention they may become a primary diet source for other species that were not present in 1900. I will be following the progress on my blog at True North Trout.com

Tight Lines, Koz

Adam’s Boyne River Kayaking Journal: 01/11/2018  Unseasonal 50°, no sun, no wind

Michael Ryan and I paddled yesterday (20°) and found the river frozen solid at the Boyne River Nature Area. From the ridge at the M75 storage units today, it appeared open at least to Coon’s Bridge. Optimistic, we left the take out van at Old City Park and headed to Dam Road. I forgot snow shoes but we walked down stream to check out a tree downed over the water. When we got in our kayaks, I realized I’d also forgotten my paddle. Drat, a paddler’s sin! I drove home in Michael’s truck, retrieved the paddle, stopped for snowshoes at the take out van, and was back to the river in 22 minutes. OK, now let’s head down the river!

Balmy, overcast, water noticeably higher than yesterday. The first obstacle was easy to ram and shuffle over. Saw ducks, three deer, and an eagle by Suzie’s property. Not much snow falling from cedars because it melted over the past 24 hours. Made it all the way to the mill pond before solid ice prevented any further paddling. Back-paddled to city property on Spring St. to take out; used snow shoes to drag boats the short distance to the road where Sheri picked us up.

Keep on Paddling, Adam Kennedy

2017-2018 FoBR Board of Directors

Adam Kennedy, President  231-330-2923  Marie Sheets, Vice President  231-675-3344
Nancy Cunningham, Secretary  231-582-9373  Bob Greene, Treasurer  231-582-2324
Michael Durbin  Mark Contrucci  Suzie Dickow  Candy Greene
Gow Litzenburger  Sheri Rhoads  Michael Ryan

We are your volunteer Board of Directors. Do you have questions? Ideas? Want to volunteer? Please call. The FoBR Board meets 4th Wednesdays, 6 pm, Boyne District Library, except holidays.
“boyneriver.org”

Learn about FoBR projects, activities, events, newsletters, links, information about the Boyne River and river wildlife, and more at the Friends of the Boyne River website.

Like us on Face Book! 📡

A frequent Boyne River visitor, the Great Blue Heron

Boyne River Trivia

The Boyne’s river otter eats primarily fish, mollusks and other invertebrate. It loves to swim, holds its breath up to 8 minutes, and its eyes are adapted for underwater vision, leaving it nearsighted out of water.

Weighing 11-30 lbs., the 35”-50” long mammal lives an average of 9 years in the wild. Predators are bobcats, coyotes and birds of prey. Incredibly playful, otters can be seen wrestling, chasing each other around and even sliding down snow-covered riverbanks.

No hibernating for these little guys; otters are active year round.

The Boyne River Bulletin is produced twice a year. Email comments and suggestions to boyneriver.org. Sheri Rhoads, Editor.