



"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."

2019 Winter Boyne River Bulletin

Kennedy Recognized for Outstanding Contribution to the Boyne Area

Adam Kennedy, FoBR President, was presented an Outstanding Contribution to the Boyne Area award at the January 17, 2018, Boyne Area Chamber of Commerce annual gala. Nominated by community members, the award recognizes his volunteer work with the Friends of the Boyne River.

Kennedy spoke about the FoBR volunteers who are dedicated to keeping positive attention on the Boyne River, educating the public about the river and working to protect and enhance it.

He said, "From the annual river sweep, stream monitoring to insure river quality, the National Science Foundation grant project to model forecasting, speakers on environmental subjects, giving scholarships to local college students studying environmental fields, and taking a stand on Line 5 and water balloons, we strive to be guardians of our precious resource."



Kennedy cheered the Boyne River's blue ribbon quality

Photo courtesy Boyne Area Chamber of Commerce



He added that the FoBR initiated river bank stabilization at Old City Park in 2009 and the Boyne River Nature Area, rain garden and boardwalks in 2014. He encouraged the 300 people in attendance to visit the nature area. "If you haven't been there, on the back side of the business park, take a walk to the river through the lush wetland on boardwalks to three riverside viewing platforms. You will find your place of peace."

Kennedy concluded, "Whether we fish, kayak, canoe, hunt, swim, birdwatch or explore the nature area, we all have a passion for the river. Our efforts wouldn't be possible without the board, past and present, and I'm having a great time working with active folks who step up to the plate no matter the activity. Thank you for this recognition. I am truly honored."



Join us for these guest speakers at the **Boyne District Library community room, 7pm.**
Refreshments provided. Bring a friend. No reservation needed.

Wed., March 13

Dave Edwards, *Monitoring and Research Director, Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council*

Since 2004, Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council and FoBR volunteers have monitored water chemistry and macroinvertebrates on the Boyne River. Dave will tell us about the Boyne River's water quality and explain the biological, chemical and physical responses in the surrounding environment due to direct human impact and precipitation events from global climate change. Join us to learn how to better protect our river.



Dave Edwards



M. Boersen & Cubs

Wed., May 8

Mark Boersen, *Wildlife Biologist, Michigan DNR Wildlife Division*

Mark is the black bear point person for Northern Lower Michigan. He also coordinates the DNR's surrogate sow bear program. They maintain a small group of adult female black bears with radio tracking collars. Each year, any orphaned bear cubs that come to the DNR can be placed with one of the collared females (along with her own cubs), to serve as a surrogate mother. Mark will speak about Michigan black bear biology, management and the surrogate sow program.

Wed., June 12 **Brenda Archambo**, *President, Sturgeon for Tomorrow, Black Lake Chapter*

Lake sturgeon can live 80-150 years, so the 20-year old non-profit program dedicated to the future of the Lake Sturgeon is just getting started. With a mission of assisting fisheries managers in the rehabilitation of the lake sturgeon nearly devastated by over fishing, habitat loss and pollution, SFT has a sturgeon guarding program and a hand in habitat conservation, hatchery rearing, stocking throughout the Cheboygan watershed, and more. Learn about these fascinating creatures that grow up to 3-6', 30-100 lbs., and are endangered, threatened or of special concern in 19 of 20 states throughout its range. sturgeonfortomorrow.org.



Researchers with 100-lb sturgeon, Black River

Photo: Detroit Free Press

Save the Date Events

Details will be shared via email, boyneriver.org and Facebook/Boyne River as events near.

May 11, Sat. **Stream monitoring.** Join us 9am-12pm at to collect Boyne River aquatic insects. Date is weather contingent. Call to learn more 231-330-2923.

Aug 14, Wed. **FoBR Annual Membership Meeting & Potluck.** 5:30pm, Veteran's Memorial Park pavilion.

Aug 17, Sat. **Annual River Sweep,** 9am-12pm. Meet at Veteran's Park boat launch. Walk the banks or paddle from Dam Road into town. Bring your kayak, pfd and gloves. Garbage bags provided.

Fall activities will be announced in the September news bulletin.

**Update:
Citizen Scientists and the
Stream Forecasting Model**

Preliminary results of the National Science Foundation grant project to create a river forecasting model look good.

It combines both CrowdHydrology data from the water height and temperature gauges and the transducers that send water flow data to a supercomputer every 15 minutes.

Flow measurements will continue in spring/summer, so **keep texting and stay tuned!**



**March 1
FoBR Scholarship Applications 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 in Charlevoix County? You may be eligible for the FoBR's Marie Zoberski \$1,000 scholarship.



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

What is a Rain Garden?

A basin constructed to collect water run-off, filled with native plants that decorate or attract wildlife. Rain gardens catch water from roofs and streets to prevent flooding and filter contaminants before they reach a river or lake.

Why are Rain Gardens Important?

When heavy rains fall or heavy snows melt, there can be damage to roads, businesses and homes from flooding. The runoff can also cause erosion damage to property and deposits silt in rivers and lakes. Silt disrupts the hatching of insects that feed the fish and eliminates places for fish to lay eggs.

Rainwater runoff from storms or just gentle rains washes our streets and farmlands and carries oil, chemicals, fertilizers and animal waste into lakes and rivers. This pollutes lakes and rivers, and feeds unwanted growth of plants and algae.

Strategically placed rain gardens catch the rain and hold it until it soaks into the ground. The rain that soaks into the ground will recharge groundwater. Rain gardens also provide food for birds, butterflies and some animals. Green plants absorb carbon from the air and in return, give us oxygen and help cool our earth.

And rain gardens add beauty to our environment.

Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council is an excellent source for rain garden information including rain garden site plans, native plant suggestions, size and cost estimates, maintenance and other additional resources.

watershedcouncil.org/rain-gardens.html

Thank you to Master Gardener Nancy Cunningham for this article.



N. Cunningham plants the rain garden at Boyne River Nature Area



Joe Pye thrives in wet conditions.

City Goal to Protect Lake Charlevoix and Boyne River

We are excited that Boyne City’s 2019 goals include “Protect Lake Charlevoix and the Boyne River”. One of six goals created from community input, the objectives for this goal include a stormwater ordinance and natural retention areas such as rain gardens. Here are the objectives in no particular order.



Boyne River from the
Park St. bridge

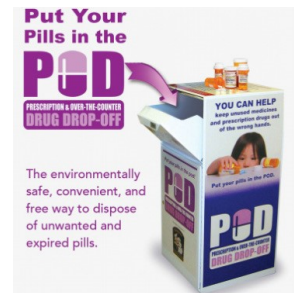
More at cityofboynecity.com.

- 1 Review already identified issues and recommend remedies; evaluate additional areas of concerns; determine estimated costs for improvements and possible timeline; review City’s practices along lakeshore and Boyne River; review development standards for both public and private properties, with a completion target of May 2020.
- 2 Develop a City stormwater ordinance in cooperation with East Jordan, Charlevoix and regional partners, with a completion target of May 2020.
- 3 Develop plan and cost estimates for stormwater discharge options, with a completion target of May 2020.
- 4 Investigate options, rain gardens and natural retention areas; move from “gray” infrastructure to “green” infrastructure, with a completion target of December 2019.
- 5 Enhance recreational opportunities in Boyne City’s parks and public spaces.
- 6 Catch up on maintenance backlog in City parks, including developing a cost estimate and job description for potential new staff position emphasizing park maintenance and grant/funding development, with a completion target of July 2020.

Thanks to You, “Pills in the POD” Works

Pharmaceuticals pose a threat to aquatic life if they are released into lakes and streams. Harmful chemicals can leach from landfills and will pass through wastewater treatment plants untouched. Proper disposal is key to protecting aquatic life. **Pills In the POD** keeps medications out of the natural environment.

POD drop boxes: Boyne City Hall lobby (Police Dept. window)
East Jordan Police Dept.
Sheriff’s offices in Charlevoix and on Beaver Island.



watershedcouncil.org/pharmaceuticals-in-our-waters and pillsinthepod.com

2019 FoBR Officers

Adam Kennedy, President 231-330-2923

Marie Sheets, Vice President 231-675-3344

Nancy Cunningham, Secretary 231-582-9373

Bob Greene, Treasurer 231-582-2434

The full board is on our website boyneriver.org.

Koz's Corner

What makes a Quality Fly? The Devil is in the Details - and it's all in the details . . .

Highest quality standards on every fly, whether it is a simple Amy's Ant or the venerable Copper John. Lead wraps on nymphs are exact, bead sizing and weight are never compromised. Counter ribbing on palmered hackle is often skipped by other companies - all Umpqua flies have counter ribbing. The hackle on your Stimulator or PMX is never sloppy and fly heads are all whip-finished and glued. You won't find that with other companies.



Sweater Fly

Do yourself a test. Seriously. Order a dozen family basic flies from Discount Fly Co. A and order the same from Umpqua. You will understand the consistency. Umpqua has over 180 Signature Fly Tyers with knowledge and depth of experience that only keeps growing. Yes, other companies have a growing number of tyers but it seems very few have the history and balance of new and experience like Umpqua. Ask your local fly shop what flies they carry - you are the customer and have every right to know what you are tying on the end of your line.

Besides, when you land the trout you have been chasing for the past few years, you might want to know who deserves the credit.

Tight Lines!

Koz

Great Lakes Region Sales Representative *Umpqua Feather Merchants*

Notes from Brian "Koz" Kosminski, owner of truenorthtrout.com, Boyne City



30 Years of Paddling the Boyne

Adam's Boyne River Kayaking Journal: Dec. 10, 2018
Perfect weather, sunny, 25° to 30°

Today is the 30th anniversary of monthly Boyne River paddles, year around. Great memories. Friends, family or solo – every trip is unique and jotted in a journal. This time of year I carry snow shoes in case the river is frozen near town, and wear plenty of warm gear. Nothing like snow falling from over hanging trees, icicles on small branches bouncing in the water, occasional animals surprised that any human is out there. Today was a solo trip, a chance to revel and reminisce back to the first journal entry in 1988.

A cormorant, two mergansers, four deer, a dozen mallards, a flock of seagulls, one helicopter. The sun felt good, haven't seen it for a few days. Very quiet in the woods. I paddled out into a calm Lake Charlevoix and over to Charlevoix St. where I could walk home. Life is good.

Keep on Paddling,
Adam

Notes from Adam Kennedy, Friends of the Boyne River

THANK YOU for renewing your annual FoBR membership! You are providing needed financial and volunteer support to keep our organization healthy for the benefit of the 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, go to boyneriver.org or call 231-330-2923.

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



“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 **Facebook**  / Boyne River



A frequent Boyne River visitor, the Great Blue Heron

Boyne River Trivia

Muskrats (2-4 lbs.) get their name from resembling stocky rats and a musky odor produced by scent glands.

Dark brown, their partially webbed hind feet function as paddles and smaller front feet are for digging.

Harvesting cattails, water lilies, pondweed and ferns for food and den sites, they create open water for ducks, geese, shorebirds and other wildlife.

They may raise 20 young per season but have many predators: mink (a major predator), otters, bobcats, house cats, dogs, coyotes, foxes, hawks and owls, and largemouth bass.



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

Friends of the Boyne River
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