Friends of the Boyne River
Annual Accomplishments for 2016 – 2017

This year, I have divided the Annual Accomplishments of the Friends of the Boyne River into sections. First is a list of the Board of Directors of the Friends of the Boyne River and what they have been doing throughout the year. Many of these accomplishments are ones that are done on a regular basis and maintain the FoBR as an environmental group. Without these accomplishments, the FoBR would not function. The second section discusses the two large important projects that we have started and will be continuing. If you have questions, please ask any board member for information.

The current Board of Directors of the Friends of the Boyne River include:

- **Adam Kennedy**, President, organizer of the project to keep water balloons out of the river, river monitor for the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council, FoBR organizer for RiverSweep and part of the Crowd Hydrology Project.
- **Marie Sheets**, Vice President, FoBR representative to the Watershed Council’s Lake Charlevoix Watershed Committee, scholarship committee member, river monitor.
- **Bob Greene**, Treasurer
- **Nancy Cunningham**, Secretary, representative to the Watershed Council’s Lake Charlevoix Watershed Committee, Scholarship chair, river monitor, chair for Boyne River Nature Area and Old City Park.
- **Sheri Rhoads**, Boyne River Bulletin editor, river monitor, project to keep water balloons out of the river.
- **Ed Strzelinski**, Member-at-Large, river monitor, web site support, organizer of the Crowd Hydrology Gauge project;
- **Mark Contrucci**, Maintenance of the river bank in Old City Park and the Boyne River Nature Area. FoBR representative for Line 5 and scholarship committee member.
- **Candy Greene**, Membership Chair, teacher for nature classes and organizer of events.
- **Mike Ryan**, River monitoring for problems and annual RiverSweep.
- **Jerry Swift**, Maintenance of our website.
- **Suzie Dickow**, Teacher of Art and Nature classes at the Boyne River Nature Area and a presenter for the Watershed Council and Lake Charlevoix Association’s Experience Lake Charlevoix.

In addition to the Board, FoBR members Chitra Contrucci organized our refreshments for our General Meetings this year and Tom Smith coordinated our efforts to keep balloons out of the river.

We protect the river in many ways. Adam Kennedy paddles the river at least monthly throughout the year. We participate in the Annual River Sweep which has hauled amazing amounts of trash out of the river. We have monofilament containers at Dam Rd. and we have two teams that are part of Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council’s Stream Monitoring Program. During 2016 and 2017, we continued our monthly programs on environmental topics and we continued our Marie Zoberski Scholarship by giving Ann Durbin and Emily Ellwanger scholarships.

Information about the meetings and other events can be found on our website [www.boyneriver.org](http://www.boyneriver.org). You can contact us at [boyneriverinc@gmail.com](mailto:boyneriverinc@gmail.com). For information about water levels in the Boyne River, go to [www.boyneriver.org/crowdhydrology-project](http://www.boyneriver.org/crowdhydrology-project) and select a monitoring site.

If you are interested in keeping our website up to date, please talk to us. Jerry Swift is leaving his webmaster responsibilities so we need someone to keep our website alive.

We have two large continuing projects:
We are trying to keep water balloons out of the river during the Fourth of July activities. The pieces of balloon are litter and they threaten wildlife on the river. We asked for and received support from organizations all over Boyne City including the Chamber of Commerce, the Fourth of July Committee and the City Commission. We feel that people recognized the problem. There was a significant reduction in water balloon fragments in the river and on the bank.

In 2014, we installed gauges along the river for you, our ‘Citizen Scientists,’ to record river height by texting your observations to a computer located at the University at Buffalo. Recently, this program has expanded to include scientists from Indiana University and St. Louis University. A proposal to analyze our citizen data using high speed computers has awarded these researchers a NSF grant to develop a model that will predict river conditions and aquatic species habitat several days in advance.

*We do a lot of activities that are fun and important to the health of our river and the whole Boyne River Watershed. We would love to have you join us. Having more members means that there are more people to share the fun and more hands to help keep the river clean. Your membership money helps fund these projects. If any of these projects sound interesting to you, talk to us. We are happy to tell you more.*