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.

Spring 2016 Boyne River Bulletin

FoBR Receives Generous Donation

The Friends of the Board River board was thrilled in March to receive a $20,000 donation from the estate of Tom Sheets, 1998 co-founder of the Friends of the Boyne River. It comes at a time when water protection issues are coming to the forefront.

Tom set the stage for engaging local residents in safeguarding, enjoying and learning from the river. He did this with enthusiasm, educating and involving people as he guided our fledging organization.

As we decide in the near future how to earmark the funds, we gratefully acknowledge the Sheets family and Tom’s dedication to the betterment of the Boyne River.

Tribute plaque at Old City Park

2002 Tom Sheets leads a Boyne River school group tour
Upcoming Events & Volunteer Opportunities

**Wed., June 8**
Hear Stephen Brede of Petoskey talk about his 3,800-mile paddle around the Great Lakes! Over six summers, Steve paddled his Kruger canoe Seaweed around the shorelines of all five Great Lakes. He will tell us about the challenges of paddling and camping along his solo voyage, and describe amazing places, people and animals he encountered along the diverse coasts of the world’s largest group of fresh water lakes. **Join us at the Boyne District Library community room, 7-8pm. Refreshments provided. Bring a friend. No reservation needed.**

**Stephen Brede, Petoskey**

**Wed., July 5 9am, Boyne City’s Old City Park**
Please join us to walk the river banks and paddle from East St. to the river mouth, collecting July 4th celebration debris, particularly **water balloons** from the poplar raft race. As stewards of the Boyne River, we can make a difference by removing balloons that eventually break down into microbeads and are mistakenly eaten by fish and waterfowl.

“Microbeads have the potential to cause harm to Great Lakes aquatic species. The microbeads are about the same size as many fish eggs, which means that they can look like food. Fish such as yellow perch or turtles and seagulls are unable to distinguish between food and microbeads and, therefore, feed on microbead plastics. SUNY Fredonia researchers performing food web surveys are finding plastic in the stomach of some Great Lakes fish species, including perch. If fish or birds eat the inert beads, the material can deprive them of nutrients from real food or get lodged in their stomachs or intestines, blocking digestive systems.”

From the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council website: [www.watershedcouncil.org/microbeads.html](http://www.watershedcouncil.org/microbeads.html)

**Wed., July 20 & 27 10am-Noon Summer Art Class for Kids**
FoBR is offering a nature-based art class for children aged 5 to 12 years old this summer at the Boyne River Nature Area. Candy Greene & Suzie Dickow, members of the FoBR Board of Directors, will teach Art in Nature classes on Wednesday, July 20 and July 27, 10am to 12pm. Parents are asked to be present and there is no charge. The nature area is in the Boyne City business park on M-75 S. Use the east entrance at Moll Dr., turn right at the stop sign. The nature area pavilion and parking lot are on the left. Reservations are suggested to give us an idea of supplies. Call Candy (231) 582-2434 and watch for details at [www.boyneriver.org](http://www.boyneriver.org).

**Wed., August 10 FoBR Annual Membership Meeting and potluck dinner.** Details later this summer.

**Sat., August 20 9am – Noon 2016 Boyne River Sweep**
Veteran’s Park boat launch. As part of the national river sweep, join volunteers on six rivers to clean up, pick up and tidy up our favorite rivers: Bear, Boyne, Jordan, Maple, Pigeon and Sturgeon.

Walk the river banks or paddle from Dam Road into town. Bring your own boat, pfd and paddle. We provide garbage bags and dispose of the collection. Organizers of the 6RiverSweep will hold an event following the sweep in Wolverine at Lumberman's park or Thirsty Sturgeon Tavern. More details as the event nears. All participants are invited to attend. Contact Adam Kennedy, Boyne River sweep leader, if you have questions (231) 330-2923.
**Monthly FoBR Board of Directors** meets 4th Wednesdays, 6 pm, at the Boyne District Library except for November (3rd Wed.) and December (generally no meeting). The full board is listed at boyneriver.org. Click on About Us, then Board of Directors.

**All Year Be a Scientist: Text water levels**
The FoBR crowd hydrology team has five water level monitoring gauges on the river, ready for visitors to report water levels via text. When you text us the water height, your measurement is used to create a historical record. If enough people text data, we can help predict floods and draughts. State and local agencies can’t put monitors on every river, but Crowd Hydrology provides a way to track this river that is important to us. Help support Crowd Hydrology by texting a measurement every time you visit.

**All Year** The Boyne City POD (Prescription and Over-the-counter Drug drop off) is relocated to the temporary Boyne City Police Dept. entrance in the old street garage while the new city facilities building is under construction. Safely dispose of unwanted or unused prescription and over-the-counter medications.

Proper disposal helps keep our waters clean and our families and community safe.

**Boyne City Commission Passes Line 5 Opposition Resolution**

The FoBR Board of Directors thanks the Boyne City Commission for approving a resolution on May 10 in opposition to Enbridge, Inc.’s 63-year old Line 5 that daily carries 23 million gallons of oil and petroleum products under the Straits of Mackinac.

In April, the FoBR asked the city to consider a resolution in light of concerns about how safe the continued operation of the 63-year-old pipeline is given the age and its location in the straits and the world’s largest fresh body of water.

Following presentations from Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council, Enbridge, Inc., and Dr. Ed Timm who did the initial engineering opinion for the lawyers at FLOW (For the Love of Water) on corrosion and structural issues with the pipeline, the city commission voted 4-0 to approve a resolution, joining 40 Michigan communities voicing concerns. The line starts in Superior, Wisconsin, runs across the U.P., passes under the Mackinac Straits through two pipelines, and then runs through Lower Michigan to a destination refinery in Sarnia, Ontario. The pipeline crosses at least 45 waterways and 23 counties.

The city’s resolution calls for the decommissioning of the pipeline but also recognizes economic realities surrounding Line 5 and acknowledges that this may not occur in the near term. The final resolution will be posted on the city’s website. Resolutions from supporting communities are online at www.oilandwaterdontmix.org (click supporters, then local governments, scroll down to community lists). Visit FLOW for additional information www.flowforwater.org.

Think Globally. Act Locally.
Recent Guest Presenters

On March 23, FoBR guest speaker **Jon Mauchmar**, an environmental specialist with the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, talked about the Tribe making plans to meet climate change challenges. The Odawa people have a deep connection with their environment. Being from the Great Lakes, the largest body of fresh water on the planet, water plays a vital role in the history, culture, beliefs, economy and even the political background of the tribe.

Jon explained that temperature and precipitation have been going up since 1990. So, for example, if the trend continues, there could be fewer maple, ash and white cedar trees and more oak. This could lead to more deer and rabbits. With increased rain, erosion and flooding are concerns. Higher water temperatures mean fewer brook trout and more suckers and creek chubs. The Tribe is identifying environmental issues and how to manage the changes. For more information on their Climate Change Adaption Plan, visit *nibiishnaagdown.com*.

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**Bryan Shumaker**, President, Northern Michigan Astronomy Club, showed some wonderful night sky photos on April 27 as he talked about comets, planets, nebulas, meteors and galaxies. A night sky photographer, he said there are a 100 billion galaxies, our nearest star is 4 light years away, and a meteor the size of a pebble enters the atmosphere at 20,000 mph.

The group has night sky viewing planned the first week of August at Raven Hill Discovery Center. For information on viewing events, star parties, monthly club meetings, photographs and Aurora Borealis forecasts, visit *www.nomac.net*.

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**Teresa & Michael McGill** presented “Nature in Motion” wildlife photography and videography on May 11. They film amazing wildlife at Seney, the U.P.’s National Wildlife Refuge. From bears and wolves to birds and reptiles, their photos can be viewed on Facebook or at *http://mcgillsnatureinmotion.com/*.

They talked about Seney’s history as a wildlife refuge, how to locate, observe and photograph wildlife, and emphasized the importance of ethical photography, keeping a respectful distance to protect both your subject and yourself. When humans encroach on wild animals and get hurt, authorities may be forced to kill that animal. Please be considerate!
April 21—Volunteers on one of two the Boyne River monitoring teams collect “water bugs” and data two times a year, May and Sept., and preserve them in alcohol for later identification.

The Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council uses the data to determine the relative health of the river, locate specific problem areas and look at changes over time.

Nancy Cunningham
Marie Sheets
Beth Varty

Go to http://www.watershedcouncil.org/ and click on Volunteer Stream Monitoring Program to find the data results from several area rivers.

Adam’s Boyne River Kayaking Journal: 04/27/16

Sunny, breezy, 53 degrees

Michael Ryan and I canoed this trip. My shoulder is tender from surgery so Michael took the stern. It felt fantastic to be on the river again. We couldn’t identify a couple dark ducks but saw Canadian geese sitting on nests. We took out a little bit early on Spring St. across from Bowman’s property because I couldn’t help paddle against the headwind that started at the Mill Pond. Thanks, Michael, for getting me down the river this month!

Adam Kennedy
“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!

We are fortunate to have volunteers who keep the FoBR engine running. The website gives us the means to keep our membership updated and the public aware of the positive environmental work being done to preserve and protect the Boyne River.

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\[ \text{Boyne River Trivia} \]

The Boyne River system drains all or portions of the following cities, townships, and villages:

- Antrim County:
  - Warner Township

- Charlevoix County:
  - Boyne Valley Township
  - Evangeline Township
  - Hudson Township
  - Melrose Township
  - Wilson Township

- Otsego County:
  - Elmira Township
  - Hayes Township