This Praying Mantis is king of the Petoskey Stone hill
Coming Events

July

• Wednesday, July 14
  NO MEETING

* Wednesday, July 28, 6:00 PM
  Board of Directors Meeting
  Boyne Library Conference Room
  (All Members Welcome)

August

FOBR ANNUAL MEETING

* Wednesday, August 11, 5:30 PM
  Veterans Memorial Park Pavilion
  (Set up at 5:00 PM, see insert above)

* Wednesday, August 25, 6:00 PM
  Board of Directors Meeting
  Boyne Library Conference Room
  (All Members Welcome)

September

* Wednesday, September 8, 7:00 PM
  General Membership Meeting
  Boyne Library Community Room
  Presentation: The Old City Park
  From the logging days to the FOBR
  bank restoration. Nancy Cunningham

* Wednesday, September 22, 6:00 PM
  Board of Directors Meeting
  Boyne Library Conference Room
  (All Members Welcome)

FOBR ANNUAL MEETING

Meat dishes, beverages and table service will be pro-
vided. Please bring a dish to pass. This is our biggest
gathering of the year with a brief annual report, games,
prizes and an enjoyable evening by the lake. Hope to
see you there! Call Candy Greene for information.

The Old City Park

From the early 1900’s when these ladies spent a pleasant Sunday afternoon rowing along the rustic banks of
the Boyne River to the present day, many changes have taken place. The Friends of the Boyne River have
played a significant role in this process. Nancy Cunningham will explain at our meeting on September 8th.
From The President

It's been a busy time since the last newsletter. We took a trip to the Grass River Preserve near Bellaire. I had never been there before. It is set up as a boardwalk through a beautiful wetland along a river; rich in plants, wildflowers and trees. It would be an excellent subject for a book with photographs and text describing what to expect in an untouched northern Michigan wetland.

In June, Bob Morgridge made a presentation at our membership meeting on early Boyne City and its relationship to the Boyne River. We learned a lot about our river and how it fit into the logging and early industry of our area.

The meeting was followed by the wonderful refreshments that Donna Swift always puts together for us.

We have been talking about a beaver dam in the North Branch of the Boyne and the damage it was doing to the river and the Deppa Nature Preserve. After getting the appropriate permission, a group of us removed the dam with a combination of hooked rods, muscle power and enthusiasm. As the water level went down and the branch re-established its original banks, we discovered a number of native lampreys in the accumulated silt. These are not the invasive eels that have caused so much difficulty, but a native creature that fits our ecology. Most of us have not seen them before. It was a very rewarding experience. We ended our work with a lovely party at the Maltby's.

As for the beaver, it appears that he had abandoned the dam, probably months before we got there. It was a poorly selected site without the appropriate vegetation for food. Their main meal is poplar bark and twigs and there are very few poplars in the immediate area. The dam seems to have been a misplaced project of youthful enthusiasm.

Our chipmunk, Henry, is doing very well in our yard this month. He is active and busy around the area and seems to have acquired a friend. We don't know if they are social companions or if it is a romance. Probably time will make that evident.

We did have a family on our property however. One evening, we looked out the kitchen window and saw a mother skunk and seven teenagers come out from under our deck, cross the yard and disappear into the field. As cute as they were, we really didn't want them as part of the family. We didn't want them exterminated, we just wanted them deported. However, we have kept our eyes open and haven't seen them in the last couple of weeks. I think what we saw was moving day.

Dick Cunningham

Four species of lampreys are Native to the Great Lakes region.

During the removal of the beaver dam from the North Branch of the Boyne River, Jerry Swift caught this lamprey in the exposed silt along the bank. Don Lockman took this photo and provided some research materials on the native lampreys of Michigan. The beaver dam had caused a considerable amount of silt to collect in the pond above the dam. Three of these creatures emerged from burrows in the silt as the water level dropped.

The four species are; the Chestnut Lamprey, the Silver Lamprey, the American Brook Lamprey and the Northern Brook Lamprey. The Chestnut and Silver Lampreys are parasitic but the others are not. The native Lampreys that are parasitic do not kill the host fish.

Both Brook Lampreys have sucking disks that are smaller than the head diameter. Judging from the picture, the sample that Jerry caught is probably one of the Brook Lampreys. To determine which one we would have had to examine the rows of teeth in the mouth. We quickly returned this one to the stream.

These inhabitants of our streams are rarely seen. We were fortunate to find one.
Pulling the Beaver Dam was quite a project! The dam was small but it was heavily silted in making the removal of the wood difficult. Fortunately, we had a large turnout and there were many hands to do the work. It was muddy, dirty work but it was great to see the water flowing again. Had the dam been left alone some serious bank erosion would have occurred. The River had developed two channels around the dam that were breaking down the banks.

It appeared that the beaver had burrowed under the bank rather than building a stick house. As the water rose in the pond it flooded over and flowed into their air hole. This may be part of the reason that they abandoned the dam.

Everyone seemed to have a good time. There was a large group of onlookers watching the process. We will never know if it was the sense of civic duty or the lure of coney dogs at the Maltby’s that accounted for the great turnout.
The Beautiful Grass River Nature Area  May 23, 2010

The hikers.  “Hi Ho, Hi Ho” its on the trail we go!

The Friends had a nice sunny afternoon for a hike through the extensive white cedar swamp along the Grass River near Bellaire. There is over a mile of boardwalk that makes this rugged area accessible. At the edge of the boardwalk many native plants can be seen including ferns and wild flowers.
The Friends of the Boyne River

Notice of Annual Meeting

In accordance with the bylaws of The Friends of the Boyne River, notice is hereby given that the annual meeting of the corporation will be held at the following date, time, and place:

Wednesday, August 11, 2010
5:30 P.M.
Veterans Park Shelter
Corner of Lake and State Streets
Boyne City, MI 49712

The purpose of the meeting will be election of members to serve on the Board of Directors, and such other business as may come before the meeting.
A blank proxy is attached below. If there is any doubt that you will be able to attend the meeting, please complete and return the proxy. If you then attend after all, you may reclaim it.

The Friends of the Boyne River, by, Nancy Cunningham, Secretary, July 1, 2010

Friends of the Boyne River
P.O. Box 186
Boyne City, MI 49712

PROXY

☐ (Print the name of a voting member of FoBR who you know will attend the meeting)

Or

☐ A Member of the Board of Directors
to vote as proxy in the election of Directors and any issues that may come before the corporation at the Annual Meeting August 11, 2010, and any adjournment thereof.

Dated ___________________, 2010
Signed ________________________________________________

Report From Camp Daggett by Candy Greene

Camp Daggett was the site of another fun afternoon for 4 “Friends” members. Susie Dickow, Marie Sheets, Donna Moll and Candy Greene were workshop leaders for the Boyne City and Wolverine 6th graders attending Camp Daggett the first week of June.

Susie and Marie taught “Edible Plants”. Many plant samples were supplied by Susie, and tastes of Susie’s famous Leek-Moral soup were available. The 3 workshops were packed with interested and enthusiastic students.

Donna Moll showed how to create her famous “Pressed Flowers” The campers gathered their own flower petals and were guided by Donna to create beautiful and lasting bookmarks.

Candy told stories about “Plant Folklore”. The campers enjoyed hearing how plants were named and which ones were used for medicines. Many participated with their own stories. Everyone drew pictures of flowers and noted stories they wanted to remember in a booklet they took home with them.

It was a busy and enjoyable afternoon as the Friends participated in another local and educational event.