



The River View

News From The Friends of the Shiawassee River

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FOSR 14th Annual River Clean Up and Tire Collection



Owosso Middle School students clean river. Get dirty with us at the 14th Annual River Clean up on Saturday, August 6. FOSR Archives

Join in for River Cleanup!

A clean and healthy river equals a clean and healthy community! That's the message that our partners and supporters from local business are promoting as the 14th Annual Shiawassee River Cleanup draws closer. A healthier river means more residents, tourists and great recreation options, which translates into more business generated locally.

Through almost \$2000 of funding from the Department of Environmental Quality and the Great Lakes Commission Volunteer River, Stream and Creek Cleanup (VRSCC) Program, the FOSR and Shiawassee County Health Department will continue their work improving the community and natural resources. Volunteers will be meeting at two locations on Saturday, August 6. Owosso volunteers will meet at Oakwood Avenue Bridge and Corunna volunteers will meet at McCurdy Park. Volunteers will receive free t-shirts, and lunch, sponsored by Mancino's of Owosso. There will also be a prize for the "Most Unusual Find." Stay tuned through Facebook or ShiawasseeRiver.org for details.

River Cleanup is August 6!

Volunteers can help by:

- * signup early and complete your waiver form ahead of time. Waivers can be found at ShiawasseeRiver.org.
- Minors will need to have a guardian signature.
- * wear comfortable clothes and old shoes
- * wear sunscreen and bug spray
- * donating the use of a flat-bottom boat or old canoe

Friends Welcomes New Director

Friends of the Shiawassee River

After pounds and pounds of invasive species removed, dozens of macro invertebrate samplings and river clean ups, Heidi Frei has left the Friends of the Shiawassee and has taken a position with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Parks and Recreation Division. She will be stewarding parks on the west side of the state. In the interim, director responsibilities will be carried out by Jennifer McMillon. Jennifer is a 2011 graduate of Michigan State University, with a B.S. in Environmental Studies and Agriscience. She has completed 1700 volunteer hours as an AmeriCorps Volunteer through the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps. She is also currently completing 450 volunteer hours...

see New Director, page 2.

Tire Collection Information

Tires collected from the Shiawassee River will be accepted at no fee with all others accepted at a reduced price. See fee schedule below for more information. No tractor tires will be accepted.

Tires From River:	FREE!
Truck/Car tires no rim:	\$2 (with rim \$3)
Semi tires no rim:	\$5 (with rim \$10)

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Dates with Friends

Saturday, August 6, 2011

9 AM –12 PM

14th Annual River Clean Up

Owosso volunteers will meet at Oakwood Avenue Bridge, while Corunna volunteers will meet at McCurdy Park. Volunteers will receive free t-shirt and lunch, compliments of Mancino's. There is a prize for "Most Unusual Find."

June through July, 2011

Tire Collection for Recycling

Help the FOSR and Shiawassee Co. Health Dept. collect and recycle tires from the River. Free canoe rentals to volunteers by calling the FOSR at 989-723-9062.

Wine Tasting Fundraiser

Thursday, Sept. 15, 2011

5:30 to 7:30

Enjoy a beautiful setting along the Shiawassee River while sampling some fantastic wine selections. All proceeds benefit the conservation activities of the FOSR. Admission is \$25/person with free admission for Walleye and Bald Eagle members.

New Director (continued from page 1)



as an AmeriCorps member through Mid-Michigan Environmental Action Council, in East Lansing.

"I am excited to do work that I care about and in a community with such compassion for it's natural resources," says McMillon (pictured left.) "We have so many exciting events and programs going on. I am happy to be diving in with all of these great opportunities in the works."

Jennifer interned 300 hours for the Friends during her last semester at MSU. During that time she helped organize many years worth of Friends data so that it could be uploaded into their new database software, WaterGrass. She also helped to lead garlic mustard pulls.

"I am really thankful to Heidi and Friends for giving me this opportunity. I feel truly blessed," she says. "The Board of Directors for Friends are very passionate and hard-working people. I can't wait to hold my first River Clean Up and work with our awesome Stream Team. If you see me around town or wearing waders somewhere, say hello. I am excited to meet all of the 'Friends'."

Friends At 15 By Tom Cook, Secretary, FOSR

In 1996, several community members gathered to found the Friends of the Shiawassee River to carry on the work that Jim Miner had started in the 1960s. Now, the Friends have reached adolescence and are at another key milestone in their development. We have much to be proud of, and the potential for more growth, but our actions in the next few months will be critical to our future.

In fifteen years the Friends have accomplished much. The annual summer clean-up is now not only a well established community event that consistently brings out 100 or more volunteers, it is now accompanied by a spring event held with the City of Owosso that engages many residents and youth in tree planting, graffiti clean-up, and other green activities. Our volunteer efforts now also include Stream Teams who are building a solid database on water quality in the Shiawassee and its tributaries. We have also built partnerships not only with The Nature Conservancy who helped provide us staffing, but also with several local governments, the DeVries Nature Conservancy, school groups and others.

Importantly to our growth, the Friends have gotten known by both public and private funders and we have recently been the recipient of several grants to help us expand our work (see stories on page 3). And our membership and our donations have grown. As a strapping teenager, we now have some muscle here and there, even if we are a bit awkward at times in how we use it.

Adulthood is just a few years away, and if we can add a little more strength, gain a few more skills, and develop the wisdom that comes from maturity, we might just become a successful, even handsome, young adult. Heidi Frei, who really helped us grow up, has moved on, and while we are sad at her leaving, we need to use this transition point as an opportunity. Think of it as getting ready for college. What do we want to study (i.e. what should be our priorities going forward)? Do we have the education necessary to prepare us for the next level (what skills do we need from staff and volunteers)? And, importantly, what can we afford in the way of a college education (what is our financial status)?

Thank you for your contributions to the birth, childhood, and recent growth of the Friends. I hope you can continue to find ways to provide a helping hand, a little guidance, and perhaps some scholarship contributions as we move on.

Enhancing the Voight Loop Park Trail by Jennifer McMillon, Interim Director, FOSR

The Loop Park Trail and the Jim Miner River Trail represent one of the major opportunities for residents and visitors to enjoy the Shiawassee River and recreate along its banks in the City of Owosso. This July, Friends of the Shiawassee, in partnership with Baker College of Owosso's summer youth program, will begin trail improvements that will offer a more aesthetically pleasing environment, as well as offer better protection for the river environment.

The work crew will begin with removing brush and invasive species then they will begin preparing the area for replanting of native riparian species. Participants will be trained by Friends staff and volunteers on proper plant identification and invasive species removal techniques. Improved aesthetics will benefit the community, while hands on job training will expose the participants to careers in conservation and natural resources. Thanks to a generous donation from Jerry Voight, as well as the support and advice from Bill Schnieder, of Wild Types in Mason, MI, this project will kick off this July and carry on until late August.

Community Supported Feasibility Study for Removal of Owosso Dam

by Jennifer McMillon, Interim Director, FOSR

From grant money received from the Healing Our Waters Program, administered by Freshwater Future, Friends will engage the community and partners in the development of a plan that would best prepare the FOSR and partners to seek federal funds for implementation of a new design for the Owosso Dam. This new design, which could be full removal or partial, would improve habitat for migratory fish and work towards delisting of habitat as a beneficial use impairment. Building off the success of the Chesaning Dam replacement, this project is intended to provide the momentum needed to improve connectivity upstream in Corunna, further enhancing fish passage on the Shiawassee River.



Habitat for migratory fish from the Saginaw Bay has historically been altered and fragmented by hundreds of barriers across the Saginaw Bay Watershed. The Environmental Protection Agency has labeled the Saginaw River and Bay area and "area of concern." In order to improve fish population, passage is the key concern. Despite the Owosso Dam not situated within the current priority area, it impacts the availability of habitat for species migrating from the Saginaw Bay. Removing or redesigning the structure will provide an additional five river miles of habitat between the Chesaning rock ramp and the Corunna Dam.

Ideally, these efforts will encourage activity upstream, which in turn benefits the Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge. The resulting design and community support will enable the Friends and partners to seek implementation funds from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and other funding agencies.

For more information on community meetings discussing dam redesign, email friends at info@shiawasseeiver.org, or call 989.723.9062. Don't forget to follow us on Facebook!

Goals of the Friends of the Shiawassee River

Care for the River

Maintain and improve the River's water quality, habitats, and natural banks.

Enjoy the River

Increase recreational access and responsible use of the river for anglers, canoeists, walkway users, park visitors, and others who enjoy the River.

Share the River

Enhance the community's appreciation and knowledge of the River, especially among our youth.

Become a 'Friend' of the River on page 6. For more information about the Friends of the Shiawassee River and membership, contact 989.723.9062 or visit us on-line at ShiawasseeRiver.org or on find us on Facebook.

Summer is the perfect time to Enjoy the Shiawassee River!

Why drive hours up north when you can enjoy your paddle locally?



A bald eagle overlooks the Shiawassee River along its banks. Photo by S. Shelley.

The Friends of the Shiawassee River, Headwaters Trails and the Shiawassee River Keepers invite you to paddle the Shiawassee Heritage Water Trail, which begins in Oakland County. For more information, visit www.HeadwatersTrailsInc.org.

Or, download the FOSR Canoe Guide available at ShiawasseeRiver.org.
www.shiawasseeRiver.org/abouttheriver/enjoyyourriver.html

The Canoe Guide details access points, length of trip and describes the river through the landscape including important features and historical facts. In Shiawassee County, contact Cheff's Canoe Rental, located in Byron. They can be reached at 989.494.9955.

As part of Shiawassee County Health Department's and FOSR River Clean Up, Cheff's Canoe has offered complimentary canoe rentals to those picking up tires between Byron and Shiatown. To make arrangements for canoe rental or tire pick up, please call 989.723.9062.

Thank You Heidi Frei

Friends of the Shiawassee River

Heidi Frei became a Friend of the Shiawassee River five years ago, and we owe her much appreciation for her work on behalf of the River and the Friends. Heidi started her work with The Nature Conservancy, but then moved on to become the first Executive Director of the organization. In her time, she has engaged many new volunteers in clean-ups, invasive species removal, and sampling work. She has helped start new programs and partnerships, secured new grants, and increased the visibility and effectiveness of the Friends. Most of all, she has been a Friend to not only the River, but too many of us in the watershed. We will miss her upbeat attitude and smiling presence, but the legacy of her work will continue. Thank you.

-Friends of the Shiawassee River

Wine Tasting Fundraiser

Join us for good "Friends," good times and good wine along the banks of the Shiawassee River. The event will take place at the residence of Mike and Ruth Goergen, 710 N. Chipman, Owosso, MI 48867. Tickets are \$25 with all proceeds going to support the activities of FOSR. Bald Eagle members receive complimentary admission for two. Space is limited. Your RSVP in advance is appreciated.



Good times along the Shiawassee River. FOSR Archives



Help support conservation locally by becoming a member today!

Thank you to all of our members!

Friend

Michael and Nancy Brown
June Caponi
Ivan and Dorothy Conger
Lila Gerber
Robert and Evelyn Kraatz
Anthony Sinicropi

Supporter

Micheal and Lisa Ash
Robert and Arlene Ardelean
Susan and Reid Baxter
Micheal Beaulac
Mary Alice Campbell
Gerald and Helen Cole
Jed and Ann Dingsen
Thomas Edwards
Patricia Eickholt
Ben and Lydia Frederick
Richard and Katherine Godbold
Russell and Beverly Hand
Robert and Denise Hemenway
Jane Hofstra
Meredith Keating
Barb and Don Kirkland
Dave Kushner
Lance and Jacalyn Little
Glen Love
Junior Love
Susan and Carl Ludington
Tracy McMullen
John Michalec
David Miner
Mark and Christine Mueller
Hugh and Mary Parker
Don Trap
Lois and James Whalen
Waugh's Culligan

Walleye

Kenneth Algozin
Kevin and Mary Kay Smith
Craig Brehmer
Gary Burk
Jerry and Connie Voight

Benefactor

Bonnie and Chuck Agerstrand
Dr. Richard and Connie Ball
Richard and Joyce Batchelor
Michael and Linda Bazelides
Robert Braden
Jim and Barb Clatterbaugh
Al and Mary Compton
Jerry and Deb Gregoricka
General and Aubrey Grant
James and Barbara Greve
Phillip & Becky Hathaway
Larry and Krista Johnson
Peter and Kristina Karsten
Charles and Linda Keenan
Gregory and Jacklynn Kimmer
Ken and Judy Kirkman
William and Dorothy Knecht
Dana and Karen Kong
Paul and Kit Kuhlman
Becky and Tom McClear
James and Sandra Miner
Tony and Debra Newman
Lance and Julie Omer
Gene and Johanna Paez
Cindy Popovitch
Paul and Cindy Schluckbier
David and Elaine Shepard
Carol Vaughn
David and Pat Vaughn

Blue Heron

Robert and Diane Collier
Debbie's Outdoor Services
Kristina Ennis
Thomas and Kathleen Gross
Rosalyn Henry
Dr. Erhard and Sharon Marz
Dr. Robert Roty
David and Elizabeth Talbert
Paul Wenstrom

Bald Eagle

Schluckebier Financial Team at
Wells-Fargo Advisors

The FOSR regret any errors reported or missing from our lists.
Please promptly notify us of any omissions or corrections! This
list represents members of 1/1/11 - 6/1/11.

Membership

Do your part to help protect our freshwater!

Just 3 percent of the world's water exists as fresh water-
2 percent is locked in the polar ice caps,
less than 1 percent resides in freshwater lakes and streams.

You can help protect the Shiawassee River by becoming a member today!

Your membership supports the Friends' programs, including River Cleanups and educational events.



Name _____
Address _____
City/ST/Zip _____
Phone _____
Email _____

Membership Levels

- ___ \$15 Friend
- ___ \$30 Supporter
- ___ \$50 Benefactor
- ___ \$100 Blue Heron
- ___ \$250 Walleye
- ___ \$500 Bald Eagle

Please make check payable & mail to:
Friends of the Shiawassee River •
P.O. Box 402 • Owosso, MI 48867

Celebrate our environment and natural resources by becoming a **Walleye** or **Bald Eagle**! These two important species call the Shiawassee River watershed home.

Your contribution supports the efforts of the Friends of the Shiawassee River as we work towards protecting and promoting good habitat!



Friends of the Shiawassee River

The Friends is a nonprofit 501c3 volunteer organization in the Shiawassee River watershed.

Note NEW Address:
Friends of the Shiawassee River
308 West Main St., Suite 7
Owosso, MI 48867

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