



A Citizens' watershed
conservation organization

Reading the River



Volume 18, Issue 2 ~ Summer 2021

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What's happening here?



For the answer to the question, see page 6.

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Greetings from the president

Finally!, COVID is close to being under control. While there are still some reported cases, most restrictions are being relaxed due to vaccinations.

I got my vaccine months ago and hope that more people will do the same. We will be able to resume a more normal life as time goes on.

Our Friends organization has had paddles this spring and will

hold our prairie walk in July and the annual river clean-up in August. We plan to have indoor meetings beginning in September.

We are also hosting the Paddle in the Park on July 3rd and will be at Lake Wazee on July 17th for kayaking instruction sessions.

Greetings, continued on page 2

Vision

The Friends of the Black River is a citizen-led organization that is a well-informed, respected, active contributor to projects and decision-making enhancing the river and its watershed.

Mission

The Friends of the Black River will foster community appreciation, understanding, and sustainable use of the river and its watershed by hosting educational and enjoyable programs, events and conservation projects and by promoting wise decision-making when issues affect the health of the Black River Basin.

Upcoming meetings and events

With the announcement that The Hub in the Lunda Community Center has been reopened, we are proceeding to schedule fall programming. Watch your email for messages or go to the FBR Facebook page or website for updates.

FBR activity announcements are posted on FBR's Facebook page and website, the Black River Area Chamber of Commerce's calendar of events and broadcasted on WWIS and WCCN radio.

Saturday, July 3, 2021: Paddle in the Park, Lunda Community Park, 4-6 p.m.

Saturday, July 17, 2021: Kayaking instruction, Lake Wazee beach, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Tuesday, July 20, 2021: Prairie flower walk, location to be determined, 6 p.m., rain date: Wednesday, July 21, 2021

Saturday, August 28, 2021: Jackson County river cleanup, 8 a.m.

Saturday, August 21, 2021: Clark County river cleanup

Monday, September 27, 2021: Adopt-A-Highway CTH K cleanup, STH 54 to Rhyz Road, 8:30 a.m.

Wednesday, September 8, 2021: Monthly meeting, Lunda Community Center, wildflower book author will talk about best fall hikes in the Black River Falls area, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, October 9, 2021: Robinson Creek roadside cleanup, 9 a.m., CTH O and STH 27

Wednesday, October 13, 2021: Annual meeting, Lunda Community Center, Mississippi River Flyway cam, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, November 10, 2021: Monthly meeting, program to be announced, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, December 7, 2021: Annual movie night

Monthly meetings are free and open to the public. Event dates and times are subject to change

Learning to paddle opportunities planned

Youngsters of all ages will can try their hands at paddling July 3. The introduction to kayaking and paddle boarding will be held as part of the Festival in the Park. Anyone wanting the opportunity to try out the sport will be

able to do so in the relative safety of the kids' fishing pond at Lunda Community Park. Paddling equipment and safety vests will be provided.



Kayaking instruction will be offered at the Lake Wazee beach July 17 from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Equipment will be provided.

The paddling opportunity is open to the public at no cost. However, admission to the county park will be in effect.



For information on other paddles, contact Jeff at 715-896-5534.

Greetings from the president,
continued from page 1

So, enjoy the summer, get outdoors and be safe!

See the list of our activities in this newsletter.

Steve Rake
President

Prairie wildflower walk to be held

Tuesday, July 20, 2021: Prairie flower walk (site to be determined), 6 p.m., walkers wishing to carpool or caravan should meet in Theisen's Home and Auto parking lot on State Highway 54, Black River Falls at 5:30 p.m., rain date: **Wednesday, July 21.**



FBR chapters hold Earth Day Cleanups

Clark County Spring Cleanup involves three communities



The Clark County Chapter of the Friends of the Black River had a turnout of 28 volunteers April 17 at various sites throughout the county for its annual spring cleanup. They helped out in Owen, Greenwood and Neillsville, collecting well over 50 tires, several TVs, a mattress, several trailers of metal, around 50 cubic yards of trash and a refrigerator.

The efforts included many sites spanning from the mouth of Wedges Creek to the City of Owen. Sites along Cunningham Creek, Wedges Creek, O'Neill Creek, Popple River and the Winx flowage also were cleaned up. All who turned out to help and those who provided support to make these efforts possible are greatly appreciated.

More photos are posted on the Clark County chapters' Facebook page.



Discarded metal fencing is removed from a forested area by volunteers during the second annual Clark County cleanup held April 17.

Jackson County volunteers clean up roadside and public lands



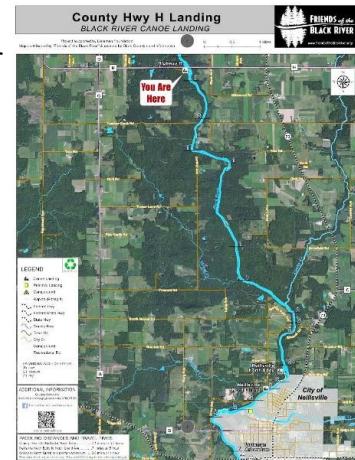
Volunteers for the Jackson County Earth Day cleanup were able to meet in person at Castle Mound State Forest to receive cleanup assignments. Along with roadside patrol along State Highway 27, other places slated for cleanup included a site with a number of discarded televisions. Because of the pandemic situation, lunch wasn't provided to volunteers this year.

Clark County Chapter landings sign project

The Clark County chapter is installing satellite-images of the river on aluminum signs and installing them in the parking lots of the more improved river landing sites throughout the county. The signs contain information about distances and travel times on the river, where paddlers can obtain flow rate information, where they might find the location and classification of rapids, along with other information about kayaking and canoeing conditions.

The maps project started with a couple signs in Neillsville. Clark County had put the sign project in their future plans and the FBR chapter expanded the project to include approximately 25 additional locations along with some navigable streams in the river's watershed river along with river landings.

In addition to the signs, most of the locations will also have a trash bag dispensers and brochure holders containing more information about the river as well as Friends of the Black River. The goal is to have all the signs in the installed by the end of summer.



Supporting FBR's mission

In Memory

The following people sent gifts to Friends of the Black River in memory of Wally Capper. Wally was a long-time FBR member and served on the board.



Peter and Joan Allen
Kyle and Laurie Bakkum
Sue Bitter
Castle Hill Supper Club
Mary and Leo Diehl
Dennis and Judy Gjerseth
Glen and Janice Goeman
Desiree Gearing-Lancaster
Mary Hansen
Terry and Mary Hanson
Mary and Peter Jacobs
Gene and Janet Krohn
Jackson County Democratic Party
Rolland Lee
Nelson and Mary Lent
Gene and Barbara Mason
Pat McKnight
Nyla Musser
Jeff and Sue Polzin
James and Jane Prindle
Steve Rake
Jeanette Larson and Debra Roseth
Steven Schreiber
Tom and Kathy Tomter
Mitch and Sue Wester

Thank you!!

We received the following donations to support FBR's mission since the last newsletter:

- Paul and Robin Hoffman \$200 in honor of Jeff and Sue Polzin
- Nomad Bodyworks: \$70

Charitable contributions received by the Friends of the Black River will be used to support the goals outlined in the FBR bylaws.

Those goals are:

- Educate members and the public about the ecology of the Black River watershed and threats to its health
- Promote sustainable use and recreation on the Black River and its watershed
- Increase public awareness and membership
- Promote sound decision-making when issues affect the health of the river and watershed
- Support the protection and improvement of the Black River and its watershed for the benefit of the general public
- Develop a working relationship with local officials and collaborate with conservation organizations
- Promote improved health of the river and watershed through conservation projects and education
- Purchase land or easements for conservation purposes

Information about how to help FBR with its mission can be found on page 5 of this newsletter.

Ways to support FBR's mission

You can help support the mission of the Friends of the Black River by remembering FBR in your will or with memorials and honorariums. Checks can be made out to Friends of the Black River and contributions should be sent to PO Box 475, Black River Falls, WI 54615. Thank you.

FBR sincerely thanks our members and other supporters for their continued dedication to FBR's mission to preserve and enhance the sustainable use of the Black River and its watershed.

Memberships always welcome

Memberships help Friends of the Black River continue its mission of preserving and caring for the Black River.

Show your support for that mission by renewing your membership.

If you are renewing your membership, you do not need to send in a membership form unless there's been a change in your contact information.

Please help us stay current

Please help us keep in touch by letting us know your new e-mail and/or postal addresses when they change. Send your e-mail address changes to info_fbr@yahoo.com

Become a new member by filling out the membership form below and mailing it with your membership dues to the mailing address listed on the form.



Support your watershed - Join the Friends of the Black River

- Enroll me as a member
 I would like to give this membership as a gift
(Card will be sent to recipient)

Occasion _____

Your name _____

Membership Categories (check one)

- \$1.00 Youth (up to age 18)
 \$15.00 Individual
 \$20.00 Family
 \$30.00 Business
 \$50.00 Cornerstone Member

I would like to give an additional contribution in the amount of \$ _____

I'm interested in serving on a committee:

- Land Preservation and Advocacy
 Fundraising and Membership Recruitment
 Programming
 Clean ups and Special Events
 Landings
 I am Interested in becoming a board member

PLEASE PRINT

Name _____

Address _____

____ Jackson County Chapter

____ Clark County Chapter

Phone _____

Email _____

Return registration form and checks payable to:

Friends of the Black River
PO Box 475
Black River Falls, WI 54615

Please check here ____ if you would like to receive a receipt.

Wildflower enthusiasts join in spring hike



Participants in the annual spring wildflower walk viewed a number of spring plants along the trail maintained by FBR volunteers. Among the wildflowers identified were trilliums, spring beauties, marsh marigolds, twin leaf, partridge berry, club moss, Solomon seal, hepatica and bloodroot.

Through the efforts of Jeff and Sue Polzin, a number of the wildflowers were identified with tags set up along the trail for those wanting to take a self-guided hike.



Trilliums



Marsh marigolds



Bloodroot

Answer to Page 1 mystery photo question

Participants in the May 8 spring wildflower walk search for plants growing along the trail.

Memberships are being accepted for 2021!

We depend on your support to keep Friends of the Black River a strong effective protector of the watershed.
We want to keep this newsletter coming to your e-mail or mail box!

www.friendsoftheblackriver.org

The Black River Watershed



Black River Falls, WI 54615

PO Box 475

Friends of the Black River