



FRIENDS *of the*
BLACK RIVER

A Citizens' watershed
conservation organization

Reading the River



Volume 19 Issue 2~ Summer 2022

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The Friends of the Black River
PO Box 475
Black River Falls, WI 54615
www.friendsoftheblackriver.org
Info_fbr@yahoo.com

Newsletter Editor
Pat McKnight
pmcknight@centurytel.net

Board of Directors

President
Steve Rake
(715) 284-2087

Vice-President
Mitch Wester
(715) 284-9637

Secretary/Treasurer
Yvonne Mair
(262) 470-1000

Members of the Board

Sue Bitter
(715) 896-1632

Adam Marciniak
(715) 610-7529

Jeff Polzin
(715) 896-5534

Pete Segerson
(715) 333-2033

Staffer
Pat McKnight
(608) 526-9873

What's happening here?



For the answer to what's going on, see page 3.

President's Greetings

Welcome to summer!
We've had quite the variable weather this spring. I'm just glad the bugs haven't been very bad yet, but that can change shortly. FBR is continuing to program activities relating to our area and the river. We will have several kayaking activities this summer as well as a prairie walk. So whatever activities you like

to do this time of year - do it. Enjoy the hot weather and whether you hike, bike, swim, canoe, boat or golf, keep moving and exercising for your health. FBR is looking for a treasurer so please consider helping us out. Have a good summer!
Steve Rake
FBR President

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 for 2022

Saturday, July 2, 2022: Paddle in the Park, Lunda Community Park, 4 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Saturday, July 16, 2022: Kayaking instruction, Lake Wazee beach, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Tuesday, July 19, 2022: Prairie flower walk, location tbd, info to be sent via email, 6 p.m., rain date: Wednesday, July 20, 2022

Saturday, August 27, 2022: Jackson County river cleanup, 8 a.m.

Saturday, August 27, 2022: Clark County river cleanup

Wednesday, September 14, 2022: Monthly meeting, Lunda Community Center, 6:30 p.m.

Monday, September 26, 2022: Adopt-A-Highway CTH K cleanup, STH 54 to Rhyz Road, 8:30 a.m.

Wednesday, October 12, 2022: Annual meeting, Lunda Community Center, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, November 9, 2022: Monthly meeting, program to be announced, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, December 6, 2022: Annual movie night

Meetings subject to change. For up-to-date announcements of future events, check messages sent to your email in-box.

Announcements about FBR activities are also posted on FBR's Facebook pages and website, Black River Area Chamber of Commerce's calendar of events and broadcasted on WWIS and WCCN Radio and published in the Banner Journal and Clark County Press.

Monthly meetings are free and open to the public. Programs subject to change. Unless otherwise indicated, the Wednesday evening programs are held at 6:30 p.m. in The Hub meeting room at the Lunda Community Center.

Upcoming paddles

Paddle in the Park

Youngsters of all ages are welcome to try their hands at paddling July 2 on the kids' fishing pond in Lunda Community Park.

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 may do so between 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. Paddling equipment and safety vests will be provided.



Paddle at Wazee

Kayaking instruction will be offered at the Lake Wazee Beach July 16 from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Kayaks will be available. The paddling opportunity is open to the public at no cost. However, admission to the county park will be in effect.



Whitewater Paddles



Whitewater paddling can be experienced below the Hatfield Dam. The paddles will start below the dam and go to Halls Creek. Paddlers can meet at Clayschool Road on the following dates and times:

Saturday, July 9 at 12:30 p.m.

Saturday, August 13 at 12:30 p.m.

Saturday, September 10 at 12:30 p.m.

For more information about the paddles, contact Jeff at 715-896-5534.

Clark County FBR Chapter Earth Week events

Celebrating the Black River Yesterday Today & Tomorrow

Among the family friendly activities offered during the Earth Week event were:

Painting classes: Paint-A-Fish garden decoration; Paint 'n Sip

Trash Transformation Challenge: sculpture making with recycled materials

Storytelling: Family Story Hour and an original play titled, **River Ramblings, Voices of the River**



T-shirts were decorated with fish prints during the gyo-taku class. The Japanese craft of fish printing dates back to the mid-1800s when it was used by fishermen to record their catches. Over the years, it became an art form.



A youngster tries his hand at fly tying under the guidance of a knowledgeable fisherman.



Crafting a Catch, a display of handmade lures and flies created by local artisans was on display at the Clark Cultural Art Center.

Photographic exhibit: River of Memory, Former Days, courtesy of Jail Museum

Educational sessions: Water Action Volunteers & Fish of the River slide show

Fly Casting demonstrations and fly tying workshop

Kayak paddling classes: Neillsville High School swimming pool.

Entertainment: fish fry with live music



Earth Day cleanup and beautification: See page 5 for photo and information.

Answer to page 1 photo question

The technique of fly casting was demonstrated by a representative of Fall Line Outfitters Company. They also taught fly tying during a workshop held in the afternoon.

Speaker advocates for wolves at April meeting

Wolves have been getting a bad rap and Diane Cain of Hixton is trying to change that. The retired former owner of Cain's Orchard, Cain is now devoting her time and energy toward ecologically sound wolf management.

"Wolves should be respected and not feared," said Cain. "After I encountered a pair of wolves, I think they were asking me to be their voice."

Cain presented a program about her advocacy work at the April 13 Friends of the Black River held in The Hub at the Lunda Community Center.

With a nod to the late U.S. Senator John Lewis, Cain refers to her work as "good trouble." Her message tries to dispel myths and misconceptions about wolves; they are neither very good, nor very bad; they are just wolves.

For centuries, wolves have been portrayed as vicious and needed to be eradicated. Both revered and reviled, wolves play an important role in the environment. While they prey on beavers, rabbits and rodents, their impact on the deer is beneficial because they reduce the transmission of diseases such as Lyme and chronic wasting disease. So far, wolves are the only means for controlling CWD. They also reduce deer-automobile incidents by 23.7 percent.

Among the myths Cain countered in her presentation were "wolves kill for fun;" "they kill more than they can eat;" "they kill healthy deer;" "wolves follow children at bus stops." Cain reported no humans have been killed by wolves in the country's contiguous 48 states in the past 100 years.

Another myth is "wolves decimate livestock," However, the rate of livestock predation by wolves is .01 percent. While the number of incidents is low, wolf advocates are promoting the use of non-lethal forms of predator control to help promote co-existence between wolves and farmers.

In recent years, wolf management in Wisconsin has been erratic with the species taken off the Endangered Species List and then put back on by court order within a year.

"In 2012, Governor Walker signed Act 169," said Cain. "It allows 'no holds



Friends of the Black River members Chuck (left) and Lee (right) McLaughlin discuss wolf issues with wolf advocate Diane Cain at the April 13 FBR meeting. Photo by Pat McKnight

barred' yearly hunting when wolves are removed from the Endangered Species Act."

After wolves were delisted from the Endangered Species Act in late 2020, Wisconsin held a hunt the following February. In fewer than three days, hunters killed more than 200 wolves, exceeding the 119 harvest limit. The Department of Natural Resources then ended what was to have been a week-long season.

"The 2021 wolf hunt had a vigilante atmosphere," said Cain. "One third of the population was harvested, some by poaching. It was conducted during the breeding season. Before the hunt, the population was estimated at 1,000, after the hunt, 750."

The previous Wisconsin's wolf management plan was written in 1999. The state's population of wolf at the time the plan was enacted was 197. Studies show the state has a wolf population carrying capacity of 1,242 individuals.

Wolf advocate groups have been fighting to return the wolf to federal endangered species status because the recent hunts are showing states are incapable of managing the hunts. The state's hunt was also held without input from Native American tribes, a violation of treaty rights in ceded territories.

Conservation groups are fighting to provide wolves with meaningful protection. Six Wisconsin tribes are among the groups claiming in federal court their rights to 50 percent of the state's wolves have been in violation of the Voigt Decision. The decision issued by U.S. Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit upheld Ojibwe wildlife rights granted under 19th century treaties.

Genetically, wolves and domesticated canines are a 99.8 percent match. Cain suggested referring to groups of wolves as families rather than packs, as all members of the groupings help to raise the young. They will mate for life and have been found to mourn a deceased member for as long as six weeks. In addition to the trademark howls, wolves will vocalize with growls and whines.

They have a lifespan of between three to five years with a 70 percent mortality rate for a litter of pups in the first year. When hunting for food, wolves are successful 3 percent to 14 percent of the time.

Earth Day Cleanups

Clark County



A team of three volunteers removed a discarded mattress during the Clark County Spring Clean Up & Youth Graffiti Sweep. The cleanup was held April 23 in Neillsville and surrounding areas.

Jackson County



A stalwart crew cleaned up Hwy K April 25 for the Adopt-A-Highway program. Volunteers included Sue Bitter, Pete Segerson, Jerry Schmidt and Steve Rake. Also helping with the cleanup were Joe Tope and Jeff Polzin.

Spring wildflower hike



Eight people took part in the first guided hike of the May 14 spring wildflower walk. A second group was led the same morning by Jeff Polzin. Hikers could also do self-guided walks throughout the weekend.



Among the wildflowers found along the trail were (clockwise, top left) trillium, twin leaf miter wort and hepatica.

Volunteer needed for treasurer position

The Friends of the Black River is in need of a volunteer to serve as treasurer. As an essential member of the board, the treasurer oversees the financial aspects of the organization including bank accounts, annual transaction review, nonprofit certification, memberships and donations. Anyone interested in the position is encouraged to contact a board member or email to info_fbr@yahoo.com.

Water Action Volunteer monitors recognized

Friends of the Black River members Mike Brauner, Chris Kelly and Tom Schmidt were recognized by the Water Action Volunteers program for 10 years of stream monitoring with the program.

Mitch and Sue Wester have volunteered with the program for nine years.

Streams the volunteers monitor are:

Jackson County:

Mike Brauner-Kenyon Creek
Mitch & Sue Wester-Town Creek
Jerry Schmidt & Pete Segerson-Halls Creek
Pete & Rose Segerson- East Fork Halls
Becky Deetz-Allen Creek

Clark County:

FBR welcomes two new volunteers in Clark County.
Max & Bryce Luchterhand-S Fork Popple and Popple R



More volunteers are welcome to volunteer with the program.

Stream monitors collect data on the long-term trends of water quality in the Black River watershed.

Volunteers work in pairs to collect data about the water quality of streams in the watershed. Data collected by volunteers is then entered into the statewide water-quality database.

Monitoring takes about two hours per month from May through October. Training and sampling equipment are provided.

The activity is a family-friendly project that benefits the environment.

Anyone interested in volunteering with the program is encouraged to contact Pete Segerson at 715-333-2033 or email ps205v@hotmail.com.

Supporting FBR's mission

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

Support of our mission is greatly appreciated

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 and with memorials or 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.

New and renewing 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 make 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 _____

Phone _____

Email _____

___ Jackson County Chapter

___ Clark County Chapter

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.

