



## **Bangor/South Haven Heritage Water Trail**



**July/August 2009**

### ***How's the river? By John Mitchell, President***

Well I thought we were making some pretty good progress!

With Greene Tree Service (the hired chainsaw crew) getting on the river while the water was still cold, cutting through the winter/spring logjams, five days work, AND four volunteer workdays, the river pathway was re-opened from Cr. 384 to Lake Michigan and Bangor's Lions Park to Cr. 687 Bangor Twp. A public paddle

was planned for June 20th 2009, to show off this section and all the hard work that went into it.

Then the rains came down on June 18-19, the river rose 3' over night and the trees and logs moved. We had to cancel the paddle. After a survey, the Bangor end only required 2 volunteer workdays to restore the pathway. However Cr.384 down has several new tree falls and log build-ups. Requiring more volunteer help, requiring chainsaw

work, requiring extra moneys to open this section again. Money was budgeted to reclaim the pathway to last year's extent, but now may not reach that goal.

On another page is the Adopt-a-jam flyer. Please support this need to make the Black River passable for ALL to enjoy again.

Donations of any amount will help.

***Thanks !***

### ***Up the River and Back to Town,***

### ***Save the Black and Party Down***

#### ***Also in this issue:***

- Paddle and Bike routes on the Black River
- Aug. 1st. Black River Watershed event.
- Adopt-a-Jam
- Thank-you Entergy
- Thank you Mark Williams
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Kayak, Canoe, Bicycle, or Walk! Please join us in some form of viewing motion along the Black River.

Up the River and Back to Town is an event co-sponsored by Two Rivers Coalition, Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy, The Kal-Haven & Van Buren Trails and the Bangor/South Haven Heritage Water Trail Association. Following your choice of paddling, biking, or walking join us for a cookout and meet folks from each of these great organizations along with having a fantastic day outside by the Black River.

See flyer enclosed in this newsletter for more details.

***Hope to See You there!***

## *Paddle/Bike for an Easy River/Land Circuit*



*By Don Harrell*

Several sections of our Back River lend themselves to an easy circuit combining paddling the river with walking or bicycling as the means of returning to a paddler's upriver car or truck"

The 1 ½ to 2 hour paddle from Lions Park in Bangor West to the Robert and Marion Horton Memorial Access Site at CR 687 courses through an unexpectedly picturesque, cool and deep hardwood forest with a mix of low banks and high banks with little evidence of the outside world. A solo paddle allows a peaceful and quiet transit through the river valley with opportunity to see and hear more of the natural fauna and flora.

A bicycle locked to the guard rail at the CR 687 Bridge provides the means for an easy 15-minute ride from CR 687 via 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Greenhouse Road, and Third Street to Hamilton Street and the west entrance to Lion's Park. a distance of 2.9 miles with much less traffic that the return via M-43.

### **JUST A NOTE:**

**Please bear with me while I get up to speed. Erin Fuller (new Mom) has done a great job with the newsletter in the past. I hope to have her "fab" template for the next newsletter.**

**Thanks Erin! Enjoy! Mary James**

Closer to South Haven, the 1 to 1 ½ hour paddle from the bridge at Phoenix (CR 388) west to the bridge at 70 ½ Street flows through a portion of the river lined with hardwood and evergreen trees with intermixed shade and sun with occasional high bluffs with only several homes visible from the river.

A return circuit from the bridge to a vehicle left at Phoenix can be by a bicycle from 70 ½ Street and Second Avenue to 70<sup>th</sup> Street to Phoenix, for a distance of 2.0 miles. An alternative 20 to 30 minute walking route begins with the Kal-Haven Trail about a 10<sup>th</sup> of a mile North of the 70 ½ Street bridge heading East to 70<sup>th</sup> Street, then South by 70<sup>th</sup> Street to Phoenix and then East to Phoenix Street bridge.

Another possible "circuit" combines down river paddling from the Basic Family Access Site at CR 384 to 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue with return by bicycle via 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue to 68<sup>th</sup> Street to CR 384 for a total of 1.4 miles by paved road. The river from CR 384 to 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue courses through generally deep forest of hardwoods with occasional high bluffs and several small stands of hemlock trees. The final 10 yards under the

8<sup>th</sup> Avenue bridge provides a drop of about eight (8) inches via a kind of "sluice way" through a gap in a rock weir extending from the banks on the right and left under the bridge. A few houses are visible from the river within the first half-mile of this section of river.

For the river paddle from 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue to Phoenix/CR 388, the return by land involves a bicycle route of 1.9 miles via Phoenix to 68<sup>th</sup> Street to 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

The river from 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue to Phoenix courses in the first mile a long a previous tent and RV campground with light tree cover on the west side and mature hardwood trees on the east side. In the second mile there is a series of gentle bends alternating with some very tight bends as the river undulates through a mostly mature hardwood forest. The final mile of this section has, uniquely, two very straight sections of about a quarter mile each, separated by a series of moderate bends with low to medium banks and especially deep shade.



## ***THANK YOU ENTERGY POWER***

The Bangor/South Haven Heritage Water Trail Association gratefully thanks Entergy Palisades Power Plant of Covert, MI for the \$1000 grant we were awarded on July 6, 2009. This money will be used to open more of the Heritage Water Trail pathway on the Black River and purchase some needed operating supplies.

Thank you Entergy!

Pictured above are (left) Mark Savage, Communications Manager, Entergy presenting check to John Mitchell, B/ SHHWTA President.



## ***Another Thank-you.....***

.....Goes out to Mark Williams of Blue Star Pottery who always comes through with a donation for our Raffle prizes. Pictured to the left is the beautiful platter he donated this year.

Last newsletter featured the kayak donation and next newsletter we will feature the Willow Chair and Watercolor Painting prizes also offered.

***Visit our website to download a flyer for raffle ticket purchases and photos of all the prizes.***

[www.vbco.org/watertrail.asp](http://www.vbco.org/watertrail.asp)



# Bangor/South Haven Heritage Water Trail Association

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## Calendar of Events

*Check our website for more information on these events.*

### WORK DAYS

**July 25**

**August 15**

**August 29**

**September 12**

**September 26**

### PADDLE TRIPS

**August 1 Up the River and  
Back to Town**

Event co-sponsored by Two Rivers Coalition, Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy, The Kal-Haven & Van Buren Trails and the Bangor/South Haven Heritage Water Trail Association. See flyer enclosed in this newsletter for more details.

**August 22**

Open public paddle

**September 19** (Members and guest only)

### BOARD MEETINGS

Meetings are held at 7:p.m.

At the Bangor City Hall

257 W. Monroe.

All interested are

welcome to attend.

**August 6**

**September 3**

**October 1**

**November 5**

### OTHER EVENTS

**BSH/HWTA Annual Meeting**

**October 10, 2009**

Peace Lutheran Church  
South Haven

Good food, good people, good programs and last chance to buy raffle tickets for the drawing that night! Watch your mail in September for your invitation.