



FALL 2015

# THE RIVER VIEW

A seasonal publication from The Friends of the Shiawassee River

P.O. Box 402 • Owosso, MI 48867  
(989) 723-9062  
ShiawasseeRiver.org

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## River Reflections: 2015 was a Year of Changes, Progress, and Great Fun

In 2021, when we celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Friends of the Shiawassee River, 2015 may be the year that stands out. We built foundations this past year: more Stream Teams in more places, more relationships with old and new Friends, and the realization of several goals from our strategic plan that have made us financially stronger, more organized, and better able to work with communities throughout the watershed. This has us all looking forward to great things in 2016.



Friends modeling cleanup t-shirts from the last seven years

The Friends continue to host impactful events, like our 18th River Cleanup this year and annual Wine-Tasting celebration. We have gotten better at raising funds, and held our first very successful kayak raffle. And we received grants to restore the river at old dam sites, to support Stream Team volunteers, and do other good work. But this year, we also worked on building what we need to be successful in the long run: an engaged board, committed donors, and a clear plan.

We were fortunate this past year to have two great staff leaders. Devin Gill completed two years of service with the Friends leaving a legacy of an active program of volunteer water quality monitoring (our Stream Teams). We wish her well on her new graduate school adventure. In September, Lauri Elbing became our new Executive Director, bringing deep experience, vibrant commitment, and new ideas to the Friends.

We can't wait for the coming year as we work to get more people to care, share, and enjoy the Shiawassee River. Please join us, again or anew.



New Lothrop High School Stream Team



## Care. Share. Enjoy.

Through their actions, members of the Friends Board strive to increase community awareness, appreciation, and involvement with the Shiawassee River.

### Board of Directors

**Tom Cook, President**  
**Lorraine Austin, Vice-President**  
**Brad Kirkland, Treasurer**  
**Matt VanEpps, Secretary**  
**Gary Burk, Past-President**  
**Josh Adams, Director**  
**Linda Beeman, Director**  
**Mike Goergen, Director**  
**Betsy Hull, Director**  
**Larry Johnson, Director**  
**Karen Kong, Director**  
**Sue Lossing, Director**  
**Anthony Newman, Director**  
**Nick Tereck, Director**

**Lauri Elbing, Executive Director**

**Friends of the Shiawassee River**  
**P.O. Box 402**  
**Owosso, MI 48867**

**Office: (989) 723-9062**  
**Info@ShiawasseeRiver.org**

**Join the Friends at**  
**ShiawasseeRiver.org**



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**#ShiawasseeRiver**



## Meet Our New Executive Director

I was thrilled to receive the call from Tom Cook inviting me to join the Friends of the Shiawassee River. I grew up just down the road in Flushing along the Flint River, and I couldn't be more excited to come home at this time in my life and career to work with the people of this region on our healthy, gorgeous Shiawassee River Watershed. It has been an exciting two months on the job and I am keenly interested in meeting people, learning about meetings and events where I can share information about the Friends' work, and learn more about the goals of the people and the things that you love about your community and this region.

This is an invitation to get in touch with me at [kelbing@shiawasseeeriver.org](mailto:kelbing@shiawasseeeriver.org) or (989) 723-9062 with outreach leads and invitations to join you at local events, meetings, and other activities. I look forward to seeing you in and around our watershed!

With every good wish,

Lauri Elbing  
Executive Director  
Friends of the Shiawassee River



**Tom and Lauri discuss the flow of things on Lauri's first day at work with the Friends**

# We Did This Together!

## 2015 Accomplishments

The passion and support of our volunteers, sponsors, donors, and partners are what powers the Friends of the Shiawassee River. We wanted to share with each of you some of the highlights of our work from 2015. Together, we have accomplished much and have had a lot of fun along the way. Thank you for being a Friend!

### 18th Annual River Cleanup

- Cleanup grant awarded by Great Lakes Commission
- 122 volunteers
- 13 cubic yards of debris and 56 tires removed from river
- 835 total tires received at Tire Collection
- Collaborated with Chesaning to do river cleanup in their community

### 2015 Autumn Stream Team

- MiCorps grant awarded to hire part-time Stream Team Coordinator and support volunteer water quality monitoring
- 3 first-time Stream Team volunteers finished MiCorps training to lead teams
- 116 volunteers collected aquatic macroinvertebrates
- 10 Sites from Linden and Byron to Corunna and Owosso to Chesaning and St. Charles
- Water quality identified as “good or excellent” at 9 of the 10 sites

### Shiatown Dam Removal and Restoration Project

- Secured DNR Aquatic Habitat grant for Shiatown Dam
- Convened stakeholders and consultants to finalize plan; work expected to be completed in 2016

### Corunna Dam Removal and Naturalization Project

- Secured grant to hire consultant and bring together key stakeholders to move the project forward

### New Canoe Launch in Byron

- Friends assisted in WIN grant application and installation of a sixth launch

### 2015 Wine-Tasting

- 147 attendees helped raise a record amount of revenue
- Amazing live and silent auction items donated by local artists Linda J. Beeman, Tom Tomasek, and members of the Friends Board & Wine-Tasting Sub-committee

### Kayak Raffle

- 1,118 tickets sold for the first-ever event
- Steve Eastman, a first-time paddler, was the grand-prize winner of a beautiful kayak
- Norm Hester won the second place prize: a top of the line rain barrel
- Bill Spike won the third place prize: a lovely Friends’ wine basket filled with goodies



Byron Middle School students examining macro-invertebrates they collected from the Shiawassee River



Offering their assistance at our August cleanup was the entire JS Tire crew



Construction of the new Byron Canoe and Kayak Launch



Steve Eastman, Kayak Raffle Winner



# Membership Matters

## Join Our Membership or Renew!

**J**oin the Friends of the Shiawassee River and help us pursue our mission to **Care, Share, and Enjoy** our river. We **Care** by maintaining and improving the health of the river; **Share**, by enhancing the community's appreciation and knowledge of the river; and **Enjoy**, by increasing recreational access and responsible use of the river. Your membership with Friends supports efforts to conserve natural resources, promote recreation and educate the community about the Shiawassee River watershed.

Members receive hard copies of our River View newsletter via US mail, monthly e-news updates, and invitations/discounts to special events and fun-filled activities.

**Mail in your completed form (below) or go to [ShiawasseeRiver.org](http://ShiawasseeRiver.org) to join the Friends or to renew your membership today!**



Friends member and volunteer Anita Moliterno sampling the Shiawassee River above the Shiatown Dam

Become a member of Friends of the Shiawassee River and help protect our fresh water. Your membership supports the Friends' programs and educational efforts.

Name(s) associated with this membership: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to receive our e-newsletter and updates? If so, please provide your email address. We promise not to overload your in-box!

Preferred Newsletter Format:  E-news  Hard Copy  Both

Payment Type:  Cash  Check # \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: Friends of the Shiawassee River

Submit completed form and payment to:

Friends of the Shiawassee River, P.O. Box 402, Owosso, MI 48867



## Membership Levels

- Student/Senior \$15
- Individual \$25
- Family \$50
- Great Blue Heron \$100
- Painted Turtle \$250
- Merganser \$500
- Bald Eagle \$1,000

Friends of the Shiawassee River is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and your donation may be tax deductible.

Our secure, online donation system is powered by Pay Pal.



NCG became the first official Adopt-A-River sponsor in September

## 2015 Sponsorships

The Friends of the Shiawassee River are thankful for the partnerships, generous financial contributions, and donations of goods and services from the following businesses to support a healthy watershed and vibrant communities.

Kayak Raffle

**Fifth Third Bank**

**Gilbert's Do It Best Hardware and Appliance** - Rain Barrel

Adopt-A-River

**NCG Cinemas**

**Owosso Rotary Club**

Wine Tasting

**The Schluckebier/Hood Wealth Management Group of Wells Fargo Advisors, LLC**

**Young Buick GMC**

**Main Beverage Company**

Shiawassee River Cleanup

**J & S Tire**

**Oster Superior Threading, Inc.**

**Owosso Graphic Arts**

**Bagelman**

**Mancino's**

**Cheff's Canoe Rental**

**Shiawassee County Health Department**

**Waste Management**

### Thank You to Our 2015 Fall Newsletter Sponsor!

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### Thank You to Our Newsletter Printing Sponsor!



## Mark your Calendars and Join the Friends in 2016

### The Friends' Annual Meeting and Celebration

Tuesday, January 19

7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

**Wrought Iron Grill**

**317 S. Elm Street, Owosso**

Special Guest:

Barbara Nelson-Jameson

National Park Service

### Garlic Mustard Pulls

**Saturdays in April and May**

**10:00 am**

**DeVries Nature Conservancy**

**2635 N. M-52, Owosso**

### 9th Annual Garlic

**Mustard Festival**

**Thursday, May 19 (tentative)**

**Wrought Iron Grill**

**317 S. Elm Street, Owosso**

### 2016 Spring Stream Team

**First two weeks of May**

### MiCorps Volunteer Stream Monitoring Training Workshop

**June/July 2016**

This is your chance to become trained to lead a Stream Team!

### 19th Annual Shiawassee

**River Cleanup**

**Saturday, July 30**

### Annual Wine-Tasting Celebration

**Thursday, September 15**

(tentative)

### 2016 Autumn Stream Team

**Last two weeks of October**



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## Looking Forward to 2016... Shiawassee Communities & Friends Seek National Water Trail Designation

**T**he City of Linden and the Friends worked with other local communities to successfully apply for technical assistance from National Park Service.

**"I applaud the work that has already been done to develop the Shiawassee River Water Trail and am looking forward to working with the City of Linden, Friends of the Shiawassee River, Headwaters Trails and other partners to extend the efforts downstream to Owosso, Chesaning, and the Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge. Water trails are routes that connect access sites along river, lake and coastal shorelines. Each trail is as unique as the landscape it moves through and the experiences provided along it. The National Park Service Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance program has been helping water trail partners throughout the country for almost 20 years to create and improve access to waterways, promote education and stewardship, and provide people information to safely plan their water trail experience."**

— Barbara Nelson-Jameson  
Michigan Program Coordinator  
Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance  
Program of the National Park Service



### Save The Date

**Friends of the  
Shiawassee River  
Annual Meeting  
and Celebration**

**Special Guest:**

**Barbara Nelson-Jameson  
National Park Service**

**Tuesday, January 19  
7:00 pm – 9:00 pm**

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