

Jordan River Watershed Protection Expands



A 52-ACRE PROPERTY ADJACENT TO THE ROGERS Family Homestead Nature Preserve was purchased to expand protection in this section of the Jordan River Watershed, just upstream from where it drains to Lake Charlevoix. The property was purchased at a significant bargain sale and will add potential hiking opportunities to what will become a total of 138 protected acres. The land also lies south of the 10-acre Dressel Preserve and across the river from the 40-acre Jordan River Preserve (see map, left).

"In addition to the opportunity to protect land adjacent to an existing preserve, this land provides an upland 'buffer' to the preserve, the surrounding lowlands, and the river," said Land Protection Specialist Jay Neff. Neff also noted that past plans for the property included development into a mobile home park or a subdivision. "This project will remove the potential impact of development next to the sensitive Jordan River and in the Lake Charlevoix watershed," he said.

The Conservancy extends special thanks to Jack VanTreese who put the landowners in contact with the Conservancy. Jack is one of the Conservancy's "community advocates" and a partner in several significant land protection projects.

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Preserve Dedications

Two Charlevoix County nature preserves were dedicated this past summer and fall, pulling together family, friends, neighbors, and supporters.

Photo top right: Conservancy Executive Director Tom Bailey addresses a group gathered on October 9, to dedicate the Nathan "Barry" Driggers Nature Preserve. The 75-acre property features trails, views of Lake Charlevoix, and protects scenery along the Charlevoix-Boyne City Road.

Photo bottom right: The East Jordan Chamber of Commerce organized a ribbon cutting ceremony to dedicate the 86-acre Rogers Family Homestead Nature Preserve. Fittingly, the ribbon was cut by the matriarch of the Rogers family, 98-year-old Marguerite Stokes. Mrs. Stokes is the granddaughter of Samuel G. Rogers, who homesteaded the property in 1869. Also on hand were Mrs. Stokes' daughter, grand-daughter, great-grand children, and other relatives representing four generations of Rogers' descendants.

Highlights of this preserve include 1.2 miles of Jordan River frontage and a new trail system. Adjacent land was also recently protected (see story above).

