

NOVEMBER 17, 2013



THE  
JORDAN  
RIVER  
COMMISSION

OUR  
RIVER—  
OUR  
FUTURE



**It's a simple notion.**

Give young people the opportunity and time to explore the river in their backyards, and they are more likely to become future stewards of it.

THE  
JORDAN RIVER  
COMMISSION AND  
THE CENTER FOR  
DOCUMENTARY  
EXPRESSION AND ART  
"REAWAKENED BEAUTY"  
PROJECT

Printed By The Jordan River Commission  
With The Assistance Of A Red Butte Creek  
Mitigation Grant From The Utah Division  
Of Water Quality.



(continued from front cover)

This is the idea behind the Center for Documentary Expression and Art's (CDEA) eight-week artists/scholars-in-residence program, **ReAwakened Beauty: The Past, Present, and Future of the Jordan River**

Earlier this year, the Jordan River Commission joined CDEA to present this unique program to Jordan High School juniors and seniors and translate their varied experiences of the river into a newspaper insert that can entertain and educate Jordan River Parkway trail users and Wasatch Front residents. The result is in your hands, and it is exciting.

The **Reawakened Beauty** project, however, does more than elicit student response to the Jordan River and its challenges. It lays the groundwork for establishing nature-learning centers in schools and communities along the Jordan River.

In these centers, as at Jordan High School, young people can learn about local issues, begin to ask serious questions, form insights about the Jordan River and the places they live, and develop tools and voices with which to be heard. Additionally, students realize the river in their backyard connects them to fifty miles of moving water, millions of people, and the fact that decisions made about this watershed can and will affect their quality of life.

The Jordan River Commission is proud to partner with a project that engages young people in their neighborhoods and helps build future stewards of the river.

## WHAT IS THE JORDAN RIVER COMMISSION?

When people along the Wasatch Front have the opportunity to discuss what they value about the Jordan River and what they hope to see in its future, the overwhelming majority want three things: proximity of open space and nature to their homes, wildlife viewing opportunities, and more open space along the river. These responses are particularly important to us, because we are dedicated to fulfilling the public's vision for the corridor—a vision outlined in a document called the *Blueprint Jordan River*.

Nearly 3000 participants provided input and identified five bold ideas for the Jordan River throughout the year of 2007. In addition, the *Blueprint* identified over one hundred individual goals, which ranged from stormwater management to environmental education.

Public input also recommended the creation of an entity to facilitate implementation of this new vision. The Jordan River Commission fills this role. We are a voluntary partnership of local governments along the river working together to enhance, preserve, protect, and responsibly develop the entire river corridor.

The Commission is currently comprised of ten cities, three counties, and many other government and non-governmental partners, and we are continually working to expand and strengthen these partnerships.

## BLUEPRINT BIG IDEAS

- A lake-to-lake "Blue-Green" trail for boaters, cyclists, walkers and wildlife enthusiasts.
- A 7,300-acre linear nature preserve
- A return to a more historic river corridor with meanders, wetlands, improved water quality and water flow, and biodiversity
- Regional transportation access to the corridor, including east-west connecting trails and public transit
- Rehabilitation of former industrial areas into "River centers" with recreational-support facilities and dining opportunities

## OUR RIVER-OUR FUTURE

If you are lucky enough to visit the 2,300-acre Legacy Nature Preserve at the Jordan River's delta, where the river flows into the Great Salt Lake wetlands, you'll notice thousands of plastic water bottles accumulated at the Burnham Dam. No one dumped truckloads of water bottles into the river at this point. These bottles traveled down the river individually, each originating in a different place in the Jordan River watershed.

Harder to detect, but also traveling downriver are the seeds of invasive vegetation, fall leaves from the gutters of neighborhoods, and oils and salts that have washed off roadways during storms. These combined pollutants adversely affect critical habitat for hundreds of thousands of migratory birds, deplete the oxygen in the river needed by fish, and impact the aesthetics and cleanliness of the river corridor and the neighborhoods that border it.

Since the Jordan River connects our entire region, the actions of one entity or individual affects many others, creating a need for close cooperation between government agencies, landowners, river users, and watershed residents. Although hidden within an urban area, and faced with many challenges, the Jordan River is still our valley's centerpiece and a precious resource worth protecting and nurturing to greatness.

Realizing the community's vision of the Jordan River as a nature corridor with trails and open space, and as a place for wetlands and recreation, requires support and cooperation between all stakeholders. The river belongs to all of us, and we all have a responsibility to be good stewards.

We invite you to help us build support for this work. Read the student essays, poems, and stories in this insert and see what our young people have learned by engaging with the river.

Then get to know the river on your own! Share river stories with your community and show friends the beautiful places you've discovered along the Jordan River.

Finally, participate in local planning processes that affect the river and your community. Find time to pull a weed and pick up some trash. Your actions today not only affect people here and now, but generations to follow.





“When asked to define a vision for the river, residents touted a future green corridor. In support of this vision, participants were most concerned about the quality of the water and health of the river system, and preferred large buffers between the river and development along the entire river and its tributaries. Participants even identified a preserved natural corridor as the best long-term economic use of the river.”

- From the *Blueprint Jordan River* -

### **THE JORDAN RIVER COMMISSION**

The JRC is the public entity created to facilitate the *Blueprint Jordan River's* implementation. We do this through education and public outreach initiatives, collaboration and strategic partnerships, technical assistance, and capital projects, and by adhering to our seven stated purposes:

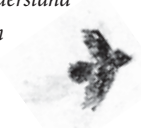
- Encourage and promote multiple uses of the river and its corridor
- Foster communication and coordination among stakeholders
- Maintain and develop recreation access
- Monitor and promote responsible economic development
- Identify and secure funding for the acquisition of critical habitat and open space
- Engage in ongoing planning for the identified Jordan River Blueprint study area
- Promote resource utilization and protection



# THE “REAWAKENED BEAUTY” RESIDENCY AT JORDAN HIGH SCHOOL

Between March-May 2013, sixty Jordan High School students (give or take a few) participated in CDEA’s eight-week artists/scholars-in-residence program, which leads young people to learn about the past, present, and future of Jordan River and convey their learning to the community through essays, poems, stories, visual art, and photos. Dr. Ty Harrison, ecologist, served as scholar-in-residence, and photographer Kent Miles and writer and CDEA director Leslie Kelen were the artists. The trio guided juniors and seniors from Mark Peterson’s Wildlife Biology and Suzanne McDougal’s Creative Writing class to explore classical readings on America’s environmental/ecological movement; learn about the Jordan River watershed; and take field trips to the river to remove invasive species, plant cottonwood and willow saplings, photograph, and write about their river encounters. Students were cautious at first; there was much to learn. Field trips to the river provided the breakthroughs. As so many students remarked, the river was “different” than they expected; it was smaller and larger, healthier and sicker, more beautiful and more abused. The conclusions we shared—evident throughout this insert—are that connecting to the Jordan River is exciting and transformative, and the river’s future and our futures are interconnected.

*Founded in 1983, the Center for Documentary Expression and Art (CDEA) is dedicated to using the tools of documentary work—photography, oral history, filmmaking, narrative writing, and visual art—to help Utahns look inward to better understand our state’s past and present and to gaze outward to discover our connection to the nation and the world.*



LESLIE KELEN

Leslie Kelen with JHS Creative Writing students



Dr. Ty Harrison presents a “Food Chain” lesson



JHS Wildlife Biology students sorting through their residency work



Photographs by Kent Miles and Jordan High School students



Dr. Ty Harrison leading JHS students through Jordan River Migratory Bird Reserve

## We Need The Jordan River!

STUDENT EDITORIAL

Nearly everybody who lives in Salt Lake County knows where the Jordan River is. Ask someone and they'll tell you: It's just there! What they won't know is that over time—especially more recently—the river has been treated with little respect, and now faces the cumulative abuse of generations. There are smaller issues like the land along the river being nibbled away by improper use, and countless pieces of trash and litter thrown in. But there are bigger and more harmful things that have happened to the river.

Over the years, all along the river, development has necessitated dredging to control the river's flooding. These activities—dredging deeper into the river's streambed, straightening and cutting off meanders—have destroyed native vegetation and wildlife habitat, which depend on regular flooding. Simply put, if the river isn't flooding naturally, then the life that requires water begins to wither away—unless, of course, people can step in and help! But providing this help is hard when developers stack up building after building on the river's floodplain.

Development on the Jordan River floodplain is particularly destructive, because wetlands that support wildlife are being whisked away. Perhaps the most urgent issue is the rapid growth of buildings, commercial complexes, and residences. These are growing so rapidly that you can almost see walls beginning to close in around the river. This is important because the Jordan River floodplain contains the last pieces of open and undeveloped land in south Salt Lake County. Because floodplain wetlands and open space are so rare and so ecologically important, we need to fight for their protection and restore what has been damaged.

The Jordan River should be—and for some people is—a place to be valued and respected. It should be cared for and set back to its natural ways. But with urban development occupying more of the river's floodplain, wild things have nowhere to go. Many organizations and local governments are trying to restore pieces of habitat for wild species along the river; and, in these restored places, Bullocks Orioles, river otters, beavers, butterflies, Great Blue Herons, and Sandhill Cranes are all coming back.

I believe we need the Jordan River because together with it we are a true community. A healthy river provides a home to “wild” things—animals, plants, processes most of us will never understand—and to us. So here we all are, and here we should stay.

PRESTON ANDERSON WITH DR. TY HARRISON

## Past Of The Jordan River

*Imagine* standing on Suncrest Mountain sixteen thousand years ago, overlooking the valley. Water is all you can see. Our valley was covered in dark, deep, cold water. Lake Bonneville was the great sea of the West. Fresh water covered the Eastern Great Basin, including forty-three thousand square miles of Utah. This lake was home for cutthroat trout and other native fish. At its highest level (approximately 5,100 feet), the lake deposited a gravel-filled terrace, which today's Bonneville Shoreline Trail follows.

But nature is unpredictable. Over time, the great lake withered away. A massive dam break occurred about 12,500 BCE, along Marsh Creek (located in today's Southern Idaho), and took a portion of the water in a flood. This flood swept across the Columbia Basin of the Snake River into the Columbia River. Thousands of years after the flood, higher temperatures caused the remaining lake water to evaporate faster than it was falling back to earth. This cycle of little rain and snow and warmer temperatures eventually gave us the Great Salt Lake and Utah Lake, or what we have left of Lake Bonneville. These two lakes still hold sediments, salt, and descendants of the wildlife from thousands of years ago.

As the final step, run-off from Utah Lake, snowmelt from the mountains, and rain formed the Jordan River, the only river that flows through today's Salt Lake Valley. This slender but significant river was the conduit for all the water flowing from mountain tributaries into the Great Salt Lake. The river corridor, rich with biodiversity, became over time a source of water, food, clothing, and other materials for Native Americans and early settlers.

ASHLYN GRIFFIN WITH DR. TY HARRISON

## Present Of The Jordan River

*The Jordan River* got its name from early Mormon apostle Heber C. Kimball, who saw that our river, like Israel's Jordan, flows from a fresh water lake through a fertile valley into a dead sea. Based on Howard Stansbury's published federal survey of 1849-1850, there were willow shrubs along the bends and meanders of the Jordan River. When Stansbury floated north from the river's middle portion, he reported willow thickets dense with nesting birds. By the Jordan's delta, near the Great Salt Lake, ducks, geese, and shorebirds were so abundant that he wrote: "There were so many birds that when they took off they made a sound like a roar of thunder."

“THERE WERE SO MANY BIRDS THAT WHEN THEY TOOK OFF THEY MADE A SOUND LIKE A ROAR OF THUNDER.”

Mormon pioneers were the first European settlers to use the river for irrigation. In 1847, they created dams and dug ditches, channeling water from City Creek. Later, they diverted water from Big and Little Cottonwood Creeks. By the late 1800s an extensive canal system moved water out of the Jordan to irrigate Salt Lake County crops. Throughout the late 1800s and up to the 1940s the Jordan River watershed sustained an agricultural economy and provided drinking water for various cities.

At this same time, slaughterhouses, smelters, and cities dumped industrial waste and raw sewage into the river. All this pollution was carried to the Great Salt Lake. In the 1950s, and again in the 1980s, the Jordan River was dredged and straightened—channelized—to prevent flooding in highwater years. This channelization cut off many of the oxbow meanders and lowered the groundwater table, destroying much of the habitat for native plants and animals.

In the 1970s, the newly created Environmental Protection Agency began to enforce legislation that required cities along the river to build sewage treatment facilities. The river's health improved with federal clean water laws, but the water flowing through Salt Lake City is still considered impaired by the Utah Division of Water Quality due to “organic matter” entering from storm water and other sources.

In 1997, the Salt Lake County Watershed Planning and Restoration Program was created, which built several stream bank stabilization projects along the river in Salt Lake City, using native plants to improve wildlife habitat. Other restoration projects also are happening under the leadership of cities and counties along the river.

But much more needs to be done to repair this injured river! Projects like the “Best Practices for Riverfront Communities” toolbox published by the Jordan River Commission can guide cities to restore remaining urban wildlife habitat and improve water quality. This is an important job for all of us who use and appreciate the river.

SIDNEY WILLIAMS AND ANDREW BELL MERGED AND EDITED BY DR. TY HARRISON



*Two futures* face the Jordan River. The river can continue in its current state with little restoration work being done, or we can intensify efforts being made by cities, counties, state and federal agencies, and environmental organizations to repair a badly damaged river ecosystem.

## ***A Do-Nothing-Further Scenario***

Imagine the river three years from now if no attempts are made to heal it. Non-native Russian Olive trees, Tamarisk shrubs, and invasive Phragmites continue to out-compete native plants like the Sandbar Willow, which are more useful for the insects and animals living along the river.

Fifteen years from now it will be worse. Remaining native plants will be gone, out-competed for sunlight, water, and space by the exotic invaders and weeds. Native insects, invertebrates, and animals that are adapted to eat native plants will go as well. Bio-diversity will continue to crash.

Thirty years from now the Jordan River will be a different place than the one we know, or which was here with the Native Americans. The area will have minimal ecological value since it lacks plants or habitat for the native animals. The land will have turned into an urban wasteland of foreign plants and weeds.

Such environmental degradation will make the river corridor less attractive for all kinds of recreation. With fewer visitors, less desirable activities will move in, and the river will increasingly become a liability.

## ***A Restoration Scenario***

In 2001, the Audubon Society prepared a document called *The Jordan River Natural Conservation Corridor Report* for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This document is important for the restoration scenario, because it said there were approximately 2700 acres of wetland habitat left along the Jordan River in Salt Lake County.

On any wetland parcel, we can reduce the number of invasive weeds like thistles, Poison Hemlock, Hound's Tongue and Quackgrass, which compete with native Arctic Rush, sedges, and Inland Saltgrass of the floodplain. We can cut down Russian Olive and Tamarisk, which take up space along the river needed by Fremont Cottonwood and Sandbar Willows. And human hands can plant seedlings.

As we reduce invasive growth and plant willows and cottonwood trees, we'll see an almost instant change. Within two years, native species will become established and start to grow. In fifteen years, native trees and shrubs will bring back the bugs which will turn the place into the ideal bird reserve we want it to be—the place it once was.

In thirty years, we will see a new riparian forest ecosystem full of native shrubs like Golden Currant, Woods Rose, Fragrant Sumac filled with native insects and happy birds. The return of the natives! And the restored river will become a recreation destination that parallels the Wasatch Mountains, raising the quality of life for all Wasatch Front residents and visitors, human and animal.

The Jordan River at 10600 South and 597 West / Photo Kent Miles

**“IN 2001, THE AUDUBON SOCIETY PREPARED A DOCUMENT CALLED *THE JORDAN RIVER NATURAL CONSERVATION CORRIDOR REPORT* FOR THE U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE. THIS DOCUMENT IS IMPORTANT FOR THE RESTORATION SCENARIO, BECAUSE IT SAID THERE WERE APPROXIMATELY 2700 ACRES OF WETLAND HABITAT LEFT ALONG THE JORDAN RIVER IN SALT LAKE COUNTY.”**

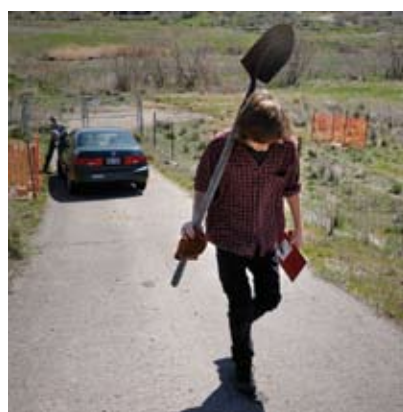
*At the beginning* of the *Reawakened Beauty* residency, I had mixed feelings. I thought it was wonderful the Center for Documentary Expression and Art (CDEA) was so concerned for the welfare of the Jordan River and its surrounding habitats. The concept of environmental conservation interested me. However, the prospect of going out to the river and doing something, instead of just learning about it in a classroom seemed time consuming and a little daunting. Even so, I was excited for the opportunity and was looking forward to what might come in the following months.

In preparation for going out to the Jordan River Migratory Bird Reserve, and to help get our creative juices flowing, we read an inspiring collection of essays and poems about nature and the impacts it has on us at a personal level and at a broader, worldwide scale, as well as how humans have been mistreating wilderness for decades. They made me think about my relationship with nature, which I hadn't ever considered before.

“I WAS NOT MERELY PLANTING A TREE; I FELT I WAS CREATING HOMES FOR HUNDREDS OF SPECIES OF WILDLIFE TO ENJOY FOR YEARS TO COME.”

I always had what I felt was a deep connection to nature. Instead of being inside playing video games and watching TV like the rest of the neighborhood, I would be laying in the shade of the oak tree in my front yard listening to the birds sing. However, as I read the assigned essays and poems, I began to realize that I have been taking nature's delicate beauty for granted. Aldo Leopold said in his short essay, “Thinking Like A Mountain,” in regards to shooting a wolf, “[I thought] no wolves would mean a hunter's paradise. But after seeing the green fire [of the wolf's eyes] die, I sensed that neither the wolf nor the mountain agreed with such a view.” This comment made me seriously consider the struggles the wild world faces every day because of human interference.

Later, we went out to the Jordan River Migratory Bird Reserve [in South Jordan] and I saw first hand the losses that had taken place throughout the region, such as the invasion of nonnative species like the Russian Olive tree that had taken the place of native vegetation. Seeing this and the effort that was



Jordan High School students working at the Jordan River Migratory Bird Reserve

taking place to restore the Jordan River to its natural state, I started to fully appreciate nature and all of its splendid glory. I realized that if we did nothing to bring back the local environment now, then there would likely be nothing or extremely little left for future generations of humans and wildlife alike.

One does not think that planting baby Fremont Cottonwood trees and Sandbar Willow shrubs would be difficult, but, in fact, it is a very tricky business. You have to make sure you plant them in just the right spot, not too close to another plant, but not too far from its water source. There can be no rocks or other roots around that could potentially stunt its growth or even kill it. The feelings I had when planting these precious little things were tender and indescribable. I was not merely planting a tree; I felt I was creating homes for hundreds of species of wildlife to enjoy for years to come.

Over these few delightful months that we have been working with CDEA on this project, my respect for nature has grown immensely. The bond I feel with it now is not just one of taking, but one of giving back. I will always look on this experience with fondness and affection, knowing that the conservation site and I have changed for the better.



## A Step By Step Approach To Planting Native Shrubs And Trees



Jordan High School students prepare to clean up a portion of the Jordan River Migratory Bird reserve in South Jordan. In this picture, students take down part of a barbed wire fence to clear space for planting native willows and cottonwoods.



A student clears grass from a planting area. Once the grass is removed, he'll dig a hole at least twelve inches deep and eight inches in diameter. Then he'll gently place a Sandbar Willow or a Fremont Cottonwood sapling in the hole to help restore the area.



Students gather around CDEA scholar-in-residence Dr. Ty Harrison to learn how to plant native trees.



After placing a cottonwood sapling in the ground, students put soil back in the hole. They close air pockets and pack the hole so soil rises above the tree's root-body. This method assures the young tree will have a good chance to root and grow strong.



After a sapling is planted, students fill a plastic bucket with water from nearby Willow Creek, a tributary of the Jordan River, and douse it to give it a good start. Young trees are planted at least twelve feet from each other.



About thirty-five students participate in the clean up of the 120-acre restoration site in South Jordan. There is a lot to do, but when students work together they get a lot done in just a couple of hours.

**“When students work together they get a lot done in just a couple of hours.”**



A group of teenagers huddle around a fire. Their dinner is eaten and the night is dark with clouds hiding stars. They can hear the sound of a river under the sounds of wind and insects. “There is only one thing to do on a night with overcast skies,” a boy declares.

“Go to bed,” a girl replies, and the group laughs.

“No,” he says, rolling his eyes, “Tell a ghost story.”

“I suppose you’re going to tell this story,” his buddy comments.

The boy puffs up his chest in mock pride, “It just so happens that I know of one.”

The girls giggle and his girlfriend says, “Then tell us.”

“It’s a story I heard from my grandfather who heard it from his grandfather, and it goes something like this”—

*There was once a town next to the Jordan River called Rockdale. The people were miners, and there wasn’t much in the way of entertainment. But at the end of every week a girl named Rose would sing at the tavern:*

*“In my dreams she still doth haunt me,  
Robed in garments, soaked in brine;  
Then she rises from the water  
And I kiss my Clementine.”*

*Her voice would entrance those that listened and help them forget their troubles from the week. Rose was a beautiful woman with honey hair and eyes like precious gems. She had many suitors but there was one that stood out from the rest. He always seemed to be wherever she was performing. He never clapped or cheered; he just stood in the back and stared. He never did anything unlawful but he gave her the chills. To her friends, she referred to him as the wolf.*

*She was betrothed to a kind man and all other suitors backed off. But the man she called the wolf still came to all her performances. She kept waiting for him to do*

*something, right up until the day of her wedding, but the ceremony went on without a problem.*

*After the ceremony, she hurried to get home before her husband, so she could be there to welcome him, as per the town tradition. But when her husband came home, Rose was nowhere to be seen. Immediately people started looking for her, but it wasn’t until the next day that they found her, in the river, still dressed in white.*

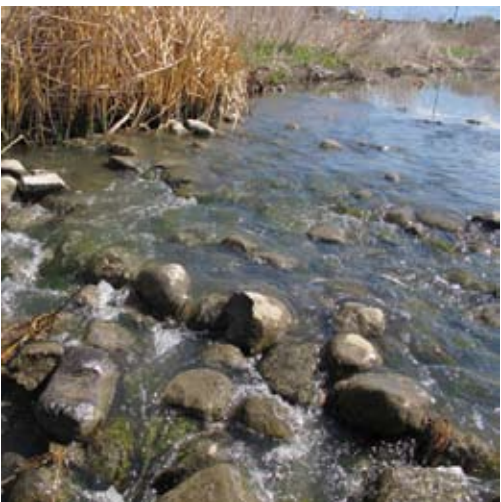
*To this day, people say that if you go to the spot where Rose was found, and sit very still in the cattails you can still hear her sing along the bank. But if she catches you looking, she will pull you into the water with her.*

“I think you made that up,” a girl says.

The boy raises his eyebrows, “You never know. Sometimes the truth sounds just like a lie.”

His girlfriend rolls her eyes, “Alright mister storyteller, you told your tale now let’s get some sleep before the sun appears.”

The others agree and wander into their tents. The boy puts out the fire and stares in the direction of the river, pausing a moment, wondering if there are notes carried on the wind... before turning his flashlight off and following the others.





FIXING THIS PLACE WE CALL HOME

Wind dances through the tall grass  
 moving each blade in rhythm  
 whistling a slight song across my ear.

I grab my shovel and walk further into the corrupt land  
 where non-native trees grow and weeds reach high for the sky.  
 Blisters form on my palm. I ignore the pain that crawls up my arm.  
 Sweat forms on my forehead, but I'm not finished.

Digging on and on until this area is cleared,  
 everyone is helping plant new life, new trees.  
 Birds fly above our heads, trying to find a home on this land—  
 land we took long ago.

Digging, planting, and growing,  
 we're saving these small portions of the environment that are still here.  
 Once again this land will have a heart beat.  
 We humans will speak for the land  
 defending this area so no one can destroy it.

We use the land, we destroy the land, and we rebuild the land.  
 At the end of the day we all need the land.

MELANIE JENSEN

FORWARD AND BACKWARD

*(This poem can be read from the first line down and the last line up)*

The Jordan River holds a dull future  
 And I will never admit  
 The potential the river once held  
 It is in the past  
 I cannot say  
 There is beauty there  
 Look towards the river and you will see  
 My children  
 Contribute as part of the destruction  
 And never  
 Be part of the cure  
 We will  
 Allow the river to die  
 And never shall they say: we  
 Are the source of the river's new life  
 We  
 The current generation will be the future of the Jordan River

JULIE HONG

WATER AND ART

The river flows as paint does along a blank canvas.  
 They share the ability to astound, entertain, and soothe.  
 They are brethren.  
 They hold hands and walk in the path of humanism.  
 They long to be needed, appreciated.  
 The river holds the canvas in its arms and wonders:  
 "There is no art with only water. It is only a  
 helper agent that allows the paint to succeed."  
 The paint replies, placing its fingertips against  
 the canvas: "Without water there is no art.  
 You are the driving force." Colors  
 seep onto the canvas and they smile.  
 Humanism cannot exist without water and art.  
 They work hand in hand, mending one another's woes.

YESSSENIA JIRON

ECOLOGY CORNER:

WHEN MOURNING CLOAK BUTTERFLIES ATTACK

A small, Sandbar Willow branch leans over the slow moving Jordan River. The branch hangs lower than the others, weighed down with a family of Mourning Cloak caterpillars. These larvae live in a small colony, feed voraciously, and will consume the leaves of the entire branch. They will then move onto a new food source. They continue this miniature rampage until they are able to grow to a suitable stage for their next phase of life. The caterpillar will then form a pupae and hang upside down off a safe branch. The butterfly that emerges comes out with crumpled wet wings. It must then wait for them to dry and slowly warm in the sun. When the butterfly is able it will take off in search of food and a mate and try to find more willows on which to lay eggs. In the fall, adult Mourning Cloaks find a cozy place under leaves or grass to stay over-winter and then start to fly on warm, early spring days.

Another popular snack for these butterfly soldiers is the Fremont Cottonwood tree. Its shimmering leaves are visible for miles as it can grow up to 50-60 feet tall. In June the female trees will release a swarm of small cottony seeds to fly to some far, wet place and begin to grow. These trees, like the Sandbar Willow, provide a home for the larvae of the Mourning Cloak to eat and grow. The caterpillars provide a food source for the Bullock's Oriole, which builds its hanging nests in the cottonwood tree. The bark of the Fremont Cottonwood tree also is an important food source for beavers as well as wood to use in their dams. These amazing trees play a key role in the Jordan River food web. In the last thirteen years volunteers have planted over 100,000 native trees and shrubs on the Jordan River Migratory Bird Reserve. Each plant species has its role in the total food web involving different animals.

ALEX MCCARTY



## JOURNAL ENTRY

My house lies in front of the Jordan River, so I guess you can say the river is my backyard. But it's more than that—it's my escape. I go to it everyday to listen, to talk. I listen to the warm breeze sway the tree leaves. I listen to the birds sing to each other. I listen to the cold mountain-spill run down turns and over rocks. I talk about my life, my dreams, and my troubles. I say what is on my mind. I feel the sun leave her mark on my skin, I feel the wind play with my hair, I feel the leaves under me...cradle my body.

SAVANAH COTTIS



"HEMLOCK" Ashlynn Griffin

## ACROSS A BRIDGE

On the bus a crowd of students  
yet I feel so alone;  
my empty-breath fogging the window  
trying to catch the sunlight as I inhale.

The air-killing machine pulls beside the river.  
We flood off the beast.  
We walk down a narrow road, across a bridge,  
over barbed wire fence.  
It all feels so ironic.

I look to the weeded area to see a wild bird  
so carefree and in the moment.  
Is this how I should be?

I pierce the hemlock with the point of the shovel  
as if it were an enemy.  
I dig it up with all its roots,  
poison plant, so tempting to taste.  
It's beautiful, yes, but filled with poison paradise.

A baby tree now lays fragile in my hand.  
Let's plant it, together! Replenish this dying land.  
All in a row, hope is planted.

ALY MONTIERTH

## SHE SINGS TO US

Above our heads, the trees ascend  
Kiss the sun and kiss the wind  
Come to laugh and work and sigh  
underneath an azure sky

Glistening and dancing on  
river flowing sure and strong  
She sings to us while we all play  
through the night and through the day

Rising up into the air  
living proof that God is there  
It fills my heart with burning fire  
to see her conquer death, so dire

Close your eyes and become lost  
Feel the beauty, lush and soft  
Blue and green engulf all around  
enhance your sense of sight and sound

Everything becomes so still  
I sit fixed upon the hill  
one with it and it with me  
Life will flow on endlessly

COLLIN WINEBRENNER



# 2014

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### JANUARY - MARCH, 2014

CDEA "Reawakened Beauty"  
Artists/Scholars-in-Residence  
at the Salt Lake Center for  
Science Education

### MAY 29 & 31, 2014

"Get Into the River"  
Two days of corridor-wide  
conservation projects  
and river celebrations

### MAY 31, 2014

Grand Opening - 9000 South  
Trail Segment,  
West Jordan/Sandy

### APRIL - SEPTEMBER, 2014

Monthly volunteer projects



JORDAN RIVER  
COMMISSION

Jordan River Commission  
P.O. Box 91095  
Salt Lake City, UT 84109-1095  
801.536.4158 office

[www.jordanrivercommission.org](http://www.jordanrivercommission.org)



Center for Documentary Expression and Art  
243 East 400 South, Suite 301  
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• JOHN ERNEST BAMBERGER AND RUTH ELEANOR  
BAMBERGER MEMORIAL FOUNDATION



Laura Hanson, Executive Director, Jordan River Commission  
Melanie Franti, Outreach Coordinator, Jordan River Commission  
Leslie Kelen, Executive Director, Center for Documentary Expression and Art  
Kent Miles, Coordinator of Exhibits and Collections, Center for Documentary Expression and Art  
Dr. Ty Harrison, Ecologist-in-Residence, Center for Documentary Expression and Art  
Doris Mason, Assistant to the Director, Center for Documentary Expression and Art  
Mary Lee Peters, Development Coordinator, Center for Documentary Expression and Art  
Gilberto Schaefer, SchaeferDesign Inc.

[jordanrivercommission.org](http://jordanrivercommission.org)