



Friends of the St. Joe River Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 1794
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Established 1994
501(c)(3) Not-for-Profit

May 26, 2011

Al & Margaret Smith Dedication

Conservation Park, Three Rivers, Michigan

When we set a commemorative stone in place, it is a mark of permanence, respect, love and appreciation for a life well lived and service to others. It is also a bridge so that future generations know that fine people were here before them, leaving gifts that have improved their lives and insured a better future. A large stone put in a beautiful place serves as a place for people to rest and reflect and perhaps come up with solutions to problems, or to find peace in their lives. It is a place for children to cling, laugh and squeal with delight. This is a wonderful tribute to the lives of Al and Margaret Smith, and all that they have given.

When I think of Al and Margaret, it is hard to separate them. They worked so well together, giving to others, making our earth and Her people better. When I think of their lives, I think of service and legacy. The gift of conservation —restoring and protecting our earth, its resources and our citizens— was given again and again by them both with little thought to their own well being.

The footprint of their spirit and character are interwoven throughout the lives of all of us who worked with them both. It is marked by care and patience, courage and persistence, humility and laughter. They are a wonderful model of lives well lived and lessons given. It is a joy to remember the twinkle in their eyes, the care that had for others and the good they both left to all of us.

Isn't it grand to have lived lives that are a gift!

(Courtesy of Jim Coury, FotSJR Board Member)

"A Bi-State Organization for Watershed-Wide Improvement & Protection"