2009 River Keepers Activities

Storm Sewer Education: Worked with City of Fargo and City of Moorhead to provide the storm drain marking program. About 135 participants contributed 310 volunteer hours. Made presentations and worked on campaign to educate citizens about how garbage in yards and streets end up in ditches, storm drains and eventually the Red River.

Red River Water Festival: Presented a youth festival with 1500 students attending. 100 people volunteered 550 hours. Partnered with Jeffers Foundation and the Wahpeton Park District to coordinate a youth water festival in Wahpeton for about 175 students.

Cavity Replacement Program: Wood duck boxes were maintained by NDSU students. 60 volunteer hours.

Youth Service Projects: Collaborated with Concordia College, NDSU, Bennett Elementary, Upward Bound, Boy Scouts of America, Ellen Hopkins, Charism, Ben Franklin Middle School, Fargo North and West Fargo High School on projects related to water quality monitoring, the Living Lab, storm drain marking program, and the water festival.

Board Leadership: River Keepers’ Board of Directors were active in raising funds through a membership drive. They also helped ‘promote a renewed vision for the Red River’ by assisting with various projects.

Land Trail Development: Continued to encourage retrofitting of pedestrian bridges.

S.S. Ruby and Canoe & Kayak Rentals: Re-created and trained crew, coordinated marketing, scheduled crew and charters, and maintained ticket booth and watercraft. Assisted Captains in renewing their licenses. Over 1500 passengers heard the narration about the Red River. There were over 100 canoe and kayak rentals. Season shortened by high water. Passed Coast Guard inspection. Obtained new Captain identification cards from Homeland Security. Participated in Holiday Lights Parade and Holiday Display in Lindenwood. Coordinated fishing outings.

Red River of the North International Historic Canoe Trail: Working with MN DNR on adding canoe/kayak access sites and portages on the Red River. Exploring methods to construct two projects in Moorhead (new boat ramp and North Dam portage). Staff appointed to the ND Trails Advisory Committee.

Red River of the North Dam: Red River of the North Dam portage). Staff appointed to the ND Trails Advisory Committee.

Canoe, Kayak, and Fishing Events: Organized and managed a fun and competitive race. 22 teams participated. 9 volunteers contributed over 30 volunteer hours. Worked with the Trollwood Performing Arts on a river ‘adventure’. Fishing clinics canceled due to high water.

Canoeing, Cooking and Camping: Coordinated the 4th annual women’s weekend on the Red River with 10 participants. Added a graduate credit component for teachers.

Workshops: Taught two Make Your Own Rain Barrel Workshops with Cass Soil Conservation District and Moorhead Community Education. Assembled and sold rain barrels. Partnered with Earth Week Committee to coordinate Green Expo and other earth week activities.

Otter Tail River Master Plan: Completed master plan and water trail map for the Otter Tail River, under contract with the MN Department of Natural Resources. Participated in Ribbon Cutting.

Bender Museum to form a “sister rivers” relationship with the Dniester River in Moldova. Developed blog (www.riverkeepers.ning.com) and Facebook Fanpage. Established Project Advisory Group.

Dniester River: Received grant from Museums & Communities Collaboration Abroad to partner with Rodger Ehnstrom Nature Center, Eco-TIRAS, and Bender Museum to form a “sister rivers” relationship with the Dniester River in Moldova.

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Water Quality Monitoring: 12 volunteers assisted in taking semi-monthly samples during ice-free conditions. Received grant from ND Department of Health to analyze River Keepers data. Attended streamside ecology and channel stability workshops. Participated in ND State Water Monitoring Council.

Living Laboratory: Received grant from HECUA to have an intern write elementary curriculum for hands-on stations at the Lab. Wrote, designed and installed more interpretive signs. Held “Learning from the Past, Celebrating the Future” event. Teacher workshop held at the Lab. Received grant from Xcel Energy to fund the elementary backpack program. Evaluated shrubs in experimental plots. Due to damage received in the spring flood the house at the Living Lab was removed. About 50 volunteers contributed over 250 hours.

Fishing clinics canceled due to high water.

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T-shirt Bags: To help reduce the amount of plastic bags cluttering the riverfront we continue to encourage converting used t-shirts into grocery bags.

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Mark your calendars! River Keepers 2010 schedule of events:

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Make Your Own Rain Barrel Workshops: 6-8 p.m. on May 5 & 19 at the Living Lab.

Sister Rivers Ceremony: 1-3 p.m. on May 5 at Riverfront Park.

Build Your Own Compost Tumbler Workshops: 6-7:30 p.m., May 12 & 26 at Living Lab.

On-the-Water River Cleanup: 6-8:30 p.m. on May 20. Begin at S.S. Ruby landing.

Reforest the Red: 10-2 p.m. on May 22 at Trollwood Park.

S.S. Ruby Boat Tours and Canoe/Kayak Rentals: regular operating season runs May 28 - September 5. For more information, call 701-793-RUBY.

Canoeing, Cooking and Camping: A women's weekend on the Red River, June 4-6.

Lil' Fishermen's Derby & Clinic: 5-8 p.m. on June 7 at Dike East.

Race the Red: 6 & 7:30 p.m. on June 14, Lindenwood to Dike East.

RiverArts Fishing Clinic: 5:30 - 8:30 p.m. on August 10 at Memorial Park.

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2010 Membership - If you haven’t done so already, it’s time to renew your support of River Keepers!

SEND FORM BELOW TO:
River Keepers, 325 7th St. S. Ste 201, Fargo, ND 58103-1846

Name _______________________ Address ______________________________
City_________________________ State _________ ZIP ___________________
E-mail:  ________________________________________________________________
Membership Level: ___ Steamboat $1000+ ___ York Boat $500 ___ Jon Boat $250 ___ Skiff $100 ___ Canoe $50 ___ Kayak $30 ___ Student/Senior $20

2010 BENEFITS!

Canoe Membership Level ($50): 2 Ruby tour tickets.

Skiff Membership Level ($100): 20% discount on Women’s Weekend registration, 2 – 1 hour canoe or kayak rentals, invites to special RK events.

Jon Boat Level ($250): 20% discount on guided catfishing experience, a RK T-shirt.

York Boat Level ($500): a RK cap, 10% discount on S.S. Ruby charter, free guided Catfishing Experience.

Steamboat Membership Level ($3000): free S.S. Ruby charter, guided canoe tour of Red River.

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