Mark your calendars! River Keepers 2011 schedule of events:

River Keepers Annual Meeting: 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. on March 31 at Probstfield Center for Education.

Make Your Own Rain Barrel Workshops: 6-8 p.m. on May 4 & 18 at the Living Lab. Pre-registration encouraged.

Walk This Way: 7 p.m. on May 10 at Dike East. Free.

Build Your Own Compost Tumbler Workshops: 6-7:30 p.m., May 11 & 25 at the Living Lab. Pre-registration encouraged.

Reforest the Red: 4-7 p.m. on May 24 at Oak Grove Park. Free.

Race the Red: 6 & 7:30 p.m. on June 13, Lindenwood to Dike East. Pre-registration encouraged.

Living with the River Tour: 1-4 p.m. or 6-9 p.m. on June 21. Pre-registration encouraged.

S.S. Ruby Boat Tours and Canoe/Kayak Rentals: regular operating season runs May 27 - September 4. For more information, call 701-793-RUBY.

On-the-Water River Cleanup: 6-8:30 p.m. on June 1 at S.S. Ruby landing. Pre-registration encouraged.

Canoeing, Cooking and Camping: A women’s weekend on the Red River. Pre-registration required.

Lil’ Fishermen’s Derby & Clinic: 5-8 p.m. on June 6 at Dike East. Free.

Celebrate Our Red Fundraiser: September 18 at Hotel Donaldson.

Red River Water Festival: September 26-23 at Hjemkomst Center. Pre-registration required.

Look for River Keepers at many community events throughout the basin. For more information about any of these events, go to www.riverkeepers.org; find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/RiverKeepersFM; or contact us at christine@riverkeepers.org or 701-235-2895.
Board Leadership: River Keepers’ Board of Directors conducted two successful fundraising events, the Sister Rivers Luncheon and the Celebrate Our Red event at the HoDo. These efforts raised over $10,000 for River Keepers.

Storm Drain Marking Program: Worked with City of Fargo and City of Moorhead to provide the storm drain marking program. This program increases awareness about non-point source pollution. Over 100 participants contributed 255 volunteer hours.

Red River Water Festival: Coordinated our largest youth festival with over 1700 students attending over four days. Over 110 people volunteered 630 hours.

Riverfront Development: Worked with Fargo Planning Department on plans for Dike East. Staff appointed to Moorhead Power Plant Reuse Committee.

Canoe, Kayak, and Fishing Events: Partnered with the Fargo Park District and the FM Walleyes for the Lil’ Fishermen’s Derby and Clinic with over 200 youth and 150 adults participating. Provided two fishing clinics for the Fargo Public Library. Held a fishing clinic during Moorhead’s RiverArts. Organized and managed a fun and competitive canoe/kayak race. 30 teams participated. Forty volunteers provided over 100 volunteer hours helping make these events successful.

Youth Service Projects: Collaborated with Concordia College, NDSU, MSUM, MN School of Business, Fargo North, Barnesville High School, Ben Franklin Middle School, Bennett Elementary, Ellen Hopkins, Upward Bound, Boy Scouts of America, and 4-H Ambassadors on projects related to water quality monitoring, the Living Lab, storm drain marking program, T-shirt bags and the water festival. Almost 220 volunteers contributed 581 volunteer hours.

Living Lab: Kicked off the elementary school backpack program with a grant from Xcel Energy. Thanks to an Experience Works employee, the site was well maintained. Installed more interpretive signs and a rain garden. About 100 volunteers contributed over 350 hours.

Keeping Our River Healthy: Developed display and brochure with Cass County Soil Conservation District. Lake Agassiz RC&D and ND Department of Health to educate citizens about how garbage in yards and streets end up in ditches, storm drains and eventually the Red River. The display was used at many community events.

Riverfront Cleanups: Continued to work with the City of Moorhead and the Fargo Park District on riverfront clean ups. With the assistance of AmeriCorps, many truck loads of woody debris were removed.

Land Trail Development: Continued to encourage retrofitting of pedestrian bridges and increasing miles of riverfront trails.

S.S. Ruby and Canoe & Kayak Rentals: Recruited and trained crew, coordinated marketing, scheduled crew and charters, and maintained ticket booth and watercraft. Assisted Captains in renewing their licenses. Almost 1900 passengers heard the narration about the Red River. There were almost 200 canoe and kayak rentals. Season shortened by high water. Passed Coast Guard inspection. 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 Department of Natural Resources on adding canoe/kayak access sites and portages on the Red River. Construction started on a North Dam portage and enhanced fishing access project. Staff participates in the ND Trails Advisory Committee.

Canoeing, Cooking and Camping: Coordinated the 5th annual women’s weekend on the Red River with 11 participants.

Dam Safety: Continue to work with MN Department of Natural Resources and others on Christine and Hickson Dam issues.
20 Years of Numbers in No Particular Order and With Various Degrees of Relevance

- River Keepers age - 20 years - 1990-2010
- Dams retrofitted on the Red (one of the goals of our founding group was to get the dams retrofitted to eliminate dangerous undertows) - 5 - Fargo Midtown, Fargo North, Fargo South, Wahpeton Kidder, Grand Forks Riverside. Remaining dams are Christine and Hickson - scheduled winter 2010-11 and Drayton - not scheduled.
- Participants in the RUDAT study establishing River Keepers - over 80
- River Keeper water festivals - 13
- Students that attended a River Keepers water festival - over 15,000
- Classrooms now annually attending the water festival - 80
- Children attending the first water festival in 1990 - 387
- Children attending the 2010 water festival - 1719 - The River Keepers water festival is now one of the largest festivals in the U.S.
- Average # of volunteers assisting annually with a water festival - 125
- Tour boats currently operating on the Red in the USA - 1 - the S.S. Ruby owned by River Keepers
- Average number of S.S. Ruby crew required to cover all shifts - 14 - Lots of crew required due to U.S. Coast Guard requirements and weekend and evening hours.
- Passengers carried by the Ruby since its started operations - 23,000
- Days of on the water boat operation required to apply for a captain license (required to operate the Ruby) - 360
- Flares required to be carried on the Ruby - 4
- Pails (for firefighting) required to be carried on the S.S. Ruby - 2
- Individual lights on S.S. Ruby when decorated for Holiday Parade - over 1000
- Active Sister River relationships in the USA - 2 - Red River of the North/Dniester River of Eastern Europe and Mississippi/Mekong
- Average hours of sleep/night for Moldovan and U.S. tour participants in Moldova and U.S. - 5
- Travel time between Moldova and Fargo - 23 hours
- Riparian restoration demonstration sites in the Red River Valley with education as a focus - 1 - River Keepers’ Living Laboratory
- Informational, directional and interpretive signs at the Living Lab - 106
- Educational backpacks at Living Lab - 40
- Sheep barns converted to an Info Center at Living Lab - 1
- Land leases at Living Lab - 2 - land is leased from Cass County and City of Fargo
- Pickup loads of scrap metal hauled to recyclers from Living Lab - 6 - Most was fencing and implement parts
- Participants in the Millennium Tour 2000 - 105 - participants paddled at least one day in a 32 day journey from Breckenridge to Selkirk, Manitoba
- Canoes that swamped during the Millennium Tour - 1 - On the last day paddling into Selkirk
- Royal Mounted Police in full uniform, including hat, escorting Millennium Tour participants to closing ceremonies - 1
- City officials to push his finger in the Executive Director’s chest saying he didn’t like us encouraging use of the Red - 1 - Most officials are very happy with our goals!
- Eagle Scout candidates that have worked on River Keepers projects - over 27
- Rivers designated as official water trail by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources in the Red River Valley - 2 - Red River of North, Otter Tail, (Red Lake River was designated over 20 years ago)
- Designated rivers with a master plan developed by River Keepers - 2 - Red River and Otter Tail River
- Boat ramps installed on Red in Fargo-Moorhead - 4
- Media stories about River Keepers - over 300
- Duck Races sponsored by River Keepers - 2
- Ducks in a race - over 4000
- Canoes races - 18
- Awards received - 11 - includes the Environmental Protection Agency Friend Award
- Rain barrels produced - over 250
- Fishing clinics (youth and adult) - 19
- Trees planted during Reforest the Red events - over 4000
- Storm drains marked - over 10,000
- Executive Directors - 2
- Project Coordinators - 3
- Water quality sampling sites - 4 - Wild Rice River at Wild Rice, Red River at Cass 16/Clay 8, 1st Avenue North, and Cass 22/Clay 26
- Water Quality samples “grabbed” - over 500
- Bison horns found - 7 - most are now located in River Keepers office
- Strangest things found in the Red - 2 - beer keg and metal suit of armor costume
- Historically significant find - 1 - only piece of glass bottle known to come from the Triangle Bar in Moorhead donated to Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County
- Average number of River Keepers members - 260
- Plastic bags parts removed from Red - 1000s
- Cloth bags made/distributed from T-shirts - over 350
- Canoes owned - 11
- Racing canoes owned - 1 - A rare Brigden M-20 from Canada donated to River Keepers
- Outboard motors dropped in Red under full power - 1 - It was later recovered
- Chairs donated to River Keepers - over 30 - includes 7 historic chairs from Fargo Park District
- Current or former board members to catfish guide and obtain “captains” license - 2 - Dennis Flom and Jay Leitch
- Largest cat caught in Red by above guides - 360
- Current and former board members - about 120
- River Keepers volunteers - over 2600 - some have volunteered for over 10 years
- Miles of Red River (different than Corps of Engineers calculations) - 549 - we found three errors in the Corps of Engineers calculations.
- Women’s Weekend on the Red Events - 5 - This is a first ever event for the Red.
- Wood Duck and chickadee nesting boxes built and installed - over 500