

Mark your calendars! River Keepers 2012 schedule of events:

River Keepers Annual Meeting: 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. on March 29 at Probstfield Center for Education.

Living Lab Volunteer Day: 3-7 p.m. on April 24.

Make Your Own Rain Barrel Workshops: 6-8 p.m. on April 25 at the Living Lab. Pre-registration encouraged.



Mike Isensee, Dakota SWCD

Rain Gardens: Capture the Rain of the Plains: 6-7:30 p.m. on May 2 at the Living Lab. Pre-registration encouraged.

Walk This Way: 7 p.m. on May 8 at Dike East. Free.

Composting: Give Your Soil a Boost and Conserve Water: 6-7:30 p.m. on May 9 at the Living Lab. Pre-registration encouraged.

Reforest the Red: 4-7 p.m. on May 22 at Lindenwood Park. Free.



Jessica Weisner

Build Your Own Compost Tumbler Workshops: 6-7:30 p.m., May 23 at the Living Lab. Pre-registration encouraged.

S.S. Ruby Boat Tours and Canoe/Kayak Rentals: regular operating season runs May 25 - September 2. For more information, call 701-793-RUBY.

On-the-Water River Cleanup: 6-8:30 p.m. on May 31. Pre-registration required.

Canoeing, Cooking and Camping: A women's weekend on the Red River. June 1-3. Pre-registration required.

Lil' Fishermen's Derby & Clinic: 5-8 p.m. on June 4 at Dike East. Free.

Race the Red: 6 & 7:30 p.m. on June 11, Lindenwood to Dike East. Pre-registration encouraged.

River Keepers' Golf Tournament: June 18 at Moorhead Country Club.

RiverArts Fishing Clinic: 5:30 - 8:00 p.m. on July 10 at Memorial Park. Free.

Moorhead DQ Fundraiser: August 23 at Moorhead DQ.

Red River Water Festival: September 18-21 at Hjelmkomst Center. Pre-registration required.

Celebrate Our Red Fundraiser: September 30 at Hotel Donaldson.

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.

Numbers

Members: 243

Volunteer Hours:

Almost 700 people contributed over 2300 hours to River Keepers' projects and committees.

Presentations:

Presentations were made to over 20 groups, reaching over 1200 people.

Displays & Parades:

We were at 18 community businesses, conferences, and special events.

Finances

Sustaining Sponsors:

Buffalo-Red River Watershed District, Southeast Cass Water Resource District.

Government

Members: City of Moorhead, Clay County, Fargo Park District

Income

Jan - Dec 2011

SS Ruby/Canoe & Kayak Rentals	\$439.00
Memberships	\$11,644.53
Appropriations	\$98,100.00
Grants	\$13,774.42
Sponsorships/Donations	\$41,700.64
Sublease	\$7,491.60
Project Income	\$3,904.03
Total Income	\$177,054.22

Expense

Office Expense	\$27,726.29
Project Expenses	\$19,463.48
Payroll Expenses	\$137,676.61
Misc. Expenses	\$1,632.78
Total Expense	\$186,499.16
Net Income/Loss	(\$9,444.94)

Board of Directors

Cindy Gray, Pres.
Tom DeSutter, V.P.
Matt Ahone, V.P.
Mitch Martel, Sec/Treas.
Tom Moberg, Past Pres.

Troy DeLeon
Charles Fritz
Ardis Haaland
Troy Hall

Christina Hargiss
Angelique Kube
Tim Magnusson
Barry Nelson
Rick St. Germain
Jan Ulferts Stewart

Full Time Staff

Bob Backman,
Executive Director

Christine Laney,
Project Coordinator

Awards Presented

Environmental Award: Luther Aadland

Good Neighbor Award: Karen Stoker

Ruby Crew Pursers

Tom Sams
Mike Slotten
Donna Toso

Ruby Crew Operations Manager

Donna Toso

Ruby Crew Captains

Bob Backman
Joseph Calvert
Mike Knorr
Christine Laney
Jay Leitch
Gary Prosser
Chris Winning

Ruby Crew First Mates

Nicolas Johansen
Dan Koper
Mark Nerland
Mike Slotten
Donna Toso

2011 River Keepers Highlights

Board Leadership:

River Keepers' Board of Directors conducted three successful fundraising events, Celebrate Our Red at the HoDo, the first annual Golf Tournament, and a cookie fundraiser at Atomic Coffee. These efforts raised \$12,000 for River Keepers!



Land Trail Development:

Participated in Metropolitan Council of Government's "gap analysis" plan development and a development of a new trails map.



Riverfront Development:

Worked with Fargo City staff on components of a revised downtown city riverfront plan. Encouraged participation in Fargo's Comprehensive Plan process. Made suggestions on proposed setback ordinance in Fargo. Partnered with Cass County Soil Conservation District on two "Living with a River" bus tours with 53 participants.



Aquatic Invasive Species: River Keepers installed aquatic invasive species signs, and developing various educational tools to combat this increasing threat.

Red River Water Festival:

Annual hands on educational festival with almost 1500 students attending over four days. Over 110 people volunteered over 550 hours.



S.S. Ruby and Canoe & Kayak Rentals: Recruited and trained crew, coordinated marketing, and assisted Captains in renewing their licenses. Due to high water, the S.S. Ruby did not operate. Participated in Holiday Lights Parade and Holiday Display in Lindenwood.



Canoeing, Kayaking, and Fishing:

Partnered with Moorhead's RiverArts to provide a fishing clinic with 46 youth and 29 adult participants. Organized and managed a fun canoe/kayak race, 7 teams participated. Cancelled Lil' Fisherman's Derby & Clinic and the Competitive canoe/kayak race due to high water. Twenty-three volunteers provided about 75 volunteer hours helping make these events successful.



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



Youth Service Projects:

Collaborated with Concordia College, YMCA, NDSU, MSUM, Moorhead High School, Horizon Middle School, Davies DECA, Barnesville High School, Oak Grove, Bennett Elementary, Ellen Hopkins, West Fargo 9th Grade Center, St. Joes, Oak Grove, MN and ND Extension, Fargo Park District, Eagle Scouts, Cass County Soil Conservation District, International Water Institute, and Envirothon on projects related to the Living Lab, storm drain marking program, T-shirt to Tote project, low impact development, and the water festival. Almost 175 participants contributed 264 volunteer hours just to the Storm Drain Marking Program. Eighteen volunteers built and installed wood duck houses providing almost 100 volunteer hours.



Awards:

Received the Governors 2010 Best Package Award at the North Dakota Travel Industry Conference for the Canoeing, Cooking and Campfire women's weekend soft adventure. Staff received Certificates of Appreciation from the Fargo Park District during a Parks and Recreation Month News Conference.



Living Lab:

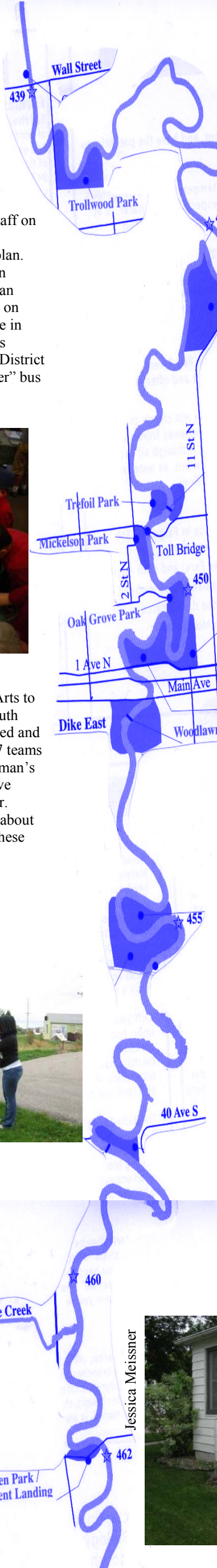
Completed the rain garden. Installed more interpretive signs. Groups toured the site and utilized the educational Backpack Program. About 100 volunteers contributed over 200 hours.



Other Activities:

Stay connected with River Keepers, learn about volunteer opportunities, and community events on our webpage at www.riverkeepers.org or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/RiverKeepersFM.

facebook



Red River of the North International Historic Canoe Trail:

Developed and distributed a Fargo-Moorhead Red River Map with support from Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the Fargo Moorhead Convention and Visitors Bureau. Strongly advocated for fishing access and portages at Hickson and Christine Dam sites.

Water Quality Monitoring: With the support of the City of Fargo, North Dakota Department of Health, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, 12 volunteers assisted in taking semi-monthly samples during ice-free conditions contributing almost 50 volunteer hours. Transferred data to International Water Institute's River Watch online database.



Workshops:

Partnered with Cass County Soil Conservation District and Moorhead Community Education to teach two *Make Your Own Rain Barrel Workshops* with and two *Make Your Own Compost Tumbler Workshops* with a total of 40 participants. Assembled and sold rain barrels.

