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.

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.

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.

River Keepers’ RiverFest: June 22 at Lindenwood Park.

Canoeing, Kayaking and Fishing: 6-8 p.m. on July 10 at Memorial Park. Free.

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

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

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

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.

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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!

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.

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

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 over 75 volunteer hours helping make these events successful.

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. Joe’s, 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.

Land Trail Development:  
Participated in Metropolitan Council of Government’s “gap analysis” plan development and a development of a new trails map.

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

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.

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.

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.

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.