

## Mark your calendars! River Keepers 2013 schedule of events:

**River Keepers Annual Meeting:** 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. on March 28 at Probstfield Center for Education.

**Make Your Own Rain Barrel**

**Workshop:** 6-8 p.m. on April 24 at the Living Lab. Pre-registration encouraged.



**Rain Gardens: Capture the Rain of the Plains Workshop:** 6-7:30 p.m.

on May 1 at the Living Lab. Pre-registration encouraged.

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

**Build Your Own Compost**

**Tumbler Workshop:** 6-7:30 p.m., May 8 at the Living Lab. Pre-registration encouraged.

**Reforest the Red:** 4-7 p.m. on May 21 at Dike East.

**Composting: Give Your Soil a Boost and Conserve Water**

**Workshop:** 6-7:30 p.m. on May 22 at the Living Lab. Pre-registration encouraged.

**S.S. Ruby Boat Tours and Canoe/Kayak Rentals:** Regular operating season runs May 24 - September 1. For more information, call 701-793-RUBY.

**Cookie Fundraiser:** During the month of June at downtown Fargo Atomic Coffee.

**Lil' Fishermen's Derby & Clinic:**

5-8 p.m. on June 3 at Dike East. Free.

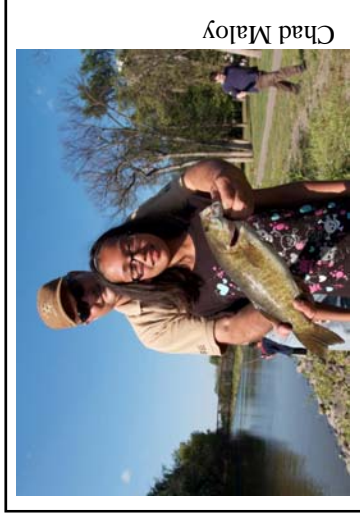
**Catfishing Experiences:** No

reservations required - June 4 & 22, July 2 & 27, August 6 & 24. For times and prices call 701.793.RUBY.

**Race the Red:** 6 & 7:30 p.m. on June 10, Lindenwood to Dike East. Pre-registration encouraged.

**River Keepers' Golf Scramble:** 1 p.m. on June 17 at Moorhead Country Club.

**Canoeing, Cooking and Camping:** A women's weekend on the Red River. June 21-23. Pre-registration required.



Chad Maloy

**RiverArts Fishing Clinic:** 5:30 - 8:00 p.m. on June 25 at Memorial Park. Free.

**Red River Water Festival:**

September 17-20 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](http://www.riverkeepers.org); find us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/RiverKeepersFM](http://www.facebook.com/RiverKeepersFM); or contact us at [christine@riverkeepers.org](mailto:christine@riverkeepers.org) or 701-235-2895.

### Numbers

**Members:** 219

**Volunteer Hours:**

Over 800 people contributed 2600 hours to River Keepers' projects and committees.

**Presentations:**

Presentations were made to over 20 groups, reaching almost 900 people.

**Displays & Parades:**

We were at 16 community businesses, conferences, and special events.

# 2012 Annual Report

"Promoting a renewed vision for the Red River of the North."

### Income

S.S. Ruby/Canoe/Kayak Rentals	\$22,209.96
Memberships	\$12,973.55
Appropriations	\$98,100.00
Grants	\$10,006.03
Sponsorships/Donations	\$52,343.69
Sublease	\$10,808.02
Misc. & Project Income	\$6,345.28
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$212,786.53</b>

### Expense

Office & Related Expense	\$29,813.34
Project Expense	\$21,604.77
Payroll Expense	\$156,581.64
Miscellaneous Expense	\$1,287.74
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$209,287.49</b>

### Net Income/Loss

**\$3,499.04**

### Board of Directors

Barry Nelson, Pres.  
Angelique Kube, V.P.  
Mitch Martel, Sec/Treas.

Cindy Gray, Past Pres.  
Larry Boulger  
Troy DeLeon

Ardis Haaland  
Christina Hargiss  
Don Krogstad  
Su Legatt

Tom Moberg  
Jan Ulifters Stewart

### Full Time Staff

Bob Backman,  
Executive Director

Christine Laney,  
Project Coordinator

### Awards Presented

Environmental  
Award: Luther Aadland

Good Neighbor  
Award Partnership  
Award:

Ilya Trombitsky

Education Award:  
Dr. Don Schwert

Distinguished Service  
Award: Mark Bittner

### Ruby Crew Pursers

Rachel Leitch  
Nora Meyer  
Danna Nelson  
Donna Toso

### Ruby Crew First Mates

Rachel Leitch  
Mark Nerland  
Mike Slotten

### Ruby Crew Operations Manager

Donna Toso

### Ruby Crew Captains

Bob Backman  
Joseph Calvert  
Mike Knorr  
Dan Koper  
Christine Laney  
Jay Leitch  
Gary Prosser  
Donna Toso  
Chris Winning

# 2012 River Keepers Highlights

## Board Leadership:

River Keepers' Board of Directors conducted four successful fundraising events, Celebrate Our Red at the HoDo, the 2nd annual Golf Tournament, a cookie fundraiser at Atomic Coffee, and an ice cream social at Moorhead downtown Dairy Queen. These efforts raised \$14,000 for River Keepers!



## Downtown Fargo Riverfront Cleanup:

Along with City of Fargo Forestry, Fargo Park District Forestry, and City of Fargo Fargo Planning and Development, managed ten AmeriCorps members who removed 80,000 pounds of woody debris and 1400 pounds of trash from the downtown riparian area during an 8 week project.



## Red River of the North International Historic Canoe Trail:

Worked with Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and North Dakota Game and Fish to add potential access sites and portages.

## Canoeing, Kayaking, and Fishing:

Partnered with Fargo Park District and FM Walleyes on the Lil' Fishermen's Derby and Clinic with 118 youth and 84 adult participants. Partnered with Moorhead's RiverArts, FM Muskies, and the National Wild Turkey Federation to provide a fishing clinic with 53 youth and 48 adult participants. Organized Race the Red with 12 competitive and 14 teams participating. Twenty-three volunteers provided about 75 volunteer hours helping make these events successful.



## Youth Service Projects:

Collaborated with Concordia College, YMCA, Kappa Alpha Theta, Barnesville High School, Oak Grove, Bennett Elementary, Fargo North Environmental Club, MSUM, Ellen Hopkins, Shenne 9th Grade Center, Barn Buddies 4-H Club, Eagle Scouts, West Fargo Family Life Science Class, North Dakota Department of Health, City of Fargo, City of Moorhead, International Water Institute, and Anne Carlson Center on projects related to the Living Lab, storm drain marking program, T-shirt to Totes, and the water festival. Almost 125 participants contributed 271 volunteer hours just to the Storm Drain Marking Program. Eighteen volunteers built and installed chickadee houses and maintained wood duck boxes providing almost 100 volunteer hours.



## Living Lab:

Produced 8 interpretive signs for Keep Beatrice Beautiful modeled after those at the Living Lab. A teacher workshop, a classroom family event, four community workshops, and numerous service learning activities occurred.

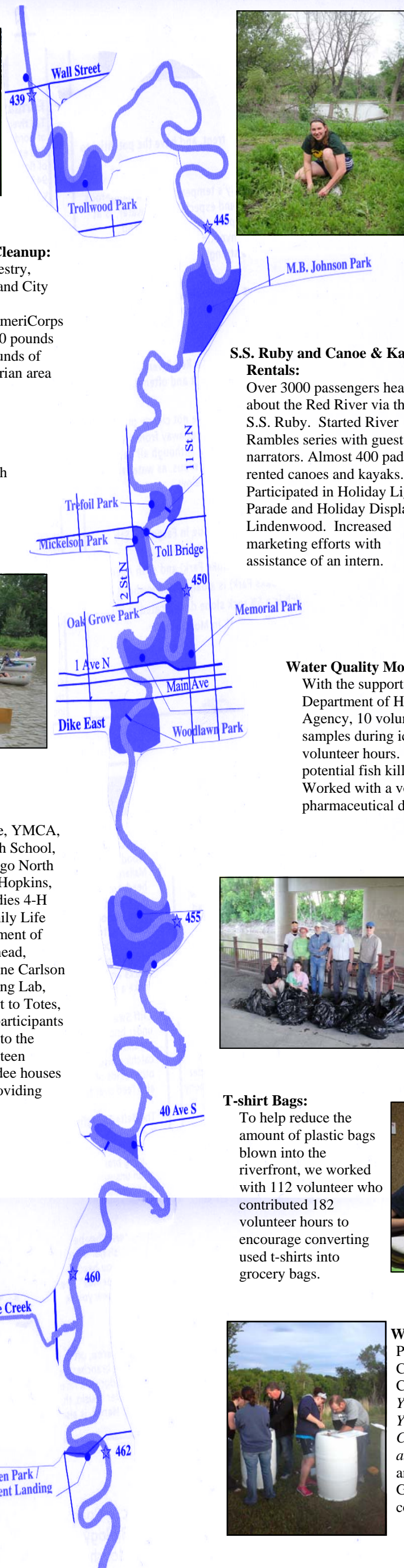
## Red River Water Festival:

Annual hands on educational festival with over 1500 students (76 classes) attending over four days. Over 110 people volunteered over 700 hours.



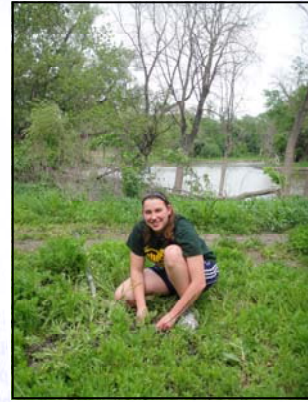
## Dam Safety:

Worked with Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and other partners to coordinate a ribbon "tying" ceremony for the Christine and Hickson Dams Modification on 8/29. All five local dams are now modified!



## Riparian Restoration:

With Cass County Soil Conservation District, City of Fargo, and Fargo Park District coordinated *Plant it 4 the Planet* and *Reforest the Red* to celebrate Arbor Day. About 300 volunteers planted 1800 trees and shrubs.



## Riverfront Development:

Continue to encourage local agencies to develop set back ordinances.

## S.S. Ruby and Canoe & Kayak Rentals:

Over 3000 passengers heard about the Red River via the S.S. Ruby. Started River Rambles series with guest narrators. Almost 400 paddlers rented canoes and kayaks. Participated in Holiday Lights Parade and Holiday Display in Lindenwood. Increased marketing efforts with assistance of an intern.



## Water Quality Monitoring:

With the support of the City of Fargo, North Dakota Department of Health, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, 10 volunteers assisted in taking semi-monthly samples during ice-free conditions, contributing 42 volunteer hours. Coordinated a meeting to discuss potential fish kills with local and state officials. Worked with a volunteer to research local pharmaceutical disposal practices.

## On-the-Water Clean-Ups:

Coordinated river clean-ups. Worked with local and state agencies and the railroad to encourage speedy clean-up of debris remaining in river after a derailment.



## T-shirt Bags:

To help reduce the amount of plastic bags blown into the riverfront, we worked with 112 volunteer who contributed 182 volunteer hours to encourage converting used t-shirts into grocery bags.



## Workshops:

Partnered with Cass County Soil Conservation District and Moorhead Community Education to produce a *Make Your Own Rain Barrel Workshop*, a *Make Your Own Compost Tumbler Workshop*, a *Capture the Rain of the Plains Workshop*, and *Composting Workshop*. Assembled and sold rain barrels. Worked with a GreenCorps member to improve workshop content and increase outreach.



## Other Activities:

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

facebook