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Fargo, ND 58103-1846
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info@riverkeepers.org
www.riverkeepers.org

Numbers

Community Members: 195

Volunteer Hours: Over 400 people contributed over 2100 hours to River Keepers' projects and committees.

Presentations: Presentations were made to 25 groups, reaching over 3000 people.

Displays and Parades: We were at 8 special events, reaching over 1100 people. The S.S. Ruby was lit up at the Holiday Lights Parade and Holiday Lights in Lindenwood which was viewed by almost 20,000 people.

Awards Received:

Minnesota Environmental Initiative Environmental Education Award: The Red River Water Festival was a finalist.

Finances

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

Government Members: City of Fargo, City of Moorhead, Clay County, Fargo Park District, Moorhead Public Service.

<u>Income</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Appropriations	\$ 86,423.46
S.S. Ruby Membership	\$ 17,996.00
Grants	\$ 10,255.60
Sponsorship	\$ 39,176.50
Sublease	\$ 26,758.37
Misc.Income	\$ 10,798.16
	\$ 3,095.40

Total \$ 194,503.49

Expenses

Payroll and related	\$117,725.81
Office Expense	\$ 36,089.61
Project Expense	\$ 29,554.11
Misc. non-office	\$ 3,070.09

Total \$186,439.62

Net Income (Loss) \$ 8,063.87

Awards presented to:

Volunteer of the Year – Jay Leitch



Education Award – Kim Belgarde and Ginger Deitz



2006 Annual Report

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

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

There are all kinds of reasons to join River Keepers - whether it's for the inspiring mission, the intriguing people, or the inviting geography and recreation opportunities of the Red River. River Keepers, with over 16 years of influence and involvement, offers many things in addition to environmental and educational programs. This report provides a brief summary of the challenges, opportunities, friendships, and accomplishments of our board of directors, dedicated staff, members, and volunteers.

It's my honor to be the President of River Keepers, an organization that sets goals and gets results. Led by a committed board of directors, we have developed a plan to increase the visibility and effectiveness of River Keepers. Today, we can enjoy the foresight of others who worked to provide a safe, clean, usable river corridor. Please join our growing membership to protect this precious resource for the future.

None of our work is done alone. River Keepers builds on long standing partnerships with a variety of organizations in Minnesota, North Dakota and in Canada that share our goal of sustainable use of the river.

Your membership matters. We need your active assistance. You will be surprised at what you find!

Jan Ulferts Stewart



Board Directors

Jan Ulferts Stewart - Pres.
Pamela Schaefer - Vice Pres.
Tom Moberg - Sec. Treas.
Gene Boyle - Past Pres.

Matt Ahonen
Karl Bakkum
Myron Berglund
John Dalen
Dennis Flom
Cindy Gray
Sarah Martinson
Mark Naumann
Dan Pullen
Rick St. Germain
Rocky Swanson
Lucinda Swenson
Erika Swenson
Andrea Travnicek

Ex-officio
Ron Sorvaag
Lauri Winterfeldt Shanks

Staff

Bob Backman
Executive Director

Christine Holland
Project Coordinator



2006 Project Highlight:

Section 2 & 3 of Canoeing and Boating Maps Developed!!!

Initial efforts led by River Keepers, began in 1998, to increase canoeing and boating on the Red River. Since then there have been numerous meetings up and down the valley, discussions, presentations, grant proposals submitted, and special events conducted. Hundreds of individuals, agencies and organizations have contributed financial resources, time and enthusiastic support to make this happen.

Results have included designation of the Red River as an official canoe and boating route by the state of Minnesota, completion of a master plan, a designation by the White House as an official Millennium Trail, infrastructure improvement, informational kiosks, signage, and a map of the river from Breckenridge to Georgetown.

Under contract to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, part of this year was spent on developing maps 2 and 3 so that the United States portion of the Red River is now mapped! The maps will be available in spring of 2007 from the DNR Information Center at 1-888-minn-dnr.

2006 River Keepers Activities

Youth Service Projects - River Keepers collaborated with Fraiser Hall, West Fargo's South Elementary, Moorhead's Ellen Hopkins, Boy Scouts of America, Concordia College, North Dakota State University and Minnesota State University Moorhead students on projects related to the annual report, Living Lab, storm drain marking program, and the water festival.

Storm Sewer Education: We worked with City of Fargo and City of Moorhead to provide the storm drain marking program. Over 200 participants contributed 350 volunteer hours to mark drains. River Keepers also makes presentations to groups to educate citizens about how garbage in yards and streets end up in ditches, storm drains and eventually the Red River.

Land Trail Development: Working with Fargo Planning on developing a plan for downtown green space along the river. We are also working with them on a ribbon cutting for the Grand Meadow.

River Connections: River Keepers worked with the F-M Metropolitan Council of Governments and the Environmental Protection Agency to produce 3 issues of *River Connections*, a citizen's guide to river stewardship. The last issue was distributed in the spring to property owners along the Sheyenne and Red Rivers. A watershed District in Minnesota used the publications in their watershed district as well.

Youth Fishing Clinics: We coordinated a clinic to complement the Fargo Park District derby at Dike East in June. Even with the rain, there were over 150 youth participants. Sponsored by MN MinnAqua,

Riverfront Usage: Worked with F-M Metropolitan Council of Governments and NDSU School of Natural Resources to conduct an extensive survey of recreational river users.

Website - Updated www.riverkeepers.org to include fact sheets, project information, and online donation capabilities.



Riverfront Festivals: We worked with RiverArts to have activities in Moorhead Tuesday evenings. Participated in a community "art burning" event at Dike East. Participated in Moorhead's Polar Party with a learning how to cast activity.

River Clean ups: Assisted Fargo Park District and City of Moorhead with Adopt-the-Park/Red programs. Coordinated 4 on-the-water cleanups with individual volunteers and Eagle Scout candidates. About 60 people volunteered almost 150 hours.

S.S. Ruby and Canoe & Kayak Rentals: We recruited and trained crew, coordinated marketing, scheduled crew and charters, and maintained ticket booth and watercraft. Over 2,750 passengers heard the narration about the Red River. There were 150 canoe



2006 Members as of 12/31/06

If we have made a mistake in this listing, please contact us.

Ann Arbor Miller and Wade Kline
Tom & Jane Ahlin
Matt Ahonen
Dick Alsop
Mary Alsop Adair
Noel Anderson
Brian Arett
Allan Ashworth
Randy & Toni Bach
Lynda & Bob Backman
David & Jan Bailly
Karl Bakkum
Howard Barlow
John and Cecelia Beecher
Joel Belgium
John Bennett
Mary Alice & Ron Bergan
Myron Berglund
Wayne Beyer
Mark Bibelheimer
Gordon Bierwagen
Mark Bittner
Mark Blonigen
Larry & Jenice Boulger
Gene & Sue Boyle
Lee Bruchhof
Keith Burk
Ron & Kim Burd
Elizabeth Bushell
Mac Butler
C. Owen & Catherine Carlson
Olaf & Verna Cartford
Donna Chalimonczyk
Mark Chase
Wayne Christianson
Jim Norris & Clair Strom
David Clark
Al Coen
Ross Collins
George Cook
Marjorie Corner
K.W. Covey
Hugh Cowan
Bruce Dahl
Mary Davies
Tom Dawson
Mr. & Mrs. Warren Diederich
Dorothy Dodds

Chad & Jill Eddy
Janet Feder
Dennis Flom
Sara Forness
Rick & Nancy Foss
Jolene Beckman & Fred Sternhagen
Jody French
Sylvia Garcia
Brian Gibson
David Givers
Paul Gleye
Wayne Goeken
Cindy Gray
John Grosen
Jake Gust
Drue Haarsager
Cathy Hanson
John Harkness
Tim Harms
David Hartson
Alice Hauan
Joel & Deb Haugen
Linnae Hegg
Sue Heidenreich
Russel L. Helmeke
Bobbi & Rick Henderson
Richard Hentges
Marty Hoag
Christine Holland
Neil Howe
Stanley & Godela Iverson
Ed Janzen
Mike & Deb Jenkins
Joan Jirik
Jessica Johnson
Gene Johnson
Doug Johnson
Jessica Johnson
Matt Kania
James & Margit Kegel
Curtis Kesselring
Don Kilander
Rosi Kloberdanz
Ken Knudsen
Dave Koland
Bill Kranzler
Michael Lacher
Neoma Laken
Morrie and Ruth Lanning
David & Anne Larson

Doug Leier
Jay and Becky Leitch
Vern Hunter & Leo Grobe
Kim Lipetzky
John & Bess Manesis
R.L. Mason
Ken & Fran Mattson
Tom McGeehan
Anthony McKeown
Cliff McLain
Rod McLarnan
Roger Minch
Tom Moberg
Hugo Moeckel
Celeste Moltzen
Dawn Morgan
Barry & Susan Nelson
Tim Nephew
Mark Nerland
Jim Norris
Ken & Gloria Nygard
Maureen O'Donnell
Julie Olek
Jim Oliver
Jim Olson
Corrin Olson
Steven Olson
George & Kit O'Neil
Michael Orchard
Diane & Larry Ornberg
Nancy Otto
Lloyd & Bev Paulson
Carole Pederson
Don Pederson
Vern Pederson
Rich & Helen Pemble
Merrill Piepkorn
Dewy & Margery Possehl
Arlette Preston
Dan Pullen
Doyle Ranstrom
Tim Ray
Rose Reis-Jackson
Mike Rentfrow
Lou & Jerry Richardson
Roger Richman
James Ross
Helen Rudie
Mike Rufer
Ron & Nancy Saeger
Travis & Heidi Sanger

Pamela Schaefer
Steve & Jan Schlaht
Wm, Jr. & Mary Schlossman
Brad Schlossman
Donna Schneider
Donald & Charlene Schwert
Davis Anthony Scott
Margaret Scott
Larry Seljevoid
Lynn Severson
Ardis Severson
Richard Shaw
John Silliman
Mark Sinner
Mike & Kim Slette
Richard Solberg
Rick St. Germain
Bob Stein
John & Sherri Stern
Steve & Kari Stoner
Janet Stringer
Paul Suomala
Roland and Mary Swanson
Robert & Lucinda Swenson
Hank & Lynn Tkachuk
Tom Tolman
Conrad & Maureen Toni
Andrea Travnicek
Jan Ulferts Stewart
Chuck & Karen Vaala
Tom & Nancy Vesel
Mark & Betsy Vinz
M. Daniel Vogel
Mark Voxland
Trudy Wanner
Michael Weideman
Steven West
Jim Wilkins
Tom Williams
Rhonda Wilson
Brad Wimmer
Lauri Winterfeldt - Shanks
Steve & Leann Wright
Lance Yohe
Rose Young
Steve Zaiser
Steve & Kim Zimmerman

Mark your calendars! River Keepers 2007 schedule of events:

Red River Water Festival: April 10 - 13 at the Hjemkomst Center.

Riverfront Tree & Bank Stability Workshop: 6-7:30 p.m. on April 26 at the Hjemkomst Center.

River Keepers Annual Meeting: 7:30 p.m. on April 26 at the Hjemkomst Center.

Make Your Own Rain Barrel Workshop: 6-8 p.m. on May 1 at the Living Lab.

Walk This Way: 7 p.m. on May 8 at Dike East led by River Keepers.

On-the-water river cleanup: 6-8 p.m. on May 22 from Midtown Dam to North Dam

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

Lil' Fishermen's Derby & Clinic and Race the Red: 5-7 p.m. on June 4 at Dike East.

Canoeing on the Red: July 13 from Lindenwood Park to Viking Ship Park.

Prairie Rose Canoe & Kayak Race: July 14.

RiverArts Fishing Clinic: July 17 .

Red River Water Festival: September 25-18 at the Hjemkomst Center

Canoeing, Cooking and Camping: a women's weekend on the Red River, TBA.

New for 2007!

The **Living Lab** will have new signage related to the storm sewer system in Fargo-Moorhead and the eagle nesting pope sponsored by Cass County Electric.

Fourth graders along with the Cass Soil Conservation District will be **planting trees at the Living Lab** along South University Drive on May 8.

A **boat ramp and canoe landing site** in downtown Moorhead is in the planning stages. A **canoe portage** around the North Dam, along with enhanced fishing access is also in the planning stages.

Look for several **Living with the River** publications.

The two-state **F-M downtown recreational trail will finally be completed.** The last segment located between downtown Fargo and Oak Grove Park will be constructed after 7 years of planning. Look for a name the park contest and ribbon cutting ceremony as part of this exciting project.

The **Great Meadow**, southeast of the Main Avenue Bridge will be officially opened with a ceremony in the spring.

The sheep barn at the Living Lab will be converted in to a **facility to house displays and literature.**

Look for the unveiling of the **Leroy Jewel**, River Keepers very own popcorn wagon!

2007 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 2A, Fargo, ND 58103

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

E-mail: _____

Level of participation (check one): _____ Steamboat \$500+ _____ Skiff \$100

_____ Canoe \$50 _____ Kayak - \$30 _____ Student—\$20

OR GO TO:
www.riverkeepers.org
to donate online!

- NEW BENEFITS FOR 2007!**
- ◆ **Paramount Sports** – 10% discount on all purchases.
 - ◆ **Sheyenne Gardens Nursery** - 10% discount on regularly-priced merchandise.
 - ◆ **The Broken Axe** - \$1.00 off first beverage per visit & half-priced appetizers, 4-7pm.
 - ◆ **Critters Feed and Seed** – 10% discount on all purchases.



Scheels All Sports, MN Dark-house and Angling Association. We also coordinated a youth fishing clinic in conjunction with Moorhead RiverArts in August with 85 participants.

Riverfront Development: We continue to advocate for connecting urban redevelopment to the Red.



Race the Red: We organized and managed a fun and a competitive race. Thirty-three watercraft participated - including a voyageur canoe, a couple of hydrobikes, a rowboat, canoes and kayaks of various sizes. Sponsored by Paramount Sports.

Lions Conservancy Park: River Keepers continues to work with the Fargo Park District, Fargo Lions, and others on the development and maintenance of this park.



Living Laboratory: A wild bird native plant garden was designed and planted at the Living Lab thanks to the Schilling Fund at the F-M Area Foundation and Hanson Design Associates. Native plant displays were researched. An eagle nesting site was installed by partner Cass County Electric. Two tree plantings were planted with help from project partners, Red River Riparian Project, Cass County Soil Conservation District, and Cass County Electric. An entrance sign was designed and installed. Living Lab tours were given during River Keepers annual meeting. Fall clean up held to clean up brush, mulch and trash. Technical reports written for the Environmental Protection Agency grant and the FM Area Foundation grant. Recruited and trained new site manager. Well and sewer repairs. Spring flood caused some basement damage.



and kayak rentals. Decorated the area in a marine theme. Passed Coast Guard inspection in and out of the water. Decorated Ruby for Holiday Lights Parade and Holiday Lights in Lindenwood.

Red River of the North International Historic Canoe Trail:

Under contract with MN Department of Natural Resources, River Keepers developed 2 canoe and boating maps for the sections of the Red River from Georgetown to Grand Forks and Grand Forks to the border. They will be available in spring of 2007. River Keepers is working with MN DNR on adding canoe/kayak access sites and portages on the Red River.



Water Quality Monitoring: Volunteers assisted in taking semi-monthly samples during ice-free conditions. The City of Fargo analyzed samples. Data can be found at www.fmriver.org.

Dam Safety: We continue to work with Water Task Force and others on Christine and Hickson Dam issues. We worked with MN DNR on using bonding bill money for dam portages and access sites. We continue to explore issues related to on-the-water safety including buoys and PFD usage.



Canoeing, Cooking and Campfire: The first women's weekend on the Red River was led by River Keepers. The participants paddled from Breckenridge to Fort Abercrombie, learned how to cook using a Dutch Oven, learned about the Red River and camped along the river.

Cavity Replacement Program: Received grant from North Dakota Game and Fish to continue the program. Wood duck boxes were maintained by NDSU Natural Resource Management Club. Twelve volunteers contributed 60 volunteer hours. Several new boxes were donated from various donors.