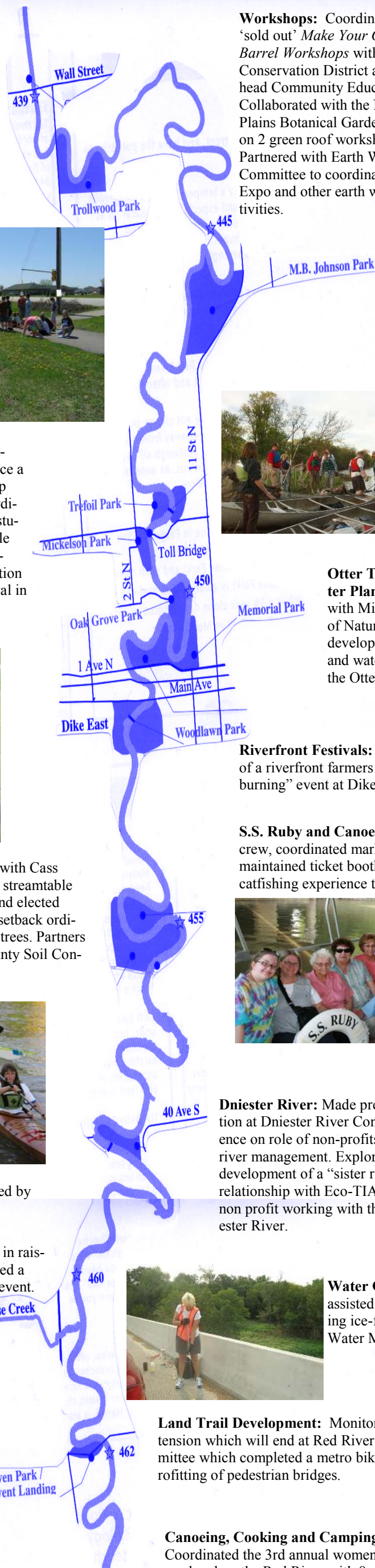


2008 River Keepers Activities



Storm Sewer Education: Worked with City of Fargo and City of Moorhead to provide the storm drain marking program. About 120 participants contributed 240 volunteer hours. Made presentations to educate citizens about how garbage in yards and streets end up in ditches, storm drains and eventually the Red River.



Workshops: Coordinated 2 'sold out' *Make Your Own Rain Barrel Workshops* with Cass Soil Conservation District and Moorhead Community Education. Collaborated with the Northern Plains Botanical Garden Society on 2 green roof workshops. Partnered with Earth Week Committee to coordinate Green Expo and other earth week activities.



Youth Service Projects: Collaborated with Concordia College, Park Christian Elementary, Moorhead High School, NDSU, United Methodist Church, ND Extension, LDS, YMCA and Boy Scouts of America, on projects related to the water quality monitoring, the Living Lab, storm drain marking program, and the water festival.



Red River of the North International Historic Canoe Trail: Working with MN DNR on adding canoe/kayak access sites and portages on the Red River. Exploring methods to construct the 2 projects in Moorhead (new boat ramp and North Dam portage).

Riverfront Clean ups: Assisted Fargo Park District and City of Moorhead with Adopt-the-Park/Red programs. About 21 volunteers contributed over 107 volunteer hours conducting on-the-water clean ups.



Otter Tail River Master Plan: Contracted with Minnesota Dept. of Natural Resources to develop a master plan and water trail map for the Otter Tail River.



Youth Fishing Clinics: Coordinated a clinic for about 200 youth to complement the Fargo Park District derby at Dike East in June. We also coordinated a youth fishing clinic in conjunction with Moorhead RiverArts in August with 70 participants. About 20 volunteers contributed 50 volunteer hours. Provided weekly fishing reports to a state wide service which airs locally on several radio shows.



Red River Water Festival: Partnered with Project WET to produce a service-learning teacher workshop related to the water festival. Coordinated a youth festival with 1400 students attending. About 100 people volunteered about 500 hours. Received grant from Jeffers Foundation to coordinate a youth water festival in Wahpeton in 2009.



Riverfront Development: Partnered with Cass County Soil Conservation District on a streamtable demonstration for City of Fargo staff and elected leaders to encourage the adoption of a setback ordinance. Volunteers planted about 1000 trees. Partners included Fargo Park District, Cass County Soil Conservation District and the Sierra Club.



Canoe and Kayak Events: Organized and managed a fun and a competitive race. 20 teams participated. 10 volunteers contributed over 30 volunteer hours. Worked with the League of ND Cities on an 'adventure' during their fall conference.



Cavity Replacement Program: Wood duck boxes were maintained by NDSU students. 60 volunteer hours.

Board Leadership: River Keepers' Board of Directors were active in raising funds through solicitation and a brat sale. Board members also led a 'Turn a T-shirt into a Bag' demonstration and a rain barrel building event.

Living Laboratory: Wrote, designed and installed about 30 interpretive signs. Planted 900 trees and shrubs in plots. 12 experimental plots were designed and laid out by staff and Cass Co Soil Conservation District. Wrote tree fact sheets. Put new roof on the green house. About 50 volunteers contributed over 300 hours.



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.

S.S. Ruby and Canoe & Kayak Rentals: Recruited and trained crew, coordinated marketing, scheduled crew and charters, and maintained ticket booth and watercraft. Added bike rentals and a catfishing experience to operations. Assisted Captains in renewing their licenses. Almost 3000 passengers heard the narration about the Red River. There were almost 300 canoe and kayak rentals. A Moorhead High School gym classes rented canoes to paddle the river. Passed Coast Guard inspection.



Dniester River: Made presentation at Dniester River Conference on role of non-profits in river management. Exploring the development of a "sister river" relationship with Eco-TIARS, a non profit working with the Dniester River.



Water Quality Monitoring: Volunteers assisted in taking semi-monthly samples during ice-free conditions. Completed a Surface Water Monitoring Certification.



Land Trail Development: Monitoring progress on Heartland Trail extension which will end at Red River. Participated in metro Trails Committee which completed a metro bike map. Continued to encourage retrofitting of pedestrian bridges.

Canoeing, Cooking and Camping: Coordinated the 3rd annual women's weekend on the Red River with 8 participants.



2008 Annual Report

“Promoting a renewed vision for the Red River of the North.”

Mark your calendars! River Keepers 2009 schedule of events:

Make Your Own Rain Barrel Workshops: 6-8 p.m. on May 12 & 13 at the Living Lab.

Wahpeton-Breckenridge Youth Water Festival: May 13.

S.S. Ruby Boat Tours and Canoe/Kayak Rentals: regular operating season runs May 22 - September 6. For more information, call 701-793-RUBY.

Race the Red: 6 & 7:30 p.m. on June 8, Lindenwood to Dike East.

Canoeing, Cooking and Camping: A women's weekend on the Red River, June 26-28.

On-the-water river cleanup: 6-8:30 p.m. on May 21 from Midtown Dam to North Dam.

Lil' Fishermen's Derby & Clinic: 5-8 p.m. on June 1 at Dike East.

Red River Water Festival: September 15-18 at the Hjerkomst Center.

2009 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 201, Fargo, ND 58103-1846

Name _____ Address _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
E-mail: _____

Level of participation (check one): ___ Steamboat \$500+ ___ Skiff \$100
 ___ Canoe \$50 ___ Kayak - \$30 ___ Student—\$20

2009 BENEFITS!
Sheyenne Gardens Nursery - 10% discount on regular-priced merchandise.
17010 29th Street Southeast in Harwood, ND.
Critters Feed and Seed - 10% discount on all purchases except dog/cat food.
1219 1st Avenue North in Moorhead, MN.
The Garden Hut-10% discount on all products & services.
3471 S. University Drive in Fargo, ND.
Olson Awning and Canvas- 10% discount on new awnings and boat covers.
118 9th St N in Moorhead, MN.
Maple Leaf Resort on West Lost Lake - 10% discount on reservations.
Call 218-826-6535.

Numbers

Members: 218

Volunteer Hours:

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

Presentations: Presentations were made to 20 groups, reaching over 3000 people.

Displays & Parades: We were at 7 community special events, reaching over 24,000 people.

Finances

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

Government

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

Income

SS Ruby/Canoe & Kayak Rentals	\$20,144.95
Memberships	\$20,920.67
Appropriations	\$115,343.08
Grants	\$24,445.32
Sponsorships/Donations	\$24,966.49
Sublease	\$7,772.71
Misc. Project Income	\$47,030.21
Total Income	\$260,623.43

Expense

Office Expense	\$35,281.57
Project Expenses	\$51,259.25
Payroll Expenses	\$127,867.99
Misc. Expenses	\$2,884.45
Total Expense	\$217,293.26

Net Income/Loss	\$43,330.17
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Board of Directors

Tom Moberg, Pres.
Dan Pullen, Vice Pres.
Mitchell Martel, Sec./Treas.
Jan Uliferts Stewart, Past Pres.
Matt Ahonen

Karl Bakkum
Myron Berglund
Dennis Flom
Cindy Gray
Jodi Heilman
Pamela Schaefer
Rick St. Germain
Rocky Swanson
Andrea Travnick

Ex-officio

Lauri Winterfeldt

Full Time Staff

Bob Backman,
Executive Director

Christine Laney,
Project Coordinator

Ruby Crew Pursers

Helena Shanks
Donna Toso

Ruby Crew Captains

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

Awards Presented To:

Volunteer of the Year Award – Prairie Heights Community Church

Development

Award- Cass County

Employee of the Year

– Steven Olson

Ruby Crew First Mate

Steven Olson

Highly Acclaimed

Camp Chef – Diane Byrum