

MIDWEST FOCUS

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The Little Plover River, in central Wisconsin, has dried up every year between 2005 and 2009.

Heavy Irrigation Threatens Central Wisconsin Streams and Lakes

by Denny Caneff

The Central Sands of Wisconsin is a surprisingly productive agricultural area. Once known for hardscrabble dairy farms scratching out an existence on the sandy soils of this ancient glacial lake bed, the area is now ranked in the top three nationally for a number of crops that thrive in the sandy soil: potatoes, peas, snap beans, carrots, sweet corn, and cranberries. In addition, thousands of acres are planted to field corn and soy beans.

But those crops thrive in the sand only because they are heavily irrigated by water from the underlying aquifer. In the 1950s, when vegetable and potato production was first launched, there were just a few dozen high-capacity wells (wells pumping more than 100,000 gallons per day) watering those crops. As the land for growing

crops expanded and production intensified on those acres, the number of wells has grown to over 2,000 in the past few years.

The alarm that unmanaged groundwater pumping would someday affect Central Sands streams, lakes, and wetlands was sounded by 1970 by the U.S. Geological Survey. Pumping impacts were largely unrecognized until catastrophic conditions merged in the mid 2000s with the drying up of the Little Plover River, a Class 1 trout stream, in 2005. Like most surface water bodies in this region, the Little Plover is completely dependent on groundwater. Indeed, it wouldn't exist without it.

A citizens' group formed to call attention the plight of the Little Plover, which has dried up every year between

2005 and 2009. The Friends of the Little Plover River and many water experts saw the Little Plover as an aquatic canary in a coal mine – an advance warning that the intensive irrigation of the area was depleting surface water bodies.

University of Wisconsin Stevens Point hydrologist George Kraft has tracked the fate of the Little Plover and other surface waters by monitoring groundwater flows and pumping in the Central Sands for over 20 years. Kraft's research, which included examining the historical rainfall record, found that the Little Plover wasn't drying up because of drought (though there have been droughts in the area in recent years) or a lack of rainfall. Kraft indicated the "missing water" in area lakes and streams

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professionals who study, protect, and
manage North America's rivers.*

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management issues in an open forum of
communication and networking among the
RMS membership. Unless indicated, points of
view are those of the author and not RMS.

Executive Director's Eddy

I write this as a storm named Sandy has landed and headed inland, challenging leaders of towns and cities from South Carolina to Maine. The scale of the impact at this point has already broken records, from the loss of power to 10 million people and an estimated cost of \$50 billion* to the historic 2-day cessation of trading on Wall Street.

The damage could have been far worse, if not for the experience and smarts of local and state officials, federal partners and business owners. For seven days citizens in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic regions received messaging from government offices and utility spokespeople almost as often as we heard and saw election campaign advertisements, and when mandatory evacuations were issued, safety personnel were knocking on doors to move stubborn citizens from their homes.

While the impact of the storm will not be fully realized until days or weeks from now, there are thousands of bucket truck operators, sand bag haulers, and other emergency system staff who we must congratulate and thank today for preventing an even greater level of damage and loss of life.

What does this have to do with RMS? In early October I had an opportunity to join the RMS-Southwest Chapter Trip through Westwater Canyon and float Ruby - Horsethief with our BLM hosts and members of the RMS Board of Directors. On both trips, I marveled at the collective experience and current responsibility held by the participants – professionals like you. The chapter members on the Westwater trip have worked for and led teams on dozens of rivers; play instrumental roles in developing and implementing management plans; greet hundreds of thousands of guests annually; and are trained to meet adverse conditions with confidence.

Thanks to you and your colleagues across the country, millions of visitors learn about rivers studied by our educators, protected by committed stewardship organizations and managed by enthusiastic river planners and field staff. Industry's recreation planners do their part also, balancing the needs of private industry with the public trust. You're



especially resourceful: the systems that define your work as a river professional prepare you to deal with unusual acts of nature and human actions. If river managers like you were members of the hurricane response teams this week, you would have performed ably.

Nobody wants to see the gears and pulleys that make the attractions work at Disneyland. When done well, much of your management is transparent to the users, by design. People have a great experience, learn about their environment, and finish their river trip safely, without seeing or realizing the hard work that goes into it. If something does go awry, they sure are glad to remember the advice you provided, your response when they ask for assistance, or your reassurance at the takeout.

If guests and colleagues have completed a smoothly run event, trip or project due to your expertise and professionalism and have not thanked you recently, pat yourself on the back and accept a shout out. And, if you would like to pat your colleagues on the back, you can do so by nominating them for one or more of the annual RMS Awards! These tributes to your peers' professional attitude and accomplishments, and your organization mates, may be incredibly deserving of the time it takes you to fill out the nomination form online.◆

To a healthy snowpack,



Risa Shimoda
RMS Executive Director

**Source: Bloomberg Business Week tally of utility sites and statements as of 7:30 a.m. ET on October 30, 2012, J. Polson and J. Johnson.*

From the President

The Society of a Professional Society

This Journal and Journals past chronicle our hard work and accomplishments in River Management. Sometimes they document a failed experiment or lost cause. In this article we focus on the third word in our name, society. That word is all about associations of people and their social order.

In early October, the RMS board met at a ranch along the banks of the Colorado River near Loma, Colorado. We do most of the organization's work through the year by way of conference calls and emails. It is invaluable to meet in person once a year. It makes for better, more thorough discussions. It gives us the opportunity to refresh our friendship bonds and strengthen our commitment to the organization.

As part of our board meeting activities we often try and connect with a local chapter activity. This gives chapter members the opportunity to meet and interact with the board. The board gets a reality check by visiting with the membership and seeing their projects first hand. This year we joined the fall Southwest Chapter float. The Southwest is a busy chapter, hosting this year's River Ranger Rendezvous and the venue for both the 2013 workshop and 2014 Symposium in Denver.

Chapter Treasurer and River Manager of the Year, Jen Jones, organized and hosted an overnight trip in Westwater Canyon of the Colorado River. We

saw some great examples of riparian restoration projects and discussed the management challenges of this very popular 16-mile stretch of river. Several SW chapter members, including two river rangers from the Green and San Juan Rivers, joined the group. That is what chapter activity is all about. Get people from around your region to interact with a project, share ideas and take the good ones home for implementation. In the case of Westwater, it was gratifying to see a holistic approach taken—rather than simply killing weeds, they are also restoring native plants. They have some great insight on when and how to utilize volunteers and when the job is best left to the pros.

We also did a one day tour of Ruby Canyon with 2009 River Manager of the Year Troy Schnurr. This section sits immediately above Westwater. It has similar problems and issues as its downstream cousin but with a very different management regime. It was good to see different, yet successful approaches to problem solving in the two canyons.

Being part of a professional society implies some degree of social interaction. I have been a member of a number of professional societies over the years. Through it all, the quality of my membership depended on engagement with the society and other professionals. The informal lines of communication established at RMS events are as worthwhile, useful and longer lasting than the document you are holding and reading at the moment. Societies, professional and otherwise, function on the basis of personal interactions.

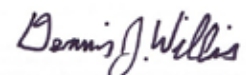
So let's ask ourselves, when was the last time we interacted with RMS as a social society? How can you go about getting that interaction that both RMS and your professional soul needs? An easy way is to attend an RMS event at either a national or chapter level. If your chapter has not sponsored a chapter activity recently, propose, organize and conduct one. Did you know your chapter has money available for conducting events? The national events like workshops and

symposia are always a great place to become known in the profession and make new professional friends. Attending a symposium is a good experience. You can make it a great experience by participating on the symposium committee, presenting a paper, or just donating an item to the silent auction that reflects your region or program.

Positions have been merged in many offices adding river management as collateral duty. In some states, river managers and rangers have been eliminated entirely. This means there are now people working rivers that did not come to them by their choice or passion. These people need the resources of RMS and it is up to you to introduce them. Get them to join, give them a one year membership, but let's include them, invite them to engage. RMS membership is inexpensive by professional society standards and we have great personal benefits for members like the pro deal program and scholarships to help you attend river related events.

If you have been a member for a few years and never considered becoming a chapter officer or serving on the national board or a committee, this is a great time to be thinking about it. I was a member for many years and never really appreciated how active and energetic RMS is or the amount of good work accomplished until I became the SW Chapter President. The experience will make you better prepared to participate on committees, participate in events, and have a more fulfilling professional life.

Engage, participate, interact, and socialize. We are the River Management Society, not the River Hermits Collective. The demands on our rivers are becoming ever greater. Professional river management is needed now. Times are tough, budgets are tight, positions are going away; we need each other more than ever. ♦



Dennis Willis
RMS President

Annual RMS Awards Online Nominations Due February 1, 2013

- River Manager of the Year
- Outstanding Contribution to River Management
 - Frank Church WSR
- Outstanding Contribution to RMS

(see page 27 for details)



The St. Croix River Association: Rebirth of an Historic Organization

*The St. Croix National Scenic Riverway upstream of Stillwater, Minnesota.
Photo: Randy S. Ferrin, St. Croix River Association*

by Randy Ferrin

The St. Croix River Association (SCRA) is one of the oldest conservation groups in Minnesota and Wisconsin. Formed in 1911 with the original name of the St. Croix River Improvement Association, the group initially focused on the lower fifty miles of the river. Membership dues were only one dollar for nearly 90 years until a larger contribution was suggested to members to give them a more meaningful stake in river support.

In 1964, with the threat of a coal-fired power plant proposed for the banks of the river, a subgroup of SCRA members organized to oppose the building of the plant. Although the permit for the plant was granted, their effort furthered a protectionist attitude toward the river. This laid the foundation work for the landmark National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968. The Act named the upper St. Croix River and its Namekagon River tributary as one of the original eight components of the Wild and Scenic River System. The lower 52 miles of the river were added to the system in an amendment to the Act in 1972.

The Association was purely a volunteer group with a President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary and a membership of about 200 households that met twice a year. For many of the St. Croix's conservation leaders, the Association provided a way to connect with each other on a regular basis and to inform members about pertinent issues. However, the SCRA found it increasingly difficult to effectively address the growing number of significant conservation issues facing the St. Croix.

In 2008, interested stakeholders from a number of local, state, and federal agencies and organizations met at a conference sponsored by the prestigious McKnight Foundation to discuss the prospects of having a single organization that could not only help protect the river, but its entire watershed as well. Former Vice-

President Walter Mondale, coauthor with Senator Gaylord Nelson of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, gave the keynote address calling for an increased effort to protect the St. Croix. Conference participants called for a new watershed-wide organization that could support, coordinate and inspire the work of conservation organizations and agencies already working to protect the St. Croix. At the meeting, the SCRA volunteered to become this "go to" organization and to step up its efforts as a watershed-wide advocacy group. Despite reservations by a few participants, the conference endorsed the SCRA and challenged it to move forward.

With assistance from the St. Croix Valley Foundation, a design team was formed that developed a strategic plan for this reborn organization, provided governance documents and new bylaws, and most importantly, finally achieved non-profit status as a 501(c)3. The Association's mission became "Protect, restore, and celebrate the St. Croix River and its watershed." The Board of Directors was enlarged to include representatives from throughout the nearly 8000 square mile watershed. A sizeable grant was obtained from the McKnight Foundation and several generous donors which provided operating funds and a full-time Executive Director was hired. Since then, the organization has added two other full-time staff, a Development Director and a River Protection Steward, along with an Administrative Assistant. The Association now has a permanent office in St. Croix Falls, Wisconsin.

The National Park Service (St. Croix National Scenic Riverway) has been a significant partner with the SCRA, as has the St. Croix Valley Foundation. The Association has

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Conservation Corps Minnesota

Provides Youth an Opportunity to Improve River Recreation

by Nina Eagin

Padding hard downstream, gear filling the canoe up to the gunnels, crews of youth workers slip by the thick verdant green forests of the Cloquet River in northern Minnesota. Conservation Corps Minnesota is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that provides hands-on environmental restoration and service-learning opportunities to young people. Conservation Corps Minnesota and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources are working together to improve access to the Cloquet River.

About half of the youth on the crew had never canoed before. Anna Jefferson, one of the crew leaders on the project finds the team building aspect of working on a river invaluable. “The crew quickly learns teamwork while trying to steer the canoes around rocks and river bends. There are a few rapids where there isn’t a portage ... one of us got stuck, and another youth had to get out and help the canoe get unstuck. It goes back to camaraderie and helping each other get down the river.”

The Conservation Corps provides a summer youth crew, composed of two adult leaders and six high school youth, for this project. The leaders and youth come from all across the state and from various socio-economic backgrounds. The crew will spend a total of two weeks on the project, before heading off to another location for another round of project work. The crew works on weekdays to improve the Cloquet River, which is a Minnesota Water Trail with important conservation value to the state. When not working on the project during the day, the crew members are able to camp and recreate along the Cloquet River.

At the campsites, the crews clean out the fire pits, clear vegetation from the overgrown tent pads, and open up the paths to and from the campsites. The crews also install and repair several signs along the river. One of the youth on the crew say this is their favorite project of the entire summer. “I am learning

the most from portage maintenance because that is when I use the most tools.”

Reflecting on the two weeks spent on the river, crew leader Anna Jefferson said, “When we arrived at campsites, we were often amazed at how beautiful, serene, and calm the site areas were.” When the crew left, the campsites were still beautiful, serene and calm, but they were also more accessible to future campers along the river. In total, six campsites and nearly two miles of hiking



Minnesota summer youth crews working along the Cloquet River.

paths and portage trails were improved. The Conservation Corps crew brought in all their tools and camping equipment by canoe and spent each night camping along the river. For many of the youth involved, the project involved many first-time experiences: working, camping, canoeing, cooking, living away from home, and many more.

The project completed in cooperation between the Conservation Corps and the Minnesota DNR restored access to the Cloquet River for canoe campers and introduced the youth crew to the wild and scenic character of the region.◆

“Filling a Hole” in River Conservation

by Erik Wrede

River conservation efforts often focus on particular stretches of a river, driven by local enthusiasm and passion. Rebecca Wodder, Senior Advisor to Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar, was recently in Minnesota proposing a new paradigm of “headwaters to mouth” river conservation that includes the entire associated watershed. After 16 years as the head of the national nonprofit American Rivers, Ms. Wodder hopes to fill what she perceives as a hole in river conservation efforts with this broad-based approach that is the cornerstone of the new National Blueways program. This new program is the result of recurring themes found nationwide in numerous locally-led river conservation efforts.

In 2010, the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) conducted a series of America’s Great Outdoors (AGO) listening sessions around the country. The importance of rivers was a resounding theme, and therefore became a major pillar of DOI’s work. In November 2011, DOI announced 101 AGO projects of interest, many of which focused on rivers. One of those projects – the 72 mile stretch of National Park on the Mississippi River in the Minneapolis/St. Paul metro area – was designated earlier this year as the second National Water Trail in the nation. The other project is the Minnesota River, which is one of a handful of rivers nationwide that is helping DOI develop its nomination criteria and process for National Blueways.

The Minnesota River, rich in natural beauty and historical significance, flows through a wide valley carved out by the ancient River Warren. With the State Wild and Scenic designation, the MN River is free flowing with excellent water quality, primitive lands bordering it, and is also encompassed by lands that are largely undeveloped. Recreationists experience a diversity of terrain and vegetation, from steep granite bluffs to rolling prairie remnants and marshy lowlands to shady river floodplain forests. This 335 mile river offers a variety of outdoor experiences from national wildlife refuges, numerous state and county parks, historical sites, dam portages, friendly towns, and class 1 rapids. The Minnesota River and its watershed encompass 20%

of the state and the river adds 40% to the volume of the Mississippi River. Needless to say, this is a major river system in Minnesota. Like many rivers, the Minnesota River has seen both its challenges and its successes over the years. Water quality has improved dramatically, but sedimentation continues to be a major concern. At current sedimentation rates, it is estimated that Lake Pepin, the largest natural lake on the Mississippi River, will fill in within 50-100 years.

What makes the Minnesota River unique, though, is the extremely high level of community engagement in river advocacy and protection.

In the land of 11,842 lakes and 69,200 miles of rivers, water is fundamental to conservation, recreation and education efforts. There are numerous stakeholders across the state that can look to the Minnesota River Watershed Alliance as a great example of shared passion and vision. The Alliance represents a diverse group of stakeholders (farmers, anglers, paddlers, boaters, nonprofits, government agencies, equestrian groups, individuals, artists, etc.). The Alliance shares a common vision for the protection of the river and the promotion of a “shared landscape” of conservation, recreation, and education efforts that will ultimately lead to economic development in river communities interested in attracting tourists and residents.

Since the National Blueways program is still very new, Ms. Wodder states that it is a work in progress and that DOI is not officially “open for business” to accept nominations. There is currently no budget for financial assistance, but DOI is looking at building funds into the federal fiscal year 2014 budget. Eventually, DOI will announce an open nomination process and hopes to focus funding and technical assistance toward designated National Blueways over concentrated periods of 5 years.

Ms. Wodder spent two days touring several sites of interest along the river, and meeting about 200 stakeholders through



Rebecca Wodder gets in touch with the Minnesota River.

a series of five well-attended meetings, during which she explained the National Blueways concept. In response to a question from an interested individual, she explained that the program is not intended to have a “top down” approach from the federal government to local communities. Instead, she stated that the intent is more about “knitting together all the various grassroots efforts into an integrated vision that supports stakeholders.” DOI is working to identify existing programs within U.S. Fish & Wildlife, National Park Service, U.S. Geological Survey, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, and Bureau of Indian Affairs to support stakeholder visions. Non-DOI federal partners will include the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Army Corps of Engineers.

The Minnesota River was legislatively designated in 1963 to be managed as a “canoe and boating route.” In 2013, the Minnesota State Water Trails program will celebrate its 50th anniversary. The primary celebratory event will be held on the upper Minnesota River on a stretch where a 107 year-old hydropower dam is being removed and a series of historic rapids are expected to re-emerge. Our stakeholders are also looking forward to potential for the river to be designated as National Blueway!◆

Erik Wrede, Water Trails Coordinator, works for Minnesota DNR.

Rivers of Birds: Connecting People and Parks at Both Ends of Migration (a “Sister Parks” Initiative”)

by Randy Thoreson and Jonathan Moore

“Do you hear that?” “Yep, sounds like a Golden-winged Warbler to me.” “What’s that other bird sound?” “Oh, I think that one is a Scarlet Tanager. Look, way up on top of the White Pine—what a rare sight! Heh, you paddlers, over here on this side of the river. I think I just saw an Evening Grosbeak flying around in tree branches and, look, there are bunch of Gold Finches down by the underbrush just up from the shoreline. The males are such a pretty yellow.” “Cool!”

Such was the chatter from enthused paddlers this past summer on a five day, ninety-four mile trip on the Namekagon River (commonly called the “Nam”), a primary stem of the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway—a system which totals about 254 miles running from northwest Wisconsin along the border of Minnesota where it eventually joins the mighty Mississippi River.

The St. Croix National Scenic Riverway in Minnesota and Wisconsin offers visitors the opportunity to experience a rich diversity of flora and fauna. As a protected river with a north-south orientation, visitors are particularly likely to encounter neotropical migrant birds. These are birds that breed in the United States or Canada during the summer and then fly south to Central or South America for the winter. Of the nearly 250 different species of birds that have been observed in the Riverway, 160 are considered neotropical migrants. Because most visitors prefer to enjoy the park during the same summery months neotropical birds do, it is easy for people to take the “other life” of these birds for granted: their southern destinations and the perilous journey they take to get there and back.

NPS staff have joined forces with citizen stewards in the St. Croix River Valley to change this. Together with twelve other National Park units in the Upper Midwest (Mississippi National River and Recreation Area, Apostle Islands National Lakeshore, Voyageurs National Park, Grand Portage National Monument, Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, Isle Royale National Park, Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, Effigy Mounds National Monument, Ice Age National Scenic Trail, Keweenaw National Historical Park, and Pipestone National Monument), as well as the Great Lakes Inventory and Monitoring Network, the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway is forming a “Sister Park” relationship with Corcovado National Park and six additional protected areas in the Osa Peninsula region of Costa Rica.

The “Sister Park” concept is not a new one. Currently, about forty U.S. national parks have formed “Sister Park” relationships with parks around the world. The proposed arrangement would be the first to engage a network of parks and protected areas within each country and would be the first partnership of its kind with Costa Rica (in terms of sensitive Riverway habitat protection in the U.S. coupled with an equally important area known as one of the most bio-diverse environments in the world).

The goals of “Sister Park” relationships are to share information, exchange best practices and foster collaboration between parks that may be thousands of miles away. At the center of the United States-Costa Rica arrangement are the “winged ambassadors” that inspired it, neotropical migrant birds.

While the parks have been working to finalize the agreement,

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NPS Midwest Regional Director, Mike Reynolds, and Superintendent of the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway, Chris Stein, add the final U.S. signatures to the Sister Park arrangement with Costa Rican parks in August 2012, surrounded by citizen stewards of the St. Croix River region.



WSR Scenic Easements Program Partners for River Restoration

by Jay Krienitz

On a sunny and crisp fall day in October, Minnesota DNR, Great River Greening (a nonprofit organization that leads and supports community-based restoration of natural areas), local, state, and national partners, and 75 volunteers are working together to restore a key shoreline stretch of the Rum Wild and Scenic River in Minnesota.

The Rum River is a crown jewel within the Midwest's network of waterways. Snaking its way 145 miles from Mille Lacs Lake to its confluence with the Mississippi River at Anoka, the river retains much of its historical water quality. This treasured area is a critical north-south migration corridor for a multitude of birds, a link-pin between the Upper Mississippi River and the Canadian/US boreal forests to the north.

This program works because Minnesota's Wild and Scenic Rivers Act has protected hundreds of landowner parcels with "scenic" conservation easements. Private landowners with state-held conservation easements can receive cost-share funding for restoration activities that will improve woodland, forest, and savanna habitat for bird species and otherwise reduce land use impacts on the Rum River.

The restoration event was inspiring, rewarding and filled with smiling faces. The day was bright, with sounds of the river and smells of fall. Bruce Mickelson, the landowner, was there with his family and talked with volunteers while he worked alongside us planting trees. "I've lived here since I was four years old, and I walked to school just down the road," said Bruce, who now serves on the Isanti County Planning Commission. His stories of living on the land and his stewardship of the river were moving as he spoke to the crowd of nearly 100 people. We planted over 500 trees and shrubs, spread seed, cut willows for planting in the spring, and prepared the site for winter activities where the stream bank will be reshaped.

This project is a culmination of years of planning and partnership building, and is Great River Greening and the DNR Scenic Easement Program's largest riverbank restoration project to date, restoring ¼ mile of shoreline and floodplain forest on the Rum River. The DNR does not currently have funding to conduct habitat restoration on WSR scenic easements, but other organizations with restoration funds are working in partnership with the DNR to meet these objectives. The DNR Scenic Easements Program connects interested landowners (where we hold easements) with partner projects like this one. ♦



Karen Kats, Great River Greening, works with volunteers to plant trees.

Students from the University of St. Thomas School of Law volunteered with the restoration project. Photos: Jay Krienitz



Minnesota Citizens Seek To Help DNR Water Trails Program

by John Helland

A year ago at this time, late fall of 2011, three citizens – all recently retired from state/federal public service – got together to talk about the Minnesota water trails program. They met with Department of Natural Resources program coordinator, Erik Wrede, to see how a citizen's advisory group might best be able to assist the program. I think its important to note that one of the group, Steve Mueller, was the immediate predecessor to Erik in the DNR program; the second, Steve Johnson, worked on river activities for both the DNR and the National Park Service Mississippi River National Recreation Area, besides being past President of RMS; and the third (me) was one of the founding members of the former Rivers Council of Minnesota.

The purpose in meeting was not because the water trails program was in any trouble. On the contrary, it consists of 33 separate water trails scattered around the state, and is perhaps the most accomplished program of its kind in the country. As we all know, however, good programs can sometimes be made even better. And the current DNR Commissioner, Tom Landwehr, was open to having citizen groups assist the Department in various endeavors.

Like many states this past decade, Minnesota has been experiencing state budget shortfalls, where state agency cuts have been made. This has certainly happened to Minnesota's DNR, with resulting reductions in program operation and maintenance.

One plus that Minnesota has, a four-year old 3/8 of one percent sales tax for primarily natural resource improvements, was approved by voters and is now part of our state constitution for 25 years. The money is restricted, however, from being used for traditional operating programs, so continued general fund cuts to the DNR have still occurred.

Using a lot of Erik's ideas for how help could happen, we secured a meeting with the Commissioner and other top DNR staff to go over how we could be useful, and we received the blessing to proceed ahead. Because Minnesota is well known

for it's numerous lakes, our basic purpose in being was:

- To enhance rivers as a recreational resource;
- To increase awareness of water trails statewide; and
- To assist the DNR program from interested citizens' perspective and contacts.

We began by recruiting other river lovers from around the state to have a solid core of folks. We include two retired former DNR Wild and Scenic River coordinators, another retired Mississippi river expert, two former staff directors of a statewide rivers nonprofit (now defunct), two current directors of nonprofit regional river groups, one former university water resources educator, one former Audubon center director, and two younger members: one who is a river trip leader for a nationally-recognized organization (Wilderness Inquiry), and the other a serious paddler who owns a landscape design firm. Two of our members are DNR staff with extensive river experience, but whom are non-voting participants.

We came up with an initial work plan and timetable of activities. Included in our work plan are: to ensure that each water trail have a local friend's group that can both monitor and support a regular local cleanup; to have our committee become a consistent conduit of information between the DNR and friend's and user groups; to help promote best management practices, like shoreland buffers and stormwater management techniques along the water trails and their access points; and, to promote an official Governor's Water Trail Day. We also wanted guiding principles for the committee, and the ability to help improve both the water trail website at the DNR and add useful information to their social media accounts.

The committee has held three meetings this year, all successful and full of promise. One of our work plan goals was achieved at our second meeting this past July. With the great help of the DNR, we conducted our first state "Water Trails Day" along the Mississippi in Winona.

The governor was invited, but already was committed to attend the National Governor's Conference. We had 130 paddlers out on the river, with educational stops along the way on ecology and biology by faculty from St. Mary's University. Everyone seemed pleased by the event.

Next year will be a big one for the DNR water trails program, as they will celebrate their 50th year of existence. The citizen advisory committee will be alongside to help celebrate the occasion. Initial plans are to have the water trails day part of the celebration and to promote the local river community. The governor will be invited again and it will take place on the Minnesota River near Granite Falls.

One of the attractions on the Minnesota in that area is a removal of an old power dam that will take place yet this year. That will free up some historic rapids, bringing extra excitement to the paddling community. The committee is lucky that one of our able members, Patrick Moore, heads up a river nonprofit in the area and is willing to work at the local end to do whatever is necessary for a popular event. Our committee will concentrate on the celebration activities for success in the early part of 2013.

So, if you want a spring paddling destination the third weekend of next May, think about joining us and many others to experience the Minnesota and it's "new" rapids for a fun time. More information will be available on the DNR website next year, along with press releases and other media contacts. The committee is very pleased that we have a great working partner, Erik Wrede, bolstered by the DNR Commissioner's office. We hope to make a significant difference in spreading the good news on Minnesota water trails. ♦

John Helland currently is chair of Minnesota's citizen advisory committee on water trails, and formerly was the chair of the Rivers Council of Minnesota. He is a retired 38-year legislative analyst on environment and natural resource issues with the Minnesota House of Representatives.

Midwestern States Look to Whitewater Parks as Economic, Environmental and Safety Solutions

by Risa Shimoda

Re-engineered rivers have become important public amenities for dozens of communities across the nation. The list of stories about city leaders interested in rediscovering and integrating river-based activity and enjoyment into the fabric of daily life is lengthening, notably in our Midwestern States. Here are updates on whitewater river projects that are installed and in planning stages in a region not otherwise known for its destination rapids.

Charles City, Iowa

When City Administrator Tom Brownlow stepped up to receive the 2012 All Star Community Award on behalf of Charles City during the Iowa League of Cities Annual Conference last September, he learned he had been named the 2012 City Manager of the Year for his contribution to the community, in part for converting a low head dam into the state's first whitewater park that now draws thousands to the banks of the Cedar River,¹ what Tom recalls as having been described as "the stupidest project, ever."

Source: http://globegazette.com/news/local/charles-city-city-administrator-honored/article_9fa8f038-0c1c-11e2-83d7-001a4bcf887a.html

This award capped a year of celebrity for a community rebounding from tremendous flood events in 1999 and 2008; it was also named "River Town of the Year" by the advocacy group Iowa Rivers Revival for its projects aimed at improving the river's water quality and appeal. Besides inviting a new

generation of recreation, the city has facilitated fish passage and developed the state's largest permeable paving system, reducing storm water runoff and related river pollutants.²

Visit <http://iowaenvironmentalfocus.org/2012/03/19/on-the-radio-charles-city-named-iowa-river-town-of-the-year>

Anglers who thought the Charles City Whitewater at Riverfront Park project would ruin their favorite pastime were backed up by opposition from the Isaac Walton League... until the project was built. At least one representative reacted to the course by saying "if I were a small mouth bass, this is where I'd go." The League subsequently assisted with the development of a boat launch, river plantings, and two years of volunteer service.³

When the park was complete, a local gas station owner decided to rent inner tube and PFD packages for ten dollars. He started with twenty, increased to fifty, and again, to 100! You could often see them all on the water, too...decorating the river along with kayakers and creating a great draw for spectators.⁴

Tom Brownlow, City Administrator

The riverfront has added a kids' play area, the above-mentioned boat launch, a disc golf course, labyrinth, and a terraced amphitheater thanks to private funds. In 2012 slalom gates were installed, enabling Charles City to host their first slalom event as part of the Iowa Games.

Charles City Whiewater Park on the Cedar River, looking upstream. Photo: Charles City



Yorkville, Illinois

The Marge Cline Whitewater Course at Bicentennial Riverfront Park consists of a constructed bypass and fish ladder channel around a dam that has been the culprit for over a dozen deaths. The 1,100 foot channel includes a Class I-II channel for recreational canoes and kayaks, and a "Challenge" channel with Class II-III features that allow whitewater boaters a place to practice skills. It is a convenient place for Greater Chicago area (N.E. Illinois) residents to count on adequate flow through the summertime months, located approximately 50 miles southwest of downtown Chicago.⁵

Visit <http://www.yorkville.il.us/GlenPalmerDamUpdate.php>

South Bend, Indiana

The East Race Waterway was modeled after the whitewater slalom course built for the 1972 Olympics Games. Like the historic course constructed in Augsburg, Germany, the course diverts water from its St. Joseph River and lets gravity do the work to return the flow 1,900 feet downstream. The \$5 million project opened in 1984 and has hosted dozens of regional and national slalom competitions. Run by the South Bend Parks and Recreation Department, the course is open for rafting and open kayaking during the spring and summer months.⁶

Visit <http://sbpark.org/parks/east-race-waterway>

Springfield, Ohio

In 2010 Ohio's first whitewater park opened near the city's Snyder Park and the Springfield Museum of Art. Local paddler and contractor John Loftis suggested the concept of rehabilitating four unused dams along Buck and Beaver Creeks. "The dams were outdated and no longer used for their original industrial purpose," Loftis said. "It gave us the opportunity to kill two birds with one stone - removing hazardous dams and at the same time using the dams for recreation." Two drops have been installed for a \$750,000 price tag, and two additional dams are being considered for modification.⁷

See <http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/sports/2010/07/13/making-waves.html> for additional information.

Petoskey, Michigan

The opening of Bear River Valley Recreation Area in 2011 gave whitewater fans an opportunity to enjoy a new, mile-long reach of whitewater. The improvement project included new parking, public restroom facilities, pedestrian sidewalks and trails, and a new access point. The Northern Michigan Paddling Club began to introduce local residents and neighboring communities to the new amenity with their first Whitewater rendezvous in 2012.⁸

Visit <http://upnorthnewsandsports.blogspot.com/2011/05/petoskey-opens-whitewater-paddling-park.html>

Dayton, Ohio

For over a decade, Dayton has been bringing people back to the shores of its Great Miami River, Mad River, Stillwater River, Wolf Creek and Twin Creek with the development of a multiple-corridor improvement called Riverscape. A recreational enhancement called 'Bernie's Hole (named for the co-owner of the project's prime mover and paddling shop co-owner)' was completed in 2011 on the Mad River adjacent to one of its regional parks.⁹

[Note: Up until this point, the projects listed are in the ground and 'flowing.' The first Dayton project is installed, but the second one, and those that follow, are in the planning stages.]

For a bit of historical irony in the city that invented the "hydraulic jump" (the flood management dam configuration that slows water flow during flood events), it was announced in 2011 that the dangerous "low" dam adjacent to Dayton's Riverscape park will be removed. Two channels will allow recreationists to travel through the downtown district on the river.¹⁰

Read more about Bernie's Hole: <http://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/River/detail/id/1707> and the downtown project: <http://mostmetro.com/the-featured-articles/completing-the-river-downtown-dayton-game-changer.html>

Elkader, Iowa

Another Iowan town is getting into the whitewater act by developing the Turkey River as part of their new Founders' Park.

A small dam on the Turkey River is going to be removed and replaced with a feature that encourages both recreation and angling. The little dam provides the drop needed to create the waves and holes necessary to create the whitewater play spot. The little dam spot also adjoins the downtown which will help to open up the area to the river and provide another reason for people to patronize local businesses. The current length of the improved area is 100 feet, and additional whitewater exists downstream, extending the rapids and opportunities for fish habitat enhancement.¹³

For more information, see <http://turkeyriver.org/elkader-whitewater-feature>

Iowa City, Iowa

In the aftermath of the 2008 floods, Iowa City has also recognized an opportunity to rebuild with a new eye toward connecting residents to the Iowa River. Funding from an EPA Urban Waters Grant will allow for planning and design to modify Iowa City's nine ft. high Burlington Street Dam, restoring twenty-five acres. Public safety is a chief concern, as the river connects the University of Iowa's east and west campuses, hubs for 31,000 students and 20,000 employees. Modifications to the Burlington Street Dam will address public safety concerns; improve water quality, bank stability and fish habitat; and create recreation opportunities. The University Hydroscience & Engineering Department, located just downstream of the Burlington Dam will be assisting on the project.¹⁴

*"The City recognizes the river as an underutilized resource," says Steve Long, Community Development Coordinator. "The good news is that a \$70 million recreation facility has just been completed on the campus nearby, the reach already sees 700 million visitors each year, and they are already planning both a Phase II that will integrate the river improvements and campus, and a relocation of the nearby wastewater treatment plant."*¹⁵

Steve Long, Community Development Coordinator

For more information, visit <http://www.icgov.org/?id=2094>

Ann Arbor, Michigan

A whitewater park on the Huron River in downtown Ann Arbor was fully funded in 2011 (a \$1.2 million project), and now faces objection from the US Environmental Protection Agency and others. The project design leaves the city's Argo Dam and Argo Pond intact and creates a channel around them. The Environmental Protection Agency is concerned the project "would inhibit fish passage and increase stream velocity, thereby altering sediment transport and degrading stream stability."¹⁶

For more, visit <http://www.annarbor.com/news/epa-objection-could-halt-ann-arbor-plan-for-whitewater-features-on-huron-river>

Flint, Michigan

A master plan and conceptual design for the Flint River in downtown Flint, Michigan includes removal of the Hamilton Dam and installation of a 2,000 foot river park. Local proponents are working with the city, Army Corps of Engineers and private investors to raise the \$10 million needed to implement the design.¹⁷

Read on at http://www.wadetrail.com/hamilton_dam/index.html

Grand Rapids, Michigan

The City of Grand Rapids plans to restore the Grand River beginning with a concept that has captured the imagination of its citizens: transitioning from an industrial past by removing its dams. (See adjacent existing condition and proposed concept.)

*"Our understanding about the river has shifted dramatically in the last decade or two," said Mayor George Heartwell in a 2010 interview. "It has shifted (away) from being a toilet, a place to wash away our industrial sins and sewage spills; the river took the bad stuff out of the city...the river is now a gathering place where people can come together for conversation on its banks or to walk or watch people fish or kayak."*¹¹

See http://www.mlive.com/outdoors/index.ssf/2010/07/grand_river_continues_to_be_ke.htm for more detail.

Restoring the rapids is a complicated task. The project will do more than restore Class III whitewater, according to the report submitted by Riverrestoration.org. * The rapids will also increase the river's biodiversity and fish habitat. Removing the dams would open up an 80-acre spawning habitat for lake sturgeon, and fish will find shelter behind the shoals and boulders to rest during their upstream migrations. Other structures in the channel bed could be created for wade fishing, according to the report. Project challenges include creating an upstream barrier for sea lamprey, a parasitic species that invaded the Great lakes in the late 1940s, during the species' spawning times.

Anglers are divided on their assessment of how the restoration will impact their hobby: devotees of the tradition of fishing below the dam and bait retailers are worried. Others, who see results from Charles City and other restoration that mimic natural

pools and drops, think the fish will be pretty happy. The report estimates the \$27.5 million restoration of the rapids could bring \$5 million in new economic activity to Grand Rapids every year.¹²

Learn more at http://www.mlive.com/business/west-michigan/index.ssf/2012/09/what_are_the_opportunities_and.html

Bardstown, Kentucky

The Bardstown Boaters are currently working with the city to bring a whitewater park to Kentucky at the site of an old rubble dam on the Beech Fork of the Rolling Fork of the Salt River. The purpose of the project is to restore the invert for municipal use and to enhance whitewater recreation while removing the hazardous conditions that currently exist.¹⁸

Read on at <http://bardstownboaters.org/whitewaterpark>

Bowling Green, Kentucky

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, city of Bowling Green, Greenways Commission of Bowling Green & Warren County, Bowling Green Municipal Utilities, and Western Kentucky University have developed a conceptual design for a whitewater course on the Barren River at Mitch McConnell Park, in downtown Bowling Green. The park is being developed as a county-wide network of walking and biking pathways, trailheads and river access points.¹⁹

Visit <http://www.bgriverfront.org/our-story> for more information.

Manchester, Iowa

A citizen's group called "Manchester Good to Great" hopes to build a river park around a re-engineered Maquoketa River, which flows through their community. Their projected cost is \$1.6 million and they expect to see \$600,000 per year in economic benefits. "We think that recreation is a part of life that people are looking for, and if we can help offer those opportunities it will help us grow as a community," said Ryan Wicks, speaking for Manchester Good to Great.²⁰

Read on at <http://www.kcrg.com/news/local/Group-Hopes-To-Make-Manchester-White-Water-Park-A-Reality--141852233.html>

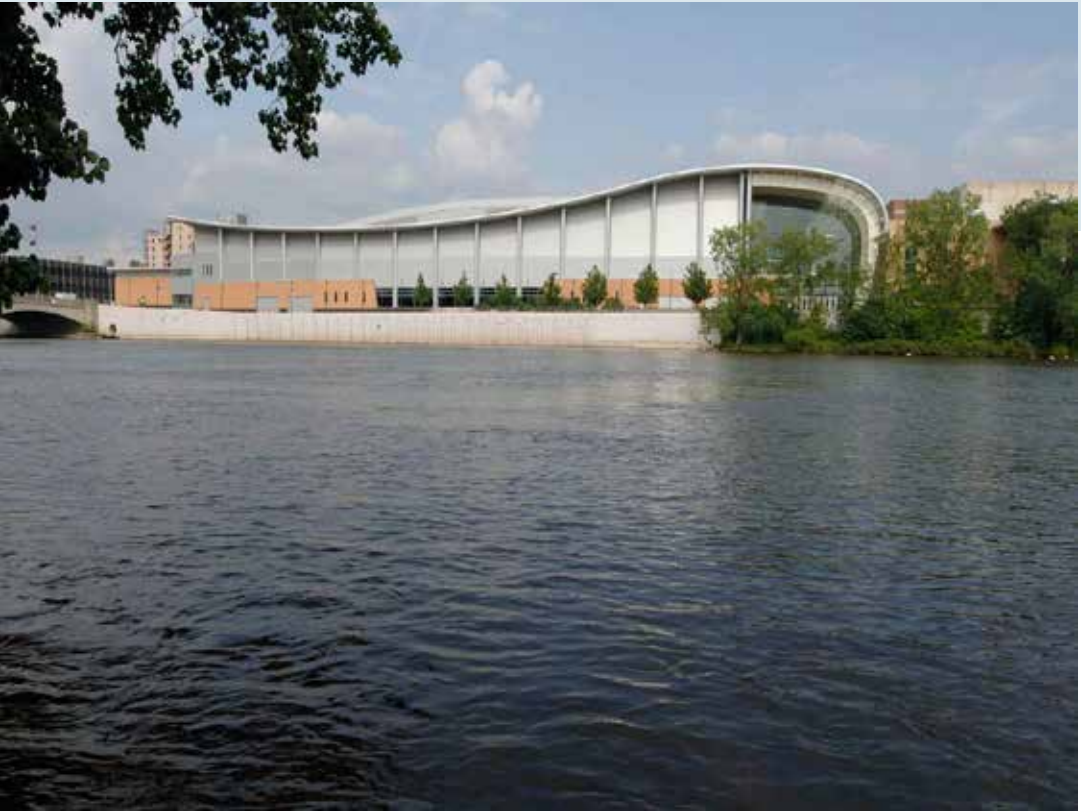
And then there were more.

Re-engineered rivers that anchor community river parks are also being discussed in several other Midwestern towns. Stay tuned.

In closing, Midwestern US whitewater park projects are creating benefits for fans of the outdoors, their rivers and the community members' bottom line. Interestingly, whitewater park projects are still usually catalyzed by paddlers who see an opportunity and are fueled by their passion. While they ultimately represent a tiny fraction of the body of visitors who use the river and its banks, they are happy to share the wealth. When whitewater

(continued page 34)

Grand Rapids Restoration



EXISTING
June 2012



Grand Rapids Restoration



RENDERED PROPOSED
June 2012



The Fabric of our Rivers



Ozark Mountains

by Stuart Schneider

Recently I made a trip south from our home in Valentine, Nebraska, to see a friend get married in northern Arkansas, as well as to visit my daughter and new granddaughter in western Tennessee. The first day was a long drive—over ten hours, eastwards across the Great Plains and south along the Missouri River valley to Kansas City, then east to stay at my dad’s place in Columbia. This is where I grew up, near the Missouri River in Boone County, Missouri. I can remember daily climbing the steps onto the school bus, finding a seat and riding towards the tiny village of McBaine. If you sat in the back of the bus you had quite a ride on some of the short, steep hills—almost as good as a roller coaster it seemed.

McBaine was located in the bottomlands of the river valley, surrounded by rich, dark soil that gave birth to corn, soy beans, alfalfa and other crops. I recall many times that the Mighty Mo rose above its levee-infested banks. Local residents motored around in johnboats transporting their possessions to dry ground. I wondered why anyone would chose to live in these low-lying places, just to be flooded out every few years. Their houses were stained by a history of multiple water level lines. Surely their insides must have been damp, dank buildings with black mold lurking in cracks and corners.

The river often complained of being confined in such a tight space, channelized by a government intent upon subsidizing barge transportation and offering “flood control” measures to protect the fertile farmlands. I reckoned that Lewis and Clark would hardly recognize the Missouri—lined with rip-rap, dikes

protruding into its swift waters, a railroad passing below blasted cliffs and massive steel bridges spanning its turbulent, murky waters. But the Missouri still had many offerings for a young man.

I discovered the joy of rock climbing on those crumbling limestone bluffs. We honed our skills at balancing by walking railroad tracks and were always excited to hear a train coming, blaring its horn and singing its click-clacking song on the rails. We shot floating log targets with a Hawkin .50 caliber rifle, skipped rocks, watched the annual fall migrations of ducks and geese and enjoyed an overnight canoe float from Rocheport to Easley one summer. In the winter we’d drive down to the Missouri and watch the thick ice floes pass by. Sometimes the entire river froze over; the surface at least became still, frozen in time. It was scary to walk out on that jumble of ice and hear the waters sliding along below. I would sit atop those bluffs and the spirit of adventure and a desire to travel West was ignited within me. Where did all that water come from? What stories could it tell? What was out there, anyhow? I am thankful for those memories.

This trip saw me headed south to Arkansas a couple of days later, into the Ozarks. The wedding was adjacent to the Buffalo River. Both the bride and the groom were U.S. Park Rangers at the Buffalo National River. Before the wedding I slipped down to the water and enjoyed watching an otter searching for food in a clear, cool spring-fed creek. At the river’s edge the water was typically low for this time of year (October). You’d be carrying your canoe from one stretch to the next if you tried to make a trip. But nonetheless I wished I had time for such

a venture to try out the smallmouth bass fishing. I remember reading Buffalo River stories to my son, about a boy who lived in a nearby town and had a pet raccoon named Rascal. My memories were interrupted by a truck that burst from the woods on the opposite bank and plowed through the grill-deep waters at a crossing, headed south up another holler going who knows where?

After the wedding I headed east to Mammoth Springs, Arkansas, and camped along the Spring River. At nine million gallons of water an hour, it’s the state’s largest spring and second largest in the Ozark’s. As I pulled into my campsite I spied a Confederate flag a few sites down with people out talking and enjoying the cool night. It was lightly sprinkling and there were several fires burning at a couple other sites. Between the loud talkers (who stayed up nearly the whole night), squawking herons and a train track that ran alongside the campground, I got very little sleep. After drying out my gear and stretching, I continued back north and east

Sycamore leaf in Buffalo River.



into Missouri, headed for Tennessee.

I checked out Grand Gulf on the way, where an ancient cave's roof collapsed leaving a deep, and now heavily wooded canyon. Unexpectedly, I crossed the Eleven Point River and braked hard to pull into a landing and admire its crystal clear waters. The Eleven Point was one of a handful of rivers that was designated when the Wild & Scenic Rivers Act was passed in 1968. Although I had grown up in Missouri and spent many summers floating the Current River, I had never been on the Eleven Point. Its reputation of good smallmouth bass and trout fishing, Greer Spring and crazy cottonmouth snakes reaffirmed my desire to make a trip to float this beautiful river in the near future.

I eventually made it to Clarksville to visit my new grandchild. Clarksville was named after General George Rogers Clark, the brother of William Clark (of Lewis & Clark). Funny how all things seem to be interconnected? While there, we walked along the hardened banks of the Cumberland River. The city has a



Cumberland River Center in Clarksville, TN

nice River Center and walkway along this stretch of river. A busy street parallels the river and speed boats buzzed by, yet still there was a sense of history and a promise of future here. A woman sat along the banks soaking up the fall sunshine. Several women rose from a picnic table after a quick, outdoor lunch before heading back to their jobs. Workers strung Christmas lights on trees and other people were out for a brisk walk. There was so much history here. At the Cumberland River Center I read about how goods were shipped downstream in flat-bottom boats that could be poled or rowed, but were still pretty susceptible to weather/flooding, river obstacles and attack due to their poor maneuverability. Because they couldn't

really travel upstream, they were disassembled for lumber at their destination. The Cumberland was one of the most important tributaries of the Ohio and being quite navigable, steamboats eventually replaced keelboats and flat boats.

After my brief stay in Tennessee, I headed back north and west towards Columbia, Missouri (via St. Louis). I was surprised to cross so many rivers. The Red River (I'd like to float a 20-mile stretch that's designated Wild & Scenic), the Tennessee (Cherokee) River, the Ohio, the Mississippi... In a life where much of our space is defined by highways and our time is spent driving in cars, I was reminded that a common thread is woven throughout our entire country, and of course even our world—it is a tapestry of rivers. History, stories, people, battles, designs, schemes, promises, failures and successes make up this rich fabric. There is an intricate pattern of springs and wetlands, creeks and brooks, ponds and lakes, rills and runs, and ultimately rivers that define and pass through a diverse landscape of countless ecosystems and habitats, from the truly wild and dangerous to the seemingly tamed and confined rivers of this great continent.

Earlier in the year, in May, I drove to Alaska with my oldest daughter. On that trip we crossed innumerable rivers: the Bow, Fraser, Peace (threatened by another dam), Liard, Yukon...wild, remote waters with untold adventures waiting. On this October trip, I saw a series of different rivers—rivers that helped settle our continent by providing first a route of passage, then commerce for a growing country, and now water for electricity, recreation and agriculture. Rivers are at the very heart and core of our country's history, its present and our future. And I was reminded of what an honor and a pleasure it is to serve as a caretaker of these great resources. Each of us has a unique role to play in the management of our own, particular stretch



*Bow River Falls, Banff, Alberta.
Photos: Stuart Schneider*

of river. And each of us can easily become frustrated when we face an obstacle that we can't see around, over or through. Like the early explorers and pioneers, we may have a different wilderness to overcome, but we have a lot of history, experience and science behind us. Now we are trying to figure out ways to restore fish migration and remove dams; improve the cleanliness of our nation's rivers; protect watersheds; reduce the impacts of noxious plants and exotic fish; enhance and preserve certain experiences of recreationalists; and, enjoy the many offerings that our watercourses bless us with every day we venture out of the office and into the field.

The River Management Society is an organization that exists to support each other and the public by providing a variety of forums and creating a cadre of professional river managers who share information, expertise and leadership to help preserve and enhance the rivers of North America. I hope that I am a better person for having spent over a decade in association with this group of consummate individuals.

As I crossed over the Missouri on Interstate 70, once again headed west, I was reminded how far I had come in my knowledge of rivers from the time I was a boy living in Boone County, Missouri, staring in fascination at those rolling, muddy waters; and how far of a journey I have yet to go. Thank goodness we have a group of like-minded friends to accompany us on this adventure of helping manage a portion of our precious water resources – our rivers and streams.◆

Northwest Indiana Urban Waters Partnership

by Lynda Lancaster

Federal silos and an inability to work across agencies—how frustrating! The Urban Waters Federal Partnership seeks to rip down these barriers by creating an opportunity for federal, state, local and non-governmental agencies a way to meet goals in partnership. Northwest Indiana is one of seven locations identified in the Urban Waters Partnership program. The goals of the program are to reconnect urban areas, particularly those that are under-served or economically distressed, with their waterways and to improve collaboration among the federal agencies and local partners working to improve those waters.

Three of the rivers that flow into southern Lake Michigan are the focus of the Northwest Indiana Pilot Area. Trail Creek, the East Branch of the Little Calumet River and the Grand Calumet River all flow through heavy industry, urban centers, agricultural and park lands prior to entering Lake Michigan. The streams have a long and storied past as important trade and transportation routes prior to the arrival of Europeans in North America, and were important trade routes for early trappers. European settlement of northwest Indiana quickly brought the need to control the waters of the enormous marshes and meandering streams to allow for progress. In recent times, anglers enjoy fishing for both native and non-native fish.

Due to its proximity to natural areas and the high potential for increasing recreational opportunities, the Northwest Indiana Pilot Area partners have focused first on the East Branch of the Little Calumet River. The East Branch flows first through row crop agriculture where it is formally a jurisdictional ditch; it then meanders unmolested through eight miles of the forests

and dunes of Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore before again becoming a ditch flowing through an urban and industrial area, then emptying into Lake Michigan. Reaches of all three streams are listed by the State of Indiana as impaired under the Clean Water Act for a variety of contaminants.

Current partnership projects include:

The EPA through a 319 grant provided Save the Dunes (a non-profit environmental group) with an opportunity to develop a watershed management plan for the East Branch of the Little Calumet.

Natural mortality within the national lakeshore reaches of the East Branch of the Little Calumet River has created large log jams that prevent passage via paddling.

As part of the UWFP, the US Forest Service provided a grant to a local forester to study the effects of the Emerald Ash Borer on Salt Creek, a tributary of the East Branch of the Little Calumet and in some areas the study showed 100% of the local ash trees were dying and beyond harvest. The Forest Service is funding further studies on the effects of EAB in this region.

Partners in the UWFP suggested that the East Branch of the Little Calumet be opened for recreational paddling. The National Park Service determined an Environmental Assessment needed to be done to determine the suitability of opening the river. The National Park Service, Indiana DNR, Indiana DEM, Save the Dunes, Indiana University Northwest-GLISTN (Great Lakes Innovative Stewardship through Education Network) all came together this summer for a watershed wide water quality study.

The water quality study included researching the ecological effects of removing log jams from the river. The Northwest Indiana Paddling Association provided labor and expertise to work with the national park staff for a monitored removal to study the effects.

The partnership has strong momentum at this time and looks forward to recovering the health of the streams and increasing appreciation of Northwest Indiana's natural resources through improved education and access. ♦

Lynda Lancaster works as a Civic Engagement and Volunteer Program Manager for Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore.

National Park Service interns measure woody debris. Photo: National Park Service



Forced Green Agenda — Burden To Taxpayers

An Opinion Piece

by Gary G. Marsh

At the beginning of the 20th century, the federal government began dam construction along many of the nation's rivers – ending vicious cycles of both drought and floods, providing navigable waterways for barge traffic and pleasure craft, and creating recreational opportunities for boaters, fishers, and water enthusiasts. Power generation facilities were added along with dam design to harness the power of water— becoming one of the first to use “green power.” However, this past July citizens of Arizona, California, Colorado, Montana, and South Dakota got a sneak preview at the federal government's plans (via public meetings) to drastically change the operation of government-owned hydroelectric dam operations.

The picture is not rosy for those of us in the southeast, especially in Tennessee, Kentucky, Mississippi, Alabama, and Georgia. Since the dams were constructed, the government formed entities to sell the power generated at cost to cover the cost of running the turbines and switchyards. These entities were called Power Marketing Administrations (PMAs). Local electric cooperatives formed a special relationship with four national PMAs, i.e., the Western Area Power Administration, Southeastern Power Administration, Southwestern Power Administration, and Bonneville Power Administration. PMAs sell wholesale power at cost from 134 federal hydropower projects, giving first priority to not-for-profit, consumer-owner electric cooperatives and publicly owned municipal systems.

Today, more than 600 electric co-ops, along with 500 municipal electric systems, serving 50 million consumers in 34 states receive their power from PMAs. Multipurpose dams which crank out power for the PMAs account for approximately 48 percent of the country's hydroelectric production which is critically important

to enhancing the quality of life in co-op-served communities.

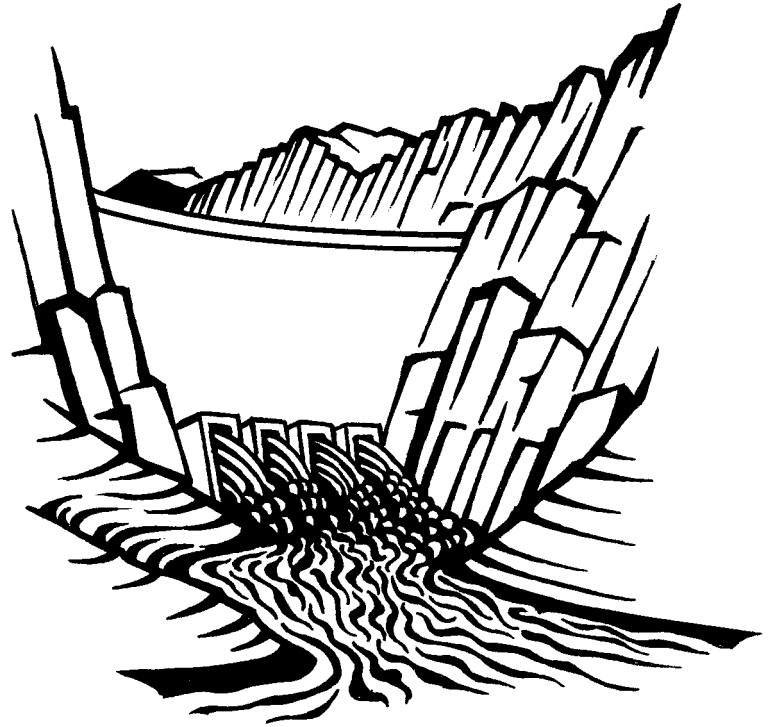
In a March 16, 2012 memorandum, Steven Chu, Secretary of the Department of Energy (DOE), announced a proposal that could affect the historic PMA mission and lead to higher electric consumer bills. He declared that PMA strategic

and capital improvement plans, resource dispatch procedures and rates would have to change in order to provide incentives for boosting energy efficiency and demand-response programs, enhancing integration of wind farms and solar systems to the grid (to improve shipping renewable energy to distant consumers), testing innovative cyber security technologies and preparing for electric vehicle deployment.

See Secretary Chu's proposal at: <http://blog.heritage.org/2012/03/20/chu-uses-power-marketing-administrations-to-implement-green-agenda/>

And the March 16, 2012 memo at: <http://energy.gov/sites/prod/files/3-16-12%20Memorandum%20from%20Secretary%20Chu.pdf>

While not a bad idea, if it makes sense and is led by the private sector, PMAs are the wrong tool for implementing these goals. For example, the Tennessee Valley Authority purchases all PMA power generated along the Cumberland



River, and then resells it to a local electric co-op. Additional costs, with no resulting benefits would be detrimental to the economic growth of rural and suburban communities.

In summary, DOE's vision singles out one segment of electric consumers to pay for all the benefits that flow to others. It is in essence a back-door tax on existing PMA customers. The role of government should be identifying and removing regulatory barriers to private-sector investments. PMA infrastructure that needs upgrading or replacing should be paid for by bringing PMA rates in line with market rates for electricity, instead of burdening taxpayers with additional spending. If Congress and the Administration must spend more money, then they should appropriate it for capital improvements to properly maintain dams and increase the efficiency of turbine-generators. ♦

Article inspired by “The Tennessee Magazine - Viewpoint” by Mike Knotts, Director of Government Affairs, Electric Cooperative Consumers, Vol. 55, No. 8.

(Irrigation, from page 1)

was likely due to groundwater pumping. In the case of the Little Plover, wells from a nearby municipality (the village of Plover) and industrial pumping were also deemed partly responsible.

The growers in the area pushed back. That groundwater pumping was affecting surface water levels could not be substantiated by other research, the growers said. Any requirement that they turn down the water, they contended, would be a threat to their multi-billion dollar industry.

The state's Department of Natural Resources convened a work group in 2006 of citizens, growers and the village of Plover to figure out what could be done to keep water in the Little Plover, especially during the growing season. One band-aid proposed and actually implemented once was for a grower with an irrigation well near the river to pump water into the river to maintain some flow. This is tantamount to catching water from a leaking barrel, putting it back into the top of the barrel, and leaving the leak unpatched.

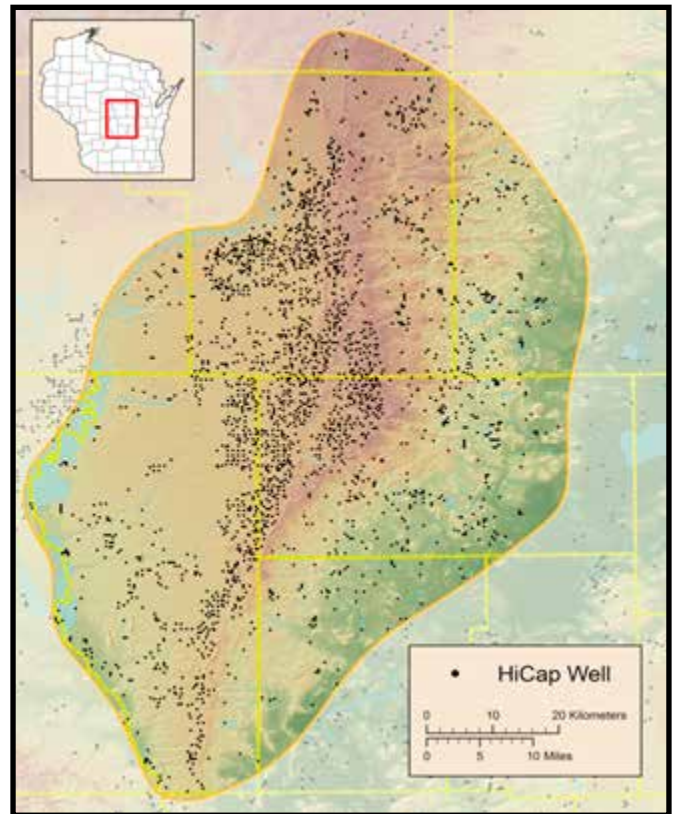
One positive product coming from the work group was a "public rights" flow order issued by the DNR. This established several minimum flows below which the river was not supposed to drop before triggering a regulatory response. One response the DNR could take is to ask the big water users to reduce pumping, but up to now it has not.

Meanwhile, about 20 lakes in the Central Sands are slowly getting depleted. Long Lake, in Waushara County, completely dried up in 2006, and even after some very wet years only has two feet of water. And there's a new threat to groundwater quantity in the area. Several industrial dairy farms have set up or are proposed, some of them demanding upwards of 150 millions of gallons per year to water their cows alone, not to mention irrigation wells for crop production.

In the most extreme example of this, one farmer is proposing to cut down 6,000 acres of industrial forest and install 49 new

Pine Lake, in Waushara County, is one of many surface water bodies suffering a loss of water believed to be caused by intensive groundwater pumping for irrigation in Wisconsin's Central Sands region.

Photos: River Alliance of Wisconsin



This maps depicts the locations of high-capacity wells (pumping at least 100,000 gallons per day) in Wisconsin's Central Sands region.

Courtesy: University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Center for Watershed Science and Education.

high capacity wells in order to support a dairy operation of over 3,500 milk cows and 5,000 other animals. The proposed farm will affect the watersheds of the prosaically named but highly valued Sevenmile, Tenmile and Fourteen Mile Creeks. Concerned residents fear both stream quality and quantity will be harmed by the huge amounts of water consumed and manure spread by the proposed Golden Sands Dairy.

A management scheme that would bring about more sustainable groundwater use seems very far off. The growers are politically influential, and the political climate for regulation is chilly. However, several river and lake associations have united their efforts into a Central Sands Water Action Coalition, which the statewide river conservation group River Alliance of Wisconsin is supporting financially and strategically. Both groups are pushing for a state-mandated groundwater management scheme for the area that allows the growers to continue their business, but also leaves enough water in the lakes and streams so they can support biological life and human recreation.◆

Denny Caneff is the Executive Director of River Alliance of Wisconsin.

(Birds, from page 7)

interested citizens have decided to act. For the past year and a half, volunteers have been meeting to learn more about neotropical birds and to take action on their behalf. The group participated in the first of many habitat restoration efforts aimed at maintaining high-quality native stop-over and nesting habitat within the Riverway. The group has also begun to form relationships with citizens and nonprofit organizations in Costa Rica, and several citizen stewards plan to travel to the Osa Peninsula in the near future.

Some specific objectives of the effort will include youth and community education to celebrate neotropical birds and raise awareness about the vulnerability of this shared resource. Discussions have already begun about a neotropical migrant bird festival each spring as the birds leave one country en route for the other. School-to-school exchanges may result in students exchanging art and photography depicting birds in their respective habitats. Park staff will have the opportunity to share research or collaborate in joint studies to improve both parks' monitoring and management efforts. Geolocating studies, for example, could yield empirical data to better track trends and identify species of special concern, particularly in light of climate change.

The possibilities for collaboration are endless, but the shared incentive is clear: We will best improve the future of neotropical birds—and each other—by acting together, such is a vision that is gaining more and more interest by both resource agencies and interested citizens. ♦

Randy Thoreson is an Outdoor Recreation Planner with the National Park Service's Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program, and past President of the Midwest Chapter of RMS. Jonathan Moore is a Park Ranger assigned to Partnerships & Volunteers at the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway. Among other work activities, he is currently involved with the neotropical migrants initiative and the St. Croix National Heritage Area (NHA) initiative.



A NPS volunteer clears slash from a portion of the park (St. Croix Riverway) affected by a blow-down in the summer of 2011. The site was reseeded with native vegetation in an effort to create habitat for a variety of species, including the Golden-winged Warbler.

The Golden-winged Warbler (below) is a neotropical migrant that nests within the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway. Due to displacement and habitat loss, the species is currently in decline and is under consideration for addition to the threatened and endangered species list.

“It is critical that the next generation of stewards understand the connection between preserving and restoring habitat and helping our migratory birds survive.” – Sally Leider, citizen member of the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway neotropical advisory group and part of a multi-regional Watershed Wisdom Education Program

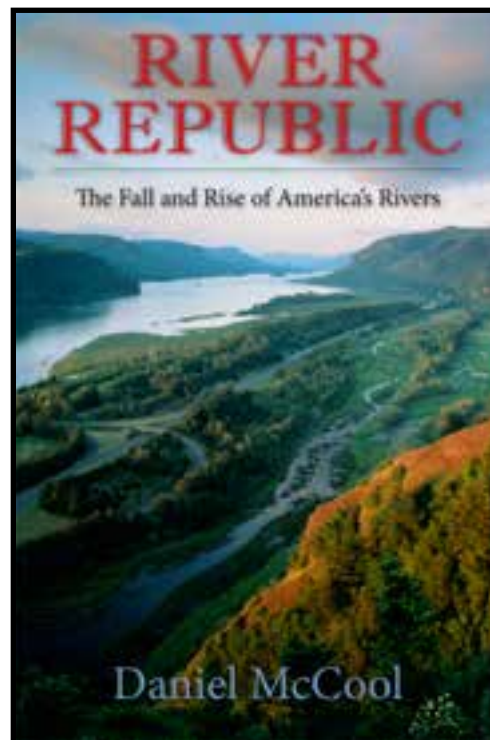


A Book Review

“River Republic: The Fall and Rise of America’s Rivers”

Daniel McCool

Columbia University Press, 2012



It’s been a long time since college and I don’t usually read books with a highlighter in hand, but some books have so many great gems I want to be able to find again that I can’t help myself. With “River Republic,” I wore out two highlighters.

The two greatest interests in my life are rivers and politics, and Daniel McCool has done a terrific job of laying out the political back-stories of the destruction and resurrection of America’s rivers.

A native of Lawrence, Indiana, McCool grew up in the woods of a Boy Scout camp next door to his family home, then headed west to bigger spaces. He’s been at the University of Utah for 25 years and spent the last ten years crisscrossing the country researching this book.

The homework he did is amazing. It’s hard to talk about rivers in America without mentioning the granddaddy of them all, the Mississippi. I worked on the big river for 35 years and his chapter on the Great Brown God (as T.S. Elliot called it) does a masterful job of describing the nuances of how the Corps of Engineers has served the navigation industry on the river, and—more recently—begun undoing some of the damage it did in previous centuries.

And if he’d just written about the Mississippi, I’d have been impressed. But what’s really impressive is the same level of detail and understanding is found in his studies of Atlanta’s drinking water issues and how that affected the Chattahoochie River; toxic waste in the Duwamish River in Washington; restoration of the Los Angeles River; removal of the Elwa Dam in Washington and the Savage Rapids Dam on the Rogue River in Oregon; the Echo Park Dam issue on the Colorado River; the complicated Kissimmee River Project in Florida; the Matilija Dam on the Ventura River in California, the Glen Canyon Dam, Hoover Dam, Grand Coulee Dam—the list goes on.

He describes some of the dumber things we’ve done to rivers as a society and the past wrong-headedness of some government agencies—including the Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation.

But the book really isn’t so much about our past mistakes as it is about the future. “At a time when there is a tsunami of bad news about the environment, America’s rivers are a beacon of brighter days ahead. The politics of river restoration and

preservation is about grassroots democracy,” he writes, and at the heart of things the book’s title means “that people from all levels and sectors of society are taking control of their rivers and demanding that they be managed for the benefit of all, with policies determined by an open, democratic process.”

He talks about the growing importance of moving-water recreation, and how scarce that moving water has become. That underscores the importance of the work that most of you do every day. He talks about the importance of troublemakers—people willing to stand up and point the way to changing how an individual river is managed, or the way an agency does business. I’m proud that some of those change agents are RMS members.

I could flood you with great quotes, but I’ll limit myself to this one:

“Rivers, unlike people, can be reborn. Rivers, unlike individual species, can reappear after vanishing. This will require a unique set of skills—a whole new field of knowledge regarding how to protect and restore rivers. We have great experience at dismembering rivers, but the fields of restoration biology and deconstruction engineering are fairly nascent.”

If you want to see the leaders in this new field, start by looking in the mirror.◆

Steve Johnson
Stillwater, Minnesota

Election 2012 — Lessons Learned

by Ed Councill

Ok, it's the day after America chose a path for the next four years. The lesson, which is the talk of all the surprised pundits, is "Wow! How did it happen?" And, what can we learn from looking at why it was so predictable? So put on your pundit hat and let's take a walk down a trail that will be revealing; not only to the politics, but also to your public land management dilemma.

Oh yes, I forgot to mention that the dilemma is a euphemism for how to increase visitors to your facilities, especially with this economy, gas prices, and increasingly pluralistic demographics that don't respond to time-tested traditional marketing strategies. We have a moving target now.

Step ONE: there is a new normal called 'how to thrive in an increasing minority majority situation.' I'd say the recent election spoke volumes about the cost of ignoring this phenomenon.

Just look at the groups lost by the Republicans due to out of touch candidates: women, Hispanics, African-Americans, youth, well educated workers, and the rest of us who were not 'touched' by the candidates' personal gravitas and respective 'ground game.'

Step TWO: update your ground game to adjust to this 'new normal' rather than ducking your head in the sand, again. As an outfitter and regional planner in a former life, I see too many gray-haired customers who are white and bring no kids to share in their outdoor activities. They may be repeat customers, but this does not make for a sustainable business model. Rather, witness any recent local school fall festival event with its parking lot running over with cars. The lesson— engage kids, and the family and friends will follow.

Step THREE: To attract kids, focus on the moms. Professional Paddlesports Association (PPA) hired a Wall Street marketing firm who targeted young women of child-bearing age (18 to 34) as a way to increase visitation to outdoor adventure outfitters and the lands on which they operate. Remember, these women make 65 to 80% of the outdoor leisure activities decisions.

Step FOUR: Several states are



Ed Councill brings two 30-foot voyager canoes 600 miles from Kentucky to introduce 400 D.C. area school kids to America's Wonderful Outdoor World, a program led by the American Recreation Coalition (ARC) and Derrick Crandell during June as part of Great Outdoors Month. Photo: Kim Murphy

'making hay' of the Richard Louv inspired children and nature movement. Several, Michigan and Kentucky in the Midwest, have passed a Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights, which encourages state agencies to develop a kid-friendly aura around their programs. One promising strategy is to create a Youth Advisory Council to assist these agencies in accomplishing this directive through legislation or Executive Order. Michigan took the legislative route; Kentucky plans an EO. Examples of these are available from the National Wildlife Federation (nfw.org). Do not wait for your state to figure this out; take a leadership role.

Step FIVE: Implement your own version of a kid-friendly outfitter/public lands manager program. Check out two highly successful Midwest pilots in Detroit and Frankfort, Kentucky at heavnercanoe.com and kidsGROWkentucky.org. Detroit's pilot put 10,000 kids in afterschool programs with a variety of land- and water-based venues; while KGK was predominantly an in-school program involving 600 middle, high, and home school kids. Again, don't wait for your school district officials to see the advantages to their students of such efforts that get them outside in a natural

environment; just do it (sound familiar?!)

Step SIX: Remember, there are several downsides to being male; so ask for help if you suffer this malady, to which women are mostly immune. As an outfitter member of both PPA and River Management Society, I am eager to help those who want to be on the edge of making this happen. As the former PPA Board Chair and CEO, I can help match up land managers with outfitters to partner on this mission to enhance visitation. Do resource managers want more stewards for the lands in our trust? Our experience is clearly positive on this issue alone. Learning lessons of the past makes sense only if they are applied. ♦

Ed Councill is the founding owner of CANOE KENTUCKY, an outdoor recreation business, president of the Paddlesports Industry Foundation, former Board Chair / CEO of the Professional Paddlesports Association, an ACA Board member, and serves on the Tourism Commission's River Development Committee and KSU's Stewardship Advisory Committee. He is 'retired' as President/CEO of kidsGROWkentucky, Inc., devoted to connecting kids, families and teachers with nature.

RIVER CROSSINGS

Linking River Communities

A Research Conference and Workshop

When might speakers who are evaluating the impact of sediment on river health, updating a plan for improving the precision of biological control agents, and announcing new watershed partnerships share a stage?

In Grand Junction, Colorado, March 11-15, 2013!

The River Management Society, Tamarisk Coalition, International Submerged Lands Management Conference, and Water Center at Colorado Mesa University are combining resources to host *River Crossings: Linking River Communities*, a research conference and workshop.

The event will provide a unique interdisciplinary training opportunity where researchers, students, agency managers and practitioners present and discuss scientific advances, best practices and new partnerships among river professionals. It will also provide an opportunity to network with other professionals, and bridge the gap between research and land management.

Presentations will address: Riparian Area Restoration and Management, Invasive Species, Monitoring and Maintenance, Planning, Collaboration, Partnerships, Lessons Learned, Education, Engaging Youth, User Capacity, and Using New Technologies. Several great field trips will also be offered in the Grand Junction area. (*see next page side bar*)

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is the agency lead for this 2013 training. Since 1997, on a rotating basis, the BLM, National Park Service, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and Forest Service have supported these workshops ‘in-between’ those in which River Management Society symposia have been held. RMS owes its rich history of symposia and workshops to our agency partners, and appreciates their commitment to future programs like *River Crossings*.

This year’s Workshop Chair is Bunny Sterin, assisted by Program Chair Judy Culver. The International Submerged Lands Management Conference partner lead is Dave Schade, and our colleague at Colorado Mesa University is Hannah Holm. Our stalwart organizers at the Tamarisk Coalition are Audrey Butler and Julie Knudson, ably led by Executive Director, Stacy Beaug. This is a formidable team whose work will be evident to all participants.

Wild & Scenic Rivers

The Interagency Wild and Scenic Rivers Coordinating Council will be presenting a multi-session track that will provide valuable training for both novices and veterans of wild and scenic rivers.

- *Introduction to Section 7* – discussing the framework for making a Section 7 determination under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.
- *Introduction to WSR Values* – introducing participants to an understanding of WSR values in the context of the WSRA, how they are determined, and how they help river managers protect and enhance river values.
- *WSR Carrying Capacity* – reviewing a working paper for establishing WSR carrying capacities.
- *WSR Roundtable* – an opportunity to discuss issues relevant to you with an expert panel.

Special Video Screening

A Virtual Tour of River Restoration Projects Along the Colorado, Dolores, and Escalante Rivers

Participants will be treated to a film produced by the Bureau of Land Management’s National Training Center and coordinated by RMS Lifetime member Maile Adler. It focuses on the importance of planning, the use of partnerships, and various methods applied through different approaches of on-going riparian restoration projects along the Colorado, Dolores, and Escalante rivers. Efforts have been underway along many of these rivers for decades to halt the spread of tamarisk and Russian olive which, since their introduction over 100 years ago, have been degrading the quality of western United States riparian areas. In May of 2012, Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar identified two of these river projects as models of the America’s Great Outdoors River Initiative, intended to promote conservation and restoration of important rivers, support local jobs, and increase opportunities for recreation. Congratulations to colleagues who have led these efforts, and we hope you are able to join us at the public debut of this nearly year-long video project.

Field Sessions

Colorado River Float Trip – McGinnis Canyons National Conservation Area

A 25-mile river trip down Horsethief / Ruby Canyon on the Colorado River highlighting over 15 years of work controlling tamarisk, Russian knapweed and Russian olive, and the effort to reestablish native cottonwoods.

Colorado Riverfront Tour – Grand Junction, Colorado

A look at past, current, and future restoration projects along the Colorado through Grand Valley, highlighting the Colorado Riverfront Trail (with speakers from the Riverfront Commission, Mesa County and the Tamarisk Coalition).

Dolores River “Gateway” Tour

A tour of progress made by the Dolores River Restoration Partnership on treatment of tamarisk and Russian knapweed. Learn about the scope, history and implementation methodology of the Partnership in the Gateway area, plus cutting and treatment methodologies, hand crew work versus mechanical, and restoration techniques to control secondary invasives.

Palisade Insectary Tour – Palisade, Colorado

Tour the facility that produces and releases 30 different species of biological control agents. The Palisade Insectary provides farmers, ranchers and resource managers with dozens of species of beneficial insects and mites as tools to combat weeds and insect pests in an economical and environmentally sound way. To date, this facility has released over one million tamarisk leaf beetles in the battle against the tamarisk defoliation on reaches of the Colorado, Dolores, Yampa, Gunnison and Arkansas rivers.

Featured Speakers

The *River Crossings: Linking River Communities* committee could not be more pleased to host two special individuals as keynote speakers: Dan McCool and Pete McBride. Be alert: you may want to join us in March just to hear and visit with these gentlemen!

Daniel McCool, Ph.D.

Professor of Political Science
Director, Environmental and Sustainability
Studies Program
Co-director, University of Utah
Sustainability Curriculum Development

Professor McCool’s research focuses on water resource development, public lands policy, voting rights, and Indian water rights. He is the author of the recently released *River Republic: The Fall and Rise of America’s Rivers*; as well as *Native Waters: Contemporary Indian Water Settlements and the Second Treaty Era* and *Command of the Waters: Iron Triangles, Federal Water Development, and Indian Water*. He has served as a consultant for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Justice, ACLU’s Voting Rights Project, and the Southwest Center



for Environmental Research and Policy.

Daniel McCool not only chronicles the history of water development agencies in America and the way in which special interests have abused rather than preserved the country’s rivers, he also narrates the second, brighter act in this ongoing story: the surging, grassroots movement to bring these rivers back to life and ensure they remain pristine for future generations.

Peter McBride

Photographer, writer,
visual storyteller

Native Coloradan Pete McBride has spent almost two decades studying the world with his camera. A self-taught, award-winning photographer, he has traveled on assignment to over 60 countries for the publications of the National Geographic Society, Smithsonian, Outside, Men’s Journal, Esquire, and many others. After a decade working abroad, Pete decided to focus his cameras closer to home on a subject closer to his heart. Combining his passion for aviation and his belief in conservation, he partnered with Jon Waterman and spent over two years documenting his local river — the Colorado. This journey culminated in a coffee table book: *“The Colorado River: Flowing Through Conflict,”* an



award-winning short film “Chasing Water” and a traveling museum exhibit/ lecture currently touring the country.

When not lost on assignment, you can find Pete in Basalt, Colorado where he serves as a local council member, or on his family’s cattle ranch nearby working in the fields where he grew up, cutting hay or “chasing water” (irrigating). Visit petemcbride.com to see a few of Pete’s other stellar work.

Down the Deschutes



*L to R Standing – John Lawrence, Lynette Ripley, Patrick Kollodge, Bo Shelby
Seated – Dave Payne, Jim Beaupre, Lisa Byers, Wes Schrecongost, John Helland,
Kathy Shelby, Linda Helland, Jim Mueller. And, Eddy the dog! Credit: Wes Schrecongost*

by John Helland

My wife, Linda, and I had the pleasure in late September of joining the Northwest Chapter of RMS for a three-day raft trip on the Deschutes river in central Oregon.

I had heard of the Deschutes rafting fun before, but had only been in Oregon once years ago in a kayak on the Rogue river before the permitted section. Linda had never been in the state, so we looked forward to the trip with great anticipation.

As Oregonians know, crossing the eastern part of the state until you get a glimpse of the Cascade Mountains is a full day's drive. Once you head north from Bend to Maupin, the meeting place for the trip, you traverse a plateau of black basaltic terrain before sloping down to the Deschutes. A long, serpentine roadway on Highway 197 leads you on a switchback route into the canyon.

Hovering above the river canyon is the town of Maupin, perched on the hillsides like a guardian of the Deschutes. It reminded me of a West Virginia mountain town, many of which are scattered on hillsides overlooking river valleys below. Maupin looked prosperous in comparison, however, with a modern

hotel and grocery market, along with a couple of fly-fishing shops and raft tour operations.

Our river group, consisting of 12 folks, met at the BLM Bakeoven compound and, after a nice dinner and conversation at a local restaurant, prepared for a good night's sleep and a river departure the next morning. 37 miles north of Maupin we were a mixture of young and old, with the young, numbering three, bringing their whitewater kayaks; and the rest of us, a couple of whom still in the young category, ready to use river rafts.

Our guides and trip organizers were wonderful BLM river rangers, including Lynette Ripley, now working at the Bureau of Reclamation local office and on the RMS board. The rangers, who had once worked under Lynette when she was with the BLM, were Jim Beaupre, Jim Mueller and Patrick Kollodge, all with extensive knowledge of the Deschutes. We were in good hands!

The remaining members of the group were kind, wise and interesting, and included a professor of natural resources at Oregon State University, Bo Shelby, who is an expert on recreational carrying

capacity and a veteran western river-runner, along with his wife, Kathy. We loaded the rafts and kayaks at the Trout Creek access, where a ranger station is maintained during the warm weather months, and after lunch launched for our journey down the Deschutes and eventually back to Maupin city park.

Boater passes are required all year for individual use on the Lower Deschutes river. During peak use periods, some access may be restricted to a limited number of boaters. Fishing is very popular on the river, especially for salmon, trout and steelhead, but anglers are restricted to fishing from the shore, not while on a boat.

And on the western bank of the Deschutes, extending almost 20 miles downstream from Trout Creek, only Native-Americans from the adjacent Warm Springs Reservation can fish from shore. Two of the BLM rangers went ahead in a drift boat, checking boater passes at campsites downstream, and meeting up with the group for lunch and dinner.

The flow of the Deschutes is steady, somewhat relying on spring-fed waters,

(continued on page 34)

Welcome New Members

Professional

Brenden Cronin, River Ranger
USDA Forest Service, ID

Colby Hawkinson, Park Ranger
Bureau of Land Management, OR

Bryan Hopkins, Policy Coordination / Interstate Rivers
Bureau of Land Management, OR

Jan Konigsverg, Consulting Staff/Alaska Program
Natural Heritage Institute/Hydropower Reform
Coalition, AK

Matthew LaCroix, Biologist
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, AK

Brian Laub, Postdoctoral Fellow
Utah State University, UT

Glen Leverich, Senior Geomorphologist/Geologist
Stillwater Sciences, CA

Cheryl Morris, Regional River Recreation Manager
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, MT

Tony Powell, Park Ranger
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, MT

Lyle Scott, River Ranger
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, MT

Elizabeth Verdecchia, Natural Resources Specialist
International Boundary and Water Commission, TX

Mike Wight, Corps River Restoration Director
Southwest Conservation Corps, CO

Associate

Kyle Jackson
"Looking", Bassett, ME

Wes Schrencongost, Freelance Photographer
McLinleysville, CA

Student

William Edwards, PhD Student in Geosciences
University of Texas at Dallas, TX

John Lawrence
Virginia Tech, VA

Hats Off!

As we ride this journey on a day to day basis which turns into years, then turns into decades, it is always important to stop, reflect and look behind you to ponder what kind of tracks you leave for others to follow. We are not just working in our natural resource careers for our own personal gain today, but to leave direction, guidance and thoughtful meaning for those who come behind us. So I ask myself and you, what kind of tracks are you leaving for the future natural resource greenhorns? What are you leaving not only in your career path, but on your personal journey?

I tip my river hat off to the folks who step up to the plate year after year in RMS to keep our young and future RMS followers included. I take a bow with a huge thank you to Chet Crowser for stepping up to coordinate and organize the 2012 River Ranger Rendezvous in Missoula, Montana. Not only well done Chet, but you

rocked the event to the moon and went above and beyond!

A great leader such as Chet always needs other great minds and hands to pull off a demanding event.

Thank you to the RRR committee members who helped orchestrate the event. And yes, great hands

from Joe O'Neill, Chet Crowser, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Ryan Turner and

Aaron Berg for being supportive, active and productive soldiers and doing it with humility and class! This RRR brought 10 new members into RMS who are new to rivers and many expressed that this was their first trip on a whitewater river, now that is way cool. Along with a very full and informative agenda, these fresh future river stewards along with the seasoned ones gained an experience that may have just changed their lives in many ways. Thanks to all involved in the RRR on the Blackfoot River for leaving excellent tracks!

Another thank you is in order for those who organized our Northwest Chapter river trips on the Lower Deschutes and Payette rivers this year. Jim Beaupre, BLM in Oregon, pulled off a fantastic trip down the Lower Deschutes River in September with gorgeous Central Oregon weather and great company. We were able to include six new RMS members with new faces to join us in the cause for river awareness. And that Idaho trio of Robin Fehlau and Judy Zuckert with BLM and Lisa Klinger, Forest Service, provided a refreshing day trip down the Payette as you will read about on page 32 of this journal. Thanks for the hands on experiences that leave great tracks, but no trace, so that we can run the rivers rather than just talk about them!◆

Your Northwest Chapter Prez,
Lynette Ripley



Chet Crowser, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

RMS Chapters

Midwest by Peter Hark

Thanks to the many RMS Midwest Chapter members who have shared and provided information to this regional issue of the RMS Journal.

After returning to Minnesota from the RMS Board meeting this last month, where I was able to spend time with my comrades who serve on the national board both strategizing and setting into motion steps to claim our future, and spending a bit of time on the Colorado River discussing natural resource and recreational issues, I was reminded once again of the beauty of motion and the beauty of stillness that rivers provide us - connecting to this flow and rhythm of the river is important, and counts as part of the significant work we each do in our river-based and recreational professions.

Chapter Highlights: I have been working with three outstanding RMS members who have been serving as Midwest Chapter officers. A special thanks to Randy Thoreson (Vice President), Stuart Schneider (Secretary) and Sue Jennings (Treasurer and Special Projects). Plans are in the works for a spring chapter float for members and friends—stay tuned!

This past year, the chapter has had some very successful partnerships with local schools in Minnesota – engaging youth in river science and recreational experiences. These partnerships are making new connections and engaging youth and young adults—fostering future river advocates and stewards is critical.

There will be a few chapter officer positions up for election in the new year. If you are interested in serving, I encourage you to contact me so we can talk about what these positions entail and make sure you have the information you need to consider running for office. We will be sending out a formal invitation for elections within the next few months.

And, as a reminder, if you have not yet renewed your RMS membership, please take some time to do so. RMS is a membership driven organization—you are important! Our mission is to focus on supporting membership and professionals who study, protect, and manage North American rivers. Thanks for taking time to renew your membership, and happy paddling trails to you.◆

Peter Hark, Midwest Chapter President, serves on the Executive Committee of the RMS Board.

Gary Mogren (far right) and Arlo Cristofaro (left) lead a group of Arcadia Charter School students in river science based curriculum utilizing the Cannon River in Minnesota as their classroom.



Call for 2013 RMS Award Nominations

by Jena Daly

Visit www.river-management.org/awards to see the online form.

It's time once again to nominate deserving individuals whom you feel have made significant contributions to river management, or who best exemplify the spirit of RMS.

This year's recipients will be honored in March 2013 at the RMS Workshop in Grand Junction, Colorado: *River Crossings: Linking River Communities*.

Past nominators are **STRONGLY** encouraged to resubmit again. Past nomination deliberations have had very close second runner-ups whose names the Awards Committee hope to see again. Additionally, the Awards Committee would like to encourage all nominators to take the time to write **STRONG NOMINATIONS** with worthy justifications. Some past nominations would have benefitted from more in-depth discussion about the nominee's accomplishments that Award Committee members were aware of but not addressed in the nomination. We have seen nominations as short as a four-sentence paragraph and some as long as three pages. The Awards Committee doesn't require a certain length, but requests enough detail and justification to help our decision process and justly recognize nominees' lasting contributions in their field.

This list describes the different categories for which we accept nominations. To learn more about past award recipients, visit the "about us" tab on the website. Please help spread the word to others who may also be interested in recognizing an individual!

Outstanding Contribution to the Field of River Management

- Advanced the field through contributions in science, education, interpretation, research, and/or law enforcement;
- Developed innovative (or creatively adapted) river management techniques;
- Organized major conferences, meetings, etc., that advanced river management as a science and as a profession;
- Developed or implemented new communication techniques to coordinate and connect river managers;
- Increased awareness by citizens and river visitors of their role in caring for rivers and watersheds; and/or
- Was an outstanding advocate for and promoted professional river management and outdoor ethics.

Outstanding Contribution to the River Management Society

(awarded to current RMS members only)

- Donated considerable time, money, or effort in advancing RMS;
- Brought new and positive private and public awareness of RMS;
- Increased membership through new channels or hard work;
- Developed or located new sources of funding or resources for RMS;
- Provided exemplary service to RMS through an elected office; and/or
- Provided an outstanding example of the RMS spirit, mission and goals.

Frank Church Wild and Scenic Rivers

(sponsored by the IWSRCC)

- Advanced awareness of WSRs through public contact, technology, training, interpretation, education, research, law enforcement;
- Worked effectively and cooperatively with user groups, private landowners, and/or the general public;
- Demonstrated, developed, or adapted innovative WSR management techniques;
- Organized conferences, training, etc. which involved and advanced WSRs;
- Established and/or encouraged partnerships to protect and manage WSRs;
- Developed or used communication techniques fostering coordination among WSR constituencies;
- Provided opportunities for new or positive awareness for WSRs; and/or
- Exhibited leadership in promoting and protecting WSRs.

River Manager of the Year

(awarded to current RMS members only)

- Provides leadership in promoting and protecting natural, cultural and recreational resources;
- Works effectively and cooperatively with user groups, private landowners, and/or the general public;
- Establishes long-term partnerships to protect and manage the river corridor;
- Creates an effective, professional, enjoyable working environment; and/or
- Works to protect the river within the context of the watershed and beyond designated lines on a map.

RMS Chapters

Congratulations to our newly elected RMS Alaska chapter officers!

We are thankful to have Jennifer and Bill continuing to serve vital chapter leadership roles, and we are very excited to welcome David and Helen on-board as President and Vice-President. In 2011, Helen and David co-chaired the Interagency River Management Workshop and this dynamic team impressed everyone with their diverse professional talents, dedication, and boundless energy. We look forward to the excellence the RMS Alaska chapter will achieve under your leadership. Onward!



David Schade - President

David is the Water Section Chief in the Division of Mining Land and Water at the Alaska Department of Natural Resources. He previously served the agency as the Navigability Subunit Manager in the Public Access Assertion and Defense Unit (PAAD).

A lifelong Alaskan, raised on the family homestead East of Homer, David grew up on the waters of Kachemak Bay, Cook Inlet, and out to the Gulf of Alaska. He has been a member of the River Management Society and also of the International Submerged Lands Management Conference since 2008.

Helen Clough - Vice President

Helen is retiring at the end of 2012 after almost 40 years of federal service, and she's looking forward to devoting some of her free time to RMS. Her career included service as a BLM archaeologist and manager, Forest Service planner and district ranger, and over 20 years as a Fish and Wildlife Service planner. She came to RMS while working on river issues at Togiak Refuge and is a Lifetime Member.



Jennifer Reed - Secretary

Jennifer works within the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge's Visitor Services Coordinator. She has been an active RMS member since 2006, has served as Secretary of the RMS Alaska Chapter since 2009, and has helped people to understand their vital role as stewards of Alaska's public lands since 1992.



Bill Overbaugh - Treasurer

Bill works as the Alaska Recreation Program Leader for Recreation & Visitor Services with the USDI Bureau of Land Management in Anchorage. He has served five previous terms as Alaska River Management Society Board Member and Treasurer.

RMS Chapters

Alaska by Cassie Thomas

Susitna River Reconnaissance Trip

This past July the Alaska Chapter hosted a two-day float trip on the Susitna River. One of Alaska's major waterways, the glacier-fed "Big Su," located in the Southcentral region of the state, is the proposed site of one of the largest hydropower projects to be considered anywhere in the country in decades. The state-sponsored Susitna Watana project (FERC # P-14241, <http://www.susitna-watanahydro.org/>) would involve construction of a 700-800' dam, creating a 41-mile long impoundment in a remote, roadless area upstream of the Class VI Devil's Canyon rapids. Proposed winter load-following operations would significantly increase winter flows and flow variability, while decreasing summer flows on this river, potentially affecting resources including the river's morphology, salmon habitat and migration routes, riparian vegetation, and use for subsistence, transportation, and recreation.

The RMS trip was an opportunity for staff from several state and federal resource agencies involved in the project to familiarize themselves with a 46-mile reach of the river from just downstream of Devil's Canyon to the town of Talkeetna. Unlike most chapter floats, many of the participants were not RMS members prior to the trip. Also, the trip's focus was not just recreational: the fish biologists, riparian ecologists, navigability experts, and water quality scientists in the group made for lively conversations.

We floated the river in a fleet of conventional rafts, a cataraft and an IK. We were shuttled to the put-in at Indian River by two Talkeetna-based jet boats – craft that were smaller than the 50 passenger jet boat many of us rode up into Devil's Canyon the morning before the float trip. Flows were typical of warm mid-summer conditions, ranging between 20,000 and 24,000 cfs, with diurnal variation due to daytime/nighttime differences in glacier melt rates. The segment we floated was pushy Class I, with some islands, root wads and sweepers to avoid. Glacial flour rendered the river completely opaque and made it hiss ominously as it hit our raft and kayak tubes.

With fourteen participants, this was one of the larger overnight float trips the Alaska chapter has sponsored. Logistics flowed smoothly thanks to the efforts of several current and former chapter (and national) officers. Particular thanks is due to Jen Reed, who planned two day's worth of meals for the group, bought much of the food (with Jennie Spagon's help), and saw to it that our kitchen crews knew what they were supposed to be doing. And the food was delicious!

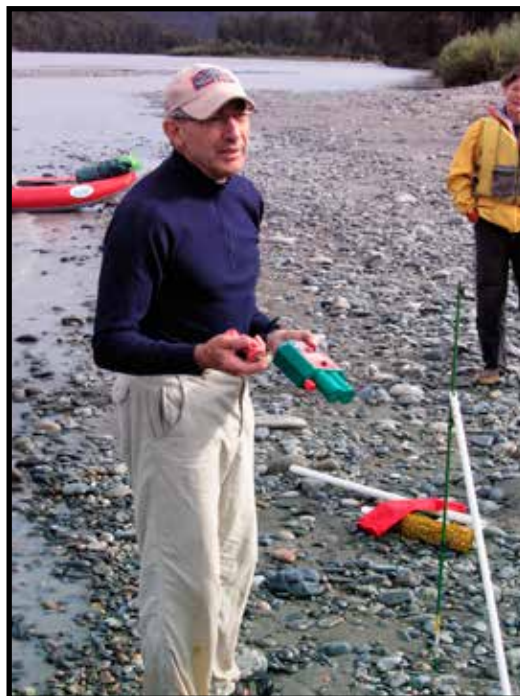


On a related note, Doug Whittaker (with assistance from Jen Reed) discussed human waste pack out systems and showed some of the equipment on the market (including WAG bags from CleanWaste and Restop2 bags from WhenNatureCalls). Although these systems have been around for a while and are in common use on many Lower 48 rivers, Alaskans will be late adopters if they buy into them at all – perhaps in part because most of our rivers have lower use, shorter seasons, and rainier climates, keeping these impacts at less-than-noxious levels in most places.

New member Jan Konigsberg rounded out the gear discussion by showing us how to site and construct an electric fence, intended to protect food caches from Alaska's numerous bears. Due to our group's size, no bears were in evidence, although their tracks – along with those of moose, wolves, and lynx – were numerous on the river's sandy beaches.

The trip was a resounding success. Not only did the weather cooperate (with spectacular views of the Alaska Range, including Denali, from the jet boat), but the depth of expertise among the group inevitably increased everyone's understanding of how this river functions. For those of us charged with protecting its natural, cultural, and recreational resources from the adverse effects of the proposed hydro project, the experience of observing the river for a couple of days provided insights not otherwise available during the arcane licensing process. ♦

Jan Konigsberg explains how to set up a battery-powered bear resistant electric fence. Photos: Doug Whittaker



RMS Chapters

Southeast by Mary Crockett

Meetings, Meet, Meeting.....the Webster's Dictionary (yes I still have one on my desk, and yes I know there is one built into this Word program), says that "it is the act or process of coming together; an assembly of people; to be introduced to; to

meeting verses a meeting on the river or at a landing or the location of a problem/issue. Seeing the issue up close or seeing the solution, or the results of a solution in progress, is worth the expense and inconvenience of organizing the event/meeting.



Hold your meeting in a swamp! Photos: Mary Crockett

experience; undergo; to deal with; to cope with; to come into accord with the wishes, views, or opinions of; to come together; to assemble."

In the realm of river management, our meetings vary greatly. We have meetings on the phone, via the internet, at some sterile location, or my favoritea "wow" location such as a river that all in attendance will experience, thus enhancing the meeting. As river managers, we are called to write management plans and budgets around such issues as water quality, water quantity, hydrology, wildlife and botanical species, riparian land use and recreation/access. What do all of these have in common? You all know the answer to that question!

It is people... our local and state government water agencies, the science community, business community, landowners, and our river users. The trick is finding the best venue to get all these folks together to help solve some of our problems or to celebrate our successes. The more years you have in this business the more you become the facilitator and meeting/event organizer. This winter I would like to challenge you to think about where you will be holding some of your meetings this spring and summer concerning your rivers. Think about the effectiveness of a phone

I am currently thinking about the meetings I have either attended or helped to organize this year (as I am writing this in November 2012). The spring highlight was the 2012 RMS Symposium in Asheville, hosted by our Southeast Chapter. Across the southeast and I'd say the nation, our summer meeting highlights were our many natural resource camps. In 2012, I presented a class on canoeing and river safety/ethics for teenagers at Camp Wildwood and was a judge at the South Carolina Envirothon competition. In early fall, the South Carolina Paddling for Progress events tend to stick out in my mind as folks from across our state participated in brainstorming sessions and paddle trips to help solve some larger river related issues. As you have read about already in this issue our once a year face



Meet on a boat landing to discuss signage and permits!

to face meeting of the national RMS Board took place at a wonderful location on the banks of the Colorado River, and ended with a trip down a section of the river to see solutions to river management issues. Later in October and early November I attended two meetings to celebrate the successes of 20 years of community management of two different river basins.

Of course I also enjoy the small group or the one on one meeting conducted while boating down a river or into a swamp as I did this past Friday.

I feel sure there will be a time when you will say "wow" at our next Symposium, which will be in April 2014. The Southeast Chapter would like to thank those of you in the Southwest Chapter and others around our country that will be stepping up to the plate to organize the Denver 2014 Symposium. So I challenge you all to be creative in your meeting space selections in 2013 by enhancing your issues and successes using the "wow" factor.◆

RMS Chapters

Pacific by Elaine Grace

I just returned from another WONDERFUL experience representing the Pacific Chapter at the annual board meeting. I've included some pictures so you can get a "feel" for the gorgeous location of the meeting and the two river trips that followed. This was my last Board of Directors meeting. By this time next year, a very lucky, committed individual will be the new Pacific Chapter President. I wonder who will step up to the plate. What if it is you? Why not?

I have been on the board since 2006 when I became the Alaska Chapter President after Doug Whittaker moved into the National Vice President position. When I moved to Panama in 2008, Melissa Blair stepped up, providing excellent leadership for the Alaska Chapter. I figured I could perform National secretary duties from out of the country, thanks to the Internet and Voice-over-Internet phones. Last year when I was about to leave the board, I decided to step back into a President position as the Acting Pacific Chapter President. My goal was to bring one of you with me to the 2012 board meeting, but I failed. It has been a nice ride, but I feel totally ineffective, laying on a beach in Hawaii. So, it is your turn.

Why not? As many of you know, RMS is a very cool organization. While it is fun being a member and going on all those great river trips, what about really having an effect? Former Pacific Chapter President Kristina Rylands had a major effect hooking us up with Facebook, planning/hosting the 2009 Interagency River Management Workshop in Yosemite, and increasing Pacific Chapter membership to 51. Our membership has declined to 22. The Pacific Chapter needs your help!

For any of you who may be on the fence, let me sweeten the pot: In 2011, I retired on the Big Island of Hawaii. I live in a cozy house on the south end near Naalehu. I have an ocean view and perfect weather (most of the time). **Whoever takes the reins as the next Pacific Chapter President will receive a week's stay at my house.** Not only that, I will provide guide service and snorkel equipment for two. How can you resist? Perhaps many of you who live outside of California, Nevada and Hawaii want to move into the chapter just to compete for this free week. I can't wait until my inbox (grossmo@gmail.com) fills to capacity with inquiries about the Pacific Chapter President job! ♦

Top: Colorado River ranch, where the 2012 RMS board meeting was held. Middle: Miner's Cabin camp in Westwater Canyon on the Colorado River, where Board members joined the Southwest Chapter trip, organized by 2012 River Manager of the Year, Jennifer Jones. Bottom: 2009 River Manager of the Year, Troy Schnurr, leading RMS board members on a state-of-the-art river management tour through Ruby Canyon on the Colorado River.



RMS Chapters

Northwest by Linda Hagedorn

Floating the North Fork Payette (Cabarton)

Saturday, August 24, North Fork Payette River—At 9:10 am Lisa Klinger and I arrive at the Cabarton launch site. There are a couple with kayaks and a canoe camping and a few rafts (commercial, I think) in the water downstream of the launch. Quiet... A nice launch ramp and modern vault toilets have been built since I last saw the site 20 years ago. An osprey supervises from a pine tree across the river.

Lisa and I have her boat and my IK inflated and launched (with help from the campers) before the crowd starts rolling in. By 9:45 the parking lot is busy with vehicles, float craft ranging from 16' oar rigs to kayaks, and men, women and children of all ages. Their expectations for the day are revealed by their dress and demeanor. A couple raft loads of anglers launch first, followed shortly by several young women with kayaks who'd arrived in small pickups with Utah license plates.

Judi Zuckert and Frank Jenks pull in a few minutes before 10:00, and there is still room in the launch area for them to unload and assemble their raft. When the rest of our crew (Robin Fehlau, Dave Draheim and Nicole Haro) shows up promptly at 10:00, the launch site is packed. Lisa, Judi, Frank and I help tote their boats and gear from the roadway to the river, clearing out bystanders as we go. I'm guessing 150 people have passed through this little launch site in the hour we've been here.

Once on the river, our party of two rafts, two cats and two IKs is remarkably alone. It's a gorgeous late summer, sunny day;

the water is warm and clear. I'm happy to have Nicole along in an IK, too. Back in the day, I'd canoed this run several times and never dumped, so didn't think it would be too tough for an old retired river ranger in an IK. The river is running a healthy 1,800 cfs (dam controlled out of Cascade Reservoir).

The first couple miles are mellow with some easy riffles. Then, a long, interesting Class II brings us under the railroad trestle and the top of Trestle Rapid, a III. My first time down Cabarton flashes into mind: I was rowing a 12' Avon Redshank, hit a hole at the top of Trestle and launched myself into the rapids. I was gone downstream in a flash, while my raft with two passengers bounced among the rocks before following. To make a long story short, we got it together at the bottom of the rapid and all was well.

Today, we make it nicely through the busy first part of the rapid, but I find my IK quickly gaining on the rafts. Mid-rapid I'm back paddling and can't see ahead because I'm too close to one of the rafts. I enter a steep, narrow chute with no momentum and get dumped. As a swimmer, I speed along and am soon in front of Lisa's raft. I don't want to be there so push myself to the back of it. I careen by rocks on both sides, but amazingly don't hit any. Nicole boldly tries to help me, and I cling briefly to her IK, but let go because we're still in big waves, and I don't want to dump her, too. Finally, I'm securely hanging on Lisa's raft and feeling the sandy bottom of a friendly eddy. Frank and Judi have

my IK. The water is warm, I'm wearing a wetsuit, and, best of all, I'm in the company of safe and happy boaters.

Around the bend, we see some of the anglers—the first people we've seen since we launched. The next eddy we take a welcome lunch break and have our first opportunity to visit as a group. We discuss scheduled RMS floats, potential RMS floats and float trips we can do together as friends. An osprey passes over us several times, before deciding Judi isn't giving up her tuna salad sandwich. Many boats pass by, including one flying a Jolly Roger flag and blasting a boom box. This is a nice day float, but definitely not a wilderness experience.

Back on the river, we drift through what feels like a mile of flat water. We pass more anglers and people lunching

L to R: Nicole Haro, Robin Fehlau and Lisa Klinger enjoying the NF Payette River.





Linda Hagedorn (inflatable kayak) and Dave Draheim (inset) navigate Howard's Plunge, a Class III+ rapid on the NF Payette River. Photos: Wet Spot Photos

at a beautiful spot with mottled sunlight on river right. I see a couple places that would make nice campsites, if one were inclined to spend the night. The pace of the river picks up again with some Class II drops with waves that feel heavy in the IK. Looks like the railroad pinched the river on that one side and caused these little compression rapids. They remind me of Tight Squeeze up here on the Salmon below Riggins.

We enter the busy water above the Rainbow Bridge. I watch Nicole, who's new to boating, paddle deftly across, above a rock fence. She's really getting the hang of reading water. She and I are staying WAY behind the rafts now. We're proceeding cautiously, eddying out together at the bottom of every drop. We all pull out above the bridge for a photo op before entering the roaded part of the run.

The next mile of the run features three heavy rapids. Because I drove down from the north, I didn't get to scout. I find the first of the three rapids bigger and longer than I remember, and I'm hoping its Francoise, but I'm sure it's not. The highway milepost for Mile 99 used to be

visible from the river above Francoise, and we used to call the rapid "99." I don't see the milepost, but I soon recognize the top of the drop. I see Robin's and Dave's catarafts disappearing around the bend. From canoeing days, I recall a bad hole left of center, but today it looks turbulent, but clean, and we make it no problem. I'm glad Dave is eddying out at the bottom of the drops, too, watching the IKs.

The grand finale is Howard's Plunge, and I remember it as a short, sharp drop with a rock wall on bottom left. In a previous boating life, I'd slid off my cataraft seat and hung on, laughing, between the tubes, while the boat ricocheted off that rock wall. Today, I watch Robin and her little pack cat drop out of sight! Yipes, I'm next, looking into this huge drop. The only familiar feature is the rock wall. Paddling like crazy, I manage to stay upright and so does Nicole! I'm relieved to glide into the eddy above the photo concessionaires.

We used to take out shortly below the Plunge, but that area is private land and now closed. The kayakers park along the highway here and carry up through the

rocks. We drift lazily through the lake-like stretch behind Cougar Mountain Lodge, another chance to visit and talk about future trips. Our take-out is on private property with access courtesy of the Lodge owners. There is plenty of parking space, vault toilets and the photo concessionaire's trailer, although the level of use on this stretch of river seems to warrant a dedicated public access.

By the time we schlep our boats across the dirt to a pitifully small spot of dried grass, the photos of our runs through the Plunge are already playing in the trailer. We decide to buy a CD — outstanding photos and courteous vendors! From the take-out, some head south to the Boise area, and others go north. I'm wondering if the others have those future trip possibilities running through their minds. I'm thinking South Fork of the Boise, the several reaches of the Salmon, Hell's Canyon, the Deschutes (this year AND next year). Stay tuned to the Northwest Chapter news.◆

Linda D. Hagedorn is retired from her job as Forest Service, Main Salmon River Ranger.

(*St. Croix River, from page 4*)

received project funding from the states of Minnesota and Wisconsin and the US Forest Service and operating support from the NPS. A growing number of individuals are supporting the SCRA's work through their generous contributions, and membership now stands at 400 households. As an independent nonprofit organization, the SCRA provides a strong advocacy voice in matters that state and federal agencies cannot. It has tackled water quality and land protection issues, gravel and frac-sand mining, land and water stewardship issues along the Riverway, and aquatic invasive species prevention or control. The SCRA seeks to build awareness and educate its members and the community through its special meetings and events held throughout the St. Croix Watershed. More information about the Association's programs and activities, plus current St. Croix River-related news and events, can be found at www.stcroixriverassociation.org. ♦

(*Deschutes, from page 24*)

and relatively fast, with a number of class II and at least one class III-IV rapids on our trip. There are train tracks, alternating on both sides of the river canyon, and a steady roar of trains occurs over the course of a day.

We camped the first night at Whiskey Dick campground, and half in the group cooked a nice dinner of spaghetti and warm bread. After some of us retired for the evening, we could hear others enjoying a game of beach bocce ball. The next morning, a small herd of wild ponies could be seen way up the hillside on the other side of the river. Among other wildlife, we encountered osprey and their many nests.

Whitehorse Rapids, the largest on our trip, lay a mile below the campground and we got out of our boats to scout them beforehand. There have been some serious accidents in these rapids, but our scouting seemed to secure confidence to go through unscathed and without mishap. When we stopped for lunch that day, we got a tutorial on the use of the Phoenix composting toilets.

These unique toilets, manufactured in Whitefish, Montana, use no water, are odorless, and are relatively easy to clean. The buildings they are housed in have a fire resistant cement siding or an added feature. They have been immensely popular in the Deschutes' campgrounds by both campers and river rangers.

The second day on the Deschutes found us getting our rhythm. While those of us on the rafts enjoyed the flow of the current and the rapids, the kayakers – Lisa, Wes and John – played in the rapids with great fun. Wes was known to taunt us rafters at times, all in good spirit because we learned he could take it as well as dish it out.

That evening we camped at Buckskin Mary campground, just downstream from an old ferry landing and historic mining town. In a classic western canyon setting, with the afterglow of the sun setting on the towering cliffs, we enjoyed a Mexican dinner of burritos, along with adult beverages. A few tried fly fishing, and others enjoyed good conversation.

Waking up on the third morning, after hearing the nearby trains over the course of the evening, we had a 12-mile trip before we reached Maupin. It went by a little too fast, as we passed the Deschutes Club land whose members, mainly from the Portland area, locked up available shoreland a century ago for exclusive fishing rights. They also got the law passed that prevented anglers from fishing from their watercraft.

Boxcar rapids, appropriately named for an old train accident, was the final thrill before we reached the city park below Maupin. As we unloaded the gear and packed up our vehicles, we decided to retreat to the nearby Imperial Hotel for a cold beverage before we went our separate ways. We lauded the river for giving us a good adventure, and thanked the kind and gracious river rangers for leading us along.

On our way back to Bend, where Lynette graciously offered us the use of one of her bedrooms for the night, Linda and I remarked what a great group of people we just shared three days with in a beautiful setting. We spent five more days in scenic Oregon surroundings before heading back to Minnesota. We know we will be back! ♦

John Helland is a retired legislative analyst for the Minnesota Legislature, specializing in environment and natural resource issues. He was one of the founding members of the Rivers Council of Minnesota, and currently chairs a citizens advisory committee for the Department of Natural Resources water trails program, which will be celebrating it's 50th anniversary in 2013.

(*Whitewater Parks, from page 12*)

parks become truly commonplace and are initiated as a familiar complement to other municipal recreation amenities, paddlers will be even happier. ♦

¹ Mary Pieper, globegazette.com, Charles City city administrator honored http://globegazette.com/news/local/charles-city-administrator-honored/article_9fa8f038-0c1c-11e2-83d7-001a4bcf887a.html (October 1, 2012).

² Josh Quinnett, iowaenvironmentalfocus.com, On the Radio: Charles City Named Iowa River Town of the Year, <http://iowaenvironmentalfocus.org/2012/03/19/on-the-radio-charles-city-named-iowa-river-town-of-the-year> (March 19, 2012).

³ Tom Brownlow, phone interview (11/2/12).

⁴ Brownlow interview (November 2, 2012).

⁵ No author, United City of Yorkville, Illinois, <http://www.yorkville.il.us/GlenPalmerDamUpdate.php>.

⁶ No author, South Bend Parks and Recreation East Race Waterway, <http://sbpark.org/parks/east-race-waterway>.

⁷ Edward Paik, Making waves: Springfield native converts four unused dams into free whitewater park, <http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/sports/2010/07/13/making-waves.html> (7/16/10).

⁸ No author, Petoskey Opens Whitewater Paddling Park, <http://upnorthnewsandsports.blogspot.com/2011/05/petoskey-opens-whitewater-paddling-park.html> (May 23, 2011)

⁹ No author, <http://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/River/detail/id/1707>

¹⁰ Bill Pote, Completing the River – Downtown Dayton Game Changer, <http://mostmetro.com/the-featured-articles/completing-the-river-downtown-dayton-game-changer.html> (February 1, 2011).

¹¹ Howard Meyerson, Grand River continues to be key to Grand Rapids' growth http://www.mlive.com/outdoors/index.ssf/2010/07/grand_river_continues_to_be_ke.htm (7/23/12).

¹² Jim Harger, What are the 'opportunities and constraints' of restoring rapids to Grand River? http://www.mlive.com/business/west-michigan/index.ssf/2012/09/what_are_the_opportunities_and.html (September 19, 2012).

¹³ Brad, Elkader Whitewater Feature, <http://turkeyriver.org/elkader-whitewater-feature> (11/2/12)

¹⁴ No author, City of Iowa City, Downtown and River Crossings Master Plan <http://www.icgov.org/?id=2094>.

¹⁵ Steve Long, phone interview (11/2/12).

¹⁶ Cindy Heflin, EPA objection could halt Ann Arbor plan for whitewater features on Huron River, <http://www.annarbor.com/news/epa-objection-could-halt-ann-arbor-plan-for-whitewater-features-on-huron-river/> (September 20, 2012).

¹⁷ Wade Trim, Hamilton Dam & Riverfront Restoration, http://www.wadetrtrim.com/hamilton_dam/index.html

¹⁸ Spalding Hurst, Bring a Whitewater Park to Bardstown, Kentucky, <http://bardstownboaters.org/whitewaterpark>

¹⁹ No author, Bowling Green Riverfront Foundation, <http://www.bgriverfront.org/our-story>

²⁰ Addison Speck, Group Hopes To Make Manchester White Water Park A Reality <http://www.kcrg.com/news/local/Group-Hopes-To-Make-Manchester-White-Water-Park-A-Reality--141852233.html> (March 7, 2012).

* Riverrestoration.org owner Jason Carey is the current RMS-SW Chapter Vice President

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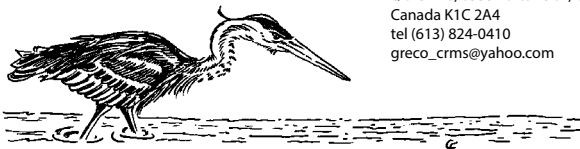
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Next RMS Journal Deadline - SOUTHWEST FOCUS: Submissions due February 1, 2013

The next Pacific Chapter President will receive
a week's stay on the Big Island of Hawaii. See page 31 for details!

RIVER

CROSSINGS
Linking River Communities
A Research Conference and Workshop



Presented by the River Management Society, Tamarisk Coalition, International Submerged Lands Management Conference, and the Water Center at Colorado Mesa University.

See details page 22.