

Wisconsin Rivers

A Publication of the River Alliance of Wisconsin • Spring 2004 • Volume 10 • Issue 1

Everyone deserves healthy rivers

Groundwater Law: History in the Making?

Status of Major Groundwater Legislation Uncertain
as this Issue Goes to Press

As long-time members know, the effects of groundwater drawdown on springs and streams isn't a new issue for our organization. The River Alliance was active in the coalition that compelled the Perrier bottling company in 2000 to halt its pursuit of a high-capacity well in central Wisconsin. In the meantime we've been a partner in the "Groundwater Quantity Working Group" with the Wisconsin Potato and Vegetable Growers Association and scientists from the University of Wisconsin System and the US Geological Survey.

In 2003, Senator Neal Kedzie and Rep. DuWayne Johnsrud, announced their intention to work with the Dept. of Natural Resources, Governor Doyle's office, and various interested parties to draft a new groundwater law. Around New Year's Day a bill-drafting subcommittee was formed to address two types of problems: "acute" threats to a spring or stream that a high-capacity well can pose (as was the case with Perrier), and "chronic" aquifer depletion in two large areas centered on Brown and Waukesha Counties.

Groundwater continues on page 6...

**Also on page 6: How Are Our Rivers Doing?
River Alliance Examines DNR River Management**

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Protecting Wisconsin's rivers so you can enjoy them.
Margaret Caneff kayaking on the Pine River. Photo: D. Caneff

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Stream of Thought

Mystic(al) River (Fish)

River Town Uses River Creatures to Attract Human Ones

At the River Alliance, we love the rivers that are so pure they support naturally reproducing trout, and so wild that you can paddle or fish them and not see human intrusion for miles.

We also recognize that rivers run through places that support prolifically reproducing carp, and where “human intrusion” clutters both banks and flows out of storm water pipes. But both wild and urban rivers are, in our view, worth celebrating and protecting.

Going to Iowa from southern Wisconsin usually requires you to go through the musty old Mississippi River town of Dubuque, Iowa. Everything we have done to rivers, hideous and helpful, is on display in Dubuque. However, on a recent visit there last December, I found that Dubuque is moving away from the hideous with some very helpful changes to its riverfront. The town is finally seeing the Mississippi as an asset, not its ass end.

Dubuque, at the time of its settlement, used the riverfront the way a river was supposed to be used in frontier times – transport hub, a staging area for raw materials, and a dump. Even with economic changes over the decades, the Dubuque riverfront remained a working place – factories, packing plants, rail yards, and a dump. Dubuque’s riverfront was probably never suited to residential or commercial development, with the flood-prone Mississippi just on the other side of the levee and its unsavory industrial atmosphere.

Nevertheless, the musty Iowa river town is discovering what many cities with once-forsaken riverfronts have found out: there is a way to bring people down to the river and celebrate it, rather than abuse or ignore it. Whatever you might think about gambling, Dubuque has used the gambling craze to bring people down to the riverfront. First, there was the dog track, but it was the Diamond Jo casino that seemed to spur attendant economic development of restaurants, tour bus stops, cruise boats, a convention center, and other attractions.



Dubuque Conference Center on the Mississippi. Photo: Dubuque Chamber of Commerce.

But the best of attraction of all just opened last summer, and makes a much more meaningful link to the Mississippi than mere proximity. It is the National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium. As a kid growing up near the Mississippi, I had heard about

legendary fish, like the gar and channel cat, from old uncles. Even those old uncles would be impressed by the breathtaking display of river fish and other critters (snakes, frogs, otters, alligators) in the museum’s many aquariums. (You do stop breathing when you stare a paddlefish in the eye.) The museum is run in association with the Smithsonian Institution and its exhibits are high quality and kid-friendly. (My 10-year old son was along with me and he gave it a review usually reserved for carnival rides: “That was awesome.”)

Atop the levee on Dubuque’s riverfront is a walkway that provides a fine view, framed by the two high bridges, of the river’s sweep past the city. In addition, the best appears yet to come: located in the shadow of the levee is the former Dubuque Star Brewery. It is looking a bit tattered from neglect, but the city has built an amphitheatre into the levee, with the old brewery as its backdrop. The Dubuque Chamber of Commerce says there are plans to refurbish part of the brewery building as a brewpub.

My other water bias – beer – may be exposed here, and my first and only visit to that riverside brewery was memorable. (That’s another column). But we should all toast Dubuque’s effort to turn what has often been an epithet – “river town” – into a term that is getting new meaning, thanks to projects like Dubuque’s “America’s River,” that gives a river what it deserves – attention, honor and celebration.

Denny Caneff
Executive Director



A young canoeist really enjoys Wisconsin’s rivers this past summer. Photo: RAW Staff.

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Local Group Assistance

Workshop 'til You Drop

Local Groups Program Pilots Grassroots Fundraising Workshop

On January 31, we presented the pilot Grassroots Fundraising Workshop to Friends of the Yahara River Parkway. Visiting trainers Wendy Wilson (River Network) and Baird Straughan (Institute for Conservation Leadership) were on hand to help deliver the workshop and celebrate the culmination of a months-long workshop development process.

Schedule a Skills Workshop for Your River or Watershed Group!

— Grassroots Fundraising for River and Watershed Groups

Tame your fear of asking for money and explore effective ways to ask. Develop a fundraising plan for your group.

— Benchmarking, an Organizational Assessment for Your River or Watershed Group

Identify your strengths and challenges, and create an action plan to address your group's priorities.

— Using the Clean Water Act to Protect Your Watershed

Learn about river protection tools available under the Clean Water Act and discuss issues specific to your watershed. Develop an action plan for your watershed.



Congratulations to our Latest Workshop Alumni

Benchmarking

Apple River Association, Friends of Starkweather Creek, Friends of Pheasant Branch, Upper Sugar River Watershed Association

Using the Clean Water Act

Trout Unlimited (Central Wisconsin, Fox Valley, Green Bay, SE Wisconsin and Wolf River Chapters); Friends of Tomorrow/Waupaca River; and Friends of Milwaukee's Rivers.

DNR River Protection Grants

Deadline May 1

Don't miss this opportunity to plan your group's grant proposal today!

A wide range of capacity building and river restoration activities may be funded by River Planning and Management Grants. To download guidelines visit <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/caer/cfa/Grants/forms/forms.html> and scroll down to River Protection. For information or hard copy, contact a DNR grant specialist or River Alliance Local Groups Program staff.

2004 Wisconsin Lakes Convention

Join us in Green Bay - April 15-17

The water community will gather for a special workshop, *Where the Waters Meet* Thursday, April 15-17. The theme is Tools for Citizen Involvement. Breakout sessions will address tools for natural resource protection, capacity building for citizen groups, sustainable water use and more! Several River Alliance of Wisconsin staff will be presenting, and staffing a River Alliance booth.

For more information, visit <http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexplakes/conventions/default.asp> or call (715) 346-2116.

Lisa Goodman
Local Group Assistance - Northern Region

We provide a variety of training opportunities and one-on-one support to river and watershed organizations.

Contact program staff for details.

Southern Wisconsin

Erin O'Brien, 608-257-2424 x113
localgroups@wisconsinrivers.org

Northern Wisconsin

Lisa Goodman, 608-257-2424 x 110
goodman@wisconsinrivers.org



Watershed Advocate Toolkit

A Series of Helpful Tools
for River and Watershed Advocates

Do you want to know:

- How to grow and maintain your group's member base?
- How to raise money and where to seek funding?
- How to organize river clean-ups?
- More about small dam removal?
- How to use the Clean Water Act to protect your waters?

Get Your Watershed Advocate Toolkit!
Now Available from the River Alliance of Wisconsin.
www.wisconsinrivers.org - 608.257.2424

Acting Locally

Working Smarter for Clean Water

Upper Sugar River Watershed Association Watchdogs Its Land and Water

Originating in southwestern Dane County, the Sugar River eventually flows into the Land of Lincoln. Since 2000, in its Dane County reaches, the Sugar River has been under the watchful eye of the Upper Sugar River Watershed Association (USRWA).

USRWA arose from the Upper Sugar River Initiative, an EPA-funded partnership project developed by the DNR in 1996. The project stakeholders identified and prioritized water quality issues and developed an action plan to address the issues.

USRWA's mission is to serve as a forum to preserve and enhance the watershed resources through an impartial partnership among diverse community interests. Of the board of directors, Executive Director Frank Fetter says he is impressed by how "so many diverse viewpoints can come together and work so well together." There are some disagreements and lively debate, "but after the votes are cast, losers don't sulk, and winners don't gloat," said Fetter.

A partner with the Dane County Land Conservation Department for Targeted Runoff Management (TRM) grants, USRWA's resulting projects have helped greatly improve water quality and fishing in the watershed. Fetter says thanks largely to TRM grants, about 12 miles of West Branch of the Sugar River have been restored, as have other headwaters; Deer Creek, an Exceptional Resource Water; and Frye's Feeder. Deer Creek Sports and Conservation Club holds the easements on the TRM grant sections, and along with the Dane County Conservation League, USRWA is known for its prolific habitat and shoreline restoration work. Over the years they have built and installed hundreds of LUNKER structures, which enhance fish habitat.

USRWA holds public forums. "We try to hold at least a couple per year that discuss issues of importance to the watershed and its residents," said Fetter. The January 2004 topic was sustainable building. The year before, USRWA held a forum on the Farm Bill, in an effort to "balance between our urban and rural residents." Fetter stresses that they "don't feel that agriculture issues have gone away, but right now we're focusing on the biggest threat, which is development." This is reflected in the watershed map, which depicts the Upper Sugar River framed by

rapidly growing Mt. Horeb to its northwest, and Madison, Fitchburg and Verona to its northeast.

In January, USRWA board members participated in a River Alliance Benchmarking workshop. Fetter notes of their work prior to the training, "We had gone into lots of smaller tangents" and were doing many little things in a mediocre manner. Thanks to the Benchmarking workshop, "we've refocused on the bigger picture, and where we can have the greatest impacts."

This spring, USRWA will collaborate with the Blue Mounds Area Project to put on an Earth Day event with a strong focus on water issues.

To learn more, (608) 437-7707, execdr@usrwa.org
PO Box 314, Mount Horeb, WI 53572, or visit www.usrwa.org

Lisa Goodman
Local Group Assistance - Northern Region



Above: Steve Haack showing his catch from the Sugar River.

Right: A soil bioengineering class studies on the banks of the Sugar River.

Photos: Frank Fetter, USRWA



Know Your River

Sweet Beginnings

The Upper Sugar River Faces Challenges, Still Offers Sweet Opportunities

Encompassing a large area of southwestern Dane County, the Upper Sugar River watershed quietly houses some of the best and most threatened trout waters in the state. Through unique partnerships, people are working hard to preserve and restore the river and its tributaries before they are changed forever.

The Sugar River's headwaters arise in two channels, the West Branch and a number of tributaries starting in Mount Horeb, and the Sugar River mainstem in the area just west of Madison and

Almost 40 years later, we are still trying to save what remains of these resources and restore what we can.

northwest of Verona. The western portion of the watershed lies in the Driftless Area, a section of our state not covered by glaciers 10-12,000 years ago. Seeps and springs on hillsides mostly feed the streams here (including the West Branch). There are few wetlands and no natural lakes or ponds. The land is well drained, having steep wooded slopes and narrow valleys. In contrast, the eastern headwaters (including the Sugar River mainstem) arise in glacial moraines and the land is much flatter. Ponds and marshes occur more frequently from internally drained areas. These two distinct land types give the watershed a compelling diversity in an area of about 170 square miles.

The story of this watershed is like so many others in our state: before Europeans arrived, the Sugar River was a pristine waterway flowing through prairies and oak savannahs, whose banks were dotted with sedge meadows, fens and marshes. The water ran fast, clear and cold, unhampered by dams. The river and its banks were home to myriad native creatures and plants. Native brook trout flourished in the streams and river channels.

European settlers turned the prairies to farm fields, pastures and towns. The wetlands were mostly filled in. The banks of the river and its tributary streams eroded. This activity continued for over 100 years. When people realized that they were losing something important, special and irreplaceable, they attempted to change the ways they live with the

land and water. Farmers were told to contour plow, keep cattle out of the river and prevent manure and pesticides from entering the water. The few remaining wetland areas were protected and the land along the banks was no longer stripped of vegetation. Almost 40 years later, we are still trying to save what remains of these resources and restore what we can.

Today, scattered ranch houses with three-car garages and long driveways are replacing many of the dairy farms, and the edges of the cities and towns are quickly expanding. Concern is turning toward stormwater control and construction site runoff and on how to educate suburbanites about the damage done to the streams when using too much fertilizer on their one-acre lots. Municipalities are struggling to keep up with the huge

numbers of new residential developments; between 1990 and 2000, Verona grew by 31% and Mount Horeb by 40%. Once again the landscape is changing dramatically.

Yet despite these challenges, the Upper Sugar River is still home to a viable population of cold-



*The Upper Sugar River on a quiet September day in 2002.
Photo: Frank Fetter.*

water fish and the watershed has unspoiled areas that provide habitat for many native plant and animal species, some of which are rare or threatened. Significant streambank restoration work has been completed along 12 continuous miles of the West

Branch, as well as Deer Creek and Frye's Feeder. This work, a joint project of the Dane County Land Conservation Department, local landowners, numerous non-profit conservation groups and funded by the DNR, includes the installation of almost 22,000 feet of riprap edging, nearly 70,000 feet of shaping and seeding, over 1,200 fish habitat structures, almost 70 acres of critical area seeding and 3,000 feet of protective fencing. All of the restored areas are currently under easements that allow public access for fishing and hiking. In addition, Capital Water Trails has nearly completed clearing the mainstem of the Sugar River to accommodate small watercraft, expanding the recreational opportunities from Verona to Paoli.

The watershed is home to some of the best trout fishing in the Midwest, including the Class I waters of Mount Vernon Creek. Despite the fact that dams at Paoli and Belleville impede fish migration, 30 miles of the Sugar mainstem were recently upgraded to cold water fishery classification and this section of the river is deemed an Exceptional Resource Water by the DNR. The DNR has been conducting yearly fish counts (done by shocking a stream) and has noted an increase in trout through natural reproduction, good habitat for insects and fish, and a decrease in water temperature, indicating that the restoration work is producing good results.

Conservation groups like the Upper Sugar River Watershed Association continue to work to safeguard these waterways and educate people about what they can do to keep these resources clean. The county will soon be starting restoration work on the banks of Primrose Branch, and local municipalities are working to enforce best management practices with developers and builders in the watershed. The challenges are large but not insurmountable. By continuing the partnerships between landowners, non-profit groups and government, the headwaters of the Sugar River have a good chance of providing wonderful habitat for wildlife and fantastic recreation for humans for generations to come.

Andrea Good is on the Board of Directors of the USRWA. Thanks to the Dane County Regional Planning Commission for some of the information included in this piece.

Continues from cover

The Clean Water Coalition, to which the River Alliance belongs, was given two seats on the subcommittee, and the River Alliance filled one. The process used by the two legislators was open, and various maps and drafts were regularly posted to a website. They stressed early on that it might be possible to reach consensus on their ambitious goals before the end of the 2004 legislative session in mid-March.

Most of the sticking points had to do with the environmental threats that an individual high-capacity well may pose. The bill draft would provide protection to some springs, but only about the 100 largest in the state. The draft would also create "Groundwater Protection Areas" extending 1,200 feet on either side of most trout streams plus other "exceptional" and "outstanding" resource waters as defined under an existing DNR rule.

The draft would give DNR the ability to conduct a careful review of a proposed high-capacity well within a "Groundwater Protection Area" and specify protective conditions if need be.

On March 8, the day before this issue went to press, the Legislature's Joint Committee on Finance voted 15 to 1 to recommend passage of the bill (Assembly Bill 926/Senate Bill 524) and the bill seemed destined for passage by both houses by the end of the week.

If some kind of groundwater bill ends up awaiting Governor Doyle's signature or veto in April, River Alliance members for whom we have an e-mail address will hear of this soon, if they haven't already by the time they read this. If a bill doesn't make it to the Governor or he vetoes it, the River Alliance will spend the rest of 2004 preparing a strong groundwater bill for introduction in January. But if a bill is enacted, certain crucial matters will be left to a new Groundwater Advisory Committee over the next three years, and the River Alliance will continue its groundwater work in a different setting.

Rich Bogovich
Policy Project Manager



Policy

How Are Our Rivers Doing?

River Alliance Examines DNR River Management

How has your favorite river in Wisconsin been faring in recent years? Does it seem cleaner or dirtier than it was a few years ago? Have you noticed more traffic on it? How's the fishing? Are wild stretches giving way to houses? Have you perceived any trends on several rivers?

In 2003 the River Alliance decided to interview river experts across the state in an effort to assess the management of our rivers. Because the Dept. of Natural Resources is the hub of river management, it made sense that many of these questions were about the DNR. The River Alliance decided that two-thirds of the experts to be interviewed would come from the DNR itself, and offered to conceal the identities of all the experts questioned in order to foster candor.

The River Alliance ended up interviewing 75 water experts for about an hour each. The findings are scheduled to be published in late March. The first half of the report will look at how specific issues are being addressed by the DNR and others. The second

half will look at various broad management challenges ranging from the development of agency rules and permit-issuing processes at one end to monitoring and enforcement at the other. This type of analysis hasn't been conducted in recent memory and is probably long overdue.

For each topic the report will provide recommendations that the River Alliance will pursue in 2004 and 2005. In the spring the River Alliance will work to engage the DNR and other interested parties in a dialogue about the report's findings and recommendations. The goal is to develop a joint work plan by mid-year.

The report will be accessible on the River Alliance website, and you are welcome to request the four-page executive summary, the full printed report, or the report on compact disc. Contact Rich Bogovich at 608-257-2424 extension 111 or bogie@wisconsinrivers.org.



Dams Program

River Alliance of... Japan?

State-wide Group Goes Global

This March, Dams Program Manager Helen Sarakinos will don her ambassador's hat as she heads to Nagoya, Japan to present on dam removal successes in Wisconsin. Joining her national counterpart from American Rivers, she will speak at a dam removal symposium organized by the Society-Gifu Opposed to the Nagarakawa Estuary Dam.

There has been a growing interest in Japan in the ecological impacts of dam building, with some prefectures having gone so far as to place a moratorium on dam building and assessing the need for some of their existing dams. From across the Pacific Ocean, Wisconsin has emerged as a state that is taking a successful common-sense approach to dealing with obsolete and uneconomical dams. In addition, Japanese activists have taken note of the role advocacy groups like the River Alliance have played in facilitating informed dam removal decisions.

This symposium represents one of the first efforts to bring activists and officials together in Japan to look at the option of selected dam removal and hear about the United States experience with how we make it happen.

Follow Helen's journey via her online diary as she shares her experiences, insights and embarrassing cultural blunders with the River Alliance community on our website, wisconsinrivers.org, between March 25 and 31, 2004.



Photo of Waterworks Dam appearing in Japanese magazine, "Fly Fisher", with an article on dam removal. Photo: RAW Staff.

River Alliance Awarded Wisconsin Coastal Management Grant

This January, the Wisconsin Coastal Management Program awarded a one-year grant to the River Alliance to support the work we have been doing over the past two years to assess impacts of dams in the Lake Michigan Basin of Wisconsin. One of the goals of the Lake Michigan Basin Project is to develop a decision-making framework that helps dam owners and public administrators better evaluate the relative impact of a dam and the ecological benefit of its removal.

This Coastal Management grant will fund a GIS project which will spatially link ecological, engineering and logistical information to existing dams in the Basin. Patrick Engineering has been hired to do the GIS work for the project.

The Lake Michigan Basin Project, funded by the C.S. Mott Foundation, seeks to evaluate the impacts of dams at the landscape level and to educate dam owners in the Basin on the responsibilities of dam ownership and the options available to them.

Un-build It and They Will Come

A recent headline said it all, "Baraboo River rebounding." A little over two years after the last dam was removed, fish are coming back, water quality is improving and everyone is encouraged by the river's recovery.

In January, 2004, DNR biologists presented the findings from ten years' worth of data collected on the Baraboo River and the trends are indisputable: things are looking up. This kind of detailed data is so valuable because changes are quantifiable, not just anecdotal. Quantifiable changes have included an increase of smallmouth bass densities at the former Waterworks Dam site from three per mile before removal to 135 per mile today, the return of walleye to the riffle areas of the river, and increased migration of fishes up the river – in some cases almost to the

headwaters in Elroy. As DNR's Matt Catalano said in a January 8, 2004 *Baraboo News Republic* article, "[We're] restoring a historic fish migration route. It'll be interesting to see how it all shakes out over the years."

Helen Sarakinos
Dams Program Manager



Zipperer Dam, Branch River, WI - Removed July 2003. This 5-foot by 40-foot dam was removed in summer 2003 because it prohibited fish migration. Photo: John Roberts, Friends of the Branch River, John.Roberts@datcp.state.wi.us.

Above, before. Below, after removal.



Local Group Assistance

River and Watershed Organizations Getting It Done

Local Groups Share Good News

Apple River Association Polk County

In January 2004 they participated in a River Alliance Benchmarking workshop, and have begun developing an action plan for 2004 and beyond. They expect many challenges with dams on the Apple River in 2004, and will watch them closely. ARA also enjoys monthly summer outings on the Apple and its tributaries. Each trip has returned its participants with great memories. Allen Carlson, (715) 268-2032, abcson@amerytel.net



Sunny summer day on the Upper Apple River: Photo: RAW Staff.

Bad River Watershed Association Ashland, Bayfield, Iron Counties

BRWA reports "it's official" that they now have 501(c)(3) status. They have also received C.D. Besadny funds for two water quality testing kits. (Editor's note: BRWA participated in a River Alliance Benchmarking workshop last June.) Dorothy Lagerroos, (715) 682-1305, dlagerroos@northland.edu.



BRWA Board members benchmarking together. Photo: Susie Isaksen.

Concerned Citizens of Newport Columbia County

During 2004, CCN will co-sponsor the photo exhibit "Grassroots Social Change Photography" by photojournalist Orin Langelle. The exhibit will be shown in June at RadFest 2004, with a later showing at a Madison location to be announced. In September, CCN will co-sponsor a Madison concert by celebrated folk singer and story teller Utah Phillips. Hiroshi Kanno, (608) 253-7266, HiroK8@aol.com.

Friends of Milwaukee's Rivers Milwaukee County

FMR completed a Corridor Biology Curriculum designed to teach high school students the importance of river corridors and the fundamentals of their biology. Besides learning innovative concepts, students will try hands-on field work and collect scientific data on animal populations, corridors, and water quality. (Editor's note: Last October, FMR was the first group to participate in the River Alliance's new "Using the Clean Water Act to Protect Your Watershed" workshop, and has been applying those new skills in the Milwaukee area.) <http://www.mkeriverkeeper.org/pages/Curriculum.htm>. Cheryl Nenn, Riverkeeper (414) 287-0207 x29.



FMR, Midwest Environmental Advocates and River Alliance staff at the first CWA workshop. Photo: RAW Staff.



Friends of the Tomorrow/Waupaca River Portage/Waupaca Counties

A new group, Friends of the Tomorrow/Waupaca River, formed recently with Local Groups Program Manager Diana Toledo's assistance. An organizational kick-off meeting in January attracted 50 people and the group developed a list of concerns facing the Tomorrow/Waupaca River, including residential and industrial development, road construction projects, and non-point source pollution. (Editor's note: In February, FTWR participated in the River Alliance's new "Using the Clean Water Act to Protect Your Watershed" workshop, and has been applying those new skills to advocate for the river.) Rebecca Stephens, (715) 824-6874, rstephens@wi-net.com.

Menomonee Valley Partners

Milwaukee County

MVP is working with the City of Milwaukee and Wenk Associates to finalize plans for the new 140-acre Menomonee Valley Park. Plans for the former Milwaukee Road Shops property include a light-industrial business park, centralized stormwater treatment, park space and the Hank Aaron State Trail along the Menomonee River. During 2004, MVP is also working with the



Wenk Associates rendering of the new Menomonee Valley Park.

Business Improvement District and the Department of Public Works to skim the Menomonee River once a month, removing floating debris in the Valley. Elinor Tretheway, (414) 274-4655, www.RenewTheValley.org

Rusk County Waters Alliance

Rusk County

This year RCWA, with Beaver Creek Citizen Science Center, will offer programs on purple loosestrife mapping and wildlife mapping, and a stream monitoring train-the-trainer session on April 18. RCWA members attended NR115 listening sessions and proposed protective changes to the county Shoreland Zoning Ordinance. Members offer input at monthly zoning committee meetings, county board meetings and public hearings. Last fall, RCWA co-sponsored a public information forum which provided accurate information about shoreland protection issues. RCWA has been successful with a small amount of money and a huge amount of hard work. RCWA is dedicated to protecting and improving the waters and shorelines of Rusk County for future generations. Ralph Heuschele, (952) 884-5944, heuschele@earthlink.net.

Your group's news here!

Send us your group's 100 word newsbrief and photo by June 1, 2004 for inclusion in our summer issue. Email Lisa Goodman - goodman@wisconsinrivers.org 608-257-2424 (x110)

Volunteer Profile

Brigitte Gabathuler

Swiss Miss Adds Aesthetics to Environmentalism

Occupation?

I work as a barista and also as a graphic designer.

Where do you live?

Temporarily in Madison, but in fall we'll move back to Switzerland.

What's your favorite river?

The Mississippi. OK, OK, it might not be the cleanest and healthiest one, but to see this legendary river for the first time was very impressive and striking for me and it stimulated my fantasy about its history.

Interest in rivers?

I have always loved being around or in the water. I am a Pisces – water is essential for me.

Any hobbies?

Hiking (oh man, I really do miss mountains living in Wisconsin!), swimming (but here, fortunately, I have plenty of options, with the exception of maybe Lake Mendota), gardening and everything related to food.

What volunteer activities do you perform for RAW?

Designing displays and publications, creating slide shows.

Why do you volunteer?

I met Diana Toledo right after we moved to Madison and she told me about the River Alliance. At that time, I didn't have my work permit and I was eager to do something useful. At the same time, this was a good chance to meet some nice Madisonians. I hold high regard for people so dedicated in their work to make changes in environmental issues and I am glad I can contribute to that.



River Alliance Wish List

Any donations of items, time or skills will help our organization immensely! Our list does not need to end here, either. If you have an idea for a donation, please contact us at 608.257.2424 or wisrivers@wisconsinrivers.org.

- Computer Monitors -Flat Screen
- Laptops
- Digital Camera
- Office Supplies
- Laptop Carrying Cases
- Large Portfolio Case
- GIS Training
- Publication Design
- Web Design
- General Volunteer Help

2003 Annual Report October 1, 2002 - September 30, 2003

Ten Good Years and More to Come

2003 Marked 10 Years of River Advocacy

The highlight of 2003 was reaching an important milestone: 10 years of effective river advocacy. In an era where issues come and go, as often do the groups that pursue them, we are proud of not only "making it" to ten years, but especially proud of what we have done since our founding in 1993. It's worth reflecting on *why* the River Alliance has been successful in putting rivers high on Wisconsin's conservation agenda.

First, I think it's because *our work is supports people in their communities protecting their water*. The River Alliance never presumes to have the "right" answer for how to clean up a river, start a watershed group, or why a dam should be removed. Instead, with solid information and careful guidance, we help local folks shape their own, and their river's, destiny.

Second, *we have been and continue to be blessed with superb leaders, committed activists and competent staff*. From founding parents like Steve Born, Bill Beverly, Sara Johnson and Cy Lyle, to board alumni like Tom Miller and Barb Kneer, who kept the flame burning bright and hot, these people know and appreciate rivers as personal friends. That kind of passion is what got the River Alliance going, and is what keeps it viable and vital today.

Third, we understand that legislators making laws, and state agencies implementing them, have a huge impact on rivers, and we need to pay attention! *We have watched, cajoled, criticized, praised and helped them create and implement better policies*. Our willingness to fashion workable solutions to water challenges has given us credibility and open doors to legislators and regulators.

Here are some highlights from 2003:

- ✓ We reached nearly 50 local groups and trained over 300 river and watershed activists in how to run better organizations and how to use the Clean Water Act to clean up

their local waterway. We also helped four new organizations get up and running.

- ✓ We contacted scores of private dam owners in Wisconsin's Lake Michigan basin to ask them to consider the economic and ecological benefits of dam removal.

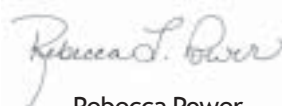
- ✓ We paddled with nearly 150 fellow river lovers on the Baraboo, Namekagon and St. Croix, and we celebrated our 10th Anniversary with over 200 friends at Monona Terrace.

- ✓ We said good-bye to our good friend and executive director Todd Ambs, who so ably served the River Alliance for many years, and continues to serve the waters of the state as the Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources' water division administrator.

- ✓ We also said a fond farewell to board members Terry Hiltz and Tom Miller. They served the River Alliance well and continue to be great champions of Wisconsin's rivers.

- ✓ We welcomed Denny Caneff as the River Alliance's third executive director.

- ✓ We kicked off our effort to enhance the River Alliance's capacity to support the river conservation efforts of northern communities.



Rebecca Power
Board Chair

INCOME

Grants	\$81,900.00
Membership	\$66,548.00
Special Event Income	\$30,267.00
In-kind Contributions	\$58,131.00
Sales	\$3,782.00
Interest & Dividends	\$2,276.00
Previously Received Grants	\$291,438.00

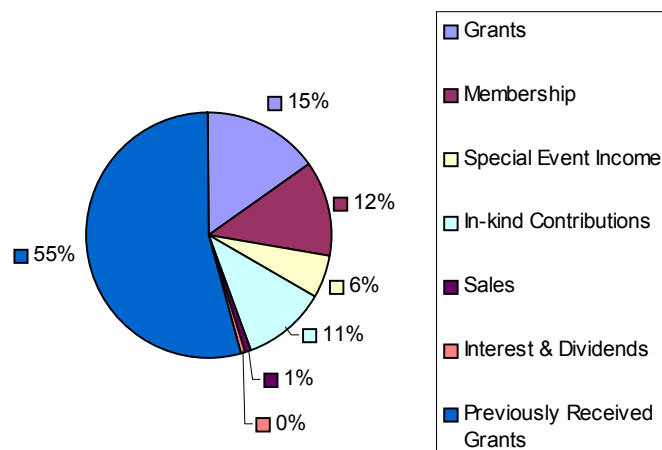
Total Income \$534,342.00

EXPENSES

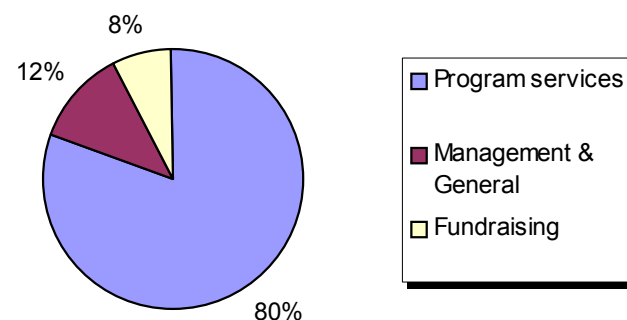
Salaries, Wages & Benefits	\$275,573.00
Contracts & Fees	\$43,156.00
Printing & Postage	\$38,704.00
Local Organizing	\$24,716.00
Sales & Special Events	\$12,242.00
Office Equipment & Supplies	\$7,323.00
Phone & Internet	\$14,417.00
Rent	\$26,520.00
Travel	\$9,604.00
In-kind Advertising	\$58,131.00
Miscellaneous	\$19,650.00

Total Expenses \$530,036.00

INCOME DISTRIBUTION 2003



EXPENSES DISTRIBUTION 2003



Thank You!

We are truly indebted to our individual, business and organizational members. Without their contributions, we would not be able to fight so strongly for Wisconsin's rivers! The names listed here are representative of donations received since December 1, 2003. We regret we cannot list everyone.

River Heros- \$1,000+

Todd Ambs
 Jake & Kris Barnes
 Dr. Barry E. Booth
 Robert & Nancy Froehlke
 Scott Froehlke
 Nathan Heffernan
 Terry Hiltz
 Tom Miller
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 Glenn Reindl & Sara Krebsbach
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River Sustainers \$50 - \$99

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 Robert Wirka
 Barbara Wolfe
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Charter Communications
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 Gray Drake Flys & Art
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 Guthrie Theater
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 Hostel Shoppe, Ltd.
 Inn Serendipity/ JDI Enterprises Inc.
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 Madison Magazine
 Madison Mallards
 Madison Opera
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 Moments Captured Photography
 Mud Brook Woods
 Northwest Passage
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 Orpheum
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 WI DNR
 Wollersheim Winery
 Lindsay Wood-Davis
 Susan Wurzer

River Guardians \$500 - \$999

Anonymous
 Steve Born
 Rob Hagge
 Joseph Heitz, MD &
 Jennifer Engstad-Heitz
 George & Miriam Martin Foundation
 Walter & Stacey Meanwell

River Keepers \$250 - \$499

William & Ann Beverly
 Patrick & Lloyd Eagan
 Henry & Virginia Hart
 Doug & Mary Hudzinski
 Donna & Chuck Poat
 Robert C & Patti Shears
 VF Foundation
 Wendy Watson

River Patrons \$100 - \$249

Heidi & John Anderson
 Frances Bachman

Yes!

You, too, can support Wisconsin's rivers!

Please sign me up as a member of the River Alliance.

- \$100 River Patron
- \$50 River Sustainer
- \$50 Organizational membership
- \$35 Basic membership
- Other

306 East Wilson, 2W
 Madison, WI 53703
www.wisconsinrivers.org
wisrivers@wisconsinrivers.org
 608-257-2424

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

I am paying by credit card! River or County of interest: _____

Visa MC _____ - _____ - _____ Expiration _____

Organizations

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 Watershed Alliance, Inc.
 Arcola Mills Historic
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 Fox - Wolf Watershed Alliance
 Trout Unlimited
 Elliot Donnelly
 Trout Unlimited
 Marinette County
 Upper Sugar River
 Watershed Assoc
 Washburn Co.
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In-Kind Gifts

Bear Paw Outdoor Adventure
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 Bell Canoe Works
 Bending Branches
 Big River
 Buettner's Wild Wolf Inn
 Canoe & Carvings
 Canoe & Kayak Magazine
 Capital Fitness
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 Carlise Paddles
 Chanhassen Dinner Theaters

Thanks to Our Funders!

The Beldon Fund
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 Steve Miller Foundation

... and, members like you!

Win Great River-related Prizes!

Grand Prize! Perception Sonoma Kayak (\$1,100 value)

First Prize - St. Croix Fly Rod Combo (\$200 value)

Second Prize - Rafting trips from Buettner's Wild Wolf Inn (\$150 value)

Third Prize - Bending Branches Wooden Canoe Paddle (\$100 value)

PLUS - other river related prizes!

1 ticket - \$5

5 tickets - \$20

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

I am paying by credit card (orders \$25 and up)

Visa MC _____ - _____ - _____ Exp. _____

Mail to: RAW Raffle • 306 E. Wilson St., 2W • Madison, WI 53703 or visit wisconsinrivers.org



Win rafting trips from Buettner's Wild Wolf Inn!

Win a beautiful wooden paddle from Bending Branches!



GRAND PRIZE! Perception Sonoma Kayak!



The Sonoma is an excellent boat. The narrow hull and fairly round bottom create a very fast and efficient boat that can easily keep up. It's also a great boat for smaller adults who don't plan on carrying tons of gear but want a nice fast boat for working out or taking relaxing day paddles. The stern hatch and bulkhead provide ample room for a 2-3 day camping trip if you pack accordingly. The new Airalite material is light and stiff making it easy to manage on or off the water.

Win a fly rod combo from St. Croix Rods!

