

# Wisconsin Rivers

A Publication of the River Alliance of Wisconsin • Winter 2005 • Volume 11 • Issue 1

Everyone deserves healthy rivers

## Even Sweeter

### The West Branch Sugar River is Off the "List"

Stephen Schaefer

After thirty years on the Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources' "degraded" list (also known as the 303(d) list), the West Branch Sugar River, a 19-mile stretch of water in western Dane County, has recently been rehabilitated and restored to a cleaner, more natural state.

Comprised of all rivers and streams that do not meet the state's water quality standards, Wisconsin's 303(d) list, required by the federal Clean Water Act, has hundreds of water bodies listed. But very few are removed, so the removal of West Branch Sugar River is a ground breaking event for local conservation organizations.

"It's taken 30 years, but we've done it," Dane County Executive Kathleen Falk said at a riverside news conference in October.

This river has been removed from the list "because many people made it their personal goal, dug in and made it happen for the good of the resource," said Scott Hassett, DNR Secretary. "Years of conservation efforts have paid off."

West Branch Sugar River had been degraded by animal waste from unrestricted cattle access, riverbank erosion, and sediment deposits from farmland and development runoff. In 1980, Dane County requested the U.S. Department of Agriculture's assistance to help control animal waste and farmland erosion through its PL 566 Watershed Protection Program. Over the course of 13 years (1981-1994), 52 animal waste systems and 13,000 acres of farmland erosion control projects were completed.

The PL 566 Watershed Protection Program's purpose is to assist federal, state, and local agencies to protect and restore watersheds from damage caused by erosion, sediment, and floodwater in watersheds of 250,000 or fewer acres.

*Continues on page 3...*



*Enjoy all Wisconsin's rivers have to offer this winter! River Alliance Board member Catherine Neiswender stands along the frozen Fox River.*

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Stream of Thought

**The Art of the Story**

The conservation community is revving up to hit the halls of the Capitol when legislators get back to Madison to put together a state budget that at first look will not be conservation-friendly. But it's not just recalcitrant legislators that are an obstacle to good conservation policy.

Many of us active in conservation policy and politics are getting weary of the sound of our own voices. We speak in a jargony language that doesn't connect to ordinary people; we talk about policy issues in the abstract ("the impact of this policy has profound implications for the expression of the public trust doctrine") and not in the here-and-now.

Even though it's been over 15 years that I last stepped foot in Africa, as a Peace Corps volunteer and international aide worker, my love of traditional *griot* music has never faded. Griots were musical storytellers who would move from village to village, informing, humoring, cajoling, captivating. The hottest craze in African pop music now is rap, and though it seems incongruous to hear that rhythmic hip-hop banter in a West African language, there is a solid thread weaving its way from those traditional griots to modern African-American rap artists and then back to Africa: it is story telling. Popular music is a *vox populi* because it is a medium for story-telling.

The conservation community – especially those of us who do this for a living as paid activists vs. those of us who “do” conservation (angling, paddling, hunting) as a pastime and passion — struggle with the art of the story. We pull up facts and figures, charts, trends, summations of EPA and DNR studies, and cite dense academic treatises to make our case. Good conservation policy has to be grounded in good science, but opposing sides can always find “their” science to build their case, and data sometimes just doesn't sing.

The argument over what science “proves” about buffers, for example, has gone on for years and is heating up again as the shoreland zoning rules go back out for public review in 2005. I know both sides will pull up “their” science on buffers to make the

case for shallower or deeper buffers. For me, I will seek out a lakeshore property owner on the Chippewa flowage in Sawyer County, who tells a delightful story of his conversion from treating his lakeshore property like a suburban lawn to recreating a natural buffer that mimics the surrounding flora and better protects the water quality of the lake he's invested in.

Some ice fishermen's stories, told on the black ice of a lake in the northern St. Paul suburbs on a full moon night in late December, had the same effect for me. They knew, from their experience fishing this lake for years, that there simply weren't the fish numbers they once knew in this lake. “I suppose it's a lot of things – DNR can't stock like they used to, and all these houses must have some effect.” No science, no politics, just observation, experience, and heartfelt opinion. No doubt there's science to back up their sentiments, but their sentiments, told in simple language and rooted in their passion for fishing, told so much more.

Conservationists need more of that, served up with our usual helpings of facts and legal arguments, as we make the case for keeping our air and water clean – for all that that is worth.

**Hydro-Man**

We welcome **Jim Fossum** to the River Alliance Dams Program team. Jim is a retired U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service fisheries biologist who will be our consultant on hydro dam relicensing agreements. Jim brings a wealth of knowledge about rivers, fish, the electric utility industry and hydro dam operations, and gives us a very strong presence in negotiations on fish passage, water quality and other issues stemming from settlement agreements with hydro operators. Jim replaces the indefatigable **Tom Theumler**, who served us well in the same capacity for many years.



*Denny Caneff*  
 Denny Caneff  
 Executive Director

River Alliance  
 Spring Confluence  
 march 19th, 2005

River Champs, Raffle,  
 Friends, Cocktails...  
 Are you ready?  
 Back page for details...



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## Even Sweeter

*Continues from cover...*

Though nearly 30 years of work have gone into West Branch Sugar River, the most recent progress was due to Targeted Runoff Management (TRM) grants. Organizations such as Badger Fly Fishers, Dane County Conservation League, Deer Creek Sports and Conservation Club, Madison Fishing Expo, Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited, the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service, Upper Sugar River Initiative, and Upper Sugar River Watershed Association, applied for and put TRM grants (administered by DNR) to work on the ground to help transform the West Branch.

It was the work in the 80's and 90's, through the PL 566 program, that laid the ground work for the TRM projects. "That work that happened years ago," said Marcia Hartwig, Dane County Land Conservation Department Public Information Officer, "made the watershed a good candidate for the [TRM] projects and were the final step to get the river removed from the 303(d) list."

The River Alliance helped launch and is a continuing supporter of the TRM Program. Grants are provided to control polluted runoff from both urban and rural sites. TRM grants fund the design and construction of BMPs, or Best Management Practices, which are guidelines to help landowners, loggers, and natural resource managers minimize nonpoint pollution.

Nearly \$1 million in TRM grants were used from 2000 through 2003 to remove debris, reshape and reseed the riverbank, and install over 1,000 fish habitat structures called LUNKERS (Little Under-

water Neighborhood Keepers Encompassing Rheotactic Salmonids) in a 12-mile stretch of the West Branch that now offers public access for anglers to fish for trout in the river.

"To show that a river can be restored; that it's the commitment of local folks, acting through local groups that can make these things happen," said Denny Caneff, executive director of the River Alliance. "To truly restore a river does cost a lot of money and effort, but it makes more sense to protect rivers up front, rather than damage and then have to repair them."

Executive director of Upper Sugar River Watershed Association (USRWA), Frank Fetter stated, "This represents the type of theoretical success that diverse coalitions can achieve. We are proud to have played a part in this success, and will continue to promote these types of coalitions [and] projects in the future."



*Above: Upper Sugar River Watershed between Belleville and Mt. Horeb, southwest of Madison.  
Right: Students and Instructors of USRWA-sponsored soil bioengineering course installing vegetative biogrid, Mt. Vernon Creek, April, 2003. Photo by F. Fetter.  
Left: A thing of beauty - the open stream.*



## Policy Program

# Nudging the Budget

Denny Caneff  
Executive Director

The biennial budget will consume the state's political oxygen for at least the next several months. Because Wisconsin faces at least a \$1 billion deficit, the governor instructed his agencies to submit lean budgets, forcing agencies to eliminate potentially thousands of jobs.

Meanwhile, the Legislature is licking its chops to outcut the governor and to maybe even to micromanage local governments through a "taxpayer bill of rights" that would cap property tax increases by municipalities and school districts.

***Starting this year, farms located near either outstanding or exceptional resource waters, or waters declared officially "impaired," are supposed to implement the new polluted runoff standards, but there's no funding.***

In other words, it isn't a great time to push for conservation, given a budget deficit and a legislative leadership that has been hostile to conservation, though many individual legislators get the connection between clean air and water, a good economy, and healthy and happy work force.

The River Alliance's main policy priority that has budget implications is **more funding for the "non-point" pollution program**. The state has in place very solid rules to control pollution from indirect, or "non-point," sources, such as farmland and construction sites. But the rules were passed in 2001 with the condition that farmers wouldn't have to implement any changes unless there was state funding to defray their costs. Starting this year, farms located near either outstanding or exceptional resource waters, or waters declared officially "impaired," are supposed to implement the new polluted runoff standards, but there's no funding.

The River Alliance is promoting the idea of converting small tax credits paid to farmers through the Farmland Preservation Program into funding for non-point pollution control. (This program is long past its useful public purpose.) Those credits amount to nearly \$10 million, which would not be enough to implement polluted runoff prevention practices on farms statewide. We propose that the funds be directed either to a region of the state where water quality is seriously threatened (e.g. Lake Michigan counties), or to what counties call their "priority

farms" – those doing the most environmental damage.

There are other policy matters we'll be tracking this legislative session that won't cost taxpayers any money, but could be very costly to natural resources if the Legislature does the wrong thing. The **Act 118 rules** go to the Legislature for approval in 2005; they are the byproduct of the infamous "Job Creation Act" that deregulated many land development and water use activities. Though we dislike the fact that Act 118 ever happened because it represents a big step backwards in conservation policy, the River Alliance and other conservation groups want the rules passed without tinkering by legislators. We'll all be watching.

And we want to see another **Wild River** created in Wisconsin. Folks in the northwestern part of the state are calling for declaring the Totogatic River as the state's fourth officially designated Wild River. Once they have the local support lined up that this designation needs to succeed, we will seek legislators to sponsor a bill.

### Dancing With DNR

The Legislature will not be, we are pleased to say, our only policy focus this year. There are a number of policy reforms we are advocating that require close-in work with the Dept. of Natural Resources. These projects stem from some of the recommendations made in the study we conducted last year of the Dept. of Natural Resources' management of Wisconsin's rivers, which we published as *Caught in A Cross Current*.

- developing a statewide citizen water monitoring program for rivers
- creating a "rivers partnership" that integrates river management and programming across the DNR, the River Alliance and the University of Wisconsin Extension
- revisiting the agency's water body use designation process

- continuing our push for classifying the "Healthy 100 Northern Rivers" as exceptional or outstanding resource waters. That petition is under review by DNR, and will eventually have to be approved the Legislature.

### And our New Dancer

We are pleased to announce that **Lori Grant** has joined the staff of the River Alliance as our Policy Program manager. Lori comes with over 20 years of experience in environmental planning with King County, Washington, where, among many other accomplishments, she collaborated with natural resource agencies, nonprofit conservation groups and industrial forest owners to develop big land conservation plans. She's a native Wisconsinite and a graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Lori will lead the projects that the River Alliance is partnering with DNR (listed above), and will work closely with our Local Groups Assistance Program so that grassroots river and watershed activists become actively engaged in our policy reform work.



*Lori Grant joins the River Alliance gang as Policy Program Manager. Welcome Lori!*

## Book Review

# Judith Perlman's Metamorphosis

"Environmental Butterfly" Saves Three Lake Michigan Properties Through Sophisticated Activism

Denny Caneff  
Executive Director

Ten years ago, after years of a gritty, high-octane urban existence in Chicago as an attorney for international investment banks, Judith Perlman permanently moved north, to the calm and quiet shores of Lake Michigan and to the seemingly bucolic village of Cleveland. She wanted to step off the professional treadmill, renew her spirit, and indulge in the calm and quiet and, for the first time in her life, surround herself with largely undeveloped natural beauty.

### No Calm, All Storm

The calm didn't last long, as the storm of development on the lakeshore immediately got Judith's attention: an upscale housing and condominium development was proposed for the mouth of storied Fischer Creek, in the town of Centerville just north of the village, almost the same week she permanently decamped to Cleveland, about 10 years ago.

An intelligent woman with a well developed jaundiced eye from dealing with investment bankers, Judith immediately saw problems with the proposed development. Her new surroundings of open land and clean water, her Chicago upbringing, and her observation that local people often took these natural surroundings for granted, galvanized her activism and ultimately led her to lead or assist in three successful land preservation projects on the Lake Michigan shoreline. The others were Point Creek, two miles north of Fischer Creek, whose landowner raised alarms for local preservationists when he proposed constructing a road to accommodate a subdivision on this natural gem; and "Hika Conservancy," where undeveloped land next to a village park on the lake shore was slated for condo development.

The details of those battles, and the lessons she and her partners learned along the way, are detailed in Judith's new book, *Citizen's Primer for Conservation Activism: How to Fight Development in Your Community* (University of Texas Press, 2004).

"I moved to Wisconsin to reduce stress, not take on more by being an activist," Judith says. "I was never an environmentalist. Maybe you could call me an environmental butterfly that emerged from an ugly Chicago beetle," she laughs.

The struggles to save Point Creek and Fischer Creek transcended land preservation. "They were as much about democracy and economics – how local government works," she says, and how the economics of development projects put money before conservation.

Judith brought her considerable talents, well honed in the investment banking field, of negotiating, interpreting rules and legal documents, seeing through the theatrics to the true intentions of local officials and developers, and perhaps most useful: a well-tuned bullshit filter that served her and her fellow preservationists well. In a chapter in her book entitled "Opposing the Developer," she advises citizen activists to see through the spin, the euphemism and the quick but insincere appropriation of conservation language by developers as they try to get their development approved.

Once the Fischer Creek developer started waxing "green," Judith knew better: "He talked about 'open space and green space,' which were completely absent from his initial presentations, but of course he was talking about lawns." She boils developers' tactics down succinctly: Bluster (advising readers to not "be fooled or intimidated" by "confidence or aggression"); bully (a tactic that in the fight for Fischer Creek backfired on the developer); and bluff (a common tactic among developers that may require "someone on your team that plays poker" to rebuff the bluffs.)

### From Culture Shock to Divine Timing

Just how well does a well-educated, sophisticated, slightly cynical Jewish woman from Chicago do in the buttoned-down, polite-on-the-surface, know-only-who-you-need-to-know culture of Germanic rural eastern Wisconsin?

Judith says people eventually accepted her because of her knowledge of these processes and their role-players, and her willingness to get her hands dirty in the fight. In fact, "People accepted me readily because for me, there was even less at stake



A portrait of the artist at home. Perlman with her book, *Citizen's Primer for Conservation Activism*.  
Photo by Perlman

personally. It was much harder for lifetime residents here. I was not opposing people I had gone to church with since I was child or lived next to for 30 years. It was horrible for people whose entire lives were lived in that community to see it rent asunder over these proposals," Judith recalls. "They got their houses tagged with graffiti.

"For me, these events [coinciding with my move to Cleveland] was divine timing. It enabled me to meet like-minded people whom it might have taken years to meet otherwise," she says.

In the end, the citizen activists' effort to keep a condominium project out of Fischer Creek prevailed. They defeated a proposal to annex the land from its location in the town of Centerville to the village of Cleveland, and then raised \$1.3 million of state and local funds to purchase the site as a state conservation area.

*Continues on page 14...*

## Dams Program

# Rivers on the Run

Helen Sarakinos  
Dams Program Manager

With three restoration projects in progress and a few more exciting projects in the works for the River Alliance through our Lake Michigan Dam Prioritization, it's shaping up to be an auspicious start for free-flowing rivers in Wisconsin in 2005!

### Pike's Peaking

For the Pike River in Kenosha County, 2004 went out with a bang – literally. The Kenosha Country Club Dam was demolished in December 2004, opening up over 24 miles of habitat in the Pike River watershed for river species and fish moving upstream from Lake Michigan. This four-foot high dam, used for irrigating the golf course, will be replaced by a riffle-step pool complex that will allow for fish to pass freely while still allowing for irrigation of the fairways.

The Pike River supports strong annual runs of high-profile sportfish including rainbow trout, brown trout and Chinook and Coho salmon. River restoration was initiated by the US Fish and Wildlife Service in partnership with Kenosha Country Club, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), Kenosha Land Conservation Department and Root-Pike WIN. The estimated budget for the entire project, which included demolishing the dam, creating a riffle-pool complex and restoring 400 feet of upstream bank, was \$125,000.

### Gee, It's the Genesee

Another dam removal is imminent in the Illinois Fox River Watershed, this one to restore a Class 1 brook trout stream. The Genesee Roller Mill Dam is located on Genesee Creek, a designated Exceptional Resource Water boasting high aquatic biodiversity and excellent water quality and one of the last streams in Waukesha County that supports naturally reproducing brook and brown trout. The full scope of the project includes dam removal, instream habitat restoration and restoration of native wetland and riparian habitat in the river corridor. The dam, located on property owned by Carroll College, was in disrepair, highly sedimented in, and was raising the water temperature and blocking sediment. Restoration is slated to begin in Winter 2004-2005. The project is the result of a partnership between WDNR, Carroll College, Trout Unlimited – Southeast Chapter, the

Wisconsin Wetlands Association, Cedarburg Science, Waukesha Land Conservancy and the Wisconsin Waterfowl Association.

### Planing Mill and Millhome

Also in the works for 2005 is the planned removal of one remnant dam structure in the City of Waupaca. City administrators and the WDNR have been working together to remove the remains of the Planing Mill Dam on the Waupaca River. The proposed project will also include seeding and stabilizing the banks and is expected to benefit fish species blocked by the structures, as well as eliminate a public safety hazard.

As an outcome of the Dam Prioritization project that the River Alliance has been spearheading in the Lake Michigan basin, a few more rivers are going to flow freely over the next couple of years. One of these is Millhome Creek in Manitowoc County. We are partnering with the WDNR and Sheboygan County Parks Department to remove remnants of four dams and a hatchery raceway, and restore instream habitat of the headwaters and spring pond of Class I brook trout stream. Millhome Creek is a tributary of the Sheboygan River. Stay tuned for future issues of *Wisconsin Rivers* for updates on progress of this and other restoration projects in the works.



Above: Millhome Creek in Manitowoc County. River Alliance of Wisconsin is partnering with the WDNR and Sheboygan County Parks Department to remove remnants of four dams and a hatchery raceway.



Above top: Sampling fish at the Kenosha Country Club Dam site. Above: Pike River in Kenosha County supports annual runs of high profile sportfish.



# RIVER ALLIANCE of Wisconsin

## 2004 Annual Report

Dear friends of Wisconsin's waters:

Water is a powerful thing. It is a paradoxical element of nature – so essential to life, yet sometimes an agent of violent destruction. Early in 2005, the world is still grieving the loss and devastation resulting from the December 26 tsunami. And true to its dual nature, water in the form of a natural disaster like this is bringing nations and people together to provide help for the victims.

Last November in this country, we saw another massive wave of energy rise around the 2004 Presidential election. While the continued reign of President Bush does not bode well for the environment in most circles, the G.W. presidency arguably has done more to stimulate liberal and progressive organizing than any cause in nearly 30 years. According an article in the January/February 2005 issue of the *Utne Reader*, voter mobilization efforts turned out between 5 million and 7 million new and infrequent voters on Election Day. This political and community infrastructure remains, and will be a critical resource in the next four years at the national, state, and local levels.

While I do not agree that the times we live in are inherently less safe, I do believe we live in a world that is more volatile. In this type of environment, the River Alliance staff and Board of Directors are committed to three things. The first two are ones you are familiar with. The third is one that may seem intuitively obvious, but it bears specific mention because it was a high priority for Board leadership in 2004.

1. We are committed to being the state-wide voice for Wisconsin's rivers – whether supporting local river advocates or walking the halls of the state legislature.

2. We are committed to being a place where the force of your voices comes together, creating a greater force than any of us can muster alone.

3. We are committed to ensuring the resilience and sustainability of this organiza-

tion, so that it continues to serve what we think is a very vital function and what we hope continues to be an important part of your commitment to the rivers and waters of the state.

The River Alliance Board and staff have done a number of key things to make sure we're around for at least several more decades to come, of which I'd like to highlight three. These actions may not raise the kinds of cheers that breaching a dam or enacting groundwater legislation do, but I believe they will lead to a more effective river advocacy organization.

1. We are committed to more local network-building events. We have heard you say how valuable it is for river lovers and activists to meet, exchange ideas, and enjoy each other's company. So in addition to continuing our trainings for local watershed advocacy groups, the River Alliance, with the generous help of Board members and friends, hosted three house parties across the state in 2004.

2. We have developed a new process for recruiting board members. We developed a list of organizational needs, examined how our current Board meets those needs, and searched for new Board members to fill the gaps. This process ensures that we have the geographic representation, networking contacts, and areas of expertise to run the organization well.

3. We have renewed our commitment to diversifying our fundraising strategies. Accord-

*Continues next page...*

### INCOME

Grants	\$197,729.00
Membership	\$102,379.00
Special Event Income	\$21,145.00
In-kind Contributions	\$17,225.00
Sales	\$3,936.00
Interest & Dividends	\$603.00
Previously Received Grants	\$413,683.00

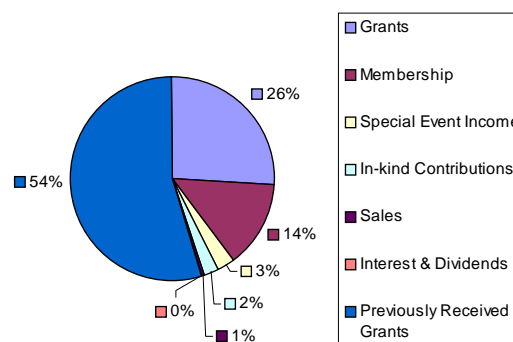
**Total Income** **\$756,700.00**

### EXPENSES

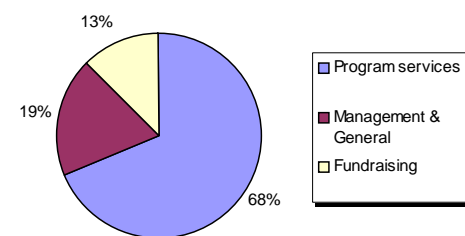
Salaries, Wages & Benefits	\$373,254.00
Fiscal sponsorship grant payout	\$40,101.00
Contracts Payments	\$41,926.00
Professional fees	\$21,360.00
Printing & Postage	\$56,587.00
Local Organizing	\$37,464.00
Special Events	\$12,819.00
Office Equipment	\$10,967.00
Supplies	\$5,501.00
Phone & Internet	\$15,897.00
Rent	\$18,198.00
Travel	\$14,913.00
Depreciation	\$8,522.00
Dues and Subscriptions	\$2,600.00
Sales	\$1,151.00
Insurance	\$781.00
Advertising	\$5,000.00
Other	\$10,089.00

**Total Expenses** **\$677,130.00**

INCOME DISTRIBUTION 2004



EXPENSES DISTRIBUTION 2004

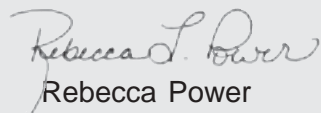


## Dear Friends

*Continues from previous page...*

ing to the Institute for Conservation Leadership, in 2003, foundations which fund environmental nonprofits significantly reduced giving compared to 2002 levels. This means we need to be prepared rely on individual giving more than ever before. The River Alliance Board and staff worked together in 2004 to develop new fundraising strategies and a stronger organizational network for individual giving. We will continue this process in 2005. In addition to providing for the long-term security of the River Alliance, one of our programmatic goals for this increased funding is to provide ongoing support for a staff position based in the northern part of the state.

Thank you for all you have done for Wisconsin's rivers and the River Alliance in 2004. In 2005, I invite you to find the energy inherent in water, and use it. Whether it be donating to tsunami victims in Sri Lanka, running a Wolf River rapid, supporting the revitalization of an urban river in your community, or allowing the sound of your favorite river to wash over you and renew your tired soul – let the water move and sustain you as you serve the families, friends and communities that rely on you for so much. The Board and staff of the River Alliance have taken this advice to heart for over ten years. We hope that we have served you well, and welcome your continued support in 2005.



Rebecca Power  
Board Chair

### \$1,000

Jake and Kris Barnes  
Dr. Barry E. Booth  
Dale Druckrey  
W. Jon Fahrner  
Glenn Reinl and  
Sara Krebsbach

### \$500 – \$999

First Unitarian Society  
Brad and Barbara Glass  
Rob Hagge  
Nathan S Heffernan  
Joseph Heitz and  
Jennifer Engstad-Heitz  
Richard Kark, MD  
Walter and Stacey Meanwell  
David and Mary Miller  
Chuck Patrick

### \$250 – \$499

American Transmission  
Company  
Joe Bachman  
Bill Berry  
Thomas J Bliffert  
Janet and Crandell Bliss  
Stephen Born  
Sherrin Clark  
Froehle Government  
Relations  
Jane Froehle  
Gary and Pam Gates  
Joe and Anne Hennessy  
Susie and Greggar Isaksen  
Stephen L. Kozerowitz  
Stephanie Lindloff  
Warren Loveland  
Lawrence Papham  
Chuck Poat  
Tom Richardson and  
Barbara Eychaner  
John Roberts and  
Nancy Osterberg  
Dan Rogalla  
George and Jeanette Rogers

Sauk Prairie  
River Projects Association  
James P Schuh  
JoEllyn and Dean Schultz  
Frank E. Smith  
Gail and William Van Haren  
Wendy Watson  
Willy Street Co-op  
Worth Manufacturing Co.  
Zeppos and Associates Inc.

### \$100 – \$249

Edward Ahrens and  
Mary Clare Murphy  
Albany International  
Appleton Wire Division  
Todd Ambs  
Tony Andersen  
Dennis and  
Kathleen Anderson  
Heidi and John Anderson  
Jerry Anderson and  
Holly Jorgenson  
Norman C. Anderson  
Arcola Mills  
Historic Foundation  
Sheridan and Ione Backus  
Badger Fly Fishers  
Badger State Boating Society  
Ann Bardeen-Henschel, M.D.  
Robert Bechard  
David and Natalie Beckwith  
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Doug and Patti Behrens  
Bellevue Cat Clinic  
Nadine Bergstrom  
William and Ann Beverly  
Eugene Bilich  
Bob Blackburn  
Roz K Boutwell  
John Brander  
Samuel Brandt and  
Nancy Burke-Brandt  
Muriel Brauer  
Steven Brezinski  
John M Thompson and

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## Board of Directors

# River Alliance Welcomes Five New Board Members

**Douglas Cox** works for the Menominee Indian Tribe in the Environmental Services Department as Environmental Specialist where his duties include water quality management, environmental protection, securing and managing grants for the tribe in environmental field, and working with federal/state agencies and other tribal departments. He has been employed by the Tribe since 1992.

A hunter, fisher, hiker and Packer fan, Doug is also on the Menominee Tribal Enterprises Board of Directors, serves as Chairman of the Menominee Conservation Commission, and is the Menominee County Delegate of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress.

Doug is a 1979 graduate from Menominee Indian High School and attended Rhinelander Nicolet Technical College, receiving a diploma in Timber Production management and a certificate of natural resource management. In 1989 Doug attended Fox Valley Technical College, receiving an Associate Degree in natural resource management.

**Lindsay Wood Davis** is a radio broadcaster by occupation and a paddler by avocation. Lindsay is the Vice President and Market Manager for Entercom Radio in Madison. He and his wife (and co-conspirator) Amanda live in Monona, spending as much time as possible on the water, because “God does not subtract from your allotted time on Earth that which you spend with a paddle in your hand.”

**Fred Madison** is a professor of soil science at the UW-Madison, where his time is split between the Soil Science Department and the Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey. Over the years Fred has worked on the impacts of agriculture on surface and groundwater quality; his favorite topic has been manure and how it is managed and handled. Recently, he has been involved in a national sustainable agriculture program providing grant funds to help reduce chemical inputs and to lessen the impacts of agriculture on the environment.

Currently, he is co-director of the Discovery Farms program, which is designed to evaluate the impacts of typical Wisconsin farming systems on surface and groundwater quality and to work with farm families to reduce those impacts. To date, the program has installed water monitoring equipment on six farms in different soil, physiographic and hydrogeologic settings around the state.

In another life, Fred served as a legislative assistant to US Senator Gaylord Nelson. With Nelson he worked on the drafting and passage of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Of the original seven rivers in the national system, three (the Wolf, the Namekagon and the St. Croix) were in Wisconsin. Not bad for a couple of kids from Wisconsin!

**Jamee Peters** is owner of Bear Paw Outdoor Adventure Resort, a resort and paddling school located in the upper Wolf River region. The business focuses on offering non-motorized activities, such as canoeing and kayaking, mountain biking, flyfishing, Nordic skiing and snowshoeing. She has been a life-long resident of the Wolf River area at Langlade, and has worked on the river as a canoe and kayak instructor for over 25 years.

Jamee enjoys many river-related activities, as well as an intrinsic love for the region, coming from a long family history on the Wolf River. She has had a life-long interest in the outdoors and enjoys helping others experience the outdoors in a relaxed atmosphere.

**Dave Worth** is president and CEO of the Worth Company, a Stevens Point manufacturer of fishing lure components, related hardware and outdoor accessories distributed nationally and to about 40 countries. The company has about 80 employees. He was born and raised in Stevens Point, and graduated from UW Stevens Point in 1974 with a bachelors degree in communication.

Dave has served several foundations and organizations, including the Stevens Point Area Foundation, St. Michaels Hospital, the United Way of Portage County, and the Central Wisconsin Symphony Orchestra, among many others. He is a member of the International Trade Board of the American Sportfishing Association.

Dave enjoys computer science, a variety of music, skiing, snow-shoeing, bicycling, hiking, fishing, sports cars, and holds a private pilot license. He toured with the UWSP jazz band and played trumpet for many years with the Stevens Point City Band and Central Wisconsin Symphony Orchestra. Dave is married and has two sons.

**We bid farewell to five people who have served as members of our Board of Directors admirably, patiently and generously over many years. We wish you all the best.**

**Joe Aliota** kept tabs on our books in the many years he served as treasurer. During Joe's tenure, we upgraded our bookkeeping and financial systems and he helped translate the complexities of annual audits for board and staff.

**Scott Froehlke** was our Rock-of-Gibraltar president of the board during our executive director transition and search in 2003. Ever the political animal, he constantly had his radar on for useful political intelligence. Scott provided the continuity over the years as the River Alliance pushed for groundwater protection legislation. We've been clear with him that he may be off the letterhead, but that doesn't mean we won't keep him busy.

Though his and his wife's health prevented **Nathan Heffernan** from participating in a lot of River Alliance meetings and events, he provided inspiration and financial support that we very much appreciated.

**Susi Isaksen** has been our “voice from the North” during her tenure on the board. Susi was the principal architect of our plan to open an office in Northern Wisconsin and, as a writer, had a keen eye for improving our communications.

**George Rock** was our “rock” in the Wolf River and other issues that affect northeastern Wisconsin. We'll miss George's plain-spoken and heartfelt “take” on river issues.

## Acting Locally

# Shelter from the Storm Water

## Friends of Starkweather Creek Adopt Urban Stream

Lisa Goodman  
Local Groups Northern Region

After weathering nearly a century of adversity, Starkweather Creek's fortune is changing, thanks to its friends.

### A Watershed-wide Perspective

The DNR's 1998 Lower Rock River Basin Water Quality Management Plan paints a sad picture of the 24 square mile Starkweather Creek watershed, which drains to Lake Monona in Madison:

The majority of wetlands in the watershed have been drained or filled for urban development. The creek has been extensively channelized and water quality... is very poor. The lower reach... is very turbid and essentially a stormwater channel for the east side of Madison. The stream bottom and shoreline are choked with sediment and debris... Up to the early '70s, (it) received intensive point source discharges of many different toxic substances.

Since 2002, however, public perception of the Creek has been improving, as has funding for Creek restoration, thanks to the Friends of Starkweather Creek (FSC).

When asked why he is involved with FSC, board member Bret Hagemeyer says he really enjoys Madison's lakes. In season, Hagemeyer may be seen in waders, chest deep in Lake Monona, flyfishing for panfish. "It doesn't take a rocket scientist to know that what goes into the Creek affects Lake Monona," he says. Like Hagemeyer, board member Betty Chewning was drawn to FSC out of concerns for Lake Monona.

### Expertise and Passion

Chewning credits Hagemeyer for helping convene the 2002 meeting that led to the formation of Friends of Starkweather Creek. That first meeting brought together people with a wealth of expertise in a variety of fields. Chewning says their expertise and passion and being able to work well together have been a recipe for success.

"Our group is as much about the community as the Creek," says board member Scott Taylor. "This work benefits not only the Creek and Lake Monona,

but also expands opportunities of neighborhood residents and kids to be able to appreciate a natural ecosystem in their very midst."

### Strong Partnerships

FSC members praise city council and county board members and City of Madison staff for their support of the Starkweather watershed initiative.

FSC's strong relationship with the City pays off in many ways. The Creek looms large on the City's

***"I've watched them grow in a few years from a small band on an apparently quixotic mission to care about a hopeless little drainage channel into an influential voice in East Side Madison planning."***

***-Lou Host-Jablonski, architect and FSC member.***

radar in ways it never did before. City engineering staff sees the Creek as a priority and actively seeks funding to support future improvements. FSC holds regular quarterly meetings with city staff to discuss progress. That way, says co-chair Ann Dansart, FSC keeps current, and stays in close contact with the city.

Thanks to FSC, the Madison city budget allocates \$180,000 for the current year for Starkweather Creek improvements.

Michael Forster Rothbart observes that amount may not seem significant, but FSC's hope is to see such funding each year for the coming decade. "Having managed to obtain budget dollars this once, we can't rest on our laurels." He anticipates ongoing work with new elected officials to keep the Creek a priority. FSC co-chair John Steines notes there are also hopes of additional future funding in conjunction with adjacent projects, including road reconstruction.

During 2004, FSC co-sponsored, with City parks and engineering staff and Olbrich Botanical Gardens, two community visioning workshops for the Starkweather Creek watershed. More than 125 people attended.

*In prosperity our friends know us;  
in adversity, we know our friends.*

-John Churton Collins

In 2005, new interpretive signs at Olbrich will form the framework for a self-guided walking tour which will feature examples of rain gardens, native plants and streambank reconstruction.

FSC credits the River Alliance for assistance in starting up and becoming more sustainable. "River Alliance Local Group Assistance Program Manager Diana Toledo was really key in the very beginning. She helped us secure DNR River Protection Grant funding," said Taylor. "If not for her we probably would not have applied." Those early funds helped FSC with organizational development and outreach efforts.

FSC also participated in a Benchmarking workshop. "Benchmarking was really important. Through it we realized the need to involve more people in the group. Our priorities became much clearer. That really contributed to the survival and growth of FSC, in a very concrete way," says Chewning. Says Dansart, "Benchmarking is definitely helping us get more organized internally."

*Continues next page...*



*Solstice celebrations are great community builders. Friends of Starkweather Creek members.*

*Continues from previous page...*

### A Living Classroom

UW-Madison engineering professor Ken Potter is an advisor for the Water Resources Management Practicum course, where graduate students focus on “real world” projects. Potter, his colleagues and FSC members have decided the Starkweather Creek watershed will be the focus of the students’ attention in 2005. Among other topics, Potter anticipates their studies will focus on hydrology, soils and exotic species assessments, and public education and outreach efforts.

### Good Practices, Healthy Creek

Rothbart says, “Now is a critical time for the Creek, because development is happening at breakneck speed. Just last night, the Plan Commission approved a 305-unit apartment (in the watershed). Every development, every increase in impermeable surface obviously has an impact on the Creek.”

Taylor explains how FSC works with developers to advocate for “the best stormwater treatment we can get,” including practices such as rain gardens, wide buffers and naturally vegetated swales. He stresses learning about projects and engaging early in dialogue with the alderperson, developer and neighborhood association. “Learning the political and social landscape in the watershed has been crucial.” He is modest. “We’re trying to get as much done as can reasonably be asked for. We decide what we’d like to see prioritized in a development and we send a letter to the developer, and attend Planning Commission meetings. This is still a learning process for us.” He is also diplomatic. “We could make demands (but) the engineers are reasonable people. They all care. We haven’t met any one we’ve felt was callous.” So far, FSC has succeeded in modifying a couple of development projects.

When asked about challenges they face, Dansart acknowledges their accomplishments and observes, “We’re still so young that we’re still working to establish our internal organization.” And, reflecting the times, Dansart notes their annual winter and summer solstice celebrations are great community builders, but FSC spends several hundred dollars per event for insurance and permits. These costs make for an uncertain future for the solstice celebrations.

*To get involved: Attend a board meeting or volunteer for the spring 2005 clean-up.*

*For more information, contact Ann Dansart 608-228-1516 or email: [adansart@charter.net](mailto:adansart@charter.net).*

*On the web at: [www.starkweatherfriends.org](http://www.starkweatherfriends.org).*



*Starkweather Creek provides a riparian sanctuary in the heart of an urban landscape. Photo: FSC.*

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## Local Groups

# Workshops and Grant Goodies

Lisa Goodman  
Local Groups Assistance - Northern Region

### DNR River Protection Grant Program - Begin Your Application Today!

Considering applying for a River Grant this year? The deadline is May 1, so begin writing your application today. This DNR-administered grant program supports local river conservation efforts through two types of grants: River Planning Grants, for organizational development or information and education for river and watershed groups (up to \$10,000 per grant). River Management Grants provide assistance for purchase of land or easements, development of local ordinances, and habitat restoration activities (up to \$50,000 per grant).

Pick up the phone and introduce yourself to your DNR regional grant specialist. River Alliance Local Groups Program staff are also available to help simplify the application process, so give us a call.

\* Remember, if your organization has completed a Benchmarking workshop, or another organizational assessment, it can help boost your River Grant ranking score\*

For information about DNR River Grants and staff contact information, visit: <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/fhp/rivers/index.htm>

### Schedule a 2005 River Alliance Workshop for Your Group

The year is young but we are already scheduling workshops for 2005. If you have been considering professional development for your board, this is a great time to schedule a workshop.

Here is what participants have to say about their River Alliance Benchmarking experience.

“The River Alliance benchmarking workshop helped our organization direct our energy on the key issues facing us. Each participant had specific tasks assigned and their own task sheet, which made implementing our goals much more effective. The focused we gained during the workshop was continued as we implemented our plans. We have completed all of our benchmarking goals and have moved on to a new set of goals that came from the original priorities set in the workshop.”

“The (Benchmarking) workshop was probably the most important event of the year for us...We have a great list of accomplishments –but those were based on immediate needs, putting out fires. Now we are focusing on the bigger picture and long term sustainability. We’re looking ahead at what we want to be rather than being reactive.”

View the brochure, Workshops for River and Watershed Organizations at: [http://www.wisconsinrivers.org/prog\\_local.html](http://www.wisconsinrivers.org/prog_local.html).

For more information about the Local Groups program and our workshops, contact Diana Toledo: [diana@wisconsinrivers.org](mailto:diana@wisconsinrivers.org), (608) 257-2424 (x113).

### Strengthen Your Group with River Links Resources

Looking for more detailed information about fundraising, board structure, money management, working with volunteers, conservation topics and more? We are pleased to announce the updated and expanded version of River Links. Thanks to support from the Department of Natural Resources, the Department of Public Instruction and Wisconsin’s Water Library, new materials are available to you via interlibrary loan.

You can request materials via inter-library loan. Check out the list of available items in our updated River Links brochure, posted at [www.wisconsinrivers.org/LocalGroups/lib.brochure.pdf](http://www.wisconsinrivers.org/LocalGroups/lib.brochure.pdf)

View River Links postings at the Wisconsin Water Library web site, [http://www.aqua.wisc.edu/waterlibrary/books\\_orgs.asp](http://www.aqua.wisc.edu/waterlibrary/books_orgs.asp)

**Check out other River Alliance resources and publications**, including the Watershed Advocate Toolkit, and the Local Groups Directory at <http://www.wisconsinrivers.org>, click on Local Groups, and Local Group Support.

If you are looking for something, but don’t see it on our web site, give us a call, we’ll be glad to help.

## Metamorphosis

*Continues from page 3*

### If You Win One, They Will Find You Again

One victorious battle is enough, thought Judith at the end of 1995 – time to settle down and truly enjoy what she moved there for.

Except events, and people whom she’d met in the fight to save Fischer Creek, intervened. This time it was Point Creek, a 39-acre parcel on the Lake Michigan bluff, also slated for housing development. The owner, however, was willing to sell the land to conservationists, if they could meet the exorbitant \$1.9 million asking price. This time Judith signed on with Point Creek preservationists as a paid activist, consulting with the Sheboygan Area Land Conservancy to raise the money through grants and donations. Again the local activists succeeded, and the Point Creek State Natural Area is now there for all Wisconsin residents to enjoy.

The value of Perlman’s *Citizen’s Primer*, though created from the grist of three land use struggles in very close proximity in eastern Wisconsin, transcends time and place. Very much a practical “how-to” manual, Judith will inspire land use activists with her sharply honed barbs, to wit: “After a career in male-dominated and macho options and futures markets, I had reached my limit for cocky, young white guys playing Master of the Universe,” she writes, in reference to confronting developers and their cast of supporting lawyers and apologists. And speaking of her motivation, “Sometimes, something is just stupid enough, you have to stop it.”

On a more pragmatic level, she poses nearly 50 questions for activists to ask about any development project, from traffic and sanitary sewer impacts to property tax assessments.

But the best lesson Judith Perlman may offer us with her story told through *Citizen’s Primer* is this: If we are frustrated with national politics, about which we can feel helpless, get active locally, “because there’s so much to do locally. Let’s put to use in our communities the very democratic rights we are trying to export to other countries. If River Alliance members want to do something for rivers, they should start locally.”

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**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.*

- Large Portfolio Case
- Publication Design
  - Web Design
- General Volunteer Help
- Computer Monitors -Flat Screen
  - LCD Projector
  - Laptops
  - Office Supplies

**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 in 2004. We regret we cannot list everyone.

# Spring Confluence

Save the Date! March 19th, 2005, 7-9:30 p.m.

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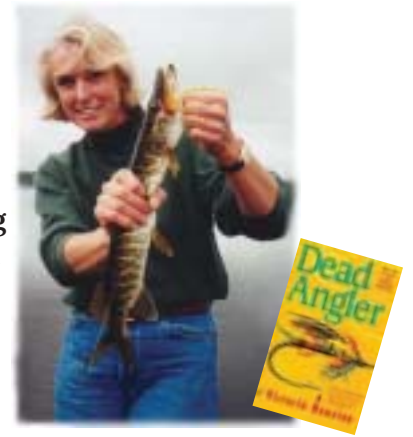


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