



The River Alliance of Wisconsin
10th Anniversary

Wisconsin Rivers

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1993 "A healthy river is the heart of a healthy community" 2003

It's Election Season!

Eight Easy Ways to Educate Yourself

Kerry Schumann

Director, Wisconsin Conservation Power Project

For most of us, November, 2004 elections seem a long way off. After all, it's about 425 days until we'll decide our country's next President, our members of Congress and state and local leaders.

While that seems like a long time to most of us, to the people running political campaigns and to the candidates, this is election season.

As we head into the 2004 elections, the nation's eyes are on Wisconsin. Republican and Democrats alike consider Wisconsin one of a few key states that will determine who is our next President. People around the country are watching to see who will run against Wisconsin Senator Russ Feingold, and what effect the outcome of that race will have on the U.S. Senate. And, at the state level, people are wondering how the make-up of the legislature will affect state policy-making.

But what does that really mean to us, as Wisconsin citizens, as Wisconsin voters and as voters who care about Wisconsin's natural resources?

On the one hand, it means that we will soon be inundated with campaigning from candidates, from organizations, from celebrities and others. It means we will soon be flooded with thirty-second sound bites – TV ads, flyers, radio spots.

For many voters, these short sound bites and glimpses of candidates leave us wondering what the candidates really think about the issues that we care about. Sometimes the tone of elections can actually alienate voters rather than encouraging them to go to the polls.

Election continues on page 6...



Swans on the Kinnickinnic River, featured on page 5. Photo: Jens Gunelson

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Stream of Thought

Denny Caneff
Executive Director

Two recent paddling experiences convinced me of the value and purpose of an organization like the River Alliance, and how good it will be for me to be associated with it.

My daughter, her friend and I headed out across Madison's Lake Mendota in three kayaks and into the sunset of a steamy late August night. (I know, Lake Mendota is no river, but technically it is a widening of the Yahara River!) There was enough wind to make the water choppy but not chancy, and the few motorboats sharing the lake with us were distant moving dots. (We were well lit, but with nighttime kayaking, there is a thin line between thrilling and foolish.)

It was glorious to enjoy that water the way we did, gliding atop the choppy waves under the glow of Mars in the southern sky and the dome of the Capitol over our shoulders. Seeing the Capitol from that perspective got me to think about the impressive policy work of the River Alliance. Even though the view of the Capitol from the water is a bit more inviting than the view you get when haggling with legislators over land and water policy, I look forward to working with River Alliance members, our board members and fellow conservationists in the years ahead to make land and water policies even friendlier to the state's flowing waters.

Seeing the Capitol at night from the perspective of a kayak on Lake Mendota had me wondering how much more impact we might have if we got policy-makers actually out on some flowing waters, with fly rod or paddle in hand, to "immerse" themselves in a river or stream that you have worked hard with the River Alliance to protect. Imagine getting the Joint Finance Committee, or the Natural Resources Board, in canoes or bass boats to ply a Wisconsin River with conservationists, even if for an hour. I won't promise to deliver that, but you can be assured that the River Alliance will continue to amplify and echo your voices in the halls of policy while I am executive director.

The other paddling experience re-introduced me to canoeing and, best of all, introduced me to the River Alliance staff and to board member Susie Isaksen. Last month, the staff retreated to a roomy and rustic lodge owned by Susie's family along the shores of the Brule River to do some brainstorming and planning. Our reward to ourselves for filling a few flip chart pages with

100 good ideas was a paddle on the Brule, which was plenty lively. The low water level caused some delightful boulder-dodging, made all the easier for fellow RAW staffer Rich Bogovich and me because we got to follow Susie's skillful navigation of a waterway she clearly knows and dearly loves.

Once I started kayaking a few years ago, I have hardly looked back at the canoe, a boat in which I've spent a lot of water time. But I realized that kayaking rocky rivers had made me almost lazy about navigating them. Kayaks are easier to maneuver than canoes, and it took me a while to get my canoe legs back. But getting to know a canoe again didn't keep me from relishing my first-ever run on that wonderful waterway. The stands of noble white pine, kingfishers darting along the riverbank, a group of kids wading and struggling against the current are vivid Brule River images that nicely colored my unofficial first day on the job at the River Alliance.

I hope that getting back into managing a small nonprofit organization will be like getting back in a canoe for me – it's been a while, but it will all come back. The "boulders" in the way of a nonprofit such as RAW are considerable: staying relevant in constantly changing times and battling the two-steps-forward-one-step-back phenomenon that typifies conservation policy advocacy. The tug-and-pull of the many currents a nonprofit finds itself in — keeping money coming in the door so that we can be both relevant and sustainable, making sure those of us on the RAW payroll and committed to this cause also live a balanced life – will be as constant a challenge as the Brule offers those who paddle it.

Those challenges will be as daunting, and as thrilling, as that run on the Brule. I'm lucky to have the incredibly capable crew of the River Alliance staff along with me, and I'm pleased to be working for you all – the members and friends of the River Alliance. I'm grateful for the watery ties that bind us all in this effort —the great gift of Wisconsin's flowing waters.

See you in the stream!



Denny Caneff
Executive Director



River Alliance staff at their 2003 Staff Retreat on the Brule River in northwestern Wisconsin. See more of our summertime activities on the back page.
Photo: Susie Isaksen

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Denny Caneff

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Government, Currently

Rich Bogovich
Policy Manager

As Wisconsin's summer heated up, so did the River Alliance's governmental activity. Though the River Alliance fully intends to maintain its tradition of forward-thinking policy initiatives, in recent months the current political climate has resulted in a dire need to defend environmental policies and certain river corridors from intense attacks.

We encourage you to contact your elected representatives, or the appropriate agency staff on any of the following issues. Let us know so we can provide you additional background and contact information.

State-Designated "Wild Rivers" Rule

The Legislature's Joint Committee for the Review of Administrative Rules (JCRAR) held a hearing on NR 302, a longstanding rule that directs how the DNR will manage Wisconsin's three state-designated "wild rivers." The hearing was held in response to pressure from ATV enthusiasts, who want the state government to transform an old railroad bridge into an ATV bridge, crossing the spectacular Pine River a mile to the east of the existing Highway 139 bridge and compromising its wild nature. The River Alliance testified at the hearing in defense of wild rivers, insisting that under NR 302 the DNR has a duty to remove the old train bridge and restore that segment to its natural state.

Thirty-eight years ago, the Pine, Popple and Pike rivers (in Florence and Marinette Counties) were the only three rivers to receive this special status by the Legislature, in recognition of their rarity, value, and the need to protect their pristine nature. Given tourism's growing importance to the economy of northern Wisconsin, protecting these unique waters is all the more critical.

Though the DNR rule has been in place for about a quarter of a century, a majority of the members of JCRAR voted to temporarily suspend part of it. The effect this temporary suspension is still unclear, in part because the only way to make the suspension permanent is for JCRAR to pass corrective legislation in both houses of the legislature in the next few months.

Preserving the Federal Clean Water Act and Public Trust Doctrine

The River Alliance, joined by other environmental and conservation organizations, has been speaking with representatives of Wisconsin's congressional delegation regarding the Bush administration's attempts to roll back the Clean Water Act by redefining the particular

waters that the Act protects. We are asking representatives to sign a letter asking the administration to discontinue these attempted rollbacks, which would open up many seasonal streams and headwater areas in Wisconsin to unregulated pollution discharges. The representatives are also being asked to cosponsor a bill that would block that change and other rollbacks, the Senate version of which is sponsored by Sen. Russ Feingold.

On a related note, in the State Assembly, Rep. Scott Gunderson is circulating a bill draft that would narrow the definition of "navigable waters", thus removing many headwater areas from public ownership and reducing the protection they are afforded by the Public Trust Doctrine. The draft would establish that a stream or lake is "navigable" only if during a total of at least six months in the current calendar year it is capable of supporting watercraft carrying a person.

Regulating Groundwater Withdrawals

Sen. Neal Kedzie and Rep. DuWayne Johnsrud, chairs of the natural resource committees in both houses, recently ordered the drafting of comprehensive groundwater withdrawal legislation. This draft bill, which should be completed by October with public hearings to follow, is using recommendations from a two-year collaboration between the River Alliance, the Wisconsin Potato and Vegetable Growers Association and UW-Extension.

The proposal implements a flexible and adaptive permitting system for all high capacity well users in Wisconsin, for the first time subjecting groundwater withdrawals to a "no significant environmental harm" standard to be designed and enforced by the DNR. The Governor has expressed hopes to sign state-of-the-art groundwater legislation on Earth Day 2004. We encourage public input and scrutiny of this draft bill – keep an eye on our electronic C.A.N.O.E. newsletter for further information.

DNR Mercury Rule

The River Alliance was among many groups represented at a joint public hearing of the Senate and Assembly's environmental committees on the DNR's rule to limit mercury pollution from coal-burning power plants. Mercury contamination has severely impacted Wisconsin's rivers – today, a public advisory is in effect for **every Wisconsin waterway**, warning that certain kinds of fish are unsafe to eat more than once a

week or once a month, particularly by "women of child-bearing years, nursing mothers, and all children under 15."

Despite a strong showing by anglers and health care advocates in support of an even stronger rule than the one proposed, the committees voted within days to send the rule back to the DNR for modifications that would weaken the draft rule. In a press release, Rep. Spencer Black, member of the Assembly's Natural Resources Committee, called that committee's vote "a real step backward for our environment," adding, "Their excuse for allowing continued water pollution is that we should wait for the federal government. Waiting for the Bush Administration to protect the environment is like waiting for the Brewers to win the pennant – you can always hope, but don't hold your breath." The Natural Resources Board, which had unanimously approved the rule prior to the joint legislative hearing, needs to be encouraged to stand its ground on this issue.

Federal Wild and Scenic River Designations

Acting director Diana Toledo testified at a U.S. Forest Service public hearing on the proposed Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest (CNNF) revised plan. Although the Forest Service plan identified 192.5 miles of rivers as eligible for federal Wild and Scenic status, it provided no timeline nor made any recommendation for taking the necessary next steps to formally designate them as such. The River Alliance also testified that the Forest Service ignored many other river segments that are eligible for Wild and Scenic designation. The agency is currently considering all public comments received at this latest round of public hearings.

NPS Control of Bridge Construction over Wild and Scenic Rivers

River Alliance staff contacted all members of Wisconsin's congressional delegation urging them to block a provision of federal bill HR 2088 (SAFETEA) that would remove the National Park Service's authority to regulate bridge construction on federally listed Wild and Scenic rivers. This provision would deny the Park Service's regulatory role over the controversial bridge proposed over the St. Croix River in Stillwater, Minnesota, a bridge that would not only significantly impact the river's scenic values, but would also contribute to the urban sprawl currently faced by rural Wisconsin communities in the greater Minneapolis/St. Paul area.

Acting Locally: Kinnickinnic River Land Trust

Local Group Celebrates 10 Years

Lisa Goodman

Local Group Assistance - Northern Region

As it observes its 10th anniversary, the Kinnickinnic River Land Trust (KRLT) celebrates many noteworthy accomplishments. And it casts an eye to the challenges that lie ahead.

Located in Wisconsin's fastest growing county, St Croix, only a 35 minute drive from Minneapolis/St Paul, KRLT's watershed protection work takes on greater importance each year. "The impacts of sprawl on our watershed are increasing all the time. It's a challenge, because we started out as a traditional land trust," Executive Director, Rick McMonagle notes.

The KRLT office is appropriately housed on the shores of the Kinnickinnic, in the old Prairie Mill. The constant sound of the river provides a fitting backdrop to KRLT staff's work. Hand in hand with preserving and protecting land in the watershed, KRLT works to protect the river itself. Serving as both a watershed organization and a land trust, says McMonagle, they are the local group that has the capacity to do that work. "We're here. Some of these issues we can't walk away from. It's a real challenge as an organization" to serve both functions.

In a recent conversation, McMonagle highlighted some of the organization's current challenges, which include sewage, sprawl, stormwater management, and saving farmland.

To date, they have protected more than 1,600 acres, thanks to the support of their members and funds from various foundations, programs, organizations and agencies. Their protection tools include acquisitions, easements, and a variety of creative partnerships.

One issue prominent in their future is a proposed combined sewage treatment system for the villages of Roberts and Hammond, in the Kinni's headwaters. KRLT has concerns about the size of a shared facility for the treatment technology proposed. They also have concerns about the soil types and the plant's proximity to the Roberts municipal well. KRLT has suggested separate sewage treatment systems for each community. The discussion is far from over, and KRLT will continue to weigh in.

A key to KRLT's success is their broad integration in the community, "I definitely think land trusts should be more involved in the hunting and fishing community...especially in rural areas, they're a very strong constituency" observes McMonagle, himself a hunter and



Kinnickinnic River downstream of River Falls.
Photo: KRLT staff.

angler. He cites examples of productive and positive partnerships with the Kiap-TU-Wish chapter of Trout Unlimited and with Pheasants Forever.

Their work is recognized beyond the watershed. "The Kinnickinnic River Land Trust is a great example of a group with a clear focus and mission, which helps them design very successful projects. They are fearless in trying new ideas and integrating varied strategies into their work plan." says Karen Bassler, Program Director for Gathering Waters Conservancy, the umbrella organization that serves Wisconsin's land trusts.

Founding board member Dan Wilcox has lived in the area for 30 years. An avid angler and hunter, he has paddled the river in every month of the year. He also writes a column for the River Falls Journal. By day, he is a biologist for the US Army Corps of Engineers.

Wilcox and his wife recently donated a conservation easement on their land in the nearby Trimbelle River watershed. Since doing so, he says now he has an even greater appreciation for the significance of what that means.

Wilcox praises local families who led the river's recovery efforts more than 60 years ago. "Earl (Foster) and others did a lot to start to educate farmers about keeping cattle out of the river, and doing restoration work where the banks had blown out," said Wilcox. He says these early efforts generated "a long term community love affair with the river."

According to Wilcox, the last time trout were stocked was in 1968. Today the river has healthy, self-sustaining populations of Brook and Brown trout.

According to the DNR, the Kinni watershed is home to 40 species of endangered and threatened plants and animals. Wilcox says of the watershed, "It's like a botanical dreamland...especially the lower part of the river below town." He's also working on a hydrologic and groundwater model of the entire watershed.

Board President Bye Barsness echoes Wilcox's appreciation for those who have restored the river. Barsness brings a wealth of experience leading nonprofits. In fact, he came to KRLT through his work with a family foundation that was central to KRLT's establishment. "I saw an organization that had a good track record. Clearly the pressures on the Kinni are immense...and I believed I could help take it to the next level."

Of his own contributions to KRLT, Barsness says, "I am an orchestra leader, but it's the (others) who are making the music." He emphasizes the diversity of the organization as a key to its success. His hope is to increase community focus on the entire watershed, beyond the river and its banks. He seeks to expand the sense of pride of living in the watershed, in much the same way city dwellers may take pride in living in a particular neighborhood.

Board member Wilcox is encouraged, "I think there are a lot more eyes out there watching the Kinni than there used to be."

To learn more about KRLT and read the 10th anniversary Kinni Keeper newsletter, visit: www.kinniriver.org., or phone 715-425-5738. PO Box 87, River Falls, WI 54022

Know Your River: *Long Live the Kinni!*

Rick McMonagle

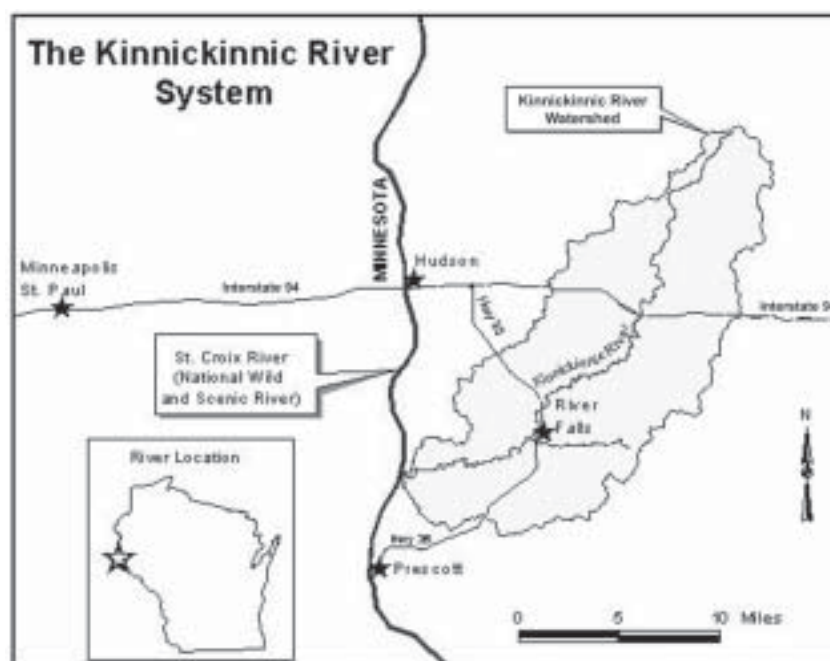
Executive Director, Kinnickinnic River Land Trust

How do I describe my river to you? The Kinnickinnic River of western Wisconsin is like all other rivers—it sings. If I were talking with you on the telephone, I'd hold the receiver to the window so you could hear it tumble over the riffle and announce its presence. Sometimes it takes all of your senses to locate a river before it is lost.

Joel Foster, the first European settler to the watershed, overwintered in a cave above the Kinni and emerged the next Spring to begin a new life in this fertile land. He said: "It looks as though the Almighty had made this portion of the country first and made it on a perfect system...with pure streams of water and beautiful falls." Bruce Foster, descendent of Joel, says that everyone has a river in their heart, and for his family, it's the Kinni. They're still hearing the river that Joel heard in his cave dreams and its song is alive today.

How do you find a river when you are looking for it? In Wisconsin that may be tricky because there are two Kinnickinnic Rivers, ours and one in Milwaukee. They are part of the state's liquid bookends, ours flowing into the St. Croix River, the western border and theirs into Lake Michigan, the eastern frontier. The comparisons may end there. The "Little Kinnickinnic" (if I may) to the east is a blasted remnant of its former self and how it may be resuscitated to nurture runs of spawning fish is a vast challenge to its urban co-inhabitants. We can only wish that river well.

Our Kinni is a shadow of what was here two hundred years ago, but a very pretty sight to behold nonetheless. Its famous falls are now drowned under a hydro-pond, Brown trout have gentrified the pools and the Brookies have relocated to smaller enclaves. Trees and crops grow in the former prairie, it's not quite drinkable (though some springs are golden), most mega fauna are fenced in, and all of the rest that comes with 150 years of modern settlement. We still have fecund waters sustaining upwards of 8,000 trout per mile (1,000 is considered excellent), a deep canyon with weeping cliffs, eagle nests, rare plants, thick insect hatches, un-



usual micro-climates, and no public roads crossing its banks for 10 river miles.

The Kinnickinnic is a Class One trout stream and an Outstanding Resource Water according to the Department of Natural Resources. It has the reputation of being one of the finest trout streams in the Midwest and it is fished by anglers from around the state, the country and even some international visitors. The cold, clean and clear water is mostly the result of springs that also help keep its temperature fairly constant the year-round. The river really steams on below zero days!

The watershed covers 240 square miles and includes one city, River Falls, one interstate highway, I-94, the University of WI-River Falls, a few sewage treatment plants, numerous public and private wells, the usual zigzag of roads and bridges, fields, forests, bluffs, coulees, creeks and houses. It is a great mixture of things. In fact, the word, Kinnickinnic is an Ojibwe word that literally means "what is mixed" and refers to various

plant materials that Indian people put together for smoking. Around here, it was the inner bark of certain willows, dogwoods or sumac.

All of this is within a 30 minute drive of downtown St. Paul, the capital of Minnesota and the three million people of the Twin Cities metropolitan area. And, that's the rub. How will this amazing river survive the onslaught of urban sprawl that is pounding on its shores? The facts are not in its favor. Of the two counties in the watershed, St. Croix is now the fastest growing in Wisconsin and is first in rising property values. The City of River Falls recently approved the annexation of three tracts of land for large housing developments that will increase the city's population by 50% in five years. One of these is slated for the banks of the Kinni and next to the highest concentrations of trout in the watershed.

We may think that our environmental protections have progressed since the first Earth Day, and they have, but so has our power to radically transform the environment and alter its integrity. The tale of urban rivers is not a good read, and the costs of reviving a city creek are very high. We must come to our senses and protect what will be lost before it's too late. Our dream is a trout filled stream, teaming with life and flowing quickly and cleanly to the sea. An ocean of possibilities is open before us.



A Kinnickinnic River Land Trust volunteer at a recent Kinni clean up. Photo: KRLT staff.

Election continues from cover...

However, our last presidential election proved just how important every single vote can be. And election 2004 is a particularly important voting season for Wisconsin voters. We have a tremendous opportunity this coming year to impact national, state and local policy-making.

The following is a compilation of some of the ways you can learn more about candidates and their positions on the issues that matter to you. Through this list, we hope to encourage you to educate yourself and head into Election Day ready to cast your ballot for the people who will best represent you in public office.

1) Read the Candidates' Websites

Candidates running for President and Congress already have websites set up for the 2004 elections. Candidates for state legislature and local offices may not yet have websites this far out from the election, but they will soon. Most candidates' websites give their positions on a range of policies.

2) Attend Candidate Forums and other Speaking Events

One of the benefits of being in Wisconsin during this election season is that we will have many opportunities to listen to the Presidential candidates directly when they campaign in the state. Already, most of the democratic candidates for President have been to Wisconsin, as well as members of President Bush's cabinet. You can find out about these events through local newspapers, local organizations and by checking the candidates' websites. Candidates for state legislature and local offices will speak at and attend many events during campaign season, from parades to farm breakfasts to community events.

3) Check Voting Records

For incumbents, you can find out how they voted on issues you care about. For example, you can get information about incumbents' conservation voting records through scorecards compiled by various organizations, including the League of Conservation Voters' Congressional Scorecards (www.lcv.org) and the Wisconsin Public Interest Research Group (www.wispirg.org). State legislative scorecards can be found through the Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters



(www.wlcv.org). Project Vote Smart (www.vote-smart.org) has also compiled voting records from organizations focusing on a wide range of issues for members of Congress, state legislators and other elected officials.

4) Read Non-partisan Candidate Questionnaires

The League of Women Voters (LWV) is the organization best known for its candidate questionnaires that cover a broad range of issues. The League of Women Voters sends a questionnaire to candidates, and then publishes the candidates' answers word for word. Oftentimes LWV questionnaires can be found in local libraries or at other public places, as well as on their website at www.lwvwi.org.

5) Find Out who has Endorsed a Candidate

Think about the organizations and people you trust, and find out which candidates they have endorsed. You can get that information from the candidates' websites, from the organizations' websites, and by reading organizational newsletters and campaign literature.

6) Raise the Issues You Care About

Take every opportunity – candidate forums, debates, parades, rotary meetings and other events where candidates are present – to ask questions about the issues you care about. Asking the question directly to the candidate is one of the best ways to really understand what a candidate cares about. At the same time, you'll be reminding the candidate how important the issue is and that we, as constituents, expect him or her to represent our interests and concerns on the issue.

7) Support the Candidate that Best Represents You

Once you've decided who you plan to vote for, *get involved*. Call the local campaign headquarters and find out what volunteer opportunities the campaign has for you. Donate money to your candidate's campaign. Campaign contributions from people like you, no matter how small, are an important way of balancing the dollars given by big money special interests.

8) Get Out and Vote!

If you are not yet registered to vote, now is the time to do so. For information on how to register, go to the Wisconsin State Elections Board website (<http://elections.state.wi.us>), or call your local city clerk. In Wisconsin, you must pre-register by 5:00 p.m. the second Wednesday preceding the election, or you may register at the polls on Election Day.

Vote in all elections - in both the primary and general elections, and in elections that decide decision-makers from local school board to the President. It is how you have a voice in the direction our government will take in the years to come.

The Wisconsin Conservation Power Project was created by a coalition of environmental organizations to bridge the disconnect between the public's support of our natural resources and the actions of decision-makers. WCPP is doing this by elevating the level of the environment in public debate through a long-term, coordinated strategy that looks beyond individual issue campaigns and assists organizations in building and mobilizing members, activists and other resources in every region of the state.

Ultimately, WCPP hopes to create an environment where the public's support of basic environmental protections like clean air, clean water and open spaces is mirrored by decision makers. The River Alliance is a founding member of the Conservation Power Project.

**It's Our 10th Anniversary!
1993-2003**

Save the Date

**River Alliance Annual Dinner
Silent Auction**

Saturday, November 15, 2003

River Alliance of Wisconsin



Save the Date

Saturday, November 15, 2003

Local Group Assistance

River Alliance Provides Training Opportunities Galore!

Diana Toledo
Local Group Program Manager

The fall season promises to be a busy extension of our summer for the staff of the Local Group Assistance Program, as we travel around the state offering various training opportunities to local river and watershed organizations.

If your organization is interested in participating in any of the following training opportunities, please contact Diana Toledo or Lisa Goodman

Benchmarking Your Success Training for Your Board

After completing one-on-one *Benchmarking* trainings with the Bad River Watershed Association (Ashland) and the Florence County Lakes and Rivers Association this summer, we have trainings scheduled with 10 other organizations around the state this fall, and we continue to schedule more.

The *Benchmarking* workshop is an intensive one-day Board training that allows members of your organization to assess and prioritize organizational strengths and challenges, and works with all members of the Board to develop both organizational and individual action plans to help increase the health and effectiveness of their organization.

Following are testimonials from 2003 workshop attendees:

"I don't think we would have had nearly as successful an 'annual' event without the board training. We put out a huge 'donations' box and got some! We all wore our T shirts and sold some... we got front and back page picture (newspaper) spreads and several good stories. Thanks for everything."



Bad River Watershed Assn. Benchmarking Workshop. Photo: Susie Isaksen.

"The tools presented were effective in moving us through the essentials quickly-and productively."

"For me, it's a matter of having our whole board learn the same thing at the same time to get on the same wavelength."

"We were able to identify areas that could use improvement and formulate a plan to address the identified weaknesses."

The Clean Water Act-Using the Law to Protect and Restore Your Watershed

This fall we will "unveil" a new River Alliance training opportunity for watershed organizations – *Using the Clean Water Act to Protect and Restore Your Watershed!* Although the Clean Water Act has been on the books for over 30 years, it remains under-utilized by citizens to protect the rivers flowing through their communities. For example, between 1990 and 1998, between 28-46% of all major industrial facilities and 31-55% of major municipal facilities were in "significant non-compliance" of their pollution permits ("Who is Guarding our Waters," Midwest Environmental Advocates). Citizen involvement and understanding of the law's provisions for citizen input into the granting, monitoring and enforcement of pollution permits can help address these dismal statistics.

This short 2-3 hour training will focus specifically on *your watershed*. Following an overview of the Clean Water Act, members of your organization will work with River Alliance and Midwest Environmental Advocates staff to analyze issues in your watershed related to the Clean Water Act and identify opportunities for your organization to influence how this law is implemented for the protection and restoration of the rivers you love. Workshops are currently being scheduled – contact us for details.

Grassroots Fundraising Training

In conjunction with the Institute for Conservation Leadership, we are currently developing a Grassroots Fundraising training that will be offered starting late this year and into 2004. If your organization's Board could benefit from learning effective ways to raise the funds you need to protect your local river, please contact our office.

River Alliance Welcomes New Staff



Denny Caneff

The River Alliance welcomes Denny Caneff as the newly appointed **Executive Director** for the River Alliance of Wisconsin.

As part of his work with the River Alliance, Caneff will oversee all aspects of the statewide organization, including policy development and advocacy.

Over the past three years, Caneff served as Upper Midwest Regional Director with the American Farmland Trust (AFT), a national organization working to preserve farmland. While at AFT, Caneff helped establish the first-ever farmland preservation program in Illinois. Caneff also served as Executive Director of the Wisconsin Rural Development Center, a sustainable agricultural advocacy center.

Caneff has always been an avid paddler, and once canoed the entire length of the Mississippi River.

Caneff holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication from St. Cloud State University and a Master of Science degree in Agricultural Journalism from the University of Wisconsin - Madison. He served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Cameroon, West Africa.



Rich Bogovich

Rich Bogovich has been appointed **Policy Project Manager** for the River Alliance of Wisconsin. As part of his work with the River Alliance, Bogovich will undertake a comprehensive assessment of Wisconsin's policies impacting river management and lead an effort to work with lawmakers, agency staff, and other interested parties to address identified gaps in policy development, implementation and enforcement. In addition, Bogovich will serve as the lead river policy staffperson for the organization.

Over the past five years, Bogovich worked with Wisconsin's Environmental Decade (now Clean Wisconsin), most recently serving as energy campaign director.

Bogovich holds a Bachelor of Science degree in mathematics, a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science, and a Master of Arts degree in communication studies from Northern Illinois University. His first book, *The Who: A Who's Who*, has just been published by McFarland & Company, Inc.

Dams Program Update

Wisconsin Continues to Lead the Nation in Dam Removals

Helen Sarakinos, Dams Program Manager

Every year, American Rivers, a national river conservation group based out of Washington, D.C., surveys government agencies and non-profit groups to determine which dams are scheduled to be removed in the coming year. Once again, Wisconsin leads the pack as the state with the highest number of dams slated for removal in 2003-2004. With nine dams slated for removal or removed in 2003, Wisconsin was a hair ahead of both Pennsylvania (8 dams) and California (8 dams).

The following is the list of dams removed or to be removed in 2003-2004 in Wisconsin:

Athens Dam, Potato Creek, Marathon Co.

This rock and concrete dam is less than 10-feet tall and is slated for removal because it is in a state of disrepair and the impoundment waters are damaging the property of a nearby park shelter. For more information, contact Keith Patrick, DNR Water Management Specialist, (715) 241-7502.

Ball Park Dam, Mauneshia River, Jefferson Co.

This 12-foot by 3-foot dam will likely be removed in the coming year. In an advanced state of disrepair, the cost of dam removal was more economically feasible than the extensive cost of repairing the structure. Contact Sue Josheff, DNR Dam Safety Engineer (608) 275-3305.

Boulder Creek Dams (2), Boulder Creek, Sauk Co.

These two remnant dams were removed in July 2003 to restore the coldwater creek and eliminate the liability created by the dams. One of the dams has no known purpose and the other was intended to create a fish hatchery. Removal is expected to return this portion of the creek to its original coldwater habitat and improve water quality by normalizing the temperature of the creek. Contact Steve Swenson, Aldo Leopold Foundation, (608) 355-0279.

Clark's Mill Dam, Magdanz Creek, Waushara Co.

This 7-foot gravity and earthen dam is being removed because of the high estimated cost to repair the structure. Removal is slated for 2003 and will restore a Class I brook trout creek to free-flowing. Contact Linda Hyatt, DNR Dam Safety Engineer, (920) 787-4686.



Ball Park Dam on the Mauneshia River in the City of Waterloo. The dam is slated for removal in the next year. Photo courtesy of WI DNR

Manchester Dam, Grand River, Green Lake Co.

This 12-foot by 250-foot gravity and earthen dam is being removed because the dam is currently in danger of failing and has been under orders for repair since the early 1980s. The dam is slated for removal in 2003 and, in addition to eliminating safety concerns, will open up 12 miles of habitat and fish passage to warm water fish species. Contact Linda Hyatt, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, (920) 787-4686.

McCaslin Brook Dam, Oconto River (North Branch), Oconto Co.

This 8-foot by 108-foot dam is primarily made of boulders and a few timber crib structures. The structure is currently in poor condition and is preventing native brook trout from spawning upstream. In addition, water temperatures have increased and the dissolved oxygen level has decreased. Heavy sedimentation in the impoundment is also a concern. The dam is slated to be removed in 2003-2004 and will improve water quality and help increase the population of native brook trout. Contact Robert Rosenberger, DNR Water Management Specialist, (715) 582-5041 or hsarakinos@wisconsinrivers.org.



One of the Boulder Creek dams that was removed this past July. Photo courtesy of Cailin Orr

Unnamed Dam, Branch River, Manitowoc Co.

This 5-foot by 40-foot dam was removed in July 2003 because it prohibited fish migration. Contact John Roberts, Friends of the Branch, John.Roberts@datcp.state.wi.us.

Waubeka Dam, Milwaukee River, Ozaukee Co.

This 10-foot by 222-foot rock dam was removed in March 2003 because the dam failed a safety inspection and the owner chose to remove the dam rather than pay the (estimated) high cost of repair. The removal is expected to improve water quality and expose riffle habitat for smallmouth bass. Contact Will Wawrzyn, DNR Fisheries Biologist, (414) 263-8699.

White River Dam, Fox River, Green Lake Co.

This 12-foot by 250-foot rock and timber crib dam is being removed in 2003 because it no longer impounds water, but remains a safety hazard and an obstruction to fish passage. The removal will open up the Fox River to fish migration for species such as lake sturgeon, flat-head catfish, and walleye. Contact Linda Hyatt, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, (920) 787-4686, linda.hyatt@dnr.state.wi.us.

River Alliance of Wisconsin Board Candidates - 2004-2005



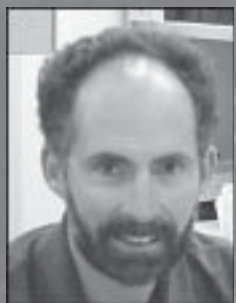
Joe Aliota - Deforest

Currently serving as River Alliance Treasurer, I am also employed as a certified public accountant with an extensive background in non-profit accounting. While working with Porter & Sack, CPAs, LLP, I performed audits and reviews of financial statements of several non-profit organizations. I am currently working as controller of Cherokee Country Club.



Rebecca Power - Winneconne

2004 will launch the second decade of the River Alliance's service as a strident and effective voice for the protection, enhancement, and restoration of Wisconsin's rivers and watersheds. I have always appreciated this organization's ability to work well with many of the diverse interests that affect Wisconsin's waters without compromising its mission. Sound science and a philosophy of inclusive advocacy have guided the River Alliance in the past and will continue to guide us under the leadership of a new Executive Director and active and vital board. I have served as a River Alliance board member nearly four years, two of those as Vice-Chair. In the next two years, I hope to help the organization 1) enhance its service to our valuable northern resources and 2) look for ways to make conservation of Wisconsin's water resources a priority consideration for constituencies that are not traditionally considered under the conservation umbrella. I look forward to working with you and seeing you on the river.



Jake Barnes - Amherst

An Eau Claire native with a BBA from UW-Eau Claire in 1980 and a MBA from Marquette University in 1983, I have worked for a variety of financial services (Wausau Insurance, Sentry Insurance and Firststar Bank) since 1980, and more recently for Arimon Technologies, Inc., a Montello manufacturer, as Vice President of Sales. I currently reside in Amherst, Wisconsin with my wife and 2 children. I am a member of the Tomorrow River Scholarship Foundation, Inc. and serve on their Board of Directors (Secretary). I am also a member of the Amherst Area Foundation, Inc. serving as their Board of Director's Treasurer.



Byron Shaw - Amherst Junction

Byron Shaw is an emeritus professor of Water Resources who spent 32 years teaching, doing research and serving on many state-wide committees on a wide range of water resources issues. He was employed at UW Stevens Point with a partial appointment as a water quality specialist with UW Extension. He also initiated and directed the Environmental Task Force water quality program at UWSP. He has advised over 50 graduate students on research projects relevant to resource issues important to Wisconsin. He has received a number of awards for this work. Since retirement in 2000, he has been doing some water quality consulting work, remained involved with several University projects and more importantly has spent time building and using cedar strip canoes and paddles.



Bill Berry - Stevens Point

Should I be so honored, this would be my final term on the River Alliance Board. I'd like to help the group begin an exciting second decade, working with a committed, vital board and an excellent staff, including our new director. I'm a resident of Stevens Point and a native of Green Bay, where I was introduced to rivers the hard way, growing up when the Fox and East rivers were abused and neglected. Best as I can remember, I'm 52 years old. I am a self-employed writer/editor specializing in private lands conservation for water quality, sustainable forestry and other conservation benefits. These are especially challenging times for the environmental and conservation communities, and I want to lend my voice, experience and connections to the cause.

The individuals listed on this page have been nominated by the River Alliance Board of Directors nominating committee to serve a two-year term beginning November 2003. Please vote using the form on page 10 of this issue. The form also includes a ballot for Ten Year River Champions. Please nominate your decade Champions for our tenth anniversary.

Do You Know a Ten Year River Champion?

Tell us your nominations for the River Alliance of Wisconsin 10th Anniversary River Champion Awards!

Each year, the River Alliance of Wisconsin honors individuals, businesses and organizations that have gone the extra mile to protect and restore our rivers and streams. **This year, in celebration of our tenth anniversary, we are asking for nominees notable for their efforts over the last ten years.** In addition, this year we are creating an Agricultural Sector category. We will be publicly recognizing these ten year River Champions at our Annual Awards Dinner and Auction, held the evening of Saturday, November 15, at Monona Terrace in Madison.

If you would like to nominate an individual, organization or business in one or more categories, please send us your nominations. Previous River Champion Award winners are also eligible for these special Anniversary Awards. Please provide the appropriate contact information and describe the reasons you believe the nomination is warranted. **All nominations must be completed in full and postmarked by no later than October 3, 2003.**

Categories:

1. Elected Official

An elected public official in local, state, or federal government who has been a leader in seeking legislation that will help to protect and/or restore the rivers and streams of Wisconsin.

2. Private Sector

A business or corporation that has done exceptional work for the rivers and streams of Wisconsin.

3. Public Sector

A government employee at the municipal, county, state or federal level whose actions have benefited our rivers and watersheds.

4. Local Guardian

An individual or organization that has put forth meritorious effort on behalf of Wisconsin waterways at a local level.

5. River Alliance Volunteer

A member of the River Alliance of Wisconsin who has furthered the aims and efforts of the Alliance and helped protect our rivers.

6. NEW AWARD!! Agricultural Sector

An individual, farm, or farming organization that has made exceptional strides in protecting and improving the rivers and streams of Wisconsin through their agricultural practices.

The River Alliance of Wisconsin 10th Anniversary River Champion Awards

Nomination Form

I would like to nominate an individual, business or organization as a 10th Anniversary River Champion. I understand that I will be contacted about the status of my nomination prior to the award presentations at the River Alliance Annual Awards Dinner and Auction on November 15th.

I also understand that this entry must be postmarked no later than October 3rd to be eligible for consideration.

Nomination Category (If you are submitting more than one nomination please copy this form and submit each nomination separately):

- Elected Official Private Sector Public Sector
- Local Guardian Volunteer of the Year Agricultural Sector

Name of Nominee _____

Address _____

Phone, Fax, E-mail _____

Please provide a brief description of the reasons for the nomination. Remember, these nominations are for actions taken over the last ten years. Please limit your description to 50-100 words.

Name of Person Submitting Nomination: _____

Address _____

Phone, Fax, E-mail _____

Board of Directors Election

Please vote for up to five (5) nominees.

- Joe Aliota Rebecca Power
- Jake Barnes Byron Shaw
- Bill Berry

Please return this nomination form to:

River Alliance of Wisconsin
306 E. Wilson St., Ste 2W / Madison, WI 53703
Or by fax: 608-260-9799. Or send an email: wisrivers@wisconsinrivers.org.

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 July 1, 2003. We regret we cannot list everyone.

River Guardians - \$500+

Anonymous
Todd Ambs
Bill and Kathy Pielsticker

Tom and Valerie Lee Hoppens
Rodney Huebner & Michele Rose
Kathleen O. Hunt-Abene
Jim Jenks
Paul Joneth
Martin and Esther Kellogg
Lane Kistler
William Kraus & Toni Sikes
Edie Kraus
Pam and Dennis Larsen
Annette Larson & Janet Ady
Marcia Locher
Thomas Lucke
Cyrus Lyle
Stephen Miller
Janet Moldenhauer
Lewis Posekany Sr.
Ken and Nancy Ragland
Mark Redsten
George and Jeanette Rogers
Helen Sarakinos &
Jake Vander Zanden
David Schmidtke
Carl and Ruth Scholz
Michael Vann
Jane and Michael Voichick

River Keepers

\$250 - \$499

Anonymous
William and Ann Beverly
Thomas Bliffert
Nathan S Heffernan
Richard Kark MD
John Kunzman
Lucy and Bruce Moore
Donna and Chuck Poat
Robert C Shears
Emily Stanley
Brian Vandewalle
Wendy Watson

River Patrons

\$100 - \$249

Joe Aliota
Jean Bahr
Jake and Kris Barnes
Janet and Crandell Bliss
Willis Brown
Larry and Susan Brumm
Dave Conroy
John Dixon
George Dreckmann &
Diane Roberts
David and Peg Engleson
Allen and Mary Jo Fleming
Daniel Gingrich
Willard Hadlock
Michael Heffernan
Dr. Joseph Heitz &
Jennifer Engstad-Heitz

River Sustainers

\$50 - \$99

Anonymous
Jim and Barbara Ballard
James and Melissa Baumann
Jon Becker
Douglas Behrens
Joseph Benbenek
Fred Blake
Douglas Blakeslee
James Block
Roz K Boutwell

Lynn Broaddus & Marc Gorelick
Dale Bruhn
Judy and Arlen Christenson
Lisa and Bob Conley
Charles Cornwell
Katie Dietrich
Virginia and Arthur Fish
Dr. DJ and Mary Clare Freeman
Friends of Lake Wingra
Georgia Gomez Ibanez
Rob and Joy Gottschalk
Dag Grada
Kent and Suzanne Hall
James Harris
Henry and Virginia Hart
Edward Hastreiter
Susan and James Haswell
Jim Henke
Nuria Hernandez-Mora
Tom and Esther Herold
Harold J. Hoops Jr.
Jim and Deb Hopkins
Andy and Kristine Jacobson
Karl Kletzien
Barb Kneer
Robert Koehler
Jason and Stephanie Larsen
Rocky and Sue Lipsman
Jim Lorman & Anne Forbes
Bernice Maertz
Walter Meanwell
Carolyn Messersmith
Stephen Nagy
Robert Newcomb
Rhonda O'Leary
Robert Orvis
Jeff and Clarice Perkins
Robin and Bill Peshel
Dan W Postelnick
Katherine Radewahn

Keith Reopelle
Al and Isla Richter
Leon E Riemer
Hans Ris
Jeff and Elizabeth Romagna
Sjana Schanning
Dr. & Mrs. Albin J Schleper
Claudia Schneider
Sue Steinmann & Bill Weege
Marylyn and Stewart Stroup
Helen Sullinger
Cathy Techtmann
Jeffrey Thielen
Robert and Dorothy Troller
D Upham
Jerome Viste
Deborah Vogt
John Vollrath
Leonard Wahl
Michael Wild
Shirley G and John Wilde
Pat and Bobbie Wilson
Stephen Wolk
Reynold Zeller



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.

Items

- Computer Monitors
Flat Screen or 17" +
- Desktop Computers
- Laptops
- Digital Camera
- Office Supplies
- Laptop Carrying Cases
- Large Portfolio Case

Skills

- GIS Training
- Publication Design
- Web Design
- Volunteer Help

Yes!

You, too, can be a part of Wisconsin's only statewide river advocacy group!

Please sign me up as a member of the River Alliance. Enclosed is my tax-deductible gift.

- \$100 River Patron
- \$50 River Sustainer
- \$50 Organizational membership
- \$35 Household membership
- \$25 Basic membership

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 _____

Thanks to Our Funders!

The Beldon Fund
Environmental Support Center
ESRI
Environmental Protection Agency
Joyce Foundation
Lux Foundation
The McKnight Foundation
MG&E
Charles Stewart Mott Foundation
Patagonia, Inc.
Pew Charitable Trusts
Quixote Foundation
River Network
State of Wisconsin
Steve Miller Foundation

... and, members like you!

Wisconsin Rivers



Inflatable canoes from Boo Canoe and Raft. Above: Members float past Baraboo bluffs. Right: Beached boats. Photos: Jeff Strobel.



WIDNR Sec. Scott Hassett address our 2003 Paddle Party attendees. Photo: RAW



Helen Sarakinos shoots the rapids on the Brule. Photo: RAW

River Alliance of Wisconsin



1993 - 2003

10 Years of Successful River Protection

Summer, River Alliance Style!



Lunch break on the Baraboo, 2003 paddle Party. Photo: RAW



Above: Staff members enjoying the Brule River at their Staff Retreat. Right: Interns Jen Lineer and Laura Lueders take Baby (Laura's puppy) for a float. Photos: RAW



Enjoying the Baraboo. Left: Members Wayne Koneiecki and Scott Barnwell. Above: A hot day for Ike Lavitschke. Right: Staff member Rich Bogovich and Intern Meagan Lauing. Photos: RAW



Grand Prize winner, William Belleveau, posing with his new Old Town Kayak generously donated by Johnson Outdoors. Photo: RAW

Congratulations to our 2003 Raffle Prize Winners!

Other winners include:

Yvonne Vadeboncoeur - *St. Croix Fly Rod Combo (Donated by Madison Outfitters)*

Dylan Bruce - *Bending Branches Wooden Canoe Paddle*

Bill Schultheis - *Under the Seat Canoe Pack*

Jocie Luglio

Barb Kneer

George Caisachy

Raul DeLuna

Joe and Jennifer Heitz

Marilyn Poulton

Chuck and Ginny Jordan

Barry Cate

Sue Josheff

Richard Curen

Dave Conroy

Andy Jacobsen

Diane Wachdorf

Frances Barnes

Sue Steinmann

Dave Weber

Gary Makowski

Dale Seaman

George Rogers

George Meyer