

# Wisconsin Rivers



A Publication of the River Alliance of Wisconsin • Summer 2003 • Volume 9 • Issue 2

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

## Ten at Ten

*Celebrating a Decade of Successful River Protection*

River Alliance Staff

As legend has it, ten years or so ago, a group of dedicated river folk, mostly fly fishers, were sitting around a kitchen table and hatched an idea that would grow into one of the largest and strongest statewide river conservation organizations in the nation. From those humble beginnings, with the help and advice of national groups such as River Network and the hard work and commitment of several local leaders, the River Alliance of Wisconsin is now a strong and effective voice for the flowing waters of the state.

Counting a diverse group of anglers, paddlers, hunters and advocates among its members, the River Alliance of Wisconsin proudly celebrates the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of its beginnings starting this fall and into 2004. To give a kick start to the festivities, we thought we would take a look at ten of the most prominent achievements of the past ten years. With many achievements unmentioned and many more to come in the next ten years and beyond, here they are, our *Top 10 in 10*.

### 1993-2003 Landmark Events and Achievements

#### **1993 – October 1: First Board of Directors meeting for the fledgling river advocacy group River Alliance of Wisconsin**

Founding River Alliance Board members met in this year to begin what would become a unified, coherent program that ensured the protection of over 44,000 miles of Wisconsin rivers. While many individuals and groups across the state had been actively involved in river issues, no one organization was able to dedicate the resources needed to take the lead coordinating efforts for greater effectiveness. Through the work of many individuals and with a start-up grant from national river protection organization River Network, the River Alliance of Wisconsin was established by the following founding Board of Directors: Kathy Bero, Rick Chenoweth, Bill Beverly, David Anderson, Gary Borger, Steve Born, Herb Buettner, Sara Johnson, Cy Lyle, and Gordy Sussman.

*Decade continues on page 8...*



*The Waubeka Dam on the Milwaukee River after being breached in Nov. 2001. For more information on this removal and others in Wisconsin, see page 6. Photo: Staff.*

#### **Inside this Issue!**

<i>Stream of Thought</i> .....	pg. 2
<i>Legislative Update</i> .....	pg. 3
<i>Local Groups Update</i> .....	pg. 4-5
<i>Dams Program Update</i> .....	pg. 6
<i>Volunteer Profile</i> .....	pg. 7
<i>Acting Locally: The Fox River</i> .....	pg. 10-11
<i>Know Your River: Clever Like the Fox</i> .....	pg. 12-13
<i>National River Rally Report</i> .....	pg. 14
<i>Raffle 2003!</i> .....	pg. 16

River Alliance of Wisconsin



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

Postmaster: Dated Material

NONPROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
MADISON, WI  
PERMIT NO.  
537

# Stream of Thought

Diana Toledo  
Acting Executive Director

And before we knew it, springtime, that wonderful time of high water levels and the Early Season Opener, came and went. Our staff spent much of it listening to the low-level rumblings coming out of the state capitol, as Governor Doyle and legislators took turns giving shape to the 2003-2005 Biennial Budget. As we go to print, the Governor is threatening to veto the version that members of the powerful Joint Finance Committee (JFC) put together, pointing to drastic cuts made to the Stewardship Program as one reason why the budget may be beyond fixing.

The River Alliance has flatly opposed these and other budget cuts that will compromise existing river and land protection efforts (see page 3). And yet we breathed a collective sigh of relief when the rumors of pending threats to key DNR Water Division programs, including the River Protection Grant Program, never materialized. When we put out a plea asking all of you to contact your legislators and voice your concern for clean and healthy rivers, **you responded in droves and made a difference.** We were told key legislators and their aides were busy fielding your calls and heard the message loud and clear – as a result, water programs were spared the drastic cuts that were made to land protection and environmental cleanup programs. As the budget discussions progress, we will make every effort to prevent any backsliding on these programs.

It is good to reflect on this important victory. This year's Earth Day Gallup Poll tells us that the percentage of Americans who feel that environmental conditions are poor or growing worse grew from 38% to 47% over the past year. And yet, the public seems less willing than in recent years to support strong environmental protection measures. The question of whether environmental protection or economic growth should be given priority received an almost break even response – a few years ago, the margins favoring environmental protection exceeded 2-to-1.

And while the Gallup analysts tell us these results are likely due to public apprehension over the economy, all I can focus on is the whisper in the distance – the

one that grows ever louder. The one we thought we had long left behind. It's the old, tired argument of "environment versus economy."

Thankfully, many of the people in Wisconsin seem to get it. When many of you called your legislators on behalf of clean water this May, you pointed out that tourism is the third largest industry in Wisconsin, bringing in \$11.7 billion a year. And you pointed out that water – clean rivers and lakes – is an essential part of that industry. Business owners, members of the River Alliance whose livelihood depends on clean water, volunteered to speak to the media about the "environment AND economy" connection. They included Herb Buettner (Buettner's Wild Wolf Inn and Whitewater Raft Rental) and Jamee Peters (Bear Paw Outdoor Adventure Resort), both of White Lake, WI, and Lisa Kivirist (Inn Serendipity Woods Cabin) of Hillsboro, WI.

I expect that, with the 2004 elections approaching, we are going to hear more about this false dichotomy. We'll be asked to make a choice between "economy OR environment" – in fact, we are already being told by some that Wisconsin's environmental regulations are the "silent jobs killer" of our state.

In order not to lose the ground we have gained over the past 20 years, we need to be vigilant of that false dichotomy and be prepared to oppose it publicly. Through conversations, letters to the editor, and calls to elected officials, we must remind those around us that Wisconsin's clean and healthy water, land and air guarantee us a bright future – they don't compromise it.

You made the difference this spring when you defended key water conservation programs by calling your legislators. Don't doubt that we can do it again.

Cheers!



Diana



## Correction

In our last issue (Spring 2003, Volume 9 Issue 1) Anne Sayers' article on the *Wisconsin Conservation Briefing Book* incorrectly stated that "ninety-two percent of the state's water bodies have even stricter warnings..." The correct statement is that "ninety-two of the state's waterways have even stricter warnings for some fish species." We regret this error.



### Board of Directors

Joe Aliota, *DeForest* (Treasurer)  
Bill Berry, *Stevens Point*  
Sean Dilweg, *Madison*  
Scott Froehlke, *Montello* (Chair)  
Nat Heffernan, *Madison*  
Terry Hiltz, *Cottage Grove*  
Susie Isaksen, *Brule*  
Fred Lauing, *River Falls*  
Tom Miller, *Waupaca*  
Catherine Neiswender, *Appleton*  
Rebecca Power, *Winnecoonne* (Vice Chair)  
George Rock, *White Lake*  
Melissa Scanlan, *Madison*  
Bill Schultheis, *Dousman* (Secretary)

### Acting Executive Director

Diana Toledo  
*Local Group Assistance Manager*

### Staff

Michael Engleson  
*Office Manager*  
Lisa Goodman  
*Local Group Assistance Coordinator-Northern Region*  
Michael Lavitschke (a.k.a. Otis)  
*Membership Services Manager*  
Helen Sarakinos  
*Small Dams Program Manager*

**Wisconsin Rivers** is a quarterly publication of the River Alliance of Wisconsin. Opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of our funders. Articles are invited for consideration.

Editor, Design & Layout – Michael "Otis" Lavitschke  
Printer – Wingra Printing Group, Madison, WI

# Legislative Report

Diana Toledo  
Acting Executive Director

Please stay tuned through our web page and electronic C.A.N.O.E. alerts to developments with the legislative issues described below. C.A.N.O.E. is a short, weekly action alert that keeps you engaged on the issues that impact Wisconsin's rivers and streams, and provides you with ways to be heard by legislators and decision-makers on behalf of river and watershed protection. You can subscribe to C.A.N.O.E. at [www.wisconsinrivers.org](http://www.wisconsinrivers.org).

## State Budget

As we go to print, the Joint Finance Committee (JFC) has completed its work on the budget, which will be taken up by the Senate and Assembly in the next few weeks. We are urging legislators to make a number of important changes to address the drastic cuts JFC made to important environmental programs, including the following:

- Increase hunting and fishing license fees to the levels proposed by Governor Doyle. These increases have the support of over 50 conservation organizations around the state. JFC eliminated some and lowered other fee increases, reducing funds available for important habitat management and restoration work; fish, wildlife and law enforcement activities; and fisheries biologists and land management staff positions by approximately \$12 million.
- Restore full funding of the Stewardship Program. JFC cut the program's borrowing power by \$245 million over the next seven years, and required the DNR to sell off \$40 million worth of land. These drastic rollbacks will do little to alleviate the current budget deficit, will severely decrease the amount of federal and private funds currently being invested in land and river corridor conservation, and will compromise our ability to save some of the best land that remains in our state.
- Restore the Governor's \$275,000 annual provision to fund staff that issue and monitor wetland and waterway permits and work with permit applicants to minimize the environmental impacts of their projects. This cut will result in costly permit delays, fewer environmentally-friendly development projects, and increased non-compliance in pollution discharge permits.

## Groundwater Legislation

The River Alliance continues to work with the Wisconsin Potato and Vegetable Growers Association and University of Wisconsin experts to fix the current regulatory gap that leaves groundwater quantity unprotected. We are finalizing draft legislation that we hope will be introduced as part of the current legislative session, once the Biennial Budget has passed.

## Federal Energy Bill

The Federal Energy Bill, which has passed in the U.S. House of Representatives and will be taken up by the Senate after the July 4<sup>th</sup> recess, contains hydropower provisions that undermine basic environmental protections in hydropower dams in the name of streamlining the relicensing process. Under that proposal, some dam operators would be allowed to avoid installing any means for providing fish passage at their dams. Furthermore, the proposal would provide additional opportunities for license applicants to appeal conditions placed on their licenses – an appeal process that is not extended to state agencies, tribes, affected groups like the River Alliance of Wisconsin or members of the public who own the public waterways.

Furthermore, these proposed changes to the hydropower relicensing process are poorly timed, as they

preempt an existing Federal Energy Regulatory Commission initiative, in which the River Alliance has participated, that aims to overhaul the process. That initiative has so far drawn heavily on consensus positions developed by the environmental community, industry moderates, and state representatives during negotiations conducted over the past several years.

The River Alliance has opposed the changes proposed under the Energy Bill, and supports an amendment introduced by Senator Bingaman (NM) that would strike the problem language and substitute it with compromise language supported by environmentalists, anglers and the hydropower industry as part of last year's House Energy Bill.

## Clean Water Act

On January 15, 2003, the Bush Administration published an "Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking" in the Federal Register raising questions about the jurisdiction of the Clean Water Act. Simultaneously, the EPA and Army Corps of Engineers issued new guidance to their field staff that went into effect immediately, limiting enforcement of the Clean Water Act over "isolated, non-navigable, intrastate" wetlands, streams, ponds, lakes and other waters. The agencies have argued that this action is in line with the 2001 Supreme Court SWANCC decision that removed protections from isolated wetlands, but in fact, it goes far beyond it.

As many of you will recall, Wisconsin acted swiftly to plug the regulatory hole created by the SWANCC decision and, a few months later, passed a law extending state protections to isolated wetlands. However, the question now remains of how these new changes will impact small, intermittent streams in Wisconsin. Depending on how broadly the Bush administration defines "isolated waters," this guidance could impact the role EPA plays in approving or supporting Wisconsin DNR actions on small streams, including issuing pollution permits, preventing oil pollution and developing plans to cleanup impaired waters.

Working with river groups around the nation, the River Alliance has opposed these attacks to this landmark law and roll back of 30 years of progress protecting and cleaning up our waters. We have also strongly supported the *Clean Water Restoration Act of 2003*, a bill introduced earlier this year with bipartisan support by Senator Russ Feingold (WI), Representative John Dingell (MI) and others to restore the original intent of the Clean Water Act.

**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**

# Namekagon River Gathering Draws Strong Support

## Local Group Assistance Program Update

Lisa Goodman, Northern Region Coordinator

### Springbrook, Wisconsin

More than 200 paddlers from across Wisconsin and Minnesota turned out on May 10 to support the Namekagon River.

Organized by Clean Wisconsin, the River Alliance of Wisconsin, SOUL (Save Our Unique Lands), the Wisconsin Stewardship Network, and Protect the Earth, the event demonstrated public concern about the proposed Arrowhead-Weston transmission line being permitted to cross the Namekagon, part of the St Croix National Scenic Riverway. The National Park Service is currently drafting an environmental impact statement to determine whether to grant a permit for the river crossing. Gaylord Nelson, former Wisconsin Senator and founder of Earth Day, attended the event to the delight of many. Said one Clean Wisconsin member, "I was lured to this gathering by the opportunity to be counted as one person opposing the proposed power-line and the chance to canoe one of my favorite rivers with Gaylord Nelson...one of my heroes. For me it's like canoeing with Thomas Jefferson or Mark Twain."

Drum groups from Mole Lake reservation and the Potawatomi reservation started the opening ceremony at Stinnett Landing. Tribal representatives presented Gaylord Nelson with a blanket in thanks for his years of service to the environment. Tim Rudnicki, spokesman for the Pimicikamak Cree Nation, spoke of the environmental destruction the Cree face from a large hydropower project on their land; this electricity would travel through Wisconsin via the Arrowhead-Weston line. Former DNR Secretary George Meyer was present and gave praise for the fight to protect the Namekagon.

After heavy rain the day before, the river was running well. Canoes and kayaks of various types could be seen with people of all ages and origins maneuvering their watercraft through the mix of calm water and easy whitewater. There were a few spills, but everyone enjoyed a fine day on a great river. The scenery was excellent and the shoreline undeveloped, thanks in large part to former Senator Nelson and the National Scenic Riverway designation.

Afterward, paddlers visited Springbrook Town Hall for food and a live broadcast on WOJB Radio. Attendees made statements regarding the proposed transmission line as part of an effort to convince National Park Service staff to deny any permit for the transmission line to cross the Namekagon River. Of all the words

spoken on this day, the most simple and direct came from Gaylord Nelson. "The Namekagon River is a beautiful place. There is nothing we can do to improve it."

*Note: Distilled from Wisconsin Stewardship Network's Network News. Authors Clean Wisconsin's Claire Schmidt and member Paul Meyer.*

To view more Gathering photos, visit <http://www.justenergy.org/images/0502nelson/>



Former U.S. Senator Gaylord Nelson (front canoe, right) paddling the Namekagon. Photo: Clean Wisconsin staff.

### River Works 2003-2005:

#### A Citizen Action Plan for Wisconsin's Watersheds

In the last newsletter we described the birth of *River Works 2003-2005: A Citizen Action Plan for Wisconsin's Watersheds*. This effort began at the Rivers 2002 conference last November. Each of the River Works working groups has now met to begin identifying what can be accomplished in the next two to three years to address a series of key issues.

Working groups will continue to meet around the following topics:

- River Access – Educate on the Public Trust Doctrine and the ordinary high water mark. Address property owners' concerns.
- River Corridor Land Use – Enable and improve enforcement of existing regulations and provide public education on appropriate use.
- Water Quality: Urban Nonpoint – Provide coordinated education and outreach on urban nonpoint issues and best management practices (BMPs). Address enforcement of water quality standards, policies, and rules, and funding to help communities with water quality issues.
- Water Quality: Agricultural Nonpoint – With similar goals as Urban Nonpoint, provide education and outreach to farmers, decision-makers, and the general public.
- Private Property Rights – Educate on existing regulations and positive values of zoning. Improve enforcement.

- Urbanization – Incorporate land use and river protection tools into land use planning. Increase and encourage citizen involvement in land use planning and build citizen capacity to do so. Educate landowners on different types of development options.

You can help make a difference in the future of Wisconsin's waters. To participate in one of the working groups, contact Lisa Goodman at the River Alliance. View a summary of the River Works findings and goals at: [www.wisconsinrivers.org/LocalGroups/RiverWorks.findings.pdf](http://www.wisconsinrivers.org/LocalGroups/RiverWorks.findings.pdf)

*Continues next page...*



The River Alliance's Diana Toledo leads a workshop for the Token Creek Watershed Association. Photo: Lisa Goodman.

## Benchmarking Your Success, Training for Your Board

- Is your river group feeling overwhelmed by a long slate of projects?
- Are your board members burning out?
- Wondering how to recruit new volunteers?
- Plagued by insufficient funding to support your work?

If this sounds familiar, your group could benefit from our newest training opportunity, *Benchmarking Your Success*. Developed by the nationally renowned Institute for Conservation Leadership, this workshop is a chance for all board members to participate in a discussion about your group's future. At the end of the six-hour workshop, you will take home an action plan to help you chart your course for the coming year.

We are now scheduling training sessions around the state. Some September and October dates remain open. To schedule a training session for your group, or for more information, contact Lisa Goodman at 608.257.2424, [goodman@wisconsinrivers.org](mailto:goodman@wisconsinrivers.org).

## Local Groups Directory Updated

An updated version of *Working for the Rivers: A Directory of Citizen-Based Organizations Working for Wisconsin's Rivers*, is available on our web site.

In addition to an alphabetical directory of organizations, there are appendices containing names of key DNR staff, and chapter listings for Audubon, Sierra Club and Trout Unlimited. There is also an index of organizations by county. *View the directory at [www.wisconsinrivers.org/LocalGroups/directory.html](http://www.wisconsinrivers.org/LocalGroups/directory.html)*. Help us keep your directory listing current. Please send updates to Lisa Goodman.

## River Conservation Resources Available

The River Alliance offers a variety of resources to support citizen-based river and watershed groups. Visit our web site to view the following materials:

- Watershed Advocate Toolkit, featuring our newest publication, *Using the Clean Water Act to Protect Wisconsin's Waters*
- River Links: Interlibrary Loan Resources for Building Successful Conservation Organizations
- *Protecting Your Water from Polluted Runoff: A Citizen's Toolkit to Using Wisconsin's Laws to Reduce Polluted Runoff*, a publication of the Wisconsin Clean Water Coalition.

## Local Groups News Updates from Around the State

### First Wild Rivers Celebration a Success

*Florence, Wisconsin* – The Florence County Lakes and Rivers Association continues its campaign to safeguard the county's protective shoreland zoning ordinance. FCLARA's hard work is not over, but in May members took a rare time-out to celebrate and reflect on their accomplishments. Their Wild Rivers Celebration was a great success, with a standing-room-only crowd filling the Wild Rivers Interpretive Center to attend a cookout and dedication of the new Pine River (LaSalle Falls) mural and listen to the talented band, White Water. The event served as a valuable reminder to all that there needs to be celebration to balance out the hard work.

President Jim Swanson expressed gratitude for a recent bequest from a FCLARA member. FCLARA members look forward to taking part in a River Alliance Benchmarking workshop in July.

### Kickapoo Watershed Citizens Create a Vision for the Future

*Viroqua, Wisconsin* – As we go to press, Valley Stewardship Network announces the release of the Kickapoo Conversations Final Report, which includes the Watershed Vision for the year 2020 and some plans for achieving that vision. The report is the product of a three-month series of regional meetings, which involved 225 participants across the Kickapoo watershed. Local government will be encouraged to use the report in their comprehensive planning efforts.

Kickapoo Conversations represents a great deal of time and effort by those willing to work at making the Kickapoo Valley the very best place possible to live, work and play. VSN looks forward to further efforts and increased activity within the Watershed in pursuit of a sustainable future for the region.

*Kathy Fairchild, Valley Stewardship Network, [www.kickapoovsn.org](http://www.kickapoovsn.org).*

## Upcoming Local Groups Events

### August 20

#### Northern Workshop, Nicolet Area Technical College, Rhinelander

Workshop will feature a checklist of easy things we can do around waterfront property, to protect our waters. Contact Susan Tesarik, (608) 662-0923, [www.wisconsinlakes.org](http://www.wisconsinlakes.org)

### September 10-12

#### Natural Resource Considerations in Community Planning Coastal Projects and Riparian Protection Conference, Odanah

Contact Mike Kroenke, (715) 685-2674, [mike.kroenke@ces.uwex.edu](mailto:mike.kroenke@ces.uwex.edu), [clean-water.uwex.edu/lakesuperior/](http://clean-water.uwex.edu/lakesuperior/)

### Thank You Local Groups Volunteers

Carl Busjahn  
Pat Cannon  
Tom Clarke  
Andrea Goode  
Brigitte Gabathuler  
Caleb Jurkowski  
Michael Page  
Stephanie Polt



*Musical guests, White Water, wow a sellout crowd at the recent FCLARA Wild Rivers Celebration. Photo: Lisa Goodman.*

# The Quick and the Undammed

## Another Section of the Milwaukee River in Ozaukee County Runs Free Again with the Removal of the Waubeka Dam

Helen Sarakinos, Dams Program Manager

The 150 year-old Waubeka Dam was originally built to provide water to power a feed mill and later a factory that produced mother-of-pearl buttons, though the dam has not generated any power since 1961. While some parts of the dam were rebuilt in 1909 and 1925, time, gravity and the Milwaukee River have exacted a heavy toll. An inspection by the DNR in 1980 following a canoeing accident found the dam in a “serious state of disrepair” and “in danger of failing.”

In 1995, according to state dam safety regulations, the DNR ordered the owner to repair or remove the dam. The north end of the 220 foot-long dam was splitting apart, an abutment was crumbling and water was leaking from cracks in the dam. Repair of the structure was estimated to be between \$420,000 and \$480,000 while removal was estimated to cost between \$100,000 and \$150,000. The actual removal cost was around \$80,000 which included some seeding and bank stabilization measures.

Since the owner could not afford the repair costs and the Town of Fredonia decided not to take ownership of the structure, the dam was removed by DNR. The removal of Waubeka Dam was carried out in stages in order to minimize the release of sediments into the stream. The dam was initially breached in November 2001 and fully removed in March 2003.

Funding for removal of the dam and for monitoring of the stream was raised by DNR fisheries and dam staff and included \$35,000 from the Great Lakes Protection Fund and \$45,000 from the Natural Resource Conservation Service Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program (WHIP). Funding from WHIP was also used to remove Afton Dam on Bass Creek last fall.

While the Town of Fredonia originally wanted to purchase and repair the dam, repair costs proved to be unfeasible. “That’s just not practical,” said Chuck Fry, Chairman of the Waubeka Dam Preservation Council in an interview with the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel last September. “It would be so costly.” Removal will expose riffle areas in a relatively steep section of the Milwaukee River. DNR is optimistic that this restoration will improve smallmouth bass and northern pike fisheries by allowing them to migrate to good quality habitats.

Waubeka Dam was part of the River Alliance’s Twenty by 2000 campaign to restore 20 river sections in Wisconsin to free-flowing conditions through selec-

tive dam removal. *For more information on Waubeka Dam, contact Mike Bruch, Dam Safety Engineer, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources: (414) 263-8652, michael.bruch@dnr.state.wi.us*

**Waubeka Dam**  
**Height: 10ft. (222 ft. long)**  
**Impoundment: 20 acres**  
**Built: 1925**  
**Regulatory jurisdiction: WI DNR**  
**Historic purpose: power a feed mill**  
**Owner: Abandoned**  
**Cost of dam removal: \$80K**  
**Removed: March, 2003**  
**(Breached: November 2001)**  
**Estimated repair cost: \$420K-\$480K**

### New Report on Dam Removal in the Great Lakes Region

As we celebrate Wisconsin’s Year of Water, it’s a good time to take a hard look at whether our rivers can continue to withstand the cumulative damage of over 3,800 dams disrupting flows and altering habitat for fish and wildlife, especially if many of these dams no longer serve the purpose for which they were originally built.

In April, River Alliance of Wisconsin and Trout Unlimited released the report *Restoring the Flow: Improving Selective Small Dam Removal Understanding and Practice in the Great Lakes States* which summarizes dam removal policy and management recommendations from more than 40 Great Lakes river restoration experts. It is the product of a unique gathering of resource professionals, conservationists, and academics with over 100 years of combined dam removal experience and involvement with more than 100 dam removals across the Great Lakes region. These experts convened in 2001 for a Small Dam Removal Workshop and Working Meeting in Kohler, Wisconsin to share regional information, showcase several demonstration projects, and develop the recommendations detailed in the report.

“The Great Lakes region has been leading the nation in the removal of obsolete dams. This report captures some good thinking from the region’s best and brightest on dam removal,” said Laura Hewitt, Direc-

tor of Watershed Programs for Trout Unlimited National.

While there is a wealth of dam removal experience in the Great Lakes region, there is a need to more effectively collect and share information, communicate, and inform affected communities about the potential benefits and impacts of small dam removal. This report is a first concrete step to begin meeting these needs. The recommendations in this report are intended to guide policies and initiatives and to improve the understanding and use of small dam removal as a fisheries and river restoration tool in the Great Lakes region.

Wisconsin continues to lead the nation in removal of old, unsafe and uneconomical dams from public waters. More than 100 dams have been removed from Wisconsin waters in the last 50 years.



The report is available online at both River Alliance of Wisconsin ([www.wisconsinrivers.org](http://www.wisconsinrivers.org)) and Trout Unlimited ([www.tu.org](http://www.tu.org)) websites.

### Taking the Dam Show to Appalachia

The rhododendrons were blooming in the foothills of North Carolina (locals refer to it as “Daniel Boone country”) as more than 25 participants gathered for two days to learn about getting local citizens involved in dam removal or repair decisions. Hosted by the National Committee for the New River, and with generous funding by the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation,

*Continues next page...*

Helen Sarakinos and former River Alliance executive director Todd Ambs led the participants through the processes, tools and messages critical to informed decision-making about the fate of old dams. Participants also took a field trip to a nearby dam on a tributary to the North Fork New River to learn firsthand how to assess the impact of a structure on the river and who may be affected by its removal. Joining participants at the site were two staff from the Natural Resource Conservation Service who spoke about the history of the site and local landowner sentiment. The NCNR is planning to advocate for removal of this dam in the near future.

This workshop was built on one offered by the River Alliance and Trout Unlimited in Kenosha, Wisconsin in 2000. Recognizing River Alliance as a national leader in advocating for selective dam removal, the Mott Foundation has provided funding to take our citizen training to three other states within Mott's area of focus. The first roadshow was in Michigan in 2001 and the third will take place in Ohio in 2004.

### Here's to Small Victories

Sometime in mid-April, I got an e-mail from river restoration consultant Marty Melchior of Interfluve. His group was working with a community in Minnesota on a potential removal of the Morehouse Dam. At the eleventh hour, a consortium of landowners came forward offering the municipality almost one million dollars to repair the structure. Interfluve was ready to walk away, assuming that with repair money lined up, it was a done deal. To their surprise, the town council voted 4-3 to continue with plans to remove the dam. Our wholehearted applause goes out to the leaders who have the courage to do the right thing!

Also in April, news came that Milltown Dam in Montana is coming down! From the Clark Fork Coalition's website ([www.clarkfork.org/milltown.html](http://www.clarkfork.org/milltown.html)): "On April 15, EPA officials released their proposed plan for taking care of the mess of metals sitting at the confluence of the Blackfoot and Clark Fork rivers eight miles upstream of Missoula, Montana and suffice to say, it's a good one. Sediment removal is in there. Dam removal is in there. And importantly, so is local involvement in a separate restoration and redevelopment planning process once the river is free-flowing again."



Helen Sarakinos, Dams Program Manager (center with back to camera) and other attendees at a site visit of the Helton Creek Dam. Photo: Staff.

## River Alliance Volunteer Profile

### Janel Pike

Michael Lavitschke  
Member Services Manager

We have been extremely fortunate to count Janel Pike as one of our committed volunteers over the last few years. Her capable assistance has helped the River Alliance with efforts from shuttling cars at the Wisconsin River Canoe Race to creating basin maps with her GIS expertise. And her talents do not end there. We have put her to work selling raffle tickets, educating the masses at many of the events the River Alliance attends throughout the summer and coordinating parts of our annual dinner. Her friendly face lights up the office everytime she visits.



Janel(left) guides this trip with fellow paddlers Beth Wentzel(center) and Board member Terry Hiltz(right) at last year's Rivers 2002 conference. Photo: Staff.

As a resident of Fitchburg, Janel strives to visit the rivers of Wisconsin as often as possible. Her two favorites are the Kickapoo and Wisconsin Rivers. "Their beauty and ability to be so many things inspire me. How can you not love rivers?" asks Janel. During her childhood, Janel remembers seeing concrete channels with water in them from time to time. "I was pretty shocked when I figured out it was a river! It was about that time when I decided I wanted to work for the environment when I grew up." And, as a Geographical Information Systems Analyst with the Wisconsin DNR's Bureau of Watershed Management, working for the environment is just what she's doing.

Beside working with Wisconsin's DNR and helping out her favorite river group, Janel enjoys hiking, camping, backpacking, volleyball and getting out on the rivers in a canoe. You can always find her at our paddling events. In fact, one of our funders, the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, recently featured Janel on the cover of their magazine, *Mott Mosaic*. She is pictured paddling downstream in a wooden canoe accompanied by Board member Terry Hiltz and Beth Wentzel of Illinois Prairie Rivers Network as part of a Plover River trip the River Alliance offered during last year's statewide conference.

But why does she volunteer? Janel says, "I like being able to volunteer my time with an organization or cause that I believe in and to be able to see the difference it makes in the environment."

Ten at Ten continues from cover...

**1994 – RAW co-sponsors historic statewide rivers conference, *A Gathering for the Rivers*.**

A cross section of 150 Wisconsinites attended this event and identified key needs for improving the use, management and protection of Wisconsin’s rivers. Held in Manitowoc, the conference was co-sponsored by the River Alliance, UW-Extension, the WDNR, and the National Park Service. During this conference, ideas for improving and protecting Wisconsin’s rivers were suggested and three new institutional arrangements were discussed to help implement those suggestions: a Wisconsin council on rivers; an education/resource center; and an advocacy organization (which was filled by the recently formed River Alliance of Wisconsin).

**1995 – RAW launches Hydropower Licensing Program to advocate on behalf of rivers during the relicensing of hydropower dams in Wisconsin.**

Between 1993 and 2003, the operating licenses of half of the 120 hydropower-producing dams in Wisconsin were set to expire, triggering a relicensing process that, under the Federal Power Act of 1986, must give equal consideration to both power and non-power issues (such as environmental and recreational impacts) when determining the conditions under which the dam can operate. Since power generating licenses are granted on a 30- to 50-year basis, relicensing literally presents a “once in a lifetime” opportunity to weigh in the environmental impact of these hydro dams and how that impact could be lessened. In response to this opportunity, River Alliance launched a hydropower relicensing program in 1995 and hired attorney Monica Gross as project director to represent citizen interests, and to speak on behalf of the public trust during the relicensing process. “Dam owners are degrading rivers and reaping private benefit from public waters,” said Gross, River Alliance’s then-Director of Hydropower Programs. “It’s time for them to start giving back to our rivers.” During her five-year tenure, Monica represented the River Alliance in dozens of relicensing cases, arguing for provisions to require these facilities to operate in a more environmentally friendly manner. Her successes were many, and included the landmark Wilderness Shores Agreement.

**1996 – RAW is an active partner in the landmark Menominee River Wilderness Shores Hydro Settlement.**

The River Alliance of Wisconsin was an active partner in negotiating the Wilderness Shores Agreement for the relicensing of 11 hydro-producing dams owned by WE Energies on the Menominee River bordering Wisconsin and Michigan. The multi-stakeholder agreement affects the management of eight hydropower dams for 40 years and includes the removal of three

uneconomical dams for river restoration purposes, including Woods Creek Dam in Florence County (removed fall 2002) and the Pine River Dam, slated for removal by 2020. Not only has the settlement provided important river and recreation benefits, it is expected to save WE Energies millions of dollars by cutting their relicensing costs in half. Then-Secretary of State Bruce Babbitt hailed the agreement as “a model for the nation.” Babbitt continued, “the people of Wisconsin and Michigan saw that the strength of their [Menominee] river was more than the sum of its kilowatt hours.”

**1997 – Wolf River named one of U.S. 10 Most Endangered Rivers due to threats posed by the Crandon Mine.**

In 1997, RAW led an effort to have the Wolf River named to American Rivers’ annual list of the ten most endangered rivers in the United States. Citing the threat posed by an estimated 44 million tons of mine waste laced with mercury, lead, zinc, arsenic, and sulfuric acid, the Wolf was listed fifth, along with the Missouri, San Joaquin, and others. The press attention garnered from the designation helped spur public interest in the issue and contributed to the eventual passage of the Mining Moratorium bill by the Wisconsin Legislature. Of course, the mine still exists as a threat to the Wolf today, though with the new owner’s recent announcement they were suspending their permit request, the work of numerous organizations and individuals to protect this jewel may finally be succeeding.

**1998 – RAW takes legal action to protect Black Earth Creek from animal waste run-off from dairy operations.**

In 1998 RAW joined Clean Wisconsin (formerly Wisconsin’s Environmental Decade) and others to protect Black Earth Creek from polluted runoff from a dairy operation. By putting pressure on the Department of Natural Resources and filing an Intent to Sue the landowner, our organization prompted the DNR to take enforcement action. This led to a lawsuit filed by the Wisconsin Department of Justice against the farmer for violation of his permits, which was ultimately settled such that the farmer would implement a series of measures to curb polluted runoff from farm operations contaminating Black Earth Creek.

*Right: Chairman of the Menominee, Apesanahkwat and River Alliance’s founding Executive Director Sara Johnson at the Wolf River in 1997. Photo: Staff*

**1999 – RAW plays pivotal role in passing new River Protection Grant Program as part of the State budget.**

In 1999, the River Alliance successfully urged the legislature to support a Rivers Protection Grant Program that seeks to protect and improve river ecosystems and to strengthen community involvement in these efforts. The Program uses dollars from a portion of the state excise tax on gasoline consumed by motorboats to leverage private funds to restore and protect rivers in the state and help create strong local watershed groups. Between 2000 and 2002, \$894,837 in grant funds have been awarded to 62 municipalities and citizen-based organizations around Wisconsin to support local river protection projects. “Every person who cares about our rivers and streams should send a big thank you to Senator Kevin Shibilski (D – Stevens Point) and Senator Rob Cowles (R – Green Bay) for...[taking] a good idea in Governor Thompson’s budget and making it even better,” stated Tom Miller, then-Chair of River Alliance Board.



*One of the many River Grant recipients, Friends of the Jump River. Photo: Lisa Goodman*





First River Alliance Dams Program manager Stephanie Lindloff enjoying a summer paddle party. Photo: Staff

## 2000 – Opposition to Perrier’s plan to pump from the Mekan Springs and the subsequent bi-partisan push for groundwater legislation.

Joining with other organizations and dedicated individuals, RAW helped stop a proposal by the Perrier Corporation to bottle water from the headwaters of the Mekan River. Met with huge local and statewide opposition, Perrier eventually withdrew its request for a permit to remove as much as 500 gallons a minute from springs that feed the Mekan. While successfully stopped, this project brought to light the gaping hole in our state water law and regulations regarding groundwater. River Alliance then went to work with a bipartisan coalition of local and state-wide interests, including the Wisconsin Potato and Vegetable Growers Association, to draft a bill that would regulate high capacity wells that may threaten fragile groundwater resources. River Alliance hopes to see legislative action on this issue sometime in 2003.



Paddling the Baraboo at the 2001 “Running Free” Celebration. Photo: Staff

## 2001 – The last of four dams is removed from the Baraboo River.

The little city of Baraboo made history when, in October 2001, the Baraboo River became the longest mainstem river in the nation restored to free flowing through dam removal. Between 1997 and 2001 four dams were removed, restoring more than 115 miles of river to free-flowing and triggering a major waterfront revitalization effort in the City of Baraboo. This was the culmination of six years’ work for the River Alliance, along with local citizens, regulatory agencies and other non-profits.

This effort was made possible by the passion and determination of former River Alliance executive director Sara Johnson and many other committed people and organizations, including City of Baraboo administrators, the Baraboo River Canoe Club, Citizens for Waterfront Revitalization, the Department of Natural Resources, Sand County Foundation and the US Fish and Wildlife service as well as a host of public and private funders. The Baraboo River today plays host to more than 26 species of fish (compared to 11 when the dams were in) including an ever-improving smallmouth bass fishery, proving that “if you remove the dams, the fish will come.”

## 2002 – The Clean Water Coalition and passage of polluted runoff rules.

Acting as one of the leaders of the Clean Water Coalition, River Alliance was instrumental in gaining passage by the state legislature of administrative rules regulating polluted runoff. The CWC, a coalition of over

“A free-flowing Baraboo River stands as evidence that community-based environmental efforts work.”  
– *Wisconsin State Journal editorial, October 28, 2001.*

40 environmental and conservation organizations in the state, worked to ensure passage of a set of rules considered among the strongest in the nation. While the standards set in the rules are strong, implementation must be monitored into the future, and former RAW Executive Director Todd Ambs pointed out at the time of passage that, “there must be adequate resources to implement, monitor, and enforce the rules.” Still, this set of rules will help to protect Wisconsin’s rivers, streams and lakes from polluted runoff, a leading cause of degradation of our waters.

## 2003 – Todd Ambs, former ED, wins National River Hero award.

Todd Ambs, former executive director for the River Alliance of Wisconsin, was selected as a “River Hero” by River Network, one of the nation’s premier river conservation organizations based in Portland, OR.

Ambs was hired as executive director of the River Alliance in 1999. The organization at that time had one and a half full-time staff, less than \$100,000 for an annual budget, and a board of directors that was limited in numbers and in the throes of transition. Four years later, the River Alliance has a \$500,000 annual budget, a rainy day fund, a full compliment of active, engaged and committed board members, and six full-time professional staff working to protect Wisconsin’s 44,000+ miles of rivers and streams.

Without question the River Alliance, thanks in large measure to Ambs’ leadership, is now a top tier state-wide conservation organization in Wisconsin and positioned to build upon its many successes, some of which are listed here in our “top ten” story.

Throughout his tenure, Ambs, along with the Board of Directors, worked to strengthen the role of grassroots watershed and river organizations throughout the state. There were just a handful of such groups sprinkled throughout Wisconsin in 1999. Today that number has swelled to more than 100 local river and watershed groups.



Ex-executive director Todd Ambs speaking at the 2003 National River Rally. Photo: Michael Lavitschke

# Acting Locally

## Making a Difference in the Fox River Basin

Lisa Goodman

Local Group Assistance - Northern Region

*Wisconsin is home to two Fox Rivers, one in the southeast (in Waukesha County), and one in north-eastern Wisconsin. Most people are at least acquainted with the latter Fox River and the PCB contamination on the Lower Fox. Going beyond that focus, here is a look at some of the organizations working to make a difference throughout the Fox Basin.*

Speaking with those who work on the Fox River, one finds that it's hard to talk about the Fox River without also mentioning a major tributary, the Wolf River. "It seems as though the Wolf River could have been called the north branch of the Fox," says environmental historian Paul Wozniak.

### Fox - Wolf Rivers Environmental History Project

Wozniak is co-founder of the nonprofit **Fox/Wolf Rivers Environmental History Project**. Founded in 1989, the organization focuses on the entire Fox-Wolf basin, 6,400 square miles of northeast Wisconsin.

To date, they have collected more than 100 oral histories and, Wozniak notes they have also branched out into music and video projects. "We hear from people who hunted ducks in wetlands filled for progress. We talk to founders of parks and wildlife areas about what motivated them. We talk to industrial workers who saw things on the job that they wish they hadn't seen, and we talk to businesspeople, politicians, and conservationists about the push-and-pull of river politics," said Wozniak. "We see ourselves as an environmental education and history research group, not an environmental activist group. We work to include opposing views on issues. Fitting with this, we don't advocate specific political positions or actions," he said.

When asked about the role of history in river conservation, Wozniak observes that history is all lessons that conservationists can use. "This is giving it a storehouse, giving it a memory bank. Hopefully we can improve our memory, and improve citizen participation." To learn more visit: ([www.wisconsinwaterhistory.org](http://www.wisconsinwaterhistory.org)) or phone (888)FOX-WOLF.



*Enjoying a summer's day on the Fox River.*

*Photo by P. Wozniak*

### Upper Fox Basin Partnership

Guided by UWEX Basin Educator and River Alliance Board vice-chair Rebecca Power, the partnership team is comprised of representatives from a variety of agencies, nonprofits, tribes, universities, municipalities as well as private citizens.

The Upper Fox Partnership currently has three active projects:

- **Revising State Weed Laws**

Local weed ordinances sometimes prevent citizens from putting in protective shoreland buffers. As the state's weed law is currently undergoing revisions, a partner team work group has been collaborating with the DNR. They have added language to the draft weed law, hoping that local weed laws won't interfere with people putting in buffers in the future.

- **Involving Local Citizens in Comprehensive Planning**

Seeking to engage groups that will be significantly affected by outcomes of Smart Growth planning efforts, but who are not often engaged, a partnership advisory team is working to provide citizens with tools and skills to effectively participate in comprehensive planning.

- **Creating Five Shoreland Restoration Demonstration Sites**

In an effort to educate riparian landowners on ways to restore riparian shoreline while im-

proving fish and wildlife habitat, the Partnership is creating five demonstration sites along the Fox River. The restoration techniques used are alternatives to rip-rap, a common approach to stabilizing shorelines that is of limited value to habitat quality.

Power would love to have help breathing life into a handful of projects on the Partnership's workplan that are currently inactive. "We're looking for more volunteers to participate in all of these projects," says Power.

To get involved, or for more information, contact: Rebecca Power, Upper Fox, ([www.clean-water.uwex.edu/foxwolf](http://www.clean-water.uwex.edu/foxwolf)), phone (920)232-1990.

### Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance

Working in both basins across 18 counties is the nonprofit organization Fox Wolf Watershed Alliance. Originally founded in 1991 as a research organization, then-Northeast Wisconsin for Tomorrow authored a series of reports on the economic impact of implementing the Green Bay remediation plan (a PCB clean-up plan). After the reports were completed in 1994, the group became Fox Wolf Basin 2000. In 2002, they once again changed their name to become the Fox Wolf Watershed Alliance.

Executive director Linda Stoll says FWWA works to promote bottom-up, grassroots solutions to problems.

*Continues next page...*

Continues from previous page...

“We seem to get better results when we get local people to work together to solve local problems,” hence the name “alliance.” “We assess the scope of an issue, then bring people together to find a way to work together, even if they don’t agree. We can at least create an atmosphere in which people feel safe sharing their issues.”

Stoll is working with faculty at UW Oshkosh to form a science and technical advisory committee on the Winnebago pools management plan to address the impacts that fluctuating water levels in the pools have on fish and wildlife habitat.

FWWA is also involved with the NEMO program (Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials, [www.nemo.uconn.edu/](http://www.nemo.uconn.edu/)), working on a pilot project with the City of Appleton. Ultimately, they hope to find funding to bring NEMO to every community within the basin, particularly as they begin to develop comprehensive plans and stormwater management plans. For more information on FWWA, visit ([www.fwaa.org](http://www.fwaa.org)), or phone (920)738-7025.

### Northeast Wisconsin Land Trust

“Northeast Wisconsin Land Trust’s niche in efforts to restore health to the Fox River is in the preservation and protection of the most intact upstream ecosystems,” according to program director, Leslie Taylor.

Founded in 1996 “to protect the land, that would then protect the water,” NEWLT is working on conservation projects at several locations in both the Fox and Wolf River basins. “One of our most exciting projects is the development of the Little Wolf Headwaters Initiative to protect and restore some very special streams and ecosystems in northwestern Waupaca County,” said Taylor. Particularly exciting to her are the project partners, which include the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF), Trout Unlimited and sponsor Golden Sands RC&D, with support from a DNR River Protection Grant.

Taylor described a recent “ah ha!” moment, while driving along the Little Wolf River. She suddenly had to brake for wild turkeys in the road... many turkeys.

The “ah ha” came because NWTF staffer Dave Neu had contacted NEWLT to see if there was a project they could partner on. When Taylor “saw the light” -or the turkeys- she realized that they had found their project. The local NWTF chapter is “thrilled to see their money going to work locally,” and “we’re excited about it, and excited about seeing how we can team up to make that happen in other places. It’s a model we’d

like to keep going,” said Taylor of NEWLT’s partnership with sporting organizations like NWTF and Trout Unlimited. With these partnerships, “it takes time to learn about each others’ interests and develop trust,” said Taylor. An upcoming project in the Upper Fox basin may present NEWLT a similar opportunity to partner with Pheasants Forever.

Taylor says, “The (community-based conservation) conference that River Alliance and Gathering Waters held in Oshkosh two years ago is what really got us on the path of working with local groups in subwatersheds.” Adds Taylor, “(DNR) river protection grants can be a great means of support for land trust work, too.”

According to Taylor, “If we can’t protect the river’s headwaters...we don’t really stand a chance at fully restoring the health of the lower Fox River which has been the subject of so much attention.”

For more information, visit ([www.newlt.org](http://www.newlt.org)) or phone (920)738-7265.

Other groups that have been closely involved on the Fox River are:

#### The Clean Water Action Council of Northeastern Wisconsin

Rebecca Katers  
920-437-7304  
[cwac@execpc.com](mailto:cwac@execpc.com)  
[www.cwac.net](http://www.cwac.net)  
[www.foxriverwatch.com](http://www.foxriverwatch.com)

#### The Lower Fox Basin Partner Team

Kendra Axness  
715/582-1002  
[kendra.axness@ces.uwex.edu](mailto:kendra.axness@ces.uwex.edu)  
[www.clean-water.uwex.edu/lowerfox](http://www.clean-water.uwex.edu/lowerfox)



## River Rally Ramblings

As Told by River Alliance Staff Attendees

*River Network, a national river protection organization, held its Annual River Rally this May in Stevenson, WA. Three staff members were privileged to attend and the following are their accounts from this four day conference for the river community.*

### Lisa Goodman

To me, there is a small, unspoken joy of being in a large room with 400 other people who do the same work you do, in other states, provinces, and countries. They don’t ask **what** you do, they ask **where** you do it, and **how** you do it. They understand.

So it was, at the National River Rally, near the shores of the Columbia River in Stevenson, Washington. Helen, Otis and I would meet over morning coffee to recap our strategy for the day, “OK, so *you’re* attending session 8A, and *you’ll* be in 8C? Then I’ll cover 8J,” one of us would say. After our brief huddle, we’d attend our respective sessions to soak up all we could about Using the Clean Water Act, Cultivating Members, or Finding Dollars for Restoration.

Together, with colleagues from across the country, we lived the future. We existed, briefly, in a place where caring about and protecting rivers was the norm.

There were familiar faces and many new ones. During our many conversations with colleagues, we shared notes with those working on the same types of projects. This network of river people is a powerful resource. Together, we help each other find solutions.

I attended sessions with titles like Volunteer Monitoring, Listening to Watersheds: Documenting traditional knowledge, Living in Coalitions, Building a Multicultural organization, as well as a series of workshops about understanding and using the Clean Water Act.

There was also an escape, for one brief afternoon on the water. Bouncing down the Klickitat River in whitewater kayaks, we felt the sun, the wind –and sometimes the river– on our faces. That is what it’s all about. This is why we do this work.

We brought home many new tools we have already begun to put to work for Wisconsin’s rivers. We also brought back a less tangible, but equally important, dose of “re-charge.” The energy and excitement of meeting and sharing ideas with others doing this work from around the country was every bit as important as the workshop notes and handouts we brought home.

Continues on page 14...

# Know Your River: *Clever Like the Fox*

Paul Wozniak  
Fox-Wolf Rivers Environmental History Project

## Facts and Figures

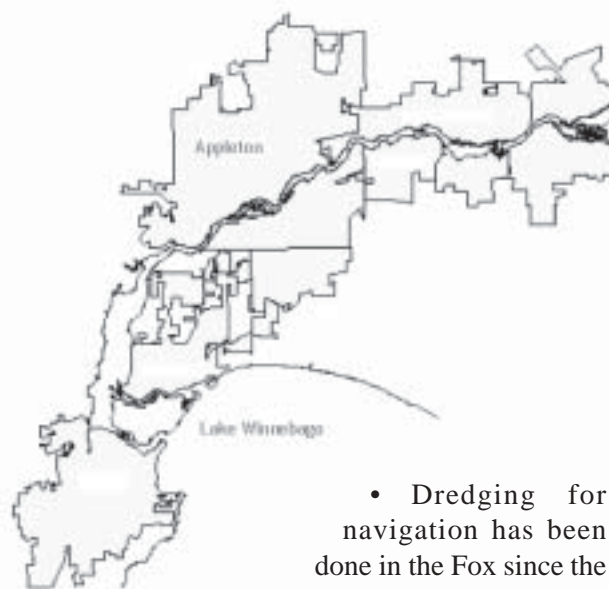
### Number of Fox Rivers In Wisconsin

*Two* — one in southeast Wisconsin, the other in central and northeast Wisconsin. *This article is about the more northern of the two Fox Rivers.*

### Its Environmental History:

- The Upper Fox basin is home to the John Muir County Park near the site of the Fountain Lake farm. Muir's *The Story of My Boyhood and Youth* describes his experiences there. Muir moved to California where, in the latter years of his life he became a well-known advocate for preserving ecological wonders like Yosemite.
- Because of its elevation drop, the Lower Fox attracted industries needing power. The 100+ year history of industrial development started with sawmills and led to pulp mills, paper mills, vegetable canneries, milk product processing, metal plating and printing.
- Citizen campaigns to stop river pollution have a long history on the Lower Fox and the Upper Fox's Lake Winnebago. The first anti-pollution activists organized in the 1920s in several chapters of the Izaak Walton League.
- The earliest record of large fish kills in the Lower Fox is from the 1920s. From the start, river activists have represented a cross-section of socioeconomic levels and political parties (Republican, Democratic and —during its short life in the 1930s and 40s — the Progressive Party.)
- Conservation leaders have included business CEOs, public school teachers, union activists, engineers, housewives and at least one circuit court judge.
- In 1948 a single-issue campaign based on stopping river pollution got attorney Fred Kaftan elected to the state senate on the Republican ticket. Kaftan's Green Bay seat is now held by State Senator Rob Cowles.
- One of the nation's first closed-loop paper mills is the Green Bay Packaging corrugated box mill.

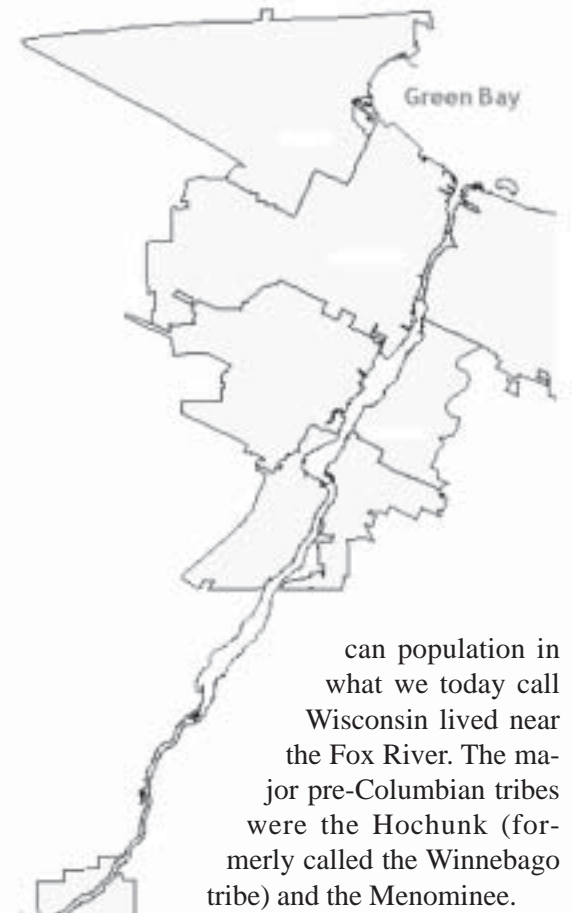
- The nation's largest paper recycling plant is Green Bay's Georgia-Pacific West Mill (formerly Fort Howard Paper Co.)
- Ironically, paper recycling led to the Lower Fox River's "contaminated sediments" problem. River-bottom sediments in 39 sites on the Lower Fox have moderate-to-high concentrations of contaminants, including PCBs, mercury and chromium. The PCBs came from recycling carbonless paper forms impregnated with PCBs.
- PCBs were first identified in the sediment in the mid-1970s, when better laboratory technology was developed. Since the late 1980s a controversy has raged about whether to remove the sediments, how to do it, and what to do with the sediments once dredged.
- Many fish in the Lower Fox and ducks in the area have concentrations of PCBs that are harmful to humans who eat them. Advisories on consumption are issued annually by the Wisconsin Department of Health.



- Dredging for navigation has been done in the Fox since the mid-1800s. Much of the sediments near the mouth of the Fox were contaminated. However, they were land filled in a bay shore marsh that became the 1967 Bayport Confined Disposal Facility and also in an artificial island near the mouth (the 1978 Renard Isle).

### Its Inhabitants

- **Native American Heritage:** In pre-Columbian times, much of the Native American



can population in what we today call Wisconsin lived near the Fox River. The major pre-Columbian tribes were the Hochunk (formerly called the Winnebago tribe) and the Menominee.

- **Major Human Communities:** Upper Fox includes Berlin, Green Lake and Oshkosh; Lower Fox includes Appleton, Kaukauna and Green Bay
- **Drinking Water:** Lake Winnebago supplies drinking water to the cities of Appleton, Neenah, Menasha and Oshkosh.
- **Lakes:** Wisconsin's largest inland lake, Lake Winnebago, is in the Upper Fox basin. Other large lakes include Rush and Green Lake.
- **Endangered And Threatened Fish:** Lake Winnebago is home to North America's largest self-sustaining lake sturgeon population. The sturgeon annually swim up the Wolf River to spawn.
- **Endangered Birds:** Forster's Tern.
- **Endangered Land Plants In Watershed:** White Ladyslipper.
- **Invasive Animal And Plant Species:** zebra mussel, white perch, carp, alewife, sea lamprey, purple loosestrife, reed canary grass.

*Continues next page...*

## Its Waters

- **Number of Basins In Watershed:** Two— Upper Fox and Lower Fox.
- **The Beginning (source of the Fox):** Marquette County in farm-field wetlands.
- **The End (mouth of Lower Fox):** Lake Michigan's Green Bay
- **The Beginning (of the Lower Fox):** Menasha where water from Lake Winnebago crosses the Menasha Dam
- **Direction Of Flow:** Generally northeast into Lake Michigan via the bay of Green Bay. Meanders take the Upper Fox on a westward excursion to the city of Portage before turning east-northeast toward Oshkosh. An abandoned canal connects the Fox and Wisconsin rivers at Portage.
- **Length And Pitch:** Over its 127 miles, the Upper Fox drops only 47 feet in altitude. The Lower Fox falls 185 feet over its 39 miles from Lake Winnebago to the bay of Green Bay. That's about the height of Niagara Falls.
- **Physical Description:** The Upper Fox is set on an almost flat plane, making the flow slow and meandering. The Lower Fox flows more rapidly, and before dams were built, it had many rapids and waterfalls. Increase Lapham in 1843 described the Lower Fox as "a broad stream, banks high and bold."
- **Land Use:** Both the Upper and Lower Fox basins are primarily agricultural. Nutrient and sediment runoff are major problems.
- **Age:** About 10,000 years. The entire watershed is on a landscape scoured by the Pleistocene glaciations. Watch for eskers.
- **Aliases:** The Fox has been given several different names by Europeans and Americans, including Neenah (meaning peace), St. Francis, and Renard (French for Fox). There's no record of what Native Americans named the river.
- **Lower Fox Pre-Industrial Look:** "We left this bay (*now Green Bay*) to enter a river emptying into it. It is very beautiful at its mouth, and flows gently; it is full of bustards, duck, teal, and other birds, attracted by the wild oats of which they are very fond; but when you have advanced a little up this river, it becomes very difficult, both on account of the currents and of the sharp rocks which cut the canoes and the feet of those who are obliged to drag them, especially when the water is low." Claude Dablon, S.J. aide to Jacque Marquette, S.J., (translated from French), 1668.

- **The Other Beginning:** Near Crandon. The Wolf River is functionally the north branch of the Fox. The WDNR manages the resources of the Fox-Wolf basin as an integrated unit. See [www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/gmu/lowerfox/](http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/gmu/lowerfox/)
- **Flow Regime:** Current stream flow conditions can be found at <http://wi.waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/rt>
- **Flow Control:** Lower Fox flow is somewhat controlled by the Menasha Dam built in the mid-1800s. The dam increased the size of Lake Winnebago and converted vast marshlands into the open-water Lakes Poygan, Winnecone and Butte Des Mort.
- **Water Temperature:** Most streams in the Upper and all in the Lower Fox basin are warm water fisheries. However, cold-water trout streams are found in the western reaches of the Upper Fox basin.
- **Lower Fox Boat Locks:** 17 boat locks with nine dams. Only three of the locks are operable today. Boat traffic on the Lower Fox is blocked at Rapide Croche dam, a few miles south of Wrightstown. The Wisconsin DNR sealed the lock in the 1980s because of fears the lamprey eel would migrate from Green Bay to Lake Winnebago. Wisconsin is awaiting ownership transfer of the locks from the federal government. Wisconsin's Navigational System Authority (a state commission appointed by the governor) will develop plans to operate the lock system as the Fox River Heritage Parkway.
- **Link To Wisconsin River:** On the Upper Fox, an abandoned canal connects the Fox and Wisconsin rivers at Portage. The state maintains levees to keep the Wisconsin River from flowing into the Upper Fox. In the 1930s plans were made to deliberately divert Wisconsin River waters to the Fox to raise flow and thereby dilute industrial wastes.
- **Land Area:** Upper Fox 2,090 sq. miles (15 sub-watersheds); Lower Fox 638 sq. miles (six sub-watersheds)
- **Role In Larger Ecosystem:** The 6,400 square mile Fox-Wolf watershed is the largest watershed to Lake Michigan.
- **More Info:** UW-Extension has web sites describing each Wisconsin river basin. See <http://clean-water.uwex.edu/foxwolf/>.

*Wozniak is co-founder of the nonprofit Fox - Wolf Rivers Environmental History Project.*

## 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](mailto:wisrivers@wisconsinrivers.org).*

### Items

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

### Skills

- GIS Training
- Publication Design
- Carpentry
- Web Design



*Above: The DePere Dam on the Fox River. Below: Heading home after a day angling on the Fox. Photos by P. Wozniak*



*River Rally Ramblings continues...*

**Helen Sarakinos**

I am always grateful for the opportunity to attend this kind of training event, as much for the unplanned moments as for the inspiring and stimulating workshops. And there were plenty of both this time around. From a quiet fireside chat with a funder talking big visions of river restoration to a workshop where the speaker made



*Multnomah Falls in the Columbia River Gorge. Photo: Michael Lavitschke*

my pulse jump, hit a nerve, got my adrenaline pumping because he said something that resonated so strongly with me. All too often, we allow ourselves to be yoked with the “environmentalist” label when we speak of our right to have clean water. This is ridiculous, as ridiculous as calling people abolitionists, suffragettes or wobblers because they believe in equal rights for all and a forty-hour work-week. By accepting the label “environmentalist” we are diminishing the power of our message: clean water is a basic human right. And when we work on behalf of rivers, it is because the rivers of Wisconsin belong to *all* the people of Wisconsin. Our interest group is broader than just a bunch of “environmentalists”.

In this field, it’s easy to get too wrapped up in the issues. But this was the stunning Columbia River Gorge, and the wise words of Edward Abbey rattled in my head, “be a reluctant enthusiast, a part-time crusader, a half-hearted fanatic. Save the other half of yourselves for pleasure and adventure.” In other words, after five days of intense advocacy training, I went paddling. I picked up a paddle, my husband and some fine river rats and got reacquainted with western whitewater. Three days of rafting on three rivers in the Gorge were followed by the quiet contemplation of kayaking in the Klamath Basin. And while the issues were impossible to ignore

– the Columbia River, with the withering of its once mighty salmon populations, and the Klamath Basin, its serenity belying the terrible, tragic politics of pitting livelihoods against each other with the river caught in the middle – there was a rejuvenating effect to experiencing these waters with one’s body and not just one’s mind. If I’m trying to make some change in this world, I’d rather not burn out too soon.

**Michael Lavitschke (Otis)**

Two words describe my experience at River Network’s 2003 River Rally... inspiring and energizing. From engaging workshops with my river organization peers to one-on-one conversations with river advocacy leaders, every day of the conference filled me with a new sense of urgency and the feeling that we are collectively “getting it done.” I am very grateful to River Network for a grant that allowed this member services manager to experience what other program staff have in the past.

Outside of the fundraising seminars and media trainings, I was able to visit the Bonneville Lock and Dam. The group I was with quickly avoided the Army Corps tour and found our own way to the fish ladders. It was interesting to view the weirs, or cross-barriers, that form the pools and steps to allow migrating fish species to pass the dam. We were also able to view the various species using the ladders through viewing windows below the dam.

Now back in Madison, I sit at my desk drifting into daydreams of my recent visit to the majestic Columbia River Gorge and plan my next escape to a more local yet majestic river in Wisconsin. And, with over 44,000 miles to choose from, the choice could prove to be difficult. I encourage everyone to make time for rivers this summer. Enjoy their serenity, their beauty and the exhilaration that comes from being on the water.



*Fish ladders at the Bonneville Dam in Oregon. Salmon and other species wind their way upstream and around the dam. Photo: Michael Lavitschke*

**Organizational Members**

*Thanks for all of your support!  
This issue, we proudly list all of our member organizations!*

- American Rivers
- Bad River Watershed Association
- Badger Fly Fishers
- Black Earth Creek Watershed Association
- Citizens for Waterfront Revitalization
- Door County Environmental Council
- ECCOLA
- Florence Co Lakes and Rivers Association
- Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance
- Friends of Lake Wingra
- Friends of Milwaukee’s Rivers
- Friends of Rowan Creek
- Friends of Scenic Lodi Valley, Inc.
- Friends of the Branch River
- Friends of the Brule River and Forest
- Friends of the Jump River
- Friends of the Prairie River
- Gathering Waters Conservancy
- Georgia River Network
- Golden Sands Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc.
- Iola Boy Scouts (Adopt a Stream Program)
- Izaak Walton League - Bill Cook Chapter
- Izaak Walton League - WI Division
- Izaak Walton League - Manitowoc
- Izaak Walton League - Whitnall
- Kenosha & Racine Land Trust
- Kinnickinnic River Land Trust
- McGill School of Environment, Montreal
- Mississippi River Basin Alliance
- Natural Heritage Land Trust
- Northeast Wisconsin Land Trust
- Ozaukee Washington Land Trust
- Plover River Alliance
- Rivers Council of Minnesota
- Rock River Canoe Association
- Root - Pike Watershed Initiative Network
- Rusk County Waters Alliance
- Sand County Foundation
- Save Our Wild Salmon
- Sierra Club - River Touring Section
- Sierra Club - Mississippi River
- Sisters of St. Mary
- St Louis River Citizens Action Committee
- Sustainable Racine
- Trout Unlimited - Elliot Donnelly
- Trout Unlimited - Frank Hornberg Chapter
- Trout Unlimited - Green Bay Chapter
- Trout Unlimited - Harry and Laura Nohr Chapter
- Trout Unlimited - Lakeshore Chapter
- Trout Unlimited - Marinette County
- Trout Unlimited - Northwoods
- Trout Unlimited - Oakbrook Chapter
- Trout Unlimited - Shaw - Paca
- Trout Unlimited - Green Bay Chapter
- Upper Sugar River Watershed Assoc
- Urban Ecology Center
- Valley Stewardship Network
- Washburn Co. Lakes and Rivers Assoc
- WI Woodland Owners Association
- Wisconsin Association of Lakes
- Wisconsin Citizen Action
- WISPIRG

*Thanks, all, for your continuing support!*

# 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 January 1, 2003. We regret we cannot list everyone.*

## River Guardians - \$500+

Anonymous  
Dr. Barry E. Booth  
Thomas Miller  
David Ross & Mary Miller

Henry and Annita Lardy  
Patty Lucas & Gregg Riemer  
John and Norma Magnuson  
Lucy and Bruce Moore  
Erik J and Annrenee W Nielsen  
Kate Nolan  
Dennis Opdahl  
Charlotte Otten  
Peter and Sharon Peshek  
Lewis and Vicki Posekany  
Carl Rasmussen  
Kris and Joe Rauter  
John Roberts & Nancy Osterberg  
John Robinson  
Tim and Jill Schmidt  
Michael and Janice Shucha  
Richard and Carol Siegel  
Frank E. Smith  
Arthur Sonneland  
Gareth and Lucy Stevens  
Tom Thuemler  
Gail and William Van Haren  
Michael and Mary Woolever

## River Keepers

### \$250 - \$499

Anonymous  
Todd Ambs  
Ed Streeter

## River Patrons

### \$100 - \$249

Albany International  
Appleton Wire Division  
Robert Bechard  
David and Natalie Beckwith  
Katie Burdick  
Dave Conroy  
Craig and Kristine Freundlich  
Scott Froehlke  
Bill and Idy Goodman  
Stephen Grant  
Michael Haeger  
Nate Hedden  
Nathan S Heffernan  
Larry Hill  
Terry Hiltz  
Jill Jonas  
Sue Josheff  
Martin and Esther Kellogg  
David Kinnamon  
Lee and Lori Kisling  
William Kraus & Toni Sikes  
Westscot Krieger  
Tony Kubek

## River Sustainers

### \$50 - \$99

Anonymous  
Gerald Anderson & Holly Jorgenson  
Jane Balcer  
Charles and Elizabeth Barnhill  
Michael and Pamela Barrett  
Jon Becker  
Eugene Bilich  
Bill and Jerrienne Bland  
John Bleimehl  
Lynn A. Blenker  
Peter Bock  
Walter & Patricia Bock  
Fay and James Bonifield

Muriel Brauer  
Hank Breckling  
Burnie Bridge  
Cheri Briscoe  
Willis Brown  
Paul Bullis  
Robert Bulthuis  
Chad Cason  
Gary R. Cera  
Jacquelin and Brian Clancey  
Peter Davis  
Bob and Carol Diggelman  
John Dixon  
Jerry Drew  
Lauren Ebbecke  
Allen Fitchen  
Lou and Jan Frase  
Wes and Karen Halverson  
Tim Harbst  
Jim Hart  
David Henning  
Julie Hillery  
Andy and Kristine Jacobson  
Mark Jeffries  
Eric Johnson  
Terri Johnson  
Sara Johnson  
Lee and Rosemary Jones  
Paul Joneth  
Conrad and Marlam Karnish  
John Keith  
Joyce Clark Knutson  
James Kristoff  
Gregory Kunz  
Marion C Lawson  
Karen Lentfer  
Bruce F Lindgren  
Judith and Henry Lippold  
Cheryl and Doug Lochner - Wright  
Deb Loewen & Dr. Daniel Grego

Theresa Marche  
Jack Marlette  
Dave Marshall  
Thomas Martell  
Lawrence and Claire Martin  
Mathew G Marty  
Jon Matthew  
Jeffery and Aileen Mayer  
Kathy Mooney  
Landon and Lisa Naffin  
Ellie Olson  
Jerry Pasdo  
Tom Rogers  
Reyne Rollman  
John and Helen Rossmiller  
Lynn Sbonik  
David Schmidtke  
Jim Schultheis  
Dick and Lynn Seifert  
Phil and Holly Smith  
James Smith  
Joel Sperling  
Dr. & Mrs. Steven C Stoddard  
Lisa Stone & Don Howlett  
Robert Thomas  
Marilyn and Marc Thwaites  
Danielle Valvassori

Marjorie and Robert Van Handel  
Joanne Wells  
John Duke Welter &  
Kathy Ryder-Welter  
Dirk and Kristen Wilhelm  
Barbara Woodriff  
Joan and Peter Ziegler

*The River Alliance thanks the following individuals for their in-kind donations:*

**Gerry Campbell  
Nancy Franz  
Robert Shears  
R.E.I of Madison**

*Their thoughtful replies to our wish list items are greatly appreciated!*



*Afternoon light on the water. Plover River and Jordan Pond. - Photo Staff*

**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  
Gannett Foundation  
Great Lakes Protection Fund  
Great Lakes Aquatic Habitat Fund  
Harold H. Snively Foundation  
Herbert H. Kohl Charities  
Johnson Outdoors, Inc.  
Joyce Foundation  
Lux Foundation  
The McKnight Foundation  
Charles Stewart Mott Foundation  
Patagonia, Inc.  
Pew Charitable Trusts  
Quixote Foundation  
River Network  
State of Wisconsin



## You're Invited!

### Annual Paddle Party

Join us as we celebrate our tenth anniversary by paddling the largest stretch of river restored to free-flowing in the nation.

Where: Baraboo River

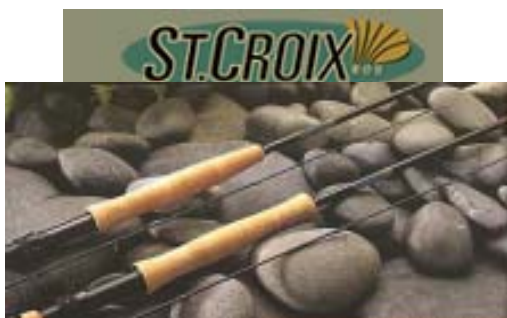
When: July 26, 2003

Cost: Free to Members!

Watch your mail for more information



Images from past paddle parties. Please join this year on the Baraboo River. Photos: Staff



## Thanks!

Johnson Outdoors

[www.johnsonoutdoors.com](http://www.johnsonoutdoors.com)

Madison Outfitters

[www.madisonoutfitters.com](http://www.madisonoutfitters.com)

Bending Branches

[www.bendingbranches.com](http://www.bendingbranches.com)

For a chance to win, simply send this form with payment to:

River Alliance, 306 E. Wilson St., 2W, Madison, WI 53703

We'll send your stubs and receipt. Good luck!

**WIN!**

THERE ARE LOADS OF PRIZES THIS YEAR... YOU COULD BE A WINNER!

The River Alliance kicks off its Ten Year Anniversary Raffle!

**GRAND PRIZE!** *Old Town Kayak (valued at \$750 from Johnson Outdoors)*

**FIRST PRIZE!** *St. Croix Fly Rod Combo (valued at \$200 from Madison Outfitters)*

**SECOND PRIZE!** *Bending Branches Wooden Paddle (valued at \$60)*

1 Tkt - \$5     4 Tkts - \$15     10 Tkts - \$25

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

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

Visa MC \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration\_\_\_\_\_