



[River Alliance photo]

Fish Passage Tours a Great Success!

ALONG WITH OUR PARTNERS, River Alliance of Wisconsin recently completed the final phase of a \$12 million Fish Passage Project on the Menominee River. At the end of May, 150 members of the public enjoyed a tour of the new fish lift and bypass.

This project opened up an additional 20 miles of habitat for sturgeon to spawn and for the young to mature before travelling back to Lake Michigan. The goal of the project is to increase the sturgeon population—which has declined significantly due to pollution and lack of access to spawning grounds—in Lake Michigan and the Menominee River.

The Fish Passage project was possible thanks to funding through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the Fund for Lake Michigan.

Project partners include River Alliance of Wisconsin, Eagle Creek Renewable Energy, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the Hydropower Reform Coalition. We hope to offer more public tours in the future. Stay tuned to River Alliance emails and our Facebook page for more details.



[River Alliance photo]

Get outside, get hands on, protect Wisconsin's waters:
www.wisconsinrivers.org/snapshot-day

SNAPSHOT DAY
AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

August 18, 2018
THE SEARCH IS ON:

Statewide event!

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Community, Conversations & Taking Action Together

By Raj Shukla

There is no shortage of inspiration at River Alliance of Wisconsin. We exist to protect and restore Wisconsin's magnificent waters, and for 25 years we've had the chance to work with dedicated people from every part of the state. Our community is vibrant and strong and those of us on staff feed off the energy that you and thousands of others put into defending our most valuable resources.

As spring rolled quickly into summer, we focused on events that build community and make space for conversations. Thousands of water advocates re-committed to act on behalf of our waters during two screenings of the Wild & Scenic Film Festival. In early June, hundreds of water lovers floated down the Yahara River to celebrate and raise awareness for our waters during the 8th Annual Fools' Flotilla.

In more intimate gatherings in La Crosse, Green Bay, Eau Claire, Milwaukee and Madison—dubbed "Community Conversations: the Next 25"—supporters came together to talk about the future, the needs of their communities and how River Alliance can best support local leaders.

What we heard might sound familiar to you: the need to guard the beauty of our waters through positive and collective action came through loud and clear. At each event, attendees recognized the value of gathering together to share our knowledge, describe our challenges and map a path to solutions.

"Community" has always been an aspiration at River Alliance of Wisconsin. River Alliance was created by recreational paddlers who joined forces to remove dozens of dams. We went on to help local advocates work with supporters across the state to beat back a proposed mine in Crandon and another in the Penokee Hills. Today, we support local groups who protect their waterways from aquatic

invasive species (AIS) and other threats. We're also working with farmers who practice good water stewardship through our Clear Water Farms program. In each case, our strength is an engaged and active community of people dedicated to our shared mission.

As summer peaks and leads us rapidly to autumn, we'll continue to build on what we've learned and celebrate what we've accomplished together. And, we will take a moment to acknowledge those who have gone above and beyond for rivers, lakes and streams during our River Bash celebration on September 27 in Madison. We will honor Water Heroes as well as River Champion award recipients. River Bash will offer another chance to come together, break bread and draw on each other for inspiration to carry us toward a Wisconsin with clean, abundant water available to all. We look forward to engaging with you, and carrying on this important work in the coming months.



Fools' Flotilla participants on the Yahara River wave to observers watching from a bridge above, bringing awareness to Wisconsin's waters through art, music and merriment.

(Photo courtesy Beth Skogen)



Wisconsin Water Issues to Watch

By Allison Werner

Unfortunately, water policy issues don't take a summer vacation. Here are a few brief updates on issues we have asked you to take action on in the last few months. Thank you to everyone who wrote to the DNR, mining investors or county board supervisors. Your voices matter. Together we can make a difference.

FOXCONN

In May 2018, River Alliance joined Midwest Environmental Advocates and their clients; Milwaukee Riverkeeper, League of Women Voters of Wisconsin, and the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy in their legal action to challenge the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources approval of the City of Racine's request to divert 7 million gallons of Great Lakes water per day for use by a private industrial user. This approval was counter to the hundreds of comments the DNR received from you and other concerned citizens from across the state and region.

The Great Lakes Compact and Agreement, enacted in 2008, are historic, bi-national agreements to protect the Great Lakes from being drained or diverted. The Compact says that any diversions of Great Lakes water outside the basin should be rare and limited to diversions that primarily benefit residential households.

Racine's request is premised on an incorrect read of the Compact. The water sought for diversion will serve one private company's industrial interests, instead of

providing water to residential households as required by the Compact. This is a loophole never intended by the Great Lakes Compact and Agreement.

Join us in calling on the Great Lakes states and provinces to fix the Foxconn Loophole for the sake of the Great Lakes for generations to come.



THE PROPOSED BACK 40 MINE

On June 4th the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality approved Aquila Resources' wetland permit for the Back 40 Project with significant conditions. We are extremely disappointed about this decision. We believe this permit did not get approved by its merits.

We want you to know that this fight is far from over.

These conditions, and the conditions on the other three Back 40 mining permits, will require a lot from Aquila Resources and will take time. During this time community members and conservation groups are working together to review the permit details and next steps. River Alliance will continue to stand with the people who have worked for so many years to protect our waters, lands and sacred cultural sites from the threats of sulfide mining.

LOCAL MINING ORDINANCES

Due to the repeal of the "Prove it First" law through Act 134 last December, counties across the state have worked rapidly to create or update local metallic mining regulations to conform to the new state law. The implementation of Act 134 was delayed until July 1, 2018 to allow communities time to create these policies, but communities may also update their policies after July 1.

River Alliance has been advocating for strong metallic mining ordinances in several counties.

We have focused our attention on Marathon County, where there is a known gold deposit (the Reef Deposit in the Town of Easton). River Alliance was pleased to work with several conservation partners to help citizens, government staff and county board supervisors better understand the metallic mining process and the ways to protect their natural resources and current economy.

In the coming months, River Alliance will continue to work with our partners and local communities to protect Wisconsin's waters from the dangerous impacts of sulfide mining.

Follow our blog and Facebook page for updates and actions you can take to get involved on these issues and more.

www.wisconsinrivers.org/blog www.facebook.com/riveralliance



[River Alliance photo]



[River Alliance photo]



Let's Talk (Citizen) Science!

By Natalie Dutack

Have you ever heard the phrase "citizen scientist"? You might already be one! Across the country volunteers are turning everyday interests and hobbies into useable data that can help transform their communities and environment. Local groups and experts rely on citizen scientists to act as their eyes and ears in the field.

Preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS) requires the efforts of our entire Wisconsin family. Learning to identify AIS helps paddlers, anglers and other recreational water users recognize threats that impact ecosystem health and our own enjoyment of rivers and streams. This same knowledge aids farmers in spotting important water quality indicators in their watershed, allowing them to respond accordingly. Parents and families can join together in engaging outdoor activities that help children build confidence and develop an appreciation for nature. Together, we can help statewide land managers prevent the spread of AIS through species reporting and person-to-person outreach and education.



[Photo courtesy Sophia Koch]



[River Alliance photo]

Interested in learning how to become an AIS Citizen Science monitor?

On August 18, 2018 join River Alliance and over 200 volunteers for Snapshot Day, a statewide search for invasive species to help protect Wisconsin's waters! Snapshot Day is an opportunity for citizen scientists and river lovers of all ages to gather, receive AIS identification training and then implement it in the field. The species discovered are verified with a local coordinator and used to help target future prevention and management efforts.

If you want to wade in or stay dry, there is a site for you. To learn more about this event and register for a site near you, visit:

www.wisconsinrivers.org/snapshot-day



Project Riverine Early Detectors (aka Project RED) By Scott Caven



Are you (or a group you're part of) looking for a fun, educational activity to do this summer that helps protect Wisconsin's waters from aquatic invasive species? Project Riverine Early Detectors (RED) is for you!

Project RED is a monitoring program for aquatic invasive species (AIS) that threaten our rivers, streams and creeks. Project RED trainings typically include a classroom-style workshop in which volunteers are trained how to properly monitor, identify and report aquatic invasive species, as well as an on-the-water paddle that allows participants to practice their newly-learned AIS monitoring and identification skills firsthand.

Become a Project RED volunteer today and help protect your favorite waterbody from Eurasian watermilfoil, zebra mussels, purple loosestrife, Japanese knotweed, water hyacinth, water lettuce, New Zealand mudsnails and other aquatic invasive species that threaten Wisconsin's waterways.

Students from the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse conducting Project RED monitoring on Pool 8 of the Mississippi River near La Crosse. During the paddle, Project RED volunteers discovered Eurasian watermilfoil, curly-leaf pondweed and purple loosestrife. (River Alliance photo)



A student from the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse conducting Project RED monitoring on Pool 8 of the Mississippi River near La Crosse. During the paddle, Project RED volunteers discovered Eurasian watermilfoil, curly-leaf pondweed and purple loosestrife. (River Alliance photo)



Scott Caven, River Alliance's Aquatic Invasive Species Manager, presenting at a Project RED workshop at Viterbo University in La Crosse. This workshop was sponsored by Great Lakes Brewing Company. (River Alliance photo)



To attend or host a Project RED training in your area, please contact Natalie Dutack, River Alliance's Watershed Groups Manager, at 608-257-2424 x111 or ndutack@wisconsinrivers.org. For additional information, please visit the Project RED page on the River Alliance website: www.wisconsinrivers.org/project-red



Fishing or Boating this Summer?

A friendly reminder to inspect boats, trailers and equipment, remove all attached aquatic plants and animals, drain all water from boats, vehicles and equipment and never move plants or live fish away from a waterbody.

Rachel Delwiche, La Crosse Area Aquatic Invasive Species Intern, conducting Clean Boats, Clean Waters watercraft inspections during the 2018 Drain Campaign – a statewide effort to encourage anglers to drain all of the water from their boats, trailers and equipment and ice their catch. (River Alliance photo)

HELLOS:

MITCH BREY



Mitch Brey joined the River Alliance team in May 2018 as our Events & Marketing Coordinator. He grew up on the shores of Lake Michigan in Manitowoc. His family then went a few miles north to build their home on the shores of the West Twin River. Mitch earned a Bachelor's degree in Biochemistry from UW-Madison. While working with tiny droplets of water in the lab one day, he realized more was needed to protect our land, air and waterways. Since then, he has worked to promote programs and policies that support clean water and energy.



NATALIE DUTACK

Natalie Dutack joined River Alliance of Wisconsin in March 2018 as our Watershed Groups Manager. Natalie spent over a decade wrangling invasive species and facilitating education and outreach efforts in northern Illinois before journeying to Wisconsin to complete her MS in environmental conservation at UW-Madison. Natalie is leading statewide monitoring, prevention and control of aquatic invasive species through the coordination of Project RED and Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Snapshot Day programs while providing support, training and technical assistance to local groups.

GOODBYES:

MATT KRUEGER

We wish the best to River Alliance's former River Restoration Director, Matt Krueger. Matt spent a decade contributing his expertise to the River Alliance team, and most recently helped shape and launch our Clear Water Farms program. We will miss Matt's passion for finding unique partnerships and solutions to achieving water conservation goals. We'll also miss his his passion for birding and fishing, as well as his sense of humor (required for the regular Viking bashing he received). We wish him the very best in his new role as executive director at Wisconsin Land and Water.

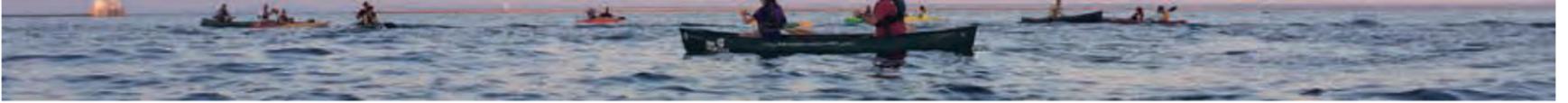
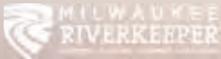


Milky Moonlight Paddle Milwaukee, WI

July 26, 2018

Paddle under the light of the full moon.

Tickets & more info: www.wisconsinrivers.org/events



Save the Date for River Bash

Join us on Thursday, September 27th for the 2018 River Bash—Celebrating 25 years of protecting water! This is a celebration with a purpose; it's the chance to bring the best and brightest river and water advocates together to find inspiration and collaboration around the challenges that lie ahead of us.

More information and registration at www.wisconsinrivers.org/2018-river-bash



River Bash

Celebrating 25 years!

Thursday, September 27
5:30 p.m.
The East Side Club
Madison, WI



Seeking New Board Members!

If you're passionate about protecting water—and having fun while doing so—consider applying to join our board of directors. We're a welcoming group working from backgrounds in science, business, communications, law and organizational leadership. We engage in thoughtful discussions that lead to meaningful change.

If you're interested in learning more, we invite you to complete our short application form at: www.wisconsinrivers.org/board-application

In particular, we're looking for people who:

- Energetically support our mission and are willing to spend a few days per year to help guide the organization
- Have previous nonprofit board or other executive level experience
- Have agricultural experience
- Are retired from DNR or other natural resources background
- Have a fundraising or financial background

