



Ice on the Harbor at Sunset by Jon Dyess

The River Voice

Issue 13
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Upcoming Events

May 12-15: St. Louis Riverquest, Vista Fleet and DECC

April 29: The River Talks speakers series, 7pm, Clyde Iron

May 17: WLSSD and RSPT Rain Barrel and Composter Sale, 9am-1pm, Lake Superior College

May 27: The River Talks speaker's series, 7pm Clyde Iron

Contributors



Photo Contest Winners Announced

Over 150 stunning photos of the wildlife, scenery and recreation on the St. Louis River were submitted to the "Seasons of the St. Louis River" photo contest held earlier this year. Ten winners were selected for cash prizes by the three judges (Bill Majewski, Ann Klefstad, Mary Amerman) and through online voting.

The St. Louis River Alliance plans to feature many of the photographs submitted to this contest in its work to help protect and celebrate the St. Louis River.

Winner of the People's Choice Photo

Melinda Mulek. "Storm Moving in on the Roaring St. Louis River"

Contributing Writers

Julene Boe, SLRA

Kris Eilers, SLRA

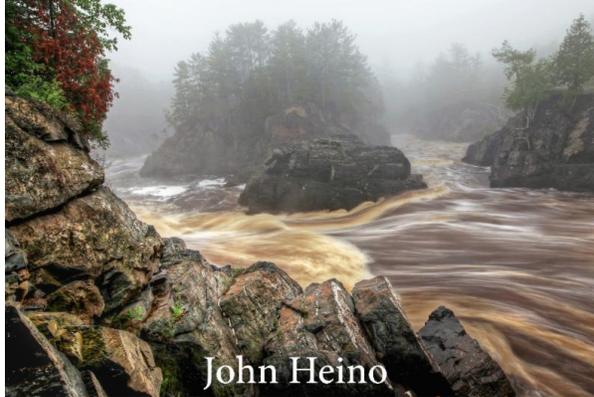
Gina Temple-Rhodes, SLRA

The SLRA is grateful to the Healing Our Waters -Great Lakes Coalition for funding this version of the River Voice.

The SLRA thanks the Lloyd K. Johnson Foundation for funding the first two years of the River Voice.



Wildlife/Birds/ Scenic/Flora



John Heino

1st Place: John Heino. "Untamed"

2nd Place: Tim Glackin. "Coyote on a Winter Afternoon"

3rd Place: Robert Kruse. "Common Goldeneye"

Harbor Activities



John Heino

1st Place: John Heino. "Into Port"

2nd Place: John Dandrea. "Foggy Morning Under the Bong Bridge"

3rd Place: Jon Dyess. "A -20 Degree Sunrise of the Duluth Harbor Lighthouses"

People/Recreation



Barb Aker

1st Place: Barbara Aker. "Relaxing on the St. Louis"

2nd Place: Carole Lent. "Fishing on Superior Bay"

3rd Place: Thomas M. Hon, Jr. "Bicyclists Enjoy the Sunset on the St. Louis River"

SLRA Stewardship Awards announced

The 19th Annual Environmental Stewardship Awards were held on Tuesday, April 8, 2014 at the Grand Ave Chalet at Spirit Mountain.

These annual awards recognize the people, organizations, communities and institutions that have provided outstanding service toward restoring, protecting, and enhancing the St. Louis River and its watershed. The awards given were:

Sally Gibson Environmental Stewardship Awards: Julie O'Leary and Rick Gitar



Julie O'Leary has been a leader both in her professional work & volunteer efforts educating, organizing, and advocating at the local, regional, state, and national level to help protect the St. Louis River & Lake Superior. The award was presented by Rosie Loeffler-Kemp.

Rick Gitar has been actively involved both professionally and as a volunteer in the work of restoring and protecting the St. Louis River since 2004. He has served on the SLRA board for nine years, serving as the Board chair in 2013 and leading the SLRA Habitat Work Group for nearly ten years. The award was presented by Martha Minchak.



Media Environmental Stewardship Award: Larry Weber



In recognition of Larry's dedication towards educating and engaging the public about the natural world through his weekly columns in the Duluth Budgeteer and radio talks on KUMD. Larry has also authored several nature related books and taught middle and high school science for 40 years.

The Willard Munger Sr. Environmental Stewardship Award: Fond du Lac Resource Management Division

In recognition of the leadership and technical services contributions towards restoring and protecting the St. Louis River and Lake Superior. Numerous professional staff members from several programs within this division have made important contributions towards addressing the issues related to the St Louis River Area of Concerns. These efforts include helping to restore sturgeon and wild rice in the St Louis River.



Chairwoman Karen Diver, Kari Hedin, Nancy Schultz and Rick Gitar of Fond du Lac Resource Management

Special Recognition For Lifetime Achievement Environmental Stewardship Award: Will and Sally Munger. Will and Sally Munger are both active in leading and engaging others, as well as convening and participating in local and regional efforts to protect the St Louis River and Lake Superior through their involvement with numerous

environmental organizations.



Will and Sally Munger

Piping Plover Project resumes with decoys

SLRA's Piping Plover Habitat Restoration project is gearing up for its third season of fieldwork supported by a grant



from the US Fish and Wildlife Service. This year, monitors and volunteers will begin a decoy pilot program using hand carved decoys made by local carver and SLRA board member Bill Majewski. Decoys will be placed on the beach by monitors to encourage passing plover to land and explore the newly-restored habitat.

Monitors will watch closely for plover and nesting activity and

will be prepared to protect any possible nests.

SLRA is still accepting applications for volunteers to assist with plover monitoring, outreach and education, and invasive species removal in prime plover habitat. Contact Kris@stlouisriver.org for more information.

Rain Barrel and Composter Sale

The Western Lake Superior Sanitary District and the Regional Stormwater Protection Team are sponsoring a Rain Barrel and Composter Sale, to be held May 17th from 9:00-1:00 in the parking lot at Lake Superior College, rain or shine. Credit cards and checks will be accepted, but no cash.



Rain barrels offer a great way to capture rainwater to prevent excessive runoff in yards, and can store thousands of gallons of water each summer for watering plants and flowers. For more information, visit <http://www.wlssd.com/documents/2014-composter-rainbarrel-sale-flyer.pdf>

The River Talks Series Continues

The River Talks series continues to offer great opportunities for learning more about St. Louis River topics. The next events will be as follows:

April 29, 7 pm, Clyde Iron Works -- "Something Fishy: What's happening with fish in the St. Louis River Estuary," with John Lindgren (MN DNR) and Paul Piszczek (WI DNR)

May 27, 7 pm, Clyde Iron Works -- "What's in an Estuary? Trivia Night . . . with Prizes!" Lake Superior NERR and WI Sea Grant staff members.

Wisconsin Sea Grant and the Lake Superior National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) have teamed up to offer this series of science café-type evening talks about the St. Louis River Estuary. These informal "River Talks" began in 2013 and are held on the last Tuesday of the month through May. Grab a mug of coffee or maybe a glass of beer and join us!

Check the Lake Superior NERR website (<http://lsnerr.uwex.edu/events.html>) for details about other upcoming talks. If you miss a talk, visit the Wisconsin Sea Grant's "Great Lakes Takes" blog (<http://uwiscseagrant.tumblr.com/>) for a summary of the discussion.



Watch for illegal Storm Sewer use

As you're out enjoying the warm spring weather the City of Duluth asks you to be on the lookout for illicit discharges into the storm sewer system.

What is an illicit discharge? Anything that goes down the storm sewer drain that isn't rainwater or snowmelt is an illicit discharge and is illegal. Some examples include waste oil, liquid chemicals, concrete washout, soapy wash water, trash, and animal waste.

What to do if your neighbor is doing something you don't think is right? Report it. City of Duluth stormwater staff are experienced in addressing these types of issues. Call Program Coordinator Chris Kleist at [218-730-5200](tel:218-730-5200) or call the hotline at [\(218\) 529-3281](tel:218-529-3281). You can also email a photo or location to the stormwater hotline email at rsptduluth@gmail.com.

Watershed Assessment info meetings to be held in June

The South St. Louis County Soil and Water Conservation District will be holding 6 (identical) meetings across the St. Louis River Watershed in early June to share information on the results of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's intensive monitoring efforts in the Watershed as part of their new 10-year cycle watershed assessment approach called the Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS). More details on dates and times will be forthcoming on the SWCD website.

MPCA WRAPS website:

<http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/water/water-types-and-programs/surface-water/watershed-approach/index.html>

SWCD website:

<http://www.southstlouisswcd.org/stories.html>



St. Louis River Estuary Summit highlighted Social Sciences

The 4th Annual St. Louis River Estuary Summit was held February 25-26, 2014 in the Yellowjacket Union on the University of Wisconsin - Superior campus and incorporated discussions on social sciences during the second day. This annual event provides a venue for sharing information on the St. Louis River Freshwater Estuary among the community, students, scientists, educators, and natural resource managers. Over 200 individuals attended the Summit over the two day period and, of those, 105 responded to a post-Summit evaluation. 95% of those indicated a strong agreement that the Summit was a valuable experience. While at the Summit, 94% of respondent's strengthened a relationship and 76% formed a new relationship, which demonstrates the value of an event like this. Please contact Becky Sapper at becky.sapper@uwex.edu or 715/292-8611 with any questions.

Become a Member

The St. Louis River Alliance is a member-based organization made up of citizens, business and government members working together to protect, restore and enhance the St. Louis River. Members can participate in special events and programs. For more information, visit our website: www.stlouisriver.org

Find us on Facebook 