



The River Voice

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Upcoming Events

January 22: SLRA Annual Meeting

January 28: River Talk at Clyde Iron Works: Gene Clark

February 13: Water Film Fest at UWS

February 15: Winter Walk on the River, Grassy Point

February 25-26: St. Louis River Estuary Summit, UWS

March 20: St. Louis River Watch Congress, Fond du Lac College

March 28: Lake Superior Forum public meeting, Barker's Island

SLRA to host Annual Meeting January 22

The SLRA Annual Membership Meeting will be held at the WITC Conference Center in Superior from 6:30-8:30 pm on Wednesday, January 22nd. The meeting will include the board election, a recap of 2013 and a look at what is ahead for the SLRA in 2014. The meeting will be followed with program on Clough Island, presented by Julene Boe, SLRA and Matt Steiger, WI DNR. This event is free and open to the public. RSVP is requested by calling 218-733-9520, or emailing jboe@stlouisriver.org.

St. Louis River Photo Contest opens

The SLRA is sponsoring a photo contest with cash prizes to celebrate the seasons and beauty of the largest U.S. River that flows into Lake Superior. We are looking for striking digital images that highlight the diverse flora, wildlife, and recreational activities that connect people to their natural habitat as well as images of the harbor activity. 10 cash prizes will be awarded.

The St Louis River Alliance plans to feature many of the photographs submitted to this contest in its work to help protect the river's amazing diversity of wildlife, people, plants and habitats.

HOW TO ENTER: All images must be submitted though

<http://woobox.com/qufub3> (or follow the link from the SLRA Facebook page or website). Complete all required fields, including name, email and other information about your photo submission. Images that are sent via mail or email will not be accepted.

For additional contest details, including official contest rules and photographers rights, Go to: <http://woobox.com/qufub3> or <http://www.stlouisriver.org>



Contributors

Contributing Writers

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Contest online entries begins at 9:00 pm on January 22, 2014, and the deadline for submitting entries is 11:59 a.m. Central Standard Time on February 21, 2014. SLRA reserves the right to adjust any deadline(s), if necessary.

The contest is open to all photographers, except employees of SLRA and the Wisconsin DNR and their immediate families, and all persons directly involved with sponsoring and promoting the contest and the final judging. All contest winners will be announced on April 8th, 2014 at the annual St. Louis River Alliance Stewardship awards.

AWARD CATEGORIES: A panel of judges will select the top three photos in each of these categories:

1. Wildlife/Birds/Scenic/Flora 2. People/Recreation 3. Harbor Activities.

Top three places in each category will be selected by the judges and awarded: 1st place: \$250.00 2nd place: \$125.00 3rd place: \$75.00

Photos will be voted by the public online to select the "People's Choice Photo" winner. The "People's Choice Photo" winner will receive \$100 and the photo will be highlighted as the cover photo on the St. Louis River Alliance Facebook page with photo credit.

Questions and inquiries about contest rules can be emailed to kris@stlouisriver.org.

River Talk Series resumes January 28th

The River Talk series resumes for 2014 on Jan. 28 at 7 p.m. at the Clyde Iron Works Restaurant (<http://clydeironworks.com/> 2920 W. Michigan St., Duluth, Minn.). Gene Clark, coastal engineer with Wisconsin Sea Grant

will present, "Dredging: From Spoils to Soils and Muck to Smuck."

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.



GLA offers new interactive video classes

Great Lakes Aquarium is now offering interactive videoconferencing opportunities to students throughout Minnesota and beyond! This new program is known as 'The Gitchi Gummi Connection' and offers classes on freshwater topics from aquatic invasive species to culvert design and engineering. The program uses technology similar to Skype or Facetime, which allows students to interact in real time with presenters right from their classroom. One popular class, entitled 'Urgin for Sturgeon,' engages students in grades K-2 with North America's biggest freshwater



fish, the sturgeon. Students in this class learn about this incredible fish by 'building' a sturgeon with their bodies, talking with Sturgeous Caturgeous (a large sturgeon puppet) about 'growing up sturgeon,' and joining SCUBA divers as they dive into Great Lakes Aquarium's biggest tank to hand-feed the sturgeon. For more information about The Gitchi Gummi Connection, contact Emily Wartman at ewartman@glaquarium.org or visit <http://glaquarium.org/education-programs/videoconferencing/>

Stream restoration projects are underway

The City of Duluth has sixteen DNR-designated trout streams within its borders, many of which drain to the St. Louis River. Efforts to restore some of the damage to Duluth's trout streams that occurred during the 2012 flood are underway. Contractors hired by the City began work on parts of Kingsbury and Mission creeks in November 2013. Stabilization of slopes and channel restoration work will begin at select locations during the summer of 2014 on Sargent, US Steel, Stewart, Merritt, Miller, Coffee, Chester and Amity creeks. This work is funded by several sources including BWSR, FEMA, NRCS, DNR and Trout Unlimited. Limnotech is preparing restoration design plans for the western streams while Barr Engineering is responsible for design for streams east of and including Miller Creek. For more information contact Chris Kleist at ckleist@DuluthMN.gov.



Coffee Creek, Before and After.
Photos by Chris Kleist

Chambers Grove projects planned

There are a number of very exciting things happening in the near future at Chambers Grove Park in the Fond du Lac neighborhood of Duluth.

St. Louis River Hiking Trail - The City will restore and improve this flood damaged hiking trail with its outstanding vistas of the St. Louis River corridor and unique ravine crossings. The trailhead is in Chambers Grove and the trail will run along the river up to the Fond du Lac dam (but not actually on Minnesota Power property), and connect to the existing trail system in that area of Hwy 210.

COGGS trailhead - Chambers Grove is the western terminus of the Duluth Traverse Trail, a shared project with the City and COGGS to build a continuous network of multi-use trails across the entire 27 miles length of Duluth. This effort alone brings this community park into Regional Park status.

Storm Water Management System - \$99,900 funding for reestablishing and improving the flood damaged storm water management system has been awarded the City through a \$250,000 grant from the Great Lakes Shoreline Cities Green Infrastructure Grant. Engineering design will be done in-house at the City with implementation in 2014.

Chambers Grove Park Flood Damage Restoration and Improvements - Minnesota DNR's Parks Legacy Grant Program has awarded the City of Duluth \$1 million toward the flood damage restoration and improvements to Chambers Grove. River Restoration efforts of the Minnesota DNR includes the design of the sheet pile removal, restoration of the shoreline and integration into the upland park improvements.

St. Louis River Publications

The results of the first year of the white sucker fish tumor study related to the AOC Fish Tumor and Deformity Beneficial Use Impairment were published in the December 2013 issue of Ecotoxicology. The paper, titled "Health of white sucker within the St. Louis River area of concern associated with habitat usage as assessed using stable isotopes" is available at this link: <http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10646-013-1167-5>

A paper titled "Predicting submerged aquatic vegetation cover and occurrence in a Lake Superior estuary" by Ted R. Angradi and colleagues was recently published in the Journal of Great Lakes Research. A link to the abstract can be found here:

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S038013301300138X>

Water Film Fest to be held at UWS

A Water Film Night will be held on Thursday, February 13 from 6 pm - 8:30 pm at Swenson Hall 1012 at UWS.

Ten films will be shown in one night - from 30 seconds to about 45 minutes in length - on assorted water topics. We love water - let's learn more about it, appreciate it, and help keep it clean. This event is free and open to the public.

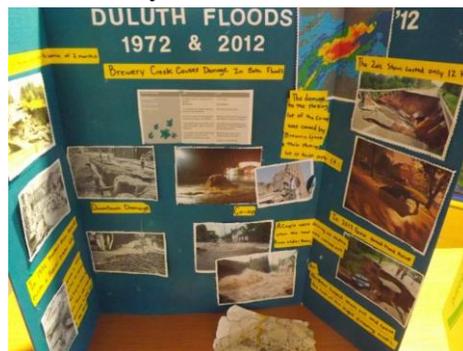
The film festival is sponsored by the City of Superior Environmental Services Division and the Lake Superior Research Institute. For more information, contact Wendy Grethen at 715/394-0392, City of Superior Environmental Services Division.

St. Louis River Estuary Summit to be held

The 4th Annual St. Louis River Estuary Summit will be held February 25-26, 2014 in the Yellowjacket Union on the University of Wisconsin - Superior campus. This event provides a venue for sharing information on the St. Louis River Freshwater Estuary among the community, students, scientists, educators, and natural resource managers. Registration is free and open to all! Please [register on-line](#) by February 14th to ensure accurate numbers for catering. More information can be found on the [Summit Website](#). Please contact Becky Sapper, becky.sapper@uwex.edu or 715/292-8611 with any questions.

St. Louis River Watch Congress to be held

The 11th annual St. Louis River Watch Congress will be hosted at Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College on March 20th, 2014. This year, the Congress will explore Climate Change and its effect on our natural resources. The Congress provides an opportunity to promote stewardship of the watershed and share data and information with students and the general public. All River Watch schools and interested community members are invited to participate in this year's symposium. After a traditional Ojibwe pipe ceremony to open the Congress, the day is filled with a variety of environmental activities and presentations.



Display from Marshall School comparing floods in our region

This year regional professionals from Minnesota Sea Grant, Lake Superior National Estuarine Research Reserve, Carlton Co. Soil and Water District, Fond du Lac Natural Resources, Jay Cooke Park, and the St. Louis River Alliance will share their expertise with Congress participants. Topics will include aquatic invasive species, recovery of the piping plover, impact of stormwater runoff, and how a changing climate will change our region. The day is free and open to public and runs from 9:00 am to 2:30 pm. Come join us for a fun day of learning and sharing!

For more information you can contact Courtney Kowalczak at 879-0862 or email courtneyk@fdltcc.edu

Lake Superior Forum Event: March 28

The Lake Superior Forum will hold a public meeting on March 28th at Barker's Island in Superior, WI. Shon Schooler of the Lake Superior NERR will present his program about the mysteries of the St. Louis River. Also at the event, other speakers will highlight the AOC cleanup and restoration and other issues related to Lake Superior and the Twin Ports.

More opportunities on the St. Louis River

St. Louis River Alliance has created a series of programs and activities to connect the public to the St. Louis River and emphasize the importance of the River to the region. Funding from the Lloyd K Johnson Foundation will help support these events. Watch for more events in the coming year!

On Saturday, February 15th from 1:00-3:00 pm, SLRA will host a "Winter Walk on the River" featuring the Grassy Point area. This walk will be at the Grassy Point Trail parking area (end of Leisure St located just off the Waseca Industrial Ave in West Duluth.

Come join us for a unique winter adventure on the St. Louis River. Exploring the river in its solid form can be an especially fun experience for people who primarily view the river from the shore. The route will include visiting sites of former saw mills in the Grassy Point area as well as other ruins nearby. Learn about the historic industry that was in this area as well as news about a project to improve the habitat that will be underway soon.

This activity will involve walking on snow-covered ice as well as through some brush and grass. Participants will need to bring their own skis, snowshoes, or just some good warm winter boots. Note: The amount of snow so far this winter make skis and snowshoes the better options.

The event is free and open to the public of all ages who enjoy a hearty winter adventure. Participants are asked to bring your own travel cup.

For more information about the event and how to get to Grassy Point, visit the SLRA website at www.stlouisriver.org

River People and Places

The Wisconsin DNR has two new employees working on AOC projects.

Matt Steiger started as the WI DNR St. Louis River AOC Coordinator in June, 2013. Matt has a degree in water resources from UW-Stevens Point and has experience working with the US Forest Service and WI DNR. Matt had been involved in the AOC program for two years in the Sheboygan River AOC, and will now be collaborating with the magnitude of partners in the St. Louis River AOC. He is excited to be working in northern Wisconsin, and to enjoy all of the outdoor opportunities that the area has to offer.



Molly Wick began work on January 13th as the new St. Louis River Area of Concern (AOC) Habitat Project Coordinator. Molly went to the University of Minnesota-Duluth (UMD) for a Masters in Water Resource Science. There, Molly found her passion in fluvial geomorphology, studying erosion in streams along the North Shore of Lake Superior. During her time there, Molly was able to work on her favorite local stream, Amity Creek. After finishing at UMD in June 2013, she became a Mineland Reclamation Specialist at the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Molly spends most of her spare time entertaining and being entertained by her two dogs. She is also an avid knitter and enjoys gardening and baking. Molly is very excited to return to the Twin Ports and work on the St. Louis River!

WI Sea Grant and NERR offices moving

Wisconsin Sea Grant and Lake Superior NERR recently moved their offices slightly. Their address and phone numbers will remain the same (14 Marina Drive in Superior, 54880) but they will now be next door in the "blue building" (former Boat House Restaurant) instead of the "red building" (former Vista Star tour building).



New offices. Photo by Gene Clark, WI Sea Grant

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 