



## *The River Voice*

Issue 11  
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### Upcoming Events

Migratory Bird Day Hike  
Wisconsin Point May 11th, 7:30 am

Annual River Clean-Up: May 18th  
11:00 am to 4:00 pm

Spring Canoe & Kayak Tour: Monday,  
May 20, from 6:30-8:30 pm

Climate Change Adaptation  
Workshops June 19 6:00-8:30 pm  
and June 20th 1:00-3:30 pm

### Contributors

#### Contributing Writers

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## SLRA Presents Stewardship Awards

The St. Louis River Alliance presented the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Environmental Stewardship Awards on April 9, 2013. These annual awards recognize individuals, business and industry, organizations and institutions that have provided outstanding service toward restoring, protecting, and enhancing the St. Louis River and its watershed. The following awards were presented:

The Sally Gibson Environmental Stewardship Award for Individuals was given to Marc Hershfield in recognition of his excellent work as the St. Louis River AOC Coordinator for the MPCA from 2006-2012.



Dave Warburton and Rick Gitar,  
SLRA Board

The Sally Gibson Award was also given to Dave Warburton of the US Fish and Wildlife Service in recognition of his work advocating for the people and funding needed to sustain the long-term effort essential for delisting the AOC.

The Randy Marshall Environmental Stewardship Award for Business and Industry went to Hartel/DBJ Disposal Companies in to reduce the volume of materials being buried in landfills and increase recycling. They operate 2 million dollar



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



recycling facility in Proctor that handles 15,000 tons per year of materials and employs local residents.

The Willard Munger, Sr. Environmental Stewardship Award for Government was given to Douglas County Land and Conservation Program for the work of Christine Ostern and Cameron Bertsch. They have made significant improvements to the St. Louis River estuary over the last several years to help delist the AOC, including the Hog Island Restoration project.



Cara Lindberg of STP

Sue O'Halloran, Christine Ostern and  
Amy Elliot

The Milton E Pelletier Environmental Stewardship Award for Organizations was given to Sustainable Twin Ports for their work in furthering economic, environmental and social sustainability in the Twin Ports and western Lake Superior region.

Special Recognition For Lifetime Achievement Environmental Stewardship Award was given to Jan Green for her work as an advocate for the Boundary Waters, Hawk Ridge, local birding habitat and countless other projects. Jan is among the most effective and most admired volunteer environmental leaders in North America.



Dave Zentner, Jan Green and Jack Ezell

## Piping Plover Project Begins 2nd Season with Renewed Hope

The St. Louis River Alliance will begin monitoring the beaches in search of piping plover this week. Monitors will look for nesting behavior at several locations on Minnesota Point and Wisconsin Point. They kicked off their 2<sup>nd</sup> season at the Earth Day event at the Marine Museum and taught students at the Stowe Elementary Environmental Education Resource Fair on April 25<sup>th</sup>.

Supported by a five-year grant from the US Fish and Wildlife Service, this project will help attract, monitor and protect these critically endangered shorebirds in the Twin Ports region. Fewer than 70 pairs of piping plovers nest around the Great Lakes, mostly in Michigan and Wisconsin. None have been known to nest in this area for over 25 years, but this project aims to change that soon.

In December a beach restoration project was completed at the Wisconsin DNR Wildlife Sanctuary to provide a safe and suitable habitat for piping plover. This area will be maintained and monitored by SLRA staff and volunteers. Partners of the project and SLRA staff are very hopeful that this restoration, the outreach efforts, and protection that will be provided will allow the birds the space and safety they need to begin to choose the Twin Ports area as their nesting grounds again.

**St. Louis River Alliance is looking for volunteers to help monitor the beaches.**

Interested persons can attend a **volunteer round up event** Tuesday, May 7th at 5:30 pm. This event will be held at the Lafayette Community Center, 3026 Minnesota Ave. There will be a short presentation about last year's experiences, activities planned for this season, and a spotting scope demonstration on the beach. Beverages and some light food will be provided! Please RSVP to 218-733-9520 or email: [kris@stlouisriver.org](mailto:kris@stlouisriver.org). Anyone who is interested in volunteering,

but cannot attend the May 7th event can also contact Kris Eilers for more information.

## St. Louis River AOC Progress Report

The St. Louis River Alliance has published a first-ever report of progress for the St. Louis River Area of Concern. This progress report, written with input from many agencies involved with the AOC efforts, highlights the achievements and progress that has been made to address the issues that caused the St. Louis River to be designated as an Area of Concern (AOC) on the Great Lakes. This report was made possible through GLRI capacity funding from the MN Pollution Control Agency.

The report is available in paper copies from various agencies or on the SLRA website at [www.stlouisriver.org](http://www.stlouisriver.org). SLRA staff are also available for presentations about the current status of AOC projects.

## May opportunities on the St. Louis River

The ice is finally out of the St. Louis River and the St. Louis River Alliance is providing two opportunities for people to get out on the river.

### **Annual River Clean Up: Saturday, May 18, from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm**

This year the Alliance will be cleaning up and removing debris from Clough Island on Saturday, May 18 from 11:00 am -4:00 pm. This is part of the Wisconsin Dept of Natural Resources efforts to clean up and restore this island that it is now publically owned.

This clean up activity will require boat access to the site. So the Alliance is seeking volunteers with and without boats who can transport themselves and maybe others. Volunteers can contribute their time for all or a portion of this the period - especially if they have their own means of arriving and leaving the island. Lunch will be provided. Call 218-733-9520 or email [slrcac@stlouisriver.org](mailto:slrcac@stlouisriver.org) for more information and to sign up as a volunteer and/or to provide a boat to shuttle volunteers.

### **Spring Canoe & Kayak Tour: Monday, May 20, from 6:30-8:30 pm**

As a part of the outreach series, St Louis River: Past Present and Future, SLRA member Sue Wilmes will be guiding a tour of Pokegama Bay on Monday, May 20. There is no cost. However, it is limited to 20 participants. Interested persons will need to pre-register as well as provide their own canoe or kayak and a life jacket for everyone in their boat. The tour will leave at 6:30 pm and last about two hours. To pre-register, call the SLRA office at 218-733-9520 or email [slrcac@stlouisriver.org](mailto:slrcac@stlouisriver.org). Provide name (s), and contact information.

Information on the departure location and other pertinent information will then be provided.

## Migratory Bird Day Hike to be held May 11th

Celebrate International Migratory Bird Day on Saturday, May 11th by taking a hike on Wisconsin Point to identify birds and discuss their migratory path. Hike starts at 7:30 a.m. and will take about 2 hours (meet at Lot #1) on Wisconsin Point. The hike will be followed by refreshments in Bear Creek Park Any member of the public who is interested is welcome! This event is sponsored by Superior Parks & Recreation.

## Save the Date! Climate Adaptation Workshops

On June 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> the St. Louis River Alliance will host "A Flood of Options: Adapting to a Changing Climate" 2 separate free workshops about adapting to a changing climate, with a special focus on backyard actions that can help protect local streams from damage during extreme weather such as last year's flooding. Dr. Mark Seeley has been confirmed as a speaker. The workshops will be held from 6:00-8:30 pm on Wednesday June 19<sup>th</sup>, and a repeat session on Thursday, June 20<sup>th</sup> at 1:00-3:30 in two different locations in this region. Watch for more details about the location and other agenda details. This workshop is funded in part by the Coastal Zone Management Act, by NOAA's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, in conjunction with Minnesota's Lake Superior Coastal Program.

These workshops are a kick-off for a larger project funded by Freshwater Future in joint effort with the St. Louis River Alliance and the W.J. McCabe chapter of the Izaak Walton League to promote public involvement in advocating for climate change adaptation measures that will provide future protection of Duluth's unique streams. There will be a follow-up workshop to be held in mid-July. For more information, contact [slrcac@st.louisriver.org](mailto:slrcac@st.louisriver.org).

## 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](http://www.stlouisriver.org)

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