



The River Voice

Issue 10
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Upcoming Events

SLRA Annual Meeting January 16, 2013
6:30-8:30 pm Clyde Iron

SLRA Winter Walk on the River February
9, 2013 1:00-3:00 pm Boy Scout Landing

Call 733-9520 for more information.

Contributors

Piping Plover Project Achievements

The St. Louis River Alliance (SLRA) has completed the first year of the US Fish and Wildlife Service-funded 5-year project to restore piping plover habitat to Wisconsin Point and the St. Louis River Estuary. Teaming up with the USFWS, the Wisconsin DNR, Douglas County, and the city of Superior has led to a very successful start to the program.

Monitors and volunteers have spotted four different piping plover on Wisconsin Point and Park Point and recorded data to help track disturbances. They developed curriculum and outreach tools and wrapped up the fall season by educating over 200 children and adults about the critically endangered shorebird. This winter SLRA is working with our partners to restore a designated WDNR shorebird sanctuary on Wisconsin Point. The eradication of invasive species is well under way and excavation of the entire beach is complete (*see masthead photo, above*). We have restored an expansive beach far enough away from the treeline and free from human and dog disturbances in hopes that this spring we will attract some nesting pairs.

Volunteers Needed for 2013

In order to make this project a success, we rely on our partners for expert direction, our community members for cooperation, and also on volunteers to monitor our beautiful beaches to

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protect the Piping Plover. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer to help with beach monitoring and beach maintenance we are now taking applications! We offer training, quiet mornings and evenings on the beach, exercise, and the satisfaction of contributing to the effort to bring back the first nesting pairs of a rare shorebird to our beaches. For more information call Kris at 218-733-9520 or email at kris@stlouisriver.org.

St. Louis River Alliance to hold Annual Meeting and Winter Walk on the River

The St. Louis River Alliance will kick off 2013 events with the Annual Membership Meeting and Program to be held at Clyde Iron on January 16 from 6:30-8:00. The presentation will be the 2012 Flood in Jay Cook State Park by Kris Hiller, Park Naturalist. Hors d'oeuvres will be served. RSVP is requested and appreciated.

On Saturday, February 9th the St. Louis River: Past, Present and Future events will continue with a Winter Walk on the River. Explore the sites of former sawmills, and other industries in pre-1900 New Duluth. 1:00- 3:00 pm. Meet at Boy Scout Landing.

For more information on either event, call 733-9520 or email slrcac@stlouisriver.org.

Duluth Stream Corps Project Exceeds Goals

In October, The Duluth Stream Corps of Community Action Duluth completed an extremely successful project funded by a grant from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative through the EPA. The Stream Corps focused on restoring streams by working with private landowners and put a total of 12 people back to work during the two year grant period.

In all, The Stream Corps planted 18,155 native trees and shrubs, eradicated 7.75 acres of exotic species, restored 146 acres of riparian land, planted native grasses and wildflowers, installed three rain gardens, transplanted over 300 large white pines and worked with volunteers from many local groups.

Many crew members have since found jobs in the environmental field. Project Manager Aaron Finke stated:

"Because of the experience this job provided me, I recently gained full-time permanent employment as a Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist with Pheasants Forever. There is no doubt in my mind that the reason I got this job was because of my experience working for the Duluth Stream Corps."

The impact this project had on the community was seen both in the environmental work completed and in the education the crew members provided to landowners. They were instrumental in advocating for healthy streams and included families in creating a living legacy. Community Action Duluth continues to look for ways to continue the work of the Duluth Stream Corps. For more information on how to help, please contact Angie Miller at 218-726-1665.

Governor's Council on Minnesota's Coastal Program seeking new council members

Minnesota's Coastal Program, or Coastal Council currently has seven openings that it needs to fill in January. Coastal Council's responsibilities are in each of these four areas:

- *Recommending grant priorities* for the coming year.
- *Recommending projects for funding* - Every year, the Coastal Program receives between 15 - 30 applications for its annual grant program.
- *Reviewing the Coastal Program's annual administrative budget*
- *Evaluating the Coastal Program's performance*

The Governor appoints coastal Council members for a four year term. Six of the vacancies are for representatives from the coastal counties - two for Carlton, two for Cook, one for Lake, and one for St. Louis. These members are appointed from a pool of nominees submitted by the cities, towns and counties within the coastal area. The other vacancy is an "at-large" position, meaning an individual living anywhere in the state would qualify.

Application packages need to be in by December 25 as the Governor's Office could begin to make appointments as early as January 4, 2013. Applications may be accepted at any time. If you wish know more about the role of the Coastal Council and /or to find out how to apply, go to

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/waters/lakesuperior/council.html>, or contact Amber Westerbur, Acting Program Manager, at 218-834-1445, or email Amber at: amber.westerbur@state.mn.us

MN Environmental Congress holds Citizen Forums

The Environmental Quality Board convened a series of six Citizen Forums as part of the Minnesota Environmental Congress. Over 200 people attended the forum held in Duluth on November 28 at Lake Superior College. Other forums were held in Rochester, Bloomington, Worthington, St Cloud and Moorhead. The purpose of these two-hour forums was to help evaluate Minnesota's

performance and progress on protecting our valuable air, water, land, and energy resources.

Input gathered at all six citizen forums will be part of the Statewide Environmental Congress event held in March 2013. State leaders will meet for a one-day summit to discuss this public

feedback and will begin planning a blueprint for Minnesota's environmental and economic future.

The Environmental Quality Board brings together the Governor's Office (as chair), five citizens and the heads of nine state agencies that play a vital role in Minnesota's environment and development. The board develops policy, creates long-range plans and reviews proposed projects that would significantly influence Minnesota's environment.

RSPT to hold Winter Parking Lot Workshop

The Regional Stormwater Protection Team (RSPT) is offering the next Winter Parking Lot Maintenance Workshop on January 8, 2013, from 9:00-2:30 at Natural Resources Research Institute, 5013 Miller Trunk Hwy.

This workshop is free and lunch is provided, but there are only 35 seats available. The registration deadline is December 18th. Here are [more details & the registration form](#). For answers to



any general questions, please contact Cristina Villella at 218-726-6605.

These workshops are offered free to anyone who is responsible for providing services to maintain parking and sidewalks in the winters. The purpose of these workshops is to educate providers of the best management practices (BMP) that will help reduce the environment impact of chloride to the environment as well as save money. Get valuable information, useful tips and suggestions from leading experts on:

- Material application rates
- Calibrating equipment
- Understanding the weather conditions
- Storing materials
- De-Icing and anti-icing techniques

Since these were first offered in 2006, over 475 people have attended these workshops. Many participants have been public work employees who learn more about the best management practices of using sand and salts on public street and roads. These have resulted in not only savings but also have reduced pollutants that are washed into the streams and rivers.

City of Superior conducts Riparian Landowner Educational Project

On August 15, 2012, 35 riparian landowners were treated to dinner, various educational displays and three informational presentations as part of an Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Control Grant titled "Riparian Landowners Educational Project" funded by the WI DNR.

John Haack from UW-Extension presented on the ecological benefits of shoreline buffer restoration. Paul Hlina, owner of Leaning Pine Native Landscapes, presented information on doing a shoreline



Workshop photo by Sue O'Halloran

restoration project. Carrie Sanda, the Douglas County AIS Coordinator, presented specific information on four invasive

species and how to identify and control them.

By the end of the workshop, participants knew how important their streambank or shoreline is for wildlife habitat, water quality and aesthetics. Participants also gained insight into the ecology of four specific wetland invaders, Purple Loosestrife, Phragmites, Reed Canary Grass, and Flowering Rush, as well as how they can remove them from their property. They also received two variety packs of native plants to take home and plant.

The first phase of this project was to mail a survey to every riparian landowner within the City of Superior to gauge landowners' understanding of AIS and their effects on the environment. Visit [this link](#) to view the survey results report.

The Project was a successful collaboration between personnel from the City of Superior, UW-Superior Lake Superior Research Institute and the Lake Superior National Estuarine Research Reserve.

IAGLR 2013: 56th Annual Conference on Great Lakes Research Call for Papers

The International Association for Great Lakes Research invites you to participate and share your research during IAGLR's annual conference, **June 2 - 6, 2013**, at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana. Abstract submissions for both oral and poster presentations are welcome. **Deadline: January 25, 2013**

The 2013 conference theme, *Great Lakes Restoration and Resiliency*, and include invasive species, climate change, land-use and eutrophication, contaminants, nearshore health, fisheries, data management and modeling, foodweb and ecosystem ecology, physical processes and stakeholder engagement.

To view Sessions, go to

<http://www.iaglr.org/conference/sessions.php>

Both oral and poster presentations require an abstract. A non-refundable \$50 fee is charged for each abstract submitted. Payment of the abstract fee does not constitute registration for the conference but the fee will be credited toward the registration fee. All abstracts must be submitted via the

IAGLR web site. They encourage authors to submit abstracts for specific sessions, but also will accept general contributions. To submit an abstract, go to <http://iaglr.org/iaglr2013/abstracts/>

Further information about the conference is available online at <http://iaglr.org/iaglr2013/>.

Wisconsin Sea Grant News

Monitoring Aesthetics

Read more about how Sea Grant expertise is contributing to efforts to define what makes waterways aesthetically pleasing and how it links to MN and WI Areas of Concern at the WI Sea Grant article, found [here](#).

New UW Sea Grant Institute Fisheries Outreach Specialist begins work

Titus Seilheimer brings a wealth of Great Lakes research experience to the position of Fisheries Outreach Specialist. "This is a critically important position for our organization," said Phil Moy, UW Sea Grant's assistant director for research. "With the fishing industry undergoing seismic shifts and commercial fishermen facing an uncertain and challenging future, UW Sea Grant is in a unique position to serve as a key informational resource. We're confident Titus has the knowledge and ability to relate well to our constituents and help them." Seilheimer will be based in UW Sea Grant's Manitowoc Office, on the UW-Manitowoc campus.

River People News

MN Dept of Natural Resources:

Adam Fulton has joined the Minnesota DNR staff as a Habitat Restoration Project Manager within the Division of Ecological and Water Resources. Adam will be working with John Lindgren out of the DNR's French River office, and will be focused on assisting with habitat restoration within the St. Louis River Estuary. His primary responsibilities will center on six restoration projects funded in part by the Minnesota Clean Water, Land, and Legacy Amendment through the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council: 21st Ave W., 40th Ave. W., Grassy Point, Knowlton Creek, Radio Tower Bay, and wild rice restoration. Adam comes to the DNR from the city of St. Louis Park, where he worked as a city planner on projects ranging from creek restoration and stormwater planning to major redevelopment initiatives on brownfield sites. He also serves as the treasurer for the Minnesota Chapter of the American Planning Association.



Minnesota GreenCorps Member is working for RSPT

Cristina Vilella began her new position as Stormwater Management Assistant at the beginning of October. She will be working to enhance stormwater education programs and also providing community-based outreach. Cristina is a member of the Minnesota GreenCorps program, which is coordinated by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. The one-year partnership will include work with Minnesota Sea Grant, University of Minnesota Duluth Stormwater Steering Committee, and the Regional Stormwater Protection Team. Cristina has recently worked on environmental education and outreach projects at the Western Lake Superior



Sanitary District. Prior to that, Cristina worked with youth education programs at the Science Museum of Minnesota and earned her B.S. in Environmental Studies and Soil Sciences from St. Cloud State University. Cristina can be reached at ville034@umn.edu and her phone is (218) 726-6605.

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency



Diane Desotelle has joined the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) as the new St. Louis River Area of Concern (AOC) Coordinator. Diane comes to the MPCA with 27 years of diverse and extensive

work experience in the environmental field ranging from surface and ground water work, environmental design, remediation, restoration, planning, facilitation, to collaboration across a variety of stakeholder interests.

Her skill set includes group facilitation and coordination, land use and water resource planning and ordinance development, natural resource assessment and GIS mapping, project management, and budgeting. In addition, she has extensive experience in education and outreach with a knack toward bringing the science to decision-makers. Diane has a bachelor's degree in Agricultural Engineering with an emphasis in soil and water and master's degree in Water Resource Management. She is also a Licensed Teacher and a Registered Professional Engineer. Diane has not only done work on the river in the past, but she has enjoyed paddling the river and learning about its history.

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

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