



the river REPORTER

What's Next for Water Quality?

In years to come, 2015 will appear in the arc of river improvement as a year of monumental milestones. This is the year that disinfection started at the first sewage treatment plant along the Chicago River system. Disinfection eliminates sewage-based pathogens in the hundreds of millions of gallons of effluent that is released into the river every day after going through the sewage treatment process, making the river safer for humans and wildlife. Friends first called for disinfection in our report, *Waterways for Our Future*, released with Openlands and the Civic Federation in 2000.

This also the year that the Thornton Quarry transformed into the Thornton Reservoir to add 7.9 billion gallons of additional storage capacity to the Tunnel and Reservoir Plan (TARP). According to the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) which is building TARP, the new reservoir, dubbed the "Grand Canyon of the Midwest," will effectively eliminate combined sewer overflows to the Little Calumet River and protect the South Side and South Suburbs. The reservoir is designed to hold sewage and stormwater from our combined sewer system until it can be treated.

Above: Pictured here with MWRD Executive Director David St. Pierre, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Lt. Col. Kevin Lovell, and U.S. Congressman Mike Quigley, Friends' Executive Director Margaret Frisbie emphasized that one day we will be able to swim in the river at the press event opening the Thornton Reservoir.

they can admire the pageantry of the river and the city but also connect with the river as a living natural resource that is alive with activity on, in, under and along the water. Already lunchtime anglers have captured public imagination and floods there in June provided visible evidence that the river still needs our help.



U.S. Senators Dick Durbin and Mark Kirk, U.S. Congressman Mike Quigley, Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan, (pictured here on the North Branch with Friends' executive director Margaret Frisbie in 2011) worked closely with Friends to ensure that sewage effluent disinfection would be required to protect recreators.

TARP construction started in 1975. Two thousand and fifteen also marks the year that the second phase of the Chicago Riverwalk opened to the public. This massive public works project brings people down to the river's edge downtown for the first time. From this vantage point

At Friends some other exciting milestones include the completion of a channel catfish habitat restoration project and the release of 195,000 baby channel catfish into the river; the installation of our first osprey nesting platforms and bat colonies, and the restoration of river-edge forest preserve acres for turtles to help these key river dependent species thrive. These projects coincide with our strategic goals to increase wildness and improve wildlife habitat.

Story continued on page 5...



It's Not All Doom and Gloom - It's a Call to Action

To the readers of this newsletter, there are no surprises in Michael Hawthorne's recent front page *Chicago Tribune* article that spelled doom and gloom about water quality for the Chicago River. Anyone who's been following Friends for the last 36 years knows the river water is compromised but they also know that it's improving. What Hawthorne's piece, "Chicago River Teems with Filth," highlights is the complications and decades long dedication it takes to make the 156-mile Chicago River system what it deserves to be: one of the world's greatest metropolitan rivers.

And despite the doom and gloom portrayed by the headline, the Chicago River system is alive with activity on, in, under, and along the water because the river has improved tremendously. In fact, because of water quality improvements, since Friends was founded in 1979 the number of fish species in the river have climbed from under 10 to over 70; birds, beavers, turtles and muskrats call the river home; riverfront developments now embrace the river as their front yard, and new public amenities are bringing people to the river to walk, ride, boat, dine, fish, bird, live, work, and play in numbers larger than ever before.

AND big changes continue to improve water quality. This July, disinfection started at the Calumet waste water treatment plant to remove sewage-based pathogens and the north side O'Brien plant will disinfect before spring. This is one of the most significant water quality improvements in decades. In September the Thornton Reservoir went on-line and adds 7.9 billion additional gallons of storage capacity to our sewer system. It will have an enormous impact preventing

sewage releases to the river for the South Side and South Suburbs.

However, as Michael Hawthorne points out in his story, water quality is still not where it ought to be.

Even with the vast improvements made, too often sewage ends up in the river, unmanaged stormwater contributes noxious runoff, and nutrient pollution sucks critical dissolved oxygen from the water. All of this can make people sick, harm or kill fish and other aquatic life, and even contribute to the dead zone in the Gulf of Mexico, 1,000 miles downstream. To make the river truly safe for people and wildlife we must:

- Complete McCook, the last and largest TARP reservoir as soon as possible,
- Install disinfection technology at Stickney, the world's largest wastewater treatment plant,
- Survey the river to locate other sources of pollution,
- Develop a regional plan to manage stormwater to protect land and the water,
- Reduce nutrients, especially phosphorus, to levels attained by other cities like Milwaukee, and
- Help people better understand when the river is safe for use and what they can do to help make it safer.

In the sparkling sunshine of a beautiful afternoon, the Chicago River system looks like and is a great place for recreation and so many other activities. But we still need to work together to make it better. So let's all view Mr. Hawthorne's piece as a call to action and work together to get this done.

Margaret Frisbie
Executive Director

STAFF & BOARD

The River Reporter is published by Friends of the Chicago River, located at 411 South Wells St., Suite 800 Chicago, IL 60607 Phone: (312) 939-0490 E-mail: friends@chicagoriver.org Web site: www.chicagoriver.org

Our mission is to improve and protect the Chicago River system for people, plants, and animals.

Our vision is to make the Chicago River one of the world's greatest metropolitan rivers.

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What's Bubbling at Bubbly Creek?

In spring 2015 the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) released a draft feasibility study for the South Fork of the South Branch of the Chicago River, otherwise known as Bubbly Creek.

Enthusiastically supported by Friends, the study included designs for improving the ecological health of the creek by implementing a 44-acre restoration project designed to address the unusual set of historic set of circumstances that makes the creek so famous by incorporating a sediment cap. The permeable cap would trap any legacy pollutants below but allow for methane gas, which causes the infamous bubbles, to escape. Its purpose is to mimic the natural bottom of a river where mussels and other macroinvertebrates can thrive.

Unfortunately after hundreds of public comments were submitted in favor of the plan, on June 19 the USACE issued a press release announcing the cancelation of the plan because of the discovery of the potential for a nearby manufactured gas plant remediation. Understanding that the two processes did not need to conflict with each other and could even be

complementary, Friends quickly reached out to many of the stakeholders and the USACE to see what we could do.

Aligning ourselves with river champions like Senator Dick Durbin, Congressman Mike Quigley, Water Reclamation District Commissioner Debra Shore, 11th Ward Alderman Patrick Daley Thompson and the Leadership Commission of Great Rivers Chicago (see page 4), we are calling for a reinstatement of the project.

Despite its history, Bubbly Creek is home to a host of wildlife including beavers, great blue and black-crowned night herons, kingfishers, red tailed hawks and a variety of turtles species all spotted by Friends' staff. In addition people recreate and live near the river there and the creek's rejuvenation will increase its potential for recreation and provide opportunities for an underserved community to share in the benefits of this critical natural resource. Watch Friends' website for more information and updates.

RIFFLES & CURRENTS

SUPPORTING BIRDS ONE SHRUB AT A TIME

Since January 2015, the Chicago Ornithological Society has been hosting "Team LaBagh Big Year" at LaBagh Woods, a birding hotspot on Chicago's northwest side. Through the end of this year, birders are seeking pledges to raise funds for planting native shrubs in the understory, where recent habitat restoration efforts have been removing invasive buckthorn. The native shrubs are being purchased to better provide food and shelter for migratory birds such as tanagers, warblers, and vireos (see page 9).

Supporters can pledge a flat rate or pledge per bird species observed. Or you can join the birders on weekly birding hikes—everyone is

welcome to help grow the tally. The next public birding hike at LaBagh Woods will be on Sunday, September 27, 7:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Contact Friends to enroll in this exciting adventure. Find more information at www.chicagobirder.org. You can also help with the habitat restoration as a Centennial Volunteer. Sign up at www.chicagoriver.org.

GOOSE ISLAND / FLOATING ISLAND

An artificial floating island along the east channel of the Chicago River near Whole Foods Market in Lincoln Park is doing well in its third summer on the river. Originally part of a master's capstone study conducted by Joshua Yellin, a former employee of Friends of the Chicago

River, for the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, the island was planted with native plants in order to provide habitat for fishes and other aquatic life in a section of the river lacking in available habitat.

Studies conducted by Yellin in 2013 showed that more fishes were found near the island than on a nearby dock. Yellin is currently part of the Naru Project, a group which hopes to expand on the project with a rehabilitation project along the east channel of Goose Island that will incorporate a floating riverbank installation to increase habitat and provide opportunities for students and artists. For more information checkout their website at www.thenaruproject.org.

Great Cities Need Great Rivers

Progress continues on the development of a grand vision and action agenda for the rivers that flow through the City of Chicago including the Chicago/Calumet river system and a portion of the Des Plaines through Great Rivers Chicago. Great Rivers is a partnership between Friends, the City of Chicago, and Metropolitan Planning Council (MPC).

To solicit input on the river and its future, Friends of the Chicago River has held a series of focus groups, river experiences, and one-on-one interviews to ensure that the people who love and use the river have their voices heard in the Great Rivers Chicago process. A Great Rivers survey provided an avenue for all Chicagoans to weigh in and by July 2015 had attracted nearly 4,000 respondents.

The Great Rivers process which is managed by MPC, will last until next summer and has attracted a host of civic leaders and river experts to help

create the vision. A worker bee Resource Committee is co-chaired by Friends' executive director, Margaret Frisbie, and Aaron Koch, deputy commissioner for sustainability, Chicago Department of Water Management. The Leadership Committee members include diverse and important voices such as Mike Borgstrom, president, Wendella Sightseeing Company; Jeanne Gang, Studio Gang Architects; Mike Kelly, general superintendent of the Chicago Park District; Paul Ozinga from Ozinga Chicago; Arnold Randall, general superintendent of the Forest Preserves of Cook County; Mariyana Spyropoulos, president of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago; and Kim Wasserman with the Little Village Environmental Justice Organization and two Friends' board members, Grant Crowley, Crowley's Yacht Yard, and David Wong, Certare Ventures.

Sign up to receive updates at www.greatriverschicago.org.

Come See the Gears Turn: CDOT announces the 2015 Fall Bridge Lift Schedule

Witness this engineering marvel up close and personal. Get a behind-the-scenes look during a bridge lift at Friends' McCormick Bridgehouse & Chicago River Museum. Reservations are available for individuals and groups. Call now, space is limited.

| | |
|---------------|-----------|
| Sat., Oct. 3 | 9 a.m. |
| Wed., Oct. 7 | 9:30 a.m. |
| Sat., Oct. 10 | 9 a.m. |
| Wed., Oct. 14 | 9:30 a.m. |
| Sat., Oct. 17 | 9 a.m. |
| Wed., Oct. 21 | 9:30 a.m. |
| Sat., Oct. 24 | 9 a.m. |
| Wed., Oct. 28 | 9:30 a.m. |
| Sat., Oct. 31 | 9 a.m. |
| Wed., Nov. 4 | 9:30 a.m. |
| Sat., Nov. 7 | 9 a.m. |
| Sat., Nov. 14 | 9 a.m. |

Please Be Our Guest at Friends' 2015 Annual Meeting



Friends cordially invites all of our members and volunteers for an evening of fun and information, celebrating everyone who dedicates their time and resources in making the Chicago River one of the world's greatest metropolitan rivers. Enjoy food and drinks during the event while mingling with Friends' staff and board, learn about our current and future projects, and how you can stay involved.

The event is Wednesday, October 21, 2015, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Only active members and volunteers may attend. Contact Archita Singh at asingh@chicagoriver.org or (312) 939-0490, ext. 10. Please RSVP as soon as possible - the event location will be shared once you do.

Each year Friends awards those whose efforts help us meet our mission such as these 2013 award winners. From the left, Tony Watrobinski, North Mayfair Improvement Association; Col. Drummond, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Margaret Frisbie, Friends of the Chicago River; Craig Coit, president, Friends of the Chicago River; and Matt Kauth.

Catfish on the Loose

Friends of the Chicago River and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) wrapped up the installation portion of our channel catfish restoration project in July with the installation of the final 250 nesting cavities that we designed with Brian Lutey, vice president of sustainability and compliance for Ozinga, a local concrete company that has long supported Friends and the Chicago River.

The nesting cavities, fabricated from Ozinga brand permeable concrete are distributed along the North Shore Channel, the North Branch, and the Little Calumet near the Acme Bend. Friends and IDNR also released 195,000 baby channel catfish near the structures with the intent the new fish will use the cavities to breed new generations of channel cats and replenish the improving river system with this native game fish.

This fall Friends will create a report and materials which will help others replicate our project. A video will also be completed before the end of the year.



...Story continued from page 1

As always, though, fundamentally we need to continue to concentrate on water quality. Big issues remain and we are decades away from our vision of the Chicago River system being one of the world's greatest without progress on these complex issues.

To obtain this lofty goal, we must:

FINISH TARP

First and foremost, the McCook Reservoir needs to be completed as soon as possible to reduce the numbers of combined sewer overflows (CSOs) to the river. The total TARP system is 20.55 billion gallons and 10 billion come from the completion McCook. Its first phase is scheduled for completion in 2017 and its second, 2029. Friends and our partners are working to identify solutions that speed up this timeline.

DISINFECT MORE

While two of the three MWRD wastewater treatment plants will be disinfecting by the recreational season in 2016, Stickney was left off the table in the final recreational rules approved by USEPA in 2011 that govern water quality requirements for the river system. Stickney is the world's largest wastewater treatment in the world and can treat as much as 1.2 billion

gallons a day. Downstream recreators are still exposed to sewage pathogens that are removed from effluent at every other WTP operated by the MWRD.

TEST THE WATER

Now that much of the river's ambient water quality will be greatly improved by disinfection, it is essential to find out what else might be impacting the water. MWRD has begun a testing program with Argonne National Laboratories which should tell us what else is in the water, making it possible to figure out how to get it out. Disseminating information and bringing partners and stakeholders together will enable the next phase of water quality improvement to succeed.

USE GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

Regional development and archaic stormwater management systems mean that huge amounts of rainwater that should infiltrate the ground end up in our sewers and pipes polluting the river system due to CSOs and stormwater runoff. Runoff is the term for once-clean rainwater that picks up motor oil, road salt, fertilizers and other toxics as its makes its way to our rivers and streams. TARP will never be enough to capture all of the stormwater and

climate change is making the problem worse. A coordinated regional green infrastructure plan that engages governments and private partners throughout the whole watershed is essential.

MINIMIZE NUTRIENTS

USEPA says that nutrient pollution is among the most complex water quality issues we face. Excess nitrogen and phosphorus in water causes algae to grow, depleting the dissolved oxygen fish and other aquatic life need to survive. Action needs to be taken to reduce nutrient loads and in particular, phosphorus, which can be reclaimed and used again. Large cities like Milwaukee are achieving a high rate of removal. Those levels must be met here.

UNDERSTAND

Because not everyone lives next to the river it is difficult for them to understand they are connected and can help it get better. Every day actions like those promoted through Friends Think! Beyond the Banks. Campaign and support for the kinds of major endeavors like disinfection, stormwater management, and finishing TARP can make a big difference. Members of our community should take action and get involved.

THINK! Beyond the Banks: Teacher Resource Kits

Available this Fall

This school year we are offering the Think! Beyond the Banks teacher resource kits again. If you are a teacher, K-12, and teach at a school in the Chicago River watershed, you may request kits (limit two per school). Think! kits include lesson plan, thumb drive with videos and PowerPoint, English/Spanish Eco-Friendly Recipe Booklet, sample ingredients, supplies, stickers, bookmarks and a tote bag. Contact Betsy Hands at bhands@chicagoriver.org to request kits.

Last year's Think! Beyond the Banks resource kits were embraced by teachers as a tool to get students engaged in the river beyond a fieldtrip. Here are some great examples of how they integrated Think! into their classroom activities. Nina Hike-Teague's IB biology class (Curie High School, Chicago) designed an original THINK! poster. It won a contest sponsored by Friends in 2014 and warned us not to flush potentially-hazardous materials down the drain.



Jim Doyiakos' students at Amundsen High School (Chicago) came up with environmentally-friendly slogans to decorate their Think! T-shirts (photo, above left). Jenny Snyder's class at Loyola Academy (Wilmette) tested the eco-friendly cleaning recipes in the kits for efficacy (photo, above right). Snyder included, "I will share the recipes and bookmarks at our Earth Day fair and with the larger school community." Gail Slowinski's class at Schurz High School (Chicago) created their own Think! display that was exhibited prominently in their school. Slowinski shared, "The kits were great and the information was used by all four biology teachers."

With generous funding from the Wrigley Company Foundation, Friends launched the Think! Beyond the Banks initiative in 2012 to help all people understand how they can improve the river. With a strong focus on students who are the next generation of decision makers, Think! shares seemingly small "every day actions" like conserving water or purchasing eco-friendly products to increase environmental awareness and our impact of the Chicago River system. Last year, the kits were distributed to 40 teachers from 15 schools. All of the schools used the kits in class and we received positive feedback from many teachers.



Friends Releases new English-Spanish Eco-Friendly Cleaning Product Recipe Book

Last year's Eco-friendly Cleaning Recipe Book was so popular we reprinted it three more times in partnership with the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago. Requests came from as far away as Hawaii (they downloaded it from our website). This year we wanted to expand our outreach at home and have printed a second version in English/Spanish. Friends is making extra efforts this year to engage the growing Hispanic communities in and around the Chicago area who frequent and enjoy our river resource.

The recipe book is available for download at www.chicagoriver.org/think and features recipes that anyone can make using simple, inexpensive ingredients found at home.

Have Your Team Take Action with River Action Days

Do you want to build camaraderie while making a real difference to your community? If so, gather your coworkers and join Friends of the Chicago River for a River Action Day outside along the river.

With more than three decades experiences leading corporate teams and community groups in river improvement, our River Action Days help to restore and protect the invaluable Chicago River system while giving participants a chance to make a difference through engaging, hands-on work. Friends' professional staff will plan and lead a half-day, river-edge workday tailored specifically to your needs. We will provide your group with everything you need to work together on a service project that benefits the river while building team spirit, exposing participants to knowledge and history of our unique local environment, increasing staff loyalty, and encouraging your employees to get outside and give back to nature. Activities range from habitat restoration, litter removal and trail maintenance to water quality testing, guided canoe trips, and wildlife encounters. There are a variety of river locations from which to choose.

The Chicago River has significantly improved over the last few decades, making it greener, more accessible, and better cared for, yet it still faces a myriad of challenges. We need your help to address them. Please join us in improving and protecting the Chicago River system and start planning your team building day today!

For more information and pricing, contact Sean Moloney at (312) 939-0490, ext. 18 or smoloney@chicagoriver.org.



REI invited their staff and loyal customers to come help clean up the Chicago River.

Partners in Corporate Service

Over the years, Friends has worked with a variety of companies and firms that are committed to improving the Chicago River. These companies and their employees have helped launch and support Friends' River Action Days program.

SELECTED RIVER ACTION DAY PARTNERS

Aon
Avison Young
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Wrigley Company
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“Our Corporate Service Day with Friends was terrific. Our team learned about local environmental needs while helping improve several areas along the riverbank. We appreciated the unique experiences offered throughout the day and the thoughtful planning of Friends’ staff.”

--- Anne Vela-Wagner, Wrigley Company



The Wrigley Company employees installed a beautiful native plant garden to help reduce stormwater runoff and had fun doing it!



Chicago River Day 2015: Lots of Hands Together Make Great Impact

Friends of the Chicago River's 23rd annual Chicago River Day was another huge success and we would like to thank the more than 2,000 volunteers who came out to help! Volunteers were able to choose a role from 61 different sites along the 156-mile stretch of the Chicago River system. Together, we removed 20 tons of invasive vegetation, litter, and debris from in and around the river. Many sites also sorted recyclables, performed riverside trail maintenance, and planted native plugs. All sites included litter removal, and volunteers found and removed car parts, clothing, plastic bags and bottles, cans, mattresses, food packaging, and more from the river and surrounding areas.

This year, we made the effort to remove "micro-trash," which is arguably the most overlooked and least intentional type of litter. Micro-trash includes wrappers, bottle caps, matches and anything else of the same size or smaller. This type of litter is extremely important to remove because it can cause intestinal blockages and choking hazards for wildlife, stunt or kill the growth of native plants, and contributes to poor water quality. In partnership with Openlands, Watertrail Keepers, and REI, we also introduced on-the-water cleanups. Using grabbers, volunteers loved being able to remove debris right from the river while paddling. We are already in the planning stages for Chicago River Day – 2016 and hope to use the feedback and recommendations from this year's participants to make it the best Chicago River Day to date!



These paddlers were able to enjoy time on the water and get hard-to-reach trash on the Skokie Lagoons.



Kickapoo Woods, a Centennial Volunteers site, offers volunteers a chance to learn more about removing invasive species.

[Thanks to all of our 2015 Chicago River Day sponsors for making this day possible.](#)

PRESENTING SPONSOR



WHITE ASH SPONSORS



The Cynthia Weglaz Roundtree Fund, MWH Global, Royal Bank of Canada, REI, Sims Metal, The Lake County Water Commission, and IL EPA Scale Grant. We would also like to thank Target, the Night Ministry, and Cardno for their generous in-kind donations. All sponsorships support this day of action and Friends' mission to improve and protect the Chicago River system for people, plants, and animals.

Sponsors are encouraged to start signing up for next year!



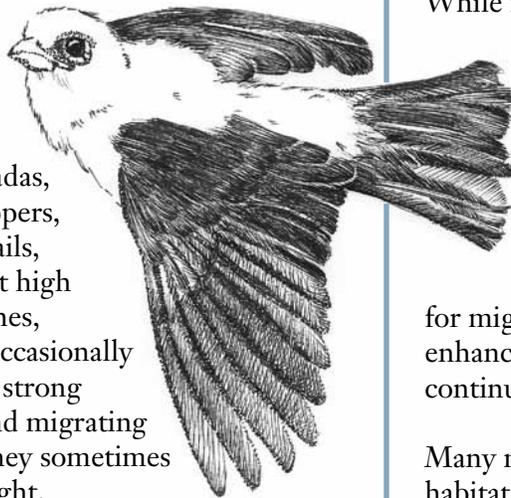
Every spring and fall the banks along the Chicago River system are alive with activity as hundreds of thousands of migratory birds pass through the Chicago region - heading north for summer nesting grounds or south for wintering grounds.

Among the most striking in the springtime is the colorful male scarlet tanager, with a dark-red body set off by jet-black wings and tail. It is among the most blindingly gorgeous birds in our area. Males are generally found high in the forest canopy singing their songs and harder to spot yellowish-green, dark-winged females are found in the undergrowth. In the fall, the males' feathers become yellow-green as well.

Although they pass through the Chicago metropolitan region, scarlet tanagers prefer to nest in the connected stands of mature deciduous/coniferous forests of eastern North America. When breeding in the spring and summer, they will seek out larger deeper woods with bigger trees. At other times, they can be found in forest habitats as well as open spaces such as parks and gardens. Scarlet tanagers winter in mature forests and forest edges in the mountainous regions of northern and western South America. They range to the south as far as the Bolivian lowlands.

Scarlet tanagers are mainly insect eaters, but do also consume fruits and seeds. Their diet includes ants, moths, butterflies, beetles, flies, cicadas, leafhoppers, lice, termites, grasshoppers, locusts, dragonflies, dobsonflies, snails, earthworms, and spiders. They hunt high up in the tops of trees, along branches, vertically on tree trunks, and very occasionally on the ground. Scarlet tanagers are strong fliers, making swift, direct flights and migrating long distances in fall and spring. They sometimes hover to catch bees and wasps in flight.

Scarlet tanager populations have been stable during the last few decades. They only breed in large forests; however, and changes in land-use, forest fragmentation, and urbanization are responsible for the concerns about this species' future. We could see a rapid decline if their habitat disappears. An additional burden is the fact that sometimes tanagers nests are parasitized by brown-headed cowbirds, which destroy the tanager's eggs and replace them with their own which the tanagers then raise, never knowing the difference.



Scarlet tanager

Piranga olivacea

Illustration by Jen Pagnini
www.spinystudio.com

The Importance of Chicago to Migration

Millions of birds migrate through the Chicago area every year. They are funneled along well-defined corridors of habitat, known as flyways: the Great Lakes to our north and the Mississippi River and wetlands to our south. The western shore of Lake Michigan is a very important landmark along this migration, and because of the need to fly around it, the Chicago River system and the habitat its banks provide become vital and it is visited by over 300 species of birds coming and going from such faraway places as the tip of South America and the Arctic Circle every year. As they make their arduous journey, these migrating birds must find food, water and shelter from hazards, both natural and human.

While migrating, exhausted and hungry birds need to find the right kind of high calorie, high-protein food such as seeds, berries and insects. They also need protective shelter from humans, predators and weather. Indeed, the open green spaces, both public and private, all along the lake's shore and Chicago River, are not only landmarks for migrant birds; but their protection and enhancement is fundamental to these birds' continued existence.

Many migratory birds are threatened by habitat destruction both at their southern and northern limits of their migration. As they travel through the United States, they must twice annually traverse a vast area that has seen great change; industry, agriculture, and urban development have left fewer and fewer productive stop-over sites for these birds. Migrating birds cannot feed from field of soybeans and corn, nor can they find shelter along State Street. The Chicago River plays an essential role.

HIGH Water Marks

Friends of the Chicago River recognizes the generous contributions and support of members, donors, and program participants and partners at \$250 and above from March 1, 2015, to June 30, 2015.

INDIVIDUALS

\$3,500 - \$20,000

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Fletcher Family
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Arthur and Elaine Wong
David M. Wong and Wai-Sinn Chan

\$1,000 - \$3,499

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In-kind Contributions

AMC Theatres
Baliho Productions
Barnaby's Restaurant
Judith Bassoul
Beatrix
Donna Bliss
Blueberry Moon Salon & Spa
Bobby's Bike Hike
Boka Restaurant
Brass Monkey
Bridgehouse Tavern
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Dick's Last Resort
Drury Lane Theatre

East Bank Club
Entertainment Cruises
Fairfield Inn and Suite
FEW Spirits
Finch's Brewery
Joel Fink
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Ben Gonzalez
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Il Giardino Del Dolce
Hines
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KOVAL Distillery
Labriola Ristorante & Cafe
Lagunitas Brewing Company
The Langham Hotel
Toby Lindo
Luckyprints
Mariano's
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Dennis McLennand
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Metropolitan Water Reclamation District
of Greater Chicago
The Night Ministry
Ed Paschke Art Center
PRP Wines
Mary Rafferty
The Redhead Piano Bar
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RPM Italian
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The Sheraton Hotel
Phil Solomonson
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Steppenwolf Theatre Company
Stray Boots
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Trunk Club
Two Brothers Brewing Company
Vinci Restaurant Group
Wendella Sightseeing Company, Inc.
Willis Tower Skydeck
The Wit Hotel
Wow Bao - Hot Asian Buns

The Otter Society

Kenneth M. Arenberg and
Susanne M. Swisher
Kent Brown and Jane Jacobsen-Brown
Judith Bassoul
Craig and Kate Coit
Entertainment Cruises
Sally Fletcher
Joel Oppenheimer, Inc.
Barbara Morse-Quinn and Barry Quinn
The Wrigley Building

We apologize if any names have been omitted, misspelled, or otherwise incorrectly listed. Please contact us at asingh@chicagoriver.org so that we can correct our records.

Friends of the Chicago River is a proud member of



Fall Calendar of Events

Friends of the Chicago River's Annual Meeting

Wednesday, October 21, 2015, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Please join us to celebrate Friends and the Chicago River system, recognize those who have worked so hard to make it better. Complete story on page 4. Location disclosed at time of RSVP. Contributors and volunteers only.

Spanish-Language Tours of the Bridgehouse Museum

Saturday, September 26, 2015

Saturday, October 10, 2015

Saturday, October 24, 2015

Beginning at 11 a.m., 12 noon, and 1 p.m.

Tours of our museum in Spanish will be led by Rebeca Fernandez. See back cover for details. \$



Bridgehouse Museum: Bridge Lift Schedule

Come to our museum on select Wednesdays and Saturdays in September and October to see the gears move. Complete schedule on page 4. \$

All events are free unless otherwise noted: \$

Centennial Volunteers Restoration Workday

Sunday, September 27, 2015, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Meeting at Blue Star Memorial Woods parking lot

Join a community of stewards that restores critical habitat at five sites along our river system. No special skills necessary, just sturdy shoes and work clothes.



Great Rivers Chicago Public Field Trip

Saturday, October 10, 2015, 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Irene C. Hernandez Family Picnic Area (4498 W. Foster Ave.)

RSVP to mhauser@chicagoriver.org

Come out for a no-stress look at assessing water quality with a chance to walk in the river. All water assessment equipment (boots, nets, and chemistry kits will be provided).

Requiem in Water

Monday, October 19, 2015, starting at 7 p.m.

The Bridgehouse Museum on the Riverwalk

RSVP to jdill@chicagoriver.org

To commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Eastland Disaster, the Suburban Piano Quartet will perform an original music composition in and throughout our museum.

YES! I want to support the Chicago River's recovery and renaissance!

Your gift today makes you a member of Friends of the Chicago River.

\$ _____ Yes! I want to join The Otter Society with my gift of \$1,500 or more. Contact me with details regarding gift recognition and special member opportunities.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000 Wild Mink | <input type="checkbox"/> \$75 Tiger Salamander / Family |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Great Horned Owl | <input type="checkbox"/> \$35 Chorus Frog / Individual |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 Yellow-headed Blackbird | <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 Prairie Dropseed / Volunteer, Teacher, or Student |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$156 Black-crowned Night Heron | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Blanding's Turtle / Business | <input type="checkbox"/> Other \$ _____ |

Name _____

Company (if applicable) _____

For recognition purposes, list my name or company as _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Preferred phone _____ Email _____

My check made payable to Friends of the Chicago River is enclosed.
 Charge my credit card (circle one) American Express Discover MasterCard Visa
 Card # _____
 Exp. Date _____ Security code _____
 Cardholder's name and billing address (if different than above) _____

- Please contact me about volunteer opportunities via Preferred phone Email
 Please do NOT add me to your email communications list.

Your contribution is tax deductible as allowed by law. Please send it to Friends of the Chicago River at 411 South Wells Street, Suite 800, Chicago, IL 60607 or make your gift online at www.chicagoriver.org/get-involved/membership.

For all contributions over \$35, Friends of the Chicago River members receive:

- * Free general admission, discounts on bridge lift and tour tickets, and merchandise discounts at our McCormick Bridgehouse & Chicago River Museum;
- * Discounts on our canoe trips;
- * A subscription to *The River Reporter* newsletter, filled with important information on issues that effect the Chicago River plus a calendar of river-related events;
- * Volunteer bulletins, email actions alerts, and other opportunities for hands-on involvement;
- * Invitations to special events like Chicago River Day and the Big Fish Ball;
- * Listing in our Annual Report;

And perhaps most significantly,

- * The reward of knowing that your membership contribution has a direct impact on improving the Chicago River's health and vitality.

Business members also receive a certificate showing your customers and employees that you care about the environment and the Chicago River.

Donors of \$250 and above are eligible for additional recognition opportunities. Those with support of \$1,000 and above for the year are also included on an annual plaque at our McCormick Bridgehouse & Chicago River Museum. Naming opportunities at the Bridgehouse Museum are available as well.

Friends of the Chicago River is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization.

Friends of the Chicago River

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BE A FRIEND OF THE CHICAGO RIVER!



Friends' Annual Meeting and Appreciation Event:

You're Invited! Wednesday, October 21, 2015, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Please join us to celebrate Friends and the Chicago River system, recognize those who have worked so hard to make it better, learn more about the river, and most importantly have fun with board, staff, and our incredible members and volunteers. Contact us for details. Location disclosed at time of RSVP. Contributors and volunteers only.

Spanish-Language Tours of the Bridgehouse Museum

Saturday, September 26, October 10, and October 24

Beginning at 11 a.m. 12 noon, and 1 p.m.

Friends of the Chicago River's McCormick Bridgehouse & Chicago River Museum now has offers Spanish-language tours, led by Rebeca Fernandez, resident architect-preservationist. We hope families, school groups, and community groups who want to experience the museum's highly-praised exhibit in Spanish can take advantage of this opportunity. The Spanish-language tour is free with museum admission. All tours begin at the Riverwalk entrance at Wacker Dr. and Michigan Avenue. Reservations are encouraged. Group rates are available. Please call Museum Director, Joanne So Young Dill, (312) 939-0490, ext. 23 for details.



The River Reporter is printed on recycled paper.

Visit our website, www.chicagoriver.org, for more information on getting involved.

Membership opportunities on page eleven.