

Kickapoo Woods



Board of Commissioners
Forest Preserve District of Cook County
Information: 1-800-388-3888 www.fpdcc.com

CLOSED AT SUNSET

the river REPORTER

Kickapoo Kick-Off

This February Friends of the Chicago River launched a new demonstration project which will restore 30 acres along the Little Calumet River at Kickapoo Woods. Located near Chicago's southeast side, Harvey, and Riverdale in the Cook County Forest Preserves, the currently degraded site will become a wonderful new usable public open space that serves as habitat for native wildlife. Our efforts will also reduce the impacts from stormwater runoff. The goal of the project is to demonstrate how unmanaged, open parcels along the Chicago River system can be managed to decrease the impact of stormwater runoff, while restoring habitat and ecological function, and to engage new communities in the river's care.

To start, our staff conducted a thorough assessment of the site's condition, especially its vegetative communities. The streambank shelf was dominated by an unhealthy mix of invasive reed canary grass, Kentucky bluegrass, and common ragweed. The upland sections of the site were dominated by garlic mustard, white sweet clover and other invasives. Buckthorn was prevalent throughout as well as on adjacent properties. Although there were scattered oaks present, there was an abundant mix of maples, cottonwoods, and hackberry



The cleared area on the left side of photo show just how insidious buckthorn can be. The right side has not been cleared.

trees which had overtaken the original forest growth.

Staff were also able to access the Little Calumet River and conducted a 120-minute mussel survey during which no native mussels were found. Further exploration found that the site was under tremendous pressure from stormwater flows emanating from adjacent roadways and residential areas.

This initial assessment became the foundation for a step-by-step restoration plan which includes removing all invasive plants and planting new native ones in their place, installing stormwater best management practices like rain gardens, and repairing gullies. After the initial work is done Friends will

continue stewarding the site with Chicago River Eco-Warriors and other volunteers. The restoration work will be complemented by a plan for monitoring improvement by measuring stormwater impacts and wildlife.

Excitingly, the stormwater monitoring will begin this spring with installation of automatic samplers and probes. Our intent is to gather pre-planting data for use in comparison as the project proceeds. As invasive plants are replaced with native ones we expect there will be less sedimentation, a reduction in water temperature, less fluctuations in pH, and by reducing the runoff flow rates, healthier in-stream and upland habitat. This information can build a case for support for natural landscape restoration across the watershed.

Additionally, as part of our initial assessment, multiple locations throughout the site were highlighted as having great potential for the installation of bat/duck boxes and other artificial habitat for native animals, insects, and fish. Since the long term vision for the site includes habitat improvements throughout the restored areas and within the channel, Friends' staff and volunteers will continually monitor plant, mussel, macroinvertebrate, bird and frog

Story continued on page 5...



WADING IN

It's a done deal, isn't it?

The recent announcement by US Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood and Chicago Mayor Rahm Emmanuel that the federal government will make Chicago a \$100 million loan to build the Chicago Riverwalk was good news for the Chicago River and the city.

Friends has been advocating for a continuous trail for decades and the downtown portion is a key link that will allow millions of people to enjoy the Chicago River in ways that our founders could only imagine. Restaurants, boat docks, greenspace and critical fish habitat are all part of the plan and when it is complete—by 2016 said Mayor Emmanuel—we are convinced the riverwalk with its magical views will out compete Millennium Park.

Yet the Chicago Riverwalk and all the boathouses in the world cannot undo the impacts of the centuries. Modern life and a legacy of indifference to the Chicago River means that the river still faces serious impediments to the “fishable and swimmable” condition for which we strive.

While sewage plant effluent disinfection is on track for 2015, it is only in process for two of the three plants that discharge into the Chicago River. While the Tunnel and Reservoir Plan has eliminated 85% of combined sewer overflows (CSOs), the 10 billion gallon McCook reservoir is not scheduled to be complete until 2029 and CSOs still occur. Additionally, unmanaged stormwater runoff wreaks

havoc causing pollution and erosion, while contributing to the CSOs. We also have a dearth of wildlife habitat, still limited public access, and nutrients like phosphorus are released into the water causing algae, aquatic plants, and bacteria to grow. Those processes deplete much needed oxygen from the water.

Some of these problems can be addressed by the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District directly and must be a priority. Others like stormwater management require a collective regional effort. We all need to understand that we are connected to the river and that every day we should think about it and make a difference.

In Cook County we have spent well over \$4 billion to improve the Chicago River, reduce flooding, and improve public access. We need to continue that kind of investment to ensure that the Chicago River is clean, safe, accessible, that flooding is stopped, stormwater protected and the river is truly one of the world's greatest metropolitan rivers.

Ray LaHood called the riverwalk loan a done deal, now let's make clean water one, too.

Find out more about the river's return on investment at www.chicagoriver.org May 9.

Margaret Frisbie
Executive Director



STAFF & BOARD

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

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Come Have a Blast at the Big Fish Ball

Friends of the Chicago River invites you to join them for the 8th annual Big Fish Ball on Wednesday, June 5. This fun benefit evening along, on and for the Chicago River in tents on The Merchandise Mart's Riverside Drive is a great way for you and your friends to show your support for the continuing renaissance of the river.

The Big Fish Ball is Friends' largest fundraising benefit and the only Chicago gala event dedicated solely to benefitting the recovery of the Chicago River. It is always a fun summer night outdoors where concerned, involved, and generous river enthusiasts come together and celebrate this inspiring cause. The evening includes cocktails, entertainment, wild animals and dinner from 5:30 to 9 p.m. followed by our After Party BOOM Fireworks River Cruise from 9 to 10 p.m.

Our Honorary Co-Chairs this year are Governor Pat Quinn, Mayor Rahm Emanuel, the Honorable Richard M. Daley and Maestro Riccardo Muti (in conjunction with Friends' partnership with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra's Spring 2013 Rivers Festival). Our Gala Chair is Board Member Barbara Morse-Quinn. For more information or to buy tickets for the main event, the boat party, the raffle or to make a donation visit www.chicagoriver/bigfishball2013 or call 312-939-0490 ext 10.



Craig Coit, president of Friends' board, and Margaret Frisbie, Friends' executive director, enjoy a word with Governor Pat Quinn at the Big Fish Ball.

RIFFLES & CURRENTS

BIG NEWS FOR EAGLES

The Forest Preserve District of Cook County (FPDCC) recently announced a pair of American bald eagles have returned to Tampier Slough in southwest Cook County. The eagles were spotted near the nest in mid-February and are reportedly tidying it up. It's possible the eagles never left the region this year because of the mild winter and two adult eagles were recorded at Long John Slough nearby in December.

The FPDCC report stated that "because eagles typically return to a single nest year after year, District biologists believe they're the same pair that successfully raised at least one eaglet last year, the first time that's happened in Cook County in more than a century."

IT'S DONE DEAL

On March 28, 2013 Ray LaHood, secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) and Chicago Mayor Rahm Emmanuel announced a \$100 million loan from USDOT to the city to complete the Chicago Riverwalk along the Main

Stem downtown. While the loan is expected to be formalized in June, Secretary LaHood called it "a done deal."

"Friends is thrilled by the Mayor's commitment to the Chicago River," said Margaret Frisbie, Friends' executive director. "With the completion of the Chicago Riverwalk and four new boathouses, people from communities across the city will finally be able to enjoy the river's magic and charm. It is a wild and wonderful natural, recreational, and economic treasure that is really only starting to be explored. All the work we have done to improve water quality and access is paying off."

The 35-year Chicago Riverwalk loan is from USDOT's Transportation Infrastructure Finance Innovation Act (TIFIA) program and it is the first project to reach this stage since Congress significantly expanded the program last year.

DROP YOUR DRUGS OFF SATURDAY, APRIL 27

To prevent or reduce accidental contamination of our local streams,

ivers and lakes including the Chicago River, the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District is joining the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration's national "Take-Back" initiative from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 27, to collect unwanted medicine at three MWRD facilities:

- Stickney Water Reclamation Plant, 6001 W. Pershing Road, Cicero;
- O'Brien Water Reclamation Plant (formerly North Side), 3500 Howard Street, Skokie; and,
- Calumet Water Reclamation Plant, 400 East 130th Street, Chicago.

As yet pharmaceutical pollution impacts are not well understood and they are not removed during the regular wastewater treatment process. However USEPA and others believe that if they are flushed down the toilet where they end up in our waterways, they have the potential to harm aquatic life and people.

Find out more about it information the event and water pollution from drugs and personal care products today.

river LIFE



Northern green frog
Rana clamitans melanota
Illustration by Jen Pagnini
www.spinystudio.com

The northern green frog is one of North America's larger frogs and can be found in the Chicago River wherever habitat and food is abundant. Adult green frogs can range in length from 2½ to 4½ inches. Males of the species tend to be smaller than females. They are solitary frogs, except during the breeding season, when they congregate to breed. Green frogs can produce as many as six different calls, used to attract each other during mating, to protect their territories or to warn against predators. The name *clamitans* in Latin means "loud calling."

Contrary to its name, the color of green frogs varies greatly. They can be green, brown, bronze or even blue depending on local variations. They can be mistaken for bullfrogs - but green frogs are smaller and have a tympanum that is larger than their eye. The tympanum is their hearing organ (it resembles a flat circle on the side of their head). The belly is white, with dark lines and spots. Their skin is smooth and moist, which allows them to absorb oxygen, assisting their lungs.

Green frogs are native to the eastern half of the United States and Canada, and are present in many Illinois counties. They are known for their long powerful hind legs and are excellent jumpers, and hunt along the edges of rivers and ponds.

Green frogs are primarily carnivores and eat a wide variety of invertebrates. They eat slugs, snails, crayfish, spiders, flies, caterpillars, butterflies and moths. They also like to eat other vertebrates, such as small snakes and frogs. Green frogs "sit and wait" for their prey to come within reach. They will generally attempt to eat anything that fits in their mouth.

The green frog is abundant and is not considered threatened. Habitat loss and pollution due to shoreline development has had a huge impact on some frog populations. Frog populations are few and far between downtown because of limited habitat, but there are healthy populations in the North Branch, South Branch and along the Calumet system.

Come Celebrate Spring at Friends' Bridgehouse Museum

Celebrate spring along the Chicago River with a stop at Friends' unique McCormick Bridgehouse & Chicago River Museum, where the river's next generation of stewards will teach you all-things-river on Earth Day, April 22, or you can join in on a fun Fish Liberation on Chicago River Day, May 11.

On Earth Day, April 22, the Bridgehouse Museum opens its doors from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. for a free season preview - with a twist: instead of museum staff, more than a dozen students from Young Women's Leadership Charter School (YWLCS) will lead all museum activities and programming. YWLCS is one of Friends' Adopt-a-River partner schools, where students have the option of following an intense river-centered curriculum year-round throughout their time at the school. On Earth Day, stop by and learn about the river from these young experts who will perform chemical and physical water testing, answer your questions about the history of the river, and more.

The Bridgehouse Museum officially opens for its eighth season on Saturday, May 11 - the same day communities along the river celebrate Chicago River Day. To mark this exciting confluence of events, museum admission will be



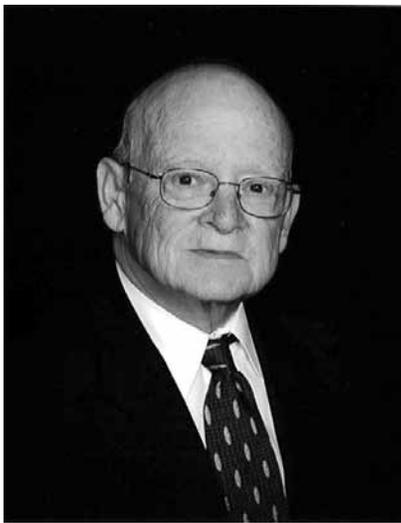
On May 11, come name your bluegill before releasing it into the Chicago River. The bluegill is the official state fish of Illinois.

free between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. and visitors will receive free River Day T-shirts while supplies last. You will also be able to sponsor and release your very own baby bluegill in our fun Fish Liberation, our once-a-year extravaganza that celebrates the return of wildlife to the Chicago River and salutes the thousands of volunteers who, on that day, help make our river more hospitable to the birds, animals and more than 70 species of fish that call it home. Fish sponsorship is only \$5 per fish, and the liberation will take place between 10 a.m. and 12 noon on May 11, while fish are available.

Starting this season, all Friends' members will receive membership benefits at our Bridgehouse Museum, including free general admission and discounts on bridge lift viewing tickets, tours, and merchandise. They will also be able to renew their Friends' membership on site at the museum.

Several new exhibit enhancements are in the works as well. These include a collaboration with Hatchwerks, producers of the new documentary *Chicago Drawbridges*, to add a video exhibit showing the Michigan Avenue Bridge massive gears in action as they lift the bridge. For more information on these events or the museum, visit www.bridgehousemuseum.org.

In Memoriam Frederick William Axley



Friends of the Chicago River

The board, staff, and the many members and volunteers of Friends of the Chicago River mourn the recent passing of Fred Axley. Fred was a passionate and extraordinary contributor to Friends of the Chicago River for the last 19 years.

Generous to a fault, Fred shared every available resource he had with Friends, including his time, energy, great wisdom, experience, insights, and wry humor which was frequently delivered with a visible twinkle in his eye.

Fred's non-profit experience and his enormous knowledge of how organizations succeed and fail were invaluable to Friends and its continued success. Fred was always there for Friends as a financial contributor, volunteer, and as a steady and knowledgeable officer

on the Board. Over his nearly two decades with Friends, Fred served as board president and on the executive committee, finance committee, board governance committee, Halloween Boat Float committee, planning committee and as water quality advocate for Friends with Illinois EPA and local elected officials. His leadership contributed directly to major public policy improvements, as did much of Fred's efforts on Friends' behalf.

Fred provided tremendous service and experienced perspectives to the staff and board of Friends of the Chicago River. It is hard to put into words the admiration and the profound gratitude that we feel for Fred's years of service. We will miss him greatly.

Our thoughts go out to Fred's wife, Cinda, and their entire family.

Kickapoo Kick-Off

Story continued from page 1...

populations and work to develop strategies to help them. The data sets and installations will allow Friends to measure the "recovery" of the site and the potential for projects of this size to impact local flora and fauna elsewhere.

Starting a project of this magnitude takes detailed planning and attention to detail. There are permits to secure, access agreements to be signed, and plans to be approved. We are delighted to be moving forward finally with the rapid removal of invasives from all areas of site, including buckthorn, and small trees which will allow

space for native plants communities. When clearing is complete existing native plants will start to flourish and we will plant more. As the plants start to take hold they will begin to filter, and slow down stormwater runoff, provide habitat, mitigate climate change, and provide a healthier foundation for wildlife.

Volunteers off all ages have participated with Friends' restoration efforts.



New Friends Website by Neoteric Design to be Launched in June

Almost seven years ago, Friends of the Chicago River partnered with Neoteric Design to redesign our website. At the time, having a big computer display meant having a large, TV-sized monitor on your desk, text messaging had just begun, and Flash was used for animations. A lot has changed since then! Our programs continue to thrive and we use the web to engage with our members, volunteers, teachers and all interested in the Chicago River. People visit our website to sign up for River Day, buy Big Fish Ball tickets, renew their membership, and find fun curriculum for their classes.

We are pleased to partner with Neoteric Design again this spring to leap frog us into the future with communication technology that will last us for the next seven years. Have some ideas of features you'd love to see in the redesign? Feel free to email them to info@neotericdesign.com—we look forward to "launching" in June!

NEOTERIC
DESIGN



CHICAGO RIVER DAY 2013

Northern green frog
Rana clamitans melanota
 Illustration by Jen Pagnini
 www.spinystudio.com

Saturday, May 11
 9 a.m. to 12 noon

Presented by  **Exelon.**



WHY

The Chicago River has come a long way over the years. Be a part of its continuing revitalization by joining Friends of the Chicago River for the 21st annual Chicago River Day workday!

WHAT

Activities include litter pick-up, recycling, invasive species removal, trail maintenance, planting native seeds, water quality testing, river-focused art projects, and more.

WHO

Everyone can help out! Friends welcomes individuals, families, schools, corporate groups, scout troops, community and conservation groups to take part in Chicago River Day.

WHERE

Where are over 65 sites located along 156 miles of the Chicago River system! From North Chicago in Lake County to Blue Island south of Chicago, there is sure to be a site convenient for you!

All Chicago River Day volunteers receive a free T-shirt.

HOW TO SIGN UP

1. Go to www.chicagoriver.org and click on **Chicago River Day** and then **Find a Site**.
2. Pick a site near you or of particular interest.
3. Register for your site online by clicking on the registration button below your site.*
4. Show up the morning of May 11 with a smile and shoes and clothes you don't mind getting a little dirty.

* Groups larger than 10 people should call or email Cynthia Fox at (312) 939-0490, ext. 13, or cfox@chicagoriver.org in addition to their site captain. This will ensure your group is placed in at a location that fits your needs.

CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR UPDATES

There may be new or different site captain information, additional sites or activities, and sites that have reached capacity or have closed.

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Illinois EPA Wendella & the Chicago Water Taxi

SIGN UP AT WWW.CHICAGORIVER.ORG



A New Kind of River Celebration: Hear the Music



World famous cellist, Yo-Yo Ma, inspires elementary school children with Beethoven's Pastoral Symphony. The students are studying the river in an across the curriculum experience as part of our CRSN/CSO partnership.

This spring Friends of the Chicago River is partnering with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) in a river celebration that spans history and nations. The 2012/2013 RIVERS festival embraces the Chicago River and those worldwide through a series of performances by the world renowned Chicago Symphony Orchestra conducted by Music Director Riccardo Muti, a river symposium, educational partnerships with Friends' Chicago River Schools Network (CRSN), participation in Chicago River Day and by joining with Friends and the Chicago Park District in celebrating the grand opening of the new boat house at Ping Tom Memorial Park.

Fundamental to the celebration is the CSO's commitment to the community and as an inextricably linked extension of it, the Chicago River. The musical program includes works that explore how rivers reflect the full spectrum of the human experience and are forever entwined with our past, present, and future.

WHAT'S UP WITH ASIAN CARP?

In February, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and U.S. Geological Survey released results from their three-year Asian Carp Environmental DNA Calibration Study (ECALS) which analyzed what vectors might account for the spread of environmental, or eDNA, throughout the river system without the presence of actual fish.

ECALS's preliminary findings indicate that that positive hits for eDNA found in the Chicago River system were due to birds, boats, fishing gear and relocated sediments, not fish.

While no one expressed a diminished need to contain the carp which remain a major threat, staff from USEPA, USACE, Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and other agencies present all stated unequivocally that they do not believe that there are any bighead or silver (Asian) carp in the Chicago River system or near Chicago at all. USEPA's Bill Bolen opened his remarks with "we should take the battle downstream where the fish are," – downstream of Marseilles, Ill., near Ottawa.

Friends is committed to preventing the spread of Asian carp and other aquatic nuisance species. The results of ECALS may lesson pressure for short term, shortsighted interventions that may harm the Chicago River in preference for long-term comprehensive solutions.

Bighead carp.
Photo credit IDNR



Saturday, May 11, 2013

Chicago River Day, see page 6 for details.

The CSO supports our 21st annual Chicago River Day and will bring school children and volunteers who will join in River Day activities. CSO education staff will also lead activities at select clean-up sites that will include pop-up performances and presentations by school groups who participated in the RIVERS Festival Educational Program. This event is FREE.

Saturday, May 18, 2013

RIVERS Symposium

Armour Stage, Orchestra Center, Chicago

Free to the public, the Symposia will explore the physical, economic, political, and cultural forces exerted by rivers. There will be three conversations, each to be followed by musical performances finding their origins in rivers. The panels include historians, artists and engineers and feature among others Yo-Yo Ma; John Briscoe, professor of the practice of environmental engineering, Harvard University; and David Blackburn, professor of history, Vanderbilt University. This event is FREE; however, tickets are required.

Sunday, June 9, 2013

Shall We Gather at the River

Ping Tom Memorial Park, Chicago

River and music enthusiasts of all ages are invited to join in the grand opening of the new boat house at Ping Tom Park. Including a host of family-friendly activities like fishing, kite flying, and paddling, the event features open-air performances with the Chicago Children's Choir and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Brass—together with music director Riccardo Muti. The celebration is presented in partnership with the Chicago Park District, Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events, and Friends of the Chicago River. This event is FREE – no tickets required.

Visit www.chicagoriver.org for more event details and go to www.cso.org for information on the concerts at Orchestra Hall. For tickets call (312) 294-3000 or visit www.cso.org/rivers. Tickets are not required for the event at Ping Tom Park.

It's a Lyrical Revolution at the Student Congress

Every year, students from across our city and suburbs get together at a conference to share ideas and teach each other. This event is Friends' Chicago River Student Congress, presented in partnership with Curie Metropolitan High School. Thanks to Curie for hosting this year's event, which highlighted the importance of improving water quality throughout the Chicago River watershed. For more on the Congress, visit www.chicagoriver.org/student_congress. During the opening ceremony, two members of Lyrical Revolution, a group of Curie students dedicated to performance poetry, recited environmental poetry which stirred and inspired. With great respect we have reprinted their works for you here.

"Color Me"
by Ashley Ounwo

Color me green.
Color me with crayons of life,
sketch me with pencils of fresh, accessible water,
clearer than a face with no acne,
Graffiti me,
hope.
Let our devotion expand like the Chicago River.
156 miles should be 156 responsibilities.
Paint me - with your visions of a cleaner land,
smoother sand, liter-free.
Let's construct a new world,
like Bob the Builder we'll build a better community.
With teams that team up and take action.
Pollution.
An enemy we've been fighting since the 1800s,
Let's remove it from our air,
like weeds out the ground.
Let's keep our river green.
Not green as in money as in dirty as in greed.
Green as in nature as in beauty as in seeds that sprout life.
Let's sprout change in our environment.
Let's grow stems of workers that work to keep our waters
green.
Let's grow leaves of organizations that organize to keep the
river clean.
Let's bloom flowers of realization that people will open
their eyes and see
that our environment - is losing its color.
Like MLK we should all have the same dream of becoming
greener.
Let's dream there will be no more trash, no more filth no
more oil spills,
spilling into the river,
killing the species that are living beneath the waters.
We should -
nurture the Chicago River
like a new-born baby.
Treating it carefully, cautiously,
running to its need every time it cries it's hungry,
we'll feed it restoration.
Let's create a new world like inception,
a world that doesn't co-exist with pollution.
The river is crying out loudly for your help
And it's saying:
Color me green.
Color me with crayons of life,
sketch me with pencils of fresh,
accessible water,
clearer than a face with no acne,
Graffiti me,
hope.

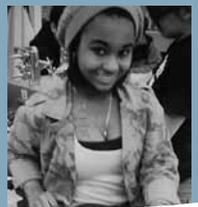


Ashley Ounwo is currently enrolled as a senior at Curie Metro High School. She loves writing poetry for two main reasons: you're able to express who you are as an individual, and it's a good way to vent. She will be attending Northern Illinois University in the fall of 2013.

"We Owe You Chicago River"
by E'mon Lauren McGee

We owe you Chicago River
We owe your cool mist that rises over peaks and points of
skyscrapers
We owe your spirit
Colors painted in your expression of waves
We owe your painted slaps across wooden splints
We owe you safety
Tons and loads
Weights not of your own carried on your back to flow
We owe you our listening ear
Your cries at nights on dunes of Chicago dancing
Bo-legged warriors swim in your soul
Celebrate with you
Naked under moonlight
Lite paths to open roads of Chicago
We owe you beauty Chicago River
We owe every back bent forwards in arched legs suspended
at your knee caps
Every silent whisper, whistled tunes blown through dust of
constructing sites
We owe your swirls and twilight zones of blues and greens
You are the Earth's and sky's dream
You are the backbone
We owe you a salute
We bow to your majestic curves
Stretched at 156 miles of years of wisdom
We listen to your advice
Meet nature on our minds
Changed to make a change
Especially for you
We owe you respect
We hold our Chicago pride
Flowing though our steams of blood,
Pulsating through every vein meeting at our central valve
We breathe you
You are our high
We owe you power and passion beyond your measure
Past your roars at night or smooth gentle strokes in the
evening
We owe our dedication to you
We were married together at birth of Chicago
Chicago River we owe you our love
We owe our blessings and miracles
We owe you Chicago River

E'mon Lauren McGee is a 16 year old poet who attends Curie Metro High School. She has always been inspired by the arts. She writes songs, sings and plays the piano and guitar. She aspires to have a career in journalism or even music.



Get... Involved with Friends of the Chicago River

Whether you want to get your hands dirty, dive into policy issues, or become a river ambassador through our outreach programs, we've got a way for you to get involved. Explore our volunteer opportunities and learn more about how you can make a difference this summer. Find out more at www.chicagoriver.org/get_involved.

Get Walking!

Friends' Gullywalking program is full steam ahead and our trained Gullywalkers have been braving cold weather to identify and assess gullies along the Chicago River since November 2012. Join the team by coming to a Gullywalker training to learn the ropes.

With your help, we can find and assess gullies along the riverbanks. The data you collect will help determine future restoration projects and help in our efforts to preserve and improve the Chicago River.

Become a Gullywalker by joining us at our third Gullywalker training on Saturday, April 13, 2013, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Learn what a gully is, how to identify and classify a gully, and how to use a GPS to map gullies. RSVP by contacting Meshawn Ayala at (312) 939-0490, ext. 18, or mayala@chicagoriver.org.



Gullywalkers in training.

Get Muddy!

Since 2007, Friends has been working closely with the Forest Preserve District of Cook County to help restore Edgebrook Woods. Volunteers have been instrumental in helping us design and plant rain gardens, collect native seeds for replanting build habitat, remove non-native plant species, habitat monitoring, and much more.



MillerCoors employees about to get muddy at a Corporate Workday at Edgebrook Woods.

Get your hands muddy and help make a difference this summer! Gloves, tools and training are provided. Space is limited, please RSVP.

- June 22, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- July 13, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- August 3, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

To RSVP to a restoration workday, please contact Meshawn Ayala at (312) 939-0490, ext. 18, or mayala@chicagoriver.org.

Looking for ways to get your company involved? Let Friends' staff design and execute a perfect day of activities tailored specifically for your company, from habitat restoration and climate mitigation projects to wildlife monitoring and guided canoe trips. Contact Meshawn for more information.

Get Involved!

Of course, there are lots of other ways to get involved.

- Take pictures at Friends' events or in the wild
- Volunteer at the Chicago River Summit, April 25
- Join 4,000 volunteers at our largest day of service, Chicago River Day, May 11. See page 7 for details.

For all volunteer questions, and to get involved, please contact Meshawn Ayala at (312) 939-0490, ext. 18, or mayala@chicagoriver.org. Find out more about all of our volunteer opportunities at www.chicagoriver.org/get_involved.

Become a Chicago River Eco-Warrior

Friends has been mobilizing volunteers for the past three decades and our dedicated volunteers have spent countless hours working tirelessly to help us restore and protect the Chicago River. With the help of our volunteers we have been instrumental in making great things happen along the Chicago River including an increase in the numbers of fish species, new riverfront access and amenities, and increased habitat for wildlife.

But there's more to do. And that's where you come in. Become a Chicago River Eco-Warrior today and join the ranks of dedicated people all across the region standing up to protect the Chicago River. Sign the pledge today at www.chicagoriver.org/get_involved.



Gullywalkers in action.

Spring/Summer Calendar of Events

Saturday, April 1
Gullywalker Training
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
See page 9 for details.



Wednesday, April 17
Annual Meeting and
Volunteer Appreciation
5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.;
at a downtown riverfront
location; RSVP Required –
Members and Volunteers Only

Meet and mingle with other members, volunteers, and Friends' staff and board while you:

- Learn about about Friends' projects and priorities
- Discover how you can become more involved
- Ask questions about our work and the state of the Chicago River
- Meet our Volunteer of the Year, River Hero, and more!

Space is limited; please RSVP by Monday, April 15 to Archita Singh at asingh@chicagoriver.org or by calling (312) 939-0490, ext. 10.



Saturday, May 11
Chicago River Day
9 a.m. to 12 noon
See page 6 for details.

Saturday, May 11
Celebrate with Friends at the
Bridgehouse Museum Opening!
See page 4 for details.



Wednesday, June 5
8th Annual Big Fish Ball
See page 3 for details.



Sunday, June 9
Shall We Gather at the River
Ping Tom Memorial Park
See page 7 for details.

Saturdays, June 22,
July 13, and August 3
Restoration at Edgebrook
Woods; each workday is
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
See page 9 for details.



Saturdays, June 29,
August 17, September 7,
and September 28
Paddle with Friends

Catch a glimpse of local wildlife, including herons, turtles, mink and deer on the Chicago River Wilderness trip, or choose to share the river with tour and recreational boats as you gaze up at our city's magnificent architecture during the Downtown Canyons trip. An outdoor adventure is closer than you think! For more information, visit www.chicagoriver.org/events/urban_canoe_trips/, or contact Claire Snyder at csnyder@chicagoriver.org



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 between December 16, 2012, and March 15, 2013.

INDIVIDUALS \$5,000 and above

Anonymous
Craig and Kate Coit

\$1,000 - \$4,999

David and Ellen Beals
Philip Enquist and Joanna Karatzas
Thomas and Barbara Honn
Hank and Wendy Paulson
David Reinisch and Julie Kiefer
Gregory and Sarah Van Schaack
Victor and Barbara Zaveduk

\$500 - \$999

Walter Bandi
Robert and Marsha Cassidy
Eugene P. Jarvis
George Mead

\$250 - \$499

John and Toni Burt
Randall and Lynn Clark
Sonia M. Depa
Peter and Ginny Foreman
Jay Franke and Pamela Baker
Mike Frerker and Allison Park
Leo and Linda Gordon
Scott and Cindy Grau

Dennis Henry
Mike and Dana Murphy
Chris and Nan Parson
David and Ingrid Stalle
Michael and Mary Woolever

FOUNDATIONS, CORPORATIONS, GOVERNMENT, AND OTHER \$10,000 and above

Alphawood Foundation
Exelon Corporation
Peoples Gas
The Walton Family Foundation
Wrigley Company Foundation

\$3,500 - \$9,999

BMO Harris Bank
Dr. Scholl Foundation
Kirkland & Ellis LLP
MillerCoors
Two North Riverside Plaza
Wight & Company
William Blair & Company

\$1,000 - \$3,499

Earth Share of Illinois
Nuveen Investments
Robert G. Friedman Foundation
Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP
The Oppenheimer Family Foundation
Wendella Boats & Chicago Water Taxi

\$250 - \$999

Lawrence's Fisheries
Weaver Boos Consultants

The Voice of the River - Endowment Gifts

Andrew Arenberg
Lindsey Arenberg
Kent Brown and Jane Jacobsen-Brown
Laurene von Klan and Sarah Kilpatrick
Glenn Weinstein

In-Kind

Corner Bakery Cafe

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

Friends of the Chicago River
is a proud member of



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

I am pleased to make an annual membership gift or year-end contribution in the amount of:

- \$ _____ 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"/> \$30 | White-fringed Orchid / School / Club |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$156 | Black-crowned Night Heron | <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 | Purple Coneflower / Teacher / Volunteer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 | Blanding's Turtle / Business | <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 | Prairie Dropseed / Student |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> Other | \$ _____ |

Name _____

Company (if applicable) _____

For recognition purposes, list my name or company as _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Daytime 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 Daytime 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:

- * 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;
- * 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;
- * 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 and more! 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

411 South Wells Street, Suite 800, Chicago, IL 60607

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BE A FRIEND OF THE CHICAGO RIVER!



Friends' Annual Meeting and Volunteer Appreciation

Wednesday, April 17, 2013, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Members and volunteers are invited to join us to celebrate our accomplishments, recognize our volunteers, learn more about the river, and most importantly have fun with board, staff, and our incredible volunteers. See page 10 for details.

Chicago River Day 2013

Saturday, May 11, 2013, 9 a.m. to 12 noon

We cordially invite you to join Friends and over 4,000 volunteers for the 21st Chicago River Day. See page 6 for details.

8th Annual Big Fish Ball

Wednesday, June 5, 2013

Join us at Friends' celebration of the Chicago River in front of Merchandise Mart on Riverside Drive. Highlights include sumptuous and surprising outdoor dining along the river, live river animals, river-centric entertainment and a fireworks boat ride. See page 3 for details.

Shall We Gather at the River

Sunday, June 9, 2013; Ping Tom Memorial Park, Chicago

River and music enthusiasts of all ages are invited to join in the grand opening of the new boat house at Ping Tom Park. Including a host of family friendly activities like fishing, kite flying, and paddling, of course, the event features open-air performances with the Chicago Children's Choir and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Brass. See page 7 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.