



# the river REPORTER

## New Webmap Promotes Adventures on the River

Looking for a great place to grab a cool drink and bite to eat while enjoying Chicago's architecture and the pageantry of boats along the Chicago River? Or do you want to know the nearest place to launch your canoe? Or are you interested in wildlife or the history of the bridges that span the river downtown? All of this and much more is just a click away on Friends' new interactive webmap Explore Chicago River.

[www.explorechicagoriver.org](http://www.explorechicagoriver.org)

Designed to help you discover places to go, things to do, and provide all kinds of interesting information about the Chicago River system, Explore uses a fun interactive map and icons to introduce you to the river.

Friends' new go-to river site was developed by Janitor LTD who took Friends' stewardship action map (SAM) and transformed it into a stronger, more effective, and all-encompassing tool that is adaptable across platforms including PCs, smart phones, and tablets. The project was over a year in the making and their talented team continues to tweak the site to make it easy to navigate and enjoy. Friends will be refining and adding new points of interest and events to the Explore Chicago River going forward.

"The river and the organizations involved in its revitalization are dynamic," said Margaret Frisbie, Friends' executive director. "Through Explore we want to showcase the river, all the people working to improve it, and reflect the diversity of habitats, activities, programming and businesses that the Chicago River supports." By pointing viewers towards events hosted by Friends and our partners, Explore Chicago River will also serve as an

outreach and promotional tool. Whether it is used to recruit volunteers for Friends' programs or

guests to our Bridgehouse Museum, or just to provide information about where to bike, boat, hike, tour, paddle or dine, Explore Chicago River provides multiple benefits celebrating all the river's uses. In addition Explore invites our partner organizations to post information and events that are directly related to the river. "Explore can help everyone achieve their river goals," continued Frisbie. "We hope it will become a one-stop shop for all things river."

The Chicago River has come a long way a long way since the time when it was considered "friendless" river. Explore Chicago River helps to tell that story in a fun and engaging way. It also invites people to participate in telling a new story. This new story is one

in which restoration, recreation, stewardship, and education along the river all go hand-in-hand with economic revitalization. So visit [www.explorechicagoriver.org](http://www.explorechicagoriver.org), and let the adventure begin!



## Canoes for a Cause

On Saturday, August 2 Friends of the Chicago River partnered with Leinenkugel brothers, Jake, Dick, and John to host Leinenkugel's 4th annual Canoes for a Cause Friendly Float. The event provided a wonderful day on the river for 250 participants in 125 canoes who paddled the Chicago River to raise awareness about water quality issues. Participants journeyed from the mouth of historic Bubbly Creek on the near South Side to Dick's Last Resort on the Main Stem where they enjoyed a post event celebration. Along the route they were able to see some of the most iconic sections of the river, the new boat house at Ping Tom Memorial Park, and Chicago Riverwalk construction.











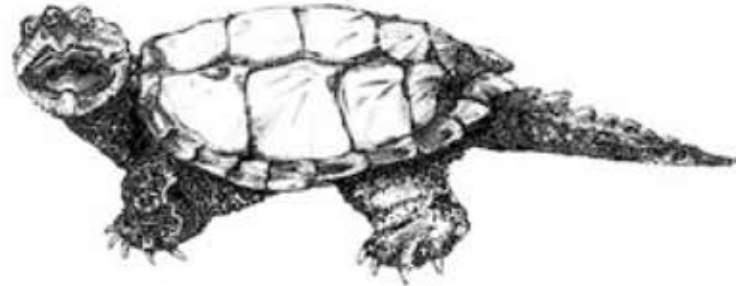
Photo by gopho

# CHICAGO RIVER DAY 2014

Presented by



**Exelon.**



Common snapping turtle  
*Chelydra serpentina*

Illustration by Jen Pagnini  
[www.spinystudio.com](http://www.spinystudio.com)

The 22nd annual Chicago River Day event was a great success! We were able to bring together thousands of volunteers at over 60 river-edge locations. It was a beautiful sunny day and volunteers worked together removing 16 tons of debris, restoring miles of river-edge trails, planting native plants and much more.

## A few highlights included:

- Lots of wildlife was spotted from garter snakes to muskrat to wood ducks and wasp larvae. Students at Gordon Tech High School even found a common snapping turtle shell which was this year's Chicago River Day animal!
- Students worked hard at Ping Tom Memorial Park collecting "micro trash" which is often overlooked.
- Volunteers at Jacob Park discovered a snake in distress, tangled up in debris near the riverbank. Under the guidance of site captain, Ben Ranney, volunteers cut away the debris, rescuing the snake, and released it on a rock nearby.
- We kicked off the 2014 season at Friends' McCormick Bridgehouse & Chicago River Museum downtown. The museum received over 900 visitors, setting a new Chicago River Day attendance record.
- \$76,000 was raised to continue the work to make the Chicago River one of the world's greatest metropolitan rivers.

Special thanks to all of our partners, supporting businesses, and volunteers who helped make Chicago River Day 2014 such a huge success!

## ADDITIONAL CHICAGO RIVER DAY 2014 SPONSORS



**HSBC**



**WRIGLEY**  
A Subsidiary of Mars, Incorporated

**Cynthia Weglarz Rountree Fund**

**Illinois Environmental Protection Agency SCALE Grant**

**REI**

We are also thankful for the support of our other event sponsors and partners: American Sightseeing, Bryan Cave, Chicago Park District, City of Chicago, Fletcher Chicago, Forest Preserves of Cook County, Grayline, Lowe's, Lake County Forest Preserve District, Lake County Stormwater Management Commission, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Cook County and Sims Metal Management.

**Friends of the Chicago River**

[www.chicagoriver.org](http://www.chicagoriver.org)

Photo by gopho

Photo by Heather Aiken

Photo by gopho



# river LIFE

## Channel Catfish

We love the channel catfish, or channel "cat" as we call it, for how perfectly suited it is to the Chicago River System. This fish does it all.

Channel cats can utilize a wide range of food types and take advantage of any available food sources, including smaller fish, crayfish, insects, and plant material. Because they are so versatile, they don't compete directly with other species present in the Chicago River System.

Channel catfish  
*Ictalurus punctatus*  
Illustration by Jen Pagnini  
www.spinystudio.com



These fish are highly migratory and call the whole river system "home." Channel cats have a wider ecological tolerance than many sport species and can be found at locations throughout the river system. In general, they move upstream in the warm season and downstream during cold weather, preferring deeper areas for overwintering. They are commonly found where the riverbed is predominately sand or gravel, but do well in muddy areas as well. During the day they are usually found in deep holes wherever the protection of logs and rocks can be found. They are more active from sunset to sunrise when they venture out to explore and feed.

Channel catfish are important members of the river food chain. Based on stomach analysis, young catfish feed primarily on aquatic insects such as dragonflies, damselflies, and beetles. Adults have a much more varied diet which includes insects, snails, crawfish, green algae, aquatic plants, seeds, other smaller fish, and even birds. See page 5 for more on catfish and habitat.

.....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,<br>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](http://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.

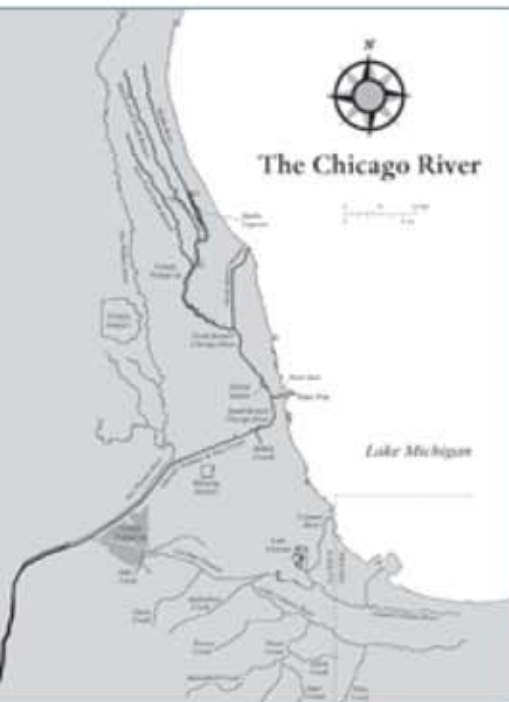
Business members also receive a certificate showing your customers and employees that you care about the environment and the Chicago River.

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.

Return Service Requested

## BE A FRIEND OF THE CHICAGO RIVER!



### 2014 Chicago River Summit

Please join us for Friends of the Chicago River's 10th annual River Summit on October 3 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Our topic for this year's event is Rewilding and the Urban Environment. Please RSVP to Maddie Mahan at (312) 939-0490 x15.

### 1979-2014: Celebrating 35 Years

For 35 years, Friends of the Chicago River has been at the forefront of transforming the river's 156-mile course into a beautiful, accessible, and ecologically-healthy corridor of open space for the benefit of the people and wildlife throughout the Chicago River watershed.

This fall Friends will be celebrating the process made and inviting you to join in wishing us a Happy 35th Anniversary through occasional activities and events that celebrate the river.

Visit our website, [www.chicagoriver.org](http://www.chicagoriver.org), to learn more about these activities so you can join in the fun.

