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 way on Friends’ new interactive webmap Explore Chicago River.

“The river and the organizations involved in its revitalization are dynamic,” said Margaret Frishie, 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 Frishie. “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, 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.
A few weeks ago on the radio there was a story about a black bear near Rockford that had been making his way across the top of the state for several weeks. Spotted in numerous locations, the bear was not causing any trouble and, according to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), was only following his natural instinct and doing what a bear should do, i.e., looking for habitat and finding a mate. An IDNR spokesperson’s sage advice was to leave it alone.

That a bear appeared in Illinois should be a surprise to no one. The Endangered Species Act set a precedent for protection and the investments we have made to improve habitat here and throughout the country mean that species that were wiped out here 150 years ago are starting to return. In 2008 a cougar was shot in on Chicago’s north side that had made its way here from South Dakota. In 2011 two wolves were illegally shot in Jo Davies County on separate occasions. Others have been spotted.

Perhaps, fortunately, most of the animals on the rebound in our watershed are not apex predators that may seem anathema to a typical city dweller. Excitingly bald eagles are nesting here. Coyotes are everywhere (quietly limiting deer, geese, and rabbit populations). And in and along the Chicago River there has been a steady increase in the numbers and kinds of wild creatures ranging from the now 70 species of fish in the river to beavers, muskrats, all kinds of turtles, and some surprises like mink, groundhogs, and even river otters if you look in the right places.

It is progress of the most exciting kind.

Yet how will society deal with this expansion of the wild? Will people used to beavers gnawing trees or snapping turtles on the bank be excited and welcoming? Or will they be afraid and concerned?

To explore that topic this fall, Friends is hosting the Chicago River Summit with the theme of urban wilderness at its core. Scientists working to expand wildlife populations and understand their urban presence will join us and discuss their research and the impacts of the wild animals’ return. We expect some interesting discussions.

In the meantime, Friends is also working to improve our river environment in general and, specifically over the next three years, to create habitat for catfish, turtles, bats and osprey. This will be one of the ways that wild looks. We look forward to sharing it with you.

Margaret Frisbie
Executive Director
Friends of the Chicago River invites you to join Centennial Volunteers, a new community of like-minded people who train together to become the next generation of restoration leaders for the forest preserves along the river in Cook County. Friends and our partners Friends of the Forest Preserves, Audubon—Chicago Region, and the Forest Preserve of Cook County are seeking individuals who are not afraid to get dirty, get some exercise, and have fun outside! Starting in fall 2014, Centennial Volunteers will be trained by renowned experts in restoration and resource management and be engaged in regular volunteer days on the weekends throughout the year. Volunteers will focus their efforts at the following forest preserve locations: Kickapoo Meadows, Whistler Woods, LaBagh Woods, Somme Woods, and Blue Star Memorial Woods. To learn more and sign up to volunteer, please visit http://fpdec.org/volunteer/centennial-volunteers/ or call Austin at (312) 939-0490, ext 18.

### RIFFLES & CURRENTS

#### ZAMBIA SAFARI OFFERS WATER AND WILDLIFE

Duffle & Compass, a boutique safari company based in Chicago, is offering an exclusive Zambia Rivers Safari from April 21 through May 1, 2014. This privately guided safari will introduce an intimate group of river enthusiasts to some of Zambia’s premier wildlife destinations where there are over 60 mammal species including elephants, buffalos, lions, and leopards and more than 400 bird species.

Focused along the Luangwa and Zambesi rivers and two of Zambia’s national parks, the adventure will be a mix of walking, driving, and on the water exploration of these unspoiled wilderness areas which are teeming with life.

Accommodation is at exclusive, owner-operated camps where guests can relax and enjoy delicious dinners and the rich African night sky.

This privately guided safari will be escorted by Margaret Frisbie, Friends’ executive director.

Zambia Rivers Safari
April 21-May 1, 2015
www.duffleandcompass.com

#### IDNR LAUNCHES “STATE PARKS, GREAT PARKS” INITIATIVE

Illinois Department of Natural Resources Director Marc Miller launched a new initiative aimed at using dedicated funds to make Illinois state parks great parks. During the last year, the agency has been using new sustainability funds to hire more staff and replace aging maintenance equipment at state parks. The “State Parks, Great Parks” initiative will continue the effort to rebuild the Illinois State Park System this summer with infrastructure improvements throughout Illinois. For more information on Illinois’ state parks visit: www.illinois.dnr.gov and look under Parks and Recreation.

#### MICROBEADS BANNED

In June, Illinois become the first state to ban the sale of cosmetics that contain microbeads, little plastic balls which appear in a variety of products to help with exfoliation. The tiny beads, which can’t be filtered out during the sewage treatment process, end up in our rivers, lakes, and oceans where they get swallowed by aquatic life. Studies show that microbeads found in fish and mussels can cause DNA damage and death. The UN Environment Program says that plastic waste causes $13 billion in damage to marine life every year.

Illinois’ ban, which phases them out by 2019, sets a precedent for other states to ban the beads as well.

#### FLOW/IM FLUSS

Each evening from September 17th through the 20th, a unique river-influenced multi-media show is taking place in one of Chicago’s sustainable “green alleys,” called Couch Place. Located at 171 N. Dearborn, Chicago, “FLOW/Im Fluss” was created by Luftwerk and is inspired by water and its all-encompassing connectivity. The show visualizes selected characteristics of the Chicago River and Hamburg, Germany’s River Elbe through video compositions projected on water screens and intended invite viewers to immerse themselves into the flow of data collected from both rivers. The visualizations are based upon scientifically-collected parameters including oxygen levels, current contamination, and chemical compounds.

The music includes Traces for trumpet, radio, speaker, objects and tape feeds by Birgit Ulher. “FLOW/Im Fluss” is supported by the Goethe-Institut Chicago and Chicago Loop Alliance, in collaboration with the Natural Resources Defense Council. The Chicago River data was collected by Friends’ Chicago River School Network students.
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 16, 2014, to June 30, 2014.

INDIVIDUALS

$1,000 and above
Karen Alber
Cinda Axley
George Brigandi and Karen Kolodziej
Grant Crowley
The Fletcher Family
Peter and Ginny Foreman
Thomas and Barbara Horn
Rob Metz
Marjorie Miller-Brownstein
William and Jean O'Neill
Chris and Nan Parson
David Reinisch and Julie Kiefer
Benjamin C. Rogers
Myrna Swanson
Sven Sykes/Colliers International

$250 - $499
Kenneth M. Arenberg and Susanne Swisher
Scott Bakal
Christopher Begy
Jim and Betsy Benoit
David Berman
Sarah Bradley
Christine L. Carlyle
Elizabeth Cesar
Kathleen Deane
Archibald E. Fletcher
Albert Friedman
Shirley Friedman
Margaret Frisbie and Matt Binn
Shari Germer
Stacey A. Hasenbalg
Tom Kokkinos
Jody Kubitz
Megan Lewis
Jacqueline Loewe
Lewis Love, Jr.
George Mead
Kathleen Therese Meany
Carolyn Miller
Colleen O'Leary
John M. O'Connell
Stephen Schlegel
Jeanne Schwehan
Tony Spreitzer
David St. Pierre
Richard Whitney
Robert Williams
Wendy Williams
John D. Ziesner

$10,000 - $24,999
Aon Foundation
BMO Harris Bank
Hines
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
Polk Bros. Foundation
REI
Shoreline Sightseeing
US EPA, Region 5
The Walton Family Foundation

$3,500 - $9,999
ARCADIS US Inc.
Avison Young
Burke, Warren, MacKay & Serritella, PC
Chicago Botanic Garden
EarthShare of Illinois
Equity Group Investments, LLC
Firestone Complete Auto Care
HSBC - North America
Motorola Mobility Foundation
Nortage and Ward
River North Point/Shorestein Realty Services LP
Skender Foundation
The Siraqua Foundation
Christy Webber Landscapes
Wendela Sightseeing Company, Inc.
Wight & Company
Wm. Wrigley Jr. Company

$1,000 - $3,499
Alvin H. Baumm Family Fund
Francis Beidler Foundation
Bryan Cave LLP
Colliers International
CortEd
Divane Bros. Electric Co.
Enviromental Systems Design, Inc.
Independence Junior High School
Gary L. Lee Partners
James McHugh Construction Co.
Joel Oppenheimer, Inc.
PricewaterhouseCoopers
Seadog Ventures
John G. Shedd Aquarium
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP
University of Chicago
Weaver boots Consultants
Mead Witter Foundation, Inc.

$250 - $999
ACE Charitable Foundation
Cardio J.F. New & Associates
HDR Architecture, Inc
Intrinsic Landscaping, Inc.
The Lakota Group, Inc.
Northern Illinois University Foundation
Johnson O'Gara Foundation
Francis W. Parker School
Public Building Commission of Chicago
SPACECO, Inc.
Trading Technologies International Inc.
Robert G. Weiss Family Foundation

In-kind
Barnaby's Restaurant
BOOM Entertainment
Sally Fletcher
Paul Friedman
Chicago Children's Museum
Jeanine Colaco
Cran's Chicago Business
DesignLab Chicago
Dick's Last Resort
Groupon
Hines
Holiday Inn Chicago Mart Plaza
Il Giardino Del Dolce
Lowes
Merrell Street Lofts, LLC
Music Box Theatre
Publican Quality Meats
REI
Season 52
Southwest Airlines Co.
Phil Stefani Signature Events
Strack & Van Til
The Redhead Piano Bar
Uncommon Ground
Urban Kayaks
Urban Oasis
Varnado Realty Trust/ Merchandise Mart
Victory Gardens Theater
Wacker Bait & Tackle
Wendela Sightseeing Company, Inc.

The Otter Society
Kenneth M. Arenberg and Susanne Swisher
John W. Baird
Judith Bassoul
Barbara Morse-Quinn and Barry Quinn
Joel Oppenheimer, Inc.
Seadog Ventures

Friends of the Chicago River is a proud member of:

Discover the river and its bridges with Friends! Please visit

www.bridgehousemuseum.org
for guided tours, lecture and bridge lift dates and details!

NOTE: This list is subject to change.

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.

*Deceased
Thirty Thousand More Channel Cats for the Chicago River by Maddie Mahan

Early this June Friends of the Chicago River and our partner, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), released 30,000 one-year old channel catfish into the Chicago River system as the first step in a spawning habitat restoration project funded by a $300,000 grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation’s Chi-Cal Rivers Fund. The project, which includes the installation of 400 constructed nesting cavities for channel cats at eight locations ranging from the North Shore Channel to the Little Calumet River, will help this critical species repopulate the system after years of degradation limited its breeding success. Ten thousand fish were released at the confluence downtown and 20,000 were released into the Little Calumet River. Over the next 18 months another 70,000 fish will be released throughout the system.

The addition of these catfish to the Chicago River System marks a special moment for our organization, both for what they and their associated habitat structures will bring to the river system and for what they represent. This adaptable species is well-suited to the varied conditions of the Chicago River. Because they’re so hearty, the population will help strengthen the biodiversity of the river. The addition of habitat structures will serve many species; including largemouth bass, bluegill, and pumpkinseed sunfish. Perhaps most importantly, this fish release marks an exciting moment in the river’s recovery process. While there is still work ahead to improve the system’s water quality, conditions have improved markedly. We have reached a point where we can create new habitat with the confidence that wildlife will thrive.

A Home in the Watershed by Claire Snyder

Living space is a precious commodity in Chicago, both for humans and for wildlife. Some of our local animals have a tougher time finding a good home than we do. If you think you have trouble finding a decent apartment, try factoring in requirements like soil type, vegetation cover, and proximity to development on top of basic needs like food, water, and shelter. Threatened by development, environmental degradation, and the impacts of invasive species, local wildlife needs our support in order to thrive.

Friends works hard to be able to offer a helping hand to our animal neighbors. We are delighted to be the recipients of a generous three-year grant to fund habitat improvement projects for turtles, bats, and ospreys. These particular animals have been identified as species in need that will benefit directly from on-the-ground restoration and constructed habitat projects.

Over the next few years, we will engage in a variety of habitat work, including the construction of bat houses, osprey nesting platforms, and clearing of nesting areas for turtles. This work will not only help strengthen our riverside wildlife communities, but will also contribute to stormwater control along the river while removing invasive species. Integral to the success of this program will be the creation of a volunteer corps of wildlife monitors, who will measure the efficacy of our habitat work and the response of our target species. Stay tuned for updates on getting involved with this exciting project.

Reflecting on the Big Fish Ball

The 9th annual Big Fish Ball was held on a beautiful early summer night Thursday, June 5 along the river under tents in front of The Merchandise Mart. A record breaking 480 river-enthusiastic human guests, along with owls, hawks, snakes, turtles and other wild guests joined in on the celebration and support of the continuing renaissance of the river.

Co-Chairs, Suece Hasenbalg and Jim Mark, led the gala committee and Friends’ board in raising over a quarter of a million dollars for Friends’ work.

HERE, a Nokia company, presented the 2014 event and Vornado Realty/Merchandise Mart were its generous venue hosts. Lead sponsors included Aon, BOOM Entertainment (pictured above), Crain’s Chicago Business, Hines, Ozenga, Shoreline Sightseeing and the Wrigley Co. We are grateful for their very generous support of the river’s recovery.

Highlights included delicious food from Phil Stefani Signature Events, guests mingling with Governor Pat Quinn, and a boat ride south to a stunningly lit Ping Tom Park pavilion (an image of which is found on the front cover) – thanks to the genius and generosity of DesignLabs – with a traditional Chinese music and dance performance delighting the 150 guests on board the Shoreline Sightseeing donated boat.
CHICAGO RIVER DAY 2014

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

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
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 Jan 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.

☐ $1,000 Wild Mink
☐ $500 Great Horned Owl
☐ $250 Yellow-headed Blackbird
☐ $150 Black-crowned Night Heron
☐ $100 Blanding’s Turtle / Business

☐ $75 Tiger Salamander / Family
☐ $35 Chorus Frog / Individual
☐ $10 Prairie Dropseed / Volunteer, Teacher, or Student

☐ 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 600, 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:

* Membership card
* 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 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 business, 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.
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, to learn more about these activities so you can join in the fun.