

the river REPORTER

Water Quality, What Next?

One thousand, four hundred and sixty-six days after the Illinois Pollution Control Board accepted Illinois EPA's petition for new recreational use standards for the Chicago River system, US EPA applied the final stamp of approval on November 6, 2011. They stated that the majority of the river's reaches must be clean enough for people to safely recreate IN and ON the water.

That means swimming, and it changes the Chicago River forever.

Why this took so long is a story for another day, but recreational use did not begin on November 6 with EPA approval. Nor did it begin in June 2011 when the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD) board of commissioners voted to disinfect sewage effluent at the Northside and Calumet plants to remove human health-harming pathogens.

Recreation has been occurring all the time and people have been on the river boating, fishing, paddling, rowing, and, yes, even swimming without our help, expressed rules, or permission. Famously, Johnny Weissmuller, who played Tarzan, swam in races on the Main Stem in the early 1900s. Lots of other people remember playing in the North Branch - including one anonymous river friend who says he used to "surf" on picnic tables in the river near Edgebrook Woods. Since the mid 1990s, crew teams, water taxis, kayak liveries, tour boat companies, residential developers, and municipalities including Chicago have focused on the river. Economically, the river is an engine that is finally gearing up.

Since Friends was founded in 1979, we have advocated for water quality improvements which are the foundation of river improvement. Therefore, achieving disinfection is an enormous success and the investment will make a tremendous difference to the Chicago River system. Yet disinfection is only one piece of the water quality puzzle. We still must finish the last reservoirs in the Tunnel and Reservoir Plan (TARP), eliminate combined sewer overflows (CSOs), manage stormwater using green infrastructure (taking advantage of the many ancillary benefits it provides), and focus on nutrient removal just to name a few.

Take a Stand!

Please send a letter (or email) before March 21, 2012, to the Department of Justice saying you want a clean, healthy Chicago River faster.

Assistant Attorney General
Environment and Natural Res. Division
P.O. Box 7611
U.S. Department of Justice
Washington, DC 20044-7611

Email: pubcomment-ees.enrd@usdoj.gov

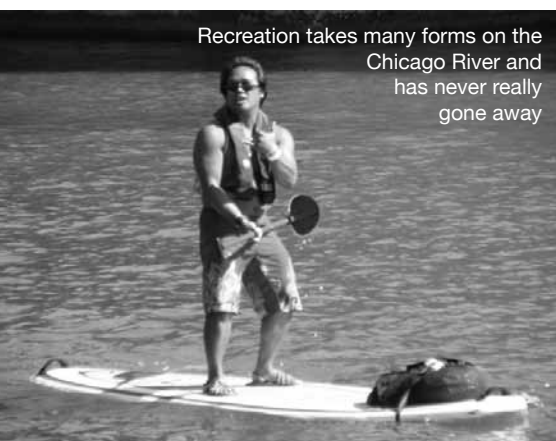
All comments should refer to:
United States, et al, v. Metropolitan
Water Reclamation District of Greater
Chicago, D.J. Ref. 90-5-1-1-07679

A recent development may bring us closer to resolving some of these issues.

THE CONSENT DECREE

In December, a settlement was announced by the US Department of Justice, US EPA and Illinois EPA to provide a legal framework that requires the MWRD to clean up the river, "resolving claims that untreated sewer discharges (CSOs) are still being released into the Chicago River system" in violation of MWRD's permits. Known as a consent decree, the settlement lists a variety of tools and measures that must be implemented by MWRD to improve the Chicago River. Among them are:

Story continued on page 4



Recreation takes many forms on the Chicago River and has never really gone away



Blue is the New Green

When Friends of the Chicago River was founded in 1979, people thought we were crazy. Calling for clean water, healthy habitats, and a continuous Chicago River Trail was tantamount to madness. The river was polluted. People were used to that and saw it as the status quo. The lake was to be cherished and protected; the river, not so much.

Yet our founders could see magic where others smelled miasma; saw opportunity where others saw awful. Step by step they persevered, prodded and planned until now, 32 years later, the river has become a center of community and an essential component of any regional planning.

The reasons why the Chicago River is so much better and can be an asset to the region are varied. Our founders were at the forefront of the river's recovery and renaissance yet they were not alone. Laying the way for our success was the Clean Water Act signed into law by President Nixon. It established federal laws that required we clean up our waterways. The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District developed the Tunnel and Reservoir System (which still needs to be finished) and eliminated 85% of combined sewage overflows. City planners joined in and worked with Friends on a variety of planning tools that resulted in new and better public access including the Chicago River Design Guidelines. Volunteer and community groups like Riverbank Neighbors took up the call as well. They took control in their own communities, driving change on-the-ground and in the opinions of their elected officials. In more recent years, with new water quality standards and so many other opportunities on the table, Friends has partnered with dozens

of other organizations. Alliance for the Great Lakes, Environmental Law & Policy Center, Natural Resources Defense Council, Openlands, Prairie Rivers Network and the Sierra Club of Illinois worked together with us to ensure new water quality standards and sewage effluent disinfection will pass. The water quality whirlwind last spring attracted a massive amount of media coverage which made blue even more main stream.

Further supporting new blue thinking, several local authors (see Riffles & Currents, page 3) are driving home the message that the Chicago River is central to the city and the region. Nationally water is coming out on top as well with several new books on how critical water is to us, such as *The Big Thirst: The Secret Life and Turbulent Future of Water*, released in 2011.

Short of 1900 when the Chicago River was originally reversed, it is hard to imagine a year when the Chicago River got more attention than 2011. We are thrilled and excited so many people and organizations are onboard including Senators Durbin and Kirk, Congressman Mike Quigley, who is a supporter from way back and River Day site captain. This becomes especially important as we struggle with the challenges ahead such as CSOs, Asian carp, stormwater pollution, habitat degradation and climate impacts.

In 2012, we are confident blue will be bigger than ever with the celebration of Chicago River Day 20/20, and 20 days of festivities and action that move beyond the banks of the Chicago River. We ask you to join in, if you haven't already, and thank you for being blue.

Margaret Frisbie
Executive Director

STAFF & BOARD

The River Reporter is published by Friends of the Chicago River, located at 28 E. Jackson Blvd., Suite 1800 Chicago, IL 60604-2272 Phone: (312) 939-0490 E-mail: friends@chicagoriver.org Web site: www.chicagoriver.org

Friends' mission is to preserve, protect and foster the vitality of the Chicago River for the plant, animal and human communities within its watershed.

Board of Directors

President
Craig Coit

Vice President
Cy Griffith

Treasurer
David Reynolds

Secretary
Lois L. Morrison

Directors
Karen Alber,
Fred Axley (President Emeritus),
Aaron Block, Kent Brown,
Kate Chappell, Grant Crowley,
Joel Fink, Sally Fletcher,
Stacey A. Hasenbalg, Larry Kaplan,
Jacqueline J. Loewe,
James C. Mark Jr.,
Barbara Morse-Quinn,
David Rosen, David M. Solzman,
Bryan Whitehead, David Wong
and John Ziesmer

Executive Director
Margaret Frisbie

Staff
Kristin Avery, Meshawn Ayala,
Ozana Balan King,
Kimberly Bevan Rice,
Kasandra Cooper, Cynthia Fox,
Mark Hauser, Dana Murphy,
John Quail and Mary Beth Sova

Designer and Managing Editor
Mark Hauser

Printing
Graphic Arts Studio, Inc.

Mailing
Spread the News, Inc.

Photography
All photos taken by Friends' staff
unless otherwise noted

An Outdoor Adventure is Closer Than You Think...

Are you an avid paddler who loves introducing others to the magic of the Chicago River? Friends of the Chicago River invites you to join our fantastic team of volunteer canoe guides who lead paddling trips on several stretches of the river from late spring through early fall.

As a canoe guide, you will help others discover the beauty of the river to inspire them to join us in its renaissance and revival. Qualified volunteers are trained in CPR, First Aid and paddling techniques as well as in Chicago history and river ecology.

Mandatory training for volunteers will take place in two Saturdays in April. If interested, please visit our website to download the application detailing qualifications and responsibilities, located at www.chicagoriver.org/events/urban_canoe_trips/.

The deadline for applying is February 29, 2012. Please contact Dana Murphy at dmurphy@chicagoriver.org with additional questions.



Canoe guides are an essential link to experiencing the Chicago River first-hand.
Photo by Cristina Rutter

RIFFLES & CURRENTS

GO FISHING TO HELP A FISH

Get ready for Chicago River fishing this spring with the purchase of Illinois Department of Natural Resources 2012 fish licenses which go on sale March 31. Instrumental to the success of our state's fisheries, the license fees contribute to the work of fishery department staff who work to make our local fisheries thrive through research, restoration, monitoring, watershed management and fishery management. Sportspeople buying licenses makes this work possible. Licenses are good for one year and can be purchased at www.IDNR.gov/fishing/.

RIVER SEPARATION SCENARIOS DUE JANUARY 31

January 31, 2012, marks the date when the Great Lakes Commission and Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Seaway Initiative release their report, "Envisioning a Chicago Area Waterway System for the 21st Century" which examines potential scenarios for the separation of the Great Lakes watershed from the

Mississippi somewhere along the Chicago River system to prevent the transfer of aquatic invasive species, including bighead and silver carp. The goal of the study is to evaluate the economic, technical, and ecological feasibility of separation. Links to the report can be found on Friends' website once it is released.

A FEW WORDS ON THE CHICAGO RIVER

Continuing on the theme blue is the new green; the Chicago River is the subject of several new books that are worth getting, including:

Reverse Effect: Renewing Chicago Waterways by Chicago architect Jeanne Gang investigates the potential impact of separating the Chicago River system to address aquatic invasive species and how that change could connect and recharge the surrounding communities. Abby Lantz, a Chicago rower and volunteer for Friends of the Chicago River who testified before the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District board last June is featured

in the book. This year we also gain insight into the original reversal of the Chicago River system with an amazing photographic collection entitled *The Lost Panoramas: When Chicago Changed its River and the Land Beyond*, by Richard Cahan and Michael Williams.

Finally, *MIDSTREAM: The Chicago River, 1999-2010*, by Richard Wasserman, documents the river system during the past decade and gives readers a glimpse into a mostly hidden landscape. Through a companion commentary Julia Bachrach reveals that while the Chicago River was long neglected, it was never forgotten.



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 July 1, 2011 and December 31, 2011.

INDIVIDUALS

\$2,000 and above

Karen Alber
Cinda and Fred Axley
Sally Fletcher
Lawrence and Denise Kaplan
Robert D. Rodgers

\$1,000 - \$1,999

John L. Ambrogio
Kenneth M. Arenberg and Susanne Swisher
Aaron and Nicole Block
Philip Enquist and Joanna Karatzas
Stacey A. Hasenbalg
Thomas and Barbara Honn
David Reinisch and Julie Kiefer
Bryan Whitehead
Victor and Barbara Zaveduk

\$500 - \$999

Joe and Ann Marie Arden
Kent Brown and Jane Jacobsen-Brown
Craig and Kate Coit
Philip Garoon and Family
Martha Hirsh Cameron
Barbara H. Howard

David Jones and Jayne Lilienfeld
Jacqueline J. Loewe
Kevin McVicker
Jaye and Barry Nagle
William and Jean O'Neill
Laurene von Klan and Sarah Kilpatrick

\$250 - \$499

Jennifer and Marcus Bosch
Randall and Lynn Clark
Robert G. Cunningham
Robert and Quinn Delaney
Jay Franke and Pamela Baker
Mike Frerker and Allison Park
Kevin Garvin
Leo and Linda Gordon
Christopher K. Hehmeyer
Eugene P. Jarvis
Paul Marcus and Katherine Juda
Jennifer Roche and John Svols
Henrietta Saunders
Jeanine Sheehan
Jordan Shields and Sarah Donovan
Mariyana Spyropoulos
Reven Uihlein-Fellars
Gintaras A. Vaisnys
Michael and Mary Woolever
Allison Wyrwicz
Caryl E. Zaar and Evelyn G. Zaar

FOUNDATIONS, CORPORATIONS, GOVERNMENT, AND OTHER

\$35,000 and above

Alphawood Foundation
The Crown Family
McCormick Foundation
NAVTEQ Foundation

\$15,000 - \$34,999

The Boeing Company
Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation
The Richard H. Driehaus Foundation
GMR Marketing
MillerCoors
Prince Charitable Trusts

\$5,000 - \$14,999

Chicago Park District
Fletcher Jones Automotive Enterprises
Walter E. Heller Foundation
Harold M. & Adeline S. Morrison Family Foundation
Dr. Scholl Foundation
STS Foundation
Wm. Wrigley Jr. Company Foundation

\$2,000 - \$4,999

BMO Harris Bank
CNA Foundation
Equity Group Investments, L.L.C.
Hines
Lakeshore Foundation, Inc.
M. R. Bauer Foundation
Nuveen Investments
The WaterWheel Foundation
Wendella Boats & Chicago Water Taxi

\$1,000 - \$1,999

Aon Corporation
Alvin H. Baum Family Fund
Francis Beidler Foundation
Canon Business Solutions, Inc.
Chicago Botanic Garden

Design Concepts 1, LLC
Earth Share of Illinois
Illinois Institute of Technology
Independence Junior High School
Loyola Academy
Midwest Generation EME, LLC
NOAA
Ozinga Ready Mix Concrete, Inc.
Roosevelt University
Schulze and Burch Biscuit Co.
Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, LLP

\$250 - \$999

Allstate Foundation
Associated Colleges of Illinois
B & W Land Co.
BayRu
Cardho J.F. New & Associates
Chicago Windy City YPO
DOT Graphics, Inc.
First American Bank
Guaranteed Rate, Inc.
The Hechtman Group LTD
IIT Studio
Intrinsic Landscaping, Inc.
Loyola University Chicago
Friends of Barbara Moore
Northern Illinois University
Peak Properties, LLC
REI Lincoln Park
Sirius Fund
Woodside Development, Inc.

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:



Cover story continued from page 1

- An enforceable timeline for finishing TARP reservoirs, which is essential to stop basement flooding and CSOs. TARP's completion date was originally 1984 but it has been date extended again and again. It is currently 2029.
- A requirement for a more aggressive plan to keep garbage stemming from the sewer system from entering the river.
- MWRD will need to conduct studies on the effectiveness of green infrastructure to ensure more of these get implemented.
- MWRD must also develop an annual reporting plan for the Cook County Watershed Management Ordinance (WMO) which is supposed to

establish uniform, minimum, countywide stormwater management regulations to regulate stormwater flows for the benefit of residents, businesses, wildlife, and water quality. The WMO is behind schedule as well.

- They must design and implement \$25 million in green infrastructure projects that reduce local and regional flooding and convert vacant land to 'stormwater' parks that can be an amenity for local residents.

While all of these measures will contribute to water quality improvements and diminish flooding and CSOs, the timeline for TARP is disappointing and the green infrastructure lower than other cities under consent decrees.

"Friends is pushing for a faster TARP timeline," says John Quail, Friends' director of watershed planning, "but in the meantime, we are eager to work with MWRD to maximize the amount of green infrastructure that does get implemented. This will reduce pressure on the sewer system by reducing the amount of water that reaches it. David St. Pierre, MWRD's new executive director, is already pursuing these kinds of initiatives and Friends is working with him on good new ideas. We want to make things happen that greatly exceed the requirements in the consent decree.

In the meantime, members should make their voices heard by sending a letter to the Department of Justice asking for more green infrastructure and speeding up TARP (see Take a Stand, page 1).



Chicago River Day 20/20

See What You Can Do

When Friends of the Chicago River started Chicago River Day in 1992 just 25 people signed up, caring for the river by dragging old shopping carts, mattresses, and plastic bags from its banks. Those volunteers were early visionaries who, like Friends, could see past the garbage to a future for the Chicago River that was bright and hopeful. And they were willing to work with us to make that future real.

Twenty years and more than 43,000 volunteers later, the Chicago River is no longer a back alleyway filled with sewage and junk. It is vibrant and alive with people in canoes, kayaks and tour boats, river edge trails, 70 species of fish, 60 species of birds, and all kinds of native animals including beavers, muskrats, and turtles.

To commemorate our success, in 2012, from April 23 through May 12 Friends will bring the river into all our communities through Chicago River Day 20/20 - 20 days of activities and special events on and beyond the banks of this beautiful natural resource. This wonderful whirlwind will range from fish-art projects and fish releases, habitat days to river tattoos, toxic trade-ins and even a river-edge pub crawl. 20/20 will culminate with the 20th annual Chicago River Day on Saturday, May 12.

Highlighted Chicago River Day 20/20 Events

Night at the (Bridgehouse) Museum

Enter for a chance to win a once-in-a-lifetime, 24-hour Chicago River experience. One lucky winner will win an all-inclusive package of events including an overnight stay at the McCormick Bridgehouse & Chicago River Museum, a behind-the-scenes visit with bridge operators as they lift the Michigan Avenue Bridge, and more.

Scavenger Hunt

Embark on a scavenger hunt throughout the Chicago River watershed. Explore the region from north to south and beyond. You'll have a blast while discovering twenty new things about your river. Explore the Chicago River! Have fun! Win prizes!

Pub Crawl

Have fun after work "crawling" along the Chicago River in the heart of downtown. A small donation gets you a commemorative Chicago River Day 20/20 mug and entrance to participating river-edge restaurants and bars. Enjoy drink specials and make a night of it with your Friends!

Visit our website www.chicagoriver.org/events/chicago_river_day/ to see a full calendar of events, event details, and much more.



Beaver, *Castor canadensis*
Illustration by Jen Pagnini

In 2011, Friends' 19th annual Chicago River Day was a tremendous success with 3,900 volunteers participating in activities at 65 locations in 18 cities and towns plus dozens of Chicago neighborhoods.

2011 SPONSORS

WHITE OAK

Exelon

SYCAMORE

HSBC 

The world's local bank

 **MIDWEST GENERATION**

An EDISON INTERNATIONAL® Company

 **PACTIV**

ASPEN

Cynthia Weglarz Rountree Fund
Firestone Complete Auto Care
Illinois EPA
Wm. Wrigley Jr. Company

LEAD IN-KIND DONORS



And, special thanks to our Silver Maple sponsors: Hu-Friedy Manufacturing Co. and Sims Metal Management.

Friends of the Chicago River is also grateful to the following partners and additional supporters: WBEZ 91.5 FM and Wendella & the Chicago Water Taxi.

SPARK Ignites a Passion for Environmental Science

Charles Dale is a seventh grader. He is a bright young man with a bright future. He recently completed an apprenticeship with Friends of the Chicago River that encouraged him to investigate his interest in science. When he started with Friends last summer he wasn't sure what to expect – except that it would be a 16-hour commitment, and it would involve science. What Charles got was an adventure.

Each Wednesday throughout the fall, Charles explored a different scientific opportunity with a mentor from Friends. During one such opportunity Charles visited the Humboldt



Park lagoon. He wore hip waders and had fun exploring for macroinvertebrates, small aquatic insects, crustaceans, and mollusks that inhabit our rivers and lakes. He visited the Brookfield Zoo and toured the dolphin exhibit. He also got to touch a sea turtle shell at the Shedd Aquarium. “I enjoyed my time at Friends,” says Dale. “My favorite part of the apprenticeship was working with friendly people and doing hands-on activities with my mentor.”

His apprenticeship was supported through SPARK, a program that empowers and inspires middle school youth to pursue their interests, create bonds within their communities, and develop a lifelong passion for learning. For more information about this program, please visit www.sparkprogram.org. Friends has many volunteer and internship opportunities. See if one is right for you at www.chicagoriver.org/get_involved/.

Charles Dale explores Humboldt Park lagoon for macroinvertebrates.

river LIFE

American mink
Neovison vison
Illustration by
Jen Pagnini



Mink are an important part of the native wilderness of North America, and are regularly spotted along the Chicago River. Like many larger predators, it is a species that needs space if it is to thrive and coexist with humans.

The mink is a member of the Mustelid family (which includes weasels, otters, wolverines, martens, badgers and ferrets). Historically, two species of mink were found in North America; however, the sea mink is now extinct. It lived exclusively along the Atlantic coast and had adapted to this habitat because of the abundant food (it preferred eating Labrador duck). The sea mink was hunted to extinction in the late 19th century.

The surviving species, the American mink, lives in a wide range of habitats and is found throughout the United States and Canada except for Hawaii and the desert southwest.

The American mink has been introduced in Europe where it is considered to be a pest and tends to displace the smaller European mink.

The American mink lives in forested areas that are near rivers, lakes and marshes. The mink is very territorial and males will fight other minks that invade their territory. They are not fussy over their choice of den, as long as it's close to water. They sometimes nest in burrows dug previously by muskrats, badgers or skunks.

The American mink is carnivorous, feeding on rodents, fish, crustaceans, amphibians and even birds. In its natural range, fish are the mink's primary prey. Mink inhabiting sloughs and marshes primarily target frogs, tadpoles, and mice. They are also formidable predators of muskrats, which they will chase underwater and kill in their own burrows. In its introduced range in

Europe, the American mink has been linked to declines in European mink and water vole.

The mink has a long, sleek body about two feet long, and a long thick tail. In fact, one third of the mink's length is its tail. They have brown to black fur that is very soft and thick and covered with oily guard hairs that make it waterproof. It is the most frequently farmed animal for its fur, outdoing in economic importance of the silver fox, sable and marten.

While on land, the mink use a bounding gait to run quite quickly. They're able to move at about four mph and can be difficult to catch. American mink are proficient swimmers and are capable of swimming for up to three hours at a time while hunting.

SAVE THE DATE

Wednesday, June 6, 2012

7th Annual

big fish ball

Barbara Morse-Quinn, 2012 Chair

Call (312) 939-0490 ext. 19 or email: msova@chicagoriver.org to reserve your tickets, commit to a sponsorship or donate merchandise or a service.



.....YES! I want to help ensure a boundless future for the Chicago River!

I'm pleased to make a membership contribution to Friends of the Chicago River in the amount of:

- | | | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$5,000 | Gray Wolf | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 | Blanding's Turtle / Business |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$2,500 | Bobcat | <input type="checkbox"/> \$75 | Tiger Salamander / Family |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000 | Wild Mink | <input type="checkbox"/> \$35 | Chorus Frog / Individual |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 | Great Horned Owl | <input type="checkbox"/> \$30 | White-fringed Orchid / School / Club |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 | Yellow-headed Blackbird | <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 | Purple Coneflower / Teacher / Volunteer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$156 | Black-crowned Night Heron | <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 _____ 3-4 digit security code _____
- Cardholder's name and billing address (if different than above) _____

- Please contact me about volunteer opportunities.
- The best way to reach me is by Email Daytime phone Old-fashioned mail
- 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 28 E. Jackson Blvd., Suite 1800, Chicago, IL 60604-2272 or make your gift online at www.chicagoriver.org/get_involved/.

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

- * A subscription to Friends' River Reporter newsletter, filled with important information on issues that effect the Chicago River plus a calendar of river-related events;
- * Volunteer bulletins and other opportunities for hands-on involvement;
- * Invitations to special events like Chicago River Day and the Big Fish Ball;
- * Discounts on Friends' 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



28 E. Jackson Blvd., Suite 1800, Chicago, IL 60604-2272

Return Service Requested

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Chicago, IL
Permit No. 6269

BE A FRIEND OF THE CHICAGO RIVER!

Chicago River Day 20/20: See What You Can Do

April 23, 2012, to May 12, 2012

Have you always wanted to spend a night in the Bridgehouse Museum, adopt a baby bluegill, or get a Chicago River themed (temporary) tattoo?

DO something with Friends as we celebrate the 20th anniversary of Chicago River Day with Chicago River Day 20/20: See What You Can Do. Twenty days of celebrations begin on April 23 and culminate on May 12 with Chicago River Day. Find out more about the festivities on page 5 and at www.chicagoriver.org.

Annual Meeting

Wednesday, April 18, 2012, 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. - Location to be announced.

Join Friends' staff, board, volunteers, Chicago River Eco-Warriors, and members to learn about Friends' initiatives, celebrate recent victories, and give awards to our top volunteers. RSVP to Meshawn Ayala at mayala@chicagoriver.org or (312) 939-0490, ext. 18. RSVP required.



The River Reporter is printed on recycled paper.

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

Membership opportunities on page seven.