

the river REPORTER

River Volunteer Stewardship Program

Friends of the Chicago River is launching the River Volunteer Stewardship Program to improve the Chicago River and its watershed through strategic civic engagement and Best Management Practices (BMP) training. Directly resulting from our recent strategic planning activities, this initiative is an evolution of Friends' existing volunteer stewardship efforts and places new emphasis on coordinated mission-driven, outcome-based volunteerism.

By uniting the successful components of our current volunteer programs under one umbrella, and creating and implementing tools and tactics to encourage richer participation in river stewardship, Friends believes we can increase the number of high-functioning volunteer stewards. This will enable us to better restore and improve natural lands along the Chicago River, promote sustainable BMPs beyond the river's edge, and increase public understanding and support of the natural value of the Chicago River and open space.

Chicago River Day — from introduction to action

Chicago River Day, Friends' annual work day, is an entry point for many volunteers. It encourages people of all ages from across the watershed to get involved in river care. Working at 60 or more locations each year, volunteers clean riverbanks, remove harmful invasive plants, repair nature trails, conduct water quality testing, and much more. Since it was founded, River Day has grown to include over 4,000 volunteers. Yet

while some of these volunteers participate in River Day year after year, only a portion get more involved with Friends and the Chicago River, Friends will develop strategies for further engagement through our River Volunteer Stewardship Program.

Volunteer Resource Center — from introduction to stewardship

Friends developed a new demonstration site at the Volunteer Resource Center (VRC) adjacent to the Forest Preserve District of Cook County's Edgebrook Woods, along the North Branch in Chicago. This

pilot project provides Friends with an ongoing, hands-on restoration site as a way to introduce volunteers to the river. It will help us advance the education and commitment of existing volunteer stewards, and by providing opportunity to work on a focused project, have a cumulative effect on the health of the site and the river. Volunteers working on the site will implement simple best management practices (BMPs) to be replicated throughout the watershed.

At the Edgebrook Volunteer Site Friends has brought a total of 219 volunteers to

(story continued on page 5)



Corporate Workdays

Looking for a great outdoor activity to do with your co-workers? Friends of the Chicago River regularly receives requests to provide events for corporate groups. These corporations want to get out and help the river and provide a great team building experience for employees at the same time. Friends has developed a corporate workday menu that lists the services that we can provide to provide a educational and entertaining day on the river. Plant a rain garden in the morning then spend an hour on the river on canoes. Make your next employee outing special. Contact Cynthia at (312) 939-0490, ext. 13 for more details.

REI employees volunteer at Friends' project site at the Volunteer Resource Center. 23 volunteers worked to cut down invasive buckthorn and begin the construction of a shade garden next to the main building.



Photo by Emily Blum

WADING IN Passion for the River

Renaming of S & S Canal

One of the things I have been thinking about for a long time is that we need to change the name of the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal. The word sanitary sends the wrong message.

Flowing southwest from the South Branch of the Chicago River at Damen, to the Des Plaines River in Lockport, the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal was opened in 1900 to reverse the Chicago River so that Chicago's sewage and other pollution being dumped into it would stop flowing into the lake. Heralded as an engineering marvel and a necessary solution to the burgeoning metropolis' drinking water problems, the canal drew pollution away from the lake and provided a better shipping link between the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River.

Naming the canal for sanitation and shipping in 1900 made sense because that is what was happening there at that time. But today, the uses of the canal and the waterways feeding it have expanded and its water quality has improved dramatically. In fact, studies show that throughout the river system we have nearly 70 species of fish, 60 species of birds, and that every year more boat launches are added providing access for recreational boaters, canoeists, kayakers, fishermen, and world-class competitive crew teams.

The U.S Board on Geographic Names says that the names of the geographic features in the United States are often a valuable reflection of the history of our country and its changing face. In addition to literal naming like the Erie Canal near Erie, Penn., our geographic features can celebrate who we are.

To see if there was interest in this idea of a new name for what is truly a beautiful waterway, I polled Friends, friends, and family to see what they thought. Universally they liked the idea. And instinctively they followed the historic precedent of naming

for the feature itself or a historic figure. Here are some of their ideas:

Geographic Nature

Blue Water Canal, Chicago Canal, Chicago Clean Canal, Chicago Mississippi Connector, Chicago Portage, Chicago River South Branch, Chicago Ship Canal, Clean Chicago Canal, Dearborn Channel, Fresh Water Canal Great Lakes Canal, Greenway Canal, Green Waterway, Lake Michigan Waterway, Linking Canal, Michigan-Mississippi Canal, South Branch Canal, South Branch of the Chicago River, St. Patrick's Waterway, and Western Canal of the South Branch of the Chicago River.

People

Robert Cassidy South Branch Channel, Hillary Clinton South Branch Channel, Benny Goodman South Branch Channel, Lorraine Hansberry South Branch Channel, John Holabird South Branch Channel, Abraham Lincoln Canal, Abraham Lincoln Waterway, Father Marquette Canal, Barack Obama South Branch Channel, Mike Royko South Branch Channel, Sargent Shriver South Branch Channel, Paul Simon Historic Waterway, Upton Sinclair South Branch Channel, Muddy Waters South Branch Channel, and Sidney Yates South Branch Channel.

These ideas are just the beginning of a conversation about a name change but nowhere did anyone suggest that sanitary was reasonable. Sanitary represents the old days and is based on an antiquated understanding of how we view our fresh water. Our water today is more valuable than ever. We must treasure what we have, clean what we dirty, and instead of denigrate, celebrate this wonderful natural, economic, and recreational, resource.

I hope you will work with us to do so.

—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 Web site: 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.

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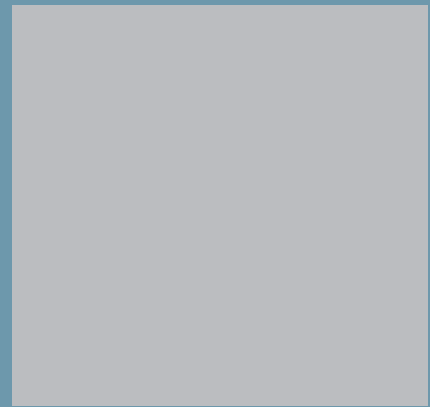
Mailing
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Photography
All photos by Friends' staff unless otherwise noted

The Michigan Avenue Fish Hotel

Don't be the last to see it! The Fish Hotel is a beautiful aquatic structure, floating along the south bank of the Chicago River near Wacker and Dearborn. With over 20 different Illinois native plant species and housing for plenty of fish, the hotel is an effort to help restore the river to a fish friendly place. Local industrial and commercial business replaced what used to be a shallow, marshy river into a deep, straight Main Stem that doesn't offer much sheltered areas that fish need to thrive.

The structure itself is made of planting beds, fish cribs, and aquatic plant beds—all encased by a perimeter of buoys extending 10 feet out into the river along 42 feet of Chicago Riverwalk. To find out more about the Fish Hotel visit www.chicagoriver.org/fishhotel, take a tour from the Bridgehouse Museum, or just take a stroll to the Riverwalk.



RIFFLES & CURRENTS

Frisbie to Speak at Urban Waterfronts 26

Margaret Frisbie, Friends' executive director, will speak at the Urban Waterfronts 26 conference November 20-22, 2008 at the historic Drake Hotel on the Magnificent Mile in Chicago. The conference is hosted by The Waterfront Center, a non-profit educational organization, formed in 1981 in the belief that waterfronts — where the land meets the ocean, bay, lake, river or canal — are unique, finite resources. The chief goal of the Center is to assist communities and the professions in making the wisest and best long-term uses of waterfront resources for maximum public benefit.

Frisbie will participate in a panel discussion titled Project Updates — From Vision to Reality, What began as someone's dream, eventually — with lots of hard work — becomes a reality.

This panel will give insights into the many steps taken in 20 or more years, including changes of leadership, evolving missions, accomplishments as well as occasional missteps along the way. This discussion features two pioneering river improvement organizations, including Frisbie from Friends of the Chicago River and Linda Cox, executive director, Bronx River Alliance, The Bronx, New York.

Beelzebub Halloween Party!

This unique, inaugural gala, organized and hosted by David Rosen, will benefit Friends of the Chicago River. Tickets for Beelzebub

are \$250 each, with one hundred percent of proceeds going to benefit the work of Friends and supporting our vision of a healthy river. For more information, go to www..... or call 312.....

Bridgehouse Museum End of Season The McCormick Tribune Bridgehouse & Chicago River Museum is open until October 31. Plan a visit today! A particularly interesting feature of the museum is to watch a bridge opening. It is quite a scene when Michigan Avenue meets the sky. To accommodate sail boats and other tall vessels traveling between the Chicago River and Lake Michigan, the Michigan Avenue Bridge is opened approximately 100 times a year from April to November. One spectator raved, "There is nothing I have seen that is as amazing as watching the massive Michigan Avenue Bridge rise to the sky powered by a tiny 108 horsepower motor from inside the bridge. The gears turn, the bridge rises, and you can't help but be amazed by the ingenuity of it all."

Starting September 17, 2008, the Bridgehouse Museum will open for a number of the scheduled bridgelifts. We invite you to experience this engineering marvel up close and personal by registering for one of the following dates.

All Wednesday bridge lifts begin at 10:00 a.m. and Saturday bridge lifts begin at 9:00 a.m.

September

Wednesday, September 17
Saturday, September 20
Wednesday, September 24
Saturday, September 27

October

Saturday, October 4
Wednesday, October 8
Saturday, October 11
Saturday, October 18
Saturday, October 25
Entry fee is \$10 per person. Members of Friends of the Chicago River receive a \$2 discount. Advance registration is required. For reservations call Ozana Balan (312) 939-0490, ext. 23. Also, check out www.bridgehousemuseum.org for more information.

HIGH Water Marks

Friends recognizes the generous support of members and donors who gave gifts of \$100 or more between March 1, 2008 and August 15, 2008

FOUNDATIONS, CORPORATIONS AND GOVERNMENT

\$40,000 and up

The Boeing Company
Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation
EcoMedia LLC

20,000 to 39,999

Bank of America

10,000 to 19,999

ACE INA
Nuveen Investments
Ozinga
REI, Inc.
Tom's of Maine

5,000 to 9,999

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City of Chicago
Crain's Chicago Business
Earthwatch Institute, Inc.
Geographic Society
HSBC
McCormick Foundation
Midwest Generation EME
Morton Salt
The Oppenheimer Family Foundation
Shoreline Sightseeing
The Siragusa Foundation
WRD Environmental

2,500 to 4,999

Aon
Bigane Paving Co.
Cape Holdings, Inc.

The Care of Trees
Chicago Public Schools
Earth Share of Illinois
Jamee and Marshall Field Foundation
Gaia Tech
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
IPA Charities Inc.
Lawrence's Fisheries
Midwest Cargo Systems, Inc.
Harold M. & Adeline S. Morrison Family Foundation
NAVTEQ Corporation
Shelbourne Development Group Inc.
Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP
Superior Air Ground Ambulance
Trump International Hotel & Tower Chicago
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Wm. Wrigley Jr. Company Foundation

1,000 to 2,499

Francis Beidler Foundation
Gensler
Great Lakes Kayak
Henrichs & Associates
Illinois State University
Jenner & Block
Lovells LLP
Magellans Development Group
SET Environmental, Inc.
Sun Trading LLC

500 to 999

Complete Orthopedic Care
DAI Environmental, Inc.
The Richard H. Driehaus Foundation
Earth Tech

Engineering Resource Associates
Essanay Studio & Lighting Co., Inc.
Hitchcock Design Group
Microsoft
MWH
OWP/P Architects Inc.
Quarles & Brady
SpaceCo Inc.
Stellar26
William Blair & Company

100 to 499

AT&T
Chicago Academy of Sciences
Chinatown Chamber of Commerce
Complete Weekender
Contemporary Controls
Finkel Martwick and Colson PC
Friedman Properties Ltd.
John Charles Midwest, Inc.
John G. Shedd Aquarium
Kraft Foods Matching Gifts Program
Land Information Access Association
McBride Kelley Baurer
Mead Witter Foundation, Inc.
Middle West Enterprises
The Nature Conservancy
The Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum
Serena Sturm Architects
Shorebank

INDIVIDUALS

2,500 to 4,999

Fred and Cinda Axley
Howard Gottlieb
David M. Wong

1,000 to 2,499

Robert T. Friedman
Sharon M. Perrine
Ralph and Julie Anne Walsh

500 to 999

Mark Anderson
Kenneth M. Arenberg and Susanne Swisher
Clark T. Baurer
Jennifer Bosch
Kent Brown and Jane Jacobsen-Brown
Vernita Cole
Grant Crowley
Paul Klein and Amy Crum
Sally Fletcher
Richard Hayden
Jonelle Niffenegger

Richard and Margaret Notebaert
Cynthia M. and Robert E. Sargent
Patrick Slattery
David and Rachel Solzman
Carol Stein
Larry Suffredin
Ron and Dee Tevonian
Max West
Bryan Whitehead
Victor and Barbara Zaveduk

250 to 499

E.M. Bakwin
Kate Chappell
Ellen Frisbie
Jim King
Nancy Kittle
Lanyon/Richman Family
Steve and Cindy Mitchell
Kenneth J. Poje
David and Stacy Reynolds
Debra Shore
John Spraggins
Michael J. Tobin
Laurene von Klan
Wayne Zuschlag

100 to 249

Evelyn Alford
Joan Beak
Wayne and Linda Belanger
Martha M. Boudewyns
R. G. Burns
John Burt
Eugene and Ruth Coan
Dorr St. Clair and Andrew Herzog
Daniel Drew and Alice Calek
Marilyn Drury-Katillo
M. Felderman and R. Baldwin
Elaine Fiffer
Debra Hass
Greg Hawes
The Huizenga Family
John and Rochelle Lodder
James and Judy Macdonald
Clark N. Maxfield
Kathryn McNeil
Vid and Lisa Mohan-Ram
Robert Murra
Dani Nichols
Tom and Libby Quail
Glenn Sieverson
Sara Dixon Spivy
Joshua Steffan
Jeffrey M. Thielen
Clark and Joan Wagner
Mike Warner

Update on Friends Public Policy Work

Many have heard through local newspapers, Friends e-alerts, radio talk show interviews, and local TV networks, about the ongoing quest for upgraded water quality standards for the Chicago River. As the sole organization focused on the Chicago River, Friends has been deeply involved in this public policy effort.

The current ill-health of the Chicago River stems from a history of abuse and neglect. Though the Chicago River first attained standards with the passing of the Clean Water Act in 1972, these standards did not account for what today is a centerpiece of our city. Thousands of people gather around the Chicago River — as a viewing point for architectural tours, for the St. Patty's day tradition of dying the river green, but also as a Mecca for urban recreation. Thousands of people kayak, canoe, fish, wade, bird watch, and walk along this natural oasis that meanders through our beautiful city. The previous standards fall seriously short and only accommodate for industrial and commercial uses.

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) conducted a study known as the Use Attainability Analysis (UAA) that assessed the Chicago River in a way that demanded regulation,

looking at all of the potentials — both recreational and industrial. It was determined that indeed, the Chicago and Calumet systems are far overdue for higher water quality standards.

Through partnering with other environmental groups, new water quality standards is one of Friends' major tasks in our organizational goals. Our role has been not only to provide the Illinois Pollution Control Board (IPCB — who is reviewing the new standards) with facts and data about recreational uses on the river, but also to help guide the public in getting their messages heard.

Friends celebrated a sensational showing of support at the public hearing on June 16, 2008. Over 100 people filled the room in support of our beloved Chicago River. And of these 100 over 40 people made moving testimony in front of the IPCB.

Friends will see this issue through. These standards will be the most significant water quality improvements in over 20 years. IPCB hearings will continue at least through next year, though we anticipate activity through 2010. Currently all interested

Bridgehouse Museum Sustainability

Friends' McCormick Tribune Bridgehouse & Chicago River Museum increases the momentum of our work by raising the visibility of the Chicago River as an asset to our communities and by inspiring people to take part in the river's revival. Located inside the southwest tower of the Michigan Avenue Bridge, our museum educates thousands of people each year who are not reached by Friends' other programs. With less than 20% of operating expenses covered by admission revenue, our museum must raise more than \$150,000 annually to support our educational efforts.

The Bridgehouse Museum relies on a broad range of support. "Our donors' generosity is key to keeping admission prices low so we can share the river's story with as broad an audience as possible," explains Ozana Balan, Friends' manager of the Bridgehouse Museum. "Tax-deductible gifts, large and small, from individuals and corporations make a big difference."

You can support the museum by making a gift today. Naming gift opportunities include one of our 82 steps, 12 magnificent views, or our movable bridge exhibit. Friends also launched the Corporate Club, a museum corporate membership program offering benefits your company can



share with employees and clients. Making a gift now will have twice the impact, as all new and increased gifts are currently being matched \$1 for \$1 by McCormick Foundation's \$100,000 challenge grant that was awarded to Friends in 2007 for capacity building at our museum. For more information, go to bridgehousemuseum.org, or contact Ozana Balan at (312) 939-0490, ext. 23, or obalan@chicagoriver.org.

(cover story continued from page 1)

spend their mornings providing exceptional volunteer hours that will compound our restoration efforts along this branch of the Chicago River. These volunteers have given more than 700 working hours with a total value of \$10,570.00. This has included the installation of two separate Rain Gardens totaling 500sq feet, water quality testing, a thorough monitoring survey, and invasive plant removal.

And this is not the extent of this years volunteer program! We have a handful of corporate work days already scheduled for late summer and Fall, and "Friends only" volunteer/member work days are heading our way.

As management plans and work day requests solidify, we will start incorporating additional work day activities that will include rain barrel installation, additional monitoring activities for things such as frogs and butterfly's, and we hope to transform a large section of lawn back to its historical prairie form.

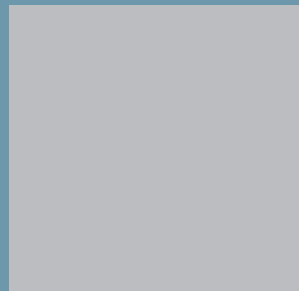
Friends' staff members serve as site stewards for the VRC and developed a plan that includes restoration workdays and other hands-on experiences. These experiences include monitoring plant communities, participating in mussel and macroinvertebrate surveys, and conducting habitat assessments. These activities illustrate how improving natural areas is part of the ongoing and long-term effort of improving the Chicago River. The VRC pilot project is designed to strengthen our volunteers' relationships with Friends, get them excited about the river, and help them develop a sense of ownership by keeping them involved. Regardless of the point of entry, Friends plans for volunteers to stay involved by continuing to learn through the VRC project, doing restoration work, learning how to be frog monitors, or any other number of activities. The ultimate goal is to build on this sense of pride and empower volunteers to act as the voice of the Chicago River and that these enthusiastic and active volunteers become advocates for the improvement and protection of the Chicago River in perpetuity.

Volunteer Management Plan — creating a continuum

Essential to all of this is the development of a continuum of engagement that we can use to measure involvement and volunteer management protocols to provide the structure for intentional recruitment, training, and recognition of volunteers who do work to improve the Chicago River, directly impacting its health. By bringing together our current program components and developing effective systems to manage people, Friends will build a stronger, more integrated program that connects interested volunteers with the activities they are most suited to and train those volunteers over time to be committed stewards of the Chicago River.

CRSN Field Trip

To come



Invest in Success with Friends of the Chicago River

Long recognized as a visionary in protecting the environment, naturalist John Muir wrote that “that everything is connected. Business success, quality of life, and a sustainable environment are not in opposition.”

Find out how to be a part of it all at http://chicagoriver.org/get_involved/

Over the past several decades that statement is still proving true as civic and business leaders develop riverfront restaurants, river-edge trails, boat launches, and new residential communities that take advantage of the Chicago River’s emerging role as a destination and valued waterfront resource.

Yet despite their success these investments are not enough to overcome the river’s legacy of neglect, degraded habitat, and the archaic view that the Chicago River can remain a dumping ground. A push for continued improvement is essential throughout the entire watershed and business, like government and the nonprofit sector, must be involved.

To engage the corporate community Friends has developed a host of fun, usual and unusual ways to be a part of the river’s recovery ranging from corporate volunteer and team building activities to sponsorship opportunities to membership and our gala event, the Big Fish Ball.

riverLIFE

When our Michigan Avenue Fish Hotel opened this season, downtown bluegill may have taken a collective sigh of relief. The bluegill is a food source for largemouth bass, herons, and turtles and the floating fish hotel, at its new location between State and Dearborn, provides submergent plants, nooks and crannies to help them hide. In addition to safety, the fish hotel mimics a shallower stream providing habitat for bluegill and other fish that frequent the river’s Main Stem, despite its concrete nature.

The bluegill is a member of the sunfish family and native to the Chicago River as well as a great portion of North America. Commonly found (and stocked) in ponds, lakes, and rivers, bluegill are often found hiding in underwater vegetation. Bluegill are carnivorous and will eat just about anything that fits into their small mouths, such as invertebrates, very small fish, insect larvae, crayfish, snails, and algae when food supplies are low. Bluegill seek their food by sight so can be found feeding during the day.

Easily distinguished by its shape and coloring, the bluegill is round and flat like

a tropical sunfish and has an obvious dark spot at the base of the dorsal fin. This spot is blue or black and is an extension of the gill cover called the opercular flap. The bluegill’s back and upper sides are dark olive-green to black, and its belly is reddish yellow. The bluegill also has a pattern of vertical bars on the sides that help distinguish it from other sunfish. During spawning season, males are often especially dark or colorful. The name, bluegill, comes from the bright blue edging visible on its gill rakers, which help it feed. Bluegills can grow as large as 16 inches long.

Bluegills spawn between late May to early August (peaking in June) when water temperatures are between 67 - 80° F. Males select a sand, mud, or gravel bar that can be hollowed out to form a nest in water less than two feet deep. These nests are shallow, circular depressions and are most frequently in areas with gravel bottoms. Often, many males build nests in one small area. After the nests are complete, females lay eggs in them and the males fertilize the eggs. The males guard the eggs until they hatch, then also guarding the fry until they reach swimming stage, protecting them against predators, especially other male sunfish.

Other common names for bluegill include bream, panfish, sunfish, copperbelly and sunny. The bluegill became the state fish of Illinois in 1986.

—Margaret Frisbie

Bluegill
Lepomis macrochirus
Illustration by Jen Pagnini

CALENDAR OF EVENTS AND TOURS

Flatwater Classic

Sunday, October 5, 2008
Clark Park
3400 N. Rockwell St., Chicago
Cost: \$22 for members; \$27 for non-members

The 9th annual Chicago River Flatwater Classic canoe and kayak race is sure to create a splash. Join Friends' and presenting sponsor, NAVTEQ on Sunday, October 5, 2008 at Clark Park (3400 N. Rockwell St., Chicago), where the course and fun start. First time paddlers and pro-racers enjoy this scenic, yet challenging 7.25 mile course on the Chicago River.

Friends of the Chicago River founded the Flatwater Classic in 2000 to give people a chance to see the Chicago River and learn for themselves why it needs their help. Alive with activity both on and under the water, the Chicago River is home to 70 species of fish, 60 kinds of birds, and a growing diversity of mammals. In addition to amazing architecture, river tour boats and steel riverbanks, paddlers often report seeing a wide variety of wildlife along the course. What will you see? Friends' ultimate goal is a clean, accessible river that can be shared by the people, plants, and animals that call our watershed home.



To come
For more information about any of our events, please visit www.chicagoriver.org.

OCTOBER

Saturday, October 11 Skokie Lagoons Evening Paddle

5-11 pm
Cost: \$35 for members, \$40 for non-members
www.chicagoriver.org/paddle

Thursday, October 30 Beelzebub Halloween Party

7-Midnight
Primitive Warehouse
1200 West 35th Street, Bridgeport
Costume or black tie required

Beelzebub is the hottest Halloween Party in Chicago; a night for the city's "A List" to bring down the house in support of Friends of the Chicago River. Don't miss the Halloween bash people will be talking about all year!

Friday, October 31 Bridgehouse Museum closes for the season

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"/> \$2,500.....Watershed Steward | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100.....Bridge Tender |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000.....Wetlands Restorer | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50Family |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$500.....River Guardian | <input type="checkbox"/> \$25Individual |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$250.....Stream Keeper | <input type="checkbox"/> Other..... \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$156.....The 156-Mile Club | |

(The River's length)

Name _____

Company (if applicable) _____

For recognition purposes, list my name 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: _____

Name as it appears on credit card: _____

Cardholder's name and billing address (if different than above) _____

- I want to double my support through my company's matching gift program!
 Matching gift form enclosed Please contact me about how to arrange this

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. Please send it to Friends at 28 E. Jackson, Blvd., Suite 1800, Chicago, IL 60604-2272 or make your gift online at chicagoriver.org/get_involved/

All 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, email actions alerts, and other opportunities for hands-on involvement
- Invitations to Friends' special events like Chicago River Day, the Big Fish Ball, and Chicago River Flatwater Classic
- Discounts on Friends' canoe trips
- Listing in Friends' Annual Report

And most significantly...

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

Donors of \$250 and above are also eligible for additional recognition opportunities and more! Please contact Suellen Burns at (312) 939-0490, ext. 19, or sburns@chicagoriver.org for more information.

Join or renew online at chicagoriver.org.

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



chicago 2008

RIVER DAY REPORT

Friends' 16th annual Chicago River Day was a tremendous success with over 3,800 volunteers who participated in activities at 58 locations. School and community groups, religious congregations, scouting troops and corporate teams collected 28 tons of garbage and recyclables and over 200 bags of harmful invasive plants. In addition, 882 visitors visited our McCormick Tribune Bridgehouse & Chicago River Museum as part of the event's new educational component. "River Day brings so many people together working to improve the health of the river," said Cynthia Fox, Friends' manager of stewardship and volunteer programs. "At the end of the day, volunteers can see the results of their efforts and be proud of what they have done for the Chicago River and their own community." Join us next year on Saturday, May 9, 2009.

2008 Chicago River Day Site Captains

Friends' extends its warmest thank you to our volunteer site captains. Without their hours of hard work, River Day would not be possible.

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| Steve Arnam | Jill London |
| Sarah Beazley | Cheryl McGarry |
| Frank Bellucci | Tom Nelson |
| Rob Blomquist | Mary Alice Off |
| Chuck Brown | John O'Connell |
| Mary Busch | Sheila O'Neill |
| Alex Curry | Al Pilgrim |
| Ivy Czekanski | Mike Piskel |
| Bill Donahue | Marianne Preker |
| Jim Doyiakos | Commissioner Mike |
| Rachel Driver | Quigley |
| Aaron Durnbaugh | Robyn Russell |
| Sally Evans | Wayne Schimpff |
| Chris Fisher | Larry Scinto |
| Sally Fletcher | Sean Shaffer |
| Jerry Garden | Robert Shcoltes |
| Doug Gerleman | Marian Sinkus |
| Sue Grabowski | Gail Slowinski |
| Bill Gillespie | Tom Smith |
| Steve Greenberg | Mark Sorteberg |
| Bob Gronko | Isaac Sporrang |
| Michael Hahn | Jeff Sriver |
| Joe Hmieleski | Marion Thill |
| Debra Hoffman | Michelle Uting |
| Kathleen Jones | Ron Valvick |
| Jackie Kostrzewa | Jose Vilella |
| Diana Krug | Tony Watrobinski |
| Rik Lantz | Tiffany Wilson |
| Barb Laucius | Ken Wojcik |
| Pete Leki | Larry Yablong |
| Kurt Leslie | Stephanie Zaucha |

Above photos correspond from left to right

WHITE EAGLE (Niles)

Local residents, girl scouts and high school students were lead by Cook County Commissioner Mike Quigley at the White Eagle site in Niles. The Forest Preserve district of Cook County brought a couple canoes to the site to allow volunteers to remove debris from portions of the riverbanks that were not accessible by land. Volunteers also spotted deer and raccoon tracks throughout the area.

FOREST GLEN (Chicago)

On Chicago's northwest side, the Forest Glen site had over 140 students from Gage Park High School and a whole bunch of new volunteers from the neighborhood. Volunteer captain Marianne Preker, "During the first hour, the students collected over 40 bags of garbage and 20 bags of recyclables. After the garbage was removed, they collected sticks and wood from the forest and built stick barriers to keep future garbage out of the river. The neighborhood residents were people we had not seen before. They spent the day painting over unsightly graffiti left under the nearby bridge over the river. We had an amazingly hardworking group of kids and adults and were able to accomplish so much."

GOMPERS PARK (Chicago)

Over 110 employees and their families from Bank of American made a huge impact on the efforts at Gompers Park in Chicago's Mayfair community. Volunteers removed over 50 bags of garbage and 40 bags of harmful garlic mustard, mulched 30 trees, laid 500-feet of wood chips on the nature trail and planted 120 native seedlings in the meadow and wetland. Volunteers also spotted muskrats, great blue herons, red-winged blackbirds and barn swallows throughout the morning.

VOLUNTEER RESOURCE CENTER— EDGEBROOK WOODS (Chicago)

Over 50 volunteers joined Friends' staff at the Forest Preserve District of Cook County's Volunteer Resource Center. Friends' staff have become stewards for this site along the North Branch and helped volunteers remove 50 bags of garlic mustard. Volunteers also were able to spot a deer grazing along the edge of the preserve.

Friends of the Chicago River





chicago 2008

RIVER DAY FESTIVAL

After the morning's workday, 800 volunteer spent the afternoon at the Chicago River Day Festival at River Park in Chicago. Volunteers shared stories from their sites, created great river artwork, visited booths from environmental organizations all while they enjoyed live music and a great lunch!

Girl Fish Printing

Site captain Steve Arnam had a booth at the Festival. He brought rubber molds of fish and turtles so that kids could paint their own river animals to take home.

BOA vol's in line for lunch

Bank of America employees get lunch at the food tent at the festival.

Sponsor Thanks

Friends' board president, Craig Coit, and executive director, Margaret Frisbie, welcome the festival crowd and thank them and event sponsors for excellent day's work.

Eric Yondorf

Long time volunteer, Eric Yondorf, enjoys a well deserved beverage at the Chicago River Festival.

Hungry Girls

Over half of the festival attendees were high school students. These students were eager to get lunch after working the morning to remove invasive plants and garbage from the riverbanks.

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EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOP PANEL

River Day grows in scope every year to incorporate new activities to engage different audiences about the Chicago River. In 2008, Friends' added an education workshop at our McCormick Tribune Chicago River and Bridgehouse Museum to the list of River Day activities. Over 882 guests visited the Bridgehouse Museum learning about the past, present and future of our river. Next year, we hope to add more educational workshops to the event.

Friends of the Chicago River would like to thank the following partners and additional supporters: Central Beverages – AriZona Beverage Company; Essanay Studio and Lighting Company, Inc.; Graphic Converting Inc.; Hitchcock Design Group; MWH Americas; Trader Joe's; Schulze and Burch Biscuit Co.; Strack & Van Til; Wristband Specialty.

ADDITIONAL THANKS

- The Fairmont Chicago
- Goose Island Handcrafted Sodas
- Jewel-Osco
- Sausages by Amylu

Friends of the Chicago River



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