



Paddling on the Pokegema

The River Voice

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In This Issue

[SLRA Canoe Tour](#)

[Howling Moon Festival](#)

[Piping Plover Project](#)

[New Invasive species study](#)

[Progress toward a healthier river](#)

[River People](#)

[River Jobs](#)

Upcoming Events

August 1-2: Howling Moon Festival, Bayfront Festival Park

April 16: SLRA Canoe Tour

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Cover Photo Credit: Deanna Erickson

Join us at the SLRA Canoe Tour

SLRA's 2014 Canoe Tour and Picnic will be held on Saturday, August 16 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. This year's event will feature points of interest on the lower St. Louis River Corridor celebrating the City of Duluth's plans to revitalize the area. Mayor Ness and other area officials will be joining the flotilla! The tour will begin at Munger Landing at the base of Clyde Avenue in Smithville, just off Hwy 23.



The annual canoe tour is a great opportunity for both experienced and non-experienced canoeists to explore the beautiful St. Louis River. Bring your own canoe if possible. A small number of canoes, paddles and PFD's will be available free if needed; please register early to reserve those.

The SLRA is grateful to the Healing Our Waters -Great Lakes Coalition for funding this version of the River Voice.

The SLRA thanks the Lloyd K. Johnson Foundation for funding the first two years of the River Voice.



There will also be limited space on pontoons on a first come-first served basis for those unable to paddle. Please register early for these seats.

The route will leave from Munger Landing on Clyde Ave. and proceed to the outlet of Morgan Park Creek. From here the flotilla will gather at Spirit Island, then visit Clough Island and the fancy new interpretive sign there. The final paddle will take the group by the small islands that are home to an eagle's nest and back to the boat landing. Experts will share information with the group at key locations. Finally, back at the landing there will be a picnic.

The cost is only \$5 for SLRA members (or \$20 for the whole family.) Non-members cost only \$10 per person (\$30 for a family). Children under 12 are free, but must be accompanied by an adult. Become a member and receive the discounted price!

More details about the event and a registration form is available on the SLRA website www.stlouisriver.org, or call 218-733-9520.

Howling Moon Festival happening soon, supports SLRA

It's summertime, so what better time is there to enjoy local music and refreshments along the St. Louis River, while helping to support worthy causes? The Howling Moon Music Festival is coming right up this weekend on August 1st and 2nd! See bands like the Guess Who and Brandi Carlile. A portion of the ticket



at www.howlingmoonfest.com.

sales will go to the St. Louis River Alliance and the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Minnesota! SLRA has fans among the organizers and they wanted to contribute. More information can be found

Piping Plover Projects takes flight through community education

During the piping plover nesting season, SLRA staff and volunteers log long hours scanning the shoreline of Lake Superior and collecting valuable habitat data. While on the beach, monitors are often approached by community members curious about activities surrounding the endangered plovers. The Piping Plover Outreach program has provided free programming to over 1,200 individuals already in 2014!



This season, a new educational costume allows students to learn to identify a piping plover by dressing up. A new outdoor education program is also being offered to local youth groups to encourage outside activity and connect children with the plover and its behaviors while learning in a green space. Staff and volunteers have also attended public events to provide literature on the piping plover project

as an important component to the St. Louis River Area of Concern Beneficial Use Impairments directly involving fish and wildlife. These programs remind community members that they have the power to protect and restore the beaches that we all share with Lake Superior's beautiful wild life.



Lafayette Youth Club enjoyed the first outdoor piping plover

program of the season earlier this month.

Progress made toward a healthier river with better aesthetics

Nearly 30 years after being named an Area of Concern, the St. Louis River has taken another big step closer to becoming a healthier river.



The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, and other partners have developed a plan to remove the aesthetic impairment, the first of nine impairments to the river's health that have kept it from being suitable for habitat and recreational uses it should support.

Among the most significant efforts benefitting the river's aesthetic quality are: improved municipal wastewater treatment facilities and significant reductions in sewage overflows, upgraded storm water infrastructure and polluted sites' cleanups, including Wisconsin's Hog Island inlet and Newton Creek.

The St. Louis River Alliance was actively involved in the development of the 2013 St. Louis River Remedial Action Plan and helped lead the team that developed the specific actions that have been fully completed by MPCA and WIDNR staff. Completion of this work is truly a watershed event for the St. Louis River Area of Concern.

New project studies invasive species spread potential

Michelle Gutsch, a PhD student in Integrated Biosciences at UMD, mentoring under Dr. Joel Hoffman, has begun a project to develop a new approach to niche modeling for invasive fish. She will use Ruffe data from Lake Superior and the St. Louis River estuary. Ruffe invaded the St. Louis River estuary over thirty years ago, but have not yet become widespread in Lake Superior. Her model will use stage-based characteristics and environmental variables such as movement patterns at each life stage to learn what is limiting their spread. If this model is successful, it could potentially be used to monitor the spread of Ruffe to new locations in Lake Superior as well as the other Great Lakes.

River People



The Duluth Seaway Port Authority welcomed aboard a new Government and Environmental Affairs Director this week. Deborah DeLuca, distinguished expert on redevelopment projects and environmental policy, officially joined the staff on July 29. DeLuca is a founding board member of Minnesota Brownfields, a nonprofit established to ensure the effective reuse of brownfield sites across the state. Her areas of expertise include grant-writing, development and implementation of

funding strategies, project management, government relations and outreach education. She is "thrilled to join the Duluth Seaway Port Authority team; I look forward to helping with the strategic redevelopment of this region's compromised assets with a goal of returning them to the economic development stream."

River Jobs



The Lake Superior National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) seeks a student to assist in their environmental and science education program. The intern will work closely with the Reserve's Education Coordinator and the Rivers2Lake Mentor to develop and

operate their main education program, Rivers2Lake.

This position will be 8 hours per week, and runs from September 15, 2014 until June 5th, 2015. Interested applicants should respond to the [posting found here](#) by August 15th, 2014.

Become a Member

The St. Louis River Alliance is a member-based organization made up of citizens, business and government members working together to protect, restore and enhance the St. Louis River. Members can participate in special events and programs. For more information, visit our website: www.stlouisriver.org



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