



The River Voice

Issue 15
December 2014

In This Issue

[Today's Climate Events](#)

[Radio Tower Bay](#)

[Walleye Fishing](#)

[Resilient River Event](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

[Piping Plover Project](#)

[SLRA Membership Offers](#)

[River People](#)

Upcoming Events

Energy Transitions Talk
December 3, 7:00, UMD

Today's Climate Change Events

December 3rd (today!) is a big day for learning more about our changing climate. You can choose from two separate events from two different SLRA partner organizations (unfortunately running concurrently; there's always room for more participants!).

Event 1

Energy Transition in Minnesota and Beyond. Taking Action: Facing the Challenge of Global Climate Change by Ellen Anderson, Executive Director at the U of M Energy Transitions Lab

7:00 at Bohannon Hall 90, UMD

Sponsored by the Alworth Institute of International Studies, UMD Office of Sustainability

Event 2

Sea Change: Addressing Climate Change on Lake Superior by the Gordon Family

Through pictures, video, and music, the Gordon family will present their sailing stories and share their own

Sea Change Climate Talk
December 3, 7:00, Hartley
Nature Center

Lake Superior Barrel
Presentation
December 8th, 6:00pm
Duluth Public Library

Resilient River Futures
December 10th, 11:00am
Clyde Iron Works

River Talks, Bob Miller
December 18th, 7:00 pm
NERR Learning Center
Barker's Island

SLRA Annual Meeting: TBA
(January 2015)

Contributors

Kris Eilers, SLRA

Gina Temple-Rhodes, SLRA

Duluth Seaway Port Authority

MN Land Trust

NRRI

MNDNR

MPCA

Wisconsin Sea Grant

Cover Photo Credit:
"Beauty in an unwanted April
snowstorm' by Mike Cochran

Did you know?

Brewing beer takes from 3 to
12 gallons of water per gallon
of beer. Clean water is

observations, studies on climate change in our region, and
information about climate solutions.

7:00-8:30 at Hartley Nature Center

Sponsored by the McCabe Chapter of the Izaak Walton
League

Lot of good choices for learning more, and more events to
come. SLRA is working with other partner groups to help
establish a Twin Ports Climate Coalition to host more
regular Climate Connection events; watch for more
information in the spring. Climate change may well be one
of the largest threats facing the health of the St. Louis River
in the future. For more information or to be added to the
mailing list, please contact Hilarie Sorensen, Climate
Change Extension Educator, Minnesota Sea Grant
at soren360@d.umn.edu or 218-726-7677.

Radio Tower Bay Restoration Pauses for Winter



Dredging in Radio Tower Bay. MN DNR photo

The restoration activities in Radio Tower Bay managed by
the Minnesota Land Trust have paused for the winter
season. The project to dredge out decades-old sawmill wood
waste will improve habitat for fish and other wildlife. The
contractors halted operations in the bay in the middle of
November as the bay began freezing over. Work will begin
again next spring as soon as the bay is ice free. To date the
contractor, Veit, Inc., has removed over 23,000 cubic yards
(21% by volume) of the anticipated 115,000 cubic yards
total of wood waste and sediment from the bay.

important to making good, local brews!

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.



Dewatering and reusable wood material pile. MN DNR photo

The Walleyes are Biting on the River

Rob Maas, SLRA board member, is a dedicated fisherman who visits the St. Louis River nearly every day to search for fish. He reports that there is now 5 inches of ice on the bay (always check current conditions before heading out) and the fish are biting. Last Sunday he caught four walleyes across from Barker's Island, using a jig and a minnow, in just over 2 hours. He kept just one for eating, as the others were over 18 inches long and are best released as producing fish. Maas says that fishing is his "battery charger" and does his best to fish every day. When the ice is too thick to break with his boat and too thin to walk on, he fishes from the dock. He loves to share the good news about the clean-up of the St. Louis River and helps others enjoy this important resource whenever he can. For more information about ice fishing in Wisconsin,

visit <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Fishing/icefishing/index.html>

Discuss Future Possibilities for St. Louis River Corridor

Please join us to discuss future possibilities for a resilient St. Louis River Corridor!

RESILIENT RIVER FUTURES

Wednesday, December 10th

Program begins at 11 am; drop-in open house until 2 p.m.

Clyde Iron Works, Duluth

11 student groups (part of the Design Duluth Studio at the University of Minnesota) will be presenting their final projects exploring the diverse and engaging possibilities for

communities and places along the St. Louis River Corridor. This work is the collaborative effort of Duluth community stakeholders, local organizations, students, professionals and faculty helping to imagine a resilient Duluth. These projects will help kick-off a 2 year cycle of programming in Duluth (funded by the Bush Foundation) and in full partnership with the St. Louis River Alliance, Duluth LISC, City of Duluth and Design Duluth (UMN).

Light refreshments will be served. No RSVP is needed. For more information, contact SLRA at slracac@stlouisriver.org or 733-9520.

More Upcoming Events

Since the mid 1990's, the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa has been researching and conducting investigations on approximately 1,450 55-gallon barrels dumped into Gichigami (Lake Superior) by the US Army between 1959 and 1962 in collaboration with the Army Corp of Engineers (USACE), and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). The Red Cliff Band has a Cooperative Agreement with Army Corp of Engineers to provide an update to area stakeholders who also have a vested interest in this project. These informational sessions are open to the public. The Duluth area presentation will be held on **December 8th at 6:00 pm at the Duluth Public Library**. For more information, contact Gary DeFoe, project manager at gary.defoejr@redcliff-nsn.gov, 715-779-3650 or Frank Koehn at frankjkoehn@gmail.com.

The River Talks

Last November's Wisconsin Sea Grant River Talk has been rescheduled for **Thursday, Dec. 18, 7 p.m. at the Lake Superior National Estuarine Research Reserve Learning Center** (3 Marina Dr., Superior, Wis.). Bob Miller, a Lake Superior Ojibway tribal member, will present, "What's the Point? Ojibway History and the Unique Value of Wisconsin Point." Stop by Barker's Island for Bob Miller's talk and fresh goodies from the Red Mug Coffee Shop. For more information, visit the [NERR website](#).



New "Stories and Science" Website

The University of Minnesota Duluth and the University of Wisconsin Madison will soon launch the "Stories and Science of the St. Louis River Estuary" website. The site features interviews with people involved in the history and recovery of the estuary, "GeoQuests" such as iPhone-based games and geocaches that highlight key places and issues in the estuary, as well as science explorations on topics such as wild rice, fishing, and recreation. The site also highlights information on the many restoration activities intended to reverse environmental damage from the past. This project was funded by the Minnesota and Wisconsin Sea Grant Programs, with additional funding from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. The website is scheduled to launch on December 11, 2014. Watch the NRRI or MN Sea Grant Facebook pages for more details and the URL!

SLRA Membership Special Offers



SLRA Board Chair Bill Majewski is a skilled woodcarver who creates beautiful Piping Plover and Great Blue Heron carvings. Become a new member (or give an additional donation) at the new Piping Plover

PLUS level of \$250 to get your very own Piping Plover carving. Join

at the \$500 level and receive a Plover and an (adorable!) chick. Join at the \$1000 level



to receive a 1.5-foot tall Great Blue Heron. This offer is only good through the month of December. Join now on our website and get your hand-crafted token of River appreciation. These make great gifts; consider giving a gift membership at any level. Thank you to Bill and to all new and long-term members! All members now also receive a window cling to show your support on a window or car. You can now join online at <http://www.stlouisriver.org/get-involved/>



River People

Pat Collins has joined the Minnesota Land Trust as a Program Manager focusing on land protection projects in Northern Minnesota. Pat has a wealth of experience, having spent over 20 years with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, most recently as Regional Manager for the Division of Ecological and Water Resources. Pat's work will focus on protecting critical and sensitive shoreline, which is important habitat for fish and other wildlife. He will primarily work with



private landowners who have exceptional conservation features on their property and wish to protect their property forever. His new position is based in the Minnesota Land Trust's Duluth office. Molly MacGregor has joined the MN DNR as the St. Louis River Area of Concern (AOC) and Lake Superior Program Supervisor. This position provides strategic direction, management, and supervision for the DNR efforts related to the St. Louis River Area of Concern (SLR AOC), the Lake Superior Lakewide Management Plan (LaMP), and Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI). This position will help MN accelerate efforts to clean up and restore the productivity of the St. Louis River Estuary.

Molly brings an impressive career in natural resources including: Director, Mississippi Headwaters Board; Executive Director, Rivers Council of Minnesota; Watershed Planner, MPCA; NW Regional Planner, DNR; Continuous Improvement Coordination; DNR; and 10 years of experience as a contract development specialist. Her new office is located at the MPCA regional office in Duluth.



Kevin Beardsley has joined the staff of the Duluth Seaway Port Authority as the New Chief Financial Officer, bringing with him 20 years of experience in accounting, taxation, financial management and strategic planning. Beardsley succeeds John Kubow, who is retiring after a 28-year career with the

Port Authority.

A Two Harbors native, Beardsley, a CPA, has directed the financial operations of a handful of dynamic organizations in this region. Most recently, Beardsley has served as the manager of financial services at Midwest Energy Resources Co. in Superior, WI. Beardsley is excited to utilize his previous experiences from the manufacturing and utility industries in working for a Port Authority that promotes international commerce and that owns and manages multiple commercial and industrial properties.

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



Find us on Facebook 