

Mississippi Messages
from Friends of the Mississippi River

January 2012



FMR Updates

Seward Co-op SEED program picks FMR for February!



February is a great month to shop at the Seward Co-op in Minneapolis — all month long your shopping can benefit your river! Shoppers can donate to FMR straight from the checkout line by either rounding up their total purchase or specifying an amount to add to their grocery bill. For more information on the program, please visit [the Seward Co-op's website](#). Thank you, Seward Co-op, for this opportunity to spread the word about — and raise some money for — important river-focused work.

[Read more »](#)

St. Paul's Great River Passage plan enters public review



St. Paul's ambitious plan to remake its 17-mile long river corridor is beginning to work its way through a process of public review.

[Read more »](#)

What flood, storm or heat advisory? Check out FMR's fave photos of our smiling, stalwart 2011 volunteers!

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Lucky for us, our volunteers love a good challenge, because from a snowy Earth Day to sizzling days in the dry prairie, the 2011 restoration season was full of them. Undaunted, 1,314 participants helped restore important habitat in the Mississippi River Corridor at some 40 hands-on events, and greatly enjoyed themselves in the process.

See the volunteers in action, as well as many of the important native plants and beautiful places they help protect, in this engaging [photo album of our favorite restoration event pictures of 2011](#).

[Read more »](#)

Banner year for FMR conservation efforts

*Working to protect the
Mississippi River and
its watershed in the
Twin Cities area*





With over 250 acres of improved habitat, nine completed management plans, and another 105 acres permanently protected, the FMR conservation team did it all in 2011.

[Read more »](#)

RiverFIRST moves closer to reality



After a whirlwind year of design competition and community meetings, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board will be making official recommendations next month about what, where and how to move ahead with the RiverFIRST redevelopment of the Mississippi riverfront.

[Read more »](#)

Thank you, donors!

All of us at FMR would like to extend a heartfelt thank you for the tremendous outpouring of support in 2011. Year-end donations far surpassed our expectations and

more than met the level needed to attain matching funds. Thanks to everyone who contributed to our work, not only at year-end but throughout 2011. We couldn't do this without you!

Questions about giving to FMR or becoming a member? Contact Heather at 651-222-2193 x20 or hhaynes@fmr.org.

[Read more »](#)

FMR seeks Youth Educator/Program Assistant

FMR is seeking a flexible person who enjoys working with students, volunteers and community groups to fill a part-time seasonal position supporting our river and watershed stewardship and volunteer programs this March through November.

[Read more »](#)

Thank you to FMR Artist in Residence Peter L. Johnson



FMR would like to take a deep bow of gratitude and respect to Peter L. Johnson, who for the last year and a half has served as the organization's volunteer Artist in Residence. Peter has immersed himself in the wildness and the beauty of the Mississippi but also in the degradation and the damage. Peter's residency has been a collaborative effort to communicate FMR's mission of river conservation in a new and powerful way. Peter's work has been featured on the FMR website, at FMR events and at Peter's own gallery shows around Minnesota. Thank you Peter for your love of the big river and for helping us to see it.

For more about Peter L. Johnson and his work visit:
peterljohnson.com.

Mississippi River News

'As sediment flows downriver, resentment builds upriver'

In this excellent article, Pioneer Press reporter Dennis Lien explores the expensive and some say unjust burden placed on over 200 Minnesota cities – Twin Cities, suburbs and townships alike – to further decrease the amount of silt and soil they allow into the river. It's part of an important plan to reduce sediment pollution, which threatens to fill in Lake Pepin and choke the life from the Mississippi River. Problem is the biggest culprits – upstream industrial ag producers along the Minnesota River – get off scot-free.

"If you live in a downstream city, not only is your water quality poor, but you have to pay more because there isn't a requirement for reductions in upstream agriculture pollution," said FMR Watershed Program Director Trevor Russell. Read on for the full scoop.

[Read more »](#)

'Lake Pepin problem goes deeper than sediment'

When it comes to our current city-centric approach to cleaning up Lake Pepin (see above), economist and columnist Edward Lotterman doesn't mince words: "This is a case study in microcosm of the worst approaches to pollution abatement." In his December 21st Pioneer Press column, Lotterman highlights the need for improved nonpoint source pollution reductions from agriculture, and suggests one possible way to maximize river clean-up efforts while reducing overall cost: developing sediment pollution-trading credits.

"The challenge is to have policies that focus resources on the most cost-effective abatement measures first," wrote Lotterman. "A system of tradable permits would do this, even if it would be tricky to administer in situations of agricultural runoff."

[Read more »](#)

Whose View? From Where?

January 2012



Each month in [this section](#), we feature a photo from somewhere along the river corridor in the Twin Cities that is in some way significant, important, or just plain scenic. Individuals may then e-mail us and identify the view and explain why they believe it is significant to the community or important to them personally.

[Read more »](#)

November/December 2011 Answer



Well, we finally stumped you. Despite a couple subtle hints, nobody correctly guessed last month's *Whose View? From Where?* location.

[Read more »](#)

Phenology

Turnaround time: River Rats report!

For eight-plus years we've been dispensing phenological wisdom, but we think you're ready to spread your own wings. Consider the tables turned – we want to hear from you! Let us know what you're observing in the natural world and we'll publish your observations in upcoming Mississippi Messages.

[Read more »](#)

Supporting FMR

Monthly giving – steady support invaluable in tougher times

If you listen to MPR you've likely heard about the value of monthly giving as a way to support your favorite nonprofits. More organizations than ever are playing up the value of monthly giving, and here's why: it's convenient, it makes it easier to make a larger annual contribution than you otherwise could, and provides FMR (or any nonprofit) with a reliable, steady source of revenue. This steadiness of gifts enables us to be more thoughtful and strategic, resulting in greater tangible benefits for you, your community, and your local land and water resources.


Contact Heather at 651-222-2193 x20 or hhaynes@fmr.org.


[Read more »](#)

Quote of the Month

“A thing is right only when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability and beauty of the community; and the community includes the soil, water, fauna and flora, as well as the people.”

- Aldo Leopold, *A Sand County Almanac*, 1949

<p>Mississippi Messages is a twice-monthly e-mail update distributed by Friends of the Mississippi River to help our members and subscribers stay informed on issues, FMR events, and opportunities related to the Mississippi River in the Twin Cities area.</p> <p>All subscribers' names and e-mail addresses are kept confidential.</p> <p>Original contents copyright 2012, Friends of the Mississippi River</p> <p>http://www.fmr.org</p>		

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