

# Newsletter

www.FriendsOfWildRiver.org



info@FriendsOfWildRiver.org



651-583-2923

## SEEGWAN Spring Celebration!

See Page 6 for complete listing of activities.

June 14, 7:30 am – 4 pm

## New Investments by the Friends

By Brad Bjorklund, **NEW** Vice-President of the Friends



Being a small and agile non-profit organization serving the public through activities at Wild River State Park can be a challenge when there are so many believers. To provide long term support for the park through volunteer activities, the Friends this spring set up two funds with the St. Croix Valley Foundation, in the amount of \$10,000 each. With the Foundation managing these investments we can better devote time to doing activities at the Park rather than money management. The income from these funds will be spent annually upon park activities that the public wants and may not be fully supported through State budgets.

The Barbara Ledbetter Nelson Memorial Fund follows Barb's donation of the Park Library established upon her demise. Her surviving husband Stan is responsible for the second fund. Its income will be similarly used but may also be invested in bigger important projects when they come. Both of these funds are open to new donations. Please contact me at [poipubeach@aol.com](mailto:poipubeach@aol.com) if you would like to contribute.

It is through continuing dues and exceptional donations like these that the Friends is able to greatly amplify activities at the park for children and for adults. Friends also coordinates many hours of volunteers to lend activities greater depth, meaning and appreciation. Our fingers go deep into the fabric of the Park. We love it!

### More Wild River Trivia!

The mouth of Goose Creek has a statewide geographic distinction. What is it?

#### Hints:

- #1: It is paired with another Minnesota geographic location to complete this distinction.
- #2: The paired location is about 175 miles away.

**Answer on page 6.**

From the **NEW** President:

## Valuing and Supporting Wild River State Park

By Tom Dickhudt, Friends of Wild River State Park



In recent years there has been publicity about the new park that has been approved by the State of Minnesota: Lake Vermillion. At a recent farmers market day a person expressed to me how terrible it was that land that could be opened to development was being wasted on another state park. As depressing as this opinion was, it did cause me to think about the wonderful resource our state park system is and how we sometimes take the parks for granted. Our people in the past and also in the present have continually valued parks for all people rather than using these areas only for the few with money.

Wild River State park has been special to me in that it is a part of the preservation of a very special river. As a young boy I spent many hours on the river and as an adult I can share that river with my grandchildren in pretty much the same condition as it was fifty years ago. The park is also special in that it showcases the joining of the woodland region to the east and the prairie region to the west. Visitors can experience the plants, birds and animals found in the woodlands as well as those from the western prairies. Through the efforts of park staff and Friends of Wild River volunteers the natural environments are in a continual state of restoration.

Many of the park special activities are projects sponsored by the Friends group. It is a goal of the Friends board of directors to offer more opportunities for involvement by Friends members. In order to facilitate this and be more efficient, we have set up committees that you are encouraged to join – see the article on page 4. We could really use your help and ideas!

### WHERE IS IT?

Do you know where in Wild River State Park this picture was taken? It's a bit off the normal trails, but is impressive in mid to late spring – **answer on page 8.**



## State Park Update

By Paul Kurvers,  
Wild River State Park Manager



After a long wait, I am pleased to announce the appointment of Mike Dunker to the position of temporary park naturalist at Wild River. Mike will begin his duties at the Park on May 22 and his appointment will end on October 31st, 2014. Most recently Mike has served as the area naturalist for two state parks and seven Scientific and Natural Areas in southeastern Minnesota. Mike has also worked for a number of years at Forestville Mystery Cave providing interpretive programming and services in the karst topography area of Minnesota. I have spoken to Mike about the Friends Group and he is eager to meet the members and begin working on cooperative programs and events. Make sure you stop by the Visitor Center on your next visit to the park and introduce yourself to Mike.

Despite the persistent cooler than normal temperatures, spring has arrived and staff at the park have been busy opening winterized buildings and preparing other facilities for the busy camping season. One large project that we plan on completing this season is the installation of 75 new fire-rings in campsites throughout the park. The new fire-rings are designed to provide added safety for children and allow for a greater degree of use for people with disabilities. In many cases, the new fire-rings will replace the original fire-rings that were installed over 35 years ago when the park first opened.

Staff has also been busy this spring conducting prescribed burns on three parcels of land within the park. After a burn things always look a little sterile and bleak, but I am always amazed at how quickly these charred landscapes transform themselves into lush greenery within just a few weeks. These burns are an essential tool to help restore and maintain the prairie and savannah communities in the park which provide critical habitat for many rare, threatened, or special concern plant and animal species.



Spring is a wonderful time, so I encourage you to take advantage of this time period to visit the park with family or friends and enjoy the wonderful sights and sounds of the season.

## Our New Naturalist – Mike Dunker – in his own words



It started years ago on a dark and stormy night...

Originally from Mountain Lake, MN, I grew up on a rural five acre home where I spent much of my time outdoors in Southwestern Minnesota. Camping, hunting and fishing as a child with my family made an impact on me and my "I wanna be when I grow up" was a nature related career. I graduated from Mankato State University with a bachelor's degree in Biology: Ecology emphasis and a minor in Parks, Recreation and Leisure Services.

I have worked as a naturalist for over ten years. My first permanent, year-round interpretive job was working for the Prairie Ecology Bus which traveled up to 25 counties in Southwestern Minnesota. We picked up students and groups from schools and communities and brought them to a nature area such as a state park or wildlife management area for programs. Since then I have worked at Forestville/Mystery Cave State Park as the lead naturalist for five seasons. Before coming to Wild River State Park, I served in a temporary pilot position working with two state parks and seven Scientific and Natural Areas in the southeast bluffland area of the state.

I enjoy kayaking and hiking on my down time and camping when I get the opportunity. I look forward to coming to the St. Croix Valley and sharing the amazing resources that the park holds.

## Species Spotlight

### Henslow's Sparrow

(*Ammodramus henslowii*)



(Photo taken in the Park in Spring 2013 by Rubin Stenseng)

**Mn DNR Status:** Endangered

**Description:** Small sparrow with distinct olive-brown head. This is a very secretive bird that is almost impossible to find unless one can locate it by its song. Requires high quality grasslands with small shrubs.

**Notes:** The population of this species has declined significantly in recent decades due to loss of habitat to development. First heard in the Park by Dave Crawford in 2003 and several (up to 6) singing males have been found in the Park each year since then. Amador Prairie is their preferred location in the Park -- another sign that the Prairie Care program is truly having an impact by bringing back the native grassland habitat that this endangered species requires to survive and prosper. Through active resource management (such as using prescribed burns in the prairie), Park Management is continually working to ensure that this and other species have the best possible habitat available to them in Wild River State Park.

-- by Rubin Stenseng

## Spying on Snakes, Finding Old Friends

-- by Dave Crawford, former Park Naturalist and current active Volunteer and Friends Board member



Wild River's snake research project is continuing this year with some new twists. We have two bullsnakes that are now carrying radio transmitters under their skin, which allows us to "spy" on them much more effectively than I did in 2012, when I could only find out what a snake was up to by following it – for three and a half hours, in one case. Now, if we want to know where one of our two "on-air" snakes are, we home in with a special receiver and antenna and can usually walk right up to them.

Another new phenomenon is that, at least so far in 2014, we're finding a lot of the same snakes we've seen in previous years. How do we know that? I've compiled a photo catalog of past observations, and it's possible to match photos of snakes taken this year with photos in the catalog and say definitely whether we've seen a particular individual bullsnake before or not. A more sure-fire identification method is to inject a rice-grain-sized microchip under each snake's skin. When we catch a snake, the first think we do is scan it to see if it has a chip.

So why are we seeing more previously-seen individuals this year compared to other years? Well, the photo catalog gets more individuals in it every year, and the number of snakes with microchips increases every year too. Nevertheless, we still may only have seen or chipped a small percentage of the total snake population. Plus, new bullsnakes hatch every year. Females can lay anywhere from 3 to 24 eggs. Most of them hatch and, while a lot of the new hatchlings get eaten by other predators, many survive their first year.

Some of them grow surprisingly fast. One of "our" snakes, photographed and microchipped in 2012 when he was a 35 inch long juvenile-going-on-adult, is 62 inches long this spring, and he's more than tripled his weight. All bullsnakes in the catalog get an alias so it's easier to remember them. This snake's alias is "Heart". His markings have remained almost unchanged despite all the times he has shed his skin to accommodate this growth spurt.



Heart in 2012



Heart in 2014

Other "old-timer" snakes seen so far this spring are Channel, Trickle2 (who had the starring role in my 2013 video of how bullsnakes dig new burrows), and Cheerio, as well as our two radio-tracked snakes, Elle and Par1. Elle is famous for making a longer trek than we thought a bullsnake would ever make in this environment. In mid-2013 she disappeared from the park. She was discovered three days later a mile and a half away, living in a pasture and apparently dining happily on the large population of 13-lined ground squirrels there. Bullsnakes are amazingly good at reducing rodent numbers. Elle may have accounted for several ground squirrels each week. By doing this, she helped out farmers who would otherwise have had an unrestricted population of rodents gnawing on their crops. Elle came back to the park in the fall, and we'll be watching again this summer to see if she repeats her trek.



Bullsnae on a Park road – Please Brake For Snakes!

We will add two more radio tracked snakes this year. We want to get a better idea of which habitats are most important for bullsnakes, and how likely it is that they spend part of their time outside the park, where they are not as well protected. Bullsnae numbers have been falling all across the Midwest as natural grassland habitat is eliminated to make way for houses, yards, roads, and cultivated cropland.

You can help Wild River State Park with this snake research! With up to four snakes to radio track every day of the week, we need volunteers we can train in radio tracking techniques, so that we have enough people to document where the snakes move to each day. It's fascinating work if you enjoy being out in nature, being off-trail, and contributing to knowledge about uncommon species.

We can also use help from virtually any park visitor, even on a one-time basis. If you see a snake in the park, and you're willing to get good photos or even close-ups and get them to me, you will add greater detail to our database of which snakes are at what spots in the park at what times of the year. I'm happy to train volunteers how to get good photos and how to document location and other information. To obtain training and go off-trail in search of snakes, you must be willing to sign a volunteer agreement in which, among other things, you promise to abide by MN DNR regulations on keeping locations of snakes private outside the DNR.

If you're a park neighbor, we can also use your help in getting information about bullsnakes you observe on your property. I had one neighbor send me photos of a bullsnae on his property last year, and I was able to identify it from his photos as a snake I had cataloged in the park the previous year.

Perhaps the biggest help you can give when you visit the park is to "Brake For Snakes". In 2013 we documented 27 bullsnakes, mostly young ones, killed by vehicles on roads. We think the actual number of dead snakes before they could be documented. Dozens of snakes of other species were also found run over. Drive slowly and safely, and watch the road ahead for snakes.

Finally, if you're interested in photos, videos, or other information, here are a couple of places to check: Snakebook, [www.facebook.com/snakebookresearch](http://www.facebook.com/snakebookresearch), has hundreds of photos of individuals from this research project, plus dozens of videos. My Minnesota Conservation Volunteer magazine article on bullsnakes is online at <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/mcvmagazine/issues/2013/jul-aug/serpentine.html>. The Minnesota DNR has an information page on bullsnakes at <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/rsg/profile.html?action=elementDetail&selectedElement=ARADB26020>.

Please contact me at [naturalistdave@hotmail.com](mailto:naturalistdave@hotmail.com) with any questions or reports.



Elle



Cheerio



Trickle2

## Friends Welcome NEW Board Officers!

-- by Elizabeth Huselid, Friends Board and Communications Committee member



As an active and continually changing board of "Friends" comes together, we place importance on becoming a group not only caring about the mission of Wild River State Park, but an organized and well-maintained Board for our membership. With that, come changes, i.e. updated by-laws, new programming and structure, and new commitments for leadership roles. Enjoy learning a little bit about Friends of Wild River State Park's newest board officers:

### President - Tom Dickhudt



*Hometown:* Schafer

*Wild River Friends Membership since:* 2000

*Board Committee:* Seegwan/Native Plant Sale

*Favorite place or thing to do at the park:* The visitor center - a great resource and interesting displays with friendly volunteers and staff. A great view of the river

*Hopes for WRSP:* To maintain a full-time naturalist position and expand relationships with area schools.

*Hopes for membership:* Getting more of our members included in Friends' Projects.

### Vice President – Brad Bjorklund



*Hometown:* Taylors Falls

*Wild River Friends Membership since:* 2012

*Board Committee:* WRSP 5K Run

*Favorite place or thing to do at the park:* Being alone looking for golden ragwort on the "loop" and finding marvelous new things like moths never before seen, edible mushrooms, a cougar kill and

lupine for our future population of Karner Blue butterflies.

*Hopes for WRSP:* To bring understanding of things natural and our tendency to have a negative influence upon them.

*Hopes for membership:* To bring popular envy for the quality and character of our members and our services so more will want to join an elite group, AND humor. ☺

### Secretary - Jeske Noordergraaf



*Hometown:* Sunrise

*Wild River Friends Membership since:* 2012

*Favorite place or thing to do at the park:* I like to walk my dogs and go in the old entrance on River Rd. in Sunrise. The trail goes through a retired gravel pit and meets up with Sunrise loop. Beautiful pond and very quiet.

*Hopes for WRSP:* Educate people on how wonderful the park it and all it has to offer.

*Hopes for membership:* Get more people involved with our activities by inviting them to help with specifics.

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## Get Involved with Wild River Events and Programs Today!

Events and programming continue to grow and improve at Wild River, and the Friends Board has established committees in hopes to lighten the commitment and work-load for its board members. Listed below are the committees set for 2014-2015. ALL Friends members are welcome and encouraged to participate in volunteering time and/or expertise for any of the Friends supported events at the park. Work with board members to help plan events and share ideas to help enhance others' experiences!

Education/Outreach – John Eret  
 Wild River 5K – Brad Bjorklund  
 Seegwan/Native Plant Sale- Tom Dickhudt  
 Communications – Bob Kessen  
 Silent Auction and other events – Bob Kessen

Candlelight Ski – Dave Kozlovsky  
 Annual Mtg./Pancake Breakfast – Dennis Johnson  
 Political Action – Tessa Hill  
 Membership Database and Finance – Bob Walz

If you are interested in volunteering a bit of your time and expertise in one or more of the above areas, please contact Elizabeth Huselid at [ehuselid@gmail.com](mailto:ehuselid@gmail.com) or call 763-244-9195. We would really appreciate it, and Wild River will be an even better Park because of your efforts!

# Native Wild Orchids in Wild River State Park

-- by Rubin Stenseng, very active Volunteer, Visitor Center host, and Friends member



I think that for many of us, we tend to think of Wild River State Park (the Park) as a place to go for recreation and to simply enjoy nature. If we pause for a moment and look around in the Park, we will see that in addition to the recreational opportunities, it is a place of many and varied ecological habitats. The Park has hardwood forests, prairies, wetlands, floodplains, springs, a river, and other habitats. This diversity of habitats supports a wide diversity of plants and animals. And, while it may not be widely known, thanks to this diversity of habitats, five species of native wild orchids have been found in the Park.

What comes to mind when you hear the word "orchid"? What is it about orchids, in that almost everyone finds them interesting in some way? Words like exotic, rare, fragrant, refined, delicate, graceful, beauty, excitement, and wonder are often used to describe orchids. Perhaps you think of the large, showy orchids in magazine photos or at the State Fair. Many of those orchids have been bred to be exceptional in size, shape, and color. The native wild orchids on the other hand are, in general, not as showy as the cultivated varieties. However, some of the native orchids in the Park will rival even the most showy commercial varieties.

Here are the five species of native orchids that have been found and photographed in the Park as of Fall 2013:

- Putty-root (*Aplectrum hyemale*)**. This is an orchid of moist, deciduous woods. It has been found in only one location in the Park. The location is in the extreme north on range maps for this species in Minnesota (the furthest north in Minnesota?). A very interesting orchid in that the plant has a single leaf near the ground. The leaf appears in the fall, stays green over the winter and spring, and then goes away when the plant flowers. The single leaf and the flowers do not exist together in time, it is either one or the other. The flowers are small and inconspicuous, however, it is the leaf that you will remember if you see it. The leaf has a folded or pleated appearance with white veins running the length of the leaf. This orchid blooms in May-June.
- Large Yellow Lady's-slipper (*Cypripedium parviflorum var. pubescens*)**. This is an orchid of upland hardwood forests, in deep shade. This orchid has been found in 3 locations in the Park. This is one of the classic lady's-slipper or moccasin flower plants. Very showy and often blooms in a cluster of 10 or more plants. This orchid blooms in May-June.
- Showy Orchis (*Galearis spectabilis*)**. This is an orchid of moist mature forests and partial shade. This orchid has been found in multiple, widespread locations in the Park. This orchid is relatively short, maybe 2"-10" tall. The flower is a unique bi-color of pink/purple and white. This is the first orchid to bloom in the spring, blooming in May.
- Downy Rattlesnake-plantain (*Goodyera pubescens*)**. This orchid likes loamy soil under Sugar Maple, Birch, and Basswood trees. This orchid has been found in 3 locations. Where it is located, it is abundant with perhaps dozens or hundreds of plants. Another orchid with inconspicuous flowers but an unforgettable leaf. The leaf is a dark green with a distinct network of white veins. The leaf is evergreen and said to live for 2 summers and 1 winter. This orchid blooms in July-August.
- Small Purple Fringed Orchid (*Platanthera psycodes*)**. This orchid likes wet open woodland and damp meadows. This orchid has been found scattered across one rather large area. This orchid has a beautiful, colorful, and conspicuous inflorescence (the collection of many individual flowers in a single flower head). Another unforgettable flower. This orchid blooms in July-August.



While I have been compiling a database of orchids and locations in the Park, most of the observations and reports have come from staff and visitors. If you encounter any orchids while you are visiting the park, please be sure to let Park staff know of your discoveries. We are looking for more locations, and even better, we are looking for additional species. On the other hand, if you have an interest in learning more about the Park orchids or if you would like to do an orchid hike, let me know and I would be glad to share what we know about the orchids in the Park. In any case, please be kind to the orchids. Please do not cut flowers or take plants. We value these and all plants in the park. Let's make sure that they are still here tomorrow for others to enjoy.

For more information on native orchids in Minnesota, I recommend the following two references:

- Native Orchids of Minnesota*, Welby R. Smith, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, 2012, University of Minnesota Press.
- Orchids of the North Woods*, Kim & Cindy Risen, 2010, Kollath+Stensaas Publishing

**FREE** Park Admission this day

# SEEGWAN

**June 14, 2014**

*Celebrate Spring at Wild River State Park!*

- Audubon Bird Walk 7:30 am
- Voyageur Encampment 9 am – 3 pm
- Native Plant Sale 9 am – 3 pm
- Wildflower Walk 11 am
- Minnesota Raptors 2 pm – 3 pm
- Annual Prairie Seed Sow 2 pm – 3 pm



This year, celebrate with La Compagnie des Hivernants de la Riviere Saint Pierre, a group of characters that will take you back in time through their live fur trade reenactment!

## Calendar of Events

### June 7: Live Frogs

11 am – Noon at the Visitor Center. Get an up-close look and feel for Minnesota's native frogs with local amphibian enthusiast Randy Korb.

### June 14: Seegwan programs & Minnesota Raptors

See above for list of events. The Raptor program will be at the Visitor Center and will feature some live eagles, hawks, and/or owls!

### June 14: FWRSP Native Plant Sale

9 am – 3 pm at the Park Entrance.

### June 21: Legends of a Lumber Baron

8:30 – 9:30 pm at the Amphitheatre. Dwight Wilcox, local storyteller, will present a fun evening as Mr. Martin Mower - 1840s Lumber Baron.

### June 28: Incredible, Edible Mushrooms

1 – 2 pm at the Visitor Center. Leslie Jo Meyerhoff will share tips and tricks to mushrooming based on 10 years of harvesting!

### July 12: St Croix River annual Canoe Clean-up

Leave from Sunrise landing at 10 am, or meet at 9 am at the main boat landing in the park and be shuttled north. See article on page 7.

### July 12: Snake Behavior and Research

1 – 2:30 pm at the Visitor Center. Join Naturalist Dave Crawford to get an inside look at the daily lives of bullsnakes, and see his article - page 3.

### July 19: Extinction -- 2 - 3 pm at the Visitor Center

### July 26: Universe in the Park -- 8:30 – 9:30 pm - Amphitheatre

### Aug. 2: Herbs -- 1 - 2 pm at the Visitor Center

**PLUS: Oct. 11 is our 5K Run/Walk – mark your calendars today!**

Find more activities at [FriendsOfWildRiver.org](http://FriendsOfWildRiver.org)  
or at [MnDnr.gov/wildriver](http://MnDnr.gov/wildriver)

## Trivia answer from page 1

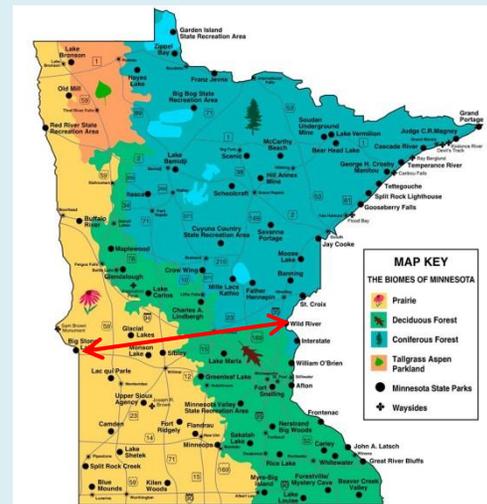
**Answer:** The geographic distinction is that the mouth of Goose Creek (on the east), paired with the south end of Big Stone Lake (on the west) is the narrowest part of Minnesota, between the east and west boundaries of the State of Minnesota.

Reference: "Minnesota's Rocks and Waters, A Geological Story", George M. Schwartz and George A. Thiel, 1954, The University of Minnesota Press, page 7 (and is in the Barb Nelson Library at the WRSP Visitor Center). Quote from text:

"It is narrowest between the south tip of Big Stone Lake on the west and the mouth of Goose Creek, north of Taylors Falls, on the eastern boundary."

Submitted by  
Rubin Stenseng  
Wild River State Park  
active Volunteer  
March 2014

See the **red line** on the map to the right.



## Friends to host Costa Rican Rotarians -- by Bob Walz, Treasurer



The Board has agreed to host the Rotary Friendship Exchange from Costa Rica on Labor Day, September 1, 2014. This past January, Costa Rican parks and Rotarians hosted a delegation of Rotarians from Minnesota and Wisconsin that included Friends members Bob and Jeanne Walz. This Friendship exchange grew out of a "Sister Park" initiative between 13 national parks in the Upper Midwest, including the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway, and 7 national parks and protected wildlife areas on the Osa Peninsula of Costa Rica. A formal agreement was signed last year between the government of Costa Rica and the National Park Service.

Wild River State Park has been invited to join this partnership. The Labor Day visit will be an opportunity to further that relationship. An organization, Tropical Wings, has been formed to promote it. The Costa Rican parks and partners held their first annual bird festival in March of this year as our "shared" birds were beginning their migration north. On May 3<sup>rd</sup>, Tropical Wings sponsored a similar bird festival here. It was called "Saint Croix Flyway Bench by Bench" and began with a bird migration celebration at the Phipps Center in Hudson and proceeded "bench by bench" up the St. Croix River valley from Carpenter Natural Center in Minnesota to Crex Meadows in Wisconsin. Wild River State Park may participate in the 2015 Bird Festival.

One of the goals of the partnership is to exchange information and learn from each other. To that end park professionals from here have visited Costa Rican parks and Costa Rican park professionals have come here. It is hoped that Rotary will sponsor a Vocational Training Team of park professionals that will enable 4 to 6 park professionals from both countries to spend a month or more in the other country learning and sharing information.

You can join Tropical Wings. Contact Jonathan Moore at St. Croix Scenic Riverway ([jonathan\\_moore@nps.gov](mailto:jonathan_moore@nps.gov), 715-491-6839) or Bob Walz ([walzr@izoom.net](mailto:walzr@izoom.net), 651-674-2587) to learn more about this opportunity, the Sister Park Initiative, and Neotropical migration of songbirds.

Neotropics are birds that breed here in the summer and travel to the tropics for the winter. One example of a neotropical that winters on the Osa Peninsula, but breeds in Minnesota and Wisconsin in the summer is the Golden-winged Warbler. The list of neotropics includes Orioles, Tanagers, Flycatchers and hundreds of other birds. Maintaining habitat for them in both Costa Rica and here is critical. At least 5 species of neotropics that breed here have been identified as "endangered" or "threatened."



*Golden-winged Warbler*



*Tropical Wings logo*

## Cleanup Our St. Croix on July 12

The Friends announce their 4th annual St. Croix River canoe trip and cleanup scheduled for Saturday, July 12th. We'll be cleaning the St. Croix River between the Sunrise Landing and the main boat landing within the park.

Seven canoes are available for free! Call 651-583-2125 x227 to reserve yours today. Bring a lunch, water, gloves, insect repellent, sunscreen, dress for all weather (we'll clean rain or shine, but cancel for lightning), and prepare for a good time. We'll meet at 9 am at the main boat landing in the park and be shuttled north to Sunrise. If you're bringing your own canoe or kayak, drop it at the Sunrise landing where a Friends member will watch it while you drive your vehicle to the take-out at the main landing then take our shuttle back. If you're not up for canoeing, we can always use help cleaning the landings!

This event is open to all Friends members and anyone else interested in canoeing and cleaning the river. It is part of the St. Croix River Association's River Awareness and Cleanup Week, July 12-20. Watch your local newspapers and the SCRA's website at [www.stcroixriverassociation.org](http://www.stcroixriverassociation.org) for other River Awareness events.

Thank you for your  
Membership

## FWRSP Membership Options

- Junior **Friend, 12 and under** – \$5 / year  
*Includes an "Action Guide" and other benefits*
- Individual **Friend** – \$20 / year
- Family **Friend** – \$35 / year
- Silver **Friend** – \$50 / year
- Gold **Friend** – \$100 / year
- Platinum **Friend** – \$250+ / year  
*Add an additional \$10 and be a member of  
Parks and Trails Council of Minnesota*

Name:			
Address:			
City:			
State:		Zip:	
Email:	<i>We will never sell or trade your email address</i>		

**Option 1:** Mail above with check to:  
 Friends of Wild River State Park  
 c/o Bob Walz, Treasurer  
 39168 Riverside Ct.  
 North Branch, MN 55056

**Option 2:** Sign-up Online and use your credit card:  
[www.FriendsOfWildRiver.org](http://www.FriendsOfWildRiver.org)

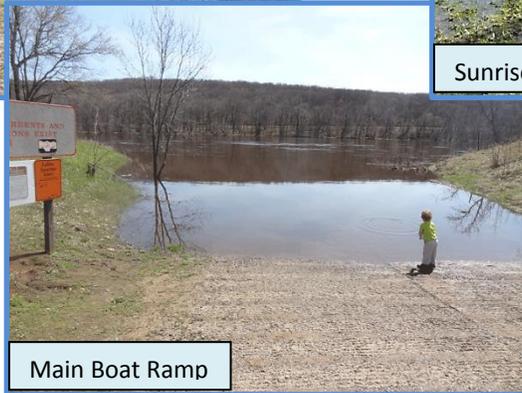
### Recent high water at the Park (May 10)



Amiks Creek



Sunrise Picnic



Main Boat Ramp



Sunrise R. – St. Croix

### Answer to **WHERE IS IT?**

#### The Sunrise River near the St. Croix

This unmarked overlook is of the largest river in the park, other than the St. Croix. It's the Sunrise River and is about a half mile or so from where it enters the St. Croix. After you leave the town of Sunrise and turn right on the road to the park, there will be a small cemetery. Shortly after it you can see the Sunrise River on the right, but it's also about 40-50 feet below you where it cuts through the prairie bluff. Also, the Sunrise area of the park has a nice picnic area, boat ramp and trail access.



Photo by Bob Kessen – 5/10/2014



It's here

**INVITE YOUR FRIENDS!** If you know anyone passionate about supporting our State Parks and Trails and is interested in enhancing their experiences at Wild River State Park, invite them to join the Friends! All new members will receive local perks including a FREE wine tasting at neighboring Wild Mountain Winery, a complimentary coffee at Almelund Mercantile, and a FREE tasty cone at Rod's Country Corner.

**WELCOME NEW FRIENDS:**  
**Margie Dahlof, Plymouth**  
**Thomas H. Clarke, Minneapolis**  
**Georgia & Andy Lane, Minneapolis**