



*Friends
of the
Platte River, Inc.*

Spring

2008

A group that exists to serve as a forum to address issues affecting the Platte/Little Platte River watershed and to seek impartial solutions that restore, enhance, and protect this valuable resource

ANNUAL MEETING!!!

Please plan to attend our

***2008 Annual Meeting
Saturday, March 8, 2007
9:00 am***

Dickeyville Community Center, located two blocks northeast of the Dickeyville Firehouse on East Ave.

- **Featured Speaker:** *Jeff Hastings* with *Trout Unlimited* to discuss project ideas for improving the watershed and fish habitat.
- 2007 Year-in-Review and upcoming plans.
- Vote for our 2008 Board of Directors.

of Natural Resources for the purpose of forming the Friends of the Platte River group and identifying a mission and plan for the group. The following is a partial list of the accomplishments of the group over the course of the grant:

1. Hired part-time coordinator to organize the Friends of the Platte River, Inc.
2. Filed for Wisconsin nonstock corporation status-Chapter 181.
3. Friends of the Platte River, Inc. received 501(c)(3) federal nonprofit status as a public charity.
4. Completed and filed Bylaws, Articles of Incorporation, and Conflict of Interest statement.
5. Elected Board of Directors.
6. Formalized membership roster with over 30 dues-paying members.
7. Sought and received guidance and model for startup of a watershed organization from Upper Sugar River Watershed organization.

***Successful Completion of DNR
River Planning Grant***

In July 2006, Southwest Badger Resource Conservation and Development Council sponsored a group of concerned citizens in applying for funding to start a watershed group for the Platte River. A \$10,000 grant was awarded by the Wisconsin Department

8. Assisted Jersey Valley watershed group in startup tactics through guidance and speaking engagement.
9. Performed Board of Directors training seminar with Wisconsin River Alliance.
10. Organized and implemented a watershed tour including visits to various working farms to spotlight various conservation features. The watershed tour also included a visit to Grant County wetlands and a fish-shocking demonstration conducted by Department of Natural Resources staff.



11. Sent executive director of Friends of the Platte River, Inc to Wisconsin Wetlands Association annual conference.
12. Received funding through assistance of UW Extension and Grant County to improve canoe trail access on the Platte River.
13. Created a position and elected a student ambassador, Brian Rogers, for ongoing relations with UW-Platteville student groups.
14. Organized workdays with UW-Platteville student groups, faculty, and citizens to assess canoe trail access points, locate river obstructions, and river cleanup
15. Applied for and received a second \$10,000 DNR River Planning Grant for 2007-2008.
16. Sought advice from citizens and stakeholders, and government officials on ideas and possible partnering opportunities
17. Worked with Grant County Parks Commission and UW-Platteville senior design students to develop a plan, design, and budget to address run-off and siltation issues and design park improvements at Banfield Bridge Recreation area on the Platte River.
18. Friends of the Platte River was featured as one of four successful Wisconsin watershed groups in Wisconsin River Alliance newspaper.
19. Held a public meeting with panel of speakers with over 40 people in attendance.
20. Held bimonthly planning/organizational/educational and board of directors meetings.
21. Organized a site visit and speaking event with US Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District
22. Created a website dedicated to Platte River issues:
www.platteriverfriends.org
23. Created and distributed a watershed pamphlet and quarterly newsletters.

- 24. Numerous articles distributed in local and regional print publications and radio.
- 25. Created a working strategic plan and ongoing goals for the Friends of the Platte River

Thank You Friends!

A big thanks goes out to the many partners and citizens who helped make this grant period a success! The grant required in-kind donations in the form of services and time supplied. The supplied in-kind donations amounted to over 300% the required value. In-kind donations were supplied in the form of professional services, legal and website development assistance, citizen's time to attend meetings, mileage to attend meetings and events, and use of personal equipment

FPR Will Help Pay to Test Your Drinking Water

Please watch your mailboxes for an invitation to participate in a subsidized well testing program for people in the Platte River Watershed sponsored in conjunction with Southwest Badger Resource Conservation & Development Council and our local UW Extension Basin Educator.

Well water samples will be collected at the end of April and tested for a reduced price for people in the Platte River watershed.

A confidential report of the quality of your well water will be presented at an educational program in May.

Quality drinking water is an important issue in the Platte River watershed and this is your opportunity to learn more about your water without involvement from regulatory agencies.

For more information about groundwater in Wisconsin, visit www.uwsp.edu/cnr/gndwater/

Important Dates to Remember:

April 27-28

Collection of water samples for the well-testing project, keep your eyes open for more information.

May 29, 2007

Informational meeting to learn about your test results from personal well samples

UWP completes Banfield Bridge Recreation Area Plan

At our December 1, 2007 Board meeting, a team of civil engineering students, Pat Gavinski, Brian Scott, and Pat Schultz from the University of Wisconsin-Platteville presented their plans for improvements to Banfield Bridge Recreation Area.

The students evaluated the launch site and erosion issues at the park and put together a very comprehensive plan to beautify the park and increase its useability which will be presented to Grant County Parks Commission as they consider future improvements to the Park.

The students are working on the project through the direction of Grant County Parks Commission with assistance from UW-Extension and the Friends of the Platte River.

Much appreciation goes out to these students for their hard work on the project.



Brian Rogers, student ambassador, and fellow UWP student take advantage of the frozen river to assess log jams on the Platte River canoe trail

Wanted: Your Stories

Everyone who lives near or has enjoyed the waters of the Platte River watershed for its beauty and recreation has a story to tell. We would love to read your story or hear about your ideas and inspirations in a future issue of the Friends of the Platte River, Inc. newsletter. Please contact us if you have something you'd like to share.

Join

Your investment in the Friends of the Platte River, Inc. allows you the right to help determine actions for the group, receive newsletters, updates, and invitations to educational events.

Your membership supports the very important mission of the group and insures that we will be able to continue applying for and receiving funding to work toward continued improvements in the watershed.

Thank You!

Membership Form

Sign up for:

<i>Student</i> _____	<i>\$10.00</i>
<i>Individual</i> _____	<i>\$20.00</i>
<i>Family</i> _____	<i>\$35.00</i>
<i>Municipality</i> _____	<i>\$50.00</i>
<i>Organization/Business</i> _____	<i>\$50.00</i>
<i>Add'l donation</i> _____	_____

Total _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Contact:

platteriverwisconsin@yahoo.com

website: platteriverfriends.org