



*Friends
of the
Platte River, Inc.*

Spring

2009

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

***2009 Annual Meeting
Monday, May 18, 2009
6:00 pm***

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

• **Featured Speakers:**

Brad Pfaff—US Congressman Ron Kind's office to speak about Congressman Kind's ideas for improving river health and river restoration activities in Southwest Wisconsin.

Hank DeHaan –US Army Corps of Engineers to speak about opportunities for local groups to make a difference in river restoration project with Corps assistance.

Laura MacFarland—Wisconsin River Alliance to speak about aquatic invasive species monitoring program in the Platte River watershed.

- 2008 Year-in-Review and upcoming plans.
- Vote for our 2009 Board of Directors.

***Banfield Park Boat Launch
Dredging and Improvements***

Look for improvements at Banfield Park this spring when using the park and launching boats from the landing. Late last fall the boat launch area was dredged and access to the landing area was improved. This work was completed through the cooperative efforts of the Friends of the Platte River, UW-Extension, UW-Platteville students, Grant County Parks Commission and Paris Township.



Friederick Excavating LLC removes accumulated sediments from the boat launch at Banfield County Park

Grants Received for 2009

Once again the Friends of the Platte River teamed up with Southwest Badger Resource

Conservation and Development Council to receive a \$10,000 River Planning Grant awarded by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for the purpose of continuing the work of the Friends of the Platte River group. The money will continue to support staff and overhead costs for the group, to support ongoing projects, as well as for the development of a volunteer water monitoring program to determine base-line water quality measures throughout five sub-watersheds in the Platte River watershed. Also the grant will help in determining a description of land use and ownership throughout the watershed and determining current and potential recreational uses of the river and public lands in the watershed.



UW Madison graduate student team—Hoi Lai Tseung, Cory Anderson, Megan Corrado, Benjamin Lee, and Dr. John Hoopes—collect field data for Platte River sediment study

In addition the Friends of the Platte River have been awarded a grant from Wisconsin River Alliance for the purpose of implementing a fundraising/ membership event along with supporting measures, namely the training for development of an in-house accounting system, and the development and printing of a membership brochure. This grant opportunity was presented as a result of the Friends of the Platte River's board of director's Organizational Assessment participation in September. The assessment event was presented by Allison Werner of Wisconsin River Alliance and took place at the newly refurbished Potosi Brewery.

UW-Madison Sediment Study

UW-Madison graduate students are busy finishing a report to study the causes and effects of sedimentation in the lower Platte River. Last fall UW students visited the site with civil and environmental engineering professor John Hoopes to perform field measurements and to assess the site. Results of their study will be available at the spring annual meeting.

UWP Students work on Canoe Trail

Ben Heidemann (student ambassador for the Friends of the Platte River) and other students from the America Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) on the UW-Platteville campus continue to assist with development of the Platte River Canoe Trail. Efforts this semester have been on determining access to the site of a large log jam on the river and contacting affected landowners for permissions and support. County Aids Grant money which has been obtained through partnership with UW-Extension and the Friends of the Platte River will be directed toward further recreational improvements on the river. Much appreciation goes out to these students for their hard work on the canoe trail project.

Making Connections

The Friends of the Platte River, Inc. is citizen watershed group with a mission to involve local citizens in efforts to improve the water quality in the rivers and streams of the rural Platte River watershed in Grant County Wisconsin. Involvement of the local

landowners in the issue of water quality improvement is of crucial importance to the group, as the conservation practices which landowners use on their land have a great impact on water quality.

Although many factors affect landowners' attitudes and actions toward conservation practices on their land, a major finding revealed by an Iowa State University research project revealed that many landowners generally lack a connection to the rivers and streams in the watershed. Therefore, they lack a socio-economic incentive to keep the rivers clean. Efforts to improve conservation behaviors are likely to be hindered by this absence of connection.

The Friends of the Platte River focuses our efforts on providing venues for landowners in the watershed to develop a connection to local streams and rivers as well as developing awareness and education of the issue of water quality in the watershed. This can be accomplished in part by increasing recreational activities in connection with the river, as well as providing educational opportunities targeted at river health such as getting people involved in river monitoring programs.

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*](mailto:platteriverwisconsin@yahoo.com)

website: platteriverfriends.org

