



*Friends
of the
Platte River, Inc.*

Spring

2010

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

*LET US BUY YOU A
DRINK...*

*We need your ideas for
developing future projects*

*Join us at Uno's Loft
In Platteville
for our*

*ANNUAL MEETING
and*

Project Updates and Raffle

*Thurs. June 17, 2010
6:00 pm*

(drinks and appetizers on FPR)

*River Spirit Exchange Partners
with FPR to address Aquatic
Invasive Species*

The Friends of the Platte River have recently been awarded a \$45,050 Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) grant from the Wisconsin DNR for the study

and control of the aquatic invasive species—Japanese Hops in the Platte/Little Platte watershed.



Becky Trewartha (right), Research and Programs Coordinator for the Friends of the Platte River, explains the pulling process to a River Spirit Exchange participant

Forty students and young professionals from throughout the Midwest and beyond descended on Dickeyville on Tuesday, May 18 to learn about Japanese Hops and to participate in a pulling event. The project was part of a three-day event organized and hosted by the Environment and Public Health Network for Chinese Students and Scholars, organized in 2006 and registered at the University of Wisconsin – Madison. The participants were involved in a camping and educational excursion in Wisconsin and Iowa to learn about working rivers and the

potential of rivers as a cultural catalyst. In the students' words, the River Spirit Exchange is a cross-cultural event "to share our knowledge about rivers inherited from our ancestors and to explore new experiences that will connect us for the future." The Exchange is a charter event for a people-to-people initiative called Rivers as Bridges that links the people of the Yangtze and Mississippi. Students from UW-Platteville and UW Madison participated. Other participants hailed from as far away as Harvard and University of Virginia Law School. About two thirds of the participants are from China and were anxious to learn about American culture, tradition and grassroots organization through this event.



River Spirit Exchange participants pull Japanese Hops

The students were treated to a lunch served at the Dickeyville Community center provided by the Friends of the Platte River with snacks donated by local organic farmer, Darrel Hinderman. Mr. Hinderman also served as a lunch-time speaker, introducing the students to the field of organic farming. The Japanese Hops pulling event took place in the vicinity of Mr. Hinderman's farm south of Dickeyville. Cotton gloves used for the project were donated by Theisen's in Dubuque.

The event served as a kick-off event for the Friends of the Platte River's aquatic invasive species project. The invasive species project

will also include a full-scale survey of the extents of the infestation throughout the Platte and Little Platte watersheds and exploration of eradication and control measures for Japanese Hops.

Friends of the Platte River:

Current Projects:

Platte River Water Trail—

Plans for developing a canoe launch site on the Platte River near Ellenboro have been completed and the permitting process is underway. Join us at our annual meeting to discuss possible future water trail projects.



Board member, Mark Sethne, shares water trail ideas at Ellenboro town meeting

Lower Platte River Restoration—

Engineers from Interfluv, a Middleton firm specializing in river restoration, visited the Lower Platte River on May 20, 2010 to discuss restoration options for this stretch of the river. The development of an task force to address solutions is currently being formed through the efforts of Interfluv and the Friends of the Platte River.

Past Projects:

The Friends of the Platte River is tax-deductable non-profit organization. We promote and develop partnerships with landowners, municipal and governmental

entities, sportsmen and conservation groups, businesses, and others that support enhancement, restoration and protection activity in the watershed. Our work in the watershed includes activities which promote or enhance recreation, education, conservation, or restoration in and about the watershed. These are some of the activities we have completed:

- River clean-up projects
- Dredging of Banfield boat launch
- Removal of large log jams on the water trail
- Completion of (2) public areas/launch site development planning projects with UW-Platteville groups
- Completion of Lower Platte River sedimentation study with UW-Madison
- Subsidized private well-testing for rural watershed residents
- Public water education event
- Public meetings
- Watershed tour and fish-shocking demonstration
- Aquatic Invasives Species identification training and survey
- Received over \$80,000 in grants to continue projects

We've partnered with Southwest Badger Resource Conservation & Development and UW Extension to receive and implement several Department of Natural Resource grants to support this work. We've also received several grants on our own to support projects. We also rely on your donations to keep this important work proceeding.

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:

- Student _____ \$10.00
- Individual _____ \$20.00
- Family _____ \$35.00
- Municipality _____ \$50.00
- Corporate Silver _____ \$100.00
- Corporate Gold _____ \$250.00
- Corporate Platinum _____ \$500.00+
- Add'l donation _____

Total _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Contact:

platteriverwisconsin@yahoo.com

website: platteriverfriends.org

*****Reminder:
Membership dues are payable
at or before the
Annual Meeting**