

Iowa Rivers revival



2012 annual report

Our Mission

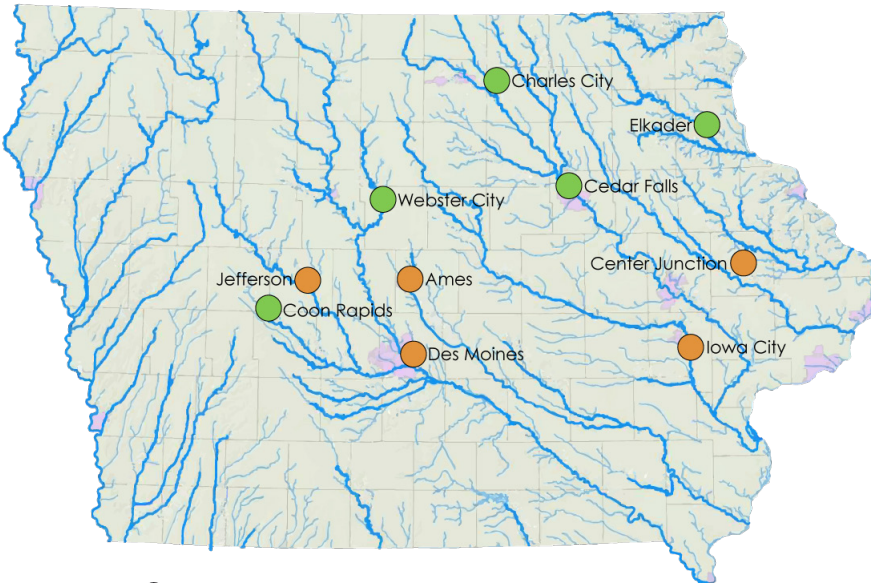
Helping Iowans restore, protect and enjoy our rivers.

Our Vision

We envision clean, free-flowing Iowa Rivers teeming with life, surrounded by diverse landscapes, and connecting vibrant communities.



Pictured from IRR's River Rascals program in August.



- Geographic locations of IRR board members
- Geographic locations of River Town of the Year award recipients

our history

In March 2006, a coalition of individuals, state agencies and nonprofit organizations sponsored and organized the inaugural "Iowa Rivers Revival" conference where the need for a statewide organization committed to river advocacy, conservation and education was affirmed. Following the inaugural conference, a dedicated, core group of volunteers continued to meet monthly to develop the mission and vision for a new statewide river organization, including an agenda of programs and priorities to protect and enhance Iowa's rivers. Iowa Rivers Revival was officially incorporated by the state of Iowa as a non-profit organization in November 2006 and received federal non-profit status in March 2009.

our philosophy & beliefs

Iowa Rivers Revival (IRR) is a statewide leader in river education and advocacy. IRR is committed to protecting some of our most precious natural resources: 72,000 miles of rivers and streams. IRR is working to engage individuals, organizations, communities and our government leaders in river awareness, responsibility and enjoyment in an effort to improve water quality and enhance the condition of Iowa's waterways, ensuring a quality, safe and lasting resource for future generations.

2012 accomplishments

Education/Outreach

- ✔ Organized River Currents "What's the Dam Solution," an educational forum that discussed common low-head dam dangers, and practical solutions and alternatives to address problems and opportunities.
- ✔ Organized "Cedar River Rocks!" with host Senator Bill Dotzler. Over 60 people participated in the event that included local presentations highlighting river projects and programs, a picnic, and an afternoon float down the Cedar River from Waterloo to Gilbertville.
- ✔ Organized "Turkey River Rocks!" with hosts Representative Roger Thomas and many local partners including the IA DNR, Clayton and Fayette CCBs, Northeast Iowa RC&D, Main Street Elkader, Motor Mill, and the Turkey River Recreation Corridor. Over 100 people participated in the event that included a program highlighting local projects, a scenic river paddle from Elkader to the Motor Mill historic site, and a post-float party with a locally produced meal and musical entertainment.
- ✔ Delivered IRR's River Rascals program for the 4th year in the Des Moines area in August 2012. Provided ten urban youth a unique river experience including instruction on paddling, water safety, river etiquette, river biology and river issues such as water quality and water monitoring.
- ✔ Participated in the Iowa Children's Water Festival for the 4th year in May 2012 and facilitated a breakout session with 5th graders to raise awareness about local water resources and our daily interactions and impacts.
- ✔ Coordinated and delivered the pilot Master River Stewards Program to 22 participants in the Des Moines River Watershed in May and June 2012. The program focused on riverine systems and skills, paddling and navigating skills, knowledge to restore aquatic habitat and improve water quality, and understanding policies related to floodplains, river protection, and river restoration.
- ✔ Outreach to media, stakeholders and supporters regarding economic benefits of investing in protecting and improving Iowa's rivers based on 2012 Iowa State University Study "Economic Value of Outdoor Recreation Activities in Iowa."
- ✔ Developed and promoted the Bikes + Rivers recreational concept — connecting bikes and rivers using existing paths, including rivers, roads and bike trails.
- ✔ Continued outreach to people and groups interested in rivers to increase awareness about river issues and recreational opportunities.
- ✔ Provided ongoing supporter and public communications about IRR and river related news, events and opportunities through e-News, direct mail, website and media.
- ✔ Increased and diversified IRR's supporter list.

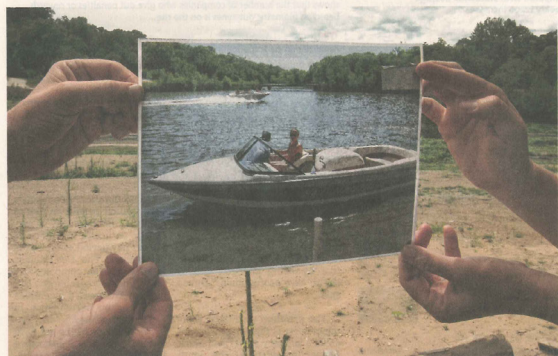


Gary Siegwath, DNR Fisheries "Big Spring Fish Hatchery" Technician, delivering River Barometers presentation during "Turkey River Rocks!" Photo courtesy of Larry Stone, Elkader, Iowa.



Master River Stewards participating in an IOWATER water quality monitoring exercise.

Voices & Commentary



Tony and Patti Ardovino of San Diego hold a photo from the past years of the view from her father's cabin next to Lake Delhi. It was drained after the dam broke. ROONEY WHITE/THE REGISTER

Will you help me fix my private playground?

The Lake Delhi dam should not be rebuilt with Iowans' tax money.

How would you like to rebuild my private water-ski lake for me? That's what is being asked of Iowa taxpayers by owners of private shoreline along the former Lake Delhi in Des Moines County in northeast Iowa.

Two years ago a Maquoketa River flood destroyed the dam that had backed up water along nine miles of the narrow river valley. The Delhi river impoundment was 400 feet wide, lined with private docks and vacation homes on both sides. There was almost no public access. The impoundment was used mainly by private shoreline owners as a playground for their jet skis, ski boats and pontoon boats.

Iowa View

MIKE SMITH of Des Moines is treasurer of Iowa Rivers Revival, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the protection of Iowa's rivers. He is a retired employee of the Iowa attorney general's office and was chairman of the legal committee of Gov. Chet Culver's Lake Delhi task force in 2010. Contact: mike@smithdwx.com

In late 2010, after their private dam was washed away, representatives of the shoreline owners met with state officials in the governor's office. I was present at the meeting where they introduced three "experts" they had employed to address the problem. The three experts were lobbyists. They have done their job well.

State funds were then used for an engineering study which estimated that rebuilding the dam would cost \$12 million. Now, the state "infrastructure bill" passed by the Iowa Senate, with the governor's support, would appropriate \$5 million to help rebuild the dam.

The case for public money to rebuild a private vacation lake has been propped up by the argument that if shoreline home values are not restored the state would have to pay more than \$5 million in the long run for local school aid. Whatever fiscal merit this argument might have ignores the fact that \$5 million would only be a down-payment on future requests for state funds to complete the dam and repeatedly dredge sediment from the lake. The "lake" is a silt trap because it is tiny compared to the huge watershed that drains into it. (See fact sheet at www.iowarivers.org, "The Hidden Costs of Rebuilding the Delhi Dam.")

The dam by itself is likely to cost more than \$12 million. For example, the engineering cost esti-

mate conveniently omits an expensive fish passage structure required by state law.

The cost of the dam will only be the beginning of continuing public investment in a private playground. The former lake bed is full of sediment from floods in 2008 and 2010. The \$12 million cost estimate for the dam also doesn't include money to remove sediment. The shoreline owners already have \$2 million in debt to repay bonds that paid for past dredging. There will be demands for public funds for future Delhi dredging as surely as there will be more floods on the Maquoketa River.

While the Legislature is ready to use Iowans' public money for the Delhi water playground, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has denied disaster relief funds for rebuilding the dam. FEMA granted funds to repair 2008 flood damage to the dam but later denied funds for damage from the 2010 flood and demanded repayment of funds previously granted. To date, appeals of FEMA's decision have failed. The homes along the former Delhi lake bed make up the largest unsewered community in Iowa. Some of the individual septic systems leak pollution into the river. As vacation home owners hold out their hands for state money to rebuild their private water playground, they have no plan to improve treatment of the waste from their toilets.

Iowa's rivers are important for our quality of life. Many Iowa communities are investing in the beauty of their public riverfronts. Some are taking the lead in removing or modifying dangerous dams to make their rivers safer for public recreation. Delhi shoreline owners are blind to the potential value of their vacation homes along a scenic river corridor. Instead, they want our taxpayer financial support for another effort to turn a free-flowing river into a poor quality private lake. Meanwhile, people who use Iowa's public lakes are patiently waiting for public investment in lake restoration projects.

The Legislature is poised to pour public money into the Delhi money pit, essentially for private enjoyment, while cutting funding for public lake restoration elsewhere. The Iowa House of Representatives has deleted the \$5 million Senate appropriation from a similar House bill, but that may be for purposes of negotiating with the Senate. The House and Senate may well approve the funding after negotiations in a conference committee.

Concerned Iowa taxpayers still can make a difference by contacting their elected representatives and the governor now with this message: Public funds should not be used to rebuild a private water playground for the few at Delhi.

Advocacy

- ✓ Successfully advocated for a \$1M appropriation from the "Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund (RIIF)" for the Low-Head Dam Mitigation and Water Trails Program.
- ✓ Maintained lobbyist representation for IRR and rivers at the State Capitol.
- ✓ Developed 2012 legislative agenda; support for continued funding level of DNR river programs and full funding of REAP, flood mitigation and prevention efforts and Iowa's Water and Land Legacy.
- ✓ Held the annual Legislative Reception, a social gathering for Iowa's legislative leaders and river supporters to connect about river issues and experiences.
- ✓ Met with Governor's staff to discuss legislative priorities for rivers.
- ✓ Met with the Director of Iowa DNR to discuss priorities and opportunities for rivers.
- ✓ Raised awareness about Lake Delhi's negative impacts to the Maquoketa River and water quality. IRR was successful in ensuring the Lake District met IA DNR requirements that address sewage, fish passage, access and future dredging costs in order to receive state funds to rebuild the dam and lake. IRR was unable to stop funding for the project.
- ✓ Submitted an opinion editorial to the Des Moines Register that was printed on March 30, 2012 "Will you help me fix my private playground?" that highlighted the negative impacts to rebuilding the dam at Lake Delhi and the benefits of restoring the Maquoketa River.
- ✓ Outreach to media regarding the benefits of investing in rivers. On June 27, 2012, the Des Moines Register published "River groups seek money flow" that highlighted the advantages of investing in river protection and improvement.
- ✓ Began efforts to explore the potential for a River Restoration program in Iowa.
- ✓ Provided legislative Updates to supporters about current legislative issues and activities.



Iowa's rivers are important for our quality of life. Many Iowa communities are investing in the beauty of their public riverfronts.

— Mike Smith, IRR Treasurer, Des Moines Register, March 2012



RIIF Bill Signing with Governor Branstad for \$1M for the Low-Head Dam Mitigation and Water Trails.

Organization

- Awarded a second REAP CEP grant to continue offering the Master River Steward Program.
- Continued the River Champions donor program recognizing contributions of \$250+. Over 50 donors were recognized as 2012 River Champions and received embroidered IRR hats in appreciation for their gift for program and operating costs.
- Hired at part-time administrative coordinator.
- Submitted the quarterly financial appeal to donors and supporters.
- Developed and delivered annual Major Gifts Campaign.
- Continued IA DNR contract for an Outreach Coordinator to deliver river programs.
- Diversified and broadened statewide board membership.

Iowa Rivers Revival Balance Sheet
As of December 31, 2012

ASSETS

Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Bankers Trust	13,732.38
Total Checking/Savings	13,732.38
Total Current Assets	13,732.38

TOTAL ASSETS **13,732.38**

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Equity	
Opening Bal Equity	9,060.51
Retained Earnings	23,533.12
Net Income	-18,861.25
Total Equity	13,732.38

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY **13,732.38**

2013 goals

Education/Outreach

- Continue to deliver and expand outreach and education programs across the state (River Currents, Rivers Rocks!, Master River Stewards Program, River Rascals, River Town of the Year Award).
- Continue outreach to increase awareness about river issues through events, activities, media and periodic messages to supporters and stakeholders.
- Strengthen IRR's network by identifying and connecting leaders and supporters within watersheds.
- Develop a program to significantly increase and diversify IRR's supporter and donor lists.
- Initiate supporter and public communications about IRR and river related news, events and opportunities through e-News, direct mail and website.

Advocacy

- Advocate for IRR's Legislative Agenda.
- Host Legislative Reception.
- Legislative Updates – IRR's lobbyist will assist in providing weekly updates about current legislative information to supporters, keeping them informed about river issues and providing opportunities to advocate.
- Identify river advocates in key legislative districts.
- Develop legislative and stakeholder support for an Iowa River Restoration Program.

Organization

- Hire additional part-time outreach staff and/or extend executive directors hours.
- Identify grant opportunities to expand programs and meet organization goals.
- Diversify and broaden statewide board membership.
- Redesign IRR website.

River Rascals Program

Iowa Rivers Revival's (IRR's) River Rascals program provides an opportunity for urban, under-privileged youth to begin to appreciate, respect, and enjoy rivers – an introduction and connection we believe will last a lifetime. The program is a new and uncharted experience for all of the children who have participated. The information and experiences they gain by the end of the course leaves them empowered and confident in understanding and appreciating the values of rivers.

The program takes place over six sessions, including three full-day sessions on the water in August. The curriculum includes information about river biology, river values, water quality issues, paddling skills, water safety, and river etiquette, as well as, inspires a conservation mindset by connecting children to rivers and our natural resources.



Iowa Master River Stewards Program

IRR is bringing world-class river knowledge and leadership skills to lowans across the state through our Master River Stewards Program. This comprehensive river course focuses on watershed awareness, paddling and navigating skills, river and stream dynamics, aquatic habitat, water quality and water monitoring, and policies related to floodplains, river protection and restoration.

IRR received \$22,690 from the Resource Enhancement and Protection Conservation Education Program (REAP CEP) to develop program curriculum and deliver the pilot for the Master River Stewards Program. REAP is supported by the state of Iowa, providing funding to public and private partners for natural and cultural resource projects, including water quality, wildlife habitat, soil conservation, parks, trails, historic preservation and more.



Support Iowa Rivers!

The generous contributions of our supporters have provided the foundation for Iowa Rivers Revival to address problems and solutions concerning Iowa's rivers and streams. The funds we have received have been used carefully and efficiently, and are essential to our growing awareness and statewide support.

Thank you!

River Champions are people who pledge to contribute \$250 a year, or more to IRR or to raise \$250 from others who can afford to help. Being a "River Champion" has the special meaning that you strongly support IRR efforts to mobilize Iowans to defend, protect, preserve, and celebrate our rivers and streams. It's a strong commitment to very important work.

\$2500 +

Fred and Charlotte
Hubbell
David Hurd and Trudy
Holman-Hurd

\$1000 +

Liz Garst
Rachel Garst
Susan and Richard
Heathcote
Iowa Natural Heritage
Foundation
Jerry Peckum

500 +

Mark Ackelson
John and Jane Baty
Central Iowa Paddlers
James Erb
Kate Garst
Nate and Vicki
Hoogeveen
Upper Iowa River Rats
Steve Veysey
Mimi Wagner
Kevin and Chris
Wilbeck

250 +

Ames Izaak Walton
League
Linda Appelgate
Alannah Atley
Steve and Rachel
Ballenger
Bob Brammer and
Marti Anderson
Hugh Clatterback

Phillip Delafield
Rick Dietz
Mark and Theresa
Feldman
Diane Ford
Robin Fortney
Chaden Halfhill and
Cosette Boone
Hy-Vee (MLK, DM)
In-the-Bag Catering
Iowa DNR IOWATER
Iowa DNR Rivers
Program
Diane Krell
Rosalyn Lehman and
Dana Lacquement
John and Naomi
McCormick
Edward McPartland
Michael Murphy
Michael Myszewski
and Martha James
Cindy Reitz
Robert Sayre
Lynette Seigley
Richard and Diana
Sloan
Brian and Ann Soenen
Stem to Stern
John and Sandy
Wenck
Denny Woodruff and
Avondale Animal
Hospital
Gary and Karen
Youngberg

\$100 +

Joseph Bolkcom
Allen and Deborah
Bonini
Don Brazelton
Susan Caley
James and Karen
Colbert
Mike Delaney
Mike Edwards
Marian and Sam Gelb
Richard Howard
John and Marilyn
Jordan
Mark and Amy Langgin
Robert and Connie
Mutel
James and Mary
Norton
Gerry Rowland and
Margaret Scott
Sierra Club, Central
Iowa Group
Connie Struve
James Throgmorton
Thom Tuttle
Greg Vitale
Don Wall

up to \$100

Mike Beck
CrawDaddy Outdoors
Yvonne Duggan
Barbara Eckstein

Kamyar Enshayan and
Laura Jackson
Jo Ann Finkbinder
Julie Fisher
Lisa Hein
Bernard Hoyer
Jo Ann Johnson
Pat Knueven
Mike and Jane Lamair
Sandy Lint
Patrick and Lisa Loy
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KJ Rebarcak
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Scheuermann
Melvin Schlachter
Virginia Soelberg
Larry and Margaret
Stone
James Urban
Wayne Wasta
Donald Wentz



TAX-DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTIONS: You can make unrestricted gifts or gifts for a specific purpose to Iowa Rivers Revival. Gifts to IRR may be tax-deductible. Please call Rosalyn Lehman, 515.724.4093 or e-mail rlehman@iowarivers.org for contribution information.

Iowa Rivers Revival
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staff

Rosalyn Lehman, Executive Director
Jenn Dreier, Administrative Coordinator
Todd Robertson, Outreach Coordinator

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Rod Scott
Allen Shaffer
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David Williamson



The growth and success of Iowa Rivers Revival is a direct result of the commitment and dedication of its supporters and volunteers. Together we can ensure cleaner rivers for future generations.

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For more information about Iowa Rivers Revival,
visit us at www.iowarivers.org