

# RMS Journal

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River Management Society

Supporting Professionals  
Who Study, Protect, and Manage  
North America's Rivers

## Focus: "Kids Today, River Professionals Tomorrow"

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RMS member Erik Wrede and son, Lukas—a steward in the making.

## Tomorrow's Leaders Are Here Today

Can we learn how to encourage  
future river professionals  
by learning about our past?

by Risa Shimoda

For over a decade outdoor recreation and conservation organizations, outfitters, and manufacturers of outdoor equipment have been seeking opportunities to grow the population of young people who spend time outdoors as baby boomers age. In addition, connecting children and nature has become a platform for government agencies, school programs, non-profits and civic organizations. While the No Child Left Inside Act of 2011 has supported new environmental education programs, more is needed to bridge our kids' worrisome environmental literacy gap.

RMS's mission is to support river-related professionals, so where do we fit in this 'get outdoors' movement? Well, one way we can help out is to partner with those who are not only introducing kids to water and rivers, but exposing them to the life's work of scientists, advocates, river managers and planners. We want to meet them when rivers have become important to them as consciously as is possible in one's tweens, teens and young adulthood, such as when they are evaluating options for summer jobs or college. We'd also like to find new ways to introduce those entering the work force to river profession options.

We thought it might be helpful to look at early river experiences and events that

have influenced us on our path toward becoming river professionals. In October, 2012 RMS conducted an online survey among River Management Society and members of partner organizations. We asked you to tell us about your first and 'next most memorable' river experiences, and to identify additional experiences that have played a pivotal role in your decision to pursue a river-related profession. The following may provide helpful insights if you plan river programs, develop products and provide services for river organizations. It might be worth reading only because it will remind you that we are here at least in part, due to a passion and commitment to the future of our nation's rivers.

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*The mission of RMS is to support  
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manage North America's rivers.*

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purpose of this policy is to encourage the  
free exchange of ideas concerning river  
management issues in an open forum of  
communication and networking among the  
RMS membership. Unless indicated, points of  
view are those of the author and not RMS.

## Executive Director's Eddy

There are so many programs driving  
awareness of rivers across the nation!  
Special designation opportunities have  
encouraged local, regional, state and  
federal leaders to seek and leverage  
special recognition for their river, water  
trail, or watershed and create strategic  
marketing, outreach and funding support  
for projects that otherwise may have been  
tough to patch together.

Federal programs include the  
National Water Trails System, National  
Blueways Program, National Blue Trails  
Program, and the National Blueway  
Recreational Trails Initiative (the effort  
to heighten the role of water trails in the  
National Recreation Trails program).  
Federal Wild, Scenic, and Recreational  
Rivers are supported by protection and  
responsibility for their respective types of  
river environments, as well (I am unclear  
about how these programs relate to one  
another, but expect that one day we'll see  
them diagrammed oh-so-neatly).

The reason for my curiosity is  
that as I hear about new designation  
programs, I hear about challenges to the  
underpinning of both laws and values we  
hold dear: we may be fiddling as a larger  
entity smolders. The precedent set by a  
court ruling that supports the US Forest  
Service's seasonal boating ban on the  
Chattooga and the potential de-designation  
of a portion of the Wild and Scenic  
Merced River are reasons to be sad about  
both the degree to which people have not  
been able to resolve resource utilization  
disagreements within existing constraints  
and the taxes that have been paid to  
litigate (for nearly two decades on the  
first of these issues) on the government's  
behalf.

The processes would be different if  
those who protect and promote use of our



nation's rivers are able to forge strong  
relationships outside of specific work  
projects, as happens (I'll shamelessly  
plug us) through RMS meetings, trips and  
online discussions. Just as it is easy to  
maneuver against and feel little empathy  
for an unfamiliar opponent, it is difficult  
to hate a river professional with whom  
you have engaged at a river-based skills  
workshop, problem-solved during a break  
out session or whose colleagues have  
contributed to a workshop presentation. It  
is really difficult to change how we engage  
in dialogue 'beyond our boxes' easily or  
quickly, but satisfying outcomes are worth  
the stressful effort.

The emerging, somewhat fraternal  
blueway, water trail, or blue trail groups,  
emerging to seek and leverage special  
designations MAY help avoid arguments  
and challenges that have led to drawn out  
battles, or challenges to long-standing  
laws. I hope RMS can be at least one place  
for dialogue and inspiration to members,  
and the public, especially young people  
seeking to pursue their interest in working  
for and on rivers...the focus of this issue.

See you downstream. ♦



Risa Shimoda  
RMS Executive Director



# From the President

## Rivers of Our Youth

My first experience with the power and wonder of a flowing river happened when I was nine. We were on family vacation, camped in a USFS campground, in a meadow along the Yuba River. I left camp at 5 a.m., leaving my sleeping parents and questing for a fresh grilled trout breakfast. Landing my first fish, I slipped off the grassy bank and into the slightly incised river. The bank was too steep and muddy to climb out, but that did not stop me from giving it a few tiring attempts. Finally I gave myself to the current, knowing that around the bend and below a small rapid was a calm pool with rocks where I would climb out. Thanks for the swimming lessons, Mom and Dad.

Last summer I went back to visit this place so well engraved in memory 50 years later. The USFS campground and the meadow are gone, sacrificed to an Interstate Highway project. The grass and mud bank where I fell is armored rip rap; the work of engineers who understand protecting roads from rivers better than vice versa.

Much has changed along our rivers. The river of my Father's youth was a wild Los Angeles River, meandering through the alluvium, creating sloughs and estuaries. Not the concrete ditch we see today. Not only have riparian conditions changed. The environment river managers work in today has changed as well. I remember as a young professional working with a nascent American River Management Society, we were all about big issues; recreation user capacity, boating safety, getting users to accept the use of toilets and firepans. We were both excited and struggling to deal with the requirements of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Invasive species were present but not really on our radar. Water quality was interesting but not our job either. Who knew that fugitive dust landing on snow would become a concern to river managers?

We have seen an explosion of knowledge in the last 50 years. More important than mere knowledge, there has been a growing appreciation of the holistic, interconnected nature of rivers. While there is still too much reliance on political boundaries, we know the river starts as a rain drop or snowflake and continues into the sea or Great Basin. Everything in between is of interest or concern to the modern river managers. The detail and complexity is beyond any one human mental capacity. We know we need specialists from a dozen or more disciplines to make truly informed decisions. That is a purpose of RMS, to bring together that professional diversity and communicate knowledge among professionals and the public. The River Management Society of my youth has changed just as surely as our nation's rivers have undergone change.

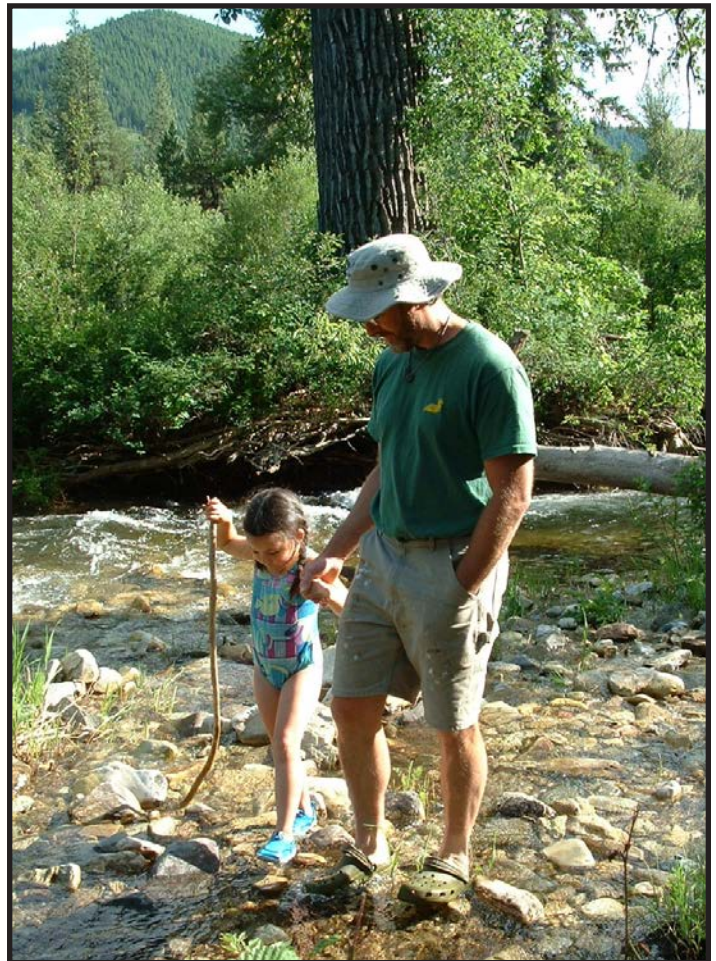
In March, I attended *River Crossings: Linking River Communities*. This was this year's version of the Interagency River Management Workshop combined with a research conference. It was jointly hosted by RMS and the Tamarisk Coalition. It was good to see the workshop expand its scope and work with other river professionals. It was especially gratifying to see many young faces of college students and newer professionals. As a group, they are bright, engaged and equipped with analytic tools and skills exceeding anything my generation

dreamt about. There are even engineers who know how to protect rivers from roads! I saw a passion for knowledge, a passion for rivers and infectious hopefulness. These folks would look at the Yuba River and not know my sense of loss. Instead, they would see opportunity for restoration and revitalization. The next generation of river managers are a great group we can all be proud of. We embrace them and the new fangled technology they bring.

It all starts with a kid in or on a river. Part of our job is to get them there. I will be working with a group of high school students this summer. They are a group hopefully destined to be the first in their family history to attend college. You can bet rivers will be a part of their education. They will get a healthy dose of math and science and the simple joy of finding connections on the river. I hope this summer you will all do your part to get kids interacting with nature in general and rivers in particular. There is no age limit on kids. When I was issuing river recreation permits, we charged a per person fee. Frequently people would ask if there was a lower price for children. The standard reply was, "Everybody on the river is child-like, so we charge everybody the child's rate." ♦

— Dennis Willis, RMS President

*Exploring Twelvemile Creek, Montana.*



# Congratulations!

## 2013 Annual RMS Awards

RMS presented its annual awards on March 12, 2013, at the *River Crossings: Linking River Communities* Conference in Grand Junction, Colorado. The RMS awards program is somewhat unique among professional society awards programs. Anyone, not just RMS members, can make nominations. Two awards, Contribution to River Management and Frank Church Wild and Scenic Rivers, do not require the recipients to be RMS members. The review process is a true exercise of peer review and recognition. An awards committee made up of the Executive Board Secretary and representatives from each chapter are responsible for all deliberations and decisions.

This year, all four RMS awards were well earned and presented. If you have the opportunity, we hope you will pass along congratulations to your award winning peers. Also, it is not too early to begin thinking about those you know who deserve, and would benefit from, such recognition. We do a call for nominations in January, but you can start working on award nominations anytime.

### Contribution to River Management – Roy Smith

The focus of Roy's career has been improving BLM's ability to manage and protect water resources. Roy has focused on building BLM's reputation, skill, and effectiveness in dealing with state governments administering water rights. He also focused on building the capacity of stakeholders to participate with BLM in dealing with water resource management challenges. He is the primary coordinator for the Wild & Scenic Rivers program in Colorado.

Roy has been the agency liaison to the Upper Colorado River Wild and Scenic Stakeholder Group, made up of more than a dozen public and private organizations. This group is striving to develop a management plan for the Upper Colorado River between Kremmling and Glenwood Springs, and wants to balance water supply needs with recreation and public use.

Roy continues to work with a broad array of stakeholders to develop an innovative approach for implementing the water protection provisions of the Omnibus Public Lands Act of 2009 as they pertain to the Dominguez Canyon Wilderness, located south of Grand Junction. Ultimately, the Colorado Water Conservation Board appropriated instream flow water rights based upon Roy's work. The Wilderness Society recognized this work on the wilderness water right by awarding Roy the Murie Wilderness Award in 2011.

One of the most challenging projects Roy has taken on is securing flow protection for warm water fish species appearing on BLM's sensitive species list. The proposal for protection of minimum flows was strenuously protested by some local



*RMS Award winner, Roy Smith*

irrigators, town governments, and by the county commissioners. The State of Colorado ultimately adopted BLM's protection proposal over these protests, noting that the proposal provided secure flows for the fish while still leaving some flows available for future development needs.

One of Roy's major commitments is to work with the National Training Center to build and implement training courses that teach BLM employees how to utilize state water right systems to protect and manage resources. Roy has designed and taught courses on the water rights systems of the western states, how to manage water-related rights-of-way, and how managers should integrate water rights issues into overall management of public lands.

### River Manager of the Year – Greg Trainor

From the drought of 1977 to the dry winter of 2012, Greg Trainor's 35 years of observing western Colorado water has given him an informed perspective on drought, water storage, conservation, climate change,





energy development, and protecting watersheds for drinking water supply. As an avid riverman, Greg spends much of his free time boating the rivers of the West. Greg has combined his informed perspective with his love for rivers to show great leadership in promoting and protecting natural and recreational water resources.

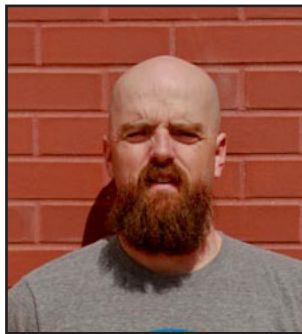
Greg is the Public Works Director for the City of Grand Junction, Colorado. Greg has great responsibility for protection of the city's water supply as it originates on the Grand Mesa, as well as protecting and restoring the natural and recreational values of 10 miles of the Colorado River as it flows through the city. Greg has worked hard with oil and gas development to establish criteria protecting source water and monitoring potential impacts. With his watershed context, Greg manages the city's water rights with an eye towards maximizing instream flows through finding alternate diversion locations and making agreements for reservoir releases dedicated to instream flow. Furthermore, Greg is coordinating restoration of the river front and improvements to river recreation access so that the community can build a stewardship ethic for their river.

As an effective manager, Greg recognizes and acts on the need to establish long-term partnerships to protect and manage the river corridor. Greg was instrumental in the creation of the Water Center at Colorado Mesa University, a descendent of the Mesa County Water Association. He is a tireless officer in the Southwest Chapter of the River Management Society, and Greg is president of Friends of Westwater Canyon. He presently serves as the municipal representative on the Colorado River Basin Roundtable.

#### **Frank Church Wild and Scenic Rivers Award – Evan Worthington**

As the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Boise District's River Ranger, Evan is responsible for patrolling and monitoring public use of the Owyhee Canyonlands Wilderness Areas, which contain 325 miles of Wild and Scenic River (WSR) designated in the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009. The 16 WSR segments that comprise the system are located principally within the beautiful and rugged Bruneau, Jarbidge, and Owyhee River canyons of Southwest Idaho.

Evan radiates a true appreciation for the natural lands and resources, and attracts people through his sincere and unrestrained enthusiasm for enjoyable river experiences. He works hard to ensure visitors enjoy a safe floating experience, while at the same time providing interpretation and instruction about Leave No Trace and land use ethics. A very recent example is a you tube video he coordinated with BLM Idaho in order to highlight river LNT(<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=edtcILKkM7I>). He exudes a passion for wild rivers and the natural environment.



Evan seeks opportunity and develops partnerships with high schools, recreation and environmental groups, local landowners, and other interested individuals to enhance understanding and acceptance of BLM's Wilderness and WSR management programs. He has established partnerships with two local high schools and with Idaho universities to promote education and awareness about these national resources. A partnership with one of the local high schools resulted in Metal Shop students constructing heavy duty steel backcountry directional signs that will withstand decades of weathering and abuse. A partnership with the University of Idaho has resulted in graduate Recreation Management students developing educational and interpretive materials and programs for grade school and high school students.

Evan worked tirelessly with United States Geological Survey (USGS) staff to establish and monitor stream flows on 14 of the 16 river segments that lack stream gages. Data gained from this monitoring project was used in December 2012 to file WSR water rights claims with the State of Idaho for each WSR segment. As part of this ongoing partnership, Evan will be coordinating annual Swift Water Rescue Training for USGS staff involved in river-related duties throughout Idaho.

#### **Contribution to RMS – Lynette Ripley**

Lynette Ripley currently serves as the President of the Northwest Chapter. In the previous term, she was the Vice President. She has donated many long hours to the chapter in her two terms of service and has accomplished much. She is also the first Bureau of Reclamation employee to receive an RMS award.



Lynette has been instrumental in keeping the Northwest Chapter the largest and one of the most active chapters in the organization. When chapter members were asked about donating an auction item to the symposium, they learned Lynette donated a very nice tent at her own expense.

She has built a young and energetic cadre with her new chapter members and has weathered a few storms when we lost a treasurer and had to recruit another. She was at the forefront of the ethical issues involving federal employees serving as RMS officers. She has kicked off a NW chapter membership drive that has already successfully gained several new members and brought some expired members back into the fold. She has been an active participant in RMS trips, symposia and River Ranger Rendezvous. Her service in these two terms has been exemplary and has provided an outstanding example to her young and enthusiastic chapter officers. Under her wing, this team will continue to experience great leadership and help grow the membership's understanding and recognition of the NW Chapter and RMS in general. ♦

*For more information about the RMS Awards program, please visit: <http://www.river-management.org/awards>*



## A State Park Success

*Youth kayaking at sunset — Lake Dardanelle State Park, Arkansas*

by Elizabeth Drake

Lake Dardanelle State Park's mission is to provide opportunities for people to enrich their lives and increase their enjoyment and well-being through outdoor recreation, conservation, and education in the park's natural, historical, and cultural resources. Lake Dardanelle State Park provides educational opportunities through interpretive programming that is offered to all park visitors and local schools. We offer weekend programs to park visitors, curriculum-based educational programs, and workshops for Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, as well as teachers.

We also hold 14 special events throughout the year. Our special events bring in youth not only from surrounding communities but also from surrounding states. Our special events provide many opportunities for youth to explore and create memories here at Lake Dardanelle State Park. Some of our special events include various outdoor skill camps, Aquatic Conservation Experience where campers get to spend the night with the fish, Eagle tours, National River Cleanup, National Public Lands Day, and many more. One particular special event that is held here at Lake Dardanelle every first weekend of May is Resource Rendezvous. Students from surrounding schools come out to the park to engage in several activities that are presented by staff from Lake Dardanelle as well as other conservation agencies. Last year we had five local schools with 500 4th grade students out in the park. Topics covered were: Leave No Trace, animal conservation, wild fire prevention, recycling, water resources and much more. During lunch the students were accompanied with some Birds of Prey from H.A.W.K Center, a highlight to the day of fun and education. The following day we held a bicycle rally for children 12 and under.

Lake Dardanelle State Parks offers four day camps

throughout the summer months for area kids ages 8-15. The parks different camps get youth excited about nature! The campers can choose from three different camps for ages 8-12, each three days are full of fun, recreation, and learning! The day camps for 8-12 years old for summer of 2013 will be: Nature Detectives Day Camp, June 12-14, Native Nations Day Camp, July 10-12, and Know Your State Day Camp, July 31-August 2.

Since we have youth who are still interested in attending our summer day camps but have reached the age limit, we now host a Nature Discovery Youth Camp for ages 12-15. This camp will be held on August 6-8 where youth will have a chance to continue or begin exploring and discovering incredible things about nature. All four camps are from 9:00a.m.-4:00p.m. Each camp will include kayaking and outside recreational fun. Art projects, special guest speakers, and programming will be focused on the theme of the three day camp. Lunch, snacks, and all supplies are included in the \$65 registration fee.

Lake Dardanelle State Park's day camps, park programming, special events, and school programs are a great way to get youth outside and explore the park and learn about our natural and cultural resources. Children get to do things they have never done before and making them feel comfortable and safe is always important, especially when campers are trying something new for the first time, like kayaking, touching a snake, fishing and even hiking. It is really about learning and experiencing nature and having fun! By providing educational opportunities through interpretive programming we can create memorable outdoor educational experiences here at Lake Dardanelle State Park. ♦

*Elizabeth Drake works as a Park Interpreter at Lake Dardanelle State Park, 100 State Park Drive, Russellville, AR 72802. Phone (479) 890-7479.*



# Deschutes Children's Forest

## Gets Kids Outside

by Katie Chipko

The Deschutes Children's Forest, based in Central Oregon, has a really fun mission – to provide opportunities for EVERY child in Central Oregon to get outside and engage with nature. In a unique model, the Deschutes Children's Forest brings together the health care industry, educators, natural resource and recreation professionals, and conservationists for the benefit of all youth in Central Oregon. The Deschutes Children's Forest is part of a growing national network of Children's Forests, funded by the U.S. Forest Service.

Our network of conservation education providers currently reaches over 8,000 students a year through field experiences with their classrooms. These experiences range from conducting stream studies along local waterways, learning about fire ecology at High Desert Museum, snowshoeing at Mount Bachelor and learning about winter ecology, learning how to fly fish as part of a fish conservation education program, and much more. Our vision is to provide many experiences for students in which they are inspired by the natural world around them to become a healthy individual and create a sustainable future. We also know that outdoor learning experiences not only help students understand the content they are learning in school in a new way, but also changes the dynamic within classrooms. "When we go outside it often helps me view my students differently, especially students who struggle to focus in our room, but are laser focused when we're learning outside," says one of Deschutes Children's Forest's



*Kids discover the world of river life through science inquiry and fun!*



### Teachers of the Month.

The Deschutes Children's Forest also believes that a lifelong relationship with nature must also be developed at home with the family. We are starting to offer nature-based activities and events that provide a positive way for families to experience the outdoors together. One such event was Discover Nature Day at a local community park which offered a wide variety of fun hands-on activities

including tree planting, animal tracking, meeting incredible birds of prey in person, stream exploration, fun games, and more. This event attracted about 300 people, mostly families who were excited about the opportunity to learn and play in nature together and with other families.

The Deschutes Children's Forest will continue Discover Nature Days in the summer of 2013, bringing free hands-on nature-based activities to neighborhood parks that are within walking distance of many families. Recognizing that for many families transportation is a barrier for accessing nature, we wanted to provide opportunities without having to get into a car and also to open people's eyes to the amazing natural spaces that are so close to home. These programs are a part of our NatureHoods initiative which connects local schools to neighboring parks creating "outdoor classrooms" where both schools and families can go to learn and be inspired by nature.

Youth are spending increasing amounts of time indoors and in front of screens, which health experts are warning is both unhealthy and addictive. The Deschutes Children's Forest seeks to change this for youth in Central Oregon. We strongly believe that time spent in nature is essential for developing

lifelong health and wellness habits, and for creating the next generation of stewards for public lands. Not to mention, playing outside is just a whole lot of fun! ♦

*To learn more about the Deschutes Children's Forest, visit our website: [deschuteschildrensforest.org](http://deschuteschildrensforest.org).*

*Katie Chipko works as the Deschutes Children's Forest Coordinator.*

# Paving the Path

by Marina Metes

My first day of college was almost five years ago, but it seems like just yesterday I was overwhelmed, standing on the colossal Michigan State University campus, nothing but a number among 35,000 other undergraduate students. I was lost – literally and figuratively. I had a keen interest in the environmental sciences, but beyond that I had no idea what I wanted to do with my life. I changed majors a handful of times, and was very happy with my final choice of Earth and Geological Sciences. But beyond that, I had no idea what I really wanted to do.

My very last semester I enrolled in a class “for fun” called River Systems and Landforms. I say for fun because I always loved rivers. Being from Michigan, I learned to appreciate the abundance of freshwater available to us, but also recognized the importance of water conservation. I think I was particularly interested in the mysteriousness of rivers, and how they seem to have a mind of their own, similar to myself, so I’ve been told. But I never knew that making a career out of studying rivers was even an option, at least not until this class. And it saved my sanity. Up until that point, I would have nervous breakdowns because graduation was nearing, and I still had no idea what I wanted to do with my life. I had learned about AmeriCorps a few years back, and thought this sounded like a valuable way to spend my first year as a college graduate. When I discovered that some programs specifically work with watershed groups to promote environmental stewardship, I knew I was closer to finding my path in life.

One day as I was scrolling through the AmeriCorps postings, there it was: the Appalachian Coal Country Team (ACCT). An AmeriCorps VISTA and Office of Surface Mining partnership, with the mission to assist rural communities impoverished by environmental degradation and its consequences in making their home-place-watersheds healthier places to live and work. The team spans seven Appalachian states and partners with nonprofit watershed groups to host an OSM/VISTA for one year of service, who works directly with community members to build local capacity, encourage environmental stewardship, and enhance outreach and education.

This was exactly what I wanted to do. Give a year of service to my country, help improve water quality, and work with community members to leave a lasting impact. I interviewed with the ACCT, and a month later I was packing up my life into my tiny Subaru, moving out of the great state of Michigan, and heading south.

My host site through the ACCT is the Harpeth River Watershed Association, a nonprofit watershed group in Middle Tennessee. The watershed lies just south of Nashville and spans six counties. According to the U.S. Fish and

Wildlife Service, the Harpeth is one of a very unique system of Southeastern rivers that together hold more biodiversity than anywhere else in the world! There are over 85 native fish species and over 40 freshwater mussel species in the Harpeth alone. However, these species are at risk because this area of Tennessee is developing very quickly. With a lack of education and/or appreciation for an ecologically and economically significant river, it is threatened by failing septic systems, stormwater and agricultural runoff, and sedimentation.

An astonishing number of people do not even realize that the small things they do on land can have a significant effect on water quality.

Actions like not picking up after their dog, throwing cigarette butts or litter on the ground, keeping a perfectly manicured lawn by fertilizing and mowing all the way to the creek, all have a damaging effect on the river. At HRWA, I have been working on a campaign titled “What’s in Your River and What’s in Your Water” to educate the public on the amazingly unique and important wildlife that we need to protect (what’s in your river) and water quality issues in the Harpeth (what’s in your water). Through expanding the wildlife education program, I have focused on engaging youth specifically because they are our future, and let’s face it, they are fun to work with

because how often do adults get really, really excited about bugs and fish? The first of a series of wildlife education events took place on a cold, cloudy day in March.

I was expecting a low turn-out, but to my surprise a total of 40 kids showed up to the event, eager to learn! They had the chance to learn about benthic macroinvertebrates and how scientists can sample them to test water quality in a creek. I brought a live mayfly, and all the kids enjoyed going through the identification steps. I emphasized that they were successfully

performing work that a real scientist would do in the field, with the hope that this nudge of encouragement will spark the interest of at least one or two kids. Another aspect to this wildlife education program involves teaching kids about fishing. According to the old proverb, give a man a fish and you feed him for a day, but teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime. Well, in my version of the saying, if you teach youth to fish, you are not only teaching them to fish for a lifetime, you are teaching them to enjoy being outdoors, and to appreciate the natural







*A child learns how to identify benthic macroinvertebrates at Wildlife Education Day along the Harpeth River.  
Credit: Jane Polansky*



**HARPETH RIVER  
WATERSHED  
ASSOCIATION**

beauty of this world. It is only then that they will find the same passion and motivation that I have found to make a career out of protecting this world for so many generations to come. More events are planned for this summer, and I hope to reach out to as many young scientists as possible.

My experience as an AmeriCorps OSM/VISTA has been very unique because here I am, fresh out of college only just beginning my river career, and I already have the opportunity to share my passion and energy with other young people. The idea of success in my generation is so vastly different than that of my parents' generation, and this sometimes makes me skeptical to take advice from anyone other than those who have only a few years more experience than I do. I learn best from my peers and so I feel that as someone who has been lucky enough to find a career that I'm passionate about, it is my duty to be a role-model for others who may follow in my footsteps. I may not be an expert in the field yet, but I am an expert at taking chances and failing, making mistakes, becoming discouraged, and most importantly, overcoming that failure and discouragement to find success. And that is what youth need to be reassured of most. I hope that through my year of service, my interactions with these youth have introduced them to some new and exciting opportunities. Just maybe, one of them will enter their first day of college and already know of opportunities that it took me so long to find. ♦



# Take Me to the River

by Dawn Nelson and Jan Seufert, Co-Owners, Higher Pursuits

“When you get down here and see all this, you just want to take care of it.” I happened to hear this as I paddled by one of my canoes loaded with three third graders and a teacher. The little girl sitting in the middle of the canoe was looking up at the bluffs of the river in awe. We were half way through a trip that was designed to put life into a science curriculum. It’s one thing to read about erosion, tributaries and meandering streams; it’s quite another to be in the middle of it. The young paddler’s comment has stayed with me. It makes me smile and feel good about what I’m doing, but it also makes me wonder how to get more people “down here” on the river—especially children.

I think the questions asked by participants are the most telling. When we speak to adult leaders of youth groups I know the questions will revolve around the s’s and the big B. The s’s are snakes, spiders and storms. The big B is the bathroom. We do our best to answer the questions with accurate information and humor—especially about the bathroom!

The kid’s questions are more fun: “Are there sharks? Are there alligators? Are there piranhas? Will the squirrels attack?” Considering that I’m located in Tennessee, the answer to those questions is always ‘no’—even for the squirrels. Once a group is on the river those worries fade and the more important questions come up. “What are these clams?” (*Actually they’re mussels and they are really cool...*), “Can we swim here?” (*Absolutely, we’re going to stop and swim at some great places...*), “Is that an eagle” (*No, it’s a turkey vulture but is really important to our river system and yes, we do have eagles*), “Is the river clean?” (*Yes! Our river is healthy and we know that because of the indicator species...*), “When can we do this again? Can I bring my parents the next time?” (*Absolutely, we hope you bring your whole family to river next time!*).

Information is the key to getting more people on the water. We are convinced that guided trips at a reduced rate for youth groups are one of the best ways to deliver that information. Children naturally want to play and explore. In our culture of sanitized play grounds and indoor electronics, rivers are some of the best places to be a child. Our most magical moments in life are the unplanned and unscripted. It is in those moments that



*Waiting for the students to arrive.*



*5th grade class learning to canoe on the Harpeth River, TN.*



*Nine-year old learns to paddle a canoe.*

*Photos: Higher Pursuits*

“In our culture of sanitized playgrounds and indoor electronics, rivers are some of the best places to be a child.”

young hearts are impressed and the seeds of future dreams are planted. Those moments happen more often outdoors.

We feel fortunate to be able to share the river with many young people. It is our goal to connect people to the natural wonder of the river, to teach people to paddle and to ultimately inspire children to “want to take care of it.” ♦

*Higher Pursuits is a for-profit organization located in Columbia, TN that provides guided trips on the Duck River; teaches classes on canoeing as well as managing a canoe rental operation. In 2012, Higher Pursuits provided guided trips to over 400 youth in Middle TN and have a goal to reaching over 500 students in 2013. ([www.HigherPursuits.com](http://www.HigherPursuits.com))*



# National Survey Shows Fewer Kids are Going Fishing

by Paul MacInnis

Every five years the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the U.S. Census Bureau conduct a survey of the nation's anglers, hunters and wildlife enthusiasts. Recently published results from the latest multi-million dollar survey show there are less kids fishing in America. Angling involvement among 16 to 17 year olds, the youngest ages to participate in the survey, is down almost 15% in the last five years.

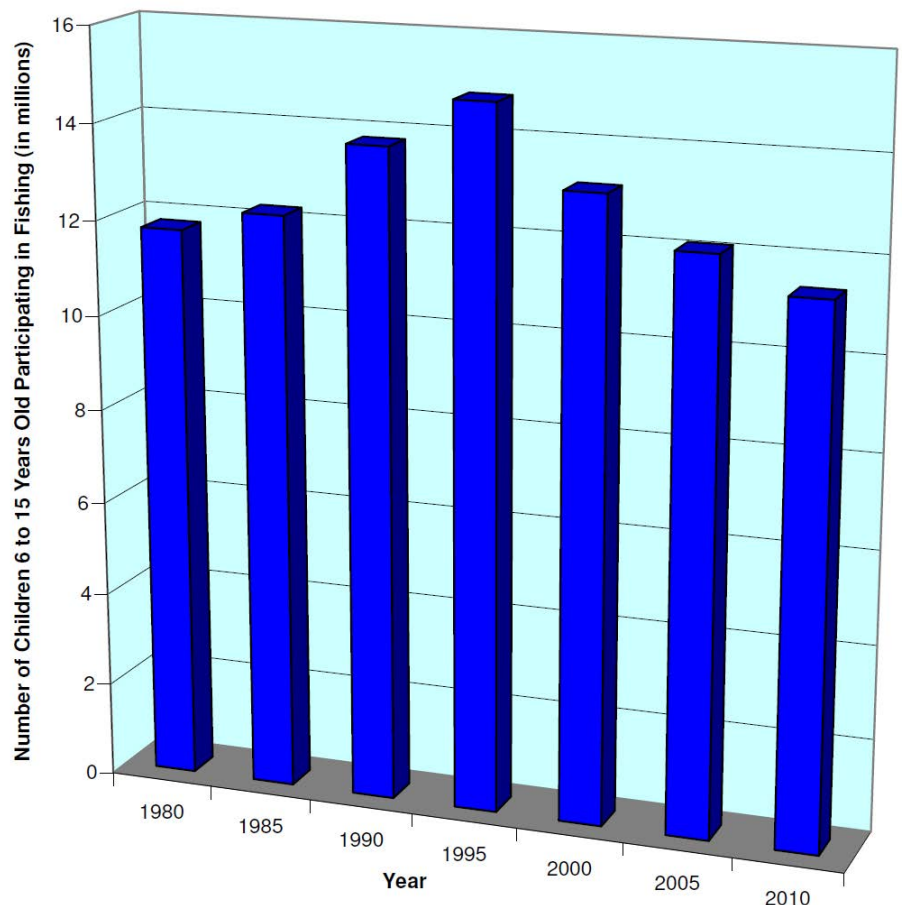
The survey included interviews with heads of households that provided data on fishing activities for 6 to 15 year olds. The chart below shows the estimated numbers of 6 to 15 year olds participating in fishing over the last thirty years. Although the USFWS cautions there is not strong statistical correlation due to variations in data collection methods, the results still suggest a general downward shift since 1995 in the number of kids who go fishing.

The data shows a disturbing trend. Fishing is up against an ever-increasing array of activities competing for a child's time. The latest USFWS survey confirms the need for youth fishing programs like the Anglers for Conservation's (AFC) Hook Kids on Fishing program. The AFC programs introduce families to the joys of recreational fishing while teaching fishing fundamentals, safety and conservation. It's also a rallying cry for all of us to do our part to introduce the next generation to the joys of fishing.

Dan Ashe, the director of the USFWS identifies the downward trend in youth participation as one of the biggest challenges facing the USFWS. "Getting kids away from the normal distractions and get them back into the outdoors is important" notes Ashe. "... our challenge is to engage young people and give them the same passion we have for the outdoors."

Are you up for the challenge? ♦

For more information on Anglers for Conservation go to their website: [anglersforconservation.org](http://anglersforconservation.org)





## Kids Messing about in Boats on the Snake River

Snake River, Wyoming

*“Believe me, my young friend, there is nothing - absolutely nothing - half so much worth doing as simply messing about in boats.” — Kenneth Grahame, The Wind in the Willows*

by Margaret Creel

There is a movement “afloat” in Jackson Hole to get kids out on the Snake River and experience, as Water Rat so fondly said in *The Wind in the Willows*, “simply messing about in boats...” Each fall, during the month of September, the Snake River Fund (SRF) ([www.snakerviverfund.org](http://www.snakerviverfund.org)) makes it possible for every 5th grader in Teton County, Wyoming, to float on the Snake River for a day as part of their school curriculum. Made possible through the incredibly generous donation of rafts and guides by the six permitted whitewater outfitters that operate on the Snake River, more than 200 elementary school students—eleven classes—get a hands-on lesson in watersheds, hydrology, riparian ecology and river safety. This field trip, essentially a floating classroom, dovetails beautifully with the 5th grade science curriculum. For many kids, it is their first opportunity to ever float on a river.

Not only do the kids get to learn about the river environment, they also get their first experience rowing a raft as all the guides embrace the opportunity to share this skill. By the time a four hour float is done, almost every student has gotten the opportunity to maneuver the raft for a short distance. Many, if they can, take multiple turns on the oars, grinning widely as they move their boat downstream (or... in a circle...).

The Snake River Fund provides an interpretive volunteer for each raft who educates not only about the river but also engages the kids in learning about what is involved in being a river professional. By the end of the trip, when asked what they’d like to be when they grow up, quite a number of students enthusiastically exclaim, “A RIVER GUIDE!!!”

Over the years that this program has been floating, managers and rangers from the Bridger-Teton National Forest river program have volunteered, as have professional educators and biologists from the Wyoming Game and Fish, Teton County Weed and Pest, Teton Science School, Teton Raptor Center, and the National Museum of Wildlife Art. Guides from other river companies who

are not involved with the program have volunteered their time as well. The river experience and the influence of all those involved is a powerful one for the kids. “Thank you so much for taking us on the Snake River and teaching us lots of things about eagles and hawks and otters and woodpeckers and other wildlife,” one student, Samantha, wrote in a thank-you letter to SRF program director, Margaret Creel, who accompanied one of the trips last fall. “I loved the water and the place we ate lunch it was so beautiful and I had so much fun and I want to come again.” “It was amazingly pretty,” added another student, Bianca. “It was cool when we saw five bald eagles and we saw otters and we saw and learned so much about the Snake River.” “It was one of the best river trips I’ve ever been on,” wrote another.

Just like Mole in *The Wind in the Willows*, kids are “bewitched, entranced, fascinated” by moving water. Not only do kids in Teton County get to experience the magic of floating on the Snake River when they are in 5th grade, they also have multiple opportunities once they get into middle school and high school as well. The Snake River Fund in partnership with Teton County Parks and Recreation runs a 5-day camp called Snake River Days that is completely river-focused. Middle-school aged kids are immersed in learning about aquatic invertebrates and stream health, how to paddle canoes, touring kayaks, and SUPS, setting-up fly rods and learning how to cast for native cutthroat trout in the Snake River, how to row rafts from professional guides, set up a groover, bake a birthday cake in a Dutch oven, how to rescue someone who falls out of a raft, and how to paddle a raft down the classic whitewater run on the river. And amazingly, it only costs \$250 to participate. All equipment, from SUPS and rafts, river stoves and tables, groovers and tents, to fly rods and reels, sleeping bags, boat trailers and wetsuits are donated. Kids get to experience the Snake River in boats from the Jackson Lake Dam all the way down through the Snake River Canyon and camp out along the Snake River like they would if they were on a commercial river trip. The instructors from the Snake River Fund, Parks and Recreation, and Jackson Hole Trout Unlimited open the doors to the possibilities that exist for these young people as river professionals. So do the guides from



Mad River Boat Trips, a local river company that donates rafts and guides for two of the five days of the camp. They are all inspirational role models as they share their love of the river and their professions with the kids.

New last year in Jackson Hole was a whitewater rafting guide program that Teton County Parks and Recreation Department offered in partnership with Rendezvous River Sports. This was the first time that an opportunity like this had been made available to 12-18 year olds to learn experientially on the Snake River. The course description reads, "Ever wonder what it takes to be a river rafting guide? Now's your chance to find out!" For five days, rafters learned about river reading, guiding, safety and rescue, cooking, camping, nature interpretation, raft rigging, knot tying, raft maintenance and repair, care for the natural environment and river preservation. This program was inspired by the Snake River Days program, the logical next step for those kids who were entering into high school. Now in its second year, two sessions will be available this summer.

Jackson Hole High School also for the first time this past spring offered a week-end raft guide training program for high school students, led by a current history teacher who worked for years as a river instructor for Outward Bound.

Many kids who have grown up in the Jackson Hole Kayak Club are happily employed as teenagers in summer jobs at the local kayak shop, learning both basic retail business skills as well as assisting in teaching younger kids how to paddle on sections of the Snake River. Ah, to be a kid growing up in Jackson Hole messing about in boats... ♦

*5th graders loving the Snake River. Photos: Margaret Creel*



## Clarksville Blueway

by Mark Tummons and Melissa Adkins

The vision for the City of Clarksville/Montgomery County Cumberland, West Fork and Red Rivers Blueway Project (hereafter called the Clarksville Blueways Project) is to establish a 40+ mile recreation blueway trail along the Cumberland River, West Fork River and the Red River as all three wind through inspiring landscapes from North Clarksville on Tiny Town Road to Liberty Park/Marina, McGregor Park/Downtown District and ultimately to Port Royal State Park on the edge of Montgomery and Robertson Countys. This project has involved municipal, county and state governmental agencies and community-based organizations to showcase, preserve, enhance, and promote these significant, yet often overlooked resources.

The Clarksville Blueway Project (CBP) was conceived as a beginning point to open up the waterways to many users, enthusiasts and visitors; it will also support and advance larger park, greenway and even waterway efforts. This project focuses to establish several stretches and designation points primarily along the West Fork and Red rivers, and ultimately to enhance paddling along the Cumberland River as well. This local initiative will begin a coordinated effort across several locales to enhance and promote water recreation opportunities, local points of interests and even transportation.

The ultimate goal of this project is to utilize waterway recreation and tourism to establish and increase the economic viability of businesses along these rivers. Points of interest along the Clarksville Blueway include historic attractions, natural history and cultural attractions, parks and picnic areas, trailheads, marinas, and special interest businesses. Facilities will include restrooms, access to water, docking facilities and mechanic services as needed.

Another important component of the project includes facilitating community participation for a marketing and promotional effort to promote the Clarksville Blueway. The marketing and promotion effort in this project will occur via partnerships between the Department of Parks and Recreation and other participating agencies, including the Chamber of Commerce, Convention and Visitors Bureau and various not-for-profit entities, private business partners and citizens.

The Clarksville Blueway has been and continues to be a big addition for our community by opening up the waterways in the area for users and enthusiasts, from novice to highly experienced. Blueway safety has been a large concern of ours since day one and thanks in part to an Eagle Scout Project, by Casey Kowalski, 39 mile marker signs (6" x 24") were placed at every mile along the West Fork and the Red River to assist with paddler navigation and emergency response teams. With many more people using the waterways, Casey saw there was a need for the mile marker signs and approached the Parks and Recreation Department with his idea. Casey began researching other communities with waterway signage and working with the Clarksville Parks and Recreation Marketing Staff, developed the design for our blueway logo. The signs developed were aluminum and reflective, to help last longer and be more visible. Funding for the signs was provided by

*(continued on page 34)*

## Survey Results

138 people responded to the survey. I list notable verbatim responses, and apologize for not sharing more for space considerations. Suffice it to say that the responses are inspiring: many respondents shared crisp impressions of early experiences, as if they'd occurred yesterday. RMS also contacted individuals and representatives of the outdoor industry individually, to learn a bit more insight. We thank them here for their time and enthusiasm:

- Annie Anderson (AA), Co-owner of The Summit Gear, Inc., Flagstaff, AZ
- Natasha Biahly (NB), President, River and Trail Outfitters, Harper's Ferry, WV
- Lili Colby (LC), Co-Owner, MTI Adventurewear, Plympton, MA
- Mary Crockett (MC), Congaree Land Trust, Columbia, SC (RMS-Southeast Chapter President)
- Elaine Grace (EG), NPS, USFS, and USFWS (retired), Naalehu, HI (RMS-Pacific Chapter President)
- Beth Harper (BH), Co-owner, Man of Rubber, Reliance, TN
- Susie Hockmeyer (SH), Founder and Vice President, Northern Outdoors, The Forks, ME
- Linda Jalbert (LJ), National Park Service, Grand Canyon, AZ (RMS Vice President)
- Jennifer Jones (JJ), Bureau of Land Management, Moab, UT (RMS-Southwest Chapter Treasurer)
- Molly Wainwright (MW), Carson City, NV (RMS-Northwest Chapter Secretary)
- Eileen Weidner (EW), BLM, Taos, NM

### First River Experience

Over a quarter (27.5%) of our survey respondents indicated they were younger than five years old during their first river experience, and nearly two-thirds of respondents indicated they were twelve years old or younger. Three percent called on a first experience that occurred over age twenty-five. Respondents cited parents, grandparents and other family member as those primarily responsible for their first experiences: 'My father' was included in well over half of the responses (57.3%).

### What was your age during your first river experience?

Under 5 years	27.50%
5-12 yrs	37.70%
13-18 yrs	18.80%
19-25 yrs	11.60%
26-35 yrs	0.70%
36-45 yrs	2.90%
46-55 yrs	0.70%
Over 55	0.00%
I don't know	0.00%

### Who was responsible for your taking that trip to and/or on the river?

(choose all that apply)

- 57.3% Your father
- 25.2% Your mother
- 17.5% A grandparent, aunt, uncle
- 8.7% Your brother or sister
- 8.7% A scouting or other youth group leader
- 6.8% Teacher or classmate
- 2.9% Co-worker
- 1.9% Neighbor
- 1.0% Fellowship leader at your religious institution

First impressions for youngsters tend to include a very personal insight or reaction to an aspect of their endeavor. Middle and high schooler recollections mention peer group activities, and reflection from older teen and young adult years introduce appreciation of rivers for their grandeur and importance. Quotes below (followed by initials) were secured via in-depth discussions. Those without initials were submitted directly to the online survey.

- *I remember my father as the captain and my brother sitting next to me holding one oar, while I held the other oar (I was three at the time). My father would tell who of us to go forward for a right turn and who back. EW*
- *My grandmother took my mother and me on a rafting trip on the Lower Youghiogheny in PA. I was probably 7 or 8 years old. I remember there were boatmen placed on various rocks along the way and they had throw bags. My grandmother fell out of the boat somewhere far away from any rescue folks and she was as white as a ghost. JJ*
- *My mom, dad, my brother and I would pack a lunch and head out for a family canoe trip with our lab/pit bull mix or, as we liked to call her, a 'bulbador.' I remember being on a slow stretch of water with a lot of debris on the surface that the dog mistook for land: she jumped out of the canoe and 'splash' ... right into the water. MW*

Molly Wainwright





- *It was a cold fall morning when my father wanted me to be in a photo shoot with him. I was 5 years old, had tousled hair, and was very sleepy! NB*
- *It was an 8th grade 'rite of passage' canoe trip with 20 kids during a three-day weekend. We camped on a sandbar island, but the river was dam controlled: we were flooded out the next morning! LC*

Gordon and Lili Colby



- *I was in a leadership program, and when my teacher introduced me to whitewater canoeing, I was hooked. I became a certified instructor and went boating every weekend for a long time. LJ*
- *Senior skip day (I was 17) canoe trip on the Crystal River in Wisconsin. I don't remember much about it except that the river was shallow, we sometimes had to get out and push off gravel bars, it was pretty cold, and we had a blast! AA*
- *My boyfriend took me (age 22) on a day-long canoe trip down the Snake River through Grand Teton National Park as our first date. It was very scenic. I saw bald eagles and an osprey for the first time. EG*

Additional first experiences on a river mentioned by survey responses included:

- *Etowah River, canoeing and catching my first fish*
- *Illinois River and being with my dada fishing*
- *Shoshone (Colorado River), big water, lots of friends*
- *Frio River, being asked to stand next to an alligator gar caught earlier that day*
- *Conewango Creek, NY: I caught my first fish (a rock bass)*
- *Goose Creek in the VA suburbs of DC, sitting in the cold bilge water on a winter day in a Grumman aluminum canoe and thinking what an amazing experience it was despite the rain and snow that was falling*
- *Boone River in Iowa, canoeing with family*
- *Mahoning River, standing on a bridge watching waterfalls*
- *White River in Michigan, canoeing and seeing beaver dams*
- *Fourmile Creek in Ohio, searching for fossils along the creek*
- *Roanoke River, fishing for catfish with my grandfather*
- *Delaware River, the rope swing*
- *Kickapoo River in Wisconsin, a camping paddling weekend*
- *Hudson River, on the ferry - big water, windy, very exciting*
- *Yellowstone, whitewater rafting and fly fishing with my folks, aunt and uncle*

Some first on-water experiences were less than graceful, mentioning fear of water, defying fear of water and concern about water quality are also present. Memorable, nonetheless...

- *Kokosing River, Knox County, OH - The Sierra Club ran a canoe trip on the river; though somewhat intimidated I loved the experience and eventually ended up becoming a canoe instructor.*
- *Sunshine Falls - Had a bit of a swim, held onto the raft for dear life and was pulled back in, finishing the trip with a smile, although I did lose my sandal.*
- *Salmon River near Riggins - I didn't know what my rented inflatable boat really looked like until I got air in it. Looked like fun to me, the rest is history.*
- *Rogue River - On an inner tube. My buddy went over the rapid first, and disappeared into a hole. In the next moment he was shooting up in the air the left and his tube was going right. I flapped my arms furiously to shore.*
- *I was with my Explorer Post on the Arkansas River in CO. We had just run Three-Rock Falls at 6,000 cfs as teenagers in five 12' rafts with flawless runs while commercial boats were flipping 2 of 3 runs. A crazed old man ran down to us, congratulated us on our runs, and offered us all jobs working at his river company, and quickly noticed none of us were 18. "Hell, I don't care if you ain't 18. Come see me and I'll hire you when you are!" I made a decision that day to be a pro river guide. I hitch-hiked to Colorado the day I graduated high school to begin my river career.*

...and not every first experience was inspiring:

- *I grew up and lived on the coast and felt comfortable in the ocean (we ignored the rivers nearby as they were all very polluted), but the river current was very frightening to me.*
- *I remember seeing salmon migrating; actually it was disturbing because these were ones that were not going to survive the spawning experience.*
- *The Big Sioux River in Sioux Falls, SD. It was polluted, smelly, and full of foam.*
- *Brazos River Canoe Trip. Got terrible blisters on my arms. ;)*
- *Santa Ana River in Southern California. It is not only dry, but often channelized and dredged.*

### Next Most Memorable River Experience(s)

Respondents' next most memorable river experiences were much later in life. Half (50.4%) took place between ages thirteen and twenty-five. Influenced a little less heavily by family, survey participants recall teachers/classmates (9.6%) and co-workers (13.3%) playing a larger role in the decision to head to the river. Comments reflect a step up in respondents' level of commitment and capability.

- *A 40 mile, week-long trip down the Santee River. We were swimming, fishing, and discussing issues concerning our natural and cultural resources. MC*
- *The Gulkana River in Alaska. I recall the boats being loaded up with gear, making dinners and sitting around the campfire. MW*
- *My next real vivid river memory is when I was 24 and went on a private trip down the Stanislaus River. It was my first glimpse into the world of commercial river running, as the folks on the trip were guides on holiday. The person responsible for me being there was a girlfriend of mine from*

college, Cindy, whose brother Richard was involved with Sobek and OARS at the time... As soon as I saw the lifestyle, and the girl at put-in with pencil thin arms that was rowing a boat, I knew this was to be in my future. AA

- Going down the Taos Box for the first time, the person at the oars ... could tell that I knew how to handle a boat. In a flat section everyone else jumped out to swim. I was there with the oars in a raft on an exciting river. Hooked. EW
- I showed up expecting to be a passenger on my first Grand Canyon trip, and was handed the oars. The following season I took my chance at a seasonal park ranger job at Grand Canyon: lo and behold, I became the Lee's Ferry Ranger. LJ

Linda Jalbert



- A Grand Canyon trip with Martin Litton's Grand Canyon Dories. It shifted me from working in the ski business: I vowed I wanted to be involved in Paddlesports. LC
- Gary Harper, who later became my husband and was owner at Ocoee Outdoors at the time, took me rafting on the Ocoee River, and I loved it! I was 21 and rafting was a very fringe activity at the time – this was our second date and I knew I had a “keeper.” What I did not realize was the extent that the river would change my life and how I saw my place in life. It was exhilarating and scary and addictive!

### Impact on Professional Choices

Over sixty percent of the survey respondents point to specific experiences that led them toward options related to the protection, study or management of rivers. Peers, mentors and their network or environment helped their river-related professional decision making. Here what folks said when we asked about experiences that catalyzed a move toward their current path:

- When a girlfriend who'd worked a season on the Colorado River shared photos of the Colorado from Moab through the Grand Canyon I was fascinated by them and decided to spend the next summer guiding out of Moab: I fell into commercial guiding due to my love of being on the water. I later secured the SCA intern position at Westwater, which sparked my curiosity about river and resource management and opened my eyes to new possibilities of working outdoors and effecting change. JJ

- As the Blackfoot River intern with Montana Fish, Wildlife and Park. I spent most of my time patrolling campgrounds and on occasion, floating the river. I worked with two great guys who encouraged me to continue down the recreation path. I soon became a river ranger, then river recreation manager, and now an outdoor recreation planner. I stuck with rivers because of the great people I met whether they were co-workers, other river professionals, or the recreating public. MW

- When I came home from college, I really enjoyed being back in the family business. It felt very freeing and exhilarating to work in an ever-changing business that involved people interacting with nature, and also working with the uncontrollable forces of nature. NB

- When I graduated from college my parents gave me a canoe and a pair of binoculars. I started a paddling trail and education programs at one of the State Parks I managed and have been known for rivers ever since. Many people encouraged me to pursue my career: my boss Barry Beasley (past RMS President), a landscape architect who had a river house and helped me hone my community planning skills; two young men who started the first outfitting businesses in SC, and the Tyger Ladies (named after the Tyger River)—ten women who have been paddling buddies for thirty years. MC

- I can think of one individual in particular who gave me some great advice to make one of the hardest decisions I have had to make in my career; resigning from a job I loved in river management to be closer to my boyfriend, now husband. He said, “Quality over quantity.” I have taken those words of wisdom and put them forth into how I view my job and personal life. Although at times it may be easier said than done, I try to live my life with knowing that quality of life makes one better off than the quantity of the position. MW

- I dated a trip leader who worked in our company who took me to paddle rivers all over the area. We traveled down to the Smokies and to other states to go on river trips. He bought me my first kayak and gave me a new sense of confidence at being on the river. There were also many, many good friends I had made that worked for my family's company. I believe the river attracts good quality people. NB

- Not really one particular person, but my connections with RMS friends have certainly influence my decision to stay involved by learning more - learning that there is life beyond Grand Canyon (even though I am still here) LJ

- I was working as a teacher in Taos, and did not go back to the job one fall so that I could do a Grand Canyon river trip. The next summer the Taos BLM had a park ranger/river ranger Job opening, and I have been happily working on the Rio Grande and Chama rivers since then. EW

- I began my sewing business reluctantly and out of necessity for real river gear. It started just making gear for myself and the company I was working for. People saw my stuff and tracked me down, and it grew and grew, in spite of everything. The most influential person in my business has been and still is Beth



*Harper, who helped me with the business side of things, being involved with Man of Rubber River business and working as a guide for a time. She and her husband Gary are probably why I had the guts to give it a go! AA*

- *Marc Hunt (owner of Sunburst while I was employed there) taught me many skills beyond the realm of reading whitewater and keeping rafts from flipping. He taught me bookkeeping and accounting fundamentals which have been of enormous help in my daily work life at Man of Rubber River Gear. But it was the working/hands on training of how to balance cash flow within the confines of a small business that helped me the most.*

Survey respondents cited similar pivotal experiences that steered them down a permanent river professional path...

- *My mom took me rafting for my high school graduation present ... I transferred to a local community college and became a professional river guide the following summer. My instructor, raft guiding, the politics and environmental challenges about land/river management steered me to pursue my career.*
- *I took a canoe trip in the Boundary Waters with 9 friends the summer after I graduated from high school, and I remember saying to my canoe-mate, "There must be a way to do this for a living."*
- *Being paired to paddle a tandem canoe with my future husband.*
- *Getting that YACC job on the Rogue. I wasn't going to college at the time, but that job changed my mind. I worked as a BLM River Ranger for 5 seasons while attending Oregon State before getting a permanent job with the FS.*
- *I just knew that I had to stay in the river business. I loved the places, and the people who frequent them. I gave up law school to be a river junkie.*
- *I wanted to help preserve that experience, not only for others but myself!*
- *The Prescott College field course and subsequent field experiences opened my eyes to the magic of rivers.*
- *I took a job in SW Colorado (BLM) that required management of the Dolores. Suddenly I was being paid to float and patrol that spectacular river.*

Nearly one-fifth of respondents indicated they did not recall a specific 'influencing experience' on their decision to choose their professional path. Rather, their position resulted through somewhat related academic pursuits or serendipitous life occurrence that fit with the affection they'd developed for rivers:

- *First job out of grad school (not a seasonal job) started me on the path, haven't left it.*
  - *My wife got involved with the WSR [Wild and Scenic Rivers] designation for the Great Egg.*
  - *It just happened that a position was open in the Partners For Fish and Wildlife section of FWS and that involved learning about fish biology and river restoration. That suited me fine.*
- EG

These survey responses may simply remind you how influential early river experiences can be, and remind you how skipping rocks from the water's edge, or a fishing lesson, can ignite a life-changing river spark. Providing or encouraging subsequent

opportunities to learn how rivers work and how they can be enjoyed will create an opportunity they can pursue for themselves. How might you or your outpost, your community or your school encourage parents to take kids to and on rivers and encourage them to participate in river-based programs?

## RiverPaths

RMS is in the beginning stages of developing RiverPaths, a clearinghouse for those seeking internships, academic pursuits and permanent positions related to rivers. The model will highlight opportunities that are always cycling through the online RMS Job Feed; connect with organizations offering internships; offer mentors to students or young professionals seeking guidance from our members, extraordinarily skilled in river management, as well as with a variety of stakeholders.

RMS is always seeking new and stronger connections between river profession-seeking individuals and job opportunities, adding the invaluable service of mentorship for those beginning or changing their careers.

Let's start a dialogue and tap our system. We are rich in experience and camaraderie and most of us are able to reach out to young people who are eager to meet, learn and love working on rivers. Aren't we? If you're familiar with examples of a program which, by sharing with others, can help usher more young people into the river professions pipeline, write to: rms@river-management.org. We will publish your letter in the next journal. Please send a photo that illustrates the program and if there is sufficient interest, we may start an ongoing column about our 'next' generation.

*What inspirations I have gotten from meeting with people who feel the spiritual presence of rivers! EW*

*They don't want to hear it, but I look to several folks for inspiration – Dennis Willis, Bunny Sterin, Judi Zuckert, Robyn Fehlau, Troy Schnurr, Bob Ratcliffe, Linda Jalbert and others that I have not yet met. I am particularly intrigued with Linda's work in the Grand Canyon and the multitude of challenges that she has been*

*dealing with for years. I know that I've hardly begun to understand the management dynamics, the variety of high level politics or the magnitude of partners / cooperators. There is just no end to the issues affecting rivers and there are so many different perspectives – I will never be bored, and my journey has only just begun! JJ ♦*

Jennifer Jones



# Wilderness Inquiry – Building the Progression

Wilderness Inquiry (WI) is a Minneapolis-based organization that has offered canoe, kayak, hiking, horsepack and other programs, including those designed to share the benefits of outdoor adventure with urban youth and their families. The organization introduces young people to the outdoors through their Pyramid of Engagement. They begin by reaching out to ‘sample’ large numbers of young people, and provide opportunities for them to go out again, and again. Overnight trips and multiple day trips follow, and those who show interest are given exposure to internships and academic pursuits related to their outdoor experience and skill.

This model, developed over decades of Wilderness Inquiry programming, supports responses to the RMS survey

indicating that professional river paths result from an initial spark of river discovery followed by longer or larger experiences and river-related jobs or internships.

The Wilderness Inquiry Pyramid of Engagement illustrates the progression suggested by the experiences of our survey respondents, except for one monstrous difference. Our river management ranks are dominated by people NOT of color, whose families had access to and were familiar with recreational opportunities available around rivers. The WI participants may not be nearly as familiar with river recreation, and Wilderness Inquiry programs allow kids to gain familiarity and skills by going out on the water again, and again, and again. ♦



Mom and daughter, before their first paddling trip on the Harlem River.







*Above: New York City kids get ready to paddle the Harlem River in NYC.  
Below: WI staffer, Adam Hoffman, takes a family paddling on the Harlem River. Photo: Greg Lais*







## Paddle Nation Gets Youth Paddling Around the Country

by Ivan Levin

Twenty-five small grants will get more young people out paddling in 2013. These grants of \$2,500 or less are sponsored by Paddle Nation which is a project of Outdoor Nation. The goal of the grants is to support pioneering youth-developed projects and initiatives that will result in increased paddling participation.

Of the 150 grant applications Outdoor Nation received, they were able to award \$60,000 to 25 awardees. With these grants, more than 3,400 individuals will get outside and almost 2,500 of those participants are youth, and more than 15,000 hours will be spent outside paddling. For the Paddle Nation grants, only individuals between the ages of 18 and 28 or 501c3 non-profit organizations could apply.

Outdoor Nation (ON) organized this round of grants, with ON being an initiative of the Outdoor Foundation®, a 501c3 non-profit organization established by the Outdoor Industry Association® to inspire and grow future generations of outdoor enthusiasts. Grants were made possible by support and funding from the Outdoor Industry Association® Paddle

Advisory Council, Nielsen Expositions' Outdoor Retailer, the outdoor industry tradeshow held twice each year, National Park Service and many individuals, manufacturers and retailers in the paddlesport community. The Paddle Advisory Council is a coalition of top paddlesports manufacturers, retailers and stakeholders dedicated to advancing and growing participation in paddlesports.

The projects were judged on their innovation, likelihood of increasing paddling participation, number of youth likely impacted, partnership potential and budget factors.

**The winners for 2013 are:**  
(Organization • Project • Amount)

**Aldo Leopold Nature Center, Inc. (WI)**  
• On The Water Canoeing Course for Low Income Youth • \$2,500

To teach low-income middle school students about basic aquatic ecology and canoeing skills on Madison, Wisconsin lakes

**Rutabaga Outdoor Programs (WI)**  
• Broadening Horizons - Expanding

Teen Leadership and Family Paddling Opportunities for Under-served Communities • \$2,420

To increase the number of youth recruited from underserved communities for Rutabaga's Junior Leader Internship Program by partnering with Madison, Wisconsin community centers

**The Bald Head Island Conservancy (NC)** • Women Paddling into Science • \$2,325

To offer kayaking expeditions for mother and daughter pairs twice a month over seven months off of Bald Head Island in North Carolina

**Northern Forest Canoe Trail/Northern Forest Explorers (VT)** • Northern Forest Explorers Youth Program • \$2,500

To engage rural Vermont youth in paddling trips while encouraging them to have pride in and learn about the natural world that surrounds them

**Rio Bravo Wildlife Institute (TX)** • WaterCats • \$2,000

To provide educational and recreational opportunities that promote



environmental stewardship to at-risk middle and high school students in Brownsville, Texas

**Chesapeake Experience (VA) •**

Chesapeake Experience Summer Kayak Camp • \$2,500

To connect middle and elementary school-aged campers to the Chesapeake Bay region of Virginia through kayaking outings

**Morehead State University (KY) •**

Paddle Licking River Watershed! • \$2,387

To combat obesity in youth and families in eastern Kentucky through a series of paddling events in the Daniel Boone National Forest and Licking River Watershed

**City Kids to Wilderness Project, Inc. (DC) •**

City Kids take on the Snake River Canyon • \$2,500

To engage urban Washington, D.C. youth in paddlesport through a 3-day beginner whitewater kayaking trip down the Snake River during an annual summer trip to Jackson Hole, Wyoming

**Camp Fire River Bend / Camp**

**Tannadoonah (IN) •** Stand up and Paddle • \$2,500

To expand the program offerings of a Mishawaka, Indiana summer camp to include stand up paddleboarding for up to 200 youth

**Beaver Watershed Alliance (AR) •** NWA Youth Paddling Day • \$2,500

To educate underserved youth and families in Northwestern Arkansas about the recreational paddling opportunities in their region and lend them with the gear needed to take advantage of these experiences

**Manitowoc Public School District (WI) •**

Standing up on the Lakeshore • \$2,500

To expand the curriculum of the Outdoor Pursuits class at Lincoln High School in Manitowoc, Wisconsin to include stand up paddleboarding

**American Canoe Association (VA) •**

Empowering Youth of all Abilities • \$2,500

To provide middle school-aged students who have physical or mental

disabilities with the opportunity to learn to kayak in the Biscayne Bay in Miami, Florida

**Lower Mississippi River Foundation, Inc (MS) •** Mighty Quapaw Apprenticeship Program • \$2,500

To teach the members of the Mighty Quapaw Apprenticeship Program how to canoe safely and effectively while promoting stewardship in the Lower Mississippi River region

**Clean Up the River Environment (MN) •**

Wild River Academy • \$2,500

To increase recreation and awareness of environmental issues and history along the Minnesota River watershed and provide an experiential learning component to science and history classes in surrounding high schools

**HoWL Inc. (AK) •** Wetsuits Make the Water Fun! • \$2,400

To increase student participation in sea kayaking, canoeing and stand up paddleboarding in the icy waters of Alaska through the purchase of wetsuits

**Native Expeditions Corp (AR) •** Native Explorers - Paddling with Purpose • \$2,470

To train underserved youth in kayaking skills and boating safety through a summer program based in Fayetteville, Arkansas.

**Outdoor Outreach (CA) •** OO Paddling Adventure Project • \$2,500

To engage inner-city and at-risk youth in recreational paddling through fun, engaging, and safe experiences on San Diego waterways at no cost to youth participants

**Paddle Addict, Inc. (FL) •** Paddle Addict Board Drive • \$2,500.00

To introduce people who are in substance abuse recovery programs to stand up paddleboarding and other water sport activities in St. Petersburg, Florida

**The Friends of the Red River National Wildlife Refuge, Inc. (LA) •** Red River National Wildlife Refuge Canoeing with Nature Summer Camps • \$2,500

To inspire the use of Louisiana waterways by providing the urban and

rural communities near the Barksdale Air Force Base with the gear to participate in various paddlesports

**Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership (OR) •** Expanding On-River Boundaries: Big Canoe Paddle Program • \$2,449

To provide positive on-water recreation experiences and stewardship education for youth, families and community organizations in the Portland, Oregon region

**The Finger Lakes Cultural and Natural History Museum (NY) •** Carriages and Canoes • \$2,500

To facilitate first-time canoe and kayak excursions for youth and families from Mennonite and Amish communities in the Finger Lakes region of western New York

**Southern California Mountains Foundation (CA) •** Seccombe Lake Urban Paddling • \$2,500

To plan an introductory paddling courses for young Americans and their families at Seccombe Lake Park in San Bernardino, California

**Mach One SRS Team (PA) •** Developing the Pennsylvania League of Slalom Paddling and Slalom • \$2,500

To support the development and practice of slalom kayaking and canoeing by creating town teams that compete against each other in an organized league in State College, Pennsylvania

**Coal River Group (WV) •** Coal River Kayak Initiative • \$2,500

To host a series of outdoor days aiming to instruct kids from the St. Albans, West Virginia community how to paddle in a safe and supervised environment

**Project Get Outdoors (MN) •** Skyline Tower Paddling Experience • \$1,150

To facilitate paddling experiences for youth that encourage healthy behavior while also emphasizing the importance of environmental stewardship in St. Paul, Minnesota ♦

*Ivan Levin is the Director of Outdoor Nation. For more information, visit <http://outdoornation.org/> (or) send email to: [info@outdoorfoundation.org](mailto:info@outdoorfoundation.org)*



*Paddle in hand, young people are making their own discoveries and learning to take care of, and love, our river resources. Photo: Laura Kellam / NPS*

## Unique Journeys Create *River Stories*

by Corita Waters

*Water trails help connect us to each other, nature, and to past and future generations.*

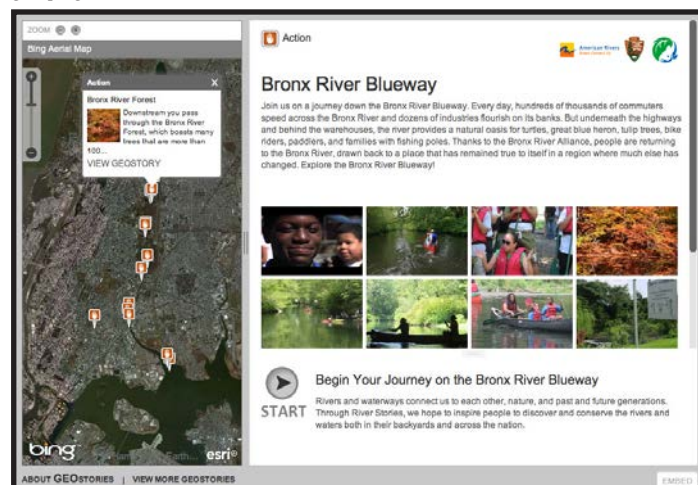
To help solidify and share that connection, the National Park Service Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance program partnered with American Rivers to get young people out onto rivers and water trails across the country to experience the resource and just have fun! Nine river organizations received a funding match to for youth events that were hugely successful in connecting kids to, and teaching them the importance of, healthy rivers. These are just a few of their stories:

- The River Parkway Trust brought more than 500 youth to the San Joaquin River (CA) on field trips and nature walks.
- On Lake Michigan, the Northwest Indiana Paddling Association taught 20 teenagers the fundamentals of paddling on a four-day trip.
- The Northern Forest Canoe Trail engaged rural youth in a five-day paddle trip that supported healthy lifestyles and connected them with pride to the natural world, to their communities, and to the North Country region as a whole.
- On the Etowah River in Georgia, the Coosa River Basin Initiative hosted educational paddle trips to teach more than 170 children basic paddle strokes and boating safety. The paddle trips involved exploration of historic sites and educational programs in which they learned about water quality and wildlife (including macroinvertebrates!).

To extend and share the experience, we captured stories, video, and photos from everyone's time on the water to create a virtual tour of waterways across the country, *River Stories*, with maps and natural and cultural information about water trails. It offers an interactive way to experience their journey and see how people are improving the health of their local rivers. These *River Stories* are woven together to take you on unique adventures by water, highlighting wildlife and land, the abundance of recreational opportunities, and the ways that people are making a difference along the rivers.

We hope these *River Stories* also inspire RMS members to take young people onto the water so that together you can explore and create your own stories! ♦

*The Bronx River Blueway is one of many River Stories ready for exploring on: [go.nps.gov/riverstories](http://go.nps.gov/riverstories). Screenshot: NPS / American Rivers*





# Tennessee Tree Project Focuses on Youth Engagement and Watershed Health

by Laura Hardwicke and John McFadden

Restoring urban forests is one of the most sustainable practices, as it provides benefits for people, places and economy. Trees provide enhanced water, habitat and air quality, in addition to an array of social benefits. For example, soil loss from stream bank erosion is a significant source of drinking water pollution in Tennessee. Tree roots stabilize the stream banks and help riparian zones soak up storm waters, reducing downstream flooding. Healthy forested stream buffers enhance property values for homes located closer to the restored buffer. Reforesting riparian zones is critically important to create clean drinking water, improve habitat for fish and other wildlife, our communities and economy.

The goal of the Tennessee Environmental Council's (the Council) Tennessee Tree Project (TTP) is to plant and/or care for 1 million trees and to engage ½ million citizens in the process. Since the Program's inception in 2007, the Council has facilitated planting over 70,000 trees. The TTP underwent strategic growth during the most recent planting season, installing over 23,625 trees, engaging over 760 volunteers who gave over 2,124 hours of service. In addition, the TN Tree Project exemplifies multidimensional partnerships between local businesses, schools, youth groups, nonprofits, and government agencies seeking to make a difference in their community. Successful collaborations allowed the Council, a four person nonprofit, to go beyond their zone of proximal development and have statewide affect. This innovation led to the facilitation of two "10,000 Tree Days."

The 10k Tree Day trained and built capacity for our partner organization located across the state to facilitate their



*Pat Van Ryckeghem (General Manager, Spring Hill) helps Boys and Girls Club students plant a tree.*

own tree planting events. By concentrating the bulk of planting on two days the Council was able to increase media attention, focus education and outreach efforts, and plant more trees. While all of the partnerships made the two 10k Tree Days possible, one in particular stands out.

The Council's Duck River Opportunities Project (DROP) has partnered with GM Spring Hill for over 10 years. The partnership has provided outdoor environmental education activities to students from a number of local schools and youth groups.

The GM Global Rivers Environmental Education Network inspires youth to be active in their communities and learn more about the complexities of watershed issues. In summer 2012, the Council and GM Spring Hill partnered with the Maury County Boys & Girls Club to introduce their students to their local watershed. With the help of GM Mentors and Council volunteers, over 50 of Maury County Boys and Girls Club participants got a close look at the Duck River watershed learning to conduct water quality sampling along Tiger and the Little Bigby Creek in Columbia.

Little Bigby Creek was chosen because it is one of many waterways in the state that is polluted from runoff. Water sampling included student's utilizing

nets to gather, identify and classify aquatic insects (i.e. benthic macro invertebrates). The insects were classified based on pollution tolerance and a BMI index calculated. Students also performed chemical tests on the water and a visual habitat assessment (observing the presence of trees, erosion on banks, etc.).

A follow up educational session was conducted with the students, the city stormwater coordinator, an environmental engineer and an aquatic biologist, where all data were reviewed and discussed to allow

participants to get an overall view of water quality and the "health" of the creek. One of the items students noted was a lack of riparian cover and stream bank erosion problems. Once these problems were identified the students were asked if they thought there was anything they could do to impact the problem. Potential action items and projects were discussed, with the students brainstorming a number of ways that they could "fix" the problem. Students discussed many options including stopping mowing, planting "flowers" and trees. It was noted that some of the area was under a power line and that large trees would not be allowed to mature there.

After consulting with the experts, the student's decided to carry out a stream bank restoration project by planting live stakes (cottonwoods and sandbar willows) and some larger trees including redbuds along the creek bank. On February 5th, 2013, approximately 25 students from the B&G Club planted over 300 live stakes and trees on the eroding creek bank and beside the creek in Columbia. The tree planting project allowed the students to put into action one of their ideas for improving their local watershed. In addition, students reported a sense of accomplishment and feeling as though they had identified a problem and were

*(continued on page 34)*

# RiverLink's K-12 Watershed Education Program



*Photo, top: The Enviroscape is an interactive model that demonstrates the effects of stormwater runoff and pollution within a watershed.*

**To sign up your classroom, students, or campers for a RiverLink education program, contact:**

RiverLink  
PO Box 15488, Asheville, NC 28813  
education@riverlink.org  
Office: 828-252-8474

## **French Broad River Camp**

Investigate a local stream's water quality by looking for aquatic insects. Build your own watershed model and find out how human activities impact the river. Create river-inspired art and poetry, and volunteer for our Clean Stream Team. And of course, explore by kayak, canoe, or raft!

The goal of the French Broad River Camps is to educate and empower the next generation of watershed stewards. The River Camps will provide the opportunity for rising 3rd-8th grade students to spend a week of their summer exploring the river and its watershed. The curriculum will include hands-on environmental education, river recreation, and service-learning projects.

by Nikki Bauman  
RiverLink Education Coordinator

RiverLink is a regional non-profit spearheading the economic and environmental revitalization of the French Broad River and its tributaries as a place to live, work and play.

Since 1987 we have engaged in simultaneous efforts to address water quality concerns throughout the French Broad River basin, expand public opportunities for access and recreation, and spearhead the economic revitalization of the French Broad River and its watershed with special emphasis on the urban riverfront district.

RiverLink seeks to enhance environmental education in the French Broad watershed through water-based environmental education lessons in K-12 grade classrooms adapted from national curriculum that will complement the NC Standard Course of Study. Every year RiverLink presents dozens of FREE interdisciplinary programs to educate and inspire the next generation of river stewards. Our most popular programs are further described below.

The FBR Watershed Education program will focus on:

- French Broad River ecology
- Student engagement in scientific investigation
- Science as a link to personal decision-making
- Water quality and quantity
- Environmental awareness and stewardship
- National curriculum like Project WET (Water Education for Teachers)
- Links to NC Standard Course of Study



*Photo, middle: Students participating in the Voices of the River Contest showcase their projects at AB Tech's Holly Library to celebrate Earth Day.*

*Photo, bottom: Kids in the Creek collect and identify aquatic macroinvertebrates to determine the health of the stream, based on what is inhabiting it.*





2013 Sessions:	Age:
June 10th-14th	Rising 3rd-5th grade
June 24th-28th	Rising 6th-8th grade
July 8th-12th	Rising 3rd-5th grade
July 15th-19th	Rising 6th-8th grade

To register a camper, please visit <http://www.riverlink.org/camps.asp> to download a registration form.

### Kids in the Creek

“Kids in the Creek” provides an outdoor experiential learning opportunity for students to learn about factors affecting water quality of our streams and the aquatic organisms that live there. This is a hands-on opportunity for students to learn more about watersheds and their local creeks. Students will conduct water quality tests, and test for various water quality factors such as pH and nutrients. We will assist students in collecting and identifying aquatic insects and native fish.

The “Kids in the Creek” program is a collaborative educational effort funded by the Pigeon River Trust Fund, with the assistance of the Tennessee Valley Authority, Buncombe County Soil and Water Conservation Service, and UNCA’s Environmental Quality Institute.

### Enviroscape

EnviroScape is a plastic model of a watershed that shows students the effects that pollution can have on water quality. This is a great educational tool that teaches the watershed concept in addition to point and non-point source pollution.

Students learn about different components of a watershed and get the opportunity to decide where to place buildings, roads, animals, and trees. Two waterways flow into a larger water body, which is representative of a lake, river, bay, or ocean. Pollution and runoff are visually apparent when rain falling over the landscape top carries soil, chemicals and oil through a watershed to a body of water. Stormwater runoff and storm drain function are also addressed.

### Voices of the River Art and Poetry Contest

RiverLink is implementing a program called Voices of the River Art and Poetry Contest and would like for as many schools and classes (K-12) as possible to participate in creating art and poetry based on our local rivers.

Lessons are offered throughout the school year, and the annual Voices of the River Art and Poetry Contest in April offers students a chance to win prizes and recognition and have their entries on display at AB Tech’s Holly Library.

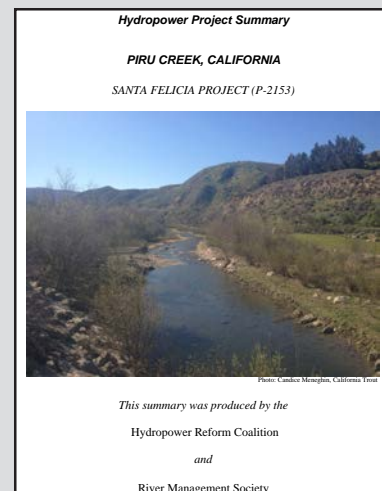
This program offers a very exciting and interesting way for children to learn more about their watershed, while also contributing to an informed appreciation of the natural world. It also helps improve children’s literacy and cognitive skills. This type of multidisciplinary, hands-on approach to education nurtures students’ creative voices as well, through instruction and practice in art and poetry.

Using all of their senses, students observe their watershed and create a piece of art or poetry based on topics such as fish and wildlife; boating and recreation; pollution and trash; geography; culture and history; water and the hydrologic cycle; or, any relevant topic that students wish to address. ♦

## Hydropower License Summaries A Pilot Project

by Risa Shimoda

I bet no one has recently recommended checking out a hydropower license as casual reading! Hydropower licenses are detailed documents often 150-200 pages in length that include the compliance requirements, water release schedules, support plans and monitoring requirements related to dam operations, issued after a painstaking process involving a power producer, managers of lands affected by the hydropower dam, public stakeholder groups and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).



Licenses are tough to read, and hard to even locate if you are not familiar with the subject. Project names do not even include the name of the river on which the dam is located! For instance, if you are interested in finding information about the hydro project on the New River near Blacksburg because you have heard there is a release each spring for a kayaking event and are curious to read the exact terms of that release, you need to know the project by the dam name and project number, Claytor: P-739. Have I begun to make the point?

The River Management Society and Hydropower Reform Coalition have recently completed a pilot program, with support from the Arches Foundation, to review and summarize six hydropower license and settlement provisions. The pilot establishes a format and an initial set of summaries of hydropower license terms that are easy for members of the public to understand and handy for river professionals to call upon in their management of rivers impacted by hydropower generation. The six projects were chosen to represent recently completed projects in a variety of geographical locations:

- Clackamas Project - Clackamas River, Oregon
- Claytor Project - New River, Virginia
- Gibson Project - Sun River, Montana
- Mid-Snake Projects - Snake River, Idaho
- Nantahala Project - Nantahala River, North Carolina
- Santa Felicia Project - Piru Creek, California

These summaries are 6-12 pages in length—comprehensive and succinct, a truly easy read compared to the license. They are posted on the RMS website, and available through the Hydropower Reform Coalition’s project page for each of the hydropower projects. The HRC’s website also contains links to the actual licenses, other hydropower projects and a wealth of information about the relicensing of hydropower projects.

We plan to continue to add Handy Hydro Summaries to this resource, so let us know if there is a project you’d like to see summarized similarly! ♦

# Win-Win Internships Grow Environmental Stewards

by Michael Rendon

The Environmental Steward Summer Program, the Office of Surface Mining (OSM) and the Department of the Interior's Office of Youth, Partnerships & Service, are providing opportunities for 10-week summer service positions. These positions provide environmental stewardship opportunities, professional development and hands-on experience with environmental and conservation projects. Opportunities are available throughout the United States.

Summer internships can assist agencies and organizations with a wide range of activities including: water, habitat, vegetation monitoring; grant writing; program development; volunteer project organization; outreach and education; GPS use and GIS mapping; interpretive services; invasive species management; and, other hands-on work related to environmental stewardship.

## Benefits

- \$2,000 total living stipend distributed biweekly over 10 weeks (approx. \$200/week before taxes)
- \$1,175 AmeriCorps Segal Education Award to be used for qualified student loans or tuition (available upon successful completion of the program)
- Professional development and hands-on experience with environmental and conservation projects
- Work with environmental professionals and participation in innovative, collaborative environmental restoration and community building initiatives
- College credit may be obtained, depending on the school (this must be arranged by the intern and his/her school)

## For more information, contact:

Michael Rendon, Program Director  
Southwest Conservation Corps  
Durango, Colorado  
Email: [mrendon@sccorps.org](mailto:mrendon@sccorps.org)  
Phone: 970-403-0149



Intern Brittany Harris - Jean Lafitte National Historical Park, Louisiana

**Brittany Harris** spent her summer serving at the Jean Lafitte Historical Park and Preserve in New Orleans, LA, alongside Kaci Fisher, a fellow Summer Program Member. Together, they have developed a plan for the bio-control of an invasive aquatic fern, Giant Salvinia (*Salvinia molesta*) and made significant advances in research and community outreach about the Giant Salvinia and predatory weevil (*Cyrotobagous salviniae*) issues facing the preserve. Together they developed a protocol for sampling the Giant Salvinia at 21 sites, created a method to quantify the weevil populations living in the plant, and assessed the canals and bayous for mobility. "An ongoing problem is the accessibility of the waterways," says Kaci, "which is why the Salvinia is a problem in the first place."

They created maps and other educational products for park visitors who were interested in accessing non-trailed areas like the channels and bayous within the preserve, and worked with professionals from the National

Wetland Resource Center (NWRC) and U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) on old-growth cypress tree and Mangrove swamp research. "[We built] our own Berlese funnels from recyclable parts to isolate the weevils from the Salvinia samples from the field," says Brittany. These funnels are beneficial because they can be used by future researchers and the preserve staff for further samples and analysis.

She expanded her research to include variables in the waterways, such as canopy cover, Salvinia growth stage, wind movement, and temperature that affect the success of the weevil and Salvinia relationship. Because of their important work at the Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve, Brittany and Kaci have been invited to present their bio-control research at the Louisiana Association of Professional Biologists' Fall Symposium, an opportunity they would not have received without the Environmental Stewards Summer Program.

**Rebecca Castro** worked in West Virginia using GPS to map trails in the



New River Gorge park area. The mapping points will be used to determine where trails should be constructed and whether the trails will disturb wildlife habitat or sampling sites. After a derecho blew through town and thousands lost power, Rebecca contributed to the clean-up efforts after the storm. "I believe that I am most proud of the fact that I was able to help assess and cleanup, and that I played a role in restoring the park to normalcy."

In between the trail assessments, Rebecca assisted on water quality sampling with the water technicians and on a bird netting and banding expedition with the field biologist. Later in her term, she assisted with electro-fishing and insect collection, and with the wood rat population assessments.

Hopefully more organizations and agencies will create internship opportunities on their rivers—everyone benefits! ♦

*Intern Rebecca Castro - New River Gorge National Recreation Area, West Virginia. Photos: Michael Rendon*



## BUILDING NATIONS SUSTAINING PEOPLES

7th CANADIAN RIVER HERITAGE CONFERENCE  
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND 2013

Michael Greco, President of the Canadian Chapter of RMS, cordially invites you to consider attending the 7th...

**Canadian River Heritage Conference  
June 16-19, 2013  
Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island**

"I am sure you will very much enjoy browsing through the website, whether or not you will be able to attend."

**[www.riversconference.ca](http://www.riversconference.ca)  
[contact@riversconference.ca](mailto:contact@riversconference.ca)**

This triennial event showcases the heritage of all Canadian rivers—plus successes, innovations, needs and challenges of river management. Share your experiences and best practices in management, restoration, education, tourism, recreation and community leadership.

### **For more information:**

Andrea McNeil  
Canadian Heritage Rivers Board  
[andrea.mcneil@pc.gc.ca](mailto:andrea.mcneil@pc.gc.ca)  
819-997-4930

Or, you may visit: [www.river-management.org/canada](http://www.river-management.org/canada)

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### **What is a Canadian Heritage River?**

A Canadian Heritage River is a river system within Canada that is designated by the Canadian Heritage Rivers System (CHRS) as a river with outstanding natural, cultural and/or recreational values. The mandate of the CHRS is to give these designated rivers national recognition, and to encourage the public to enjoy and appreciate them. Today, there are 37 designated Canadian Heritage Rivers, two of which are located in PEI. Another four rivers have been nominated for designation.

# RMS Chapters

## Northwest by Lynette Ripley

### Join Us For A 2013 River Trip and Bring Some New Members!

Coming to a river near you in Montana, Idaho and Oregon—Time to wet your paddles and bring along some new faces on a Northwest Chapter river trip! Registration forms and more detailed information will be sent out over email.

#### **Blackfoot River Trip Missoula, Montana**

July 12-14, 2013

Group Size Limit: 8

Cost: \$80 (for current RMS members) / \$130 for non-members (this includes a \$50 one-year RMS membership)

Contact Person: Dave Ryan, Missoula, Montana

#### **Day Trip on the Payette River Boise, Idaho**

Date to be announced in July

Contact Person: Robin Fehlau, Boise, Idaho

#### **Main Salmon River Trip Salmon, Idaho**

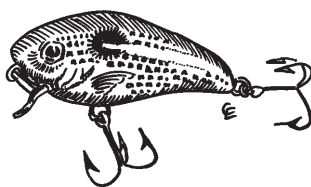
September 13-18, 2013

Corn Creek to Carey Creek  
River trip will follow the Slate  
Creek River Ranger's patrol.

Group Size Limit: 20

Cost: Approximately \$200-\$275 per person

Contact Person: Ryan Turner, Cottonwood, Idaho



#### **Rogue River Trip Grants Pass, Oregon**

October 18-20, 2013

Wilderness River Section, lodge to lodge, staying at Black Bar  
and Paradise Lodges

Group Size Limit: 12

Cost: Approximately \$300 per person

Contact Person: Becky Brown, Grants Pass, Oregon



### New RMS Members Contest!

Could you use \$100 FREE to spend at REI? This is the winner's prize for our new members contest May 1-September 1, 2013! The current RMS Northwest Chapter member who signs up the most new members this summer will receive a \$100 gift card to REI. Have your new member write your name on the membership form so you get credit for your recruits. You must recruit a *minimum of five* new folks to win. Chapter officers are not allowed to participate. This is the perfect summer to sign up your friends and family (they don't have to be river professionals, just river enthusiasts) by getting them hooked on RMS and reeling them in with an awesome chapter river trip! Get out there and start fishin' for new folks!

### Reminder for "Organizational" RMS Members

If you belong to RMS as an Organizational member, don't forget you may add additional 'Staff' members from those who work at your location—(1) member if you work at a non-profit, and (3) Organization Staff members if your employer is a government agency or corporation. Organizational Staff members will receive RMS Journals and digital RMS Digests, and they can subscribe to the RMS listserve.

To add or replace an Organizational Staff member, ask your Primary Contact (the person in whose name the membership is administered) to log into the Membership page of the RMS website and add colleagues to your membership with the Organization Staff Update Form. Your Primary Contact can change Staff members or profiles any time, and Organizational Staff members can add to their own member profile and connect with other members via the Membership Directory. ♦



# RMS Chapters

## Southeast by Mary Crockett



2013 SC State Envirothon Champs  
Spartanburg High School Team A



2013 SC State 2nd Place — Spartanburg Day School Team A



2013 SC State 3rd Place — Dorman High School

Every September in the Southeast, other regions of the United States, and in Canada, there are five person teams of high school students preparing for a unique competition called the Envirothon. This is a competition where teams of students compete against each other at six testing stations located in some very scenic settings, as opposed to a classroom. The goal of Envirothon is to promote a desire within students to learn more about our natural world, so that succeeding generations will be more environmentally literate, and will possess the skills and knowledge to make informed decisions regarding the environment. This is achieved by teaching principles of resource management and general ecology to develop critical thinking and problem solving skills to students in a timed competition. Students are tested in their knowledge of forestry, soil science/agriculture, water/aquatics, wildlife, and other current topics. They also prepare an oral presentation on a topic that would involve a multidisciplinary approach.

Each year working professionals in the natural resource fields are asked to help judge the individual stations at our state level competition. South Carolina typically has 18-20 teams make it to the state competition in May. I particularly love to volunteer my time to help judge the oral presentation station as this gives me a chance to hear the teams put all the disciplines to use, convincing us to act on a particular subject or topic. Last year's oral presentation topic had teams presenting their design of an environmentally green high school, convincing us as to the building design, handling of water and waste, and how the building and grounds fit into the greater landscape using principles of sustainability. This year as an orals judge, I got to pretend I was a state legislator on a natural resource committee, listening to a 10-minute presentation by a team trying to convince us to reestablish a viable rangeland grass prairie area in the Piedmont Region of South Carolina, large enough to reintroduce a small herd of Elk and Bison. What an interesting concept for such a small and populated state! The presentations were original and some quite impressive. Teams are awarded a first, second and third place certificate for the highest scores at each station. Three schools with the highest overall combined station scores are awarded medals and the school with the highest score overall wins additional college scholarship funds and a trip to the North American competition. This year's North American competition will be held in August, at Montana State University in Bozeman. I hope our South Carolina, and other south-eastern state teams do well in Montana.

The SE RMS Chapter will be electing new officers this year and scheduling a late summer river trip—if you are interested in serving as an officer or hosting a chapter river trip, please send me an email: [mary@congarereelt.org](mailto:mary@congarereelt.org). ♦

# RMS Chapters

## Southwest by Greg Trainor

You have all seen them. The advertisements that sell khaki pants, but the image is of a guy fly fishing and his dog is laying on a rock nearby. The caption says something about having as much fun as your dog. I guess the logic is...well, there is no logic. The attempt is to create a *feeling* that if you wear "mountain khaki pants," you will end up doing something that you love (fly fishing) and having an uninhibited and stress free experience like your dog (happily laying on a rock).

I was wondering if the same illogic might work for the River Management Society. Rather than selling the Society on the basis of the professionalism of its members and our willingness to consult with others on matters of river and resource policy—all worthy ideals—we might try to "sell the sizzle" of river management. Imagine why we love rivers, and why we just have to be involved. Maybe it's more than our professional expertise or our willingness to work within our agencies. Maybe it is something different.

I tried to come up with a companion advertisement like the mountain khaki ad. Here are my results, along with what the scene might look like (in parens).

You might have good ideas, too, on how to "sell the sizzle" of being part of a great river. If so, send in your idea to Risa Shimoda, RMS Executive Director, and the top pick will win the recently published book *Colorado River, Flowing Through Conflict*. We will publish all good ideas in the next edition of the Journal. ♦

*Greg Trainor serves as Secretary of the Southwest Chapter of RMS.*

RMS...exploring great rivers.

*RMS...make river friends on the great rivers.*

(woman holding a collard lizard in her finely sculpted hand )

**RMS...will the rivers be there when your kids will?**

(kids sitting in the grass, watching kids—  
desert bighorns—sitting in the grass)

*RMS...today's kids, tomorrow's river managers.*

(children lined up with backs to camera, washing camp dishes)

**RMS...you can't change rivers, they change you.**

(man standing on beach staring at a cliff face in  
Lodore Canyon at sundown)

## GOOD FRIENDS. GREAT RIVERS...RMS

*RMS...food, friends, and fantasy on the great rivers !*

(quietly lounging in a hot spring on the Middle Fork)

**Grandpa! Perk up on a great river...RMS**

(some kind of "you're never too old theme")

*River leadership learned on the great rivers...RMS*

(playing hacky sac on the beach in a circle of new friends)

## Cultivate a passion for the river...RMS

**RMS...test your people skills  
on the great rivers!**

(frantically paddling through one of the  
"Big Drops" in Cataract Canyon)

**Fall in love on a  
great river...RMS**

(person reading Tom Sawyer  
on the bow of a boat)



# RMS Chapters

## CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF MINNESOTA STATE WATER TRAILS



**MAY 17–19, 2013 | GRANITE FALLS, MINNESOTA**

In celebration of the 50th anniversary of Minnesota's State Water Trails system, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) participated in local nonprofit Clean Up the River Environment's (CURE's) annual Minnesota River History weekend, May 17–19 in Granite Falls, MN.

This event featured two different paddling routes on the Minnesota River on Saturday, May 18. On the guided "Paddling Theater" route, the paddling audience engaged with actors on land and from their ten-person voyageur canoes. Characters from throughout history emerged on the river banks, islands and other watercraft, to lead the audience on an interactive journey into the past and future of the Minnesota River Valley. On the "Historic Rapids" route, experienced paddlers ran Class I and Class II rapids that have emerged after the recent removal

of the 107-year old Minnesota Falls dam.

*"With the unique mix of theater, historic rapids and paddlers with spring fever, this anniversary celebration was full of characters!" notes Erik Wrede, State water trails program coordinator for the DNR's Division of Parks and Trails.*

Minnesota has the first and largest water trail system in the nation. State water trails are recreational routes on waterways that are managed by the DNR and local partners for canoeing, kayaking, boating and camping. There is a network of over 1,400 public water accesses, campsites and rest areas on state water trails, which thrive on the support of local units of government, paddling clubs, outfitters and nonprofits like CURE. Over the years, the system has expanded to include more than 4,500 miles of mapped

routes on 32 rivers and Lake Superior. The Minnesota, St. Croix, Big Fork and Little Fork Rivers were designated in 1963 as the first water trails in the nation.

In addition to the paddling trips, the celebration included: a Minnesota River History exhibit, a showing of the film "River Revival: Working Together to Save the Minnesota River," and presentations about the Minnesota State Water Trails system, the Hudson Bay Bound expedition from Minneapolis to Hudson Bay, and the removal of the Minnesota Falls dam, bluegrass music from Hey Lonesome and Brian Laidlaw and the Family Trade, and food from Bootleggers Supper Club. ♦

*For more information visit [www.cureriver.org](http://www.cureriver.org) or call the CURE office at 1-877-269-2873. For more information about the Minnesota State Water Trails system, visit [www.mndnr.gov/watertrails](http://www.mndnr.gov/watertrails).*

# RMS Chapters



*Front row, L to R: Jake Teller, Diane Goldman, Susan Skakel, Todd Parker, Bunny Sterin, Linda Jalbert  
Back row, L to R: Rob MacWhorter, Greg Trainor, Jamie Richardson, Andrew Kois, Tim Sveum*

## Southwest Chapter Spring Float — San Juan River

by Greg Trainor

The SW Chapter of the River Management Society took their spring float on the Upper San River from Bluff, Utah to Mexican Hat, Utah (25 miles). The San Juan, in this region of southeast Utah, is a moderate river meandering across a broad plain, bounded by high red cliffs of Wingate sandstone. Eight miles west of Bluff, the river enters a narrow gorge made up of dark limestone, pushed and folded and characterized by horizontal ledges. Coming out at Mexican Hat, the river plain broadens again for a short distance, then enters the canyons of the Lower San Juan and the famous “Goosenecks.”

The flows started at 267 CFS, but by launch date they were up to 1,500 and climbing. So good flows on a rising hydrograph. However, these flows are projected to be marginal given the low snow pack in the San Juan mountains of SW Colorado. Drought is classified as “severe.”

The Upper San Juan canyons and plains are known for their cultural resources of cliff houses and petroglyph panels. Don Simones, a Bureau of Land Management (BLM) archeologist that met us and guided us to some of the panels, talked about the resources and their evidence of human habitation in the area going back 12,000 BC. One of the major efforts of the BLM is to

balance the need to protect and catalogue the cultural resources with the high demand by the public to visit these places and explore. The Chapter discussed adopting a river each year and raising funds to assist the archeologists’ efforts to protect these resources. The first step would be an inventory of the thousands of sites. This basic need is still wanting and the federal budget cuts do no help.

This region of the San Juan has major historical significance besides the prehistoric. Colonists of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons) traversed this forbidding region to settle in the Bluff and Montezuma Creek areas. Their ordeal is considered one of the major epic western movements of the post-civil war era (1879). Many have heard of their efforts to cross the Colorado River at “hole-in-the-rock,” lowering wagons down sheer cliffs only to find Comb Ridge and San Juan “hill” waiting. The BLM historians discussed this with the RMS crew.

The food was great, the music wonderful, and the Chapter had good representation from Grand Canyon, Glen Canyon, Monticello (UT), Grand Junction (CO), Bend (OR), Cascades National Forest of western Oregon, Salt Lake City, and one lonely attorney from Pebble Beach (CA)—eleven in all. ♦



# RMS Chapters

## Welcome! New RMS Members

### Professional

Shane Csiki

Fluvial Geomorphology Specialist  
New Hampshire Department of  
Environmental Services, Concord NH

Diane Goldman

Associate General Counsel  
Pebble Beach Company, Pebble Beach CA

Amber Hughes, Botanist

Bureau of Land Management  
Escalante UT

Corrie Kegel, Civil Engineer

USDA Forest Service, Superior MT

Todd Parker, Recreation Planner

Bureau of Land Management  
Monticello UT

Jarrett Self, Owner

Jarrett Self, Durango CO

Mike Tichi, President

SW Joint, Inc., Durango CO

Daniel Bevington

Planner / Floodplain Administrator  
Kenai Peninsula Borough, Soldotna AK

### Student

Jake Teller, Spanish Fork UT

### Lifetime

Lynette Ripley, Recreation Manager  
Bureau of Reclamation, Bend OR



## Up a river...with your camera! A Wild and Scenic Video / Photo Contest

This awareness campaign to encourage understanding and appreciation for our Wild and Scenic Rivers System continues through mid-July!

The "Up a river ... with your camera!" project is underway to:

- stir awareness of Wild and Scenic Rivers (that they exist, and which ones they are)
- develop a library of images and video that can be used to educate agency staff and the public about Wild and Scenic Rivers

Contestants can submit images or videos taken on a river that is part of the Wild and Scenic Rivers system. We will encourage participants to identify the river as wild, scenic or recreational.

Participants are asked to upload their video and photos to flickr. Submissions will be accepted through July 15, and winners will be announced in August.

Owners of the winning photo and video, respectively, will receive a prize of \$100, and RMS will match each prize with a donation in their name to a river charity of their choice. In addition, winning entries will be posted on both the RMS and the [www.rivers.gov](http://www.rivers.gov) (Wild and Scenic Rivers) websites!

Visit the website the RMS Facebook page for more details!

RMS advisors for this project have provided much-appreciated input and feedback on this project. Thanks go to the National Park Service, Lisa Machnik, Lisa Byers, Jimmy Gaudry, Molly Wainwright, Josh Nadas, and Christina Boston for their input and enthusiasm. ♦

*(Blueway, from page 13)*

the Parks and Recreation Department and an anonymous donor. Approval from all property owners and the Core of Engineers was sought and approved before the signs were installed. Overall, the property owners were excited about the project and saw the need and readily approved. Installing the mile marker signs has certainly helped to improve the ability of emergency personnel to locate people in need of assistance on the water. Casey solicited 25 volunteers to help with installing the signs, which was completed on March 16, 2013. The volunteers consisted of Boy Scout Troops #514, #536, #911, Friends of the Blueway, Blueway Adventure and Fort Campbell Outdoor Adventure.

This truly was a collaboration among many entities but started with the vision of one person. ♦



*L to R: Richard Wacker and Michael Ashberger on mile marker installation day.*

*(Tree Project, from page 23)*

empowered to take some action to try to improve their community.

Restoring urban and rural forests is critical to sustainability of our communities. The Council's tree project would not be possible without support of youth volunteers and businesses in the community such as GM Spring Hill to provide mentors. Long term partnerships, such as the DROP/GM Spring Hill relationship is critical to accomplishing the goals of the Council, including working with youth in Tennessee. Through the TN Tree Project, the Council is creating a culture of tree planting in all types of organizations across the state. This ripple effect may have incalculable results, as our partners go on to train their own connections in their community and as youth learn to be active citizens engaging in society.

The Tennessee Tree Project is made possible by generous grants and support from the Dan and Margaret Maddox Charitable Foundation, TN Wildlife Resources Agency, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), TN Department of Agriculture's Riparian Forest Buffer Program, Tennessee Agricultural Enhancement Program, Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee and National Wildlife Federation. ♦

*For more information, please contact: [Laura@tectn.org](mailto:Laura@tectn.org), Development Assistant, Tennessee Environmental Council, One Vantage Way Ste E250, Nashville, TN 37228 (or) [John@tectn.org](mailto:John@tectn.org), Executive Director, Tennessee Environmental Council.*





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## NORTHEAST

(vacant)

# To Join RMS

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Office \_\_\_\_\_

Work Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Job Title \_\_\_\_\_

Duties/interests \_\_\_\_\_

Rivers you manage \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Category (please check one)

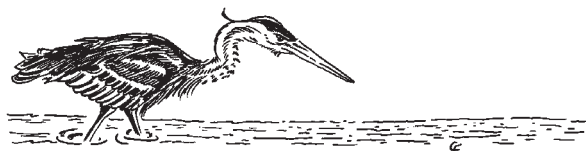
- ☐ Professional \$50/yr (\$200 for 5 years)
- ☐ Associate \$30/yr
- ☐ Organization \$120/yr (government/corporate)
- ☐ Organization \$60/yr (NGO/non-profit)
- ☐ Student \$25/yr
- ☐ Lifetime \$500 (for individuals only)

Who referred you to RMS? \_\_\_\_\_

*Make checks payable to "RMS"  
RMS also accepts VISA or Mastercard:*

Card #:  
Exp date:  
Amount:

*Send this form, with payment, to:  
RMS, P.O. Box 5750, Takoma Park, MD 20913-5750  
(301) 585-4677 • rms@river-management.org*





Next Journal Deadline - Northwest Chapter - Submissions due August 1, 2013

# Congratulations!



**2013 RMS Award Winners** (L to R): River Manager of the Year – Greg Trainor. Frank Church Wild and Scenic Rivers Award – Evan Worthington. Contribution to RMS – Lynette Ripley. And RMS President, Dennis Willis. (*see details inside on page 4*)