



Friends of Wild River State Park

Spring 2017

# Newsletter

www.FriendsOfWildRiver.org ■ info@FriendsOfWildRiver.org ■ 651-253-3498



**Special Concert Fundraiser Edition!**

Join us on June 30<sup>th</sup> for a special Fundraising Concert:

## ONCE UPON A RIVER

**Featuring Dan Chouinard and talented supporting performers  
along with the Unexpected Company community choir**

The purpose for this concert is to raise funds for a new amphitheater at Wild River State Park. As most if not all of you know, the existing "amphitheater" is hardly an amphitheater at all – just a slope across from the camping area with some wood planks for seats and a small display board. There is no stage, cover, electricity or lighting. The Friends of Wild River State Park feel this is inadequate and would like a covered stage with lighting and storage.

The new one would include a covered stage, electricity, lighting, and storage. An amphitheater such as this would be used for interpretive programs, naturalist presentations, and other park gatherings.

The cost of this new amphitheater is approximately \$38,000 and the Friends have already designated \$10,000 for it from our funds. So we need your help! This concert will go a long way to get us to our goal if we get a big crowd. The information on this fun event is:

**When:** Friday, June 30, 7:30 p.m.

**Where:** Immanuel Lutheran Church -- 37515 Park Trail -- Almelund, MN 55012

**Cost:** \$50 – main floor - front \$35 – main floor - rear, or balcony

**How:** Visit our website to purchase tickets (sales open on 4/30/2017): [www.FriendsOfWildRiver.org](http://www.FriendsOfWildRiver.org)

**Additional attraction:** a few Silent Auction tables will be set up with interesting bargains for you to bid on.

**Questions:** Contact Dave Kozlovsky at 651-583-2123 or email [kozlovsky@northlc.com](mailto:kozlovsky@northlc.com)

Change this....



To this!!



## Performer bios:



For three decades **Dan Chouinard** has been pianist and accordionist of choice for a who's who of Twin Cities performers, an enabler of community singalongs and a writer of hit shows for public radio, concert hall and theatrical stage. He's appeared all across the upper Midwest and turned up often on Garrison Keillor's *A Prairie Home Companion*. As a writer and host he's often asked to create special live programs for Minnesota Public Radio, the MN Historical Society, the Rose Ensemble and others. His essays have been published in *Minnesota Monthly*, *Saint John's Magazine*, the Minnesota Orchestra's *Showcase* magazine and in the Minneapolis *StarTribune*.

He has traveled extensively in France and Italy, with bicycle and without, and has presented French and Italian sing-alongs at the Alliance Française in Minneapolis. He spent the last months of summer 2015 working in Italy on an independent Hollywood film, *Smitten!* to be released early next year.

He's a musical consultant and concert organizer at the progressive St. Joan of Arc Catholic Community in South Minneapolis, and leads monthly community sing-alongs in downtown Minneapolis and St. Anthony Park.

He grew up in a big musical family near Lindstrom MN, attended St. John's University in Collegeville MN and spent four years as a teacher of French and Italian as a graduate student at the University of Minnesota.

More information at [danchouinard.com](http://danchouinard.com)



**Unexpected Company** is a local community choir made up of people of all ages and musical backgrounds. It is a mixed adult chorus which has delighted audiences with show tunes, pop music, classical, jazz and holiday concerts. Performances take place at the Chisago Lakes Performing Arts Center, along with other venues. The chorus is always looking for new voices.

More information at <https://www.facebook.com/unexpectedcompanyminnesota/>

*See you at this entertaining concert on June 30<sup>th</sup>!*

*An additional attraction at the concert:*

### **Silent Auction Items offered in the Church Entry**

We are planning on having a few tables set up in the entry area of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Almelund that will have some nice items available for you to bid on as part of a silent auction. The doors will open at 7:00 p.m. before the concert starts at 7:30 so please come early to grab a bargain.

Items that have been donated so far are:

Wine from Wild Mountain Winery -- 2 tickets for the Scenic Boat Tours in Taylors Falls -- 120v arc welder  
 Quart jars of Mn. Maple Syrup -- Pampered Chef Cookie Press -- "St. Croix Wild" original painting  
 A night at the LaVoie Treehouse in Long Prairie, MN

If you have anything that you would like to donate to this silent auction, please email us at [info@FriendsOfWildRiver.org](mailto:info@FriendsOfWildRiver.org) or call our Friends President, Brad Bjorklund, at 651-253-3498.

All proceeds from these sales will go toward the new Amphitheater.

# Going with the Flow

Mike Dunker, Interpretive Naturalist – Wild River State Park

The beautiful St. Croix River plays a major role at Wild River State Park. Due to the federal protection it received in 1968 as part of the Wild and Scenic River Act, park visitors are able to take advantage of one of the healthier rivers in the state. The park itself has over sixteen miles of shoreline along the river, providing for some great recreational opportunities such as fishing, paddling, birding and more.

Statewide, water is one of our main interpretive themes for Minnesota State Parks and Trails for 2017. Here are just a few upcoming ways that Wild River State Park is getting involved. You will also see that there are others working with the park, such as the Friends of Wild River State Park to help create these great experiences. Hopefully you can join us for some of these programs and activities on the St. Croix!

## Love Notes to the River: A Tributary Tribute

*Description:* Creeks, streams and rivers flow through our landscapes and our lives. They are part of our childhoods, our memories with friends, our adventures and sometimes our dreams. Visit this interactive exhibit as you help create a picture of what the St. Croix River means to those who encounter it, one handwritten note or drawing at a time. Stop by this ongoing station to see the notes that others have left behind and to add your own. The exhibit will make its way downriver from St. Croix State Park to Afton State Park over the summer, offering you several opportunities to see the project's progress.

May 27-29	Display at St. Croix State Park
June 3-4	Display at Wild River State Park
June 10-11	Display at Interstate State Park
July 1-4	Display at William O'Brien State Park
July 21-23	Display at Afton State Park

## St. Croix River Clean-up

An annual paddle put on by the Friends of Wild River State Park, you can join us on the river and help to clean it up in the process. Eight canoes will be available to use by reservation, and shuttling will be free for this event. Groups will be dropped off at the Sunrise boat landing within the park to make the 9-mile trip down river, collecting trash along the shoreline and islands. Bring a lunch for a sandbar stop along the way. The National Park Service and the St. Croix River Association have been partners in the river clean-up as well.

The river clean-up is the second Saturday in July every year, with this year being Saturday, July 8. Watch the Wild River State Park or Friends of Wild River State Park websites for more information and to find out how to reserve your canoe.

## I Can Fish!

Besides the numerous other programs that will be provided throughout the summer, Wild River State Park will hold a number of I Can Fish! programs teaching fishing skills and aquatic education. These programs will be more involved and registration will be necessary. Keep an eye on the MNDNR website for dates and information.

And finally, you will again see a new face at the park's Visitor Center this summer as we welcome a new Naturalist Corps member starting in May. This year, the state parks have partnered with MinnAqua to help provide this position which brings another opportunity to focus on the river.

Thank you to all who continue to make  
Wild River State Park such a special place!

Thank you for your  
Membership

### FWRSP Membership Options

- Junior **Friend**, 12 and under – \$5 / year  
*Includes an "Action Guide" and other benefits*
- Individual **Friend** – \$20 / year
- Family **Friend** – \$35 / year
- Silver **Friend** – \$50 / year
- Gold **Friend** – \$100 / year
- Platinum **Friend** – \$250+ / year  
*Add an additional \$10 and be a member of  
Parks and Trails Council of Minnesota*

Name:			
Address:			
City:			
State:		Zip:	
Email:			

*(We will never sell or trade your email address.)*

**Option 1:** Mail above with check to:

Jan Kouslosky, FWRSP Treasurer  
 (make check out to "Parks and Trails Council of Minnesota"  
 and put "Friends of Wild River membership" in memo field)  
 11130 410th St.  
 North Branch, MN 55056

**Option 2:** Sign-up Online and use your credit card at:

[www.FriendsOfWildRiver.org](http://www.FriendsOfWildRiver.org)

### Calendar of Events

*For more info on these and  
other activities go to  
[FriendsOfWildRiver.org](http://FriendsOfWildRiver.org)  
or [mndnr.gov/wildriver](http://mndnr.gov/wildriver)*

APRIL:

**29:** *Park Program:* Sounds of Spring Stroll -- 1:00 – 2:30 at the Visitor Center.

MAY:

**13:** **International Migratory Bird Day** – events throughout the day. *Presented by the Friends.*

**13:** *Park Program:* Warbler Walk -- 9:00 – 10:30 a.m. at the Visitor Center.

**14:** *Park Program:* Mother's Day Wildflower Walk -- 2:00 – 3:30 at the Visitor Center.

JUNE:

**10:** *Park Program:* Raptors of the Great Lakes Region, with Chris Cold of the Wisconsin DNR – 2:00 – 3:00 at the Visitor Center. *Funded by the Friends.*

**17:** *Park Program:* Astronomy on the Prairie – Ken Bahmer brings telescopes for viewing the night sky – 8:00 p.m. near the amphitheater. *Funded by the Friends.*

**23:** *Park Program:* Archery in the Park -- 10:00 - 2:00 at the Picnic area.

**24:** *Park Program:* Totally Turtles!– 2:00 – 3:00 p.m at the Visitor Center. Kids get to hand-feed a large tortoise and there will be five native species for visitors to see and touch. *Funded by the Friends.*

**30:** **Dan Chouinard Fundraiser Concert** – 7:30 p.m. at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Almelund. *Presented by the Friends.*

JULY:

**1:** *Park Program:* Bruce the Bug Guy -- 1:00 - 2 at the Visitor Center, with Bruce Giebink- featuring live insects. *Funded by the Friends.*

**8:** **St. Croix River Canoe Clean-up** – from the Sunrise boat access to the main boat landing. *Presented by the Friends.*

**15:** *Park Program:* Archery in the Park -- 10:00 - 2:00 at the Picnic area.

**22:** *Park Program:* Wildlife Ecology and Management -- 2:00 – 3:00 at the Visitor Center, with Chris Cold of the Wisconsin DNR.

*Funded by the Friends.*

Friends of Wild River State Park  
 Bob Kessen  
 31145 Genesis Ave  
 Stacy, MN 55079-9417