



## Friends of Wild River State Park

Summer 2022

# Newsletter



## *Summer Is Here!*

Hello Friends of Wild River members! We are looking forward to a summer full of activities and new faces. Here are some of the events we'll be covering in this newsletter edition:

- Seegwan is back!
- Earth Day report
- Wild Friend Award recipient

## River Clean Up Event

The Friends' annual River Clean Up on the St. Croix returns this year on Saturday, July 9. Please let the Friends know ahead of the event if you plan to join so we can ensure we have enough canoes for everyone. That can be done by emailing [info@friendsofwildriver.org](mailto:info@friendsofwildriver.org). Volunteers will meet at 9 am at the boat launch parking lot in Wild River State Park and then shuttle up to the Sunrise Landing. Prepare to be on the river for most of the day by packing a lunch, bringing plenty of water, and having lots of sunscreen. Trash bags will be provided for any junk found during the day. Consider bringing gloves and perhaps a trash grabber for hard to reach items. We look forward to seeing you there!

## Welcome to the Naturalist Corp Intern!

Hi, my name is Olivia Ellenbecker. I am currently going into my senior year at the University of Wisconsin-Madison studying conservation biology and environmental studies. I am super excited to be working at Wild River as a naturalist this summer because my future career goal is to be a national park ranger! As a child, my family and I would travel and road trip to the Minnesota state parks and national parks across the country each summer. I am especially a huge fan of wildlife sightings at the parks, so Yellowstone is officially my favorite park due to the bison! With that said, some of my interests are hiking, nordic skiing, and traveling. I am very excited to work at Wild River and hope to see as many park visitors as possible this summer!



# SEEGWAN



HELD JUNE 11, 2022

The event schedule is as follows:

**8 am Bird Walk with Joe Sausen**  
Meet at the Boat Landing

Join an experienced bird watcher who will take you through a variety of habitats to see and hear our feathered friends. Learn ID tips for all levels of experience. Bring binoculars if you have them.

**10 am Wildflowers Hike with Mike Dunker**  
Meet at the Visitor Center.

Walk along the trails to discover the amazing plants at the park. Some are edible, others can be used for medicine or injuries, and some may cause trouble. Find out which is which on this woodland walk.

**1 - 2 pm Bug Show with Bruce the Bug Guy**  
Meet at the Visitor Center.

A show for all ages, get up close and personal with an assortment of living and preserved insects. Learn about the important roles bugs play in ecosystems.

**10 am-4 pm La Compagnie Voyageur Encampment**  
Located near the Visitor Center.

Celebrate with La Compagnie des Hivernants de la Riviere Saint Pierre, a group of characters that will take you back in time through their live fur trade reenactment! Voyageurs, bourgeois, and assorted winterers await you.

**3 pm Seed Sow with Mike Dunker**  
Meet at the Visitor Center.

Help continue the restoration of Amador Prairie. We will be planting native seeds on the prairie. Fun for all ages.



*All programs are FREE and open to the public. Plus, a MN State Park Vehicle Permit is NOT required on the second Saturday in June.*

## Wild Friend Award

Every Year the Friends of Wild River nominate a Wild Friend Award recipient, someone who has made a significant impact on the Friends of Wild River and the state park itself. This year the Friends nominated former Friends' president Brad Bjorklund.

Brad has a longtime affinity for Wild River State Park and began volunteering at the state park many years ago.

Through his volunteerism, he became aware of the Friends of Wild River State Park and rose through the ranks to be the president of the club.

As a longtime Friend, Brad has donated his time in many ways, including the Prairie Care Program.



*L to R, current Friends vice president Jim McCarthy and former Friends president Brad Bjorklund during the March 2022 annual meeting.*

As a talented woodworker and craftsman, he has improved many of the displays, including the restoration of the historic Logging Sled in the Picnic Area. He also helped to create the first Free Little Library in a Minnesota state park (found in the campground). He helped increase the integrity of the Friends of Wild River through registering it as a 501 c3 nonprofit and establishing financial audits.

In all that he has done, Brad is truly a Wild Friend. Thank you, Brad, for all your hard wo

## Earth Day Report

After a stormy and rainy start to Earth Day, the Friends were able to spend the morning of April 23 helping to remove pine saplings from the restored prairie near the entrance of Wild River State Park. While it may seem antithetical to Earth Day traditions of planting trees, it's important to remove the trees to preserve the prairie/oak savana habitat, which is native to this area. This Earth Day event was hosted in partnership with the Parks & Trails Council of Minnesota.



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



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

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

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

Jan Kozlovsky, FWRSP Treasurer  
 (make check out to "Friends of Wild River State Park")  
 17190 410<sup>th</sup> St.  
 North Branch, MN 55056

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

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

*We will never sell or trade your email address*

Like us on Facebook!



Search for "Friends of Wild River State Park."

#### Other Upcoming Events to Consider...

- Visit us at the Almelund Apple Festival, third Sunday in September
- Sign up for the Otter Trotter 5K, taking place the second Saturday in October

More details and events can be found on our website [friendsofwildriver.org](http://friendsofwildriver.org).

Friends of Wild River State Park  
 Marjorie Otto  
 500 Roselawn Ave. E.  
 Maplewood, MN, 55117