



River Connection

Summer 2016

www.fomnrr.org

Welcome to River Connection!

The Friends of the Missouri National Recreational River welcomes you to River Connection. The purpose of this new newsletter is to build awareness, enhance and advocate for the scenic, recreational, fish and wildlife, ecological, geological, cultural/historical values and economic and recreational opportunities of the Missouri National Recreational River.

The Friends of the Missouri National Recreational River (FOMNRR) is a non-profit coalition that offers a forum for a wide array of sources to promote the well-being and connectivity of the river. The FOMNRR represents a setting for federal, state and local government representatives, conservation organizations, landowners, citizens at large and other stakeholders to share and exchange information on a suite of topics. The group shares a common respect and appreciation for the river's natural and cultural integrity. The river holds diverse connections to the individual lives of those who know it, but collectively it unites them. The purpose and mission of the Friends of the Missouri National Recreational River speaks to this end by uniting a wide variety of entities as advocates for the river today and tomorrow.



Chair's Corner – Paul Lepisto

As the Friends of the Missouri National Recreational River (FOMNRR) organization approaches our first anniversary it is appropriate to take a look in the rear view mirror as well as through the windshield. As the saying goes - you must crawl before you walk and walk before you run. That's also true for the FOMNRR. So many people stepped up to give the FOMNRR legs to stand on and for that, a simple thank you just doesn't seem adequate. The FOMNRR and the river owe you, as an original member, a great deal.

Our mission is, in part, to build awareness, enhance and advocate for the scenic, recreational, fish and wildlife and economic opportunities of the Missouri National Recreational River. With your help and support we will continue to strive to meet our goals. We have a lengthy list of activities for you to participate in and we are in always in need of your help. Thanks to you, the FOMNRR is off to a solid start; let's keep rolling and keep building on what we've started. The Missouri National Recreational River is a true treasure and with your continued support we will make more people aware of what this river has to offer.

Executive Board

Chair Paul Lepisto, Vice Chair Tim Cowman, Secretary Dave Swanson, Treasurer Stephanie Moser, At-Large Bob Foley, and NPS Liaisons Rick Clark and Daniel Peterson

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Superintendent's Corner

Rick Clark, Missouri National Recreational River

What a remarkable milestone 2016 has become for the Friends of the Missouri National Recreational River (FOMNRR). Volume I, Issue I of the FOMNRR Newsletter is but yet another indicator of the progress the organization is making as it transitions from its first inception in August 2015 to becoming fully fledged. I have to continually remind myself that as of the publication of this Newsletter, the group is only 10 months old and still in the crawling stage of its life. As the saying goes, baby steps first and hopefully giant leaps in the years to come. Individual, family, and corporate membership categories are all trending upward, which is crucial in providing the friends group a solid and credible foundation from which to operate and implement its mission.

On the horizon for the Friends Group and its close working relationship with the Park are joint efforts to promote the Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORV) that are cornerstone to the Missouri National Recreational River being a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System and a unit of the National Park Service. ORVs that are central to the very fabric that make-up the park's character are Scenic, Fish & Wildlife, Recreational, Ecological, Geological, and Cultural. To do justice to each of these six ORVs requires due diligence by the National Park Service and our cooperators to continually engage the public and adjacent communities in making a case for why preserving and protecting, while providing for opportunities of enjoyment along the reaches of the river included within the MNRR are a worthy cause.

This cause is intrinsic to the 1916 Organic Act that established the National Park Service. On August 25, 2016 the National Park Service will celebrate its 100th birthday. In this centennial year the Park in cooperation with the Friends Group seeks to assure that the agency mission remains relevant to the Country. The Friends Group has a supporting role by virtue of being active in assisting the agency accomplish the Servicewide centennial goal of: "Connect with and create the next generation of park visitors, supporters and advocates". Friends Group members can help do their part by contributing their individual and collective talents in needed emphasis areas such as grant writing and events program coordination.

Thanks for your support, and know that by being a Friends Group member you do indeed make a difference by providing enhanced stewardship and wellbeing of the River.



Wish List

We seek people to serve on our grant writing, special events, and program development committees. Interested?

We also are looking for people to staff our booth at fairs and festivals.

Please contact info@fomnrr.org for details.



What Are Our Goals?

- Develop and maintain partnerships to enhance the Missouri National Recreational River and the adjacent middle Missouri River corridor for the betterment of people within the region, as well as, the United States.
- Enhance the quality of the visitor experience making the Missouri National Recreational River a national tourist destination.
- Provide leadership in developing a shared vision and a unified voice for Missouri National Recreational River stakeholders.
- Build an active constituency and raise funds to support the Missouri National Recreational River resource stewardship.
- Increase the public's awareness of the Missouri National Recreational River.
- Facilitate efforts to enhance the Missouri National Recreational River and specifically the "Missouri National Recreational River Outstandingly Remarkable Values".
- Promote and coordinate volunteer activities of the Missouri National Recreational River.

Who Makes Up The Board of Directors?

The Board of Directors (BOD) consist of 10 to 17 elected members. Those BOD members target participation from the following: up to four representatives of cities or counties adjoining the Missouri National Recreational River (2 in South Dakota, 2 in Nebraska); and at least one Tribal Representative. The FOMNRR membership chairman appointed up to four landowner interests of the Missouri National Recreational River (two members each from the 39 & 59 mile divisions and split evenly between SD and NE); up to two representatives from tourism/economic development; up to two representatives from recreation; one from education/science; and one representative from resource stewardship.

How Often Does The Board Meet?

The board meets monthly at area locations throughout the 98-mile Missouri National Recreational River corridor. The FOMNRR currently has 44 total memberships, including 17 corporate, 16 family and 11 individual memberships. The treasury balance is close to \$5,000, of which \$1,300 is earmarked for Missouri National Recreational River (Park) events.



The Power of Partnership

Increasingly partnerships are essential and effective means for the Missouri National Recreational River to fulfill parts of their mission and foster a shared sense of stewardship that is so crucial for their future.

National Park Service Director Jon Jarvis was interviewed about National Park Service (NPS) partnerships:

Question: How significant have partnerships been to establishing the National Park System since 1916?

"Our founder and first Director Steven Mather could never have achieved this extraordinary accomplishment without partners such as the railroads which helped promote the park idea."

Question: How essential are partnership skills in today's NPS workforce?

"Partnership skills are a core competency. Our employees must be able to find and welcome partners, to reach common ground and leverage each other's skills and resources."

Question: How do you rank a successful partnership track record in selecting park superintendents?

"At the top of my list. Superintendents who approach each partner with the spirit of opportunity and a willing cooperation are the best of the best."

Question: What can NPS realize through partnerships?

"Sustainability. Connections. Commitment. The results are truly greater than the sum of the parts. Neither the partner nor the NPS can achieve such results alone."

Question: What are the most essential ingredients to ensure successful NPS partnerships?

"That the NPS goes to the table with something to offer rather than to take. That we are willing to share the risk and that we will work equally hard through the rough patches."

NPS has shifted from a position of trying to do everything themselves to one of empowering others through partnerships to help them do more. As Brian O'Neill, former Superintendent of Golden Gate National Recreation Area pointed out, "Every time we do it ourselves, we miss out on an opportunity for community engagement."

The Friends of the Missouri National Recreational River has a deep appreciation for and a sense of commitment to the NPS mission, values, resources and people. Working through partnerships is a sound investment for both the near and long term. We need to invest wisely.

A look across the nation shows that good partnering is both a skill and an art. The Park seeks help from the FOMNRR to cultivate these skills and talents, and put them to good use. Partnerships lead to involvement. Involvement leads to awareness. Awareness leads to action. Action leads to stewardship.

A river is the coziest of friends. You must love it and live with it before you can know it.
~ G.W. Curtis

Polo Shirts and Caps are in!

FOMNRR has polo shirts and baseball style caps for sale to the general membership and public. The shirts and hats are each tan in color with the FOMNRR logo embroidery. Shirt sizes come in small, medium, large and extra-large. Hats are standard, one size fits all style. Polos are \$25 and caps are \$15.

Please visit the Park Headquarters Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm to pick up your shirt and hat today or email info@fomnrr.org for more information. Get Connected. Get Yours Today!

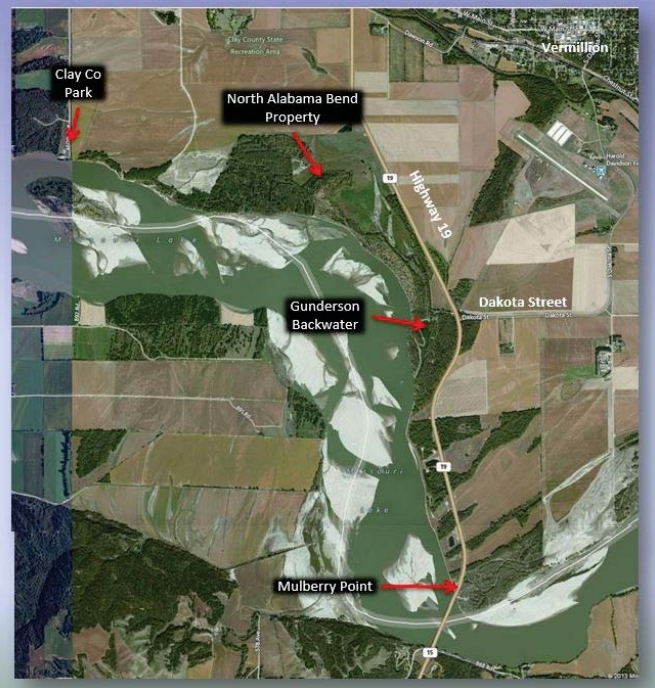


Clay County Park to Mulberry Point Corridor —Tim Cowman

The FOMNRR is helping to improve access to the MNRR between Clay County Park and the Newcastle-Vermillion Bridge through a series of trails. This section of the river has many wild and scenic values and the adjacent land parcels are relatively undeveloped. Federal and state government agencies own significant portions of land on the South Dakota side of the river in this area. Both government and private land owners have been contacted about developing primitive trails along the river here. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the SD Department of Game, Fish and Parks have responded favorably regarding primitive trails on their properties.



Clay County Park to Mulberry Point Corridor



The FOMNRR will work with these agencies over the coming months to put together formal agreements for the trails. FOMNRR is working on a conceptual design for the trails and it is anticipated that some trail work may begin this fall.

Highlights from Missouri NRR



Meet Roscoe—Missouri NRR’s New Mascot!

There’s a new pup in town. His name is Roscoe. He is a soft, cute little river otter who has found a home at the Missouri National Recreational River. Roscoe is the mascot for the park’s newest educational program by the same name, ROSCOE which stands for River Odyssey for School and Community Outreach and Education.

The program was created by Park interpretation, education and outreach seasonal staff for 4th grade classroom curriculums and targets several South Dakota and Nebraska State standards for that grade level.

According to Teresa Mentzer, MNRR Education Technician, the program reinforces several concepts in both the social studies and science curriculums for both states.

With the help of area school administrators and teachers, visits were scheduled at elementary schools in the communities of Yankton, Vermillion, Crofton, Butte and Hartington. Over 400 students were introduced to Roscoe and information about their national park. As students studied the park map and located their community, they were excited to discover that they live near, if not right in the center of a unit of the national park system.

One student remarked, “It is cool how we live in the middle of the national park!”

Mentzer’s goal for the program is to remind the students as well as their schools and communities that the Missouri National Recreational River is *their* park.

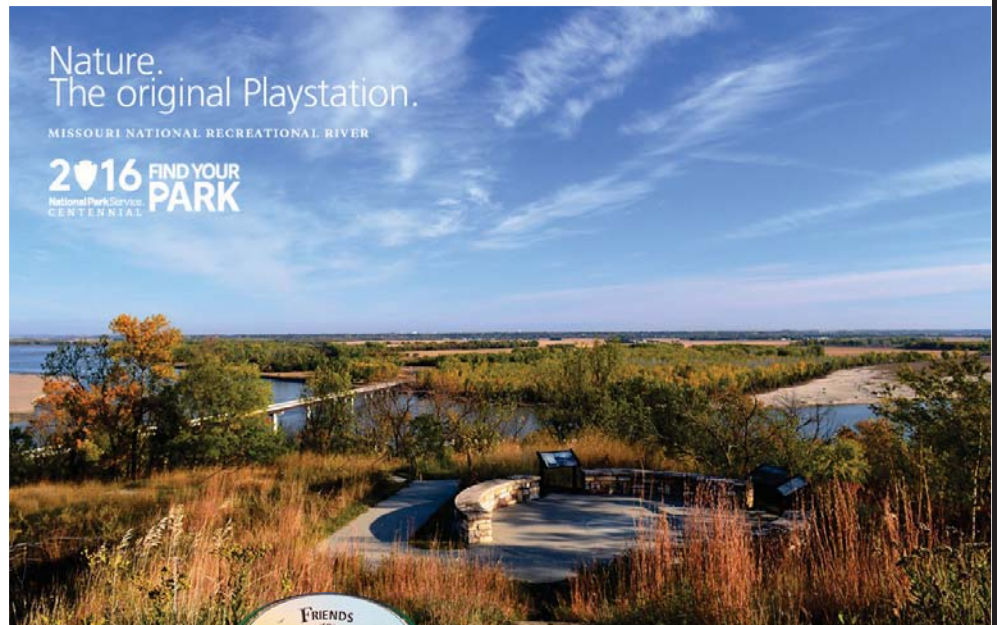
“While all national park areas belong to the public, not everyone can boast having one practically in their backyard,” she said.

ATTENTION: 4th Graders & Parents.

You have the spotlight in the National Parks Service’s Centennial celebration plans. Thanks to an initiative signed by the President you can gain free access to federal lands and waters.



For more information go to www.everykidinapark.gov and download a voucher for your 4th Grade Pass to national parks and other federal areas across the country.



What's Been Happening?

The **8th Annual Missouri River Watershed School Festival** was held in Riverside Park in Yankton Friday, May 6th, 2016. 275 area high school students from Nebraska and South Dakota attended the event. The goal of the Festival is to provide students the opportunity to learn about a wide variety of natural resource and conservation topics from 19 different hands-on presentations. The event is tremendously popular with teachers and students. The Friends of the Missouri National Recreational River helped coordinate the Festival.



The **13th annual Yankton Area Missouri River Clean Up** was held on Saturday, May 7th. More than 140 volunteers gathered over 2.59 tons of trash, lumber, and a record year for tires along both sides of the Missouri River from Gavins Point Dam to areas just downstream of Yankton. The annual Yankton Area Missouri River Clean Up makes the river cleaner and healthier for people and for fish and wildlife. The Friends of the Missouri National Recreational River look forward to helping all the other partners with this event that provides great benefits for the river.

Mark Your Calendar

We Need Your Help with these events!

AUGUST 19-21 2016

Yankton Riverboat Days & Summer Arts Festival Join in the fun for the entire weekend for this city-wide festival—art and craft shows, bands and so much more including participating in the Park's float in the parade.

AUGUST 25 2016

NPS Centennial Celebration Held at Yankton's Riverside Park, this event concludes our year-long slate of activities to commemorate the 100 years of the National Park Service. Join in on the evening's activities from 5-7 p.m. Local artists, performers, and presentations will highlight our special birthday festivities.

SEPTEMBER 10 2016

Ribs Rods and Rock'n Roll—Vermillion Join us at our information booth to share the news of the Friends of the Missouri National Recreational River.

Available? Please email us at info@fomnrr.org

The **8th annual Missouri River Clean Boat Invasive Species Awareness Event** was held May 7th-14th, 2016 at boat ramps and recreation areas above and below Gavins Point Dam. Despite cool, wet and very windy weather teams handed out nearly 300 informational packets to boaters and anglers that informed them how they can prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species. The event focused on boat ramps and recreational areas above and below Gavins Point Dam on both sides of the river.





**FRIENDS OF THE
MISSOURI
NATIONAL
RECREATIONAL
RIVER**

**Friends of the Missouri National Recreational
River**
P.O. Box 7029

Mail to:



NEED A FRIEND? BECOME A MEMBER!

Join the Friends of the Missouri National Recreational River today and become part of a growing connection of supporters for South Dakota's unique National Park!

FOMNRR Membership

- \$25 Individual
- \$50 Family
- \$10 Student
- \$5 Youth

Corporate Sponsorship

- \$1000 Platinum
- \$500 Gold
- \$250 Silver
- \$125 Bronze

Payment Options:

By check or online (visit www.fomnrr.org)

Send to:

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Yankton, SD 57078

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