

Friends of the MNRR
P.O. Box 7029
Yankton, SD 57078



Mail to:

FIND YOUR
PARK

**FRIENDS OF THE
Missouri National Recreational River**

How to Join

Online:

www.fomnrr.org

Click on the "Join Now" button

**Mail this form and a check made payable to
Friends of the MNRR to:**

Friends of the MNRR
P.O. Box 7029
Yankton, SD 57078

Membership includes a subscription to the newsletter,
invitations to Friends programs and field trips.
Memberships and donations are tax-deductible.

Join the Friends of the MNRR

Member Names: _____

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Newsletter delivery preference: Email ☐ Mail ☐

Annual Membership Levels

Corporate Sponsorship

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

FOMNRR Membership

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

☐ This is a gift membership

Gift donor's name, phone and email address:



River Connection

Winter 2017

www.fomnrr.org

There is no WiFi here...
but we promise you'll find a better connection.

MISSOURI NATIONAL RECREATIONAL RIVER

2016 FIND YOUR
PARK
National Park Service
CENTENNIAL



Have You Found Your Connection?

Many connections can be made within the Missouri National Recreational River (MNRR). The scenic and recreational opportunities are generally the most sought out connections people find in the national park. A boat ride through the 39- or 59-mile stretch will reveal scenes of what Lewis and Clark may have witnessed along their journey, or a hike through the prairie at Bow Creek Recreation Area may inspire you to learn more about butterflies. Whatever you discover, it's obvious the recreational opportunities are endless; paddling a canoe or kayak, fishing, wildlife observation or exploring the new hiking trails on Green Island are great ways to explore your park and make connections to the natural world. But discovering new connections is often more fun with a friend and as a Friend.

The Friends of the Missouri National Recreational River (FOMNRR) is a non-profit organization of dedicated and conservation-minded volunteers who work with the park to protect and promote it. With help from the National Park Service and other federal, state and local government representatives, conservation organizations, landowners, citizens at large and other stakeholders, the FOMNRR is about making connections with those who know the Missouri River and to unite a wide variety of entities as advocates for the river today and tomorrow. So, invite a friend (and become a Friend) to make more MNRR connections and discoveries in 2017!

Winter 2017



www.fomnrr.org

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OUR MISSION

The mission of the Friends of the Missouri National Recreational River 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 River, a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Paul Lepisto—Chair Rick Clark—NPS Liaison
Tim Cowman—Vice Chair Daniel Peterson—NPS Liaison
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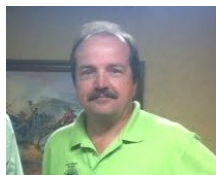
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Chair's Corner

Paul Lepisto

When driving you obviously must focus on what's ahead, but occasionally you also need to check your rear view mirrors. As 2016 draws to a close and we're on the doorstep of the New Year, it's a good time to briefly glance back while we focus on the future of the Friends of the Missouri National Recreational River (MNRR).

The Friends group had a very good 2016. We were involved in a wide variety of river-related events and activities. Those events ranged from educational events such as the Missouri River Watershed School Festival and the Invasive Species Awareness Event that taught people about caring for the river, to family fun events including the Lake Yankton Outdoor Festival, Rib Fests, and the Missouri River Outdoor Expo. This involvement let people know the Friends group exists, and at each event we invited more people to join us. Involvement in activities also squarely aligns with our goal which is to "strengthen and enhance the connection between people and the MNRR to encourage appropriate use and ensure a sustainable future for the river".

In 2017 we'll continue our involvement in many events along the MNRR and to work to enhance the connection between people and the river. The MNRR truly is a national treasure, and it has unlimited potential for increased recreational opportunities and outdoor activities. Thank you for your past support of the Friends group and for your continued future engagement. Please take the time to reach out to your friends and neighbors and encourage them to become a member of the FOMNRR in 2017.



CLASSIFIEDS

Personals

IMMEDIATE OPENINGS The Friends of the Missouri National Recreational River are seeking dedicated, exceptional, amazing, and eager volunteers to help them on a variety of projects including program development, special events, and grant writing.

To apply contact Daniel Peterson at 605-665-0209 x23

All Trades

OPEN POSITIONS The Missouri National Recreational River is accepting applications for the following volunteer positions: Associate Naturalist, Interpretive Aide, River Rover, Astronomy Guide, Trail Warrior, and 8-Hour Sampler.

To apply please call Dugan Smith at 605-665-0209 x28

All Seasons Apparel



FOMNRR Polo Shirts and Baseball Caps on Sale

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.

To order call Dan at 605-665-0209 x23

ATTENTION: 4th Graders!

Do you know a fourth-grader? Through the Every Kid in a Park program, any 4th grader can receive a free pass for them and their families by completing an online activity.

This pass allows students and their families free access to hundreds of parks, lands, and waters for an entire year!



For more information go to www.everykidinapark.gov and follow the path on the website to get your Fourth Grade Pass to national parks and other federal areas across the country.



2016 Highlights



The Park Is Fully Staffed Administrative Officer Tina Hartz, Chief of Interpretation, Education and Outreach Daniel Peterson, and Chief of Science and Resources Management Milton Haar joined the staff in 2016. Pictured (back row left): Superintendent Rick Clark, Seasonal Park Ranger Chris Boever, Park Ranger Dugan Smith, Chief of Interpretation Daniel Peterson, Chief of Science and Resources Management Milton Haar, and Biology Technician Brian Korman. Front row left: Seasonal Park Ranger Steven Warner, Education Technician Teresa Mentzer, Administrative Officer Tina Hartz, Biologist Lisa Yager.

MNRR's Yankton's Riverboat Days Parade Entry Superintendent Rick Clark, park staff, and FOMNRR members Bob Foley and Pat James participated in the Park's entry that highlighted canoeing and kayaking opportunities on the river. Roscoe the River Otter was loved by everyone.



The National Park Service Turned 100 Years Old. Birthday Celebrations were held at parks across the country during the month of August. Missouri National Recreational River held a celebration on August 25, in Yankton's Riverside Park complete with music, dancing, Theodore Roosevelt reenactor Adam Lindquist, and cutting of the birthday cake.



Rockn' In Vermillion 2016

A great day was spent at Vermillion's Ribs, Rods & Rock'n Roll Festival. FOMNRR members Clarence and Sandy Pederson met lots of people who love the park and gained new members to the FOMNRR.



Recreational Opportunities

Lisa Yager, MNRR Biologist

Reflecting on the theme of "new discoveries" from 2016 brings several projects and findings to mind, both positive like a partner Science Collaboration Workshop and not so positive such as thriving invasive species populations. A lengthy list with far more words than I've been allotted could follow, but one project in particular rises to the surface. This project will enhance your opportunity to experience the Missouri National Recreational River and make your own "new discoveries" about the rich and varied cultural history and unique ecosystem of the local Missouri River.

In February of 2016, the MNRR Multiple Property Management Plan was officially completed for Green Island, Bow Creek Recreation Area, and the Mulberry Bend Overlook. The goal of this document was to outline a range of recreational development options to increase and enhance visitor experience at the three park-owned properties while maintaining the natural environment and experience.

Our Green Island property near the Yankton Discovery Bridge now has a developed trail system, grills on the island beach, and designated campsites with fire rings on the island.

This property is close to civilization, but time here can transport you away from the hustle and bustle of town and to the peaceful shores of the MNRR. At Bow Creek Recreation Area near Wynot, Nebraska, a mowed trail has been completed, and designated campsites have been developed with fire rings. The mowed trail will provide hikers on a serene walk through several varying floodplain habitats, including cottonwood forest, restored prairie, and wetlands, all with views of the wild and scenic Missouri River. At Mulberry Bend Overlook near the Vermillion-Newcastle Bridge, a vault toilet has been installed near the parking lot and trees have been cut to enhance the bluff-top river vistas. A hike to the top overlook is well worth the steps as it provides an unparalleled view of the expansive river and floodplain. Continue hiking to explore the back country trail where new discoveries and experiences are guaranteed under the bur oak forest canopy and at the two scenic river viewpoints. Interpretive waysides are being developed for all three properties to foster greater understanding of park resources and stories. Special public events and opportunities at the park properties are being planned to enhance visitor experience and capitalize on these recreational improvements. We are excited to have you join us in 2017 to make your own Missouri River discoveries.



A vault toilet at the Mulberry Bend Overlook. Landscaping and walkway to be installed in 2017.

A river is the most human and companionable of all inanimate things. It has a life, a character, a voice of its own, and is as full of good fellowship as a sugar-maple is of sap. It can talk in various tones, loud or low, and of many subjects grave and gay. ...For real company and friendship, there is nothing outside of the animal kingdom that is comparable to a river.

Henry Vandyke (1852-1933)



News From Roscoe's Den

Teresa Mentzer, MNRR Education Technician



Roscoe the River Otter has been busy. Missouri National Recreational River's mascot made connections this summer as he traveled across South Dakota and Nebraska, ventured into hometown festivals and paraded through the streets for Riverboat Days. He has gathered his share of the National Park Service spotlight and attention from people of all ages. Roscoe was even featured in his very own coloring book!

After one full year of rolling out the ROSCOE (River Odyssey for School and Community Outreach and Education) program, it continues to help generate interest and public awareness for the Missouri National Recreational River (MNRR) as a national park in southeast South Dakota and Northeast Nebraska. As the word "odyssey" suggests, the year has been "a journey full of adventures; a series of experiences that give knowledge or understanding to someone" (Merriam-Webster). With the National Park Service Centennial celebration as the backdrop for the park's programs and events, Roscoe played a key role in helping others know and understand the Missouri National Recreational River.

A road trip to five national parks in western South Dakota with Park Ranger Dugan Smith, introduced Roscoe to a broad spectrum of park visitors. Their contacts at national park units in Wind Cave, Jewel Cave, Badlands, Minuteman Missile and Mount Rushmore helped to highlight MNRR on the NPS map. Thanks to Dugan's son, Cooper, for donning the Roscoe costume and greeting a new audience.



Roscoe the River Otter and Park Ranger Dugan Smith visits Wind Cave National Park in July 2016.

As with any odyssey, ROSCOE continues to search for the best routes and chart a course that navigates the park staff to new interpretive and educational outreach opportunities. In the upcoming year Roscoe will embark on a new mission, one of discovery.

Mission Discovery will include creating a long range plan for ROSCOE. The MNRR staff will develop goals and strategies for the program that will support the overall mission of the park and its strategic plan. Comprehensively the program can serve a variety purposes and target different audiences. The plan would add local service organizations and clubs, youth programs, a speaker series, college forums, and volunteer opportunities to the school and community efforts already underway. The MNRR staff is excited to see just what ROSCOE discoveries will unfold in 2017.

The river becomes a way of thinking, ingrained, a way of looking at the world. I listen to its commentary on the rocks and willows that block its way, feel cooled by the touch of spray, and smell all the odors that emanate from it. Judgement and recognition of odors depend so much on familiar reference smells that is it difficult to describe a new smell without recourse to them. The river, of course, often smells of off-river odors: the sweet, heavy aroma of an acre of sand verbenia, a dead cow on a gravel bar, wet stones, cold muck. But is also smells of itself, an aloof and elusive smell, soft, faintly like clean clay or like wet wash hanging out on a windy day. It is neither sweet nor sharp, acrid nor aromatic, nor distinctly anything ever smelled before or elsewhere unless one has had a river in his or her childhood. It is a smooth, tentative smell. It is light and deep, cool, it comes in curling tendrils and sometimes it is difficult to pick out from other smells. But it is there. And, once smelled, it becomes easier to recognize and soon there is almost a sense of river in the landscape even when it cannot be seen.

Ann Zwinger (1925 - 2014) American writer, Artist



From My Home

Patricia James, FOMNRR Member

From my home on a bluff overlooking the 39-mile stretch of the Missouri National Recreational River, I can see upriver to the Fort Randall Dam and downriver toward Greenwood, South Dakota. Directly across the river is the Yankton Sioux Reservation, and looking west I can see the top of Old Baldy, where Lewis and Clark first found prairie dogs. I can also look down on several sandbars that have been designated as a refuge for endangered least terns and piping plovers. Each season offers shifting shapes, colors, textures, sounds, and smells in a ongoing dance of change. It is a place that is constantly revealing itself to me.



View of the 39-Mile within the Missouri National Recreational River.



Family property on Sunshine Bottoms.

Although I am a "city girl" who grew up in Chicago and lived and worked in the Twin Cities in Minnesota for over 20 years, I decided to retire on this family property on Sunshine Bottom in Boyd County, Nebraska. I had been coming out here with my father since the late 1960s. Watching the river, walking in the hills and along the riverbank, and, in recent years, kayaking have expanded my understanding of the river's wildlife, vegetation, and cycles. Making art about what I see and feel also deepens my connection to this environment.

Last spring, I became even more engaged with the river when I joined the board of the Friends of the Missouri National Recreational River. There are so many ways that this coalition of diverse groups and individuals can help people become more aware of the ecological and social value of this beautiful stretch of the river. I'm looking forward to learning more!

Fall migration brings American white pelicans to the river.

