

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



FIND YOUR
PARK

Mail to:

**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: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

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:

Summer 2017



www.fomnrr.org



River Connection

Summer 2017

www.fomnrr.org

You Are Invited

You are cordially invited to join the Friends of the Missouri National Recreational River for an enjoyable day on the Missouri River.

On Saturday, June 24, 2017 meet the Friends at Clay County Park at 11am for burgers and brats followed by a presentation. In the afternoon enjoy a paddle trip to Goat Island or a guided hike on the new Frost Trail.

All ages are welcome. In order to have adequate food and boats available, please register by email info@fomnrr.org or call Jarett at 605-941-4940 prior to June 14.

Annual Meeting Notice: A brief FOMNRR board meeting will coincide with the events of the day.



The Coveted Patch: MNRR 100

David Mays, FOMNRR Member



The longest river in North America feels endless. It's both a vast horizon and a serene connection to the past. One of the last free-flowing sections of the Missouri River is found within the two stretches of the Missouri National Recreational River and was a center of activity for Native Americans and the route of Lewis and Clark. Today, there are nearly unchanged places where you can easily ply the waters and sense the history.

In August, you can experience this adventure with the South Dakota Canoe & Kayak Association (SDCKA) as it hosts two 25-30 mile paddle trips. They will feature ample breaks to explore and relax with overnight camping at locations complete with showers and facilities. Members of the SDCKA will host these events, now in their second season, and provide on-river support, overnight gear, transportation, and meals.

Aug 12-13 - 39-Mile - Randall Creek Recreation Area Fort Randall Rec to Springfield, S.D.

Aug 25-26 - 59-Mile - Yankton to Ponca State Park, NE.

Learn more about these trips online visit mnrr100.com or email David Mays at mnrr100@midco.net.

Summer 2017



www.fomnrr.org



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
Dave Swanson—Secretary
Bob Foley—Treasurer
Vacant—At-Large

COMMENTS? Write to:

Friends of the Missouri National Recreational River
P. O. Box 7029
Yankton, SD 57078

Telephone

605-665-0209 (Park Office)

Email

info@fomnrr.org

Web

fomnrr.org



Follow us on Facebook

River Connection is published biannually by the Friends of the Missouri National Recreational River, P.O. Box 7029, Yankton, SD 57078. It is distributed free by mail to Friends members and other interested parties.

All content is copyrighted and may not be reproduced except by express permission of the Friends of the Missouri National Recreational River. Subscription requests or changes of address may be emailed to info@fomnrr.org. Please visit our website at www.fomnrr.org. Friends of the Missouri National Recreational River advocates for Missouri National Recreational River and its unique environment.

Summer 2017



www.fomnrr.org



Chair's Corner

Paul Lepisto

Spring has sprung and the Friends of the Missouri National Recreational River is as busy as a bank swallow trying to feed its young. People are on the river, kayaking, canoeing, fishing, and just enjoying nature. The Friends of the Missouri National Recreational River (FOMNRR) are also busy this spring. We have volunteered and helped organize many events and activities - you can read more about some of those events elsewhere in this newsletter.

There are so many ways you can be involved with the FOMNRR this summer. Simply go to our website and look at the long list of events and activities. There's many activities that need your help. Just a little bit of your time will help assure these events are successful. Your participation will also show that the FOMNRR is active and highly engaged in river-related events and activities.

As we approach the second anniversary of the FOMNRR this summer all members of the FOMNRR are encouraged to get involved and engaged in river events and activities. It's why the Friends groups was formed. There's much that has been done and a whole lot more that can be accomplished. We'll see great strides in the future if we all work together, communicate and share ideas and concepts on what we as a group can do in 2017 and beyond. The FOMNRR will be what we make of it. Let's hear from you. What do you want us to take on? What are the events that you are willing to provide a helping hand? It's a very busy year for the river and the FOMNRR. We need your help so a busy year will also be a successful year for the FOMNRR.

Paul Lepisto
Chair, Friends of the Missouri National Recreational River
P.O. Box 7029, Yankton, SD 57078
info@fomnrr.org

BULLETIN BOARD



FOMNRR SHIRTS AND CAPS ON SALE

Shirts and hats are tan in color. Shirt sizes come in small, medium, large, and extra-large. Hats are one size fits all. Shirts are \$25 and caps are \$15. Shipping is available for \$5 per item by calling 605-665-0209 Ext 23, or pick up your items at the Park Headquarters Monday–Friday.

Seeking Volunteers to help maintain the Frost Trail.
Phone 605-665-0209

Looking for a Friend?
Enrich your life by joining the FOMNRR.
Email info@fomnrr.org

Looking for a good time?
Check out the "Things To Do" page on the park website at nps.gov/mnrr

Support FOMNRR by shopping at AmazonSmile.

When you shop at AmazonSmile, Amazon will donate to the Friends Group.

Share The Experience Photo Contest



2016 Share the Experience Grand Prize Winner, Craig McIntyre

The 2017 "Share the Experience" photo contest, sponsored by the National Park Foundation in partnership with the National Park Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the Bureau of Reclamation, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Forest Service, and Recreation.gov, is now accepting entries through December 31. Share the Experience is the official photo contest of America's national parks and federal recreational lands, showcasing the more than 500 million acres of federal lands and drawing entries from all across the United States. For information and rules visit sharetheexperience.org.

Summer 2017



www.fomnrr.org

What's Been Happenin'



Missouri River Watershed Festival

The ninth annual Missouri River Watershed School Festival was held May 4th in Riverside Park in Yankton. The Festival was attended by more than 400 invited high school students from nine area schools. The students rotated through 18 hands-on presentations and learned about the river and caring for our natural resources. Many FOMNRR members volunteered at the Festival and served as "guides" for groups of students leading them to the presentations throughout the park.

At left: Education Technician Teresa Mentzer with the Mobile Ranger Station speaks to a group of students.

Missouri River Clean Up

On Saturday, May 6th the fourteenth annual Yankton Area Missouri River Clean Up was held. It was based out of the boat ramp at Riverside Park. This year, 93 people turned out to pick up trash and litter on the Missouri River's banks in both South Dakota and Nebraska, and their hard work paid off: more than 1.3 tons of debris were removed. In three hours, the teams removed 540 pounds of tires, 780 pounds of scrap metal, 180 pounds of lumber and rubble, and 1120 pounds of trash debris.

The cleanup efforts were greatly enhanced with boats provided by federal, state and county agencies and private corporations.

A lot of area businesses and organizations provided funding support and partnership to make this effort successful. The cleanup makes the river healthier for the people that depend



Invasive Species Awareness Event

Raising boaters and anglers awareness of the threat posed by aquatic invasive species on the Missouri River is never ending. From May to June, volunteers passed out information to boaters and anglers above and below Gavins Point Dam on steps to avoid the spread of invasive species. The information reminds boaters to clean all weeds and mud from their boat and equipment, drain all water from the boat, live wells, and bait buckets, and allow equipment to completely dry before launching in another water body. For more information or to volunteer contact Paul Lepisto at plepisto@iwla.org.



Mark Your Calendar

- **June through August:** The National Park Service is presenting a variety of programs at different locations through the summer months. Check online for the 2017 Summer Activity Calendar at nps.gov/mnrr.
- **June 10:** Lake Yankton Outdoor Festival and Lewis and Clark Homestead Day (Pierson Ranch Recreation Area, SD)
- **August 18-19:** Yankton Riverboat Days



Superintendent's Corner

Rick Clark, Missouri National Recreational River



On August 25, 2016 the National Park Service (NPS) celebrated its centennial anniversary. The milestone offered a time for reflection at the Missouri National Recreational River (MNRR). Now in its 39th year since first being established, the MNRR has come a long way since its infancy, but still has a long way to go in reaching its full potential.

The centennial year provided numerous opportunities to showcase the park at a wide variety of events that the park participated in or sponsored. The park embraced the NPS centennial goal of "connecting with and creating the next generation of park visitors, supporters, and advocates." This Service-wide centennial goal is echoed in the park's 2016-21 Strategic Action Plan, which includes a vision to further cultivate collaborative public and private partnerships focused on joint river stewardship and science. A key management short-term objective is to better educate local communities and landowners with respect to the park's primary mission and purpose of river preservation, protection, and enjoyment. This purpose is embodied in the six outstandingly remarkable values (ORV) that combined lead to a finding of national significance, and the area being included as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers system and unit of the NPS.

The ORVs of cultural, ecological, fish & wildlife, geological, recreational, and scenic have brought national acclaim to the 98 miles of the Missouri River and portions of the lower Niobrara River and Verdigré Creek that comprise the park. Fulfilling the park's purpose and mission during the next century will require park managers to build upon and seek out traditional and non-traditional alliances among landowners, ranchers, river communities on both the Nebraska and South Dakota sides of the river, as well as with researchers, scientists, recreationists, and the general public to better instill an understanding of why it is important to safeguard this remnant section of the Missouri River, America's longest river.

In support of the park, the nearly two-year old Friends of the Missouri National Recreational River has begun cultivating relationships with park communities and landowners. A variety of subcommittees have been formed to achieve the goals of the Friends Group which include building awareness of the park, river education, and advocating the park's ORVs. But it takes members to reach its full potential. Friends members can help do their part by contributing their individual and collective talents in needed emphasis areas such as grant writing, event planning or serving on the board.

Thank you for your support, and know that by being a Friend you do indeed make a difference by providing enhanced stewardship and wellbeing of the river.

"We are never far from the lilt and swirl of living water. Whether to fish or swim or paddle, of only to stand and gaze, to glance as we cross a bridge, all of us are drawn to rivers, all of us happily submit to their spell. We need their familiar mystery. We need their fluent lives interflowing with our own." - John Daniel, Oregon Rivers



Membership Report

Robert Foley, Treasurer

To Our Members:

The Friends of the Missouri National Recreational River **sends sincere thanks.**

Because of your generous support, together we have created a solid foundation that will support the river we love, the MNRR. We hope you'll join us as we begin our next steps.

Your membership is based on a calendar year, and we hope you'll renew for 2017. You can do so online at fomnrr.org/membership, where you can pay via credit card, or print and mail your renewal using the form on the back page of this newsletter. We appreciate your ongoing support - feel free to share the website address with others who may wish to be a part of our efforts.

We have developed some excellent opportunities for all members to get active with our Friends group. Our "teams" need your talents, and here are some opportunities to choose from:

- ♦ **Newsletter Team:** Passionate storytellers who can show others why MNRR stories are so engaging. We also need eagle-eyed layout and design-minded folks. Email daniel_peterson@nps.gov
- ♦ **Membership Team:** Persuasive recruiters who enjoy prospecting for possible new members and corporate sponsors, and can help the public understand our goals. Email rfoley9147@gmail.com
- ♦ **Paddling Team:** Kayak and canoe enthusiasts, who love the Big Muddy's wind and waves, can help us collaborate with groups across the region, develop programs and coordinate events, and generally improve paddling access and infrastructure on the river. No expertise necessary, just a love for being on the water. Email dam@midco.net
- ♦ **Grant-writing Team:** Talented and enthusiastic writers, especially those with experience in this detail-oriented area would be welcomed on this crew. Email trailwritert@gmail.com
- ♦ **Program Team:** Teachers, professors and educators - retired or active - to help us develop a short summer course that will meet Iowa, Nebraska and South Dakota continuing education standards. Email tim.cowman@usd.edu

We welcome your questions, comments and suggestions, and the **Contact Us** tab on our website is a convenient way to stay in touch.

Again, we thank you for your membership, your time, and support and your ongoing efforts to help us lift up this amazing waterway, the Missouri National Recreational River.

Warmly,

FOMNRR Membership Team



Frost Trail— A new window on the MNRR

Tim Cowman, Vice Chair

Access to the Missouri National Recreational River (MNRR) through public access sites can be a challenge. Public access sites can be spread far apart and are not always at the best places for experiencing the MNRR. The FOMNRR is trying to change that.

Recently the FOMNRR began discussing trail development on a six-mile stretch of the river from Clay County Park near Vermillion, SD to the Newcastle-Vermillion Bridge south of Vermillion. There are several areas of public land on this stretch of river that would make good sites for public trails.

The Frost Trail soon will become the first of several trails that the FOMNRR will help develop on this river segment. This trail will begin near the intersection of South Dakota Highway 19 and Dakota Street and continue south to near the Newcastle-Vermillion Bridge. The trail will traverse through riparian woodlands and along the grassy bank of the MNRR. The Gunderson Backwater will come into view along a portion of the trail. With a one-way length of approximately 2.2 miles, the trail will have an auxiliary trailhead near its southern terminus to enable shorter hikes on either side of the trail system.

On April 22, 25 volunteers helped to clear a section of the trail of vegetation (see photo below right). Another volunteer event is scheduled for trail duty later this summer, however the trail should be ready for public use by July, and it will be designated for hiking and other foot traffic. Later improvements will include trailhead and interpretive signage along the trail to inform trail users about river features and history.

The National Park Service, South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks, and Lewis and Clark Regional Water System are important partners in creating the Frost Trail. For more information about the status of the trail, visit the FOMNRR website at fomnrr.org.

