



RIVERTIME

EXPERIENCE IT. PROTECT IT. FOREVER.

SPRING/SUMMER 2021

110 YEARS AND STILL GROWING

DEB RYUN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear River Friends,

This year, the St. Croix River Association marks its 110th anniversary. I looked back at our January 2011 *RiverTime* to see what priorities we had set for that year. 2011 was a year filled with celebrations, and with plans to add new staff to carry out our mission. SCRA started the year with a staff of 1.75 full-time employees and 21 dedicated board members, and by year's end had added 2 new staff positions. That year was significant for laying a solid foundation for SCRA's growth and setting the course for the organization we've become today.

In that newsletter I spoke about equilibrium. I talked about a balanced life: do good and meaningful work, take time for oneself and family, give back to society. Organizationally, our active and knowledgeable board was committed equally to all elements of our mission: protecting, restoring and celebrating the river and its entire watershed.

Then, as now, it would have been easy to get caught with a lopsided agenda. Thanks to forward thinking by everyone involved in the early years of SCRA's reformation, our two overarching objectives remain equally important. We connect people to the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway through discovery and stewardship events and activities, and we protect and enhance the wild and scenic characteristics that make the Riverway worthy of its national park status.

Now we are poised for another growth spurt. We are committed to inspiring and supporting further action to protect our national park and its watershed. In 2021, we will step up our commitment to foster a more diverse river community, giving more people the opportunity to build a relationship with the Riverway and actively engage in its care. We will integrate climate change impacts and adaptation strategies throughout our program areas. We will build the infrastructure and public face needed to sustain us as a respected, inclusive, and viable organization.

This is as true today as it was 110 years ago: The conservation and celebration of our natural places not only supports the economy of our communities, which benefit from the millions of Riverway visitors, it is also vital to who we are. We have made a long-term commitment to protecting the dynamic ecological, cultural, and recreational value of the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway. Stick with us as we strive for continued growth, stability, and relevancy, building on the solid foundation laid so many years ago.

Ever Forward,



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Brynn Albrecht
Brian Alton - Chair
Sally Arneson
George Boody
Bill Buell
Chad Dayton
Loralee DiLorenzo

Jim Dorsey
Lisa Erickson
Doug Hemer
Dianne Hickok
Andrea Jorgenson
Betsy Kremser
Sarah Lovegreen

Stu Neville
Amy Short
Kristina Smitten
Tom Swain - Vice Chair
Bonnie Swanson - Treasurer
Kristin Tuenge
Mary Uppgren - Secretary

WELCOME TO OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS, AND THANK YOU!

Please join us in extending a warm welcome to our three new members of the SCRA Board of Directors, who began their terms on January 1, 2021.



Brynn Albrecht works on the environmental sustainability team at Best Buy, where she develops programs to bring about change and to help connect customers with sustainable products. She has lived next to the St. Croix River for several years and is passionate about protecting the lands and water. Brynn brings experience with email marketing, social media, and other digital efforts through storytelling to the Board.

Chad Dayton is the owner/principal of Outdoor Solutions, LLC. and has worked in the outdoor, environmental, and educational sectors in a variety of roles including field instructor, wilderness medicine instructor, college professor, and national program manager. He serves on a number of boards and advisory councils including the National Park Trust, the National Parks Conservation Association, and Northland College.



Sarah Lovegreen is a practicing environmental and real estate attorney. She began her career as a prairie horticulturist and environmental scientist, and participates in ongoing volunteer legal work. She has experience in environmental education, working with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and Minnesota Zoo, and a strong water quality interest.

As we welcome our new members, we also want to thank our outgoing board members whose efforts have played a vital role in ensuring the long-term success of SCRA's vision and protecting the rivers. Thank you to **John Herman**, **Bridget Levin**, and **Kristin Tuenge** for their service and dedication to the rivers and the St. Croix River Association. You all have helped us grow the organization and our impacts.

To learn more about our SCRA board members, visit our website at: stcroixriverassociation.org/about/board-of-directors and stay tuned to our SCRA Blog!

HELPING YOUR RIVERWAY - TIPS FROM A CHIEF RANGER

NICK SHOPE, CHIEF RANGER, ST. CROIX NATIONAL SCENIC RIVERWAY

The St. Croix National Scenic Riverway (Riverway) has experienced an increase in visitor numbers due to the effects of the pandemic. The park provides a lot of opportunities to a variety of visitors throughout the 230 miles of federally managed Riverway. The majority of people visit only a few areas. To me, all the issues listed below are related and start with overcrowding and a lack of preparation by visitors.

By recreating responsibly, you can help the Riverway while also enjoying all the beauty and opportunities it offers. Here are three tips for how you can make a difference.



Osceola Landing (St. Croix River)



Challenge: Overcrowding

The increased numbers of people in the park have led to all the other challenges noted in this article.

What you can do to help:

Visit areas of the park that are not as heavily used. Consider visiting on weekdays, not just weekends. Doing so will help spread visitors out, which will help with overcrowding, social distancing, conflicts, and added resource damage. Follow social distancing protocols like staying 6 feet apart and wearing your mask to stay safe. It will also lead to a better experience for everyone.

Earl Landing (Namekagon River) and Osceola Landing (St. Croix River)





Snake River and Osceola Landings (St. Croix River)



Challenge: Conflict Among People

It's common to see conflicts between different types of park use with increased visitation and a variety of visitor activity. People don't always consider how their activity might impact someone else.

What you can do to help:

Remember, this is a national park and it belongs to everyone. There are lots of places to do the many activities people come to the park to do, so find somewhere that is less busy or new to you. Pick up your trash so the next person at your campsite doesn't have to. Be aware of how loud your music is, and pick up after your pet. Avoid leaving a trace that might negatively impact the next visitor's experience of the wild and scenic river.



Challenge: Not Knowing Before You Visit

Many people are unaware of the park rules before they visit. That can result in safety issues and damage to park resources.

What you can do to help:

Find out where the campsites are and if you need a permit for that site. Don't bring personal watercraft into the federal zone of the river (i.e. north of the St. Croix Boom Site). Respect boating regulations, including speed restrictions. Follow posted signage, including closure signs like those at Fairy Falls. When we have to close a site it's for a good reason, usually for public safety. In addition, people need to be prepared to take their trash with them when they leave the park. Be mindful of not parking in front of gates, boat launches, and facilities—park only in designated areas.

To learn about places in the Riverway where you can recreate while helping to reduce these challenges, please call the St. Croix River Visitor Center at (715) 483-2274 or visit: nps.gov/sacr





SPRING GATHERING

Celebrating 110 Years of SCRA

Thursday, May 20 | 4:00- 8:00 PM | Franconia Sculpture Park

DISCOVERY

Meet our staff and learn about our work across the watershed!



ART TOUR

Take a self-guided tour of the world-famous sculpture park!

BONFIRE

Savor s'mores by the bonfire and adult bar service!



FOOD TRUCKS

Enjoy global flavors from A Wandering Fire, Taqueria Los Paisanos, and more!

LIVE MUSIC

Bring a blanket or lawn chairs to relax and enjoy some tunes!



SPEAKER

Natalie Warren, author of Hudson Bay Bound

AUCTION

Bid on Riverway experiences for the whole family!



PHOTO ZONE

Capture the joy on camera!

SPRING GATHERING *Celebrating 110 Years of SCRA*

Thursday, May 20 | 4:00- 8:00 PM | Franconia Sculpture Park

For 110 years, the St. Croix River Association has united members to protect, restore, and celebrate the St. Croix and Namekagon Rivers and the entire watershed. Join us for our outdoor Spring Gathering on Thursday, May 20 from 4:00-8:00 PM at the Franconia Sculpture Garden to celebrate the vital work we have done together and look to the future!

As one of the St. Croix River Valley's most striking locations, the Franconia Sculpture Garden inspires thousands of visitors each year with a dynamic and diverse range of contemporary art inspired by nature and our ever-evolving world. We encourage all attendees to wear casual dress and comfortable shoes to explore the 50-acre outdoor museum and savor a spring evening. Our program will feature a presentation from author Natalie Warren (*Hudson Bay Bound: Two Women, One Dog, Two Thousand Miles to the Arctic*, UMN Press).

You'll also have the opportunity to enjoy a delicious meal from local food trucks, meet our staff and learn about our programs, and participate in fun activities for the whole family!

Adults 25+ **\$55** | Students 18-25 **\$25** | Youth <18 **\$10**

Includes tokens for food truck dinner, beverage, and all activities

Register by May 10, 2021

STCROIXRIVERASSOCIATION.ORG/EVENT/SPRING-GATHERING



Reservations and payments can also be made online at: stcroixriverassociation.org/event/spring-gathering

SPRING GATHERING Registration Form

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

_____ Adults: 25+ @ \$55 ea.

_____ Student: 18-25 @ \$25 ea.

_____ Youth: under 18 @ \$10 ea.

_____ **Total Enclosed**

Tickets include:

- Food truck and beverage tokens
- Live music
- All activities

REGISTER BY MAY 10

Please make checks payable to St. Croix River Association and mail to: PO Box 655, St. Croix Falls, WI 54024
If more space is needed for additional guests, please use an additional sheet. Call 715-483-3300 with questions.



EMERALD ASH BORER - SMALL INVADER, BIG IMPACT

KATIE SICKMANN, INVASIVE SPECIES PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Imagine a staple-sized insect that can destroy an entire stand of trees in a forest. It might be hard to imagine, but the **Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)** can kill an ash tree in as little as two years. First discovered in Michigan and believed to have arrived in wood packing materials from Asia, this invasive species has destroyed tens of millions of ash trees in 35 states. **Now this fierce insect may pose a significant risk to the forests of the St. Croix watershed.**

During the larval stage, the EAB bores into the trunks of ash trees, creating S-shaped galleries. These borings disrupt the tree's ability to transport water and nutrients which ends up girdling the tree. To date, the EAB has only been found in our watershed in St. Croix County in Wisconsin, and in Washington and Chisago Counties in Minnesota. **Combating the spread of the EAB requires careful monitoring. The St. Croix River Association has teamed up with the National Park Service since 2014 to monitor for the presence of EAB in counties along the St. Croix.**

Recent findings suggest that the super cooling point—the temperature at which 98% of the insects will die—is -30°F. Since weather stations may not be the best indicator of temperature in the forest, data loggers are used to record the temperature and light on or around trees. They help determine if the EAB insects are exposed to lethal temperatures during the winter months.

Earlier this winter, the data loggers were placed on trees at ten sites along the St. Croix River ranging from Stillwater, Minnesota to Gordon, Wisconsin. The results will be sent to researchers at the University of Minnesota, adding more information to an ongoing study. This study will help locate pockets of ash trees that routinely get cold enough to kill the insects and start protection efforts there.

Armed with good data and your help, we can slow the spread of the EAB and protect ash trees.

You can help stop the spread of the EAB!

Avoid giving this insect a free ride in firewood by following this simple guide:

DON'T TRANSPORT FIREWOOD
BUY OR USE LOCAL FIREWOOD



BURN FIREWOOD ON SITE
NEVER BRING FIREWOOD HOME



CREATE YOUR OWN LEGACY

BETHANY COX, DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

For Chris*, the challenges of this past year also highlighted the need to think about their legacy. Chris wanted to make sure, if something happened to them, their assets would continue to support the causes close to their heart. "The river and everything it offers could not be more meaningful, particularly in this time of uncertainty (pandemic, unrest, social change)," Chris shared in a recent conversation with Executive Director Deb Ryun. **"What is constant is watching the river flow,** seeing the eagles soar, and watching the full moon rise. It has sustained me in 2020."

It took extraordinary visionaries to create the nation's first Wild and Scenic River National Park in 1968. Under the inspired leadership of Deb and dedicated board members, SCRA is the recognized voice for the river and plays a vital role in ensuring this national park is conserved forever. Your generous support has allowed for the care of the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway's rare ecological integrity and is ensuring the conservation of this unique watershed for future generations.

Chris has made sure that "a percentage of my retirement assets will go on to **honor my values and support what I hold dear**—this valley and this river community." Are you, like Chris, looking to ensure your assets honor your values to **create your own legacy?**

Updating your will with a bequest or designating SCRA as a beneficiary in your retirement fund or life insurance policy are a few ways to leave a lasting legacy that will protect this wild and scenic Riverway for future generations. Our partnership with the St. Croix Valley Foundation gives SCRA the support needed for endowment and long-term fund management.

Whether you grew up splashing in the rivers or you found adventure at the river later in life, I'd like to ask you: **What legacy would you like to leave the rivers?**

If you have any questions or need more information about legacy giving, please contact Bethany Cox, Director of Development at bethanyc@scramail.com, or by phone at 715-483-3300.

**Name changed at the donor's request to remain anonymous.*



**SUPPORT THE RIVERS YOU LOVE!
EVERY. GIFT. MATTERS.**

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Please make checks payable to St. Croix River Association and mail to: PO Box 655, St. Croix Falls, WI 54024

\$5,000 \$2,500 \$1,000 \$500 \$250 \$50 Other _____

You can also make a secure donation online at stcroixriverassociation.org/support/donate

Donations to SCRA are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.



PO BOX 655
ST. CROIX FALLS, WI 54024
715-483-3300
STCROIXRIVERASSOCIATION.ORG



@stcroixriverassociation

SPRING GATHERING

May 20

+

ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

September 9



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