

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The River Revitalization Foundation board of directors consists of members from our founding clubs, Kiwanis and Rotary Clubs of Milwaukee, as well as at-large members from the community. We thank our volunteer board for their vision, leadership and dedicated service:

### Kiwanis Club

Robo Brumder, R.W. Baird

Ron Clayton, BMO Harris

TJ Estabrook, Ernst & Young

Jim Pittelkow, St. Robert's Parish

Frank Thometz, Morgan Stanley

### Rotary Club

Margaret Crawford, Northwestern Mutual

Don Daugherty, Whyte Hirschboeck Dudek

Chris Jaekels, Davis & Kuelthau, secretary

Sarah Kimball, Kimball Communications

Jack Lewis, retired

### At large

Gary Buerstatte, Buerstatte Consulting

Derek Clayton, Johnson Controls

Brian Dettmering, CPA, Riverwest  
Accounting Services, treasurer

Ghassan Korban, City of Milwaukee DPW

Ray Krueger, Michael Best & Friedrich

Bob Karnauskas, BL3 Strategies

Steve Mech, CSA Commercial, past chair

Kevin Shafer, Milwaukee Metropolitan  
Sewerage District, chair

### STAFF

Kimberly Gleffe, executive director

Tanya Bueter, land manager

Aaron Zeleske, greenway director

Vince Bushell, program/hike leader

Ellie Kirkwood, field supervisor

Marcell McCoy, field crew leader



2134 N. Riverboat Road  
Milwaukee, WI 53212  
414-271-8000  
[www.riverrevitalizationfoundation.org](http://www.riverrevitalizationfoundation.org)

A collage of nature scenes including a river with a stone wall, colorful autumn leaves, and a snowy landscape. In the foreground, three people in a blue canoe are paddling on a river. The canoeists are wearing life jackets and winter gear. The background is a collage of nature scenes including a river with a stone wall, colorful autumn leaves, and a snowy landscape.

# BIENNIAL REPORT

# RIVER REVITALIZATION FOUNDATION

JANUARY 2012-DECEMBER 2013



# GROWTH

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## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

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Welcome to the Richard L. Schmidt Riverhaus! Our 2013 culminated in a big move to our new offices at 2134 N. Riverboat Road which provides us a physical presence in the neighborhood that we serve and adjacent to the Wheelhouse park that we are restoring. Our efforts last year will provide our new neighbors a vibrant, urban green space, which is a connects us to the Riverwalk downtown, the river to the Milwaukee River Greenway. The Richard L. Schmidt Riverhaus provides free flowing access to the land partners, neighbors, and friends who have been visit our new space and enjoy the amenities it know what you might discover! We also hope to much to celebrate!



critical part of our mission and growth. Our new office strategically valley upstream, the Beerline riverfront trails and is a southern entrance Schmidt Riverhaus offices will be the west bank trailhead anchoring us and water that is the source of our great city. Thank you to all the donors, instrumental to our success, making this all possible! I invite you to come offers. Bring your kayak, canoe, hiking shoes, and binoculars; you never see you at our *20th anniversary celebration* later this year; we have

Sincerely,

Kevin Shafer



## MISSION

The River Revitalization Foundation, Milwaukee's urban rivers land trust, was founded in 1994 as a conservation organization to establish a parkway for public access, walkways, recreation and education, bordering the Milwaukee, Menomonee and Kinnickinnic Rivers; to use the rivers to revitalize surrounding neighborhoods; and to improve water quality.

## VISION

The River Revitalization Foundation will focus on the rivers and adjacent green space in Milwaukee County. It will work with partner organizations and key stakeholders to successfully protect and restore these areas, and increase access to them. Through its advocacy, strategy and diligent execution of its organizational goals, the RRF will be recognized as the model urban land trust in the Great Lakes' region.

## LAND TRUST OF THE YEAR

*"And the winner is..."* RRF was recognized for its achievements as land conservation leaders by Gathering Waters Conservancy, acknowledging our urban emphasis and community engagement initiatives:

**Land Trust of the Year 2012** – River Revitalization Foundation, Milwaukee's urban rivers land trust since 1994, has increased public access to Milwaukee's rivers and enhanced the quality of life for residents and visitors alike. Its partnerships throughout the community provide opportunities for immersion into the natural world, educate about conservation in an urban setting, and illustrate the synergy between land conservation and urban development.



Photo courtesy of Althea Dozier.

*(l to r) Steve Mech, Theresa Morgan, Mike Strigel, Rita Hayen, Vince Bushell, Chris Jaekels, Bill Nimke, and (seated) Kimberly Gleffe with the Land Trust of the Year award presented to RRF by Gathering Waters Conservancy.*



## PLANTING SEEDS, ESTABLISHING ROOTS



## MILWAUKEE ROTARY CENTENNIAL ARBORETUM

LAND TRANSFORMED



RRF received a generous land donation from the late Pieter Godfrey for the Milwaukee Rotary Centennial Arboretum which allowed us to acquire two additional parcels on the river, increasing the amount of preserved land in the greenway. A Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Stewardship Program grant award of \$1.3 million was critical to the completion of the Arboretum.

One of the two acquired parcels included a building on Riverboat Road. This half acre riverfront parcel along with the “Wheelhouse” park adjacent to it, serves as the **southern entrance** to the river valley and Arboretum on the west bank, and houses our new offices – the *Richard L. Schmidt Riverhaus!* **Shoreline restoration** (below) along all eight hundred feet of frontage above and below the old North Avenue dam is underway and generously funded through grants from the Fund for Lake Michigan and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation – Sustain Our Great Lakes program.





# MILWAUKEE RIVER GREENWAY COALITION

A NATURAL EXTENSION

We have adopted the Milwaukee River Greenway Coalition and Master Plan under our umbrella. Implementation of many of the recommended projects funded by The Brico Fund, the Fund for Lake Michigan, the Lux Foundation, the Greater Milwaukee Foundation, We Energies, MillerCoors, Besadny, O'Malley Trust, and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources will continue; goals align with RRFs to preserve urban greenspace, protect the Milwaukee River corridor, restore disturbed natural areas to increase biodiversity for wildlife habitat and provide public access for people to enjoy our natural resources right here in the city.



*Leading hikes in the river valley.*





CRAFT Adventures students launch the boat they built into the Milwaukee River — it floats!



## ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION & ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

By Marcell McCoy



"In the summer of 2011, I was hired through Earn & Learn summer program, as a youth worker for the River Revitalization Foundation. My job was to revive and get informed about the outdoors. Two years later, I am currently a Field Leader, and able to share my knowledge and the importance of nature with youth and others. Nature is how we survive, as well as the start of the food chain. Trees contribute oxygen, improve air quality, while also supporting wildlife. In addition I've grasped that plants are a very healthy source of food for not only animals but humans as well. In fact, our medicines include many active ingredients from plants. As nature grows, I continue to learn and grow with it. We came a long way and I'm so proud to be a part of an organization that continues to progress. We make a great team".



Restoration with US Bank volunteers.



The crew creates a stone dragonfly.



Vince Bushell (center) with Service Learning students at the Kiwanis Landing.

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION (Audit available upon request)

Revenue	FY 2012	FY 2013
Corporations	\$ 7,835	\$ 24,200
Foundations	302,515	390,843*
Individuals	22,170	67,406
Events & Programs	6,541	—
Organizations	11,643	19,500
Other:		
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources	96,127	74,200
Interest	700	395
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 447,531</b>	<b>\$ 576,544</b>

\* Grant period overlap.

Expenses	FY 2012	FY 2013
Dues	\$ 1,145	\$ 800
Consulting	920	12,216
Meetings	850	751
Events & Programs	5,780	4,689
Human Resources	225,000	180,781
Insurance	2,175	3,116
Interest (Mortgage)	17,440	3,256
Licenses & permits	390	502
Postage	872	496
Printing & Promotion	6,405	2,525
Professional Fees	12,145	5,222
Projects (Land & Trails)	37,265	176,346
Rent	13,515	10,830
Seminars & Education	4,133	3,408
Supplies	905	3,054
Telephone	1,650	1,610
Travel	3,535	4,795
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 334,125</b>	<b>\$ 414,397</b>
<b>Balance</b>	<b>\$ 113,406</b>	<b>\$ 162,147†</b>

† Temp. restricted funds

The new River Revitalization Foundation offices at 2134 N. Riverboat Road in Milwaukee.



## FUNDING – AN INVESTMENT IN THE FUTURE

Thanks to our many donors, who plant the seeds to help our organization establish roots and grow!

### “10 at 10”

Special thanks to those major donors who gave \$10,000 or more to help us complete our Wheelhouse acquisition and restoration campaign (indicated in bold at right).

### Thank you!

### LEVERAGED PUBLIC, STATE AND FEDERAL SOURCES

National Fish & Wildlife Foundation  
- Sustain Our Great Lakes, \$247,489

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources  
- Stewardship Fund, \$1,310,000 –  
Milwaukee Rotary Centennial Arboretum  
- Capacity Grant, \$74,200

## DONORS

### CORPORATE

Burke Candy  
CDM Smith  
Ernst & Young  
Laacke & Joys

Mayes Wilson Associates  
Metalcraft of Mayville

### MillerCoors

Milwaukee Kayak Company  
Morgan Stanley  
Natural Resource Technology  
Patagonia

Potawatomi Bingo Casino –  
Miracle on Canal Street  
Pieper Electric Inc./Ideal  
Mechanical

### Veolia Water

We Energies  
Whyte Hirschboeck Dudek

### FOUNDATIONS

Anonymous  
Alexandria Seaport Foundation  
**Argosy Foundation**  
Helen Bader Foundation

Bayshore Community  
Foundation

John C. Bock Foundation  
James E. Dutton Foundation  
Forest County Potawatomi  
Foundation

### Fund for Lake Michigan

#### Greater Milwaukee Foundation

Funds: Louise Uihlein Snell  
Fund, Gerda Debelak Fund,  
Margaret Heminway Wells  
Conservation Fund,  
Lenore T. Zinn  
Environmental Fund,  
Jeanette M. Winkler Fund

#### Inbusch Foundation

The Joyce Foundation/  
Southeastern Wisconsin  
Watersheds Trust

Kohl Charities

Lux Foundation

Maihaugen Foundation

Nonprofit Management Fund

Charles R. O'Malley Trust

Sonnentag Foundation

Usinger Foundation

Wisconsin Energy Foundation

Wisconsin Land Fund

## INDIVIDUALS – OUR RIVER ALLIES

Chris Abele

Anonymous

Daniel Berg

Robo Brumder

Gary Buerstatte & Anna  
Pepelniak

Tom Bliffert

Andrew & Anita Boyd

Cheri & Tom Briscoe

Susan Buchanan & Mike Davis

Gary Casper

Nancy Centz

Derek Clayton

Ron Clayton

Eddee Daniel

Carl & Emily DeLeo

Don Daugherty

Lou Davit

Brian Dettmering

Bob & Carol Diggelman

Claus Dunkelberg

Dianne Dziengel

Harold Emch

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TJ & Kristi Estabrook

Richard Fox

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Lyn & Scott GeBoy

Jane Gellman

Donor Advised Fund of the  
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John Haydon

Rita Hayen

Carl & Nancy Hedman

Steve & Jodie Heinrich

Michael Holloway

Julie & Jon Holubowicz

John Idzikowski

Lorraine Jacobs

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Charlie James

Bob Kabitzke

Bob Karnauskas

Sarah Kimball

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Bill Krawczyk

Ray & Barb Krueger

Arthur Laskin

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Dr. David Paris, DDS

Laurie Parsons

Jerry Patzwald

Jill Pelisek

Jim Pittelkow

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Julie Whelan & Gerard Capell

Robert Wilson

Sara Wilson & Lorette  
Russenberger

Robert Zimmerman &  
Tom Derenne

Evan Zeppos

Suzanne Zipperer

## ASSOCIATIONS AND SCHOOLS

Bayview CLC

Green Tree Garden Club

### Kiwanis Club of Milwaukee

Marquette University

Milwaukee Area Technical  
College

### Milwaukee Riverwalk District

Rotary Club of Milwaukee  
University of Wisconsin-  
Milwaukee

## IN-KIND DONATIONS AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Building Blocks Construction –  
Myles Saigh

Café Corazon

City of Milwaukee

The Conservation Fund

County Materials\*

Davis & Kuelthau

Eggert Creative

Gathering Waters Conservancy

Godfrey & Kahn

Groth Design Group –  
Mika Frank\*

Henricksen\*

Insulation Technologies\*

InVivo

Jaeckle Distributors/  
Johnsonite\*

Land Trust Alliance

Marek Landscaping

Michael Best & Friedrich

Milwaukee Area Workforce  
Investment Board

Milwaukee County Parks  
Department

Milwaukee Metropolitan  
Sewerage District:  
**Greenseams Program**

National Park Service,  
Rivers and Trails

RBC Tile\*

River Network

Riverwest Accounting Services

Riverwest Currents

CG Schmidt

Scopebridge – Pete Schneider\*

Sherwin-Williams\*

Southeastern Wisconsin  
Regional Planning  
Commission

Southeastern Wisconsin  
Watersheds Trust (SWWT)

Village of Brown Deer

Wild & Scenic Film Festival

ZS engineering\*

\* These donors  
provided services  
and/or materials  
for our new offices.