



*Iowa Rivers
revival*

Annual Report 2008

Rediscovering Our Rivers



MISSION:

Helping Iowans restore, protect and enjoy our rivers.

VISION:

We envision clean, free-flowing Iowa rivers teeming with life, surrounded by diverse landscapes, and connecting vibrant communities.

HISTORY:

In March 2006 a coalition of individuals, state agencies and nonprofit organizations sponsored and organized the inaugural "Iowa Rivers Revival" conference where the need for a statewide organization committed to river appreciation and conservation was realized. A dedicated core group of volunteers have continued to meet monthly to develop an agenda of programs to carry out the mission and vision adopted by the attendees at the first conference.

After nearly three years, IRR continues to flow and grow due to the support and contributions of our river communities and friends on behalf of the ever-increasing awareness and interest in the quality and condition of Iowa's rivers and streams.

PHILOSOPHY:

Iowa Rivers Revival is the statewide river advocacy group committed to protecting one of our most precious natural resources – our rivers and streams. IRR is working to engage individuals, organizations, communities and our government leaders in river awareness, responsibility and enjoyment in an effort to improve and enhance the condition of Iowa's waterways – ensuring a quality, safe and lasting resource for future generations.

OBJECTIVES

- Protect and restore rivers to their free-flowing, natural state
- Reconnect communities to rivers and their outdoor surroundings
- Influence legislative policy through grassroots advocacy and lobbying

COMMUNITY:

Anglers • River cities and towns • Conservationists • Environmentalists • Faith • Families • Farmers • Paddlers • Recreationists • Rural communities • Sportsmen and women • Students • Teachers • Under-served populations • Urban communities • Watershed groups • Wildlife Observers • Youth

from our Executive Director:

Dear Friends,

The past year has provided Iowa Rivers Revival many opportunities for growth and success. It was only one year ago I joined this organization in its developing stages, and in this short time we have accomplished milestone after milestone – rising to each challenge, motivating us toward realizing our mission and vision.

I am excited and honored to be a part of IRR and this passionate group that is committed to preserving and improving one of Iowa's greatest resources – our rivers and streams. Without the dedication and enthusiasm of our tremendous donors, volunteers and supporters, these recent achievements wouldn't have been possible. With each success we are also reminded of the work we still have yet to do. The health and conditions of our rivers continue to be neglected and threatened by overwhelming amounts of sediment, bacteria and nutrients; often with little regard to modern, common-sense practices that would reduce contamination and degradation of our rivers. We can and we must do better before it is too late.

As we continue to grow and develop new relationships and programs that inspire respect, responsibility and care for our rivers, I encourage you to join us on this journey toward river quality and conservation.

Rosalyn Lehman
Executive Director

from our Chair:

2008 was a very good year for Iowa Rivers Revival. The highlight for me has been making new connections with people who care about and understand the importance of rivers. Our board and staff have all worked very hard at educating policy makers in our government and to build political will in our supporters. Good government policy will dictate the pace of river restoration and is an essential partner in all our other restoration efforts.

A key to the future is to continue to build our statewide network of associations and individuals who are working to restore our rivers. I constantly run into people who are conserving land they own, cleaning trash from the rivers, promoting paddling rivers or hiking greenbelts, working on good policy, educating others, all very important work.

Jerry Peckum
Jefferson, Iowa

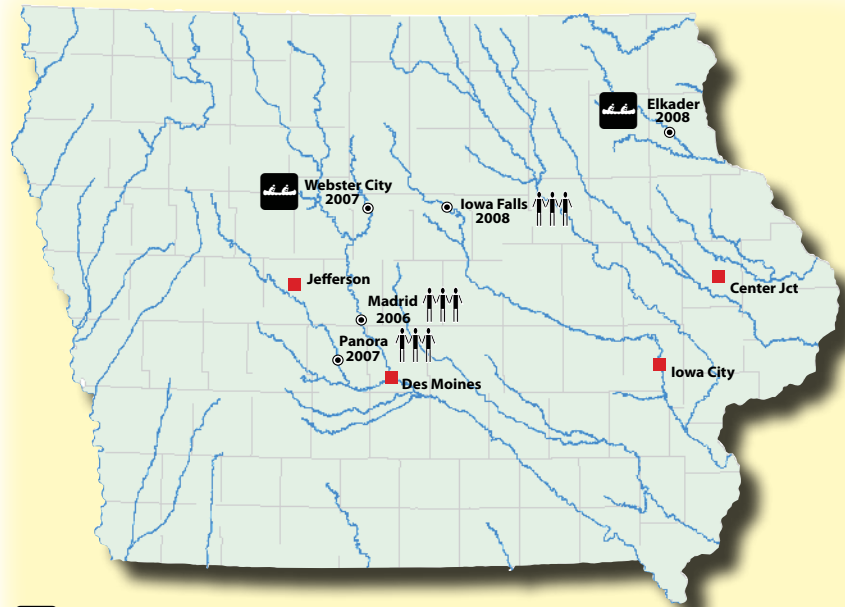


2008 River Congress: during a late day breakout brainstorm, IRR board members, advisors and Congress attendees, (aka: The Revolutionary group, above) discussed out-of-the-box, imagined outcomes to some of the problems and solutions identified earlier in the day. Left to Right: Don Brazelton, Kent Newman, Molly Ketchum, Carol Raffensperger, Pat Boddy, Mike Delaney, Linda Applegate, Bill Graham, Mark Ackelson.





Kenny Salwey at the 2008 IRR Conference



River Town of the Year Annual Conferences Board of Directors

ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM 2008...

Organization

- Hired a program director – January 2008
- Held Board Strategic Planning Session – May 2008
- Established by-laws and increased board membership – August 2008
- Filed IRS 501(c)(3) Non-profit corporation tax documentation – December 2008; the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation serves as a fiscal agent for IRR allowing supporters to make tax-deductible contributions.

Education/Outreach

- Held 2008 Annual Conference/Annual Banquet/River Town of the Year Award/Live Auction, Iowa Falls, Iowa – April 2008
- Provided Supporter E-news – May 2008; ongoing communications about IRR and river related news, events and opportunities.
- Increased Outreach/Visibility – Summer 2008; attended and presented at conferences and participated in a range of community/water/river sponsored events-increasing IRR supporter list.
- Hosted Movie Fundraiser – FLOW; Iowa premiere of an award-documentary.
- Initiated Planning for the River Steward Program – December 2008; connecting individuals and communities to Iowa's rivers by providing opportunities for children, families and members of the public to learn more about the importance of rivers and problems associated with them.

Advocacy

- Held Legislative Reception – January 2008
- Appointed to Legislative Advisory Committee for Sustainable Funding
- Hosted River Congress/River Bill of Rights – November 2008; 75 attended this event and helped identify legislative river priorities

GOALS FOR 2009...

Organization

- Hire Additional PT Outreach Staff
- Diversify/broaden Board Membership
- Refine Strategic Plan
- Approval by IRS for 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Tax Status

Education/Outreach

- Hold 4th Annual Conference/Annual Banquet/River Town of the Year Award/Live Auction, Webster City, Iowa – May 2009.
- Launch River Steward Program
- Facilitate river recreation opportunities in collaboration with river towns/events.
- Increase awareness about river quality, conditions, opportunities and responsibility; increasing and diversifying IRR supporter list.
- Continue ongoing supporter and public communications about IRR and river related news, events and opportunities.

Advocacy – continue building political will and a constituency for river rights:

- Advocate for IRR's Legislative Agenda
- Pass NPDES Signage Legislation
- Host Legislative Reception
- Organize Lobby Day
- Coordinate Legislative Float – organize a series of floats to encourage elected officials to experience Iowa's waterways.
- Reconvene the River Congress – expand existing legislative agenda with new ideas and approaches
- Pass Legislation for Iowa Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreational Opportunities



2008 River Town of the Year Award: IRR advisor, Nate Hoogeveen presents Ron Buchholz with the 2nd RTYA, recognizing Elkader's exemplary river stewardship and commitment to maintaining the quality of the Turkey River.



In May 2008, IRR board members and advisors devoted a half-day to developing a strategic plan for organizational growth and development. Left to Right: Mark Ackelson, Greg Beisker, Kent Newman, Linda Appelgate, Susan Heathcote, Luke Wright and Robin Fortney.



2008 Annual Conference: the late Senator Mary Lundby and Senator Joe Bolkcom, two of Iowa's great river advocates and leaders, participated in a policy panel that addressed river-related legislative issues and ways the public can work with legislators to enact policy that will preserve and protect Iowa's rivers and streams.

Year End Financials

Iowa Rivers Revival Balance Sheet As of December 31, 2008

	<u>Dec 31, '08</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Bankers Trust	3,902.34
Iowa Natural Heritage Fdn	2,930.00
Total Checking/Savings	<u>6,832.34</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>6,832.34</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>6,832.34</u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Equity	
Opening Bal Equity	9,060.51
Net Income	-2,228.17
Total Equity	<u>6,832.34</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u>6,832.34</u>

SUPPORTING IOWA RIVERS REVIVAL

The generous contributions of our supporters have provided the foundation for Iowa Rivers Revival to begin to address some of the problems and solutions concerning Iowa's rivers and streams. The funds we have received have been used carefully and efficiently and are essential to our growing awareness and statewide influence.

Annual Gifts

You can make unrestricted gifts or gifts for a specific purpose to Iowa Rivers Revival. IRR is a 501(c)(3); all gifts to IRR are tax-deductible charitable contributions. Please call Rosalyn Lehman, 515-202-7720 or e-mail rlehman@iowarivers.org for contribution information.

Annual Conference Sponsorship

Iowa Rivers Revival's Annual Conference is an opportunity to engage a broad community connected by river interests. Each year IRR strives to bring innovative, informative and inspiring conference content to new areas of the state – highlighting local communities and their connections to their river.

Levels for conference sponsorship:

Eagle Talon (\$2,500+) ▶ River Otter (\$1,000-\$2499) ▶ Osprey (\$500-\$999) ▶ River Birch (\$250-\$499) ▶ Brook Trout (\$100-\$249).

Gifts to Iowa Rivers Revival for conference sponsorship are tax-deductible. Please call Rosalyn Lehman, 515-202-7720 or e-mail rlehman@iowarivers.org for contribution information.

Roster

<i>Executive Director</i>	Mary Skopec
Rosalyn Lehman	Mike Smith
<i>Chair</i>	Luke Wright
Jerry Peckumn	<i>Advisors</i>
<i>Vice Chair</i>	Linda Appelgate
Larry Gullett	Greg Beisker
<i>Secretary</i>	Pat Boddy
Robin Fortney	Elizabeth Hill
<i>Treasurer</i>	Nate Hoogeveen
Susan Heathcote	Rod Scott
<i>Directors</i>	Allen Shaffer
Mark Ackelson	Stephen Veysey
Rachel Glaza	David Williamson
Kent Newman	

2008 Annual Conference
– River Tour:
about thirty river enthusiasts braved cold temperatures in early April to tour the scenic Iowa River trail.



THANK YOU. IRR recognizes that the dedication and commitment of our many volunteers and supporters is the reason Iowa Rivers Revival even exists today. We have had a productive year as a result of the generous donations provided by our loyal supporters and we look forward to this continued support as we work towards a river consciousness that fosters respect, service and enjoyment.

2008 Contributors

\$5,000 +

David Hurd

\$1,000 +

Greg Beisker and Jill Watrous
Pat Boddy
Iowa Department of Economic Development
Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation
Iowa River Greenbelt Resource Trust
Jerry and Gail Peckumn

\$500+

Mark and Susan Ackelson
Robin Fortney
Hardin County Conservation Board
Nate and Vicki Hoogeveen
Charlotte and Fred Hubbell
Iowa Gaming Association
Polk County Conservation Board
Mary Skopec
David Williamson
Luke Wright

\$250+

Linda Appelgate
Central Iowa Paddlers
Crawdaddy Outdoors
Hawkeye Fly Fishing Association
Susan and Richard Heathcote
Iowa Environmental Council
Iowa Whitewater Coalition
Rand and Kim Lehman
The Nature Conservancy
Kent Newman and Terry Lillie
Michael Smith

\$100 +

Carol Bodensteiner
Sue Caley
Clean Water Network
Nancy Crowfoot
Mike Delaney
Vern Fish
Liz Garst
Gateway Dance Theatre
William Graham
Jane Henning
Iowa Falls Chamber of Commerce
Dave Kraemer
Peckumn Real Estate, LLC
Practical Farmers of Iowa
Raccoon River Watershed Association
Sheila and Scott Riggs
Scheel's
Lynette Seigley
Skunk River Paddlers
Brian and Ann Soenen
Connie Struve and Bill Covington
Carol Thompson
Various & Sundry (Amy Plymat)
Steve Veysey
Donald Wall
Whiterock Conservancy

Up to \$100

Allanah Atley
Elizabeth Baustain
Hillary Baustian
Senator Daryl Beall
Randy Beavers
Joe Bolkcom
Robert Brammer
Betty and Ronald Buchholz
Michael Carberry
Hugh Clatterbuck

Conservation Districts of Iowa

Nancy Crowfoot
City of Steamboat Rock
Marian Riggs-Gelb
Julie and Doug Gibson
Rachel Glaza
Barb Glessner
Muffy Harmon
Joe and Emily Herring
Elizabeth Hill
Dick Howard
Claire Hruby
Patrice Israel
Heather Jobst
Molly Ketchum
Linda Kinman
Peter Komendowski
Teresa Lamair-Jensen
Rosalyn Lehman and Dana Lacquement, Jr
Sandy Lint
Michael Lundby and the late Senator Mary Lundby
Leilani McDonald
Mark Metelman
Michael Murphy
George Naylor
Carolyn Raffensperger
KJ Rebarcak
Robert Riley
Steve Roe
Colleen Rogers
S.L. Thompson
James Throgmorton
Mary and Steven Uhe
Greg Vitale
Wayne Wasta
Cindy Watson
Larry Wilson



IOWA RIVERS REVIVAL

The organization's mission is to see that Iowans take measures to restore and protect our rivers and streams for future generations to enjoy and use.

SPECIAL THANKS

Vicki Hoogeveen for providing bookkeeping support for Iowa Rivers Revival.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Iowa Rivers Revival
PO Box 72
Des Moines, Iowa 50301

515.202.7720
rlehman@iowarivers.org

For more information about Iowa Rivers Revival, visit us at www.iowarivers.org.