

# *Iowa Rivers revival*



Charles City Whitewater Park – courtesy of the Charles City Press

## *2011 annual report*

### *our mission*

Helping Iowans restore, protect and enjoy our rivers.

### *our vision*

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

*Iowa Rivers  
revival*

## our history

In March 2006 a coalition of individuals, state agencies and non-profit organizations sponsored and organized the inaugural "Iowa Rivers Revival" conference where the need for a statewide organization committed to river advocacy, conservation and education was identified. Following the inaugural conference, a dedicated, core group of volunteers continued to meet monthly to develop the mission and vision for a new statewide river organization and an agenda of programs and priorities to protect and enhance Iowa's rivers. Iowa Rivers Revival was officially incorporated by the state of Iowa as a non-profit in November 2006 and received federal non-profit status in March 2009.

## our philosophy & beliefs

Iowa Rivers Revival (IRR) is the statewide river education and advocacy non-profit organization committed to protecting one of our most precious natural resources – over 73,000 miles of 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 water quality and enhance the condition of Iowa's waterways – ensuring a quality, safe and lasting resource for future generations.



# 2011 accomplishments

## Education/Outreach

- ✓ Organized River Currents education forum-discussed common stream problems and practical solutions to address the problems, and relationships and interactions of a river's habitat.
- ✓ Participated in the President's "America's Great Outdoor Initiative" – developed a program proposal for river priorities in Iowa and attended information gathering session.
- ✓ Organized the inaugural Cedar River Rocks! with host Senator Bill Dotzler. The program included local organizations and legislators highlighting local river projects and programs and an afternoon float down the Cedar River from Waterloo to Gilbertville.
- ✓ Awarded the 5th River Town of the Year Award to Charles City, Iowa.
- ✓ 3rd year delivering IRR's River Rascals program in the Des Moines area in August 2011 – provided urban youth a river experience including instruction on paddling, water safety, river etiquette, river biology and river issues such as water quality/water monitoring, while having FUN!
- ✓ 3rd year participating in the Iowa Children's Water Festival – facilitated a breakout session raising awareness about local water resources and our daily interactions and impact.
- ✓ Developed curriculum for Master River Stewards Program focusing on riverine systems and skills, including paddling and navigating skills, knowledge to restore aquatic habitat and improve water quality, and understanding policies related to floodplains, river protection, and restoration.
- ✓ Missouri River Roundtable – discussions to identify stakeholders and priorities for addressing Missouri River challenges and solutions.
- ✓ Attended seventeen REAP Regional Meetings across Iowa.
- ✓ Developed and promoted Bikes + Rivers recreational concept-connecting bikes and rivers using existing paths, including rivers, roads and trails built along former railroads.
- ✓ Continued outreach to increase awareness about river issues and recreational opportunities.
- ✓ Increased and diversified IRR's supporter list.
- ✓ Provided ongoing supporter and public communications about IRR and river related news, events and opportunities through e-News, direct mail, website and Facebook.

Pictured from Cedar River Rocks!: Senator Bill Dotzler, Senator Joe Bolkcom and Senator Rob Hogg



# Advocacy

- ✓ Hired lobbyist to represent IRR and rivers at the State Capitol.
- ✓ Organized 3rd River Congress – January 2011 at the Des Moines Izaak Walton League; an opportunity for Iowa citizens to organize a collected voice and work together to develop an agenda to help restore and preserve = Iowa's rivers.
- ✓ Developed 2011 legislative agenda – January 2011; support for continued funding level of DNR river programs and full funding of REAP, flood mitigation and prevention efforts and Iowa's Water and Land Legacy.
- ✓ Held annual Legislative Reception – February 2011; a social gathering for Iowa's legislative leaders and river supporters to connect about the Iowa river issues and experiences.
- ✓ Met with Governor's staff to discuss legislative priorities for rivers.
- ✓ Met with the Director of Iowa DNR to discuss legislative priorities for rivers.
- ✓ Successfully advocated for \$1M Infrastructure Appropriation for River Restoration and Dam Mitigation programs – legislature approved, but the Governor vetoed.
- ✓ Legislative Updates – weekly updates providing current legislative information to river supporters encouraging legislative contact about the importance of our rivers and river policy issues.
- ✓ IRR protected water quality by preventing water monitoring and clean water regulation from being moved from the IA DNR to the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship. IRR broke the story to the public and forced a more open debate about the legislation.
- ✓ IRR was added to the Watershed Planning Advisory Council.



# Organization

- ✓ Awarded REAP CEP grant for a Master River Steward Program.
- ✓ Established River Champions donor program – recognizing contributions of \$250+. Being a "River Champion" has the special meaning that you strongly support IRR efforts to mobilize Iowans to defend, protect, preserve and celebrate our rivers and streams.
- ✓ IRR Director was interviewed by and recognized in the Des Moines Register for work with IRR.
- ✓ Awarded Principal Financial Group Foundation Grant for outreach programs.
- ✓ Awarded DNR contract to hire an Outreach Coordinator to deliver river programs.
- ✓ Dave Hurd Recognition/Fundraising Cruise – Jon White Anderson Riverboat – Sep 2011.
- ✓ Diversified and broadened statewide board membership.

## Iowa Rivers Revival Balance Sheet As of December 31, 2011

### ASSETS

Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Bankers Trust	\$32,818.63
Total Checking/Savings	\$32,818.63
Total Current Assets	\$32,818.63

**TOTAL ASSETS** **\$32,818.63**

### LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Equity	
Opening Bal Equity	\$9,060.51
Retained Earnings	- \$2,960.65
Net Income	\$26,718.77
Total Equity	\$32,818.63

**TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY** **\$32,818.63**

# 2012 goals

## Education / Outreach

- ☐ Continue to deliver and expand outreach and education programs across the state (River Currents, Rivers Rocks!, Master River Stewards Program, River Rascals).
- ☐ Continue outreach to increase awareness about river issues, including water quality, conditions, opportunities and responsibility through events, activities, press and ongoing correspondence to supporters and stakeholders.
- ☐ Strengthen IRR's network by identifying and connecting leaders and supporters within watersheds.
- ☐ Develop a program to significantly increase and diversify IRR's supporter and donor lists.
- ☐ Initiate supporter and public communications about IRR and river related news, events and opportunities through e-News, direct mail and website.

## Advocacy

- ☐ Advocate for IRR's Legislative Agenda.
- ☐ Host Legislative Reception
- ☐ Reconvene the River Congress – expand advocacy network and existing legislative agenda with new ideas and approaches.
- ☐ Legislative Updates – continue weekly updates providing current legislative information to river supporters encouraging legislative contact about the importance of our rivers and river policy issues.
- ☐ Contribute to the agenda and activities of Iowa's Water and Land Legacy in support of full funding of the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund.

## Organization

- ☐ Hire additional part-time out-reach staff and/or extend executive directors hours.
- ☐ Identify grant opportunities to expand programs and meet organization goals.
- ☐ Diversify and broaden statewide board membership.
- ☐ Revise IRR website.



Pictured is Jerry Peckumn, IRR Board Chair and Jim Erb, Charles City Mayor

## RIVER TOWN OF THE YEAR

Charles City was named River Town of the year in recognition of the community's outstanding work to enhance its connections to the Cedar River. Charles City responded to record floods in 1999 and 2008 by embracing the Cedar River with new ideas and bold projects, such as transforming a low-head dam into Iowa's first whitewater kayak course, developing new riverside parks, redesigning and replacing a beloved, century-old suspension bridge and installing the state's largest permeable paving system.



# RIVER RASCALS PROGRAM 2011



The River Rascals Program provided urban youth a river experience including instruction on paddling, water safety, river etiquette, river biology and river issues such as water quality/water monitoring, while having FUN!



## Riverboat Cruise Celebrating David Hurd

Iowa Rivers Revival board members and supporters honored Dave, a long-time friend and benefactor of IRR, to thank him for his civic leadership and conservationist spirit in protecting and advocating for Iowa's outdoors.



Tuesday, September 13, 2013  
on the Jon Anderson White riverboat



# Support Iowa Rivers

The generous contributions of our supporters have provided the foundation for Iowa Rivers Revival to address 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.

## Thank you!

### River Champions

are people who pledge to contribute \$250 a year, or more to IRR or to raise \$250 from others who can afford to help. Being a "River Champion" has the special meaning that you strongly support IRR efforts to mobilize Iowans to defend, protect, preserve and celebrate our rivers and streams. It's a strong commitment to very important work.

#### \$5000 +

Fred and Charlotte Hubbell  
Jerry Peckumn

#### \$2500+

David Hurd  
Iowa Foundation for Education,  
Environment and the Arts  
The Principal Financial Group  
Raccoon River Watershed  
Association

#### \$1000+

Mark Ackelson  
Robin Fortney  
Liz Garst  
Rachel Garst  
Robert Riley  
Mary Skopec  
Michael Smith

#### \$500+

John and Jane Baty  
Lisa and Andrew Bean  
Robert Brammer  
Buz Brenton  
Central Iowa Paddlers  
Kate Garst  
Larry Gullett  
Susan and Richard Heathcote  
Ned McPartland  
Lynette Seigley  
Bob and Kathy Stevens  
William Thomas  
Steve Veysey  
William Vogel  
Karen and Gary Youngberg

#### \$250+

Linda Appelgate  
Steve Ballenger  
Laura Belin  
Pat Boddy  
Hugh Clatterbuck  
Mark Engelbrecht  
Jim Erb  
Mark and Terry Feldman  
Diane Ford  
Sally and Tom Graf  
Chaden Halfhill and  
Cosette Boone  
Nate and Vicki Hoogeveen  
Dick Howard  
John Jordan  
Diane Krell  
Roselyn Lehman  
Michael P. Murphy  
Michael Myszewski and  
Martha James  
Doris Jean and Owen J. Newlin  
David Osterberg  
Jim and Cindy Pease  
Carolyn Raffensperger  
Steve Roe  
Robert Sayre  
Brian and Ann Soenen  
Mike Tramontina  
Thom Tuttle and  
Upper Iowa River Rats  
Mimi Wagner  
Ann Wallace Fleming  
Fred and Emily Weitz  
Chris and Kevin Wilbeck  
Larry Wilson  
Denny Woodruff and Family  
& Avondale Animal Hospital  
Larry and Kathi Zimpleman

#### \$100 +

Black Tie Society  
Allen Bonini  
Don Brazelton  
Sue Caley  
Brian Callahan and  
Laurie Pomerantz  
Central Iowa Sierra Club  
Bill Cotton and Jan Hill  
Bill and Nancy Covington  
Rick Dietz  
Bruce Ecker & Kim Folkers  
Patti Jo Edwardson  
Rich Eychaner and  
Michael Bowser  
James and Denise Franck  
Nancy Hamer and  
W. Don Nelson  
Chris Henning  
Teresa and Bart Jenson  
Mike and Jane LaMair  
Mark and Amy Langgin  
Jim Liechty  
James Maloney  
Cheryl Moss  
Connie Mutel  
Teresa Opheim  
Patsy and John Shors  
Richard and Diana Sloan  
Connie Struve  
S. L. Thompson  
James Throgmorton  
Tom and Dina Varilek  
Greg Vitale  
Don Wall  
Mark and Teri Williamson  
Dean Zimmerman

#### up to \$100

Allanah Atley  
James W. Barnhart  
Randy Beavers  
Joe Bolkcom  
Mike Delaney  
Barbara Eckstein  
Kamyary Enshayan and  
Laura Jackson  
Jack Fischels  
Vern Fish  
Diane Foster  
Marybeth Gardam  
Dennis Goemaat  
Kate Holt  
Billie Israel  
Jo Ann Johnson  
Gene & Cynthia Labounty  
Dana Lacquement  
Vivian Lehw  
Sandy Lint  
Patrick and Lisa Loy  
John and Naomi McCormick  
Mark and Kathy Metelman  
George Naylor  
Kent Newman  
Charlie Nixon  
James and Mary Norton  
Patrick Oswald  
Scott Ourth  
Ken Proctor  
KJ Rebarcak  
Jim Riggs  
Marian Riggs Gelb  
Gerry Rowland  
Geoffrey Schillare  
Melvin and Barbara  
Schlachter  
Robert Sessions  
Virginia Soelberg  
M. Craig Stark  
Sara Strassman  
Cindy Watson  
Margaret Weiss



### TAX-DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTIONS

You can make unrestricted gifts or gifts for a specific purpose to Iowa Rivers Revival. Gifts to IRR may be tax-deductible. Please call Rosalyn Lehman, 515.724.4093 or e-mail [rlhman@iowarivers.org](mailto:rlhman@iowarivers.org) for contribution information.

Iowa Rivers Revival  
PO Box 72  
Des Moines, Iowa 50301

## *staff*

Rosalyn Lehman, Executive Director  
Todd Robertson, Outreach Coordinator  
Vicki Hooegeveen, Bookkeeping

## *board of directors*

Jerry Peckumn, Chair  
Larry Gullett, Vice Chair  
Robin Fortney, Secretary  
Susan Heathcote, Treasurer  
Mark Ackelson  
Robert Brammer  
Kent Newman  
Mary Skopec  
Mike Smith  
Kathy Stevens  
Mimi Wagner

## *advisors*

Linda Appelgate  
Greg Beisker  
Pat Boddy  
Kate Garst  
Mark Langgin  
Rod Scott  
Allen Shaffer  
Stephen Veysey  
David Williamson



The growth and success of Iowa Rivers Revival is a direct result of the commitment and dedication of its supporters and volunteers. Together we can ensure clean rivers for future generations.

Iowa Rivers Revival  
PO Box 72  
Des Moines, Iowa 50301

515.724.4093  
rlehman@iowarivers.org

For more information about Iowa Rivers Revival,  
visit us at [www.iowarivers.org](http://www.iowarivers.org)