

Iowa Rivers Revival



Crappie by Paul Bridgford

2020 Annual Report

Board

Staci Williams, Chair
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Katie Goff, Secretary
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Patrick Snell
Troy Green

Advisors

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Pat Boddy
Bob Brammer
Mark Langgin
Jim Pease
Steve Veysey

Staff

Sara Carmichael, Executive Director



This 2020 Annual Report is dedicated to Paul Bridgford and his family. He was an avid outdoorsman, angler, and talented artist. We thank him, his family, and all his supporters in working to protect our rivers and streams.

New Mission

A statewide nonprofit leading Iowans to protect, restore, and enjoy our rivers.

New Vision

We envision healthy, free-flowing rivers that connect Iowa's communities and provide access for all to use and enjoy.

Our Philosophy

Iowa Rivers Revival is a statewide organization focused on protecting and restoring one of our state's most precious natural resources — our rivers and streams. We do this through a variety of education and advocacy programs, including leading efforts to build more broad based support for funding for key priorities such as dam mitigation and safety, recreation, and ecological river restoration for the benefit of people, nature, and future generations.

Our History

In March 2006, a coalition of individuals, state agencies, and nonprofits organized the inaugural "Iowa Rivers Revival" conference. The need for a statewide organization committed to river advocacy, conservation, and education was affirmed. Following the conference, a dedicated core group of volunteers continued to meet monthly to develop the mission and vision for a new state-wide river organization. Iowa Rivers Revival was officially incorporated by the state of Iowa as a nonprofit organization in November 2006 and received federal nonprofit status in March 2009.

2020 Accomplishments

Advocacy

- **Led a successful lobbying effort** that allocated \$250,000 to the Dam Mitigation and Water Trails program through the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. This legislative session was one for the record books. While session started on January 13th, it was put on hold because of the COVID-19 pandemic in mid-March. The legislature returned 11 weeks later, on June 3rd, to finalize the budget and other bills left in limbo. While discussing budget appropriations, like the Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund, the Senate zeroed out funding for this important program. IRR rallied our supporters, who called and emailed legislators, and were successful in maintaining level funding. We will continue to work for more dedicated, long-term funding for this program.
- **Worked to fully fund and eliminate the sunset date** for the Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) Act of 1989. This fund, which provides millions of dollars in grant money for the state's natural and cultural resources, is funded through Iowa gaming receipts. It is authorized to receive \$20 million per year until 2021. To date, it has never been fully funded, usually receiving around \$12 million per year. This session REAP received level funding (\$12 million), but the sunset date was pushed back till 2023.
- **Organized efforts with environmental groups** to support and fund the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund. Governor Reynolds introduced her Invest in Iowa Act that would have funded over \$100 million in water quality projects and \$55 million in outdoor recreation projects. Due to COVID-19, this bill was put on hold.



With help from funding from the Dam Mitigation and Water Trails program, another deadly dam was replaced with a rock arch rapid whitewater course. ~ Ames, IA

Outreach

- **Continued work on the Iowa River and Stream Restoration Framework** through the help of IRR's Technical Advisory Committee. As we continue to grow our partnerships and expand our knowledge about rivers and restoration in Iowa, we rely on many talented allies to keep us on track. This Technical Advisory Committee has been a valuable source of information and research sharing. This impressive group of university researchers and professors, engineers, state employees, and non-profit professionals are helping us grow the vision for river restoration in Iowa.
- **Created a series of videos for our Master River Stewards Program** that will be used for future trainings and outreach. Visit our YouTube page to watch the videos.

Capacity Building

- **Hired a new Executive Director** in February 2020. Sara Carmichael, with degrees in environmental science and policy and global environmental health, comes to IRR with over 10 years of education and advocacy work. Carmichael has worked for several nonprofits as well as AmeriCorps, leading environmental education programs related to clean water, rivers, and habitat protection.
- **Increased the number of donors** from 29% from 2019, for a total of 196 households. In addition, we had 42 “River Champions” last year. River Champions are donors who give \$250 or more in a year.
- **Added two fantastic new board members**, Patrick Snell and Troy Green. Both bring a wealth of expertise to the board.



Patrick Snell works for The Nature Conservancy as the External Affairs Coordinator. He believes that rivers are a source of life and connect us to all our neighbors, near and far. He “enjoys the outdoors when floating slowly along in a canoe, sitting on a riverbank watching wildlife, or catching the sunset lighting up the Raccoon River on the drive home.” He joined the board Feb 2020.



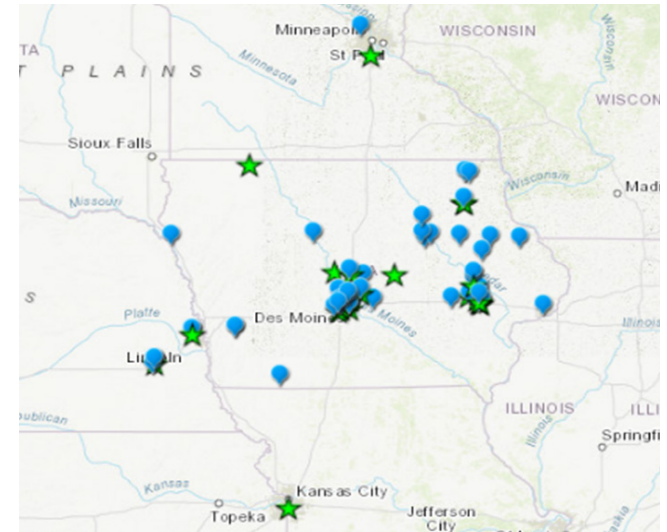
Troy Green works as a Talent Acquisition Specialist for EMC Insurance and is excited to bring all of his talents (both on and off the water) to IRR. As an avid paddler and outdoorsman, he understands the importance of protecting our rivers while also increasing the accessibility for all Iowans. Troy joined the board Dec 2020.

Education

The **River Restoration Toolbox** was developed by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources to assist Iowa designers and reviewers of stream stabilization and restoration projects. The toolbox helps users understand the driving factors that cause an unstable stream segment to erode or damage infrastructure. It takes the user through the major steps of stream assessment, including field collected stream survey data, key stream stability issues, and multiple practices and techniques that are appropriate for the type of restoration project. Multiple workshops are offered through IRR every summer.

In 2020, we conducted one Level 1 and one Level 2 COVID-safe workshops.

- August: Level 1 workshop in Clive with 19 participants
- October: Level 2 workshop in Clive with 13 participants



Blue Dots = Level 1 Graduates
Green Stars = Level 2 Graduates
For a complete listing of graduates, visit our website

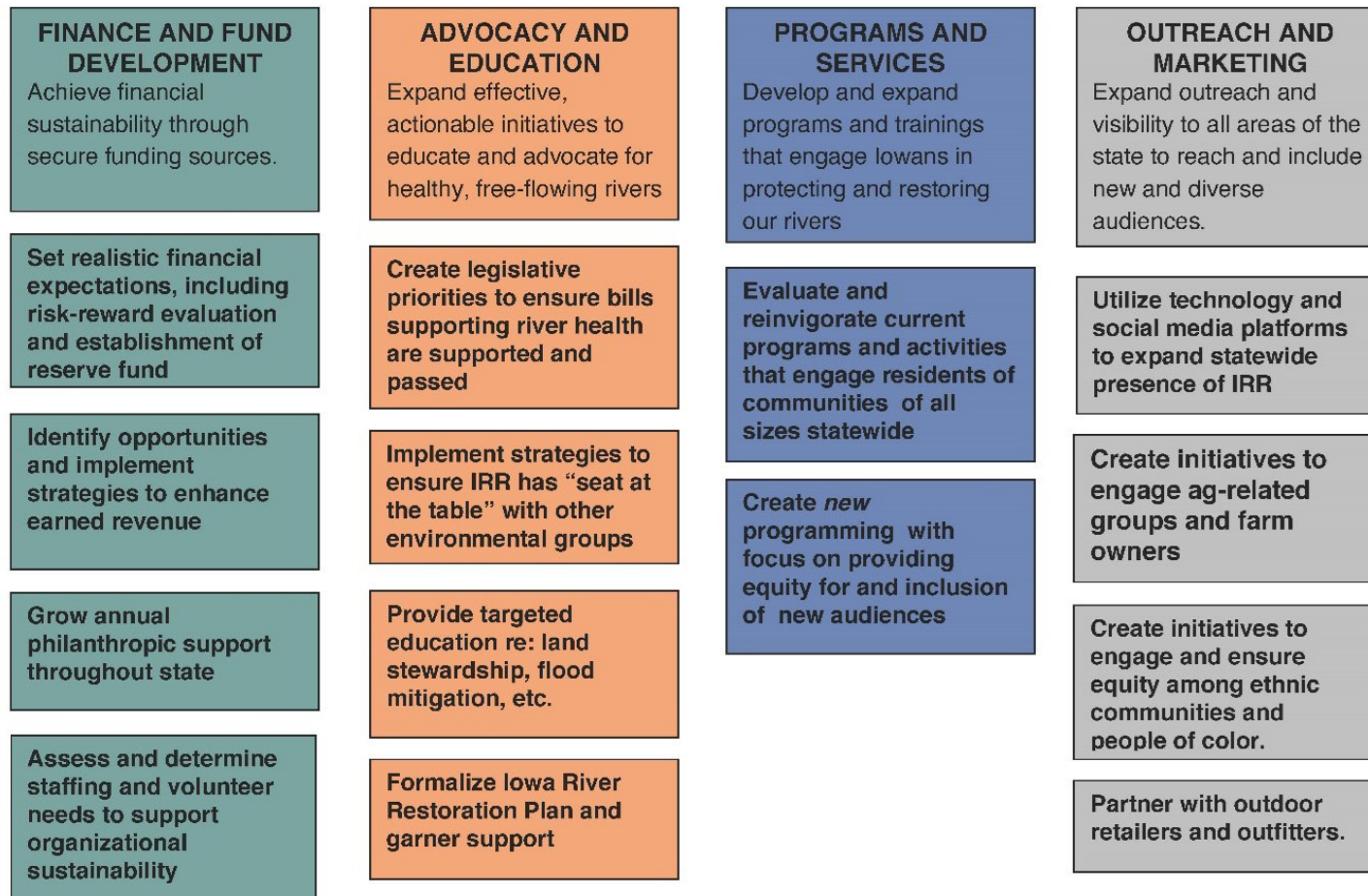
Financial Summary

IRR's funds have been used carefully and efficiently and are essential to our growing effectiveness and impact.

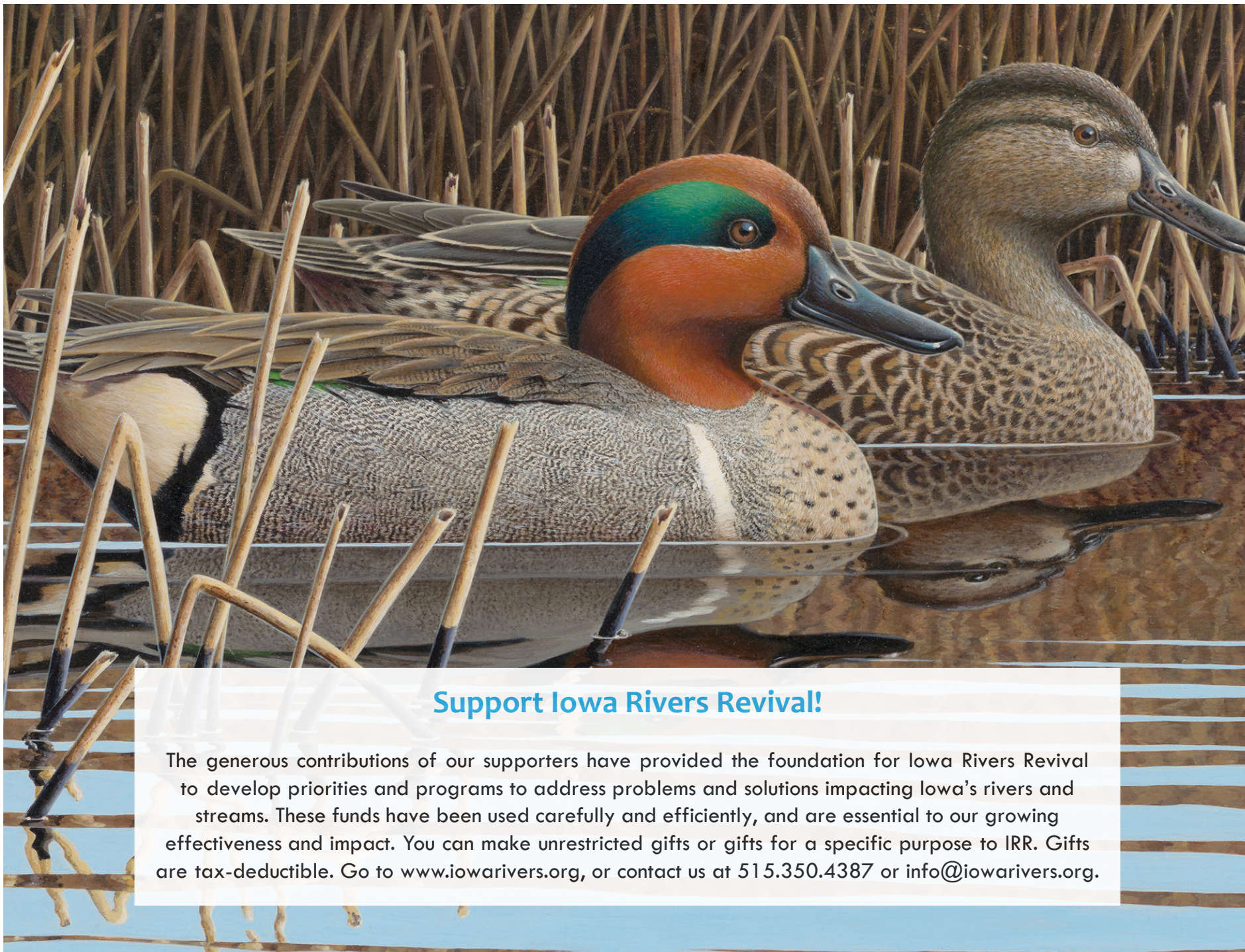
Carryover from 2019	\$146,220.05
Total Income	\$215,084.37
Total Expense	\$116,203.63
Balance End of 2020	\$245,100.79

Strategic Plan 2021 - 2023

In 2020, Iowa Rivers Revival was able to dedicate time and resources to create a new 3-year strategic plan. All board members and staff and some advisory members were involved in forming this plan. Led by Isaacson/Syverson Consulting, we were able to create overarching objectives with SMART strategies that will help us be successful for years to come.



ISAACSON//SYVERSON
CONSULTING



Support Iowa Rivers Revival!

The generous contributions of our supporters have provided the foundation for Iowa Rivers Revival to develop priorities and programs to address problems and solutions impacting Iowa's rivers and streams. These funds have been used carefully and efficiently, and are essential to our growing effectiveness and impact. You can make unrestricted gifts or gifts for a specific purpose to IRR. Gifts are tax-deductible. Go to www.iowarivers.org, or contact us at 515.350.4387 or info@iowarivers.org.

River Champions

River Champions are supporters who contribute \$250 a year or more to IRR, or raise \$250 from others. Being a "River Champion" means that you strongly support IRR efforts to mobilize Iowans to defend, protect, restore, and celebrate our rivers and streams. It's a strong commitment to very important work.

\$10,000+

The McKnight Foundation

\$1,000-\$9,999

Elizabeth Garst

Fred & Charlotte Hubbell

Kyle & Sharon Krause

Family Foundation

\$250-\$999

Calvin Hansen

CanoeSport Outfitters

Cheryl Young

Cliff Kessler

Daniel Johannsen

David Dorff

Dick Sloan

Donald Wall

Jacqueline Comito

James Erb

John Baty

John McCormick

John Ruan

Kathy Elsner

Katie Goff

Kay Meyer

Koch Brothers

Linda Appelgate

Margo Blumenthal

Mark Ackelson

Mark Engelbrecht

Martha James

Martha Stephenson

Matt Kaufman

Michael Hubbell

Mike Murphy

Muffy Harmon

Peter & Andrea Levi

Riley Family Fund

Robert & Sherrill Koch

Robin Fortney

Sonya Ewert

Staci Williams

Steve Veysey

Susan Heathcote

Susan Koch Bridgford

Terrance Vorbrich

Vern Fish

River Supporters

\$10-249

Al Sturgeon

Amanda Dolan

Ann Levine

Anna & Brian Lampe

Anton Stork

Barb Schmidt

Barbara Eckstein

Barbara Royal

Beverly Gilbert

Blair Lawson

Brian Burkle

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Cynthia O'Brien

Dale Mills

Dan Cohen

Dave & Anne Gaer

David & Hanna
Gradwohl

David Osterberg

David Tarnowski

David Witke

Dawn Taylor

Deb Wiley

Don Brazelton

Donna Burgess

Douglas Fuller

Duane Sand

Ellen King

Florence Moran

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Gregory Vitale

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Holly Craiger Inc

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James and Jane Wine

James Pease

James Throgmorton

James Todd

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Fitzgerald

Jane Hemminger

Janice Gipple

Jann Freed

Jeff & Maggie Smith

Jeremy Swanson

Jerry & Shari
Fitzgerald

Jerry Peckum

Jess Fauchier

Jim Urban

JoAnn Johnson

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Hilmes

John & Joan

Wetherell

John & Margery
Graves

John Gallagher

John Jordan

John Koester

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Karen Pearston

Kari & Pat Waldron

Kata McCarville

Kent & Marjory
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Kent Newman

Kenton & Theresa
Klein

Kerri Sorrell

Kevin & Molly Cooney

Kim Hagemann

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Larry Gullett

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Linda Dawe

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Lynette Seigley

M Zane & Lora Yates

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Marguerite Fitch

Marian Riggs

Marilyn Graham

Mark Clark

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Fitzgerald

Mel Schlachter

Melanie Keiper

Michael Anderson

Michael Walsh

Michael Wegner

Mike Delaney

Mike LaMair

Mike, Mari, Tony &
Tracy Trotters

Mimi Wagner

Molly Fitzgerald

Molly Hanson

Nancy Crowfoot

Nancy Stroud

Nathaniel Robert Day

Ned McPartland

Nicholas McNeley

Pat Oswald

Pat Winters

Patrick Kneueven

Patsy Condon

Paul & Lori Carey

Rachel Garst

Raymond Cranston

Rex Grove

Rhonda Taffae

Ricci & Susan

Frambach

Richard & Linda Ruble

Richard Leopold

Richard Worm

Rick Dietz

Robert James &
Diana Wissler

Robert Sessions

Sally Fellows

Sam & Sarah O'Brien

Samuel & Carol Wise

Sarah Lande

Scott James

Scott Mactier

Sharon Maloy

Shawn Studer

Side Garage

Skunk River Paddlers

Standridge Group LLC

Stephen & Catherine
Mussett

Steve Ballenger

Steven & Paula

Moeckly

Steven & Sally Gaer

Steven Thomas

Sue Laufersweiler

Susan Koons

Teresa Lamair-Jenson

Terri Dermody

Terri McNeley

Tim Urban

Tim Wagner

Todd Slaymaker

Trudi Rosazza

Vickie Beveridge

Virginia Soelberg

West Bank

William & Inta

Stebbins

William Hitsman

William Leonard

Zach Hesse

Zachary Valigosky

Iowa Rivers *revival*



Bass by Paul Bridgford

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 healthier rivers for future generations.

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