

Contents:

I. Introduction

II. Methods

III. Results

IV. Budget

V. Conclusions

ACTIVITIES REPORT NARRATIVE

I. Introduction

The goal of this grant is to expand Save The River's Riverkeeper Monitoring Program. The program is a volunteer initiative, empowering community members to be the eyes and ears out on the River, watching for wildlife die-offs and other pollution problems along the upper St. Lawrence River.

Through this grant Save The River has significantly expanded the Riverkeeper Monitoring Program. Over the course of the summer, staff trained six Master Trainer volunteers who assisted in training new recruits to the program. With this increased capacity to train new volunteers, Save The River exceeded its goal for this granting year and has significantly grown the program to include local island associations, Rotary Clubs and Auxiliary Coast Guard members. In addition, we were also able to increase our report accuracy to 90%, showing that increased education of community members allows for more accurate reporting of River issues.

II. Methods

Save The River identified several objectives to complete the goals for this grant. Staff created a Master Trainer curriculum to train volunteers to give the Riverkeeper Monitoring Program training presentation. Six Master Trainer volunteers were trained, increasing staff capacity to conduct more training sessions and to engage more participants in the Riverkeeper Monitoring Program. Master Trainers were provided with a Master Trainer Manual to assist them while conducting training sessions (submitted with interim grant report). Nine training sessions were held to train new recruits to the program. Training sessions were held for the following groups: Oak Point Association, Coast Guard Auxiliary, Chippewa Bay Yacht Club, Thousand Islands Park, Murray Isle Association, Round Island Association, and Clayton Rotary Club. Master Trainers trained four of the seven listed groups and also assisted staff with additional training sessions.

All volunteers were outfitted with volunteer t-shirts for easy identification while out on patrol. Additionally, t-shirts continued to serve as an incentive for recruits to attend a training session as well as build a sense of community amongst volunteers. Riverkeeper Guidebooks were also provided to all new volunteers, giving them a waterproof reference for wildlife and pollution identification to carry during observations.

Save The River distributed monthly e-newsletters to volunteers currently enrolled in the program (see enclosed). E-newsletters provided additional River information for volunteers and also helped to open dialog amongst volunteers. Additionally, Save The River held two workshops during August. The Invasive Species workshop was held in collaboration with New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and Cornell Cooperative Extension staff. Samples of invasive species were presented giving volunteers a first hand look at some of the invasive species that pose a threat to the St. Lawrence River. Volunteers were also provided with a take home packet of information to aid in identification of these invasive species as well as how and where to report new invaders (see enclosed). The Importance of Wetlands kayak paddle was held in late August and was also well attended with 8 participants. Thousand Islands Adventures, a local kayak rental business, donated the use of kayaks for all Riverkeeper volunteers attending; giving volunteers the opportunity to see a local wetland up close as well as the threats to this important resource (see photo enclosed). Workshops served as an effective tool for keeping volunteers engaged in the program. Save The River continued to collect volunteer reports on wildlife die-off and pollution issues throughout the season and assessed accuracy of reports received.

III. Results

Our final results show that we have met the objectives for this grant. Staff trained six of the anticipated four Master Trainer volunteers, increasing our staff capacity beyond our expectations. This increase in the number of trainers allowed us to exceed our number of participants trained for the season. We trained 140 volunteers over the course of the summer and also extended beyond our local area, training groups in Morristown, Chippewa Bay and Oak Point. Save The River's Riverkeeper Monitoring Program now has over 250 active volunteers in the program!

Master Trainer volunteers were very effective during the summer months. Their participation and enthusiasm for the program extended to the participants of the program. In August, Save The River held its Volunteer Appreciation event where Master Trainer and program volunteers were thanked for their participation in the program. 150 volunteers attended and enjoyed an evening of food and camaraderie amongst volunteers (see photos enclosed).

At the end of the season, staff met with Master Trainer volunteers to gain feedback from them about their experiences with the program. All Master Trainers had flawless evaluations completed by recruits taking the class. Additionally, staff received continued positive feedback from recruits' experiences and interactions with all Master Trainers throughout the season. Staff worked with Master Trainer volunteers to assess the Master Trainer curriculum in order to make the necessary changes to the materials provided and the class given to trained volunteers. All Master Trainer volunteers felt that they were well prepared because of the curriculum presented, making the created curriculum successful and able to be implemented again in future years.

Reports from Riverkeeper program volunteers were collected and assessed and included wildlife die-offs and other local pollution issues. Rachel Cole of Murray Isle and Kenny Brabant of Grindstone Island both reported mudpuppy die-offs this fall, which were an indication of fall Botulism activity. These reports were passed onto the New York State

Department of Conservation who informed us that this was an indication of fall Botulism activity. The Department let us know to continue to track and collect dead mudpuppies if more were found as they could be an indicator of a larger Botulism outbreak to come. No additional mudpuppies have been reported to date. All reports received were very concise in the information volunteers provided. Six of those reports provided information that further informed Save The River about River health. All other reports included enough information for Save The River staff to follow-up on a pollution or wildlife issue. Therefore, staff calculated over 90% accuracy of reports received.

IV. Budget

\$9,587 was granted for the completion of this project. To date the complete amount granted has been spent. A break down of expenditures can be seen below in Table 1. We were able to complete our project within the outlined budget. Overhead and staff costs are projected through the end of the calendar year as staff is continuing to work with volunteers via e-mail, receiving reports and feedback on the program for next year's planning. Included in this budget are the additional matching dollars that were outlined in the original grant application. One additional cost that was absorbed by Save The River's matching dollars was an increase cost in volunteer t-shirts. Therefore, we have completed the major projects for this grant within the original budget outlined for the project.

Table 1. Save The River SLRREF 2010 Final Expenditures

	Date	Name	Memo	Amount	Match Funds
Expenses				SLRREF	
	03/24/2010	Staples Office Supplies	folders for guidebook	76.80	
	04/29/2010	Victory Promotions	volunteer T-shirts	1,845.00	60.00
	05/05/2010	Benjamin Printing Inc. Master Trainer	140 RK volunteer guides	1,236.67	
	05/10/2010	Guidebooks	materials and printing	100.00	
	1/1 - 6/30/2010	Jennifer Caddick	Staff time		468.00
	1/1 - 6/30/2010	Sarah M Walsh	Staff time	2,640.00	
	1/1 - 6/30/2010	Overhead	Office space, phone, supplies		450
	07/29/2010	Staples Office Supplies	folders for RK booklets		56.54
	7/1 - 12/31/10	Jennifer Caddick	Staff time		468.00
	7/1 - 12/31/10	Sarah M Walsh	Staff time	2,640.00	
	7/1 - 12/31/10	Overhead	Office space, phone, supplies		450
	09/21/2010	Master Trainer	Mileage reimbursement	50.00	
	08/12/2010	Bella's, Big M, Staples	Volunteer event food and materials	1,000.00	
Total Expenses to Date				9,588.47	1,952.54
Revenue Received	04/07/2010	New York Power Authority	Riverkeeper/1 of 3	3,196.00	
	09/29/2010	New York Power Authority	Riverkeeper/2 of 3	3,196.00	
FUNDS REQUESTED				3,196.00	

V. Conclusions

Save The River has met the goals of this grant prior to the end of the granting year. Through the support of the St. Lawrence River Research and Education Fund, Save The River has greatly increased our Riverkeeper Monitoring Program. We have grown our training capacity through the successful development and implementation of a Master Trainer curriculum and Master Trainer volunteers. We have provided currently trained volunteers with meaningful workshops to extend their River knowledge and keep them engaged in the program. With the increased capacity gained from this grant, Save The River staff was also able to facilitate a generous in-kind gift of kayak rentals for our wetland paddling workshop. Save The River also hosted a successful Volunteer Appreciation event to thank volunteers for their participation. In addition, we added 140 volunteers to the Riverkeeper Monitoring Program, substantially growing our network of eyes and ears on the River.

Save The River's Riverkeeper Monitoring Program strives to educate our local community about River issues as well as empower them to watch out for the overall health of the St. Lawrence River. Support from the St. Lawrence River Research and Education Fund has made it possible for Save The River to make excellent progress towards expanding our Riverkeeper Monitoring Program and increasing the knowledge and importance of the St. Lawrence River and its protection in our River communities.

[Click to view this email in a browser](#)

Summer Comes to a Close

The leaves are starting to change here on the River and our Riverkeeper Monitoring Program training is done for the year. Thanks so much to all the new volunteers who have joined the Riverkeeper Program this past summer. We now have almost 250 volunteers watching out for the River!

In this issue we hope to give you some information about the freshwater jellyfish sightings we have been seeing as well as future trainings to look out for next year.

In this issue:

- Freshwater jellyfish in the River and the Northeast
- Muskie Catch and Release this fall
- Riverkeeper Monitoring Program volunteer training opportunities for 2011



Freshwater jellyfish

Over the last few weeks folks have been seeing freshwater jellyfish here on the St. Lawrence River. Freshwater jellyfish are about the size of a penny and are clear white, membranous organisms. They sting their prey with small tentacles. They can usually be seen close to the surface, pulsating through the water.

Freshwater jellyfish are an invasive that was brought to North America in the 1800's either traveling on migrating waterfowl or through the trade of exotic aquarium plants. Freshwater jellyfish do not pose a threat to humans swimming as their sting is not very strong. They are known to be dormant for some time and then appear in blooms. They have been in the Northeast for some time and are often not noticed due to their small size.



Thank you to those who have reported jellyfish on Grindstone and further down River.

Learn more about freshwater jellyfish [here](#).

Read about freshwater jellyfish in the River [here](#).

Read about freshwater jellyfish in Walden Pond Massachusetts [here](#).

Muskie Catch and Release this fall

Muskie season is upon us and Save The River would like to remind anglers about the important of catch and release of this unique species.

Catch and release tips include:

- Try to unhook the fish without removing it from the water
- Never hold the fish vertically
- Take your measurements and photos quickly



Colby Bowman practices catch and release this fall.

If you catch and release a legal sized muskie you can receive a Michael Ringer print. Visit our office to pick-up your affidavit or call us and we'll send you one in the mail.

To learn more about Save The River's Muskie Catch and Release Program [visit our website](#).

Riverkeeper Monitoring Program training 2011

Save The River's Riverkeeper Program has grown to nearly 250 volunteers this year!

Thank you to our Master Trainers, Roger Peinkfer, Jane Carver, Tammy Lueck, Curtis Buker and Tricia Tague. Each took time this summer to travel around the River to train volunteers. Without their help our program would not be so strong.

We are looking forward to adding more volunteers to our program next year, so be sure to check back to our website for updates on training opportunities.



Have a group you'd like us to train? [E-mail Sarah](#), Program Manager, with the contact information for your group and we'll schedule a 2011 training session.

Want to learn even more?

Save The River offers workshops to Riverkeeper volunteers each summer. Workshops provide more indepth information about River issues. This summer we held workshops on invasive species and the importance of wetlands. These workshops are a great opportunity to get more information on subjects you find interesting.



Riverkeeper volunteers paddle through French Creek learning about wetlands

If you are interested in signing up for a 2011 workshop [e-mail Sarah](#).

Let us know what workshops you'd like to see! Just e-mail your subject of choice to [Sarah](#).

And always tell your friends, family and neighbors to become a Riverkeeper volunteer. The more folks who are out there watching, the better we can protect our River.

More about Save The River

For those of you who are just learning about Save The River, please feel free to visit [our website](#) to learn more about our [advocacy work](#) and other [on the water programming](#). Save The River is a member based environmental organization that has been working to protect the ecological integrity of the upper St. Lawrence River through advocacy, education and research since 1978.

Learn [how to become a member!](#)

[Forward this email to a friend](#)

If you no longer wish to receive these emails, please reply to this message with "Unsubscribe" in the subject line or simply click on the following link: [Unsubscribe](#)

Save The River
409 Riverside Dr.
Clayton, New York 13624
US

[Read](#) the VerticalResponse marketing policy.

