



ISSUE TWO : SPRING 2016
OPEN RIVERS : RETHINKING THE MISSISSIPPI

IMAGINING WATER

<http://openrivers.umn.edu>

An interdisciplinary online journal rethinking the Mississippi
from multiple perspectives within and beyond the academy.

ISSN 2471-190X

ISSUE TWO : SPRING 2016

The cover image is by Harold Fisk, 1944, plate fifteen, sheet one, showing stream courses from *The Alluvial Valley of the Lower Mississippi River*. The map covers sections of Arkansas, Missouri, and Tennessee.

Except where otherwise noted, this work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/). This means each author holds the copyright to her or his work, and grants all users the rights to: share (copy and/or redistribute the material in any medium or format) or adapt (remix, transform, and/or build upon the material) the article, as long as the original author and source is cited, and the use is for noncommercial purposes.

Open Rivers: Rethinking the Mississippi is produced by the [University of Minnesota Libraries Publishing](https://www.lib.umn.edu/) and the [University of Minnesota Institute for Advanced Study](https://www.umn.edu/ia/).

Editors

Editor:
Patrick Nunnally, Institute for Advanced Study,
University of Minnesota

Administrative Editor:
Phyllis Mauch Messenger, Institute for Advanced
Study, University of Minnesota

Assistant Editor:
Laurie Moberg, Doctoral Candidate,
Anthropology, University of Minnesota

Production Manager:
Joanne Richardson, Institute for Advanced Study,
University of Minnesota

Contact Us

Open Rivers
Institute for Advanced Study
University of Minnesota
Northrop
84 Church Street SE
Minneapolis, MN 55455

Telephone: (612) 626-5054
Fax: (612) 625-8583
E-mail: openrvrs@umn.edu
Web Site: <http://openrivers.umn.edu>

ISSN 2471-190X

Editorial Board

Jay Bell, Soil, Water, and Climate, University of
Minnesota

Tom Fisher, Metropolitan Design Center,
University of Minnesota

Lewis E. Gilbert, Institute on the Environment,
University of Minnesota

Mark Gorman, Policy Analyst, Washington, D.C.

Jennifer Gunn, History of Medicine, University of
Minnesota

Katherine Hayes, Anthropology, University of
Minnesota

Nenette Luarca-Shoaf, Art Institute of Chicago

Charlotte Melin, German, Scandinavian, and
Dutch, University of Minnesota

David Pellow, Environmental Studies, University
of California, Santa Barbara

Laura Salveson, Mill City Museum, Minnesota
Historical Society

Mona Smith, Dakota transmedia artist; Allies:
media/art, Healing Place Collaborative

CONTENTS

Introduction

Introduction to Issue Two
By Patrick Nunnally, Editor 4

Features

Future River - The Mississippi in Light of a Lifetime Immersion in Water
By Patrick Hamilton 6

Princeville and the Environmental Landscape of Race
By Richard M. Mizelle, Jr. 16

Disturbing the Mississippi: The Language of Science, Engineering, and River Restoration
By Christopher Morris 29

Geographies

Maps, Geographies, and the Mississippi
By Len Kne 45

In Review

Southern Waters
By Simi Kang 51

Perspectives

Climate Change and Rivers
By Paul Huttner and Phyllis Mauch Messenger 54

The National Park Service's Mississippi River Forum: Meals with Great Minds
By Lark Weller 61

Primary Sources

Global Water Data: We'll Show You the World, Sort Of
By Kate Brauman 64

Teaching and Practice

Toward a Pedagogy of Place: the Bdote Field Trip and Absent Narratives in the Classroom
By Kirk MacKinnon Morrow 69

PERSPECTIVES

THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE'S MISSISSIPPI RIVER FORUM: MEALS WITH GREAT MINDS

By Lark Weller

Most of us have imagined with which leaders and remarkable people we'd like to share conversation over dinner. But what about breakfast? Studies show it's the most important meal of the day! Imagine sharing conversation, learning, and ideas with politicians, researchers studying bald eagles and river otters, people who make your water drinkable and those who clean your used water (who are different people, at least for now...), and those thinking about and establishing policies and practices to help protect the Mississippi—all over fresh coffee and pastries each month. That's exactly what the Mississippi River Forum offers.

The Mississippi River Forum is a monthly meeting series facilitated by the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area (the Twin Cities' national park!), and made possible through the support of its philanthropic partner, the Mississippi Park Connection, as well as the McKnight Foundation. Each month, we gather to hear a speaker share their work involving the Mississippi River or water resources more broadly, to visit with each other, and to expand the reach of our work and the ideas generated by each month's speaker and participants.



View of the Mississippi River from the Science Museum of Minnesota by J. Pellgen.

ISSUE TWO : SPRING 2016

The Mississippi River Forum is a valuable source of information and networking thanks to its multidisciplinary participants—water resource practitioners and decision makers whose day-to-day work impacts the river—as well as its express focus on enhancing collaboration across sectors. Landscape architects, engineers, environmental organization representatives, urban planners, elected officials, natural resource managers, scientists and researchers, and foundation staff build a unique monthly conversation that reflects the nuances of the river itself. Conversations established at Forum meetings have led to important new partnerships, approaches, and projects.

On February 26, 2016 Saint Paul Mayor Chris Coleman addressed the Mississippi River Forum. Mayor Coleman had recently returned from the United Nations' Climate Change Conference in Paris as a representative of the Mississippi River Cities and Towns Initiative (MRCTI), and joined the Forum to share his experiences. In Paris, Mayor Coleman and other members of MRCTI led discussions with representatives from global river basins in France, Germany, Mexico, Senegal, China, and India about achieving food and water security through commitments to sustainable agriculture, clean water, and improved urban management of water resources.



Maria DeLaundreau presents cottonwood research findings to the Mississippi River Forum audience.

Photo by Melissa Buss, courtesy of the National Park Service.

As a Mississippi River mayor, Coleman understands the importance of a clean and healthy river in communities' resilience, and the importance of the river to our daily lives and economies. He spoke of the critical role that local governments like the City of Saint Paul play in establishing and modeling policies and practices that can help communities worldwide as they seek to protect natural and human resources from the impacts of climate disruption. Coleman sees efforts like Saint Paul's sustainable planning and development practices as key to preventing the worst climate change impacts, and as tools to be adopted by other communities around the globe in search of climate mitigation strategies. He—along with over 120 other U.S. mayors and 440 mayors worldwide—has signed the Compact of Mayors, committing these cities over the next three years to establish greenhouse gas emissions targets, develop climate action and resiliency plans, and consistently assess progress toward these goals. (A draft of Saint Paul's climate resilience plan will be available later this spring.) Though climate change is, by definition, a global issue, solutions and on-the-ground changes take place largely at the local level.

After the mayor's report back from Paris, Mississippi River Forum participants had over an hour to discuss with him everything from how to protect local waters from salt (chloride) pollution

Recommended Citation

Weller, Lark. 2016. "The National Park Service's Mississippi River Forum: Meals with Great Minds" *Open Rivers: Rethinking The Mississippi*, no. 2. <http://editions.lib.umn.edu/openrivers/article/the-national-park-services-mississippi-river-forum-meals-with-great-minds/>.

About the Author

Lark Weller is the Water Quality Coordinator for the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area, a unit of the National Park Service. She works closely with park partners to minimize the negative impacts of human activities on the park's water resources, and is also helping the National Park Service improve its institutional equity, inclusion and employee engagement. Lark has a bachelor's of science degree in agriculture, sociology, and anthropology, as well as a master's degree in urban and regional planning, from the University of Minnesota.

to how the redevelopment of the Ford Plant offers a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to practice water- and climate- protective strategies at a rare, "mini urban" scale. (The Ford Motor Company closed its Saint Paul production facility in 2011; the City is working with numerous community partners to plan the redevelopment of these 135 acres along the Mississippi River into a mixed-use 21st-century neighborhood.) The conversation was truly an example of local government in action: engaged community members chewing on bagels and complex issues with a mayor working to protect an internationally significant river through local practices.

When is the last time you visited with a mayor over breakfast on a Friday morning? Join the National Park Service for the next Mississippi River Forum and be sure you never miss another opportunity to create meaningful conversations about building a healthier Mississippi River! Meetings are held each month, and alternate between locations in the Twin Cities and Saint Cloud, Minnesota.

For more information about the Mississippi River Forum, including upcoming and past presentations, visit <https://www.nps.gov/miss/learn/nature/riverforum.htm>, or contact the park's Water Quality Coordinator at lark_weller@nps.gov.