

FRIENDS OF THE

# Missouri River

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NOVEMBER 2005

## Friends of the Missouri River raises \$1.36 million; efforts proceed on securing third phase of project

The third phase of an effort to put Missouri River land near Bismarck in non-development easements is well under way and expected to be completed in March 2006.

The first phase was completed in March of 2004 and the second one closed in March of 2005. Both involved land along the west side of the Missouri River north of Bismarck, in the view shed of the Double Ditch Indian Village State Historic Site.

With \$1.36 million already raised, the Friends of the Missouri River organization is seeking to raise an additional \$2.5 million in combined federal and private contributions, along with additional landowner donations, to complete this and future phases of land protection.

The first two projects have been completed through the federal USDA Natural Resources Conservation Reserve Program's Farm and Ranch Land Protection Program. This federal program matches half of the funding necessary to purchase development rights from farm and ranch landowners. The owners maintain possession of the land, but sell the rights to develop it.

Bismarck landowners Pat and Mike Wachter joined with the Friends of the Missouri River and donated some of the funds necessary to secure the easement on their land.

Other businesses, organizations and individuals have played a leadership role in making this land protection a reality. They include:

- The North Dakota Natural Resources Trust led the way by providing \$50,000 toward

the Phase I easement, plus a \$120,000 loan to coalition partners to close the transaction. The Trust provided an additional \$32,000 contribution to Phase II.

- The North Dakota Conservation Fund and Foundation, the organizations founded by the late Gary Raedeke, contributed more than \$13,000 to Phase I and nearly \$13,000 to Phase II.

**Excitement continues to grow about this campaign**

Starion Bancorporation, under the direction of President and CEO Craig Larson (who is also a North Dakota Conservation Fund and Foundation board member), has contributed \$10,000 to the work thus far. Craig and Shelley Larson have also made personal contributions of nearly \$16,000 to the first two phases.

- The North Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society has helped raise more than \$7,000.

Excitement continues to grow about this campaign as landowners, businesses and conservationists pledge their support. As one landowner wrote when he pledged \$5,000, "I believe this type of program is one of the best options available today in getting real results done in protection of the river corridor."

Land prices along the Missouri River continue to soar as demand for development grows. Nondevelopment easements provide farmers and ranchers an alternative that maintains the public values associated with open spaces.

Your help is needed now to preserve the Missouri River!

## Cro-Shoes Tournament



The Friends of the Missouri River logo was very prominent at this year's National Cro-Shoes tournament, held during Labor Day weekend on the Missouri River in Bismarck. This year's tournament proceeds were donated to the Friends of the Missouri River. The sport of cro-shoes combines the croquet and horseshoes into a friendly competition between men and women of all ages. Now 15 years old, the annual tournament drew 64 teams and hundreds of spectators. All those attending this year's tournament now know about our efforts to preserve the quality of life for those living and recreating along the river. A special thanks goes to Vern Peterson, the founder of Cro-Shoes, for becoming one of our partners. He is one of our newest Friends of the Missouri River!

## North Dakota Conservation Foundation forms Friends of the Missouri River coalition

The North Dakota Conservation Fund and Foundation has brought together 15 conservation groups to help preserve the Missouri River. This coalition includes the North Dakota Natural Resources Trust, Audubon Society, North Dakota Wildlife Society and many others.

Watch for future information from the Friends of the Missouri River and know that the North Dakota Conservation Fund and Foundation are leading this coalition.

# Four Year Anniversary



The late Gary Raedeke, pictured here in 2001

The four-year anniversary of the North Dakota Conservation Fund and Foundation provides an opportunity to celebrate its accomplishments and to look forward to new opportunities.

The Fund and Foundation were established in 2001 by Gary Raedeke of Bismarck, North Dakota. After being diagnosed with terminal cancer, Gary looked for a way to continue efforts toward his dream of preserving the

scenic, historic and wildlife values of the Missouri River in North Dakota.

With an initial gift of \$250,000, Gary created the North Dakota Conservation Fund and Foundation to ensure that his vision of the Missouri River preservation will endure. It was his hope that through donations, the Fund and Foundation would eventually reach \$1 million, from which interest could be spent each year.

**Friends of the Missouri River  
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Conservation Foundation  
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Bismarck, ND 58501-2102**

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Enclosed is my tax deductible gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_ payable to the North Dakota Conservation Foundation **to be used for the Missouri River Campaign**

**Yes, I would like to make a donation to the North Dakota Conservation Fund or Foundation**

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E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

\$\_\_\_\_\_ payable to the North Dakota Conservation Foundation

**or**

\$\_\_\_\_\_ payable to the North Dakota Conservation Fund

**Please Return to:**

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