

THE FRIENDS OF THE MAPLE RIVER EDUCATION COMMITTEE: GOALS, PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

Volunteers are the force that allows the Friends of The Maple River organization, and its Education Committee get things done. Please review the following list of activities and determine if you are interested in helping move them forward. If you are interested please contact the Education Committee Chair, Joe Latoff, thru the FOTMR Website.

- 1. PUBLIC EDUCATION & INFORMATION DISPLAY BOOTH AT FAIRS AND OTHER COMMUNITY EVENTS** – Currently we have: a portable display tent booth, two tables, two chairs, several information boards and brochures about the FOTMR as well as other associated organizations and activities. The new addition for the display is the development of a three dimensional table top model of the watershed. The table-top model will allow adults and children to identify where they live, work and play in the watershed. And, better understand how the watershed works. Funding is being sought for the production of the model. Volunteers are needed to help transport booth materials, and to staff the booth during events.
- 2. VIDEOTAPED WATERSHED HISTORY PROJECT** – The organization makes video-audio tapes of interviews with seniors from the area who have memories to recall, and stories to tell about their family history relative to the river. The FOTMR has a video camera and tapes. Volunteers are needed to publicize the project and to tape interviews.
- 3. BROCHURES AND EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS DEVELOPMENT** – The organization currently has a descriptive brochure that is shared with the Upper Maple River Watershed Management Grant Project coordinated by the Clinton Conservation District. Volunteers are needed to develop brochures that describe each of the individual activities conducted by the organization.
- 4. BIG TREE PROGRAM** – The organization has approved the Big Tree Program. The nationwide program encourages the identification of the largest of each species of tree in the watershed. The trees will be judged by and entered into the national and state big tree programs. A volunteer is needed to coordinate this program.
- 5. LAND CONSERVANCY PROGRAM** – Land owners can obtain significant financial benefits from committing their land to the program that allows its continued use and control by the property owner. In return the property is legally determined to never be developed for any more intensive use. A volunteer is needed to publicize this important program.

6. **ANNUAL MAPLE RIVER FLOAT TRIP PROJECT** – The organization sponsors and staffs an annual float trip in sink with the Maple Rapids “Lampighter Festival.” The trip includes several different launch sites that allow participants to enjoy a four, two or one hour trip. Volunteers assist participants with rides back to their vehicles. Volunteers also promote the event with canoe and kayak clubs as well as the general public.

7. **HISTORICAL RIVER TOUR PROJECT** – This project involves developing a map of the Maple River, with descriptions of various historical sites and events along the way. The Brochure-Map allows a self-guided tour of the river and information regarding the history of this cross state waterway first used by Native Americans to travel between Lake Michigan and Lake Huron. Volunteers are needed to conduct research and design the Brochure-Map.

Please remember that nothing can happen without individuals like you volunteering to make a difference! Please consider getting involved.