



**GREAT
RIVER
PASSAGE**



Monica Bryand, Great River Passage Photographer in Residence

Biography

Mixing her passion for the environment and birds, Monica Bryand has been a professional photographer for two years and works part-time for a community bike shop, Cycles for Change. She is currently working on a special project for Audubon Minnesota and has taken on many other consulting jobs. Prior to becoming a professional photographer, Monica was a program officer at Headwaters Foundation for Justice for more than 16 years and accountant and employee involvement manager for The St. Paul Companies.

Monica believes in community service and has served on many boards and committees for the past 25 years. She currently volunteers with her local District Council, the West Side Community Council, and Audubon Saint Paul's Conservation Committee.

Monica is a Latina who believes that it is critical to work across issues that affect everyone and to work for systems change at the same time. Monica's passions include environmental, women's, people of color, and GLBT issues. She feels extremely fortunate to pursue her passions for both people and the birds.

<https://monicabryandphotography.com/>

What draws you to the river?

The river is this space and place that lets you daydream and let your worries go, even if it's just for a short while. Water is life, and I love the wildlife that I see when I'm near or in the river. As a birder, the river is my connection to the birds that migrate back and forth each spring and fall.

As mainly a bird photographer, I hope to expand my technical photography skills. I look forward to seeing new places along the river and documenting ways that both nature and people use the river. I look forward to learning from my fellow photographers in the cohort, and I hope that I can share some of my special sites and insights with them. As a West-sider, I want to explore bridging, but I'm not sure what that looks like yet.

Favorite spot on the Mississippi River in Saint Paul?

One of my favorite spots on the river is Pig's Eye Lake. I get there by kayak, and along the way I get to see eagles, herons, egrets, and much more. During the spring and fall migration, I get to see lots of ducks and various other shore birds. Another reason I love it so much is that it is kind of isolated, and I feel like I have my very own place in nature. Having said that, it is one of my favorite places to share with friends who kayak with me.