

## Ripple Effect #32

### ON THIN ICE

On May 1, 2006 Lonnie Dupre and Eric Larsen set off slowly across the treacherous Arctic Ocean toward the North Pole. Their goal was to become the first-ever explorers to reach the North Pole during the summer. Their reason for such an ambitious expedition was to show the world the impact of global warming and expose the plight of the polar bear.

Red River Basin citizens will have an opportunity to join Lonnie Dupre and discover how he and Eric Larsen traveled to the geographic North Pole by pulling and paddling 225-pound modified canoe-sleds over 600 route miles of shifting sea ice, open ocean, pressure ridges, whiteouts and blizzards. Dupre will be sharing his experiences at **7:00 p.m.** on **Tuesday, January 23, 2007** at the **Ramada Plaza Suites** in **Fargo, ND**. The public is encouraged to attend this free session, which is being held during the Red River Basin Commission's 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Red River Basin Land and Water International Summit Conference taking place January 23-25.

Traditionally, Arctic Ocean expeditions have been launched during the coldest time of year while the ice is still thick and stable. Over time, many polar expeditions have been planned and completed. Until now, freeze-thaw conditions, dangerous shifting ice floes, slush and melt water pools prevented even the most experienced explorers from attempting a summer North Pole Expedition. To reach their goal, they had to slog their way across one of the most inhospitable environments on Earth, by paddling, skiing, climbing and hauling toward the North Pole. They succeeded, reaching the North Pole on July 1, 2006.

Dupre's unique perspective enables us to see the climactic changes to the Arctic. The thinning Arctic ice sheet and potential extinction of the polar bear are not isolated events. The Bush administration recently decided to propose listing the polar bear as threatened under the Endangered Species Act, putting the U.S. government on record as saying that global warming could drive one of the world's most recognizable animals out of existence.

Dupre is no stranger to polar exploration. During an Arctic career spanning 17 years, Lonnie Dupre has traveled over 13,500 miles throughout the high Arctic regions of northeastern Russia, Lapland, Alaska, Canada and Greenland. He has led five major Arctic expeditions and participated in six.

To learn more about the expedition, go to [www.oneworldexpedition.com](http://www.oneworldexpedition.com). Mark your calendar for January 23 and don't miss your opportunity to hear first hand the Arctic adventures of Lonnie Dupre.

Until the next Ripple Effect,

The Red River Basin Commission (RRBC)

The RRBC is a grassroots organization that is a chartered not-for-profit corporation under the provisions of Manitoba, North Dakota, Minnesota, and South Dakota law. Our offices in Moorhead, MN and Winnipeg, MB can be reached at 218-291-0422 and 204-982-7254, or you can check out our website at [www.redriverbasincommission.org](http://www.redriverbasincommission.org).

