



# Mississippi River Project



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®

## News from the Project Office and Locks and Dam #14

### FISHING CLINIC A HUGE SUCCESS:

The weather cooperated, the fish were biting, the lunch consisting of hot dogs, catfish fillets and frog legs was excellent and the smiles, laughter and shouts of "I caught one" coming from children were abundant.

The Project's 18th annual fishing clinic was held on Saturday, August 6th, at Locks and Dam #14 Day Use Recreation Area. It was a fun day for the 75 participants.



Educational programs (water safety, fish ID, discussion on fishing techniques and bait usage) were held in the morning. The afternoon consisted of the youth participating in a fishing derby.

The purpose of these clinics through the years is to provide a family event that is educational and fun but at the same time allows family members to spend time together in a natural setting and better yet, in a Corps managed recreation site.

Also, thanks for the numerous volunteers (16) and business (18) that helped and donated prizes for the clinic. Plans for next year's clinic are currently being discussed. Hope to see you at the 19th annual clinic next August. Oh, by the way the trophy for the biggest fish caught was a 17" catfish. See the photo on



the left. This young angler was very proud of his "catch of the day".

### FALL TREE PLANTING

Mississippi River Project's Natural Resource Section along with partnering agencies (US FWS and IA DNR) will be conducting forest restoration projects in the fall of 2011. Forest restoration will entail tree planting of bottomland forest tree species in two separate areas of Mississippi River Floodplain Forest. Tree planting will be implemented in these areas to promote tree species diversity and forest stand structure to ultimately increase desirable wildlife food and habitat availability. Diversification of tree species in the floodplain forest is ever increasing in importance as invasive species, such as Emerald Ash Borer (*Agilus planipennis*), threaten the longevity of native ash tree species for example.

One of the areas is 3.5 acres in size and is located adjacent to USACE Pleasant Creek Campground in pool 13. US FWS area office in Savanna, IL manages this area for wildlife purposes and it is part of the Pleasant Creek Wildlife Closed Area. Presently, this area has been overcome by an invasive species called reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*). This perennial grass establishes itself quickly to form dense monoculture stands in floodplain forest canopy openings and threatens biological diversity by outcompeting native tree seedlings and herbaceous vegetation. Diverse tree species mix of soft (non-nut

producing) and hard (nut producing) mast trees will be planted this fall once the trees are dormant to reduce transplant shock on the filamentous roots of the trees. In 2008, a ten acre tree planting of soft and hard mast tree species were planted in close proximity within this area as well. Both these areas flood annually and the trees in the 2008 planting have been able to sustain good vertical growth and health while having to compete with reed canary grass and flooded conditions.

The other two tree planting areas total 17.5 acres and are located within the 6,800 acre Port Louisa/Lake Odessa Complex in pool 17. Work will be in conjunction with the IA DNR as part of the Lake Odessa Wildlife Management Unit and US FWS Port Louisa National Wildlife Refuge. Historically, the floodplain forest within Port Louisa/Lake Odessa has always been very diverse in tree species richness. Mature pin oak (*Quercus palustris*) once dominated the canopy layer of this vast landscape. Major flooding in 1993 caused mortality amongst pin oak and other species due to the prolonged flooding throughout the entire growing season. Opportunistic silver maple has since started to fill the canopy gaps of this forest. Tree planting efforts in all these areas reduce forest fragmentation and reed canary grass seed dispersal while providing increased species diversity and additional food and habitat for Mississippi River Floodplain Forest inhabitants.



## MISSISSIPPI RIVER PROJECT EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



### Joe Lundh – Supervisory Natural Resource Specialist

I have been privileged to work for the Mississippi River Project for the last 12 years. My path that brought me to this point was a bit unlikely, but I am certainly glad it worked out the way it did.

Previous to my Bachelor's in Forestry from Iowa State University in 1999, I also received a Bachelor's in Mathematics from ISU (Go Cyclones). After 12 weeks of student teaching and garnering a whole lot more appreciation for what teachers do, I decided to go back to school in forestry. Good thing I did since I met my wife Kristen while pursuing my second degree. We both worked together at the school's Outdoor Recreation Program and found that we had several mutual friends. On September 27th, we'll have been married 9 years now and are blessed with two wonderful daughters: Stella who is three and Amelia who turned one in June.

I got my first job with the Corps at Lake Red Rock in the student Coop Program. I completed my Coop stint at Lake Red Rock and still had an open semester which I was able to fill by working on the Mississippi River Project for the Forestry Program. Who knows what would have happened if I had taken the overseas forest product internship that semester. I've been lucky enough to be here ever since and am now the supervisor for the Environmental Stewardship mission of the Natural Resource Management Section. My duties include oversight of the Forestry Program and the Shoreline Management Program.

It's been a privilege for many reasons. First is due to the great people that I get work with. Doing shoreline and forestry management on 55,000 acres of land in 4 states along 314 river miles where 85 percent is leased to the Fish and Wildlife Service and state department of natural resource agencies keeps things interesting too. There is always opportunity to learn more about this complex river system.

When I am not working, I love to spend time with my family and chase after our kids (mostly chasing my daughter who just started walking recently). We enjoy the outdoors through camping, hiking, biking, and golfing when not doing projects around the house.

## **Dubuque Ranger Station News**

### **PLEASANT CREEK'S ISLAND SIDE RE-OPENS FOR FIRST TIME THIS YEAR**

Pleasant Creek Recreation area located 3 miles south of Bellevue, IA along highway 52 has had limited camping available for much of the summer recreation season. The main campground has been open but the island side has remained closed due to high water and clean up efforts. On Monday August 30<sup>th</sup> the island side re-opened and will be available for camping this holiday weekend. For more information this recreation area contact the Dubuque Park Rangers at (563) 582-0881.



### **CAMPGROUND PROGRAMS OFFERED AT GRANT RIVER AND BLANDING LANDING CAMPGROUNDS FOR THE HOLIDAY WEEKEND**

Grant River Campground will host the All Star Country Dancers, a local dance group on September 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:45 PM.

Blanding Landing Campground will host Berry Williams, a talented local artist as he presents his program called "Whittling on a Stick" on September 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM.

### **FINAL PUBLIC TOUR OF LOCK AND DAM #11 TO BE OFFERED FOR THE SEASON**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Mississippi River Project announces that they will offer their final tour of the season for Lock and Dam #11 on Sunday, September 4<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 PM. Meet at Dubuque's Lock and Dam #11 Visitor Building Observation Deck at 2:00 PM to join a tour. Participants must wear shoes with enclosed toes and back, tennis shoes are best. Walking is required. Group size is limited. Tour may be cancelled due to adverse weather conditions. For additional information please contact: Dubuque Park Rangers, 2595 Kerper Boulevard, Dubuque, Iowa 52001 or call (563) 582-0881.

### **ANNUAL BALD EAGLE DAYS IN DUBUQUE SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 20-21**

The Dubuque Eagle Watch date has been set for January 20 - 21, 2012. Planning for the event is continuing and further details will be available in the coming months.

## Thomson Ranger Station News

### THOMSON CAUSEWAY OPENS FOR THE LATE SEASON

The Thomson Causeway opens for camping and other recreational activities on Thursday, September 1, 2011. The area has been closed this summer due to infrastructure improvements being made in the park. The much anticipated opening comes after a summer of delays brought on by floods and construction projects. Though the area is open there will continue to be limited construction activity throughout the park which may cause inconveniences to the public. Visitors are asked to talk to a park ranger if they encounter any problems with the facilities during their stay. We appreciate everyone's patience and understanding as we once again welcome visitors back to this very popular park.

### THOMSON CAUSEWAY CRAFT SHOW SEPTEMBER 10

The Mississippi River Project Thomson Ranger Office will be hosting the Annual Camper Craft Show at Thomson Causeway Recreation Area on Saturday, September 10 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The Camper Craft Show is an event designed to inspire conservation of public lands through the creation of handmade goods and crafts from natural materials. Crafter interested in setting up a display must register with the Thomson Ranger Office by Friday, September 4. If you are interested in more information, or to register as a crafter, contact the Thomson Ranger Office at (815) 259-3628.



### THOMSON CAUSEWAY TRICK-OR-TREAT IN THE PARK OCTOBER 15



The Annual Trick or Treat in the Park held at the Thomson Causeway Recreation Area is scheduled for Saturday, October 15. The event was started years ago by avid campers looking to celebrate the spirit of Halloween. Each year campers decorate their camping pads with ghouls and goblins in attempt to earn best decorated site while kids from the surrounding area diverge into the Causeway to parade the streets while collecting candy. If you are interested in participating in this year's event make your camping reservations early because sites fill up fast.

## CATTAIL SLOUGH GETS NEW BOAT LAUNCH DOCK

The project's maintenance crew put the finishing touches on a new dock at the Cattail Slough Boat Ramp near Fulton IL. The new dock is sixty feet long and five feet wide which makes it a very stable and able to accommodate a great range of river levels.



## LAST CAMPGROUND PROGRAM OF THE SEASON TO BE HELD AT FISHERMAN'S CORNER CAMPGROUND

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Mississippi River Project invites campers and the visiting public to attend campground programs held at Fisherman's Corner Campground near Hampton, IL. Throughout the summer, from Memorial Day to Labor Day, presenters will cover a host of topics for all to enjoy. As a reminder, all campground programs are subject to cancellation or rescheduling in the event of rain or severe weather.

- September 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 PM – Join Park Ranger Mike McKean for a program on the sport of disc golf.

Fisherman's Corner Campground is located just on Highway 84 just north of Hampton, IL. The campground offers 56 campsites, electrical hookups, shower and restroom facilities, drinking water, a dump station, and playground. To reserve a campsite contact the National Recreation Reservation Service toll free at (877) 444-6777. Campsites may also be available on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information, please contact the Thomson Park Rangers by e-mail at [mvrodmn13@usace.army.mil](mailto:mvrodmn13@usace.army.mil) or by phone at (815) 259-3628.

## Mississippi River Visitor Center News

### HISTORIC CLOCK TOWER TOUR – SEPTEMBER 17 & 25

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Mississippi River Project announces that the Visitor Center at Locks and Dam #15 is inviting guests to come participate in a Historic Clock Tower Tour. Relive the early days of the Rock Island Arsenal as you climb your way up the historic corridor of the Clock Tower Building which has been a Quad City landmark for over 100 years! Waiting at the top is a spectacular view of the Mississippi River. Visitors are invited to join this tour on either Saturday Sept. 17<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM or Sunday Sept. 25<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 PM. The tours last approximately 1½ hours and will be guided by a Visitor Center Park Ranger. The tour will begin at the Mississippi River Visitor Center, located on the western end of Arsenal Island at Locks and Dam #15. This program is free of charge and everyone is invited to attend. Advanced registration is required. An adult must accompany children under 12 years of age. All persons over age 16 must carry a photo ID to enter the island. Vehicles are subject to search and participants should allow 15 minutes extra to ensure proper arrival time for the tour. For more information, or to sign up for the program, please contact the Visitor Center at (309) 794-5338.

## **NATURE WALK AT THE LOCK – INSECTS – SEPTEMBER 24**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Mississippi River Project announces that the Visitor Center at Locks and Dam #15 is inviting guests to join us for a presentation on insects. This presentation will take place outside in the grassy areas around the Visitor Center. Guests will seek out the insects that live and thrive in the habitats that are commonly found around the river as well as some urban locations. This program will be held on Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 – 11:00 AM. The program will be approximately 1 hour long and be guided by a Visitor Center Park Ranger. This program is free of charge and everyone is invited to attend. Advanced registration is required. An adult must accompany children under 12 years of age. All persons over age 16 must carry a photo ID to enter the island. Vehicles are subject to search and participants should allow 15 minutes extra to ensure proper arrival time for the tour. For more information, or to sign up the program, please contact the Visitor Center at (309) 794-5338.



## **FINAL TOURS OF THE SEASON AT LOCKS AND DAM #15**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Mississippi River Project announces that this will be the last weekend for summer tours of the Locks and Dam #15. Corps of Engineers Park Rangers will offer free lock and dam tours on September 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am and 2:00pm (weather permitting). Participants must wear shoes with enclosed toes and backs, tennis shoes are preferred. Cameras and pictures are not allowed on the tour but they are allowed in the Visitor Center. Walking is required. Pre-registration is also required and the group size is limited. The facility is accessible via the Davenport or Moline entrances. All persons over the age of 16 must carry a photo ID in order to enter the island. All vehicles are subject to random search and participants should allow 15 minutes extra to ensure proper arrival time. Pedestrians and bicyclists with helmets have access to the Mississippi River Visitor Center through the Davenport gate only. Appropriate ID is required. Contact the ranger staff at (309) 794-5338 to make a tour reservation or for any additional questions.

## **Muscatine Ranger Station News**

### **FINAL TOURS OF THE SEASON AT LOCK AND DAM #16**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Mississippi River Project invites the public to enjoy a tour of Lock and Dam #16. Every Sunday from May 29, 2011 through September 4, 2011 at 2:00 PM, weather permitting, tours of Locks and Dam #16 will be conducted for the public. A special Labor Day weekend tour will be held on Saturday, September 3, 2011 at 2:00 PM. Lock and Dam #16 is located off 102nd Ave West on the Illinois side of the Mississippi River about one mile upstream from the Muscatine Bridge. Participants will be presented with a history of the Upper Mississippi River system, how the river system operates and the process it takes to move a barge through a lock. The tour is capped off with a walk on the lock and dam structure. Walking is a part of the tour, so participants must wear shoes with enclosed toes and an enclosed back (tennis shoes are best). Advance reservations are required as group size is limited. Please allow approximately one hour to complete the tour. For more information and to make reservations, please contact the Muscatine Park Rangers by e-mail at [mvrodmn16@usace.army.mil](mailto:mvrodmn16@usace.army.mil) or by phone at (563) 263-7913.

## FINAL CAMPGROUND PROGRAMS AT SHADY CREEK RECREATION AREA

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Mississippi River Project invites campers and the visiting public to attend campground programs held at Shady Creek Recreation Areas. Throughout the summer, from Memorial Day to Labor Day, presenters will cover a host of topics for all to enjoy. As a reminder, all campground programs are subject to cancellation or rescheduling in the event of rain or severe weather. Programming for the months of September includes the following:

- Saturday, September 3, 2011, 8 PM, Shady Creek Campground, The Quad City Astronomy Club will bring along telescopes to view the different stars and constellations in the sky.
- Sunday, September 4, 2011, 6 PM, Shady Creek Campground, Kendall Davis will present information on how a boomerang works and demonstrated the flight of several different types of boomerangs. The audience is encouraged to try throwing some of the different boomerangs during portions of the presentation.

Shady Creek Campground is located at 3550 Highway 22, Muscatine, IA 52761. Shady Creek offers 53 campsites, electrical hookups, shower and restroom facilities, drinking water, a dump station, playground, boat launch and wood.

To reserve a campsite, contact the National Recreation Reservation Service toll free at (877) 444-6777. Campsites are also available on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information, please contact the Muscatine Park Rangers by e-mail at [mvrodmn16@usace.army.mil](mailto:mvrodmn16@usace.army.mil) or by phone at (563) 263-7913.

## ECO-MEET SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER AT SHADY CREEK RECREATION AREA



Each year fourth and fifth graders from around the area are invited to participate in an annual eco-meet, which is scheduled for October 7, 2011 at Shady Creek Recreation Area. You might ask "What is an Eco-Meet?" The following explains a little about what the history of Eco-Meets and why they are important for the education of our youth.

The ECO-MEET concept was developed in 1976 by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Pittsburgh District, through the efforts of Conrad Guenther. The following philosophy of an ECO-MEET was written by Conrad:

"An ECO-MEET enables the Corps of Engineers to become involved with educators and students by offering at Corps projects a

program which stimulates a greater awareness in the environment. These meets will also encourage future schools to conduct their own educational programs." ECO refers to ecology. The word "ECO" was selected because it has a catchy, fun sound. This also provides the academic sophistication of the overused word, ecology.

The term "MEET" was selected to give the feeling of an athletic event since athletic events tend to receive more attention and stimulate greater interest than academic activities.

The length of an ECO-MEET is designed to fit within the schedule of a school day. A meet can be conducted in 4 hours. This includes: Registration, 2 hours for competition, and the presentation of awards. Travel times to and from the meet will be in addition to this time.

The first Mississippi River Eco-Meet for the Tri-State Area was held in 1992 at Eagle Point Park, Dubuque, Iowa. Local individuals and area businesses volunteer their time and money to ensure the success of this valuable environmental educational experience.”

For more information on how to get involved, either by volunteering for the event or registering a school for the event, please contact the Muscatine Park Rangers by e-mail at [mvrodmn16@usace.army.mil](mailto:mvrodmn16@usace.army.mil) or by phone at (563) 263-7913.

## MUSCATINE EAGLE WATCH DATE SET

The Muscatine Eagle Watch date has been set for January 28, 2012 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at the Pearl City Station in Riverfront Park in downtown Muscatine.

Planning for the event is continuing and further details will be available in the coming months. For more information, please contact the Muscatine Park Rangers by e-mail at [mvrodmn16@usace.army.mil](mailto:mvrodmn16@usace.army.mil) or by phone at (563) 263-7913.



## Quincy Ranger Station News

The Quincy recreation areas are back in business as Mother Nature has given the rangers and the maintenance crew an open window to do some quality work at Bear Creek, Canton Chute and John Hay. On behalf of the Quincy Rangers, we want to send a big thank you to everyone who helped getting the areas back into shape. Even though the summer recreation season is almost over, there will still be plenty of visitors that will be able to enjoy the areas as the hunting season begins to pick up. Fall and early winter are a busy time in the Quincy area, as hunters from all around come to utilize the public lands that are free to hunt. With that being said, school is back in session and new classes of Jr. Rangers will be introduced to environmental education this winter. The Rangers are expected to have two schools requesting the program.

**If you would like to be removed from our e-mail list please print "unsubscribe" in the subject line in a reply to us.**

**Thank you,  
Park Ranger Staff**

P.O. Box 2004 Rock Island, Illinois 61204-2004

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