



**Tom Gambucci, Engineering Division, snatches up a piece of debris caught in the riprap at Locks and Dam 14 July 8.**

Photo by Mark Kane



**Jerry Skalak, Programs and Project Management Division, tosses another piece of garbage found on the shoreline close to Locks and Dam 14.**

Photo by Mark Kane

Kate Skalak, Jerry Skalak's daughter, assists in placing a dirty piece of rope into her dad's garbage bag during the Adopt-a-Mississippi River Mile clean-up.



Photo by Mark Kane

## Time to Clean Up the Trash

By Mark Kane

**B**alancing from one rock to another rock among a shoreline of riprap, a Saturday morning clan of Rock Island District members picked up 10 bags of trash as part of the District's involvement in the Adopt-a-Mississippi River Mile Program.

Ten District members participated in the clean-up July 8 at LeClaire Base, Ill., which included the area around Locks and Dam 14, Fisherman's Corner and Smith's Island.

Justine Dodge, Public Affairs, coordinated the event with the assistance of Steve Vacek, Mississippi River Project.

"Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and had a good time," said Vacek. "Everyone did a good job and worked hard in finding trash and disposing of it. I heard lots of positive remarks concerning the recreation area and especially the trail. Maybe next year we can have a picnic after the clean-up at the picnic shelters since the recreation area should be open by then."

The Adopt-a-Mississippi River Mile Program has become a major focus of the Mississippi River Beautification and Restoration Project in 2000. Schools, organizations, companies, and families have adopted one or more miles of shoreline since the program started in August 1999. There are no fees involved in adopting shoreline miles, only a voluntary commitment to stewardship. Chad Pregracke, coordinator, Mississippi River Beautification and Restoration Project, estimates that by the end of the project more than 100 groups will be adopting Mississippi River miles.

The MRBRP was founded in 1997 with the objective of cleaning up the Mississippi River. In its first year, the project was

responsible for cleaning more than 100 miles of shoreline and removing an estimated 45,000 tons of garbage from the river, the riverbanks and various islands. By the middle of 1999, those numbers grew to include 1,000 miles of Mississippi shoreline and an estimated 200 tons of debris.

In addition to cleaning the shoreline, the project's mission is to involve as many people as possible in the hands-on project. The MRBRP crew and coordinator, Chad Pregracke, are working with volunteers from eight major river communities in large-scale cleanups. The year 2000 plan is underway and includes cleanups from spring through fall in: Dubuque, Iowa; Quad Cities, Ill., and Iowa; Burlington, Iowa; Fort Madison, Iowa; Quincy, Ill.; Hannibal, Mo.; Alton, Ill.; St. Louis, Mo.; and Keokuk, Iowa.

Participants included: John Copeland, Programs and Project Management Division; Justine Dodge, Public Affairs; Tom Gambucci, Engineering Division; Rich Nesseler, Public Affairs; Lynn Parker, Operations Division; Barry Shaw, Public Affairs; Jerry Skalak; Programs and Project Management Division, and his daughter Kate Skalak; Mary Strassburger, Logistics Management; and Steve Vacek, Mississippi River Project.

An in-depth look at the Mississippi River Beautification and Restoration Project, including upcoming clean-up dates, can be viewed at: <http://www.cleanrivers.com/> 