



Mississippi River Project



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

The dog days of summer are here! I find myself saying what most kids say this time of year - “Summer is almost over!” So we all begin to pack in as many activities as possible and there is no shortage of activities, see below. All are open to the public and we hope

to see you taking advantage of them.

If you are considering attending the Upper Mississippi River Conference I can personally vouch for one of the keynote speakers. While attending an environmental conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico I had the pleasure of hearing a presentation by Richard Louv, author of Last Child in the Woods, and it was great.



Campers using squirt guns to stay cool.

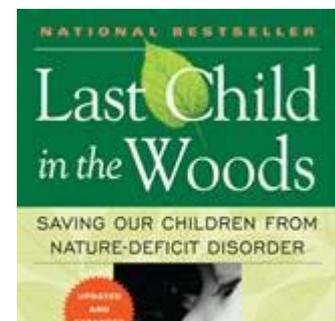
Upper Mississippi River Conference:

Weaving Multiple Uses Into Sustainable River Communities & RiverWay 2008: A Celebration of the Recreational River

August 21-24, 2008

This year's RiverWay events mark the beginning of the Annual [Upper Mississippi River Conference](#): Weaving multiple uses into sustainable river communities, August 21-23. [River Action](#), with the support from U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish & Wildlife, and U.S. Coast Guard will target an audience of city leaders, landscape architects, planners, economic developers, non-governmental organizations including environmental groups **and the general public**.

The in depth meetings will feature three concurrent tracks: Natural Resources and Environmental Planning, River Recreation—opportunities and how they are realized, and Urban Waterfront Needs—economic development and overcoming barriers for public access. Keynote speakers include Richard Louv, author of Last Child in the Woods: Saving our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder, Marcia Maslonek, Vice President of Programs for the Wildlife Habitat Council, and Jeffrey Potter, a consultant for the Biodiversity Group, round out the program.



RiverWay 2008: A Celebration of the Recreational River showcases life on the Mississippi River for locals and tourists. Every two years, River Action hosts events that focus on aspects of what makes river communities great places to live and visit. In 2004 the Grand Excursion featured a grand flotilla, 2006 focused on railroad history, and in 2008 we will celebrate the recreational river.

RiverWay 2008's calendar of events, August 22-24, will promote 20 different activities for residents and including; Taming of the Slough Adventure Race, outdoor movies projected on a water screen, Backwater Gamblers water ski show on Ben Butterworth Parkway, lighted night-time bike trail ride, professional sand castle building, picnics on the riverfront, fishing derby, canoe and kayak lessons, fly fishing lessons, and more.

For more information contact,
River Action
(563)322-2969.



Free Fishing Clinic Sponsored by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mississippi River Project will be conducting a fishing clinic for youth between the ages 5 through 15. This event will be held on Saturday, August 9. The clinic will start at 9:00 am and end at 3:00 pm. All activities will be held at the Day Use Recreation Area at Locks and Dam #14, located at Pleasant Valley, Iowa.

Past clinics have proven to be very successful. Participants not only get a chance to fish but educational sessions relating to water safety, bait casting and fish identification will be provided. A free lunch will also be provided for all participants. Program presenters will consist of a Corps of Engineers park ranger, volunteers from the In Fisherman's Club of the Quad Cities, and a student volunteers from Pleasant Valley and Alleman High Schools.

A fishing contest will also be held in the afternoon. Trophies will also be awarded to those who catch the smallest, largest, most and fewest fish. Some of the prizes that will be awarded will be fishing poles and tackle, hats, restaurant coupons and gift certificates that local Quad City businesses have donated.

Fishing licenses for either Iowa or Illinois are required for anyone over 16 years of age. If you have your own gear, please bring it. A limited amount of equipment will be provided. Bait consisting of dew worms will be available. Fish that have been caught in past clinics have consisted of Rock Bass, Blue Gill and Catfish.

Because of the nature of this event, pre-registration will be required. There will be no admission to this event without pre-registering. For more information contact Park Ranger Steve Vacek at (309) 794-4301.

Dubuque Rangers Report

Grant River Recreation Area August Programming

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers would like to announce the following programs for the month of August.

All programs presented at the Grant River Recreation Area Amphitheater unless noted otherwise.

Myths and Mysteries of Bats

Friday, August 1st at Grant River Recreation Area at 7 pm

Bats are amazing creatures that eat thousands of insects every night. Find out why these creatures are so important and nothing to be scared of. Plans for bat houses will also be available so you can encourage bats to eat all the mosquitoes around your home.

All Knotted Up

Saturday, August 2nd at Grant River Recreation Area at 7 pm

Learn a few simple knots that everyone should know. Knot tying skills can make your life a lot easier for boating, camping, and just everyday activities. Join Park Rangers for an informative program and get all knotted up!

Fish, Fish and Fishing

Friday, August 8th at Grant River Recreation Area at 7 pm

What's on the agenda for today? Fishing!! Join the Wisconsin DNR for a program on trout fishing. Find out where some of the favorite spots are and what you can catch there. It might be worth the trip for a record breaking trout or a stringer full for dinner.

Potosi Brewery

Saturday, August 9th at Grant River Recreation Area at 7 pm

Have you driven through Potosi and seen the new construction? Find out what is going on and the events that are planned for the summer and fall. You won't want to miss hearing about this exciting new attraction!!

"R.W. Chandlers Map" A Snapshot of History

Friday, August 15th at Grant River Recreation Area at 7 pm

Southwest Wisconsin was once a bustling mining community. Come to this program and learn about the early days of lead



mining in the area. Participants will be fascinated by the trials and tribulations of working in a mine.

National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium

Saturday, August 16th at Grant River Recreation Area at 7 pm

Have you been to the museum and aquarium?? If you haven't, you won't want to miss hearing from one of their educators and if you have – I am sure you haven't seen everything! From the smallest of creatures to the biggest the museum has tons to see and do – don't miss this fun and exciting program.

“My Life as a Mississippi River Deck Hand”

Friday, August 22nd at Grant River Recreation Area at 7 pm

Have you ever wondered what the river was like in 1871? This will be a “living history” program of folk music and folklore – you won't want to miss it!

Elk Farming

Saturday, August 23rd at Grant River Recreation Area at 7 pm

Elk once called the tri-state area home – today you can find elk living on area farms being raised for their meat. Join Kim Culbertson for an educational program about elk farming.

Blanding Landing Recreation Area Programming

Whittling on a Stick - Saturday, August 30th at Blanding Landing Recreation Area at 7 pm. This program will open up your eyes and let your imagination run. Berry Williams, a talented local artist will demonstrate how to whittle on a stick. He has made wooden chairs, shoes, and much more! Don't worry; whittling doesn't take talent or special tools like carving does.

Thomson Rangers Report

August Weekend Programming at Thomson Causeway

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Park Rangers in Thomson, Illinois, announce their campfire programs schedule for August 2008 at Thomson Causeway Recreation Area. The programs include the following:

- Friday August 1st, at 7:00 p.m. Ed Anderson of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources will talk about “Wetland Wildlife”.
- Saturday August 2nd, at 7:00 p.m. Brad Seward of Clinton County Solid Waste will talk about recycling.
- Friday August 8th, at 7:00 p.m., Berry Williams will demonstrate wood whittling.
- Saturday August 9th, at 8:30 p.m. Gary Herrity will present “Clinton - Mississippi River History”.
- Friday August 15th, at 7:00 p.m. Jim Judson will demonstrate “Fishing Tackle Crafting”.
- Saturday August 16th, at 7:00 p.m. Susan Gordy of the Apple River Fort State Historic Site will talk about the settlers of the 1830's Pioneers.
- Friday August 22nd, at 8:30 p.m. Terry Dingmon will talk about Fulton's Dutch Windmill.
- Saturday August 23rd, at 7:00 p.m. Margo Hansen will talk about “Fall Gardening”.
- Friday August 29th, at 8:30 p.m. Cecil Ward of the Quad Cities Astronomical Society will have a “Star Party”.
- Saturday August 30th, at 7:00 p.m. Theo Smith of the Clinton Discovery Center will present a Clowning Demonstration and create Balloon Animals.
- Sunday August 31st, at 2:00 p.m. will be the Thomson Causeway Photo Contest Open House and Awards Ceremony will be held at the Stone Picnic Shelter. Deadline for entry is August 23rd

at 4:00 p.m.

Tours of Lock and Dam 13 are available every Sunday afternoon at 1p.m. Participants must wear closed toe shoes and be capable of walking for some distance. Tours will not be given during inclement weather. All programs sponsored by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are free to the public. Thomson Causeway Recreation Area is located on Lewis Avenue just off Main Street in Thomson, Illinois. For more information, contact the Park Rangers in Thomson, Illinois at (815) 259-3628

August Weekend Programs at Fisherman's Corner

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers would like to announce the following programs for the month of August 2008:

- Saturday, August 2nd at 7:00 p.m., Dave Searl will present, "Archeology Artifacts."
- Saturday, August 9th at 7:00 p.m., Nichol Said will present, "Wetlands."
- Saturday, August 16th at 7:00 p.m., Beth Carvey will present, "Native American Storytelling."
- Saturday, August 23rd at 8:00 p.m., Gayle Rein will present, "UMR Logging/Rafting."
- Saturday August 30th at 9:00 p.m., Roy Gustafson will present, "Astronomy."

Fisherman's Corner is located north of Hampton, Illinois on Highway 84. There is no charge for this program and both campers and non-campers are welcome to attend. For more information on this program, contact a ranger at the Mississippi River Visitor Center at (309) 794-5338.

Muscatine Rangers Report

Shady Creek Craft Show - August 23rd

The time is fast approaching for the Muscatine Rangers Annual Camper's Craft Show at Shady Creek Recreation Area. The date is set for Saturday, August 23rd, 2008. As done in the past the event will be held at the picnic shelter located within the day use area from 9 am to 2:30 pm. If you would like to participate, please call the Muscatine Ranger Field Station at 563-263-7913 for an entry form. We look forward to seeing you there!



April-June-July 2008 Flood Clean-up

The 2008 Flood Clean up was a huge success for the Muscatine Ranger Station, thanks to several volunteers. Water lines on recreation area buildings, dead bushes in planters, and the lack of grass are the only signs left of the destructive flood. Volunteers that aided in the successful clean-up were Gary & Diane Schmidt, Larry & Judy Devilder, Doak & Janet McDaniel, Fred Brown, Linda Yost, the Montpelier Fire Department, Harold Cross Jr., Curtis Johnson, Tim Bunn, Keith Gilleland, Casey Blain, Jose Delgado, Russell Miller, Jacinto Viduarry, Ronald Horton, Harry Ritter, and Dahota Upshaw.

To express our gratitude to all the volunteers, the Muscatine Ranger Station will be having a Flood Volunteer Appreciation Picnic at Clark's Ferry on August 24th at 1:00 p.m. The menu includes Hamburgers and Hotdogs, Potato Salad, Baked Beans, Chips and Brownies. The drinks will also be provided. We certainly hope all the volunteers can make it, as this flood clean-up would not have been successful without them.

Thunderstorm and High Winds Damage

At about 5:45 am on July 21st, Shady Creek, Clark's Ferry, and Andalusia Slough Recreation Areas were hit hard from the high winds and thunderstorm that rolled through. Many large trees and branches were broken off and left behind, leaving yet another mini Mother Nature disaster to clean up after.



Clark's Ferry was hit the worst, with large trees and branches piercing camper's roofs and vehicle windshields. Awnings were another popular item that were destroyed. Many campers described Clark's Ferry as a "warzone", and I tend to agree. Campsites 18, 25, 27, 31, 41, and 43 are closed now due to the storm damage. These sites will reopen only when it is safe to do so and the trees have been cleaned up.

Shady Creek wasn't hit quite as bad, but here again small trees and branches had fallen everywhere. The intense rainfall we received

from this storm left behind mini lakes again. We still have closed sites here due to the flood, however, work is continuing to progress along, despite this thunderstorm damage setback.

Andalusia Slough Recreation Area was also hit hard by the storm. Sites 4-16 are closed due to unsafe conditions and the day use area boat ramp had 5 complete trees blow down causing significant vault toilet damage. It is unsure when these campsites will be open. You can call our office at 563-263-7913 for more information.

Thankfully, no one was hurt due to this dangerous thunderstorm.

Mississippi River Visitor Center Programming

The following programs are free of charge. Advance registration is required. The Visitor Center is located on the West end of Arsenal Island next to Lock and Dam 15. Please call (309) 794-5338 for a reservation or for more information on the program. **Appropriate ID is required for persons over 16 years of age. Pedestrians and bicyclists with helmets have access to the Mississippi River Visitor Center through the Davenport gate only.** Participants should allow 15 minutes extra to ensure proper arrival time for the program. For more information, or to sign up for the tour, please contact the Visitor's Center at (309) 794-5338.

Lock and Dam Tours - Summer Weekends
Lock and Dam tours are held on



weekends

at 11:00 and 2:00 starting May 24th through August 31st. The tours begin at the Mississippi River Visitor Center 2nd Floor. Group size is limited to 25 people and **reservations are required**. Walking is a part of the tour. The tour lasts 45-60 minutes. Participants must wear shoes with enclosed toes and an enclosed back (tennis shoes are best). Call the Mississippi River Visitor Center at 794-5338 to reserve your spot today.

Historical Clock Tower Tour - Saturday, August 23rd

The Mississippi River Visitor's Center is offering a tour of the historic Clock Tower Building on Saturday August 23rd at 10:00 AM. The Clock Tower has been a community landmark since it was erected in the 1860's as the very first Rock Island Arsenal building. It is the subject of much interest and curiosity for many visitors and residents of the Quad Cities area. Let an U.S. Army Corps of Engineers park ranger lead you back into history. Come learn the building's secrets and find out exactly what makes that clock tick. The program will begin at the Mississippi River Visitor's Center, located on the west end of Arsenal Island at Lock and Dam 15. This program is free of charge however does require advanced registration. Tour size is limited and participants must be able to climb six flights of stairs.

Bicycle Tour of Historic Arsenal Island - Sunday, August 3rd

You are invited to experience Arsenal Island's historic hot spots with an U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Park Ranger. Did you know that Davenport was named after a murdered Colonel? Or that hundreds of people died while in prison on Arsenal Island? Still need more reasons to ride? How about learning where the first railroad bridge to cross the Mississippi was located? And why Abraham Lincoln had to step in when it was destroyed? The answers to these questions can all be found on this relaxing bike tour of Arsenal Island. This six-mile tour will be held on Sunday August 3rd from 8:00 – 10:00 AM. Historic points of interest include Colonel Davenport's Home, the old Moline Lock, Arsenal Quarters #1, the Confederate Cemetery and many more. The tour will begin and end at the Mississippi River Visitor's Center, located on the western end of Arsenal Island at locks and dam 15. This tour is free of charge and is limited to 15 bicyclists. Advance registration is required. Helmets are mandatory. An adult must accompany children under 12 years of age.

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**

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Website - <http://www.missriver.org>