

Ospreys Released at Saylorville Lake

By Barry Shaw, Public Affairs

Five newborn Ospreys were released at Saylorville Lake, Iowa, at Camp Four in Jester Park, July 19.

The Rock Island District, in conjunction with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Polk County Conservation, and Boone County Conservation, released the birds as part of a program to make the Osprey a nesting species in Iowa.

“This program is modeled after the successful Coralville and McBride Raptor Center program,” said Scott Rolfes, park ranger, Saylorville Lake. “The goal is to have five nesting pairs in Iowa by 2006.

“The habitat provided by the reservoir is ideal for Osprey,” said Rolfes. “All states around Iowa have breeding birds, and the success of this and future releases will close the gap. Five Ospreys from Minnesota were put through a hacking process in which they were moved from

an overpopulated nest to a secure housing tower overlooking Saylorville Lake.”

After a period of growth and observation, the Osprey were released from the housing, in hopes of settlement in the Saylorville Lake region. The Corps involvement is primarily supportive, the hack tower was constructed and will be maintained in Jester Park, and nesting platforms are to be built in various locations in the Saylorville Big Creek region.

Private donations were secured to purchase the birds. A large volunteer effort is required to monitor bird health post hacking. 🏠

Park ranger Kelly Ulrick (right) and Student Career Experience Program student Martha Heidelberg (left), point toward Wildlife Biologist Pat Schlarbaum, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, who is in a hack tower, removing one of the five young osprey.



Photo by Jeanne Parks, volunteer, Saylorville Lake

Illinois Valley Woodland Expo a Success

By Kevin Ewbank, Illinois Waterway Visitor Center

On July 21 and 22, the campus of Illinois Valley Community College was transformed from a place of higher learning to a site of wooden learning. Located near Oglesby,

Ill., the College was the site of the third Illinois Valley Woodland Exposition. The Corps of Engineers, Illinois Waterway Project, was one of the official sponsors for the 2000 Exposition.

Kevin Ewbank, lead park ranger, Illinois Waterway Visitor Center, has been on the planning team for the exposition since 1998. The previous two editions of the exposition were held at the county fairgrounds in Henry, Ill. The organizers decided the event had outgrown the fairgrounds, so the campus of IVCC was selected.

The new site turned out to be an excellent choice as 3000 people attended the exposition as opposed to 2500 last year.

Featured events included an appearance by Roy Underhill, from

Public Broadcasting Service's Woodwright's Shop, as well as a concert from an up-and-coming country music group, the Patty Jo Timmons Band. Chainsaw carvers, wood turners, basket makers, portable saw mills and children's activities were also scattered all over the grounds.

Other seminars and exhibits focused on different uses and information about trees, wood, woodlands and natural resources.

Teresa Kincaid, Programs and Project Management Division, staffed a display and gave a presentation on the Illinois River Ecosystem Restoration Project.

Ewbank was present on both days of the exposition, performing duties including directing traffic, providing medical assistance, delivering supplies, and escorting Smokey Bear around the grounds.

Plans are already being started for the next exposition coming in 2002 to a location along the Illinois River. 🏠



Check out Smokey Bear on the Internet at:

<http://www.smokeybear.com/>



Photo by Mark Klimaszewski, park ranger, IWVC

Disturbed from his fishing, a visitor to the Woodland Expo discovers a set of twins. Smokey Bear poses with his escort Kevin Ewbank, lead park ranger, Illinois Waterway Visitor Center.



Snagging on the Mississippi in the 1800s

By Ron Deiss, Programs and Project Management Division

Leaving the boat by the gangplank, Henry Peter Bosse, a photographer that took nearly 300 photographs of scenes along the Upper Mississippi River between 1883 and 1892, stood along the wooded bank of the Mississippi River to capture this detailed scene of the crew of the Corps' sidewheel snagboat U.S. General Barnard (built in 1879).

Riverbank grape and an elm, frame the image in a quarter-moon shape of dark shadow and vegetation, while on the river, contrasting details are lost in the mid-morning haze. Centered on the main deck, in the image, is a deck hand posing with a weighty Sampson chain, and directly above on the boiler deck is the head pilot, David Tipton, with his hand on the pull cord of the big bell centered at the forecastle on the hurricane deck. This bell was used to summon a leadsman for sounding water depth and to signal arrival and departure.

Snag-boats removed boulders, boat wrecks, trees, sandbars, and other obstructions from the river, an operation that Mark Twain called "pulling the river's teeth."

Bosse's view provides subtle insight into the social and

military hierarchy of the river. At the top of this hierarchy are the boat's officers standing at the head of the boiler deck, the master, most likely assistant engineer C. W. Durham, in full command. The head pilot, David Tipton, was typically at the wheel in the pilothouse and steered the Barnard between projects, although in this photograph the second pilot is on duty.

The 11 men standing at the head of the main deck are the contracted crew - probably seasonal laborers. The man at the head of the boat, just behind the boat's prow, is presumably the firstmate in charge of the deck crew. The crew rigged block and tackle, adjusted snubbing lines, and positioned the A-frame and Sampson chain to raise the snag at the bow.

The ground crew is floating in the small yawl in the foreground. Having the least seniority, the ground crew performed the most menial and dangerous work, chaining the snag to the A-frame, then sawing and chopping the tree into manageable sections for transfer to the main deck. Once on deck, the timber sections were chopped into cordwood to be deposited on the shore or, if dry enough, used to fuel the boat's boilers. ■