



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®



The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,  
Rock Island District, and  
The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
cordially invite you to attend the dedication ceremony of the  
Spring Lake Habitat Rehabilitation & Enhancement Project  
at 1 p.m. on July 16, 1999.

*Ceremony to be held at the Spring Lake Wildlife Area.*

*The keynote speaker will be  
Dr. Joseph W. Westphal,  
Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works.*

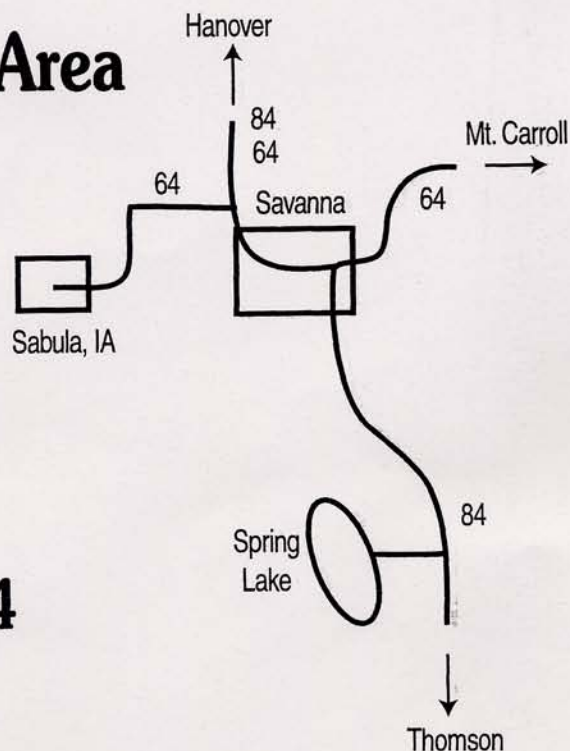
*RSVP: The favor of a reply is requested by July 12, 1999. Please call 309-794-4687.*

## Spring Lake Wildlife Area

**Located 1.5 miles**

**south of**

**Savanna, IL on Hwy 84**





**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®  
Rock Island District**

# News Release



99-07 -17

Release No.

07-12-99

For Release

**Public Affairs Office  
Contact: Justine Dodge  
Phone: (309) 794-5204**

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## **Assistant Secretary of the Army Hosts Spring Lake Dedication**

**ROCK ISLAND, ILL.** – Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, Dr. Joseph W. Westphal, will host a dedication ceremony for the recently completed Spring Lake Habitat Rehabilitation and Enhancement Project. The ceremony is being held at the Spring Lake Wildlife Area near Savanna, Ill., at 1 p.m., July 16.

The Spring Lake project is part of a joint effort between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to improve the backwaters of our nation's waterways for productive resting, feeding, and wintering wildlife habitat. The multi-million dollar project significantly improved an area important to migratory birds, dabbling and diving ducks, and other wetland-dwelling species. Spring Lake is part of the Upper Mississippi River Flyway, a major migration route for waterfowl and other migratory birds. The enhancements at Spring Lake are expected to benefit wildlife for years to come.

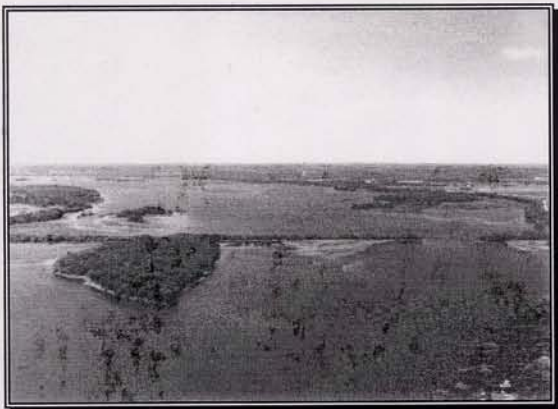
The dedication ceremony is open to the public and will include wagon rides and nature talks. The wagon rides and nature talks will continue into the late afternoon.

During the program, a red-tailed hawk will be released.

The Spring Lake Habitat Project is part of a \$236 million program between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and other state and federal agencies, to plan, design, and build a variety of environmental enhancement projects to restore spawning and feeding habitats of fish and wildlife in backwaters and side channels of the upper Mississippi and Illinois rivers.

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# SPRING LAKE

## HABITAT REHABILITATION AND ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

Pool 13  
Upper Mississippi River Miles 532.5 - 536.0

Carroll County, Illinois

### PROJECT AUTHORITY:

The Spring Lake, Illinois, habitat rehabilitation and enhancement project was implemented as an element of the Upper Mississippi River System-Environmental Management Program (UMRS-EMP). The EMP was authorized by the 1986 Water Resources Development Act.

### SITE DESCRIPTION:

Spring Lake, a 3,300-acre lake and backwater complex delimited by the natural river bank and a perimeter levee, is located on the Illinois side of the Upper Mississippi River approximately 2 miles south of Savanna, Illinois. Following WWI, the area known as Spring Lake was diked and ditched for farming. In 1938 and 1939, all project site lands were acquired in fee title by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as part of the 9-Foot Channel Navigation Project. Management responsibility for these lands was subsequently transferred to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) via cooperative agreement. The area is presently managed by the USFWS as a unit of the Savanna District of the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge.

### RESOURCE PROBLEM:

Upper and Lower Spring Lakes formerly were highly productive and heavily used sources of aquatic vegetation for migratory waterfowl. Due to breaching of the Lower Lake perimeter levee, sedimentation from river flows was degrading the aquatic habitat. Inadequate water level control capabilities and associated encroachment of woody plants and undesirable perennials were negatively affecting production of food resources preferred by migratory waterfowl in the Upper Lake. Peak waterfowl use days had decreased from approximately 113,000 to 30,000 or less.

### PROJECT FEATURES:

- \* 7.1 miles of existing perimeter levee improved;
- \* Upper Lake subdivided into three independent management cells by constructing 7,200 feet of low elevation levees, excavating feeder channels, modifying the existing cross dike, and installing a 7,000-gpm 2-way pump station and three stop log structures;
- \* Two water control structures installed in Lower Lake levee; and,
- \* A 108-acre hemimarsch developed in the Lower Lake [6,100 feet of low elevation levees, a 1,000-gpm well, and one stop log structure].

### PROJECT OUTPUTS:

Project implementation is increasing the overall availability and quality of migratory bird and fish habitat at this location. Improved water level control in the Upper Lake has increased annual moist soil plant production to the benefit of dabbling ducks. Improved marsh habitat management capabilities in the Upper and Lower Lakes is providing valuable outputs to migratory waterfowl and other wetland dwelling species. The ability to distribute oxygenated water throughout the Lower Lake, while minimizing sediment access, is maintaining and enhancing this site's overall habitat value.

### FINANCIAL DATA:

|                     |                  |
|---------------------|------------------|
| General design      | \$1,130,000      |
| Construction        | <u>4,985,000</u> |
| Total Project Cost: | \$6,115,000      |

### STATUS:

The primary construction contract was awarded in January 1995. Construction of all project features (except for the hemimarsch well) is essentially complete. Formal dedication of the project was held on July 16, 1999.

### POINT-OF-CONTACT:

Mr. Leo Foley, P.E., CEMVR-PM-M  
Phone: 309-794-5791  
Email: leo.f.foley@usace.army.mil





## *Upper Mississippi River Environmental Management Program*

The Spring Lake Habitat Project was completed as part of the Environmental Management Program (EMP). The EMP, a \$236 million program authorized by Congress in 1986, has two primary missions: to protect and restore aquatic and wetland habitats throughout the Upper Mississippi River System (UMRS) and to carry out system-wide monitoring and research to gain a better understanding of the river's functions and dynamics.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was designated by Congress as the program's lead agency. The program is implemented in close partnership with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the U.S. Geological Survey, and the states of Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri and Wisconsin.

Erosion and sedimentation are widely considered to be the causes of the river's most severe environmental problems. Sediment is continuously filling in the system's critical backwaters and wetlands. This sediment decreases light penetration, which results in reduced aquatic and wetland plant growth. The erosion of islands and shorelines by wind and watercraft also causes additional sedimentation. The net result of erosion and sedimentation is the degradation or complete loss of important living and breeding habitats.

The EMP habitat projects are designed to offset the negative impacts of erosion and sedimentation by protecting existing critical habitats, restoring backwaters and floodplain wetlands and mimicking the natural system to reliably provide important environments. The performance of each project is closely monitored so that its effectiveness can be fully considered in the construction of future habitats.

## *Spring Lake Habitat Rehabilitation & Enhancement Project*

### *Dedication Ceremony*



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®

*July 16, 1999*





## ***Spring Lake Habitat Rehabilitation & Enhancement Project***

The Spring Lake Wildlife Area is located in Carroll County, Illinois. It is in Pool 13 of the Mississippi River at river miles 532.5-536. This portion of the refuge is part of the Upper Mississippi River Flyway, a major migration route for waterfowl and other migratory birds. Habitat improvements made here are benefiting dabbling and diving ducks and other wetland-dwelling species.

The Spring Lake Habitat Restoration Project was completed as a cooperative effort between the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. This project significantly improved the overall availability and quality of migratory bird and fish habitat. By improving water level control in the Upper Lake, an increase in annual moist soil plant production is occurring, creating more food for migratory birds. The project is designed to produce important fish and wildlife benefits for many years to come.

Features of the Spring Lake Habitat Restoration Project include: improvements to the existing perimeter levee; subimpoundment of the Upper Lake into three independent management cells requiring 7,200 feet of low-elevation levees; excavation of feeder channels, modification of the existing cross dike; installation of a 7,000-gpm two-way pump station and three stop-log structures; construction of two water control structures in the Lower Lake Levee; and, development of a 108-acre hemimarsh in the Lower Lake, which includes 6,100 feet of low elevation levees; a 1,000-gpm well; and one stop-log structure.

## ***Schedule of Events***

### ***Introduction***

Mr. Ed Britton, District Manager  
Mr. Leo Foley, P.E., Project Manager

### ***Invocation***

Pastor Brent Hall

### ***Presentation of the Colors & Pledge of Allegiance***

VFW Post #2223

### ***Remarks***

Dr. Joseph W. Westphal  
Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works)

Mr. Jerry Lack  
Legislative Assistant to Congressman Lane Evans

Mr. Brent Manning  
Director for the Department of Natural Resources

Colonel James Mudd  
Commander, Rock Island District

Mr. John Blankenship  
Assistant Regional Director  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

### ***Sign Unveiling & Raptor Release***

### ***Benediction***

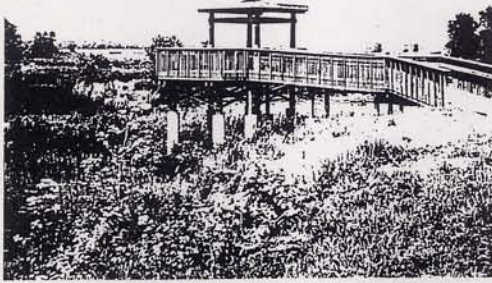
Pastor Brent Hall



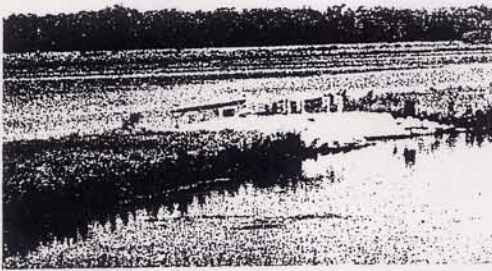
## Spring Lake Habitat Project Dedication Ceremony Activities

Immediately following the formal dedication ceremony the following opportunities to see and learn more about the Spring Lake Wildlife Refuge and the habitat rehabilitation and enhancement project features will be available:

### **1. Upper Lake Management Units**



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Corps of Engineers employees will accompany tractor-drawn, wagon tours around Cell C of the Upper Lake. These tours will load in the parking lot. The wagons will stop briefly at the Upper Lake observation deck and then travel around Upper Lake Cell C. These tours will last approximately 30 minutes. They will continue to be available until all interested participants have been accommodated.



On this tour you will have an opportunity to see project features such as stop log structures and low elevation dikes up close and to acquire a better understanding of their water level management purposes. Some of the project's beneficiaries [i.e. wildlife] might also be seen along the way.

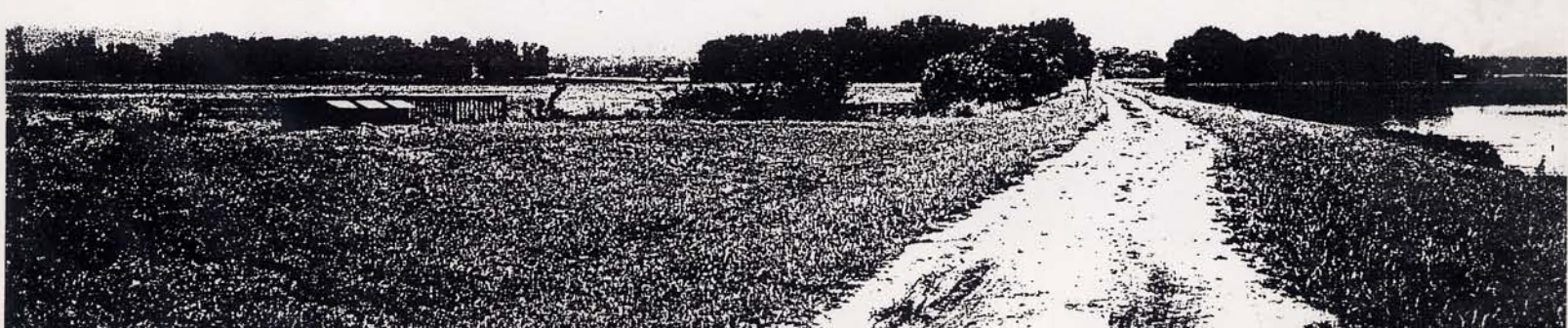
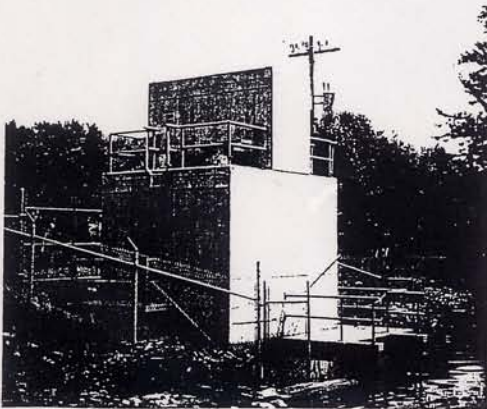
(Note: A longer, approximately 1 hour duration, tour may be offered if sufficient interest exists and tour demand is relatively low. Also tour routes may be modified due to tour route surface conditions.)

### **2. Pump station**

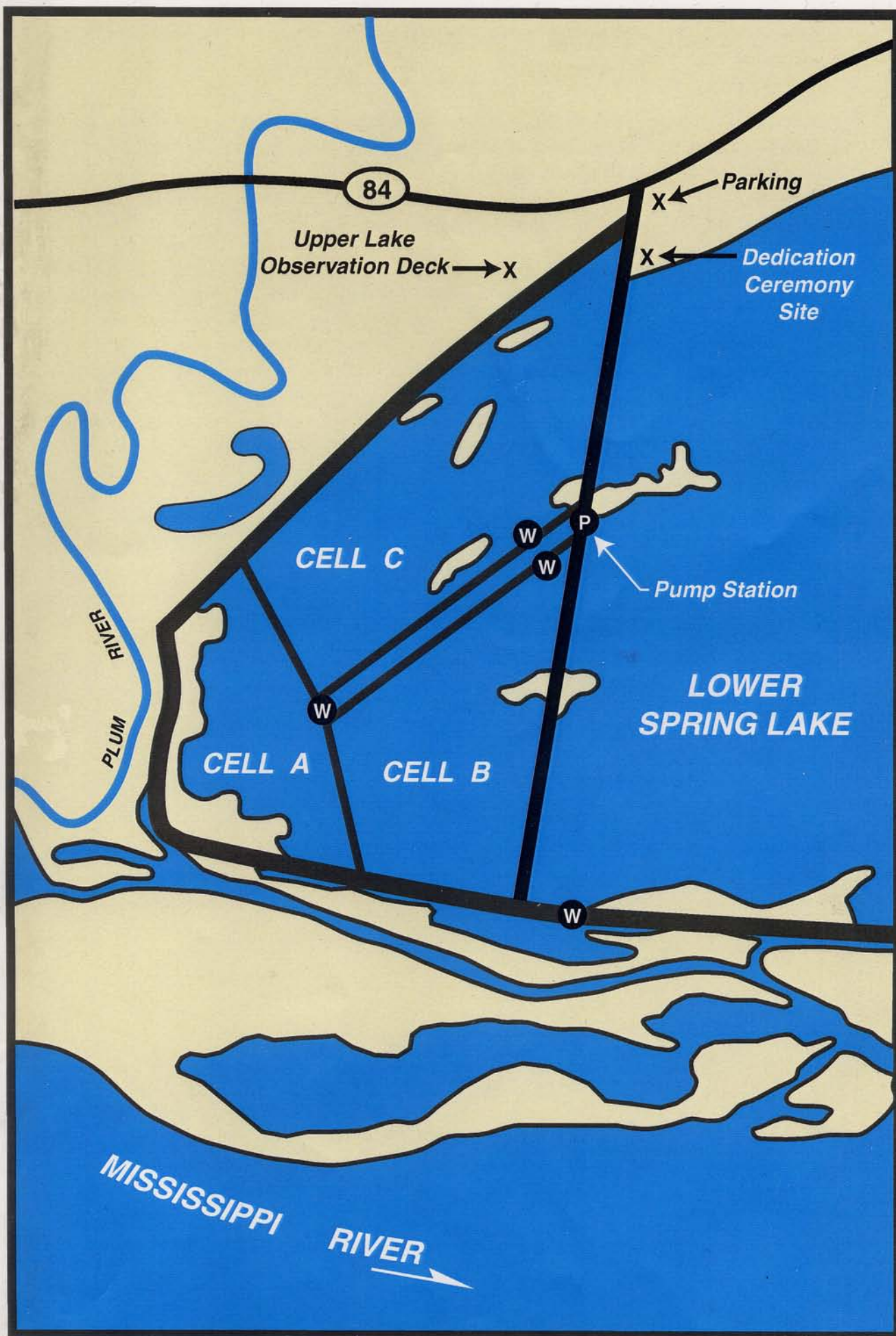
The pump station is located on the cross dike within walking distance (approximately  $\frac{3}{5}$ <sup>th</sup>s of a mile one-way) of the dedication ceremony tent. A shuttle van to and from the pump station will also be available.

At the pump station Corps and USFWS staff will provide additional information about the habitat restoration project and the refuge. They also will answer any questions you may have regarding the project's features and aspects of refuge operations.

**See map on back →**















DATE: 6/10/98  
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ANN ARBOR MI 48106-1500  
TEL: (734) 769-3300  
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E-MAIL: SERIALS@U.M.I.EDU











## Good Habitat = Good Fishing

Plentiful food, good cover, and lots of clean water add up to ideal living conditions for fish... and great fishing for refuge visitors. Over half of this Refuge's 3,000,000 annual visits are by anglers, who fish year-round. Let's meet a few popular sport fish.











## Spring Lake dedication

Dr. Joseph Westphal, assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, was the keynote speaker Friday afternoon for the dedication ceremony of the \$6.1 million Spring Lake Habitat Rehabilitation and Enhancement Project. Other dignitaries attending the ceremony at Spring Lake included, from left, Ed Britton, Savanna District Manager for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Leo Foley, project manager for Spring Lake; Pastor Brent Hall of the Savanna Bible Church who gave the invocation and benediction; Jerry Lack, legislative assistant to Cong.

Lane Evans; Brent Manning, director of the Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources; Col. James Mudd, commander of the Rock Island Corps of Engineers; and Dr. Westphal, at the podium. Partially hidden by the podium is John Blankenship, assistant regional director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. In spite of warm conditions, about 100 people attended the ceremony which included the presentation of the colors and the Pledge of Allegiance by the Savanna VFW.

Mike Nester photo

# Savanna Times Journal



## Spring Lake Project Dedicated

By MIKE SUTPHEN  
Prairie Advocate Reporter

What was once diked and ditched for farming after WW I has now been returned to the wild by the Fish and Wildlife Service. In honor of the completion of the Spring Lake Habitat Rehabilitation and Enhancement Project, a Dedication Ceremony was held on July 16.

Hosting the event was Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, Dr. Joseph W. Westphal, who assisted in releasing a red-tailed hawk into the wild.

The Spring Lake project is part of a joint effort between the US Army Corps of Engineers, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to improve the backwaters of our nation's waterways for productive resting, feeding, and wintering wildlife habitat.

"This is a great day for migratory birds," says Col. James Mudd, Commander Rock Island District.

The multi-million dollar project significantly improved an area important to migratory birds, dabbling and diving ducks, and other wet-

land-dwelling species. Spring Lake is part of the Upper Mississippi River Flyway, a major migration route for waterfowl and other migratory birds. The enhancements at Spring Lake are expected to benefit wildlife for years to come.

The Spring Lake Habitat Project is part of a \$236 million program between the US Army Corps of Engineers, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and other state and federal agencies, to plan, design, and build a variety of environmental enhancement projects to restore spawning and feeding habitats of fish and wildlife in backwaters and side channels of the upper Mississippi and Illinois rivers.



"So long, and thanks for the meat." Red tail hawk takes wing and never looks back after its release. (Prairie Advocate photo by Mike Sutphen)



Distinguished guests at the Spring Lake Habitat Rehabilitation and Enhancement Project Dedication Ceremony gather to release a red-tailed hawk back into the wild. From left to right: Col. James Mudd, Commander Rock Island District; Jerry Lack, Legislative Assistant to Congressman Lane Evans; Brent Manning, Director for the Department of Natural Resources; John Blankenship, Assistant Regional Director US Fish and Wildlife Service; Dr. Joseph W. Westphal, Assistant Secretary of the Army Civil Works. (Prairie Advocate photo by Mike Sutphen)



# The Mississippi River's promise for the

## Awareness must not be short-lived

**M**OST of us who have spent our lives near that 1,000-mile ribbon of muddy water known as the Mississippi River can be accused of forgetting this magnificent natural wonder and its importance.

But there are signs that that is changing:

■ By the time you read this, a massive river cleanup in the

Quad-Cities, spear-headed by the river's version of Johnny Appleseed, Chad Pre-gracke, will be over.

Heaps of muddy tires, old refrigerators, cans, bottles and other refuse will be headed for the landfills or recycling centers.

■ The Audubon Ark, a houseboat sponsored by the National Audubon Society and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, is traveling on the river to increase awareness of

river problems and solutions. The Ark will be set up in Savanna, Ill., all day Tuesday and stop in Bellevue, Iowa, on its way north from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday.

■ A few weeks ago, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service hosted a ceremony for completion of the \$6.1 million Spring Lake Wildlife Refuge Environmental Management Project. Although two years late in completion because of river flooding, the project south of Savanna rehabilitated seven miles of backwater levee, added two miles of levee, added a pump station and seven water-control structures and created a total of 700 acres of wetlands to benefit migrating waterfowl, shore birds and other river wildlife, Refuge Manager Ed Britton said.

■ Footings for a \$500,000 visitor center, environmental education area and office for Fish & Wildlife Service personnel were installed last week just across from the Spring Lake Wildlife Refuge overlook. The Ingersoll Wetlands Learning Center should be complete Oct. 20, Britton said.

■ Final planning of a \$1 million Environmental Management Project at Pleasant Creek south of Bellevue, Iowa, is under way, Britton noted. The project to add water-control structures to retain water for moist-soil management will improve habitat for waterfowl and other creatures.

■ The National Audubon Soci-



PHOTO COURTESY OF CAROL ARNEY/U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

**Col. James Mudd, Commander of the Rock Island District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, kneeling, leads a group in releasing a red-tailed hawk at the Spring Lake Habitat Rehabilitation and Enhancement Project Dedication Ceremony.**

ety, Fish & Wildlife Service and other agencies hope to create a birding trail that will follow the route of the Great River Trail bicycle. Plans also call for the creation of three birding centers, including one for migratory birds at Savanna Army Depot.

■ Cities and towns up and down the river are recognizing the economic potential of the river and its power to bring tourists — and tourist dollars — to town. The floating casinos in Iowa and Illi-

nois are a part of that attraction, but so are ecotourism elements, such as the Quad-City area's wintering bald eagles, which bring many birdwatchers to town.

In all of this attention on the river, it's easy to forget the lessons of the past.

We have been less than kind to our friend, the Mississippi River, which supplies us with drinking water, fishing and boating opportunities, a habitat for countless bird, reptile, amphibian, mammal

and insect species, a commercial avenue for the towboat industry and a pleasant, stress-reducing view for those who own land along its shores as well as those who merely drive, bike, run or walk by.

Jim Burlingame of Clinton, who stopped by the Audubon Ark Friday with his wife, Janet, said he's been a fisherman and boater since 1944. His wife is a serious canoeist and camper.

Both fear that the expansion of river locks will be a death-blow to the river and its recreational opportunities.

He's also concerned about the emphasis on larger motors and personal watercraft.

"It looks like 'Miami Vice' out there," he said as a high-powered boat raced past.

He's already switched from a two-cycle to a four-cycle outboard motor on his pontoon boat, citing better gas mileage and less air pollution.

"This is the only thing like it in the world. We've got to respect it," he said, gazing out across the river. "I think people are trying to do more. It's amazing what people can do if they get behind and do it," Burlingame said.

When we are finished collecting garbage from the river and return home after a visit to the Audubon Ark, we must remember that ecology just off of Interstate 80. The museum brings to life the history of the sport and includes such items as Dan Gable's Olympic uniform and



**ROSS BIELEMA**  
Viewpoint