



Mississippi River Project



US Army Corps
of Engineers®

Recreation Season Comes Early to the River

With a very mild winter and some unusually warm spring temperatures many people are already taking advantage of the recreational opportunities the Mississippi River provides. Lots of people can be found along the banks fishing while others are already out boating, some of which never put their boats away for the winter. Here at the Mississippi River Project, our rangers and maintenance crew are taking advantage of the nice weather in getting all of our recreation areas ready for another great year. Eager campers won't have to wait too much longer as many of our Class A campgrounds will be opening up on April 13th.



Dubuque Ranger Station News

GRANT RIVER RECREATION AREA OPENING

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Mississippi River Project announces the opening of Grant River Recreation Area on April 13, 2012. Grant River Recreation Area is located on the shores of the Mississippi River three miles south of Potosi, Wisconsin. Facilities at the park include 63 campsites with electrical hookups, 10 walk-in tent sites, shower building with flush toilets, on site camp host, boat ramp with courtesy dock, group picnic shelter, amphitheater and law enforcement patrol. There is no charge to enter the recreation area. The camping fees are \$18.00 or \$16.00 per night for electrical sites and \$10.00 per night for the tent sites. Campsite reservations can be made on the internet at www.recreation.gov or by calling Reserve America toll free at (877) 444-6777. Reservations may also be made in person at the campground fee booth beginning April 13th. For additional information please contact: Dubuque Park Rangers, 2595 Kerper Boulevard, Dubuque, Iowa 52001 or call (563) 582-0881.

PICNIC SHELTER RESERVATIONS

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Mississippi River Project announces that it is taking picnic shelter reservations for the 2012 recreation season. Grant River and Blanding Landing Recreation Areas have picnic shelters for use. If you do not make a reservation, shelters are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Cost for a reservation is \$25.00. For additional information please contact: Dubuque Park Rangers, 2595 Kerper Boulevard, Dubuque, Iowa 52001 or call (563) 582-0881.

EARTH DAY EVENT AT GRANT RIVER

As earth day approaches its 42nd anniversary, the Park Rangers with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Dubuque, Iowa would like to invite you to a special Earth Day/Park Clean Up that will take place Saturday April 21, 2012 (Time TBD). Activities at the Grant River Recreation Area located 3 miles south of Potosi, Wisconsin, off of Highway 133, will include a park clean up and small maintenance projects. Persons interested in participating should wear old clothes intended for spring weather and bring work gloves. Please contact Dubuque Park Rangers for more info by calling (563) 582-0881.



Thomson Ranger Station News

Thomson Causeway Recreation Area Ready for Action

After nearly two seasons of limited camping, the Thomson Causeway Recreation Area will be fully operational on April 13, 2012. Since the summer of 2010 the campground has been impacted by three floods all while improvements were being made to the areas sanitary infrastructure. The project has included the renovation of the existing shower buildings, renovating the dump station along the entrance road, connecting to the Village of Thomson sewer and water and construction of a new shower building along Riverbirch Road. We thank everyone for their patience during this period and look forward to seeing you all again this season. Reservations can be made through the National Recreation Reservation Service. If you have any questions, contact the Thomson Ranger Office at (815) 259-3628.

Earth Day Event at Thomson Causeway – April 21

The Mississippi River Project Thomson Ranger Office will be hosting the Annual Earth Day Cleanup at Thomson Causeway Recreation Area on April 21 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The Earth Day event is an opportunity for local scout groups to help the environment and prepare the recreation area for seasonal use. The day's work will include litter and debris cleanup and trail maintenance and clearing. A volunteer luncheon will be provided for those who participate in the event. If you or your group is interested in volunteering, please contact the Thomson Ranger Office at (815) 259-3628 for registration.



MISSISSIPPI RIVER PROJECT EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



My name is Lisa Wenzel and I started working for the Corps of Engineers, Mississippi River Project in the fall of 2011 as an Office Automation Clerk at the Thomson Ranger Office while finishing my degree in Health Care Leadership Administration at the University of Dubuque. I also work part-time for Clinton Community College for the Registrar's and serve on the board for the YWCA.

In my free time I enjoy spending time with my family, especially my children and grandchildren. My husband and I live on an acreage where we spend a lot of time working in the yard, gardening and having summer barbeques.

Mississippi River Visitor Center News

THE CORPS VISITS THE QUAD CITIES EARTH WEEK FAIR

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Mississippi River Project announces that rangers from the Mississippi River Visitor center will be attending the 8th Annual Earth Week Fair on April 20th and 21st. This event takes place at the QCCA Expo Center located at 2621 4th Avenue, Rock Island, IL. During this event the Mississippi River Project will join 50 other exhibitors in promoting environmental stewardship and reconnecting people to the great outdoors.

On April 20th is the school day event where many area elementary children will be able to view one of the many booths and also see a live animals program presented by the Pella Wildlife Company.

On April 21st the doors swing open to the public where they are welcome to visit a booth or attend one of the workshops being offered. Workshop topics this year include: Geocaching, Severe Weather Safety and Nature Photography. The fair runs from 10:00am-4:00pm and admission is free.

BOATING SAFETY CLASSES OFFERED

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Mississippi River Project announces they will be offering five different opportunities to attend a **free** boating safety education class. The classes will be held on the following dates: April 14th, April 28th, and May 12th, 2012. Each class will run from 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. and only one class is required to complete your certification. This class is recommended for people who are new to boating on the Mississippi, families that enjoy weekend boating adventures, or seasoned boaters who would just like to brush up on their safe boating knowledge. Anyone over the age of 12 can be certified. This is a classroom based safety course and will not include an on-the-water experience. Upon successful completion of the class and exam, participants will be issued an Illinois DNR Boat Safety certification which is honored in both Iowa and Illinois. These classes will be held at the Mississippi River Project Office (located near Locks and Dam #14) address of: 25549 – 182nd Street in Pleasant Valley, Iowa 52767.

Pre-registration is required, space is limited, and the classes fill quickly. To register, contact the park rangers at (309) 794-5338.

Muscatine Ranger Station News

CLARK'S FERRY RECREATION AREA OPENS

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Mississippi River Project announces the opening of Clark's Ferry Recreation Area on April 13, 2012. Clark's Ferry is an 11 acre Class A campground along the Mississippi River. It has 45 concrete sites all with 50 amp electrical service and great views of the river. This campground also has a courtesy boat dock, group picnic shelter, playgrounds, shower building and an amphitheater. Camping fees are \$18 and \$16 per night. Campsite reservations can be made on the internet at www.recreation.gov or by calling Reserve America toll free at (877) 444-6777. Reservations may also be made in person at the campground fee booth beginning April 13th. For additional information please contact: Muscatine Park Rangers, 810 Main Street, Muscatine, IA 52761 or call 563-263-7913.

EARTH DAY CLEANUP AT ANDALUSIA SLOUGH

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Mississippi River Project invites you to celebrate Earth Day by participating in a cleanup at Andalusia Slough along the Mississippi River. Free lunch will be provided following the day's work. This event will be held, rain or shine, on Saturday, April 21, 2012 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Andalusia Slough Recreation Area. The park is located 2 miles west of Andalusia, Illinois, along IL Hwy 92. Please meet at the park's picnic shelter the day of the event and bring gloves, shoes or boots and dress appropriately. In the event of flooding, this event will be rescheduled for another date after the flood.

Work will include park and river bank cleanup, landscape work and other park maintenance. In addition to enjoying the outdoors, your help in cleaning the park and river of garbage helps improve the ecosystem of the river and the appearance of the area.

To help make sure enough food is provided, individuals or groups interested in helping out with this worthwhile Earth Day event are encouraged to register by Monday, April 9, 2012. Please contact the Muscatine Park Rangers by calling (563) 263-7913, by email at mvrodmn16@usace.army.mil, by mail at 810 Main St., Muscatine, Iowa 52761, or visit our website: www.missriver.org.

Quincy Ranger Station News

With ample rain and temperatures on the rise, Morel Mushroom hunters around the Quincy area are heading to the woods and gearing up for one of the earliest seasons in recent memory. For the past several years, most of the islands and shoreline areas near the Mississippi River and around the Quincy area have been flooded throughout much of March, April, and May, leaving little time to search for the precious fungi. This year however, there have already been several reported sightings of the elusive delicacy, including a confirmed find from our very own Quincy Rangers. In fact, the mushrooms that were located had been up for several days and were almost to the point of being too dry to pick. It is with great pleasure that we can confirm from the southernmost end of the Mississippi River Project... They're here!

MISSISSIPPI RIVER PROJECT EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



Hello! My name is Trevor Popkin and I have been working for the Army Corps of Engineers since 2008, when I started working as a seasonal park ranger at the Thomson Field Station in Thomson, IL. I enjoyed working in Thomson for four summers while I attended Western Illinois University in Macomb. While in Macomb I studied Biology and Law Enforcement. In the fall of 2011, I took a SCEP (Student Career Intern Position) with the Corps of Engineers at the Mississippi River Visitor Center on the Rock Island Arsenal. I worked at the Visitor Center until about a month ago, when I transferred to the Quincy Field Station in Quincy, IL. In May, I will graduate with a Bachelors degree majoring in Law Enforcement and Justice Administration as well as Biology. I will also be certified to teach Biology, Chemistry, and Physics,

at the 6-12 grade level. I have enjoyed working for the Corps of Engineers for the past few years. I especially like being able complete a variety of tasks and never having two days that are identical. I love working outside and meeting new people. I am looking forward to continuing my career with the Corps and cannot wait to see what the future brings.

FREE COURTESY VESSEL SAFETY INSPECTIONS

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Mississippi River Project announces they will be working with the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary in offering Free Courtesy Vessel Safety Inspections. Vessels passing the inspection will receive the 2012 U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary inspection sticker. No citations will be issued during these checks.

Inspections will be taking place on the following dates:

May 5th- Hannibal, MO at Treasure Chest
May 12th-LaGrange, MO at Mineral Well Park
May 19th-Quincy, IL at Kessler Park

Inspections hours will be from 10:00am to 3:00pm. For more information please call the USACE Rangers at 217-228-0890.

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

(309) 794-5338 E-mail - mvrodmn15@usace.army.mil Website - <http://www.missriver.org>