



# Mississippi River Project



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®

## River Returning to “Normal” for End of Summer

### CORPS RANGERS SCHEDULED TO ASSIST WITH WATER SAFETY EFFORTS DURING FLOATZILLA PADDLING EVENT



Each summer thousands of paddlers flock to the Mississippi River to participate in a large event known as FLOATZILLA. This event gives people of all skill levels a chance to get out and experience the mighty Mississippi from a different angle. This year there will be two launch sites located up stream of Locks and Dam 15 where paddlers will enter the river and get the opportunity to lock through. The ranger staff with the Mississippi River Project will be helping approximately 500 paddlers to safely pass through the locks and be on their way down stream to Sunset Park in Rock Island, IL. The goal is to have all participants meet at the park by 2:00 PM for an attempt at a Guinness world record for the largest flotilla of canoes and kayaks. Paddling on the Mississippi River can be a fun and exciting experience however many hidden dangers lurk beneath the surface of the water. The rangers who will be assisting the participants in this year's event will focus on safety by reminding everyone about wearing life jackets and the importance of staying away from the hazards in the river like dams, lateral walls, and fallen trees. For more information on

registration or volunteering for this event you can check out [www.floatzilla.org](http://www.floatzilla.org)

### FOREST RESTORATION ALONG THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER

Forest restoration projects within the Bottomland Floodplain Forest of the Mississippi River have their challenges. One would think the easiest way to have an immediate impact on the present forested conditions would be to plant a tree and walk away. Unfortunately, the plant and walk away method doesn't work very often given the unforeseen variables the Mississippi River system offers for bottomland hardwood forest management. Hard-mast trees are nut producing (oak, hickory, pecan) trees which are less tolerant to flooding than soft-mast light seeded (maple, cottonwood, ash, elm) trees. Elevation within the floodplain forest is taken into consideration to determine what species of trees have a higher probability of survival given current elevations. Twelve inches of increased elevation also increases site suitability to allow for

a more diverse mix of tree species to be planted since there is less frequency of flooding. Incorporating a diverse mix of tree species into a planting allows for added insurance if an individual tree species becomes susceptible to insects, disease, herbivory, invasive species, flooding, etc... Flooding can cause mortality to planted trees through a variety of factors to include depth, duration, and frequency of occurrence. The longer trees are exposed to flooded conditions, the higher probability of stress, injury or death is to occur. Sediment deposition can also be observed following flood events which increase terrestrial elevations but sediment also settles out in overwintering fish habitats leaving them unsuitable over time. Long Island is one of those areas, open to the general public, where cooperative forest restoration is occurring even though the island continues to see its share of adverse conditions.



Long Island is a 6,300 acre area that is cooperatively managed with USFWS Great River National Wildlife Refuge as part of Long Island Division located in Adams County, Illinois, in pool 21 on the Mississippi River. Long Island is comprised of several islands of which the complex is rich with backwater sloughs, forested wetland, swamp privet/buttonbush shrub scrub, and other wetland areas. Corps and FWS personnel have worked diligently to reforest open canopy areas and previous agriculture leased areas with a diverse mix of hard and soft-mast tree species. Once a tree planting has commenced, follow-up site maintenance is required to ensure trees have an opportunity to reach maturity where they are able to provide multiple benefits for different wildlife community types. Tree planting maintenance generally requires herbaceous vegetative control after establishment for several years. Controlling invasive non-native species and aggressive native herbaceous species is necessary since several of these plants demonstrate the ability to out-compete desirable tree species for sunlight, space, and nutrient uptake. Competition from soft-mast light seeded tree species generally occurs within tree plantings since these trees grow faster than hard-mast tree species. Once tree plantings become established



over the course of 10 years or so, a crop-tree release may be performed to reduce competition, promote vertical height growth, and increase canopy development over time. A crop-tree is defined as a desirable tree selected to benefit from efforts of removing adjacent woody competition through cutting and/or girdling. Girdling of trees provides multiple benefits to wildlife and avian communities since live trees become standing dead trees or snags. Cavities become easier to construct for certain species of birds for nesting and brood rearing purposes. As standing trees start to decay, bark begins to exfoliate, leaving tight crevices between bark and main stem of the tree. Crevices allow for ideal habitat for species like endangered Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) to rest and roost in.

## Dubuque Ranger Station News

### UPCOMING PROGRAMS AT GRANT RIVER CAMPGROUND:

- **Saturday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>** – Dutch Oven Cooking
- **Saturday, August 10<sup>th</sup>** – Winged Migration Film
- **Saturday, August 17<sup>th</sup>** – History of Potosi Brewery and Museum
- **Saturday, August 24<sup>th</sup>** – Sand Mining Along the Mississippi River
- **Saturday, August 31<sup>st</sup>** – All Star Country Dancers



These programs are offered free of charge to anyone who is interested in attending. You do not need to be staying at the campground to attend. Grant River Campground is located 2 miles south of Potosi, WI off Hwy 133. The campground offers 73 campsites, electrical hookups, shower and restroom facilities, drinking water, a dump station, and playground. For more information on the programs and their scheduled times, please contact the Dubuque Park Rangers by e-mail at [mvrodmn11@usace.army.mil](mailto:mvrodmn11@usace.army.mil) or by phone at (563) 582-0881.

### MAIN SIDE OF PLEASANT CREEK RECREATION AREA REOPENS

The Pleasant Creek Recreation Area is rustic and relaxing with a front row seat of the main channel of the Mississippi River. The main land camping area and boat ramp have been closed for much of the summer due to high water but have now reopened for public use. The island side of the recreation area remains closed and is still in need of clean-up efforts. Pleasant Creek Recreation Area is located 3 miles south of Bellevue, Iowa, along Highway 52 and has a number of first-come, first-serve campsites, drinking water, and vault toilets. There is no electrical service or flush toilets making this a perfect spot for primitive campers. The area also has a sewer dump station and concrete boat ramp with direct access to the main channel. Recline in your lounge chair and watch the river traffic navigate up and down the river below Lock & Dam 12.

## Thomson Ranger Station News

### 22<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL MISSISSIPPI RIVER PHOTO CONTEST

The Annual Mississippi River Project Photo Contest is entering the home stretch. Participants have until August 23 to submit photos to the Thomson Ranger Office. Amateur photographers can submit taken on federally managed lands or waters in pools 11-16 of the Mississippi. If you would like more information regarding the contest, contact the Thomson Ranger Office at (815)259-3628

## THOMSON CAUSEWAY FUN FACT

The "Sandburr", also referred to as "Bur Ragweed", is considered a weed in most parts of the US, but not here. In 1975, the Village of Thomson, Illinois voted to recognize the sandburr, *Ambrosia 'Franseria' acanthicarpa*, as the official plant and emblem of the town. Thomson considers the sandburr a rare and exotic plant, and can be found in the area because of the unique sand prairies.

According to the National Park Service, the genus name, "Ambrosia", originates from Greek mythology which was the food of the gods and refers to the sweet smelling odor of this plant. The previous genus "Franseria", which was given to various shrubs in out West, honors Antonio Franseri, an 18th-century Spanish botanist. The species name, "acanthicarpa", means "with thorny fruits like those of Acanthus", hence the common name Sandburr.



*Ambrosia 'Franseria' acanthicarpa*  
<http://web.ewu.edu/ewflora/Asteraceae/Ambrosia%20acanthicarpa.html>

## PROGRAM TO BE HELD AT THOMSON CAUSEWAY RECREATION AREA

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Mississippi River Project invites campers and the visiting public to a campground program to be held at Thomson Causeway. As a reminder, all campground programs are FREE to the public and are subject to cancellation or rescheduling in the event of rain or severe weather.

Saturday, August 3rd at 7:00 PM – Outdoor Campfire Cooking

Thomson Causeway Campground is located on Lewis Ave and Main St. in Thomson, IL. The campground offers 131 campsites, electrical hookups, shower and restroom facilities, drinking water, a dump station, boat ramp, and playground.

To reserve a campsite contact the National Recreation Reservation Service toll free at (877) 444-6777. Campsites may also be available on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information, please contact the Thomson Park Rangers by e-mail at [mvrodmn13@usace.army.mil](mailto:mvrodmn13@usace.army.mil) or by phone at (815) 259-3628.

## Mississippi River Visitor Center News

### FREE WEEKDAY TOURS OF LOCKS AND DAM 15

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Mississippi River Project announces they will be offering to the public free **weekday** tours of Locks and Dam 15. These special tours will be conducted on Mondays and Friday mornings from 11:00-12:00 (weather permitting). These tours will run through August 23rd.

Participants must wear shoes with enclosed toes and backs, tennis shoes are preferred. Purses, bags, cameras and pictures are not allowed on the tour but they are allowed in the Visitor

Center. Walking is required. Pre-registration is also recommended as the group size is limited and tours sometimes fill fast.

If you do not have time to attend tours then just stop by for a visit. The Mississippi River Visitor Center gives you a great view of the locking process at Locks and Dam # 15. There is a picnicking area, restroom facilities, observation deck and an indoor theater. The center is located on the west end of Arsenal Island in Rock Island, Illinois and is open 9:00am till 5:00pm daily.

The facility is only accessible via the Rock Island or Moline entrances. All persons over the age of 16 must carry a photo ID in order to enter the island. All vehicles are subject to random search and participants should allow 15 minutes extra to ensure proper arrival time. Pedestrians and bicyclists with helmets have access to the Mississippi River Visitor Center through the Rock Island gate only. Appropriate ID is required.

Contact the ranger staff at (309) 794-5338 to make a tour reservation or for any additional questions.

## Muscatine Ranger Station News

### 24TH ANNUAL SHADY CREEK CAMPER'S OUTDOOR CRAFT SHOW

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Mississippi River Project is pleased to invite the general public to attend the 24th Annual Camper's Outdoor Craft Show to be held at the Shady Creek Recreation Area picnic shelter on Saturday, August 17, 2013 from 9:00 am until 2:00 pm. Crafters will display baskets, candles, homemade wooden and hand-sewn items as well as many other interesting pieces. Many of the crafts will follow an "outdoor" related theme, and visitors will be able to view the preparation of many items. There will be a public drawing for a chance to win two free nights of camping. The show is free of charge.



The purpose of the craft show is to demonstrate the different ways that items from our environment can be turned into beautiful crafts, and how man-made materials can be transformed into something useful and beautiful that preserves our natural environment. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Mississippi River Project is involved in educating the public on how to conserve and protect our natural resources. Camping reservations for Shady Creek and Clark's Ferry Campgrounds can be made on the web at [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov) or call Reserve America at 877-444-6777. Shady Creek Recreation Area is located between Muscatine and Davenport, along Highway 22, about 10 miles east of Muscatine, Iowa. Clark's Ferry Recreation Area is located 5 miles east of Shady Creek Recreation Area on Highway 22. For general information and entry forms, please contact the Muscatine Park Rangers by mail, 810 Main Street, Muscatine, Iowa 52761, by phone at (563) 263-7913, by fax at (563) 263-1845 or by email at [mvrodmn16@usace.army.mil](mailto:mvrodmn16@usace.army.mil).



## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT – HENRY RICKLEFS - SEASONAL RANGER

My name is Henry Ricklefs and I am currently working out of the Muscatine Ranger Station for the Mississippi River Project. I just finished up at Muscatine Community College and will be attending Western Illinois University in Moline, IL at the end of August. My major is Park and Recreation with a minor in Environmental Science/Conservation. I also work for J & D Stones as a rock engraver, and I am the assistant track coach at Louisa-Muscatine High School.

## CAMPGROUND PROGRAMS AT CORPS OF ENGINEERS PARKS

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Mississippi River Project invites campers and the visiting public to attend campground programs held at Clark's Ferry and Shady Creek Recreation Areas. Throughout the summer, from Memorial Day to Labor Day, presenters will cover a host of topics for all to enjoy. As a reminder, all campground programs are subject to cancellation or rescheduling in the event of rain or severe weather. Programming for the months of August and September include the following schedule:

- **Saturday, August 3, 2013, 7:00 PM**, Shady Creek Campground - A member of the staff from the Fish and Wildlife Service will present a program on Wildlife and Wildlife Refuges on the Mississippi River.
- **Saturday, August 17, 2013, 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM**, Shady Creek Campground – 24th annual Shady Creek Camper Craft Show. This event features a showcase of camper's hand-made crafts. The event is open to the public. Entry to participate in the show is free of charge. If someone is interested in signing up for the craft show they should contact the Muscatine Ranger Station.



- **Saturday, August 24, 2013, 8:00 PM**, Shady Creek Campground - Members of a local Astronomy Club will point their telescopes to the sky for a presentation on stargazing and astronomy.
- **Saturday, August 31, 2013, 7:00 PM**, Shady Creek Campground - A Corps of Engineers Ranger will present information on the Lock and Dam history, how a lock operates and other facts about the Mississippi River.

Clark's Ferry Campground is located just off Highway 22 at 3860 Sunset Beach, Montpelier, IA 52759. Clark's Ferry offers 45 campsites, electrical hookups, shower and restroom facilities, a

dump station, playground, boat launch and wood. Shady Creek Campground is located at 3550 Highway 22, Muscatine, IA 52761. Shady Creek offers 53 campsites, electrical hookups, shower and restroom facilities, drinking water, a dump station, playground, boat launch and wood. To reserve a campsite, contact the National Recreation Reservation Service toll free at (877) 444-6777. Campsites are also available on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information, please contact the Muscatine Park Rangers by e-mail at [mvrodmn16@usace.army.mil](mailto:mvrodmn16@usace.army.mil) or by phone at (563) 263-7913.

## LOCK AND DAM #16 TOURS

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Mississippi River Project invites the public to enjoy a tour of Lock and Dam #16. Every Sunday from May 26, 2013 through September 1, 2013 at 2:00 PM, weather permitting, tours of Locks and Dam #16 will be conducted for the public. A special Labor Day weekend tour will be held on Saturday, August 31, 2013 at 2:00 PM. Lock and Dam #16 is located off 102nd Ave West on the Illinois side of the Mississippi River about one mile upstream from the bridge in Muscatine, IA. Participants will be presented with a history of the Upper Mississippi River system, how the river system operates and the process it takes to move a barge through a lock. The tour is capped off with a walk on the lock structure. Walking is a part of the tour, so participants must wear shoes with enclosed toes and an enclosed back (tennis shoes are best). Advance reservations are required as group size is limited. Please allow approximately one hour to complete the tour. For more information and to make reservations, please contact the Muscatine Park Rangers by e-mail at [mvrodmn16@usace.army.mil](mailto:mvrodmn16@usace.army.mil) or by phone at (563) 263-7913.

## Quincy Ranger Station News

### RECREATION RETURNS TO THE QUINCY AREA

The staff at the Quincy ranger office has been working away at getting the recreation areas along the river back to "normal." Flood clean-up can be a daunting task and with many areas being affected several times this year it has been a real challenge. All of the recreation areas in and around the Quincy area are back open for use with the exception of the boat ramp at Bear Creek. For updated information on all of our recreation area status throughout the year check out [www.missriver.org](http://www.missriver.org) and click on Rec Area Status.



**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,  
Natural Resource Management Staff**

P.O. Box 2004 Rock Island, Illinois 61204-2004

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