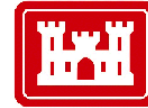




# Mississippi River Project



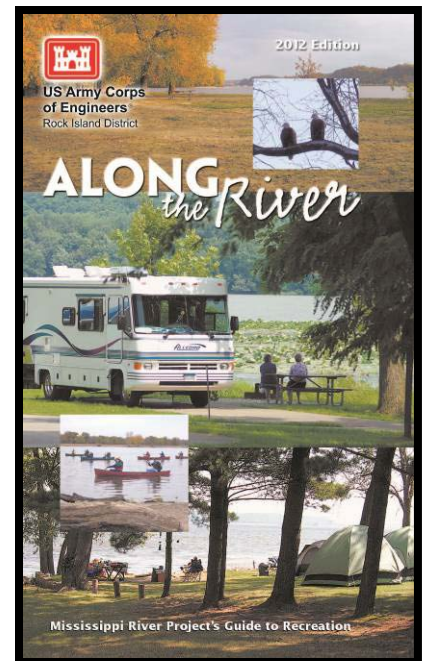
US Army Corps  
of Engineers®

## Looking Forward to 2012

The year 2011 has gone by fast and like most years has seen its ups and downs. Now that we are into the New Year the rangers along the Mississippi River Project are gearing up for the next recreation season as well as taking an opportunity to get out and interact with the public at events such as eagle watches and trade shows. In this month's newsletter you will find information about all the events where you can visit with our Corps of Engineers staff and learn about what our project has to offer.

## NEW 2012 ALONG THE RIVER – GUIDE TO RECREATION

Each year the Mississippi River Project publishes a new updated guide to camping and recreation areas along the banks of the Mississippi River that are managed by the project. This year's 2012 edition will be available soon and offers information on reserving a campsite, buying a boat ramp pass, campground amenities, and has a list of many things to see and do from Potosi, Wisconsin all the way to Saverton, Missouri. If you are interested in receiving a free copy of this publication please send your name and address to [mvrodmn15@usace.army.mil](mailto:mvrodmn15@usace.army.mil) and we will be happy to send you one.



## OUTDOOR SHOW AND RV CAMPING SHOWS

If you have a love for the outdoors and winter is keeping you from participating in your favorite recreational activities then come visit with our ranger staff at the QCCA Expo Center in Rock Island, IL and get geared up for summer while the cold air is still blowing outside. The Outdoor Show will be held February 16<sup>th</sup> through the 19<sup>th</sup> and our rangers will be on hand to provide information on all the recreational opportunities our project has to offer. We will even have annual day use passes available for sale so that boaters can get ready for the season by purchasing their boat ramp sticker early. The RV Camping Show will be the following weekend February 24<sup>th</sup> through the 26<sup>th</sup> and rangers will be on site to answer questions and provide information on all our camping and recreational areas. For more information on these shows check out the website [www.qccaexpocenter.com](http://www.qccaexpocenter.com)

## SERVICE CONTRACTS FOR 2012 OPEN FOR BID

The Mississippi River Project has several service contract opportunities available for bid. You can stay up to date on what is available by visiting our website at [www.missriver.org](http://www.missriver.org) and click on the "Working for Us" link. If you would like to be put on a contact list for future consideration, or if you need more information on the service contract process on the Mississippi River, please contact Supervisory Natural Resource Specialist John Knoble at 309-794-4523 ([email](mailto:)), or Administrative Officer Danet Dexter at 309-794-4524 ([email](mailto:)).

### RECREATION AREA

Thomson Causeway  
Fisherman's Corner South  
Fisherman's Corner North

### LOCATION

Thomson, IL  
Hampton, IL  
Hampton, IL

### CONTRACT TYPES

Custodial  
Custodial  
Fee Collection

**RECREATION AREA**

Clark's Ferry  
 Shady Creek  
 Lock and Dam 16  
 Ferry Landing  
 Fenway Landing

**LOCATION**

Montpelier, IA  
 Muscatine, IA  
 Muscatine, IA  
 Oakville, IA  
 Canton, MO

**CONTRACT TYPES**

Fee Collection  
 Custodial, Fee Collection  
 Custodial  
 Mowing, Trimming, Refuse & Custodial  
 Trimming & Refuse

**Dubuque Ranger Station News****DUBUQUE BALD EAGLE WATCH****SATURDAY, JANUARY 21<sup>ST</sup>, 2012**

- Outdoor viewing at Lock and Dam 11 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM
- Live Eagle & Bird of Prey Programs by the World Bird Sanctuary at 9:30 AM, 12:15 PM & 3:00 PM
- Bobcat and Lynx presentations by the Pella Wildlife Company at 11:00 AM and 1:45 PM.
- Indoor Exhibits from 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM at the Grand River Center - Port of Dubuque
- Trolley rides from Grand River Center to the National Mississippi River Museum and the outdoor viewing area.
- For more information call: 563-556-4372 or 563-582-0881

**Thomson Ranger Station News****CLINTON BALD EAGLE WATCH****SATURDAY, JANUARY 7<sup>TH</sup>, 2012**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Mississippi River Project, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Clinton Community College and the Stewards of the Upper Mississippi River Refuge will be hosting the "28th Annual Bald Eagle Watch" on Saturday January 7, 2012. Educational programs and environmental exhibits will be held at the Clinton Community College. Clinton Community College is located at 1000 Lincoln Blvd, Clinton, Iowa. Eagle viewing will be held at Lock and Dam #13 in Fulton, Illinois off Illinois Highway 84. Programs for this year's event are sponsored courtesy of 3M and Savanna Train Car Museum, and include:

- **9:15 a.m.** – Welcome to Eagle watch and "American Eagle - PBS Documentary."
- **10:50 a.m.** - Northern Illinois Raptor Rehab and Education Center presenting "Live Birds of Prey."
- **11:50 a.m.** – Rudy Vallejo, Member of the Kickapoo Tribe of Kansas presenting "Native American Dance, in honor of the Bald Eagle."
- **1:00 p.m.** - Chuck Jacobson, Clinton County Conservation Board presenting Nature Music and Songs
- **1:30 p.m.** - Northern Illinois Raptor Rehab and Education Center presenting "Live Birds of Prey."

The exhibits will feature live birds of prey, conservations groups, artists, drawings for door prizes and refreshments. RC Smith of Morrison, Illinois, will provide a courtesy bus shuttle between Clinton Community College and Lock and Dam #13 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The shuttles will begin at 10:00 a.m. and run every half hour until 2:30 p.m. Due to limited parking at Lock and Dam #13 participants are encouraged to use the courtesy bus service.

For more information please contact the Thomson Park Rangers at 815-259 3628 or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at 815-273 2732.

## Mississippi River Visitor Center News

### MISSISSIPPI RIVER PROJECT EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

#### Samantha Heilig – Natural Resource Specialist

You might recognize my name from the e-mails you receive each month with this e-newsletter about the Mississippi River Project. Each month it is part of my job to share information about the people, places, and events taking place along the project. This time I thought I would share a little about myself so you would have a better idea who is sending these e-mails to your inbox each month. I started my career with the Corps of Engineers back in May of 2001. I was finishing up my last year at Central College in Pella, IA when I learned of the Student Career Experience Program (SCEP) and found out there was a position available at the Mississippi River Visitor Center in Rock Island, IL. I grew up on a farm in a small town called DeWitt, IA just 30 minutes north of Rock Island so I was very excited about the possibility of working close to home and along one of the greatest rivers in the world. As a SCEP student I was able to learn a great deal about the Corps of Engineers and the Mississippi River Project and found that it would be a great place to continue my career. This past May I completed my 10<sup>th</sup> year working for the project and along the way have held several different positions with the Corps at the Mississippi River Visitor Center.



Many people ask me if I ever get tired of working in a visitor center where people tend to ask us the same questions day in a day out. My answer to this question is always the same and is that everyone who walks in the door of the visitor center might be seeing the Mississippi River for the first time and to them it is always a new experience. So for me the fun in doing my job is to share in that new experience each time a new visitor arrives. Another thing I love about this job is that each day is different. One day I may be giving tours of the locks and dam, the next I could be talking to school children in a classroom, and the next be out helping to keep boaters safe on the Mississippi River by working river patrol. This variety keeps things interesting and makes coming to work each day a new adventure. In addition to the e-newsletter that our project sends out each month and direct contact with many of the visitors to our facility, we also have a website that I get to help maintain and an annual guide to our projects recreation areas called the Along the River that I help get published each year. These different forms of communication are how we can stay connected with our visitors and give them the best experience when visiting our recreation areas along the Mississippi River. In the past few years I have also been able to get involved in several “jobs” outside of the project including assisting with flood duty during the 2008 floods in Coralville, IA and sitting on the Rock Island District’s Water Safety Committee as a project representative. These outside assignments allow me to get a better understanding of the workings of the District and the Corps of Engineers on a bigger level.

In the near future I will be taking a little break from all of these tasks here at the Mississippi River Visitor Center as my husband Matt and I are expecting our second child in early February. Our four year old daughter is really looking forward to the new arrival and cannot wait to share her love of the outdoors with the new baby. While I am on leave you can still plan on receiving your e-newsletters but they will be arriving from a new source. Hope everyone has a wonderful spring and I will be back to sending e-newsletters in a few months.



## QUAD CITY BALD EAGLE DAYS

**DATE: FRIDAY JANUARY 6, 2012 – SUNDAY, JANUARY 8, 2012**

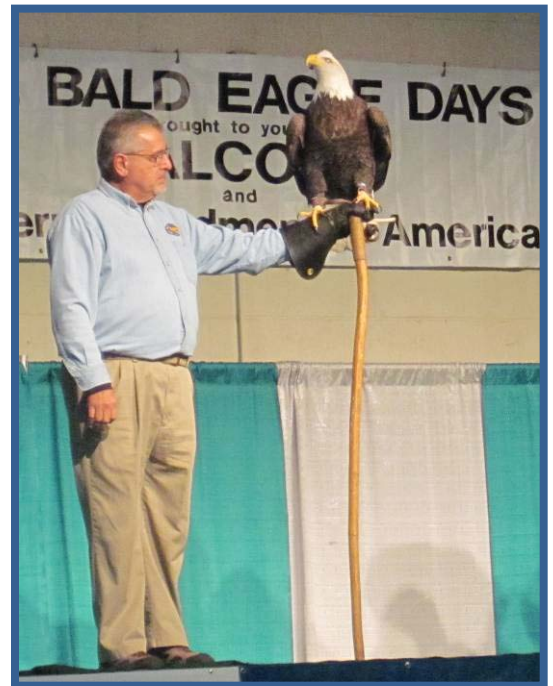
**TIME: FRIDAY 4:00 – 8:00 PM, SATURDAY 10:00 AM – 8:00 PM,  
SUNDAY 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM**

**LOCATION: QCCA EXPO CENTER, 2621 4TH AVE. ROCK  
ISLAND, IL**

**COST: ADULTS \$5.00, KIDS \$1.00, KIDS 5 AND UNDER FREE  
(FRIDAY NIGHT 4:00 – 8:00 KIDS UNDER 18 FREE)**

**INFORMATION: 309-788-2543**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Mississippi River Project would like to invite you to the Annual Quad City Bald Eagle Days January 6 – 8<sup>th</sup>, 2012. Come see a live eagle presentation given by the World Bird Sanctuary of St. Louis or check out one of the other live animal shows presented by the Pella Wildlife Company and Niabi Zoo. This is a family friendly event that can last all day with many booths to see and hands on activities for the kids. An of course don't miss out on your chance to view these beautiful birds in the wild on one of the guided bus tours along the Mississippi. These outdoor eagle viewing tours will take you on a trip around the Quad City area and show you the many places to see these majestic birds.



## HISTORIC CLOCK TOWER AND EAGLE WATCH TOURS

**DATE: SATURDAY, JANUARY 14 THROUGH SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2012**

**TIME: 9:30 AM & 12:30 PM**

**LOCATION: MISSISSIPPI RIVER VISITOR CENTER – ARSENAL ISLAND**

**COST: FREE – RESERVATIONS RECOMMENDED**

**INFORMATION: 309-794-5338**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Mississippi River Project announces that the Visitor Center at Locks and Dam #15 is inviting guests to come participate in a Historic Clock Tower and Eagle Watch Tour. Relive the early days of the Rock Island Arsenal as you climb your way up the historic corridor of the Clock Tower Building which has been a Quad City landmark for over 100 years! Waiting at the top is a spectacular view of the Mississippi where you could have the opportunity to see Bald Eagles who visit our area during the cold winter months. Visitors are invited to join these tours every Saturday and Sunday beginning January 14 and running through February 12. There will be two tours offered each day that will begin at 9:30 am and 12:30 pm. The tour will be approximately 1½ hours long and be guided by a Visitor Center Park Ranger. The tour will begin at the Mississippi River Visitor Center, located on the west end of Arsenal Island at Locks and Dam #15.

This program is free of charge and everyone is invited to attend. **Advance registration is required.** An adult must accompany children under 12 years of age.

**All persons over age 16 must carry a photo ID to enter the island. Vehicles are subject to search and participants should allow 15 minutes extra to ensure proper arrival time for the tour.**

For more information or to sign up for the program, please contact the Visitor Center at (309) 794-5338.

## Muscatine Ranger Station News

### LONG-TERM MAINTENANCE VOLUNTEER NEEDED



A long term maintenance volunteer is needed at Shady Creek Recreation Area for April-September, 2012. Month long volunteer commitments will be considered. Work would include trail and tree maintenance, painting, staining, flood debris cleanup, picnic table repair, and other maintenance duties as assigned. The minimum amount of volunteer hours to work is 20 hours/week between two parks; which are Shady Creek and Clark's Ferry Recreation Areas. A campsite with electrical service and possibly water service will be provided for the volunteer. No septic hookup would be provided. The tools, equipment, material, and instruction will be provided. The volunteer will provide their own camping unit, vehicle, fuel and labor. No special skills are required. If you

are interested or have any questions, please contact the Mississippi River Project's Muscatine Park Rangers by calling 563-263-7913 Ext 6256, by fax, 563-263-1845, email, [mvrodmn16@usace.army.mil](mailto:mvrodmn16@usace.army.mil) or by mail, 810 Main St., Muscatine, IA 52761.

### MUSCATINE BALD EAGLE WATCH SATURDAY, JANUARY 28<sup>TH</sup>, 2012

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Mississippi River Project invites the public to enjoy a day of eagle viewing. The annual Bald Eagle Watch, a part of the Eagles and Ivories Ragtime Weekend Festival held in Muscatine, Iowa, will take place Saturday, January 28, 2012 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Locations include Pearl City Station in Riverside Park, 100 Harbor Drive, Muscatine, Iowa 52761 and the Muscatine Power Boat Club located at 35811 102nd Ave W, Illinois City, Illinois 61259.

Spotting scopes will be available for viewing the eagles from Pearl City Station and the Muscatine Power Boat Club. Park rangers from the Corps of Engineers, naturalists from the Muscatine County Conservation Board and volunteers will be available to assist with the scopes and answer questions. Learn more about birds of prey as naturalists from Wildlife Prairie State Park near Peoria, Illinois present live bird programs at 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. inside Pearl City Station. Representatives from local organizations will be available to share information about conservation and the environment. A craft area will be available for kids to make eagle puppets and color pictures of eagles. The Pearl City Station and Muscatine Power Boat Club buildings will be open to warm up and enjoy some hot chocolate and coffee. All activities for this event are free. For more information, please contact the Muscatine Park Rangers at 563-263-7913.

## Quincy Ranger Station News

The heart of the hunting season is winding down and that has many of the Quincy recreation areas clearing out for the winter. Most of the visitors that are using the areas are sight seers, as bird watching is a popular hobby this time of year. Several birds of prey species can be seen along the river bottoms, as well as other winter birds. Catching a glimpse of the majestic Bald Eagle is the prize of many bird enthusiasts, and is why many people will venture to the Tri-State area this winter. The following are some special events where Bald Eagle watching will be taking place in the Quincy and Keokuk areas this January.

## **KEOKUK BALD EAGLE DAYS**

### **SATURDAY AND SUNDAY**

#### **JANUARY 21-22**

- Indoor programs and Environmental Fair at the River City Mall, Keokuk, Iowa
- Live Eagle Programs Saturday 9:00-3:00 and Sunday 10:00-3:00
- Outdoor viewing along the River Front
- For information call: 1-800-383-1219 or 217-228-0890

## **QUINCY BALD EAGLE WATCH**

### **SATURDAY, JANUARY 28**

- Outdoor viewing at Lock and Dam 21 from 9:00 - 4:00
- For more information call 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](mailto:mvrodmn15@usace.army.mil) Website - <http://www.missriver.org>