



# Mississippi River Project



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®

## Staying Safe this Summer Season

The US Army Corps of Engineers, Mississippi River Project has partnered with Casey's General Stores to help spread the word about water safety this summer. This effort is being done as part of a Rock Island District water safety initiative to keep people safe on our public waterways. Life jackets save lives but only if you are wearing them. Look for this image at the checkout counter the next time you visit your local Casey's store and remember to "Be Smart from the Start" and "Always Wear your Life Jacket."



## AMERICORPS WORKERS CONTINUE TO MAKE AN IMPACT



The AmeriCorps NCCC volunteers (named the "Oak 4" group) that is working for the Mississippi River Project from 03 May – 26 June 2013 continues to work hard and accomplish a great deal of maintenance with the assistance of the OD-MN staff. Recent accomplishments in our more northern parks include re-roofing and shingling buildings at our Grant River Recreation Area, grinding out stumps from hazard trees that have been removed from parks, repair of water damaged boards on infrastructure, staining of buildings, and sealing of shower building floors at the Thomson Causeway. The enthusiastic 10 member group lead by Rusty Graham is camping at various Corps parks along the river while

accomplishing their work. They will be working in areas around and south of the Quad Cities in the Month of June - working on park infrastructure, removing invasive species from natural areas, and doing maintenance on trails managed by the Corps.

## Dubuque Ranger Station News

### UPCOMING PROGRAMS AT GRANT RIVER CAMPGROUND:

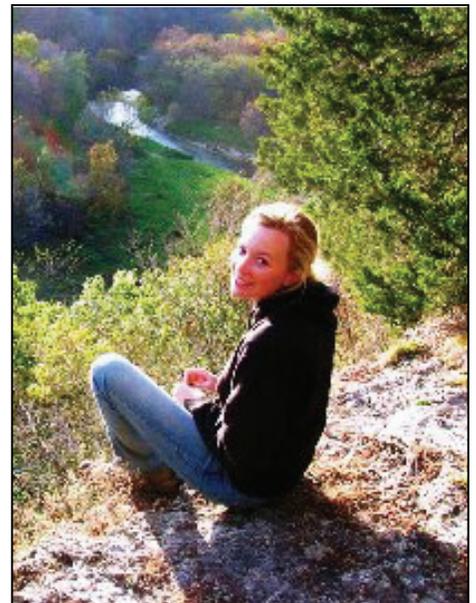
- Saturday, June 1<sup>st</sup> – Berry’s World of Wood Whittling
- Saturday, June 8<sup>th</sup> – Great River Road Anniversary Celebration
- Saturday, June 15<sup>th</sup> – Children’s Water Safety Night
- Saturday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> – River Of Life
- Saturday, June 29<sup>th</sup> - Night Sky

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 times and locations of the programs, 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.

## Thomson Ranger Station News

### EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT – BRE NESTEBY SEASONAL RANGER

Currently, I am a new Pathway Intern at the Thomson Ranger Office part of the Mississippi River Project. In May of 2012, I graduated from University of Dubuque with a Bachelors of Science in Environmental Science. I am now pursuing a Masters of Science in Biology and a post-baccalaureate in Environmental GIS at Western Illinois University- Quad Cities. With any free time I volunteer for the USFWS- Rock Island doing GIS work. My thesis research is on the federally threatened Eastern Prairie Fringed Orchid. With this I hope to start a career working to protect, improve natural areas, and manage invasive species encroachment. Thus far, working for the USACE has been an enjoyable learning experience; it’s great to be around people that take pleasure in going to their job each day. I love to interact and educate campers about our river systems and what they can do to protect and improve the Mississippi. Everyone I have met has been kind, helpful and great at answering any question I have. I’m looking forward to a great summer at Thomson.



## **TAKE A TOUR OF LOCK AND DAM #13**

The Thomson Park Rangers will host Lock & Dam #13 tours every Sunday at 1:00 PM through Labor Day Weekend. The tours will cover a brief history of the Mississippi River and the purpose of Locks and Dams along the river. All tours will start at the overlook building located at Lock and Dam #13 Day Use Area. All participants must wear closed toed shoes to attend the full lock tour. If you or your group is interested in participating in a tour, contact the Thomson Park Ranger Office at (815) 259-3928 for additional information.

## **IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY RETURNS TO THOMSON FOR THE 26TH YEAR**

Each spring the Thomson Causeway can expect two phenomena's. First, a large turtle population will begin nesting in Potters Marsh South camping loop. Following the turtles will be Iowa State University students to collect data on turtle nesting. For the past 26 years Dr. Fred Janzen has been sending students to the area to document the success rate of turtle reproduction, including blanding's turtles, map turtles, and ornate box turtle. With the data Dr. Janzen is attempting to reveal the impacts of global warming on turtle populations. Dr. Janzen and his students work around the clock to record turtle nesting activity as it occurs. You can spot them checking traps in the Potters Marsh, banding turtles, counting eggs, and covering nests with steel mesh to protect them from predators. This Saturday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, Iowa State will be giving a program about their research at the Thomson Causeway Amphitheatre. The program will begin at 7:00 PM.

## **UPCOMING PROGRAMS AT FISHERMAN'S CORNER CAMPGROUND:**

- Saturday, June 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 PM – Join Frank Ross for a presentation on Mississippi Mud Art
- Saturday, June 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM – Come watch Kendall Davis as he demonstrates and educates about the art of boomerangs.
- Saturday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 PM – Come listen to Joe Nobiling and Friends as they play some good old fashioned folk music along the banks of the Mississippi River.

Fisherman's Corner Campground is located just on Highway 84 just north of Hampton, IL. The campground offers 56 campsites, electrical hookups, shower and restroom facilities, drinking water, a dump station, 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**

### **BICYCLE TOUR OF HISTORIC ARSENAL ISLAND**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Mississippi River Project announces that the Visitor Center at Locks and Dam #15 is inviting guests to a bicycle tour of historic Arsenal Island. Did you know that

the town of Davenport was named after a murdered Colonel, or that hundreds of people died while in prison on the Island? The answers to these questions and many more can be found on this relaxing informational ride. This six-mile ride will be held on Saturday, June 1<sup>st</sup> from 2:00-4:00 pm. Historic points of interest include Colonel Davenport's Home, the old Moline Lock, Arsenal Quarters #1, the Confederate Cemetery, and many more. The tour will begin and end at the Mississippi River Visitor Center, located on the western end of Arsenal Island at Locks and Dam #15. This tour is free of charge and is limited to 15 bicyclists. Advance registration is required. Helmets are mandatory. Training wheels are not allowed. 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 tour, please contact the Visitor's Center at (309) 794-5338.

## Muscatine Ranger Station News

### 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 May and June include the following:

- Saturday, May 25, 2013, 6:00 PM, Fairport Fish Hatchery, 3390 Highway 22, Muscatine, IA, meet Ken Snyder from the Department of Natural Resources fish hatchery to learn how a fish hatchery works and tour the facility.



- Saturday, June 1, 2013, 7:00 PM, Shady Creek Campground, Kendall Davis will present information on how a boomerang works and demonstrated the flight of several different types of boomerangs.
- Saturday, June 8, 2013, 7:00 PM, Clark's Ferry Campground, perfect the art of knot tying with Bob Burchett.
- Saturday, June 15, 2013, 7:00 PM, Shady Creek Campground - A program on Fishing the Mighty Mississippi will be presented by area angler Don Swensson. He keeps fishing simple by explaining where to go, what bait to use and most importantly what to catch.
- Saturday, June 22, 2013, 7:00 PM, Clark's Ferry Campground - Don Swensson travels upriver to pass on his years of experience and knowledge on how to fish the mighty Mississippi.
- Saturday, June 29, 2013, 7:00 PM, Shady Creek Campground, perfect the art of knot tying with Bob Burchett.

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, drinking water, 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 Memorial Day weekend tour will be held on Saturday, May 25, 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.



## NATURE BACKPACKS IN CORPS PARKS



The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Mississippi River Project has created a Nature Backpack Program in an effort to provide an opportunity to encourage children to learn more about the natural world.

The nature backpacks contain many different indoor and outdoor activities to engage children. Some fun outdoor activities include a nature scavenger hunt, bug and bird watching, and how to make a whistle from just a blade of grass. Did you know you can tell the temperature by listening to a cricket? The backpack includes many different tools to entice young nature lovers to explore their surroundings including binoculars, a nature book, bug boxes, and a

magnifying glass. The nature backpack also includes fun indoor activities such as coloring and drawing pages, word finds, crossword puzzles, and amazing facts. Did you know an earthworm has five hearts? Or pileated woodpeckers hammer their heads into a tree up to 20 times a second?

Backpacks will be available at the fee booths in the following Class "A" parks: Grant River, Blanding Landing, Thomson Causeway, Fisherman's Corner, Clark's Ferry, and Shady Creek. The backpacks will also be available for nature adventures at The Mississippi River Project Office, The Visitor Center on Arsenal Island, and at the Quincy Ranger Station. Anyone interested will be able to check out on loan a backpack for the day. For more information on how to check out a backpack, contact one of the following Mississippi River Project' offices:

Dubuque Ranger Office: 563-582-0881

Thomson Ranger Office: 815-259-3628

Mississippi River Project Office: 309-794-4526

Mississippi River Visitor Center: 309-794-5338

Muscatine Ranger Office: 563-263-7913

Quincy Ranger Office: 217-228-0890

## VOLUNTEER NEEDED AT CORPS OF ENGINEERS PARK



The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mississippi River Project is looking for a fulltime Volunteer Campground Host at Blanchard Island Recreation Area. The Volunteer Campground Host position runs from May 15, 2013 through October 15, 2013. The campground host is responsible for the daily tasks of greeting park visitors, informing campers of self-registration procedures, cleaning the restrooms daily, cleaning out fire rings weekly, and informing the park

rangers of maintenance needs. Volunteers will not collect nor handle money. Hosts will provide 40 hours of volunteer service per week and may serve for the entire recreation season or for any portion of the season. The volunteer selected for this position is provided a campsite with water and electric. A dump station is located in the park for use by the volunteer. Blanchard Island Recreation Area is located along the Illinois side of the Mississippi River just south of Muscatine, Iowa. If you are interested in volunteering or have any questions, please contact the Mississippi River Project's Muscatine Park Rangers by calling (563) 263-7913 or by emailing [mvrodmn16@usace.army.mil](mailto:mvrodmn16@usace.army.mil).

**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>