



# Mississippi River Project



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®

## Spring is just around the corner!

The spring season will be here before we know it and recreation areas along the river will be opening soon. The majority of our campgrounds are scheduled to open in just over one month! Our Class A campgrounds are currently accepting reservations. Campsite reservations can be made up to 180 days in advance by going to [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov) or by calling National Recreation Reservation Service at 1-877-444-6777. Check out our website at [www.missriver.org](http://www.missriver.org) for the most up to date information on campground openings and flood closure information.



## Dubuque Ranger Station News



### EARTH DAY EVENT AT GRANT RIVER

**Date:** Saturday, April 21, 2012

**Time:** TBA

**Location:** Grant River Recreation Area

**Cost:** Free

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. 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 by calling (563) 582-0881.

## Thomson Ranger Station News

### WOOD DUCK NESTING BOX CLEANING – MARCH 10TH

Boy Scouts of America Troop 642 of Clinton, IA, will be conducting the Annual Wood Duck Nesting Box Cleanout on March 10, 2012, at Thomson Causeway Recreation Area. For over the past 20 years Troop 642 has been monitoring the program that has installed, maintained and inventoried over 25 nesting boxes in the recreation area. As the boy scouts inventory the box they look for evidence the nests have been used. Signs that a wood duck has used it for nesting include egg shells, membranes, feather and occasionally dead hatchlings. It is not uncommon to find the nest has been used by competitors, such as squirrels, raccoons and other birds. Through this project, over 500 successful hatches have been recorded at the Thomson Causeway Recreation Area.

Waterfowl USA, Mississippi Flyway Chapter has partnered in this effort to promote Wood Duck habitat conservation. The Mississippi Flyway Chapter has donated 25 wood duck nesting boxes for Troop 642 to replace existing worn structures. Through this donation, Troop 642 hopes to see an increase in successful hatches throughout Thomson Causeway Recreation Area.

### PREPARATION FOR EARTH DAY ACTIVITIES

The Thomson Ranger Office is beginning preparation for the Annual Earth Day Event held at the Thomson Causeway Recreation Area. Earth Day activities include debris pickup throughout the recreation area, trail maintenance, and other various tasks. This event is a great opportunity for a scout group or other service group. If you or your group is interested in volunteering, please contact the Thomson Ranger Office at (815) 259-3628 for registration.

## Mississippi River Visitor Center News

### FREE BOAT 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 Saturdays: March 17th, March 31st, 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 at Locks and Dam 14 in Pleasant Valley, Iowa. **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



### SHADY CREEK VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

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.

### BLANCHARD ISLAND VOLUNTEER CAMPGROUND HOST NEEDED

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Mississippi River Project announces that it is looking for a Fulltime Volunteer Campground Host to work at Blanchard Island Recreation Area from May 15, 2012 to October 15, 2012. Blanchard Island Recreation Area is located along the Mississippi River just south of Muscatine, Iowa. . 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 provide an average of 21 hours of volunteer service per week and may serve for the entire recreation season. The volunteer selected for this position is provided a campsite with water, electric, and a dump station in the park.

If you are interested in either of these positions 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.

## Quincy Ranger Station News

### 31<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL MISSISSIPPI RIVER PROJECT FORESTRY COORDINATION MEETINGS

This marks the 31st year that the Mississippi River Project has met with our managing agencies partners regarding forest management on project lands. Participants included the Fish and Wildlife Service, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Missouri Department of Conservation, and Iowa Department of Natural Resources and all three Upper Mississippi River Corps districts at our annual Forestry Coordination Meetings in February. Approximately 85 percent of the federal lands designated to the Corps of Engineers for the 9-foot Channel Project (the system of locks and dams) are part of and managed by several national wildlife refuges and state wildlife management areas through cooperative lease agreements. The Corps works cooperatively with the agencies to manage the forested resource with wildlife habitat and forest sustainability being the primary goals. Mississippi River Project lands, in the Rock Island District, total over 54,000 acres of mainly forested shoreline and islands that stretch over 314 river miles. This constitutes a significant portion of habitat along the Mississippi flyway which is used by eagles, waterfowl, songbirds, shorebirds, and many other migratory and resident species as well as many state and federally listed species.

### MISSISSIPPI RIVER PROJECT EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

#### April Nitz – Visitor Center Student Aide

I started working at the Mississippi River Visitor Center in August 2011 as a student aide. I have lived in the QC area my entire life and had only been to the Visitor Center once on an elementary field trip. Working at the VC has given me the opportunity to gain much knowledge about the Mississippi River and the importance of the Lock and Dam system. I really enjoy working with the all of the staff.

I am also a full-time student at WIU-QC in Moline. I will receive my Bachelors degree in Business Management with a minor in Human Resource Management in May. Keeping busy is what I'm best at.

When I'm not at work or school I enjoy spending time with my family. I have been married now for almost three years and have a beautiful seven year old little girl, Emma. We have two English Bulldogs; Fendi 4, Harley 3, and a rabbit named Roo. We stay involved in multiple extra-curricular activities and love to travel!!!



## News from Around the Project

### RECREATION AREAS OPENING APRIL 13<sup>TH</sup> FOR 2012 SEASON

#### ***GRANT RIVER RECREATION AREA***

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.

#### ***THOMSON CAUSEWAY RECREATION AREA***

Thomson Causeway Recreation Area located just outside of Thomson, IL. Facilities at the park include 126 campsites with electrical hookups, 5 tent sites, two newly renovated shower buildings, one brand new shower building near the River Birch Camping Area, boat ramp, group picnic shelters, playground, amphitheater, on site camp host, and law enforcement patrol.



#### ***FISHERMAN'S CORNER RECREATION AREA***

Fisherman's Corner Recreation Area located on the banks of the Mississippi River just above Locks and Dam 14 in Hampton, IL. Facilities at the park include 51 campsites with electrical hookups, 5 tent sites, shower building with flush toilets, playground, amphitheater, on site camp host, and law enforcement patrol.

#### ***CLARK'S FERRY RECREATION AREA***

Clark's Ferry Recreation Area is located a short distance from the Quad Cities off Hwy 22 near Montpelier, IA. Facilities at the park include 45 campsites with electrical hookups, shower building with flush toilets, playground, boat ramp with courtesy dock, group picnic shelter, amphitheater, on site camp host, and law enforcement patrol.

## RESERVING A PICNIC SHELTER

Do you have a special event planned this summer? Then you might be interested in reserving a shelter at one of our Corps of Engineers recreation areas. The shelters at many of our areas are equipped with electricity, lights, and most have grills. They are perfect for birthday parties, family reunions, or other special occasions. The cost to reserve these sites is only \$25.00. To reserve a shelter you will need to contact the ranger station in charge of the recreation area. The table below shows a list of available shelters, their amenities, and the contact information for reservations.



**Picnic Shelters Available for Reservation**

	Picnic Tables	Fireplace	Lights	Outlets	Grill	Water	Restrooms Nearby	Playground Nearby	Contact for reservations
Grant River	X		X	X	X		X	X	563-582-0881
Blanding Landing	X			X	X		X	X	563-582-0881
Thomson Causeway	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	815-259-3628
Thomson Causeway (Stone shelter)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	815-259-3628
Lock & Dam 14	X		X	X	X	X	X		309-794-4524
Andalusia Slough	X		X	X	X	X	X		563-263-7913
Clark's Ferry	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	563-263-7913
Shady Creek	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	563-263-7913

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>