



# Mississippi River Project



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®

## Marching into Spring!

Throughout the Mississippi River Project there is snow upon the ground but the smell of spring is in the air. Many of the migratory birds are working their way back up the river valley and before we know it spring flowers will be in full bloom. In just over a month many of our campgrounds along the river will also be opening and we look forward to welcoming visitors back for the season. Campsite reservations can be made up to 180 days in advance by going to [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov) or by calling the 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.



Recreation.gov  
EXPLORE YOUR AMERICA

## THE YEAR OF CYCLING



The Year of Cycling 2013 is a series of events along the Mississippi River Trail for cyclists of all ages and experience levels. Events will be hosted by a variety of agencies from Lake Itasca to New Orleans. Browse the event calendar to find a cycling event that fits your style and join us in America's Great Outdoors in 2013.

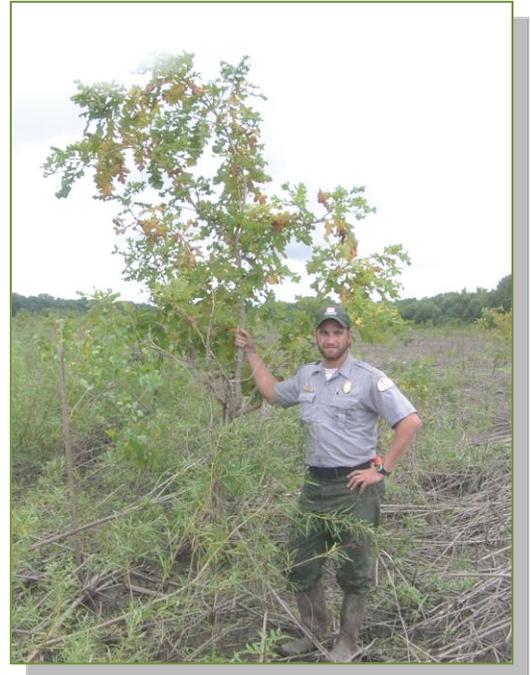
The Year of Cycling 2013 is an outcome of the Mississippi River Connections Collaborative (MRCC). The MRCC partners (Federal and State agencies working with non-governmental organizations) are striving to provide Americans and visitors from around the world with opportunities to experience the Mississippi River through recreational and stewardship programs. Together we can preserve the corridor; a corridor rich in history, culture, lore and recreational opportunities. Check out <http://www.mississippirivertrail.org/YOC2013/> for more information and a list of upcoming events.

## SPRING FEVER AT THE QCCA OUTDOOR AND RV CAMPING SHOWS

The Quad Cities Outdoor Hunting, Fishing and RV Shows were a success the last two weekends of February! The Hunting and Fishing Show ran from February 13<sup>th</sup> through the 17<sup>th</sup> and the RV Show from February 22<sup>nd</sup> through the 24<sup>th</sup>. There were many vendors at the QCCA Expo Center displaying various items, from simple fishing lures to boats and everything in between. Various agencies including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers staffed at booths throughout the Expo Center giving guidance and knowledge while promoting the Mississippi River Project, as well as water safety. Attendance for both shows was at record levels, surpassing last year's numbers by a large margin.

## 32ND ANNUAL MISSISSIPPI RIVER PROJECT FORESTRY COORDINATION MEETINGS

This marks the 32<sup>nd</sup> 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 and March. 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.



## Dubuque Ranger Station News



### **EARTH DAY EVENT AT GRANT RIVER**

**Date:** Saturday, April 27, 2013

**Time:** TBA

**Location:** Grant River Recreation Area

**Cost:** Free

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 27, 2013. 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 the Dubuque Park Rangers by calling (563) 582-0881.

## Thomson Ranger Station News

### BULGER'S HOLLOW VOLUNTEER HOST OPPORTUNITY

The Thomson Ranger Office is looking for a Volunteer Host at Bulger's Hollow Recreation Area, located five miles North of Clinton, Iowa off Highway 67. This recreation area is nestled along the banks of the Mississippi, and hosts 26 campsites, a public boat launch, playground equipment and shelter/pavilion. As the volunteer host you will be responsible providing visitor assistance, maintaining two sets of toilets, keeping the campground free of liter. All volunteers must have a self contained camping unit in good condition and will be parked on the designated volunteer site. Electric and water is provided along with an onsite dump station. If you are interested in volunteering contact the Thomson Ranger Office for more information (815)25-3628.

### THOMSON CAUSEWAY WOOD DUCK NESTING BOX CLEANOUT – MARCH 23



For over 20 years Boy Scouts of America Troop 642 has been collecting data on wood duck nesting at the Thomson Causeway Recreation Area. Every spring Troop 642 inventories over 25 nesting boxes set up throughout the area. They clean the box and determine if it was used as a nesting box or if it was inhabited by a competitor. Signs that wood ducks have nested include: egg shells, membranes, feathers and occasionally dead hatchlings. Unfortunately it is not uncommon to find the nest has been used by competitors, such as squirrels, raccoons and other birds. The annual cleanings are important in order to keep the ducks coming back to the same nesting boxes.

Over the past three years Waterfowl USA, Mississippi Flyway Chapter, has joined the effort to promote the wood duck conservation efforts by the donating new nesting boxes. These donations have enabled BSA Troop 642 to replace damaged and missing boxes in the area. The improved nesting habitat has paid off as the number of successful hatches recorded has been increasing, as well as, populations of wood ducks in the area.

If you would like more information regarding the wood duck nesting program at the Thomson Causeway Recreation Area contact the Thomson Ranger Office at (815)259-3628.



## Mississippi River Visitor Center News



### FREE BOAT SAFETY CLASSES OFFERED IN THE QUAD CITY AREA.

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 16th, March 30th, April 13th, April 27th, and May 11th, 2013. 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

### 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 20, 2013 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 15, 2013. Please contact the Muscatine Park Rangers by calling (563) 263-7913, by email at [mvrodmn16@usace.army.mil](mailto:mvrodmn16@usace.army.mil) by mail at 810 Main St., Muscatine, Iowa 52761, or visit our website: [www.missriver.org](http://www.missriver.org).

## Quincy Ranger Station News

### FREE BOAT SAFETY CLASSES OFFERED IN THE QUINCY AREA.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Mississippi River Project announces they will be offering four different opportunities to attend a free boating safety education class. The classes will be held on the following dates:

April 27<sup>th</sup> – Twin Oaks Club - 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

May 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> – Quincy Boat Club – Both nights 6:00 PM – 10:00 PM

June 8<sup>th</sup> - Quincy Boat Club – 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

July 13<sup>th</sup> – Quincy Boat Club – 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Only one 8 hour 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. Pre-registration is required, space is limited, and the classes fill quickly. To register, contact the Quincy Ranger Office at (217) 228-0890.



### FREE COURTESY VESSEL SAFETY INSPECTIONS

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Mississippi River Project invites you receive a free courtesy vessel safety inspection. These inspections will take place on the following dates:

May 11 – Hannibal, MO - Treasure Chest

May 18 – LaGrange, MO – Mineral Well Park

May 25 – Quincy, IL – Kessler Park

Inspections will be offered from 10:00 AM till 3:00 PM and vessels passing the inspection will receive a 2013 US Coast Guard Auxiliary inspection sticker. No citations will be issued the day of the inspections. For more information contact the Quincy Ranger Office 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,**

**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>