



Mississippi River Project



US Army Corps of Engineers[®]

Fall on the Mississippi

As the days get shorter and the nights get cooler sitting around a campfire can be a great way to enjoy the outdoors before the snow begins to fly. Camping along the river is beautiful this time of year with the trees changing colors and many species of birds making their way down the migratory flyway headed for warmer weather. Many of our campgrounds will be staying open this fall until October 27th so you still have time to get out and enjoy the sights and sounds along the Mississippi River.



UPCOMING EAGLE WATCHING EVENTS

It is hard to believe that it will be 2014 in just a few months but with the New Year comes Eagle watching season here on the Upper Mississippi River. Here is a listing of 2014 events to put on your calendar. More specific information about each of these events will be included in later newsletters to keep you updated. You can also check out our website at www.missriver.org for current information.

<p>Dubuque Bald Eagle Watch Saturday - January 18</p>	<p>Clinton Bald Eagle Watch Saturday - January 4</p>	<p>Quad City Bald Eagle Days Fri. Sat. Sun. - January 10-12</p>
<p>Muscatine Bald Eagle Watch Saturday - January 25</p>	<p>Keokuk Bald Eagle Days Sat. & Sun. - January 18-19</p>	<p>Quincy Bald Eagle Watch Sat. & Sun. - January 25-26</p>
	<p>Mississippi River Visitor Center Eagle Watch & Clock Tower Tours Jan. 4, 5, 25, & 26 Feb. 1, 2, 8, & 9</p>	

MISSISSIPPI RIVER PROJECT HOSTED SOY INDUSTRY AT LOCKS & DAM 14

On Wednesday Sept 18th, staff from the Mississippi River Project hosted over 300 visitors to Locks & Dam 14 as part of the first ever U.S. Soy Global Trade Exchange held in the Quad Cities last month. The attendees at this event came from many different countries to discuss the buying and selling of soybeans throughout the world. The visit to the locks and dam gave them all a chance to see the primary way crops are transported here in the United States and to see the efficiency of moving products on the water.



Dubuque Ranger Station News

NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY AT BLANDING LANDING CAMPGROUND



National Public Lands Day (NPLD) is the largest single-day volunteer effort for public lands in the United States. This year on Sept. 29th the rangers hosted an NPLD event at Blanding Landing Campground where volunteers came out to improve the lands and facilities that Americans use for recreation, education, and exercise. The goal for the day was to construct four new horseshoe pits at the park. The local Boy Scouts of America, Troop 33 located in Elizabeth, IL did a great job in helping out with the event. During the day volunteers helped to construct forms for the pits, dig out the pits, place concreted stakes in place, attach the backstops, and lastly add the sand to fill the pits. All in all the

day was a success and the boys with the scout troop intend to continue to work with the rangers in the future for more upcoming projects.

RECREATION AREAS DURING THE WINTER SEASON

Although many of the campgrounds along the Mississippi River close down during the winter due to weather and accessibility issues, there are some that remain open with limited services for campers wishing to rough it in the off season. Running water and electrical service will be turned off at Grant River and Blanding Landing recreation areas this year on October 27th. Visitors are still welcome to use the campsites at these areas at no charge during the off season. Pleasant Creek will stop collecting camping fees on October 15th. The boat ramps at all three of these recreation areas remain available and day use fees will be charged through November 30th.

RECREATION AREA IMPROVEMENTS

If you have visited any of the recreation areas near Bellevue, IA or Hanover, IL in the past few months, you might have noticed some work being done to spruce up the facilities. At Pleasant Creek Recreation Area located 3 miles south of Bellevue, IA high water affected the campground for much of the spring and early summer. By midsummer the park was cleaned up and the maintenance



crew was able to get in and install a new handicap accessible sidewalk to the restroom facilities. On the other side of the river at Blanding Landing Recreation Area located just outside of Hanover, IL the maintenance crew was able to get a new boat dock installed just in time for fall hunting and fishing.



Thomson Ranger Station News

THOMSON CAUSEWAY TRICK-OR-TREAT IN THE PARK – OCTOBER 19

Bring the family for a night of fun and trick-or-treating to the annual Trick or Treat in the Park held at the Thomson Causeway Recreation Area. This year the event is scheduled for Saturday, October 19 from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. One night a year ghouls and goblins take over the campground as they travel from campsite to campsite collecting candy. Campers decorate their campsites to earn the best decorated site in the campground. There is no charge for this program, and both campers and non-campers are invited to attend. If you are interested in participating in this year's event make sure you are in the park prior to 3:30 p.m. as the campground will be closed to traffic during the event.



RECREATION AREAS DURING THE WINTER SEASON

Thomson Causeway and Fisherman's Corner will close for the season on October 27th. The Thomson Causeway will remain open for use in a primitive status during the off season. No water or electricity is available during this time. Bulger's Hollow will stop collecting camping fees on October 15th. The boat ramps at Big Slough, Cattail Slough, Thomson Causeway and Lock & Dam 13 continue to be accessible and day use fees will be collected through November 30th.

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 for 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, October 12th from 9:30-11:30 AM and again on Saturday October 19th from 12:00 – 2:00 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. The tours are free of charge and are limited to 15 bicyclists each day. Advance registration is required. Helmets are mandatory. Training wheels are not allowed. An adult must accompany children under 12 years of age.

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

HISTORIC CLOCK TOWER TOUR

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 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 River.

Visitors are invited to join this tour on Saturday, October 19th from 10:00 – 11:30 AM. 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 western end of Arsenal Island at Locks and Dam #15. This program is free of charge and everyone is invited to attend. Advanced registration is required. An adult must accompany children under 12 years of age.

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



Muscatine Ranger Station News

RECREATION AREAS DURING THE WINTER SEASON

Clark's Ferry will close for the season on October 14th and Shady Creek will close on October 28th. Shady Creek will remain open for use in a primitive status during the off season. No water or electricity is available during this time. Blanchard Island and Andalusia Slough will stop collecting camping fees on October 15th. The boat ramps at Clarks Ferry and Shady Creek continue to be accessible and day use fees will be collected through November 30th.

Quincy Ranger Station News

RACING ON THE WATER

The Quincy 5 miler was another successful event for the Quincy Rangers. There were roughly 70 participants this year in the race and a good time was had by all. This race is for the recreational paddler who enjoys light competition with a scenic float. The Bear creek grunt was incorporated into this year's event, which is targeted toward the more serious paddler. Both events were successful and we hope to continue the races for years to come.



With fall approaching, the usual influx of hunters will be using our public lands to harvest deer, duck, and the occasional squirrel. This is usually a busy time for the Quincy Rangers and will continue to be until the end of seasons. If anyone has questions regarding hunting public lands on/ along the river, give the Quincy rangers a call 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

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