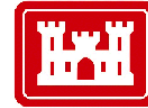




Mississippi River Project



US Army Corps
of Engineers®

News from Around the Project

THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER PROJECT AND THE ROCK ISLAND DISTRICT HOSTS AN AMERICA'S GREAT OUTDOORS EVENT

On September 28, 2011 an America's Great Outdoors (AGO) event was held at the Mississippi River Visitor Center to get local students outdoors and involved in a variety of hands on educational opportunities. The America's Great Outdoors Initiative was implemented by President Obama in 2010 to reinvigorate our approach to conservation and reconnect Americans, especially young people, with the lands and waters that are used for farming, ranching, hunting, and fishing, and for families to spend quality time together. Fourth grade students from Denkmann Elementary School in Rock Island, IL participated in this daylong event where they learned about a variety of outdoor subjects



including, water safety, insects, wetlands, fish, camping, and orienteering. These subjects were presented by a number of organizations including the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Nahant Marsh Education Center, and Corps of Engineers. Also attending this event was the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), Jo-Ellen Darci and the Rock Island District Commander Col. McGinley. The goal of the event was to have students not only walk away with an experience outside of the normal classroom environment but also to take something home they could continue to learn and grow with. To accomplish this goal, outdoor exploration backpacks were created to provide the students with a number of tools used in discovering the world around them. These backpacks were provided through donations from local businesses and organizations such as the Quad City Conservation Alliance,

Wal-Mart, and the Quad City Convention and Visitors Bureau. Included in these backpacks were items like observation containers, binoculars, field guides, and compasses to help the students learn more about their surroundings.

The overall event was a huge success and everyone involved had a great day getting kids involved and excited about America's great outdoors. A big thank you goes out to all that helped to make this event possible it would not have been possible without the support from everyone involved.



Dubuque Ranger Station News

NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY AT GRANT RIVER RECREATION AREA

This year Saturday, September 24th was declared National Public Lands Day (NPLD) and is the largest single-day volunteer effort for public lands in the United States. Volunteers in every state will visit their favorite parks, beaches, wildlife preserves, or forests and chip in to help improve these treasured places that belong to all Americans. They will improve and restore the lands and facilities that Americans use for recreation, education, exercise and just plain enjoyment. This year a troop of Cub Scouts from Potosi, WI volunteered to build new horseshoe pits at our Grant River Recreation Area.



Grant River Recreation Area is located just south of Potosi, WI and features a camping area with both tent and RV camping sites including electrical hook ups and shower and restroom facilities nearby. There are two playground areas and reservable picnic shelters that offer a great view of the Mississippi River. Fishing and hunting are also popular activities in this area. The Grant River Recreation Area offers a boat ramp for river access for a minimal \$3.00 daily fee.

ANNUAL BALD EAGLE DAYS IN DUBUQUE SCHEDULED SATURDAY, JANUARY 21

- Outdoor viewing at Lock and Dam #11 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM
- Live Eagle & Bird of Prey Programs will be presented by the University of Minnesota Raptor Center at 9:30 AM, 12:15 PM, & 3:00 PM.
- Bobcat and Lynx presentations by the Pella Wildlife Company will be 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 will be offered from the 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

THOMSON CAUSEWAY RE-OPENING A SUCCESS

On September 1st, the Thomson Causeway was re-opened to the public for the first time in 11 months. It was quite a site by 7:30 AM as over 50 camping units lined Lewis Avenue filled with anxious campers who were excited to be the first to see the facilities upgrades and claim all first come first serve sites available. All the reservable campsites in the campground had been spoken for weeks in advance and the park was completely full by early morning. Throughout the weekend the Thomson Rangers heard many positive remarks regarding the facilities upgrades and work completed in the park.



HALLOWEEN TRICK-OR-TREAT IN THE PARK – OCTOBER 15

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Mississippi River Project will be hosting the annual Trick-or-Treat in the park on Saturday, October 15th from 4:00-6:00 PM at the Thomson Causeway Recreation Area. Trick-or-Treat in the Park is a fun fall program started several years ago by campers and continues to grow in popularity.



There are a few guidelines that visitors are asked to follow:

- Children age 12 and under are to be accompanied by an adult.
- Trick-or-Treaters should only visit sites displaying trick-or-treat signs.
- To ensure visitor safety, traffic will be restricted throughout the camping loops during the event.

Thomson Causeway is located on the west side of Thomson, Illinois on Lewis Avenue off Main Street. There is no charge for this program, and both campers and non-campers are welcome to attend. For more information, contact a ranger at the Thomson Ranger Office at 815-259-3628.

CLINTON EAGLE WATCH SCHEDULED

SATURDAY, JANUARY 7

- Outdoor viewing at Lock & Dam #13 in Fulton, IL, 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM
- Live Bird and Nature Programs: Clinton Community College from 9:30 AM - 2:00 PM
- Exhibits: Clinton Community College from 9:00 AM - 2:30 PM
- Free bus service from college to the outdoor viewing area.
- For more information call: 815-259-3628.

Mississippi River Visitor Center News

NATURE WALK SERIES-FALL COLORS – OCTOBER 9TH

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 on a Nature Walk along the lock to look at the changing colors of fall. During this program guests will learn about why the leaves change and other signs of the season. This program will be held on Sunday, October 9th at 10:00am. The program will be approximately 1 hour 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 recommended. For more information, or to sign up for the program, please contact the Visitor Center at 309-794-5338.

MEMORIAL BENCHES INSTALLED



The Mississippi River Project maintenance crew recently installed three memorial benches at the Mississippi River Visitor Center for people to sit and enjoy the view of the river. Two of the benches had been previously installed and the third bench was recently purchased by May Sweatt in memorial of her late husband, Lowell Sweatt. The maintenance crew removed the two original benches then poured and stamped new concrete pads for the benches to sit on. Once completed all three benches were permanently affixed to the concrete pads.

BICYCLE TOUR OF HISTORIC ARSENAL ISLAND - OCTOBER 15TH & 23RD

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. There will be two opportunities to take this tour during the month of October. This six-mile ride will be held on Saturday, October 15th as well as Sunday, October 23rd from 1:00 – 3:00 PM. The tour will begin and end at the Mississippi River Visitor's 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 and an adult must accompany children under 12 years of age. For more information, or to sign up for the tour, please contact the Visitor's Center at 309-794-5338.



HISTORIC CLOCK TOWER TOUR – OCTOBER 16TH & 22ND

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 either Sunday, October 16th or Saturday, October 22nd from 2:00 – 3:30 PM. The tours last approximately 1½ hours and will 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 recommended. 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

NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY AT SHADY CREEK RECREATION AREA

National Public Lands Day is an opportunity for the community to improve their local public lands. This year's volunteer event in the Muscatine areas was held on September 24th at Shady Creek Recreation Area.



Students from Wapello, Louisa Muscatine, Muscatine, and Wilton High Schools all took time out of their day to improve their local public lands. There were 12 total volunteers working to improve the walking trail at Shady Creek Recreation Area. They hauled branches from the trail and trimmed the park entrance bushes and placed wood chips in planters. The weather was absolutely beautiful during the event. All the volunteers did what was asked of them with enthusiasm and a great attitude.

To show our appreciation, we provided the volunteers with pizza donated by Pizza Hut and Happy Joes.

A big thank you goes out to the students, group leaders, and ranger staff for encouraging volunteerism on this National Public Lands Day! Volunteering teaches us great life lessons and encourages cooperative efforts towards a common goal in a positive way. We truly appreciate the time and effort of all involved!



EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT COMPLETED AT CLARK'S FERRY RECREATION AREA

On August 27th, 2011, Boy Scout Kristopher Burney, from Blue Grass, IA successfully completed an Eagle Scout project at Clark's Ferry Recreation Area. After months of preparation, planning, meeting, and organizing, Kristopher was able to recruit scout and parent volunteers to give the Clark's Ferry campground a bush planting makeover. All the bush plantings were trimmed, wood chips were put down, and new bushes were planted. Landscape material was also put in place to reduce the weeds in the planters. Two bat houses were also built and erected in the park. Kristopher and his volunteers were able to complete the work in 5 hours.

A big thank you goes out to Eagle Scout Kristopher Burney and his volunteers for improving the bush plantings at Clark's Ferry Recreation Area. The project was well thought out and organized.

If you are interested in doing a volunteer project with the Mississippi River Project, please feel free to contact us at 563-263-7913.

MUSCATINE EAGLE WATCH SCHEDULED

The Muscatine Eagle Watch date has been set for January 28th, 2012 from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the Pearl City Station in Riverfront Park in downtown Muscatine.

- Outdoor viewing from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the Riverview Center in Riverside Park
- Live Eagle programs at 9:30 & 11:00 AM Riverview Center
- Environmental Exhibits inside the Riverview Center
- For more information call: 563-263-7913.



Quincy Ranger Station News

The first of October marks the opening of the Illinois Whitetail season. Quincy is located in Adams County, which is notorious for producing big deer. Quincy recreation areas like Canton Chute and Bear Creek will get much use this upcoming winter by folks all over the state in hopes of harvesting "Bullwinkle." These areas will also see much use from the duck hunters as they make the finishing touches to their duck blinds and get ready for the upcoming waterfowl season.

QUINCY AND KEOKUK EAGLE WATCHES SCHEDULED

Quincy Rangers have set their Eagle watch for January 28th, 2012. This will be the second year the Rangers will team up with the Quincy Tourism Board to promote the Eagle watch as well as other activities going on that day/weekend. The Eagle watch will be located just south of Lock and Dam #21 in the boat ramp parking lot and there will be spotting scopes and rangers on hand to assist the public with questions and needs. The dates for the Keokuk Bald Eagle days with the Quincy Rangers also assist with will be January 15th and 16th, 2012. More information will soon emerge. For more information on any of these events, please contact the Quincy Rangers 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,

Park Ranger Staff

P.O. Box 2004 Rock Island, Illinois 61204-2004

(309) 794-5338 E-mail - mvrodmn15@usace.army.mil Website - <http://www.missriver.org>