



Mississippi River Project



US Army Corps
of Engineers®

Summer Heat Arrives for Holiday Weekend

Earlier this year high water and cool temperatures kept many people from enjoying the river for much of the spring and summer season. The upcoming Labor Day holiday is predicted to be sunny and warm which is great for those looking to get out and enjoy the water. The US Army Corps of Engineers, Mississippi River Project would like to stress the importance of safety for all who look to recreate on the water this holiday weekend.

Prevent accidents and fatalities by reviewing the following safety tips:

- Designate an operator. Do not drink and operate a boat.
- Wear a life jacket. Children under 13 are required by law to wear a life jacket but it's recommended for everyone.
- Don't overload a boat with people or equipment. Check on the capacity plate for the maximum weight or the maximum number of people the boat can safely carry.
- Check to make sure your equipment is running properly and you have all the required safety equipment on board.
- Use navigation charts to safely get around on the river. You can download them for free from our website. Visit www.missriver.org and select *Navigation Charts* from the *Most Requested Links* box.



LOCKING THROUGH IN A CANOE!



August 17th 2013 marked the 4th annual FLOATZILLA event on the Mississippi River in the Quad City area. Approximately 1600 paddlers gathered on the Mississippi River to participate in the large float. This year nearly 500 of these paddlers made it safely through the lock at Locks and Dam 15 in Rock Island, IL. The rangers who assisted with the event focused on safety by reminding everyone about wearing life jackets and the importance of staying away from the hazards in the river like dams and lateral walls. Paddlers ended their trip by gathering in a large flotilla for an attempt at a world record.

Dubuque Ranger Station News

UPCOMING PROGRAM AT BLANDING LANDING CAMPGROUND:

- **Sunday, September 1st at 7:00 PM** – Berry Williams Wood Whittling

This program is offered free of charge to anyone who is interested in attending. You do not need to be staying at the campground to attend. Blanding Landing Campground is located 13 miles south of Galena, IL off Blackjack Road. The campground offers 37 campsites, electrical hookups, shower and restroom facilities, drinking water, a dump station, and playground. For more information on the programs and their scheduled times, please contact the Dubuque Park Rangers by e-mail at mvrodmn11@usace.army.mil or by phone at (563) 582-0881.



NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY EVENT SCHEDULED

This year marks the 20th anniversary of National Public Lands Day (NPLD) which is the nation's largest, single-day volunteer effort for public lands. In 2012, about 175,000 volunteers worked at 2,206 sites in every state, the District of Columbia and in many U.S. territories. 2012 was the biggest NPLD in the history of the event.

NPLD volunteers:



- Collected an estimated 23,000 pounds of invasive plants
- Built and maintained an estimated 1,500 miles of trails
- Planted an estimated 100,000 trees, shrubs and other native plants
- Removed an estimated 500 tons of trash from trails and other places
- Contributed an estimated \$18 million through volunteer services to improve public lands across the country

This year you can be part of National Public Lands Day by helping out at Blanding Landing Recreation area on Saturday, September 28th from 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM. Volunteers are needed to help with construction and installation of new horseshoe pits at the campground. For more information contact the Dubuque Rangers at 563-582-0881.

Thomson Ranger Station News

22ND ANNUAL MISSISSIPPI RIVER PHOTO CONTEST OPEN HOUSE

Amateur and enthusiast photographers have been busy this season capturing the perfect image to submit for the 22nd annually Mississippi River Photo Contest. Each year participants submit photos in three categories: Landscape, Recreation, and Wildlife. Once the photo submission deadline pasts, local photographer Bill Delp serves as the contest judge and awards photos First, Second and Third Place for each category. On Sunday September 1st, come and join the photographers at a open house from 2:00 - 3:00 PM. All the photos that are submitted will be on display for viewing at the Stone Shelter in the Thomson Causeway. For more information contact the Thomson Ranger Office at (815)259-3628.



THOMSON CAUSEWAY CRAFT SHOW – SEPTEMBER 7



to register as a crafter, contact the Thomson Ranger Office at (815)259-3628.

The Mississippi River Project is hosting the Annual Camper Craft Show at Thomson Causeway Recreation Area on Saturday, September 7 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The Camper Craft Show is an event designed to inspire conservation of public lands through the creation of handmade goods and crafts from natural materials. Crafters interested in setting up a display must register with the Thomson Ranger Office by Friday, September 7. If you are interested in more information, or

Mississippi River Visitor Center News

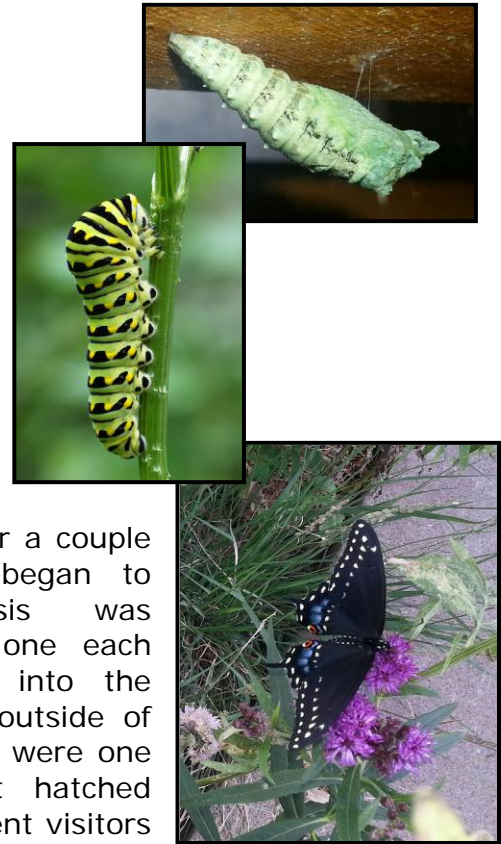
BUTTERFLIES HATCHED AND RELEASED

Recently the staff at the Mississippi River Visitor Center collected nine black swallowtail (*Papilio polyxenes*) caterpillars. These small green caterpillars were housed in a special enclosure inside the Visitor Center and feed fresh dill and carrot tops until all nine had transformed into their chrysalis stage. These caterpillars/butterflies are common species in the



Midwest and can easily be found living feeding on plants in your garden. They form their chrysalis on any solid surface including branches and twigs. After a couple weeks the butterflies began to emerge. Metamorphosis was complete and one by one each butterfly was released into the native prairie plantings outside of the Visitor Center. There were one or two butterflies that hatched each day so many different visitors

got to participate in the releasing of each new hatchling. The wide open space along the river with native vegetation is the perfect spot for these butterflies to be released into the wild.



Muscatine Ranger Station News

LAST SCHEDULED TOUR OF LOCK AND DAM #16 FOR THE SEASON

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Mississippi River Project invites the public to enjoy a tour of Lock and Dam #16 on September 1, 2013 at 2:00 PM, weather permitting. 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 or by phone at (563) 263-7913.

Quincy Ranger Station News

As we head into early fall, the Quincy Park Rangers would like to invite you to come out and enjoy a day of kayaking and canoeing down the beautiful Mississippi River. The second annual Quincy 5-Miler will be held at 11 AM on Saturday, September 21st. The race is 5 miles long and begins at the Canton Chute Recreation Area just North of Quincy, IL. The paddlers will traverse down the river and enter the "cut-through" before winding down the Quincy Bay and finishing at the South Side Boat Club. The Quincy Park Rangers will be providing Boat Patrol in the area of the event on race day. Last year, there were over 75 paddlers involved in the event!



On Sunday, September 22nd, the "Bear Creek Grunt" will be held at the Bear Creek Recreation area, which is a few miles northwest of Ursa, IL. This race is for those outdoor enthusiasts that did not get enough adventure with the 5-Miler. The final race is approximately 15 miles long and will follow the East Chute of the Mississippi River before going through the "cut-through" and finishing at the same location as the previous day's race. For more information you can contact the race officials at their website listed below. We hope to see you out there on race day. <http://quincy5miler.com/>

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 Website - <http://www.missriver.org>