



Sponsors



October
18-19
2023



Mark W. Schwiebert Fund
for Environmental Studies



www.riveraction.org/umrc



October
18-19
2023

River Action
822 E. River Dr.
Davenport, IA 52803



BUILDING COMMUNITY AROUND THE RIVER



Upper Mississippi River Conference

Holiday Inn, Rock Island, IL

Register at www.riveraction.org/umrc

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Davenport, IA
Permit No. 3037

17th annual conference to be held October 18-19 in Rock Island, IL

Plan to attend the Upper Mississippi River Conference – *Building Community Around the River*

Plan to attend the 17th Annual Upper Mississippi River Conference – *Building Community Around the River* – October 18-19 in downtown Rock Island, IL.

Since 2008, River Action has brought together planners, elected officials, architects, engineers, environmental groups, developers, educators and students to create a conference focused on the Upper Mississippi River and stakeholders in the region.

This year the focus is on building community around the river through public engagement. Join us to gain new insights, vision and solutions to gaining public trust and participation in your community.

A block of rooms has been reserved at a reduced rate for conference participants. Call the Rock Island Holiday Inn directly at 309-794-1212 to reserve your room. More hotel info and online reservation at riveraction.org/umrc.

Conference Schedule

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17

6:30 – 8 p.m. – Get Acquainted Dinner
Quad City Arts Council, 1712 2nd Ave., Rock Island, IL

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18

7 – 8:30 a.m. – Registration, check-in and breakfast

8:30 – 9 a.m.
Welcome, Rock Island Mayor Mike Thoms

9 – 10:30 a.m. / Keynote Session
Partnerships That Lead to Change – Colin Wellenkamp, Executive Director, Mississippi River Cities and Towns Initiatives
TBD: Ducks Unlimited Representative

10:30 – 10:45 a.m. | Networking Break

10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
Breakout Sessions – An Ecological View

- *What Stands in the Way of Clean Water?* – Josh Lighton, CEO and Founder, UpStream, LLC
- *Engineering with Nature to Create Habitat* – Deron Muchring, Civil Engineer, City of Dubuque
- *Rehabilitating Quincy Bay – One of the largest natural bays on the Upper Mississippi River* – Tara Taets, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

12:15 p.m. | Boxed Lunch

1 – 4 p.m. | Field Tours

- Professor Reuben Heine on the Augustana Stewardship. Learn the history and geography of the Mississippi River.

- Two-hour walking tour with former Rock Island Mayor Mark Schwiebert and Kyle Carter, Executive Director of Downtown Davenport Partnership discussing *RiverVision Collaboration Between Two Cities and Plans for Future Partnership*
- Muscatine Riverfront Development Bus/Walking Tour

1 – 4 p.m. | Community Charette

- *Problem-solving charette as vehicle for discussing and visualizing runoff challenges.* High school and college students will be joined by Jim Patchett, Solutions in the Land, to map out attainable solutions for storm water runoff in LeClaire, Iowa neighborhoods.

4:30 – 6:30 p.m. | Student Poster Session / Cocktail Hour

6:30 – 8 p.m. | Catfish Dinner
We All Want Clean Water: Truth or Dare – Chris Jones, retired IIHR Research Engineer, University of Iowa

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19

7 – 8:15 a.m. | Registration and breakfast

8:15 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. | Plenary Session
Corn Belt Port's Best Kept Secrets – Robert Sinkler, Founder, Riverside Global and Todd Main, Director of Market Development, Illinois Soybean Association

10 – 11:30 a.m.
Breakout Sessions – A Sociological Perspective / What Does Environmental Justice mean on the Upper Mississippi: Are You Included?

- Dr. Silvia Secchi, Professor, University of Iowa - *Tracing the origins of Iowa's contemporary environmental problems to white settlement*
- *Ferrying on the Upper Mississippi River* – Reggie McLeod, Editor & Publisher, Big River Magazine
- *When Citizen Determination Pays Off* – Brian Ritter, Master Conservationist Program Coordinator, Nahant Marsh and Scott County Community College, Duane Friend, Illinois Master Naturalist Coordinator & Climate Specialist, University of Illinois Extension - The Illinois Master Naturalist Program

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. | Luncheon
30 years of publishing Big River Magazine – Reggie McLeod, Editor & Publisher, Big River Magazine

1 – 2:30 p.m. | Breakout Session – Economics

- *Celebrating the Special Role of the River* – Frank Klipsch, Director of City Partnerships and Special Projects, American Cruise Line

- *Celebration: Pleasure and Profit* – Tracy Fishnick, Village of Cassville
- *What Makes Waterfront Parks Successful?* – Matt Mohrfeld, Mayor of Fort Madison, and Michael Morhfeld, Southwest Iowa Aquatic Restoration Group
- *Voices on the Lake – Lake Monona, WI, Waterfront Development* - TBA

2:45 – 4:30 p.m. | Closing Plenary Session / Holistic Approaches for Building Community Around the River

- *Navigation building islands, floodwater management and environmental enhancement* – Mark Binsfold, Vice President of Marketing & Business Development - J.F. Brennan Company, Inc.
- *The story of River Point District: A transformative urban redevelopment in LaCrosse* – Lewis Kuhlman, Environmental Planner, City of LaCrosse, and Jason Gilman, Principal, JBG Planning LLC

4:30 p.m. | Adjourn



Todd Main



Tara Taets



Mark Binsfold



Colin Wellenkamp



Chris Jones



Robert Sinkler



Reggie McLeod

Registration (online registration at: www.riveraction.org/umrc)

Full name

Title

Company

Address

City State Zip

Phone

Email

Total Amount (Make check payable to River Action, 822 E. River Dr., Davenport, IA 52803)

Name on Credit Card

☐ Mastercard

☐ Visa

Expiration Date (mo/year)

CVV#

Signature

Full Conference

Early bird \$120 thru 9/22

☐

Regular \$220 after 9/22

☐

Single Day ☐ Wed. ☐ Thurs.

Early bird \$120 thru 9/22

☐

Regular \$150 after 9/22

☐

Student Full Conference

Early bird \$25 thru 9/22

☐

Regular \$40 after 9/22

☐

Student 1-day ☐ Wed. ☐ Thurs.

Early bird \$15 thru 9/22

☐

Regular \$25 after 9/22

☐

Conference Add-ons

Catered dinner \$20

☐

Tour 1/R.I. Riverfront free

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Tour 2/Muscatine Riverfront \$15

☐

Tour 3/Stewardship Boat \$15

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Guest Meals

Wed. boxed lunch \$15

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Wed. catfish dinner \$35

☐

Thurs. luncheon \$25

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Attending catfish dinner
Wednesday night?

☐

Any dietary restrictions?