

RiverWay™

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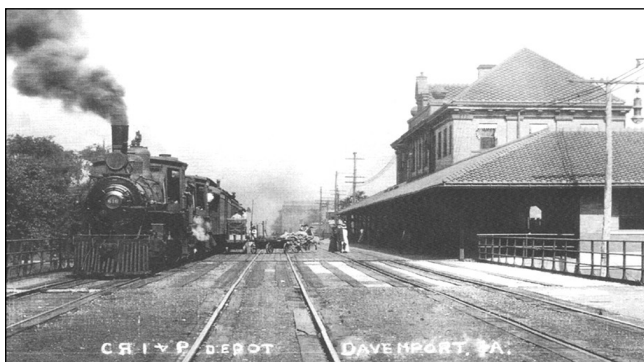
Quad Cities Henry Farnam Dinner

Celebrating Railroads and Railroading

The featured speaker at this year's event, March 11, will be **Henry Posner III**, Chairman of the Railroad Development Corporation, an international railway investment and management company, and the Iowa Interstate Railroad (IAIS), a 592-mile (954 km) regional carrier connecting Chicago, the Quad Cities, and Omaha. Posner will give an illustrated presentation on *A Bridge to the Future: Iowa Interstate, the Quad Cities, and the U.S. Rail Industry*.

Each person registered will receive a free pass to the Figge Art Museum exhibition *It Tracks*, which features railroad photography from the George Eastman House Collection.

Buy your ticket online at www.riveraction.org or contact Curtis or Libby Roseman, 309-764-6122, or via email at croseman@usc.edu



Friday evening, March 11, 2011
Radisson Quad City Plaza
111 East 2nd Street, Davenport, Iowa

5:00-6:30 Displays/Cash Bar
6:30 Dinner; 7:30 Program
\$40 per person
\$375 for a reserved table of 10

A passenger train at the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific depot
in Davenport, early 20th century

Design Charrettes Bring Results

At the 2010 Upper Mississippi River Conference, the cities of Davenport, Buffalo, and Keithsburg presented current projects they were working on in order to have the participants assist in brainstorming ideas and solutions. We asked each for an update.

Davenport's Levee Commission incorporated all of the UMRC designs into its phased East Industrial Park. The City Council will soon be asked to approve phase one, the landscape improvements and pavilion on the west end of the site. Naming the park as well as designing a pedestrian bridge across River Drive and park entrances are next.

Buffalo energized its citizens to form a Mississippi River Trail Committee and then launched a public/private fund-raising campaign for engineering its seven miles of riverfront. It hopes to have a match (\$115,000) for a DOT grant by April, 2011.

Keithsburg, has identified a marina developer and received permits while seeking federal funding for 87 slips, gas dock, and boat repair facility that would compliment the town's campground, and two boat ramps. Leaders say the development is key to recovery efforts as they still suffer from the aftermath of the 1993 and 2008 floods.

"Here and there along its course are mighty waterfalls, some with rainbows at the foot of them..."

~ Grey Owl, *Tales of an Empty Cabin*, 2010 River Action Environmental Book Club Selection

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"Let the Ideas Flow!" at the 2011 Conference

The Upper Mississippi River Conference, September 21-23, Bettendorf Isle of Capri Convention Center, is the fourth annual meeting and will feature 20 presenters plus two keynote speakers. One of the panels will feature Mississippi River diplomatic and scientific exchanges made around the world.

For the second time, three design charrettes for communities needing ideas and solutions for projects will take place. Applications are available on-line at www.riveraction.org. (For related reading see "Charrette Updates", pg 1)



Mississippi River Eco Tourism Center

In January, Clinton County Conservation held a ground breaking ceremony for the Eco Tourism Center at Rock Creek Marina and Campground. Walt Wickman, Executive Director, reported that over 100 people were in attendance and the actual "breaking of the ground" was done by children from Clinton County elementary schools.

Wickman notes, "While we are starting construction on the building, we are still a long way from being done with fund raising for the project. We are now raising funds for the environmental education displays, the aquarium and furnishings." First round estimates are \$250,00 for the aquarium and \$250,000 for the various displays.

Tax deductible donations can be sent to Clinton County Conservation Foundation, P.O. Box 68, Grand Mound, IA 52751.



Ice fishing huts keep fishermen warm in winter. This one is from Credit Island Adventures/ Princeton Outdoor Adventures at www.princetonoutdooradventures.com

BECOME A MEMBER OF NAHANT MARSH

The mission of the Nahant Marsh Education Center is to preserve and enhance the ecological integrity of the marsh and to foster wonder, appreciation, interaction, and stewardship of the natural world through education. New ways the Education Center are finding ways to connect people with nature are realized through its community outreach programs: bird hikes, critter weekends and frog nights, wild medicines, renewable energy, special fishing events, and much more! Members who are willing to support the Marsh financially are the best affirmation of its work. Also available is a new book, *Nahant Marsh*, with photographs of the marsh and copy by Julie Malake, member of Friends of Nahant Marsh. A portion of each book purchased through River Action or Nahant Marsh Education Center goes to support the Education Center. Please visit www.nahantmarsh.org or call the Nahant Marsh Education Center 563-323-5196 or River Action to purchase or for a membership brochure.



Alcoa Eagle Cam

On Bald Eagle Days weekend, Alcoa launched a web cam focused on a pair of bald eagles nesting at the company's Riverdale facility. "This pair of eagles began building the nest more than a year ago, and during the spring they successfully hatched a pair of eaglets in the nest," reports John Riches, Community Relations Manager. "The view from this camera is spectacular and will help highlight the comeback of bald eagles in the Quad City region and Alcoa's commitment to the environment." For more on Alcoa's Eagle Cam, go to: www.alcoa.com/eaglecam. Live video is planned for the site.

"The Wilderness should now no longer be considered as a playground for vandals, or a rich treasure trove to be ruthlessly exploited for the personal gain of the few—to be grabbed off by whoever happens to get there first."

~ Grey Owl, *Tales of an Empty Cabin*, Preface

NEW AT RIDE THE RIVER 2011!

It's hard to pick out just one thing that makes Ride the River a favorite because the path to discovery never ends. New this year on the course, is a duathlon on Credit Island for 6th, 7th, and 8th graders. Under the guidance of Larry Davis, local triathlon director, and the Scott County Family Y, the route offers the discovery of the island, Credit Island Slough, and the Mississippi.

"A duathlon is an athletic event that consists of running leg, followed by a cycling leg and then another running leg in a format resembling a triathlon" explains Davis. Conditioning and drills will be offered May 22, Bettendorf YMCA, 12 noon, and again on June 5, Bettendorf YMCA, 12 noon. Bring bike and running gear. Helmets are required. Call 322-2969 for more information or check the web site at www.riveraction.org.

QC Wild Places

With input from the Upper Mississippi River Grant Writers Partnership, River Action has envisioned the development of a multi-county cooperative partnership to establish the "QC Wild Places." This project will emulate the exceptionally successful Chicago Wilderness (see www.chicagowilderness.org) and advocate awareness and conservation of the diversity of natural areas within the five-county region of Muscatine and Scott in Iowa and Rock Island, Henry, and Mercer in Illinois. These counties define a region of dozens of protected natural areas encompassing more than 16,000 acres, each of which is within approximately one hour driving time from the Quad City metro area. In cooperation with public and private land managers, QC Wild Places will promote and support these natural areas, financially and otherwise, in order to better connect people to these resources and cultivate a culture of stewardship. QC Wild Places will also function as a coalition to create a comprehensive natural area plan that aims to coordinate conservation efforts and promote ecological corridor development throughout the five-county region. The first meeting of major stakeholders will take place on Friday, January 21st.

"One Watershed" Airing on WQAD TV 8

With the support of Alcoa, River Action launched on January 9, 2011, a 13 week series on what is being done to improve water quality in the Mississippi River watershed. The first episodes featured Mercer County farmers using best management practices to avoid soil erosion and runoff on tillable acres. No till farming, runoff from hog containment lots, precision farming as well as bio-retention cells, green roofs, permeable paving and stream bank restoration used in cities and by homeowners are subjects of upcoming episodes. They can be viewed Sunday, 10 p.m. news, and Monday, a.m. news. Many thanks to Rock Island County Farm Bureau, Scott County Farm Bureau, City of Davenport, City of Rock Island, and John Deere for assistance. One Watershed's second series will air this fall.

ENVIRONMENTAL BOOK CLUB

River Action office, 7pm

January 25

1491 by Charles C. Mann

February 22

The World Without Us by

Alan Weisman

March 22

Wicked River by Lee

Sandlin

April 26

Rewilding the World by

Caroline Fraser

May 24

Rats by Robert Sullivan

June 28

The Lost Art of Walking by

Geoff Nicholson

July 26

Keeper of the Wild by Joe

Paddock

August 23

Eaarth by Bill McKibben

September 27

Cradle to Cradle by

William McDonough and

Michael Braungart

October 25

Bottlemania by Elizabeth

Royte

November 22

The Big Burn by Timothy

Egan

Citizen Power Gets Canal Restoration Underway

The Hennepin Canal Parkway has been a destination for cyclists, hikers, birders, fisherman, cross-country skiers, and snowmobilers for decades. We may be able to add paddlers to that list in the near future. Friends of Hennepin Canal and the IL D.N.R. are taking on a "Renaissance Project" that will restore three locks and reopen 50 miles of the canal making it an exceptional water trail from Rock Falls to Colona.

The Hennepin Canal State Parkway boasts one million annual visitors. The Renaissance Project hopes that lock and accessibility improvements will encourage boat & bike outfitters to offer equipment rentals and possibly a canal boat tour business in the future.

Earlier lock restoration efforts have improved this section of the canal, but there are many hurdles that remain. Each lock will cost between \$350,000 and \$650,000 to repair. Friends of Hennepin Canal are currently trying to raise \$80,000 by May through charitable donations and grants for an engineering study.

The Hennepin Canal is more than just a place for fun. It played a very important role in the history of the United States, its industry, and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Construction finally got under way in 1892 and the first boat went through in 1907.

However, during construction of the canal, the Corps of Engineers widened the locks on the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers making the canal obsolete before construction even finished.

For more details, or to donate, go to: www.friends-hennepin-canal.org



Visitor Center in Sheffield, IL

River Action's Youth Advisory Board Update

The Youth Advisory Board will don outdoor gear and model it at a fashion show, May 13, at Fish & Fire. Apparel is from Active Endeavors, a sponsor of the dinner.

In addition, the Board is currently discussing a possible youth summit to take place on one of the nights at the Upper Mississippi River Conference. We hope to bring young people into the conference and allow them to contribute to the solutions being posited by the professionals at the conference. It will also be an opportunity to get up to date on issues facing the Mississippi River and its communities. Some of the issues being discussed include: the tangible outcomes of the summit what those will be, the geographic range, and the ages of participants.

TRAILS UPDATE

Bettendorf - The project that will connect Duck Creek Trail to the Iowa MRT at the Isle of Capri is scheduled to go out for bid in Mid-Feb. Steve Grimes, Parks Director, hopes the city will award the contract and start construction late March/April and complete the project by the end of summer. Bettendorf also received a National Scenic Byways Grant to construct an overlook and that will go out to bid in April. It will include signage, viewing binoculars, interpretive signage, parking, and a restroom near Riverstone at Elm Street. Over \$2 million grant dollars overall for these projects have been received.

Buffalo - The city is considering funding options to secure the \$115,000 match needed for a \$500,000 federal earmark for engineering by March. Two pancake breakfasts have been held to create awareness of the 10 mile trail from Utah St. to Wild Cat Den State Park. A deposit account has been set up at Buffalo Savings Bank to help fund the public/private partnership [\$915 has been raised in donations so far]. Donations can be mailed to: Buffalo Savings Bank, c/o Buffalo MRT Fund, 120 Washington St., Buffalo, IA 52728.

Davenport - The redesigned Credit Island Bridge will go out for bid in Mid-Feb to be administered by the Iowa DOT. The base bid for the project is a 14' X 800' bridge from Credit Island Park to South Concord Street. The city hopes to complete construction in Summer 2011.

Princeton to Bettendorf - The Trail Committee expects a final report this month from Stanley Consultants on the alignment and construction costs. The report will be used to apply for grants to construct the 16 mile trail.

Riverdale - Construction Engineering was completed in 2010 by Townsend Engineering on the 1.3 mile trail along the Alcoa property. Easements with Mid American Energy and the railroad are currently being negotiated so that the city can apply for construction funds in 2011. The city has already set aside matching funds for constructing the trail.

Clinton/Camanche - Clinton and Camanche received a \$2.2M earmark five years ago for a trail to connect the communities. The cities secured the 20% match necessary for the 4 mile trail that will connect their riverfronts. The cities hope construction is finished in the fall of 2011.

Muscatine - Muscatine has awarded a contract for construction of the trail from Weed Park to Wild Cat Den in 2011. The city of Muscatine will work with the City of Buffalo to develop a trail from Wild Cat Den, through Buffalo and into Davenport via Concord Street. Muscatine is also working on establishing a route for the southern portion of the MRT that will extend the MRT to Louisa County and hopes to submit a concept statement for the southern portion to the Iowa DOT by May 2011.

**New Date for
Fish & Fire!!!**

SAVE THE DATE FOR 2011 EVENTS ON THE RIVER!

Jan 15—Apr 24

Tracks: The Railroad in Photographs from the George Eastman House Collection, at the Figge

Friday, March 11

8th Annual Henry Farnam Dinner, Davenport Radisson

Saturday, April 23

Join us for our Annual Earth Day Event—clean-up, plantings, and more at Blackhawk State Park, Rock Island

Friday, May 13

River Action's Annual Fundraiser, Fish & Fire, at Blackhawk State Park Lodge, Rock Island. Eddy Awards will be announced, silent auction, and catfish dinner!

June, July, & August

Visit www.riveraction.org for the Explore the River Summer Education Series schedule, including Riverine Walks (free for members) and Channel Cat Talks.

Sunday, June 19

Ride the River— A Father's Day Bike Ride

Jul 21-24

Train Festival 2011, Rock Island —train rides, model trains, miniature trains, cab tours, river boat tours, railroad vendors, caboose rides, train exhibits, food, family fun and more! www.trainfestival2011.com for more information.

Thursday, September 8

12th Annual RiverWay Senior Golf Cart Tour

Saturday, September 17

6th Annual Taming of the Slough Adventure Race, Moline

Wed-Fri, September 21-23

Upper Mississippi River Conference, Isle of Capri Convention Center, Bettendorf

Late Summer

Floatzilla

Interview with New IA DNR Director, Roger Lande

We recently asked Roger Lande, Muscatine, about his goals for Iowa DNR.

RA: What do you hope to do as DNR Director?

Lande: "I hope to have an open, responsive, and receptive department. Quite simply, there is always a natural tension between regulators and the regulated, but I believe we can be known as a customer friendly department."

RA: What is the biggest challenge facing the Mississippi River.

Lande: "I am concerned about all the rivers and streams that feed the Mississippi and their solutions for flood control and water pollution. The Mississippi is cleaner than it was 25 years ago, but at the same time, we have lost 2% of our topsoil."

RA: What do citizens and communities have to do to meet these goals?

Lande: "They have to recognize there are real problems out there to solve. The stream that runs by each of us must be cleaner. While difficult, we must improve all of them."

Lande addressed funding as well. He recently heard projections from the governor's office, the legislature's finance office, and the state auditor's office, and while spending more money to maintain services with fewer funds is challenging, it was encouraging to have the departments collaborating. It is particularly difficult at a time when fees, "which the department lives on", are lower because more companies are in compliance with air quality standards and paying fewer fees. A good news-bad news thing.

Greenvalley Nature Preserve, River Action, and Kiwanis Club

In early 2010, River Action received funding from the EPA to conduct wetland and stream restoration work at the Greenvalley Nature Preserve. Planning is underway for project implementation in 2011 and, when complete, it will be among the first projects to enact recommendations made in the "Rock River Ravines Watershed Plan," a document produced through a multi-partner effort lead by River Action in 2008.

Over the next two years, River Action is committing additional funds to the Greenvalley restoration effort as part of its "RiverWay: A Partnership" budget. These funds will support the EPA project and be used to enhance existing infrastructure, develop self-guided educational facilities, create recreational trails, and expand ecological restoration efforts. From 2011 to 2012, River Action hopes to raise \$145,000 in addition to the \$82,500 already allocated to the EPA project.

River Action is also pursuing additional project partners. The Kiwanis Bike trail runs through the Greenvalley Nature Preserve and River Action has approached the club to partner with us on trail renovations and other project elements, including the construction of nature trails, benches, and boardwalks through the wetlands. We presented our project at the Kiwanis Club's January 11th meeting and received notable praise. We will seek commitment from the club as soon as we can present them with a formal proposal.



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- | | | | |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Whooping Crane (\$10,000+) | <input type="checkbox"/> Pelican (\$1,500 - \$2,499) | <input type="checkbox"/> Egret (\$250 - \$499) | <input type="checkbox"/> Student (\$10) |
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Membership Benefits

*River Action window decal
Free Admission to 2011 Riverine Walks
20% off Fish & Fire Dinner Ticket!
Many opportunities to support RiverWay!*

Name (s): _____

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My employer will match my membership contribution (circle): Yes No

If Yes, please like business/organization here: _____

Signature (s): _____ Date: _____