

RiverWay™



River Action



FLOATZILLA

FLOATZILLA! AUGUST 21, 2010

Paddlers begin flotilla formation on Lake Potter, Rock Island, culminating the area's first paddle sports festival, Floatzilla.

Floatzilla, featuring three launches, guided floats, Credit Island camping, and culminating with a Guinness World's Record attempt for the largest flotilla attracted 1,337 paddlers from 16 states and Germany. The record attempt fell just short at 955 boats versus 1,104 boat record set in 2008, Inlet, New York.

TAMING OF THE SLOUGH 2010



River Action is actively looking for sponsors for 2011; if successful in raising funds to market and host the event, a 2nd Annual Floatzilla is sure to pick up where 2010 left off!

River Action's Mississippi River adventure race on September 18 had another record year with 250 racers. Tune Up for Taming sessions also drew 250 participants to downtown Moline to give paddle sports and adventure racing a try. Taming participation has increased 20-30% each year since it started in 2006. It has been successful attracting the uninitiated as well as seasoned racers suggesting a growing interest in paddle sports in the Quad Cities.

Special thanks to our sponsors and our 80 volunteers who helped make Tune Up and Taming of the Slough possible!



TAMING

Race day started with canoe and kayak launches, foot of 17th Street on Sylvan Slough, Moline

UMRC charettes provided plans for the cities of Keithsburg, Buffalo, and Davenport. Pictured on the right, planner Scott Freres facilitates the Buffalo workshop.



UMRC



CART TOUR

11th annual Senior Golf Cart Tour on Arsenal Island, one of five tours, September 9, 2010

Board of Directors:

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River Action Staff:

- Kathy Wine
- Jeff Cornelius
- Mik Holgersson
- Heather Moore



Congratulations, 2010 Winners!

**Crawford Company
Corporate
Adventure Challenge**

**Eric Nordstrom
[Orion, IL]
Men's Individual**

**Michelle Mangelsdorf
[Moline, IL]
Women's Individual**

**Daryl & Matt Davison
[Maquoketa, IA]
Men's 2-Team**

**Bridget & Alexis Zurcher
[Scales Mound, IL]
Women's 2-Team**

**Mark & Rachel Squires
[Davenport, IA]
Coed 2-Team**

**Paul Harrington,
David Russel, &
Scott Vandewall
Men's 3-Team**

**Dianna Bravitt,
Barb Curia, &
Joan Roth [Dixon, IL]
Women's 3-Team**

**Michael Hunter,
Heather Dowd, &
Justin Barth
[Prophetstown, IL]
Coed 3-Team**



Above: Mik in action (Photo by: Bob Bryant)

Below (Left to Right): Snapping & Blanding's
Turtles (Photo Credit: Mik Holgersson)



Nahant Marsh Turtle-Monitoring Program

IN SPRING 2010, RIVER ACTION

received partial funding from an Iowa DNR Wildlife Diversity small grant for the initiation of a turtle-monitoring program at Nahant Marsh. Mik Holgersson, Program Director of Natural Resources at River Action, applied in anticipation of employing

his nearly three years of turtle research experience to outfit Nahant Marsh with a set of equipment and to standardize methods for comprehensively inventorying and monitoring the resident turtle species. The grant funded the purchase of nine turtle traps plus measuring equipment, and, with a match from River Action, supported ten bi-weekly trapping sets between May 6th and September 30th.

The first season of the turtle-monitoring program resulted in the capture and documentation of 196 individual turtles at Nahant Marsh, including an unprecedented number of Blanding's turtles, a species listed as threatened in Iowa and endangered in Illinois. In summary, 146 painted turtles, 35 snapping turtles, 11 Blanding's turtles, two spiny softshell turtles, and two red-eared sliders were marked and measured through this study. Given this success, funding inquiries and research plans are already being made for next year. Chief among these is a concerted effort to focus trapping on areas most likely to hold Blanding's turtles. While data from all species captured will be used to estimate population sizes and to assess the sex ratio and age structure of each population, it is especially important to document as many of the regionally imperiled Blanding's turtles as possible. Obtaining this information will be a first step towards answering several questions important to the conservation of the Blanding's turtle at Nahant Marsh, including: Is Nahant Marsh's Blanding's turtle population growing or in decline? What are the key features of the habitat being used by these turtles and how and where should restoration efforts be employed to improve and increase such habitat? Are suitable nesting sites available, are they being used, and, if so, are nests producing hatchlings?

For more information, or if you would like to provide financial support for the 2011 season of the turtle-monitoring program, please contact Mik Holgersson via email at mholgersson@riveraction.org or via phone at River Action's office at 563-322-2969. A more detailed account of the 2010 season is posted at www.riveraction.org.

Editorial: Hands-on Learning Promotes Deeper Understanding

It's past the time to fully fund outdoor education. Schools finding funds scarce for field trips have had to cut out learning in the outdoors, yet should be encouraged to fund field trips to nature centers, conservation areas, streams, or wetlands. As well, families should be encouraged to take a road trip (15,000 acres of preserved land and water are within a one hour driving distance from the Quad Cities), to participate in nature and bird walks or explore our QC Water Trails.

Mik Holgersson, River Action's Environmental Program Manager,

says he's consistently been more inspired by the outdoors than the lecture hall. As a high school student he received discretionary scholarship money that, with his parents' stamp of approval, he excitedly spent on a canoe. He reports "it was one of the best education investments I ever made. The classroom offers a learning opportunity, and I was actually a student who enjoyed reading, but I prefer the education I get from the seat of my canoe."

Our nature centers, Wapsi River Center and Nahant Marsh, encourage environmental education through both formal

and non-formal settings. They both have welcome areas with displays and exhibits, multi-purpose classrooms accommodating as many as 30 people each, a kitchenette for serving refreshments, and restrooms. Each is designed to accommodate field trips, school and scouting events, and family activities with the intent of stimulating curiosity and creative work. The docks at Nahant Marsh, a gift from Mel Foster, Jr. invite all to connect with water, and the trails at both sites invite discovery.

Let's give our students the advantage of outdoor education.

Duck Creek Buffers Planted

River Action began the Duck Creek Buffer Program in June, 2009, in partnership with the cities of Davenport and Bettendorf through the assistance of matching-funds provided by the Iowa Watershed Improvement Review Board and Alcoa Foundation. The project is designed to implement a total of 16 acres of native vegetation stream buffers along Duck Creek's main channel and tributaries to stabilize soil and filter storm water runoff. The cities of Bettendorf and Davenport have demonstrated their

commitment to the Buffer Program through in-kind work; all buffer sites currently in the works are on city property.

The 2009, phase one of the program implemented 2.5 acres of short grass prairie buffers along Duck Creek Parkway near Devil's Glen Road in Bettendorf and 2.4 acres west of Brady Street in Davenport. The 2010 phase is underway and will result in 4.4 acres of buffers at Eastern Avenue Park and 1.3 acres along the Duck Creek Parkway east of Jersey

Ridge Road. The remaining 5.4 acres will be planned for implementation in 2011.

Although municipalities have lead the way for enrolling land in the Duck Creek Buffer Program, private landowners along Duck Creek and its tributaries are encouraged to participate. **Free water-testing kits are available to stakeholders, volunteers, and classes interested in testing Duck Creek water quality.**

Please call River Action 563-322-2969 for information.

Voices from UMRC 2010

For additional coverage, please visit our website

"One Watershed" A 2011 TV News Series

Modeled after the popular "Earth Alert" programs sponsored by Alcoa on WQAD TV8 a few years ago, a new series "One Watershed" will begin on the station in 2011 sponsored by Alcoa and River Action. Each week will feature

what is being done to improve water quality by area farmers, cities, and environmental groups. From precision farming, organic production, rotational strip grazing to Duck Creek buffers, water testing, and rain gardens, the series

will highlight what is being done and what is left to be done to reduce storm water runoff and pollution in the Mississippi River. Farms and cities are working as one to improve one watershed.

Quad City Wildlands

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 Quad Cities Wildlands (working title).

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 natural areas currently encompassing more than 15,000 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, the Quad Cities Wildlands 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. The Quad Cities Wildlands will also function as a coalition to create a comprehensive natural areas plan that aims to coordinate conservation efforts and promote ecological corridor development throughout the five-county region.

Ice Hut Rental at Credit Island

Princeton Outdoor Adventures opened its Credit Island shop in June to begin canoe and kayak rentals, but they are not closing shop for the winter. It will be open this winter to offer shelters for ice fishing as they do from their Princeton shop. The fees are as follows: Shelters, \$25.00 /1 Day, \$15.00/1/2 Day; *Weekly pricing available.* Shelter, Gear, & Bait Package: \$40.00 /1Day, \$25.00 1/2Day. Delivery, \$1.00 per Mile + \$5.00 Fee. Services offered only with sufficient notice and deposit. Call 563-289-5445.

"What is the greenest building in the city? The one that is already built."

**John Gere,
Architect &
UMRC Speaker**

"Why has the Mississippi lagged in funding? It's an orphan. It flows through only Louisiana and Minnesota; but the rest of the eight states can't claim it as theirs."

**Jeffrey Jacobs,
National
Research Council
& UMRC Speaker**

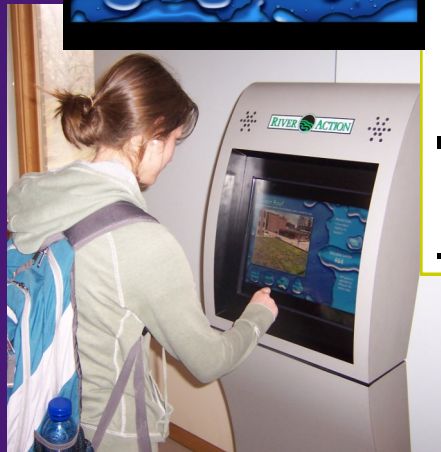


Capture FALLing Rain!

Watering trees and shrubs in the fall can prevent damage from harsh winter weather. Contact River Action to purchase a 60- gallon rain barrel for \$75, which includes a standard downspout diverter (fits 2" X 3" downspouts), spigot, mesh screen to prevent debris and insects from entering the barrel, and overflow spout. Oversize diverters are available for an additional \$5 with the purchase of a barrel. Visit our office, website, or call 563-322-2969 for additional details.

“Time is a sort of river of passing events, and strong is its current; no sooner is a thing brought to sight than it is swept by and another takes its place, and this too will be swept away.”

Marcus Aurelius



RETAIN THE RAIN

Would you like to display this interactive kiosk in your office lobby? Please contact Jeff at 563-322-2969 or jcornelius@riveraction.org to express interest in your business or organization being considered for the 2011 rotation schedule.

SAVE THE DATE FOR RIVER ACTION'S 2011 EVENTS!

Weekend of January 7th—9th

Visit River Action's Booth at Bald Eagle Days

QC Expo Center, Rock Island

Tuesday, January 25th

Environmental Book Club, 7pm @ River Action Office

Friday, March 11th

8th Annual Henry Farnam Dinner, Davenport Radisson

Sunday, March 20th

First Day of Spring! Call River Action to volunteer for Spring clean ups and plantings

Saturday, April 23rd

Join us for our 12th Annual Earth Day Celebration, Fish and Fire, a fundraiser and friend raiser—Earth Day activities, fish fry, silent auction, wine grab, and Eddy Awards.

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 19th

Ride the River— A Father's Day Bike Ride

Thursday, September 8th

12th Annual RiverWay Senior Golf Cart Tour

Saturday, September 17th

6th Annual Taming of the Slough Adventure Race



River Action

822 East River Drive
Davenport, IA 52803
563-322-2969

VISIT US ONLINE AT
WWW.RIVERACTION.ORG

Bald Eagle Days— January 7—9, 2011

River Action will be at Bald Eagle Days, January 7-9, at the Quad City Expo Center. We will have information on events, the QC Water Trails, and the recently updated "6 Simple Things You Can Do to Save the Mississippi River."

Volunteers are needed, so, if interested, please let us know. Last year was a lot of fun, a great success, and we hope to see you there!

Buffalo's River Trail Committee Formed

Supporters of plans to expand the Mississippi River Trail through Buffalo to Muscatine's Wild Cat Den recently met to discuss raising the local match to the \$500,000 earmark designated for a trail alignment and environmental study. A deposit account has been set up at the Buffalo Savings Bank to accept donations for the "Buffalo MRT". Supporters of the trail can contact the bank to make a contribution.

Supporters of expanding the MRT are invited to an all-you-care-to-eat pancake breakfast on Saturday November 27, 2010 @ the Buffalo Community Center 426 Clark Street Buffalo, IA.

BECOME A MEMBER OF NAHANT MARSH

A membership drive has recently been launched to support environmental education, restoration, and conservation. Please visit www.nahantmarsh.org or call Nahant Marsh Education Center 563-323-5196 or River Action 563-322-2969 for a brochure.

Youth Advisory Board Update

River Action's Youth Advisory Board will participate in a guided canoe/kayak float, October 24, 2010. It will showcase one of the area's largest wetland education centers and inspire nature photography and discovery. In November, the Board will hear from Ginny Wilson-Peters, Integrity Integrated, on Leadership Development in Inspiring Others to Serve.

The Youth Advisory Board provides youth participation and advice on projects, programs and marketing to River Action. High school or college students can apply for a one or two year terms online at www.riveraction.org. Monthly meetings are one hour. Call River Action, 563-322-2969 for more information.

Now Accepting Eddy Award Nominations

River Action applauds excellent work with the Eddy Awards praising those who went against the current to get things done. Eddy Award Nominations accepted now for Art, Design, Education, Revitalization, River Activity, and Stewardship. Nominate online at www.riveraction.org or send letter of nomination to River Action.

Winners will be honored during River Action's 12th Annual Friend raiser & Fundraiser, Fish & Fire: An Earth Day Celebration on Saturday, April 23 (Location TBA).



Floatzilla & RTR

T-Shirts Available

A limited number of assorted sizes of Floatzilla 2010 t-shirts are available for sale at the River Action office in both Tangerine and Lime.

Ride the River '10 light blue t-shirts and gray sleeveless shirts are available in child and adult sizes. They will be sold on a first come, first served basis.

Shipping can be arranged for an additional cost.

"You can never step into the same river; for new waters are always flowing on to you."

Heraclitus of Ephesus

One in a series of new QC Water Trails Signs, Foot of 17th Street, east of Rowing Club, Moline.





River Action

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VISIT US ONLINE AT
WWW.RIVERACTION.ORG



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TAKE ADVANTAGE OF RIVERINE WALKS & EARTH DAY CELEBRATION BY BECOMING A RIVER ACTION MEMBER!

Complete this form , enclose a check payable to River Action, and mail to 822 E. River Drive, Davenport, Iowa 52803 or donate online at www.riveraction.org
River Action is a qualified 501(c3) non-profit organization. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. For additional info, call River Action at 563-322-2969. THANK YOU!

Membership Levels (Please check one)

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|
| <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) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eagle (\$5,000 - \$9,999) | <input type="checkbox"/> Heron (\$1,000 - \$1,499) | <input type="checkbox"/> Mallard (\$100 - \$249) | <input type="checkbox"/> RENEWAL \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Swan (\$2,500 - \$4,999) | <input type="checkbox"/> Hawk (\$500 - \$999) | <input type="checkbox"/> Seagull (\$25 - \$99) | |

Membership Benefits

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

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone #: _____ Email: _____

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

If Yes, please like business/organization here: _____

Signature(s): _____ Date: _____