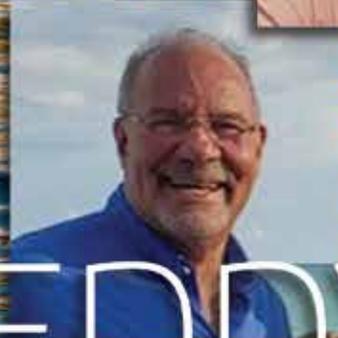




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MAGAZINE



2020 EDDY AWARD WINNERS



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Kathy Wine

An "Eventful" Summer

Where to start? I'm sitting at my laptop, the screen usually filled with the faces of my extraordinary staff attending an online Teams meeting. But now, it's just me, looking for descriptions of crises both past and future. Preparing for a flood is hard, but a pandemic is harder.

For a group that is known for unique and affordable river recreation, we were especially panicked this spring with four outdoor events sitting precariously on our calendar with nothing but COVID red flags all around. To cancel all would be ruinous for us as we depend on event income for our operations, yet we were prepared to do that.

We were about to give up on Ride the River when our committee came up with the idea of a scavenger hunt. With the wonderful work of a dedicated committee and the advice of the departments of health in Scott and Rock Island counties, we gave the Quad Cities a new outdoor experience. The Iowa Healthiest State Initiative endorsed it, and we felt we had some wind at our backs.

But what about the rest of the summer? Likewise, we thought we would need to give up on Floatzilla. After all, we always strive for the largest group possible—50 isn't it. Until someone said, "let's just make it solo"-- Floatzilla 2, if you will. "We can have individuals paddle the river, and we will bus them back to their vehicles. Just a safe day on the river, and that's all." John Williams, Locks & Dam 15 Lockmaster, is confident that the lock can easily accommodate a maximum of 50 people per lock-through cycle which will make locking through a safer process. This has, at the time of this writing, meant a 40 percent increase in registrations over same day last year. It seems we are tapping into a pent-up desire to get outside and on the water this summer.

Next, we were about to give up on the Senior Golf Cart Tour because seniors are our most vulnerable citizens, until someone suggested that each cart should just be sold separately, rather than with two individual tickets. Allowing guests to pair themselves on the carts or ride solo paying for both seats is the answer this summer.

Finally, Taming of the Slough was about to be moved to 2021 when our timing system vendor, Jeff Castro of Accu-Split, described how he can keep everyone competing with chip timers by timing everyone individually. Even teams can compete as they have in the past, just not in a tandem canoe or kayak.

We are still looking for new ways to navigate the pandemic. While face-to-face fundraising has been put on hold, our new strategy is to add 1,000 new members this year. Make membership a must! A separate donor campaign will stress giving now rather than at year-end, so we can stay afloat through the ups and downs of 2020. With community relationships strong, the draw of the river, and a dedicated staff determined to make responsible approaches, we will get through this! ☺

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August/September/October 2020
Volume 10 Issue 3

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eddy Magazine

Published by River Action, Inc.

822 E. River Drive,

Davenport, IA 52803

563-322-2969

www.riveraction.org



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Our Mission:

River Action strives to foster the environmental, economic, and cultural vitality of the Mississippi River and its riverfront in the Quad City region.

Ride and Seek

A New Riverfront Adventure on Bikes

— by Bailey Johnston

Ride and Seek was a big hit! This year we reimagined our usual Ride the River event into a socially distant, month-long scavenger hunt along Quad City bike trails. While our day-to-day activities are different due to COVID-19, thanks to cycling, we provided fun and adventure on the riverfront trails. Our participants found clues in places cars will never reach! Ride and Seek—Making History was a ride of discovery and a new perspective.

River Action created 36 clues to locations all along the riverfront. Our participants had the entire month of June to find the answers to these mini-mysteries. Here is one of our Illinois clues:

Much like a puzzle, we slide into place,

*To tame a great force and keep the
Mississippi in place.*

This flood wall can come and go

Depending on the river's flow.

I'm located in a park downtown,



The Griffin group links arms to create their version of a flood wall.



The Lau family team gets creative with their human flood wall. Mississippi River watch out, nothing will get past these kids!

With a bandshell, a fountain, and a playground.

Create a wall of people with your clue-hunting group where the real wall would stand. Send in a picture of your human flood wall.

In the photo you can see our participants creating a human flood wall at Schwiebert Park in Rock Island. Many images were submitted by Ride and Seek participants taken at several locations along the bike paths.

Ride and Seek 2020 grand prize winners:

Bicycle - Gordon Atkinson

AirPods - Ryan Saller

Inflatable T-rex Costume - Alex Kresowik

Twenty-one additional participants won bike shop gift cards and other cycling accessories donated by several local bike shops including Jerry and Sparky's Cycling and Fitness, Trek, Harper's Cycling and Fitness, Bike and Hike, Healthy Habits, Let's Ride and Ruby's Bike Shop.

River Action staff and our Ride and Seek planning committee had a great time thinking outside the box for this reimagined event. We hope our participants had a great time getting out and exploring the Quad Cities safely on their bikes! Though our prizes are gone, it's not too late to challenge yourself or your family with our scavenger hunt by ordering Ride and Seek kits (\$15 for adults and \$5 for children with bicycles). Call River Action at 563-322-2969 to purchase. ☺

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Floatzilla Goes the Distance

— by Noah Truesdell

For those of you looking for something fun to do outside this summer, Floatzilla is still on! We will be holding a modified version of our paddling event on the Mississippi River this year. We will still have our six launch sites, a river paddle, music, food trucks, and shuttle service, but some precautions will be put in place to keep our paddlers, volunteers, and community safe. Commercial barge/tow traffic will be shut down for the day to minimize hazards.

We are limiting our launch sites to a maximum of 400 people launching from each site. The launch windows have been



expanded to four hours, and paddlers will be assigned a half-hour window in which to launch to keep the number of people at each launch site at one time to 50 or fewer. All volunteers will be provided with a River Action face covering and all participants are required to wear a face covering until they have launched and at/after takeout and on shuttle buses. As always, life jackets are required for all paddlers!

We have worked with the Lockmaster at Lock and Dam 15 in order to limit the number in the lock at one time to 50 people as well. There will be a series of ropes

that will enable our paddlers to maintain adequate social distance in the lock. We will be increasing the number of lock-through cycles to ensure that everyone gets through the lock in as few as 15 minutes.

At Lake Potter we will not have the group photo and World Record attempt or a dining tent. Food trucks and music will still be available for those who need a refreshment or would like to paddle on the lake. Our shuttle service will be expanded to allow paddlers to return to their launch sites whenever they would like. Buses will run from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. from both Lake Potter (Illinois) and Credit Island (Iowa). Face coverings are required at take out, on Credit Island, in Sunset Park, and on the shuttles.

While Floatzilla may look a little different this year, it will be just as fun as ever enjoying the magnificent Mississippi River aboard a kayak or canoe. ©

The Race to Tame the Slough is Set for Sept. 12

— by Noah Truesdell

Racers will return to Sylvan Slough for the 2020 adventure triathlon. The race will begin, and all transitions will take place, at the Bass Street YMCA and Sylvan Boathouse at the foot of 17th Street in Moline, and end at Bass Street Landing. The race will start at 8 a.m. with paddling in Sylvan Slough, then racers will get on their mountain bikes to take on the trails on Sylvan Island, and end with a two-mile run. We will either be using a reduced

number of racers in each heat or starting each racer/team individually with the help of our race timer Accu-Split, to spread out our racers and remain in keeping with health department recommendations.

At the conclusion of the event we will have an awards ceremony at Bass Street Landing. Beer for our racers will be provided by Bent River Brewing Company. Awards will be given to individual elite men, elite women; men, women, and youth; two-person men, two-person women, and two-person co-ed team; and three-person men,



Racers line up for the start of the 2019 Taming of the Slough Adventure.

three-person women, and three-person coed team categories. We will also be giving out our travelling corporate challenge trophy to the fastest company-sponsored three-person team!

Join us for the fun on September 12! Register at riveraction.org/taming. ©



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2020 Upper Mississippi River Conference Replaced with Webinar Series

— By Carol Downey

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, our annual in-person conference is being transformed into a series of online webinars this fall, with a nominal registration fee of \$10 per session, or three for \$25. Several of our planned speakers have agreed to present in a webinar format, including time for live questions and answers. Attendance at the webinars can be used for continuing education credits for registered attendees.

Below are a few of the webinars that will be offered this fall. Visit riveraction.org/UMRC for additional webinars, session details, and registration.

Oct. 22, 2020

Matt Fockler, Ph.D.

Augustana College

Two Mississippi: A Historical Geographic Exploration along the Upper Mississippi River since the Great Depression

Oct. 29, 2020

Toby Hunemuller

US Army Corps of Engineers

Recovery Projects following the Great Midwest Flood of 2008-2009

Nov. 12, 2020

Kris Johnson, Ph.D. and Eugene Yacobson, Ph.D.

The Nature Conservancy

Science and Decision Tools to Guide Floodplain Protection & Restoration in the Mississippi River Basin



Two Days of Golf Cart Tours in 2020!

— by Noah Truesdell

This year's Senior Citizen Golf Cart Tours will be held on Thursday, Sept. 3, and Friday, Sept. 4, 2020. There will be three Illinois tours each offered at 9 a.m., 11:30 a.m., and 2 p.m. on Thursday, followed by the three Iowa tours at the same times on Friday. This change will allow our participants to ride on more tours or take two tours without having to double up on the same day. River Action will be bringing back the popular Duck Creek Tour from last year as our third Iowa tour.

We will be selling tickets 'by the cart' instead of 'by the seat' this year as a safety precaution due to the pandemic. While we will encourage everyone to wear a face covering on the tours, this modification ensures that it will either be one person per cart, or two people from the same household.

See you out on the trails! ☺



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EDDY Awards 2020

— by Kathy Wine

Each year we take special care to honor the individuals and organizations that we feel best represent the spirit of true river action. Eddy Awards recognize those who go against the current, as in an eddy, to provide outstanding riverfront activity or development, well-designed and environmentally responsible.

Art: Brad Bisbey



Brad Bisbey, a painter and teacher associated with Bereskin Gallery, Bettendorf, is a dedicated and courageous artist who pushes constantly outward against the currents of prevailing art and thought. His landscape paintings—many of which include the Mississippi River or other local natural scenes—are remarkable for the strong sense of life and place which they convey. A prolific painter, he often challenges himself to create 30 paintings in 30 days, knowing that the pressures of such production can often spark new discoveries and that every moment painting adds to the sum total of his experience and accumulated skill. He also pushes himself to explore new styles, aiming always to convey the feeling of the scene. The Eddy Award jury recognizes his deep understanding and respect for painting, for the Quad Cities, and for the river which he conveys to his students and everyone he meets.



Nightfall by Brad Bisbey.



Design: IH Mississippi Valley Credit Union



If design for the 21st Century is to provide architecture to combat climate change, the Credit Union welcomes it. Architecture must address today's pressing issues and for this project it was done by a collaboration with the architect Leo A. Daly of Omaha, Neb. and Russell Construction. Step off the elevator, into an office, and you are immediately blitzed with panoramic views of the river. CEO Brian Laufenberg was struck by the views when the site was proposed for their headquarters. Believing design is not a frivolous add-on to our lives, but rather at the root of how we live, this \$26 million building at 2500 River Drive in Moline, is four stories, with flexible work spaces for employees, an outdoor gathering place, open staircases, and a workout room with a river view. The City of Moline believes this headquarters building sets the standard for quality and design as the city begins to develop east of the I-74 corridor.

Education: Eric Sorenson

Above and beyond. Sound like anyone you know? If you know Eric Sorenson, meteorologist and climatologist at WQAD-TV8, you would say yes. At WQAD he is committed to communication and education, and his unique position as a meteorologist adds credibility to his environmental message. Eric dedicates his Monday morning broadcasts to climate change education along with the day's weather forecast. He often reports the day's expected temperature on the riverfront recreational trails. In addition, he contributes to programs in the Quad Cities as a panelist with extensive climate change expertise. He embraces paddling on the Mississippi River with friends and participates on the water in river events while filming his messages. Eric has gone against the current in broadcasting, education and river paddling!



Eric enjoys summer days on the river.

River Activity: **Buffalo Trail Committee**



The perseverance and commitment of a small trail committee led an entire community to an historic win. The committee and organizers led by Buffalo State Bank President Jim Mathys met regularly in the bank's board room, but time after time they were turned down for funding. Yet they reminded themselves that together they were powerful. They gathered the tools to find the resources, (grant writers from Bi-State Regional Authority were helpful) and the dream. They came from all walks of life-- council members, bicyclists, residents-- and found solidarity in their work together. This powerful network of folks now has a new goal: more riverfront trail! Deciding to always forge ahead with hope is a brave and bold thing to do, and without a doubt, they will continue to be successful!



Ribbon-cutting ceremony Aug. 24, 2019 on Buffalo's trail near Elm Street.

Revitalization: **Hauberg Gardens/Deb Kuntzi**



As you walk through Hauberg Gardens, there is a sense of history in the trees, house, and prairie plantings. Deb Kuntzi, Executive Director of Friends of Hauberg Civic Center, partnering with the City of Rock Island, has restored the original Jens Jensen plan and even made it better. A major contribution to Rock Island's open space, its scale, theme and quality have established it as an important landmark. It can't be seen all in one visit! It is a grand public space rich with bands of trees, flowers, and gravel paths. The work of the Friends breathed new life into a storied mansion and grounds which in 2017 needed many repairs and improvements. Future plans include an educational food garden to provide food for local food pantries and homeless shelters while giving opportunities for children from Rock Island's Center for Math and Science to learn life skills. Annual revenue from estate tours has increased from \$16,000 in 2016 to over \$130,000 under Deb Kuntzi's leadership. The Friends went against the current to get it done, but took none of the charm away!



Revitalization work under way at Hauberg Mansion gardens.



From left, Mike VanDeHeede, Tim Knanishu, Aaron Tennant, Larry Anderson, and Reggie Freeman talk about future development along 12th Avenue in East Moline, Ill. during a meeting at the new Hyatt House/Hyatt Place. Tennant and Anderson, leaders of The Bend Land Development Co., have purchased The Bend site, 133 acres surrounding the hotel.



Revitalization: **The Bend/ Tim Knanishu**

The newest riverfront development in East Moline breathes new life into a storied industrial site. At 133 acres, it sits on a beautiful bend of the river with excellent potential for riverfront mixed use development. Since 2002, Tim Knanishu has worked diligently to bring the vision to reality through REDEEM and East Moline economic development. The former Case-International Harvester site was a brownfield, and in 2004 it was cleaned up, cleared, and made ready for Phase I at 3rd St. The remaining 90 acres are being developed as Phase II. Tim persevered through a recession during the early years of marketing the site, but with a loyal board that has stayed intact from the start, and The Bend Land Development Company, the site today boasts a major hotel, convention center, music venue, brewery, coffee house, and office space, and access to the riverfront recreation trail. With plans for more occupancy and construction projects in the next several months, Phases I and II should be completed in 2020. Plans are in place for a 15-foot-wide lighted walkway from the hotel to the surrounding businesses. Without state funding, this energetic group of developers have gone against the current to get it done on their own.



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EDDY Awards 2020



Anthony directs work on a man-made island in the Illinois River built to provide habitat for fish and a place for birds to call home.



Special Recognition: Anthony Heddlesten

Anthony Heddlesten is a person who can check all the boxes. He leads his team in outreach for the US Army Corps of Engineers and flood preparation. He has helped River Action initiate the Quad Cities Flood Resiliency Alliance, served on the Upper Mississippi River Conference committee, led Riverine Walks along the floodplain in Davenport, given Channel Cat Talks on the lock and dam system, installed solar panels on his the roof of his home, written and recorded a WVIK RiverWay Story on solar power, and helped author a Transformation Grant for frequently flooded cities. In River Action's pursuit of a mobile flood response app, it would be a bonus if we could just download his brain! How does he handle wearing so many hats so well? He doesn't have boundaries and says he would get bored if he did. He walks easily between the engineering world to that of public servant; the intersection of engineering, design, and public discourse. The Eddy Awards jury recognizes a champion of change—not just someone who promotes progress, but who epitomizes it.

Special Recognition: Roger Viadero, Ph.D.



Roger Viadero believes when it comes to education, "it's all about collaboration." Upon his arrival at the Western Illinois University – Quad Cities campus, he began working with River Action on the Upper Mississippi River Conference. "I was amazed at all the groups around the table," he recalls. "To this day, they are the collaborators at the WIU Environmental Department, and I could not have done it without those connections. River science can be done anywhere. The environmental studies have to be done hands-on, in and near the river. The support from the community is why we are successful." He has brought scholarships to the program, acquired a pontoon boat for student work, and sensor equipment for wetland research. One teacher can change a person's life; Roger has found a way to create initiatives to help the next generation of environmental leaders to blossom. The Eddy recognizes an educator who leaves an impact far beyond his classroom.



Dr. Viadero instructs Ph.D. candidate Victoria Livingston on Mississippi River flood measurement (2019).



Permeable Alley between Federal and Tremont Streets – 2019 project spearheaded by Amy Kay.



Stewardship: Amy Kay

Next time you see a body of water, ask yourself: what message is this water carrying? From where, and to whom? Water is the earth's neurotransmitter, and one person who understands it and asks those questions is Amy Kay, Davenport's Clean Water Manager. Since 2016, she has expanded our knowledge of stormwater best practices, increased the number of green infrastructure projects in the city, and greatly expanded and improved the floodplain of Duck Creek since taking the helm. Through the city's Clean Water Education Program, she has launched a sweeping conservation program, expanded our knowledge of pollution prevention, floodplain management, and with businesses and the public, improved master planning. Those of us who work with flood prevention and mitigation admire her knowledge of federal, state, and local laws and permitting, and her ability to move against the current in all things clean water!

EDDY Awards ²⁰²⁰ Scholarship Winners

This year River Action was pleased to award two academic Eddy scholarships. Each student received a \$1,500 scholarship in June. This program is sponsored by the Singh Family Foundation for students who have acted as an eddy, showing strong resolve and persistence, going against the current in their academic careers.

Michele Rehbein



As a Ph.D. candidate at Western Illinois University, Michelle is majoring in Environmental Science: Large River Ecosystems. Her dissertation research is on mosquitoes in wetlands and low order stream habitats. After graduating, Michelle hopes to manage or lead research for government projects. She has worked at wildlife rehabilitation and was the director of a nature center and museum. "Those were the most rewarding jobs, since I worked directly with native wildlife and could teach the public how to enjoy the outdoors while also protecting the environment," she recalls.



Jue Jue Thaw

A senior at Augustana College in Environmental Studies and Geography, Jue dreams of participating in a community which commits to building sustainable development. He majored in environmental studies and geography to learn more about managing social-ecological systems. His interest lies in both nature and human perspectives, and his career goal is to become a landscape architect who provides sustainable services and designs better cities-- areas and places for people to enjoy while at the same time protect the earth.



Attention, Student Videographers!

— By Bailey Johnston



We have a unique opportunity for all middle School, high school, and college students! River Action and Fresh Films are hosting the Environmental Film Series Student Video Competition. If you are interested in the environment and/or videography this is the competition for you. We are challenging students to create a 3-5 minute video on environmental issues related to the Mississippi River. Subjects could range from flooding to wildlife to commercial traffic on the river. You may work individually or as a team on your short videos. Video submissions are due on Nov. 15, 2020 and the winning submissions will be announced on Dec. 15, 2020.

Winners will each receive \$100 cash prize, plus \$150 for their classes to be used by teachers or instructors. The winning videos will be featured as part of our QC Environmental Film Series in 2021 and will be profiled in River Action's Eddy Magazine. We will be choosing six winners in total, two from middle schools, two from high schools, and two from colleges. All of the

video submissions will be judged by Rock Island-based Fresh Films in partnership with the Fresh Films Fall Video Challenge. Winning entries will be showcased digitally on Fresh Films' channels. This competition is a great opportunity to explore and learn about the river while building your videography portfolio.

For those who are new to videography or filmmaking or would like some helpful tips, we are hosting a free filmmaking workshop on Sept. 13, 2020 from 2:45 – 4 p.m. at the Figge Museum in Davenport. The workshop will be led by a professional videographer. Those who attend will receive a free ticket to the Environmental Film Series films that will be shown that day. They are *Deer 139*, *Brower Youth Awards*, and *Shorts of Conservation Activists*. We hope these films will inspire your own videos as they showcase youth making strides in environmental advocacy. Contact River Action to register for this exciting opportunity!

For more information and to register: call River Action at 563-322-2969, or visit our website at riveraction.org/videocomp. Fresh Films and River Action are excited to see your videos! 📺



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Social-Distanced Summer Education Continues through September

— By Philip Tunnicliff

Launching into a new Summer Education Series is always an exciting time for River Action. It's a huge undertaking to coordinate speakers, volunteers and media outreach into a successful collaboration between River Action and members from every corner of our river communities.

This series covers tours on land and "sea" (with the Channel Cat approximating the sea!) allowing participants to enjoy scenic vistas and wild places from on foot or seated in the middle of the river. The tours begin in May and run through September with an array of varying talks and tours. Though the season is half over there are many talks still to go. Please review the Channel Cat Talks and Riverine Walks that are yet to run, so you don't miss out.

Riverine Walks

There are three Riverine Walks remaining in our 2020 season, each offered twice:

After the Flood: Building for the Future

Aug. 12, 6:30-8 p.m. and Aug. 15, 9-10:30 a.m.
This walk, led by Denise Browning from Sunset Marina, will talk about how the record flood in 2019 taught the Marina how to rebound and rebuild to reopen more quickly in the future.

Saving a Life: Caring for Trees with the Arborist

Aug. 19, 6:30-8 p.m. and Aug. 22, 9-10:30 a.m.
Join John Vance, City of Davenport Arborist to learn about the forest around us and how we can be stewards of our tallest neighbors.

Downtown Rock Island: The Past is the Future

Aug. 26, 6:30-8 p.m. and Aug. 29, 9-10:30 a.m.
Led by Miles Brainard this final Riverine Walk takes you through downtown Rock Island as you learn about the National Register of Historic Places and Preservation Tourism.

Channel Cat Talks

Our remaining season also offers four Channel Cat Talks starting at 9 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays:

River Landscape Mosaic

Aug. 4 and Aug. 6 at 9 a.m.

This perennial favorite takes participants all over our local section of the Mississippi to show channel characteristics, riverfront uses, and environmental issues within the river. It is led by two geography professors from Augustana College, Dr. Norm Moline and Dr. Reuben Heine.

Development in the QC

Aug. 11 and Aug. 13 at 9 a.m.

Led by Bill Ashton of Ashton Engineering, this talk describes the various construction examples along the river that spearheaded Quad Cities development. Examples include the Moline Lock, Government Bridge, First Bridge, and hydroelectric power.

Operations and Maintenance of our Nation's Waterways

Aug. 18 and Aug. 20 at 9 a.m.

Other than the I-74 bridge Tours, no tour is more anticipated than this one by Anthony Heddlesten of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He will take participants through Locks and Dam No. 15 and discuss why the locks were built and the ongoing work to maintain them.

Asian Carp

Aug. 25 and Aug. 27 at 9 a.m.

Our final Channel Cat Talk of the season features Jeremiah Haas from Exelon. He will provide a status report on control strategies for invasive fish species along with their possible effects on Quad Cities waters.

These Talks and Walks will finish off a season of excellent educational opportunities and with tickets at \$15 and \$6 respectively, the tours are well worth the price. Tickets are available at riveraction.org/education. ☺

Fish & Fire Postponed to 2021

— By Kathy Wine

With the Fish & Fire dinner planned for April 2020 at the Figge Museum postponed to April 23, 2021 because of COVID-19, our auction will go virtual this summer— Aug. 24-28, 2020. A select number of items will be available for bidding beginning Aug. 24 at 7 a.m. with bids updated throughout each day. Bidding will close at 5 p.m. Aug. 28. Visit riveraction.org/auction to start the bidding!

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eddy Calendar

Please check program websites for possible changes in schedule.

August



River Action's Explore the River Series

May through September, Channel Cat Talks – Tuesdays and Thursdays 9-10:45 am, Riverbend Commons, 2951 River Dr. Moline, \$15

Riverine Walks – Wednesdays 6:30-8 pm and Saturdays 9-10:30 am, locations vary, \$6, riveraction.org/education

Join us for River Action's Explore the River Series. Tour the Mississippi River aboard the Channel Cat Water Taxi while experts narrate. Riverine Walk participants explore the Quad Cities through a series of guided walks.



Photo by Amy Neighbour VanEchoute

Celebration Belle River Cruises

May through November; Schedule, prices and cruise times vary, 2501 River Dr., Moline, 309.764.1952, celebrationbelle.com

Enjoy the sights of the Upper Mississippi River aboard the area's largest riverboat.

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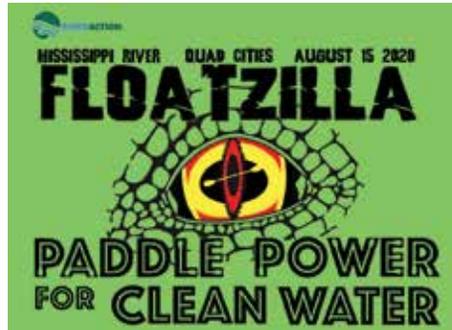
May through October; Schedule, prices and cruise times vary, 197 Front St., Le Claire, 800.331.1467, riverboatwillight.com

Elegant, triple-decked riverboat for day, overnight, and sightseeing cruises with dining. Get up close with bald eagles, pelicans, towering bluffs, historic river towns and the ever-changing valley landscapes.

Nahant Marsh: Breakfast Nature Club – Marsh Update

Aug 7, 8-9 am, Nahant Marsh Education Center, 4220 Wapello Ave., Davenport, nahantmarsh.org

Nahant continues to grow by leaps and bounds. Join Brian as he shows how Nahant is protecting more land, securing our future, and enhancing habitat. \$5 Members, \$10 Guests.



River Action's Floatzilla

Aug 15, Lake Potter, Sunset Park, Rock Island, 563.322.2969, riveraction.org/floatzilla

Paddle Power for Clean Water! Experience paddling on the Mississippi River free of commercial barge traffic. Many precautions in place to ensure safety and social distancing. \$30 per paddler.

Quad City Audubon Society: Bishop Hill Hummingbird Festival

Aug 15-16, 8 am – 5 pm, 309 N. Bishop Hill St., Bishop Hill, Ill., 309.696.1017

Spend the day in the gardens and prairies of Bishop Hill at their 2nd annual Hummingbird Festival.



Nahant Marsh: Families in Nature - Prairie Insects

Aug 8, 10-11 am, Nahant Marsh Education Center, 4220 Wapello Ave., Davenport, nahantmarsh.org

Insects are the most numerous animal group on the planet, and this time of year we find them all over the prairies. Learn more about these fascinating insects while catching (and releasing) as many as you can. \$5 Child member, \$10 Child guest. No fee for accompanying adults.

Quad Cities Flood Resiliency Alliance

Aug 28, 1:30 pm, online meeting – Flood Insurance, Stephanie Smith, Mel Foster Insurance Services, free, riveraction.org/QCFRA

Nahant Marsh: Birding with Jimmy

Aug 22, 8-10 am, Nahant Marsh Education Center, 4220 Wapello Ave, Davenport, \$5 Members, \$10 Guests, nahantmarsh.org

Experienced and beginner birders will enjoy this series of exploring bird populations at Nahant Marsh led by Jimmy Wiebler, AmeriCorps Environmental Educator. Each season brings in new visitors to the Marsh and the hikes will enable you to learn more about bird identification and behavior. Hikes will take place on the fourth Saturday of each month through November.

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River Action: Art Along the River - Native American Drumming

Aug 23, 2 pm, Watch Tower Lodge, Black Hawk State Historic Site, Rock Island, \$5, riveraction.org/education
An introduction to the cultural and artistic aspects of Native American drumming. Participants will experience group hand drumming influenced by inter-tribal pow-wows.

River Action's Environmental Book Club

Aug 25, 7 pm, River Action office, 822 E. River Dr., Davenport, riveraction.org
Discuss *The Overstory: A Novel* by Richard Powers. Meetings are open to the public and meet at the River Action office between Tremont and Federal Streets.

September



River Action's Annual Senior Citizen Golf Cart Tours

Sep 3, 9am-4pm, Starting points vary, riveraction.org/golfcarttour, 563.322.2969
Senior citizens can enjoy a golf cart tour on the area's riverfront trails. To ensure safety, registrations are per golf cart only; no individual registrations will be accepted.

Nahant Marsh: Breakfast Nature Club – Wreath Making

Sep 4, 8-9 am, Nahant Marsh Education Center, 4220 Wapello Ave., Davenport, nahantmarsh.org
Learn how to make a natural wreath with grapevine harvested from the Marsh. Other natural materials will be available to decorate your wreath. \$5 Members, \$10 Guests.

Nahant Marsh: Nature Hike

Sep 5, 9-10 am, Nahant Marsh Education Center, 4220 Wapello Ave., Davenport, nahantmarsh.org
Join a naturalist for a guided hike along the trails and experience the environmental changes as plants and wildlife adapt to the seasons. \$5 suggested donation.

River Action: Art along the River - Painting

Sep 6, 2 pm, Schwiebert Park pavilion, Rock Island, \$5, riveraction.org/education
Participants will learn techniques for painting clouds, the sky, trees and water. The group will create their own take-home watercolor painting.



Nahant Marsh: Monarch Tagging

Sep 5, 12, and 19, 10-11:30 am, Nahant Marsh Education Center, 4220 Wapello Ave., Davenport, nahantmarsh.org
Naturalists and AmeriCorps members will teach you how to safely capture, tag, record data, and release butterflies. Registration is required and limited to 25 participants. Free event, donations appreciated.

Photo by Amy Neighbour VanEchoute

Quad City Audubon Society Meeting

Sep 10, 7 pm, Butterworth Center, 1105 8th St., Moline, 309.764.9779, quadcityaudubon.org
Local environmental advocate Lori O'Dell McCollum will present "The Climate Crisis: What You Can Do to Reduce Your Carbon Footprint."

Calendar continued on page 14 >



River Action's Annual Taming of the Slough Adventure Triathlon

Sep 12, 8 am, downtown Moline, riveraction.org/taming
Kayak/canoe through Sylvan Slough, bike through mountain bike trails on Sylvan Island, and run two miles through downtown Moline.



QC Environmental Film Series: Student Video Competition

Sep 13, 2:45-4 pm, Figge Museum, Davenport, riveraction.org/filmseries
Attention middle school, high school, and college students! River Action and Fresh Films are hosting the Environmental Film Series Student Video Competition. If you are interested in the environment and/or videography, this is the competition for you! Prizes will be awarded.

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Nahant Marsh: Birding with Jimmy
 Oct 24, 8-10 am, Nahant Marsh Education Center, 4220 Wapello Ave., Davenport, \$5 Members, \$10 Guests, nahantmarsh.org

Experienced and beginner birders will enjoy this series of exploring bird populations at Nahant Marsh led by Jimmy Wiebler, AmeriCorps Environmental Educator. Each season brings in new visitors to the Marsh and the hikes will enable you to learn more about bird identification and behavior. Hikes will take place on the fourth Saturday of each month through November.

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QC Environmental Film Series: The Brower Youth Awards and Deer 139

Sep 13, 4 pm, Figge Museum, Davenport, riveraction.org/filmseries

Double feature! *The Brower Youth Awards* recognizes the work of six young leaders who are making strides in the environmental movement. Watch five bold women test their endurance and wits as they brave the formidable, migratory journey of a pregnant, scrawny doe in *Deer 139*. \$5 adult, \$2 student/child, \$20 season ticket.

QC Environmental Film Series: Honeyland

Sep 20, Time and location TBD, riveraction.org/filmseries

The most awarded film of this year's Sundance Film Festival! *Honeyland* is an epic, visually stunning portrait of the delicate balance between nature and humanity that has something sweet for everyone. \$5 adult, \$2 student/child, \$20 season ticket.

River Action's Environmental Book Club

Sep 22, 7 pm, River Action office, 822 E. River Dr., Davenport, riveraction.org

Discuss *Man and Nature: Or, Physical Geography as Modified by Human Action* by George Perkins Marsh. Meetings are open to the public and meet at the River Action office between Tremont and Federal Streets.

Nahant Marsh: Birding with Jimmy

Sep 26, 8-10 am, Nahant Marsh Education Center, 4220 Wapello Ave., Davenport, \$5 Members, \$10 Guests, nahantmarsh.org

Experienced and beginner birders will enjoy this series of exploring bird populations at Nahant Marsh led by Jimmy Wiebler, AmeriCorps Environmental Educator. Each season brings in new visitors to the Marsh and the hikes will enable you to learn more about bird identification and behavior. Hikes will take place on the fourth Saturday of each month through November.

QC Environmental Film Series: Anthropocene

Sep 27, Time and location TBD, riveraction.org/filmseries

A cinematic meditation on humanity's massive reengineering of the planet, *Anthropocene: The Human Epoch* is a four-years-in-the-making feature documentary film. \$5 adult, \$2 student/child, \$20 season ticket.

October

Nahant Marsh: Breakfast Nature Club – Topic TBD

Oct 2, 8-9 am, Nahant Marsh Education Center, 4220 Wapello Ave., Davenport, nahantmarsh.org, \$5 Members, \$10 Guests.

Nahant Marsh: Nature Hike

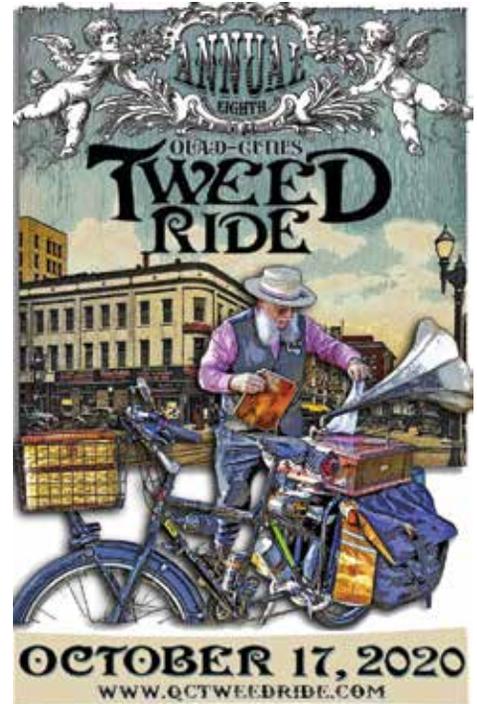
Oct 3, 9-10 am, Nahant Marsh Education Center, 4220 Wapello Ave., Davenport, nahantmarsh.org

Join a naturalist for a guided hike along the trails and experience the environmental changes as plants and wildlife adapt to the seasons. \$5 suggested donation.

Quad City Audubon Society: Prothonotary Warbler: Jewel of the Quad City Swamps

Oct 8, 7 pm, Butterworth Center, 1105 8th St., Moline, 309.764.9779, quadcityaudubon.org

Dr. Brian Peer will share his research on the beautiful warblers in the Quad City area.



Quad Cities Tweed Ride

Oct 17, 9 am, 563.726.3333, qctweedride.com

A leisurely ride along the Mississippi River with proceeds benefiting River Action.



Photo © Chris Heizer, The Nature Conservancy

Nahant Marsh: Families in Nature – Seeds Need

Oct 10, 10-11 am, Nahant Marsh Education Center, 4220 Wapello Ave., Davenport, nahantmarsh.org

Explore seeds as food for people and animals and learn how animals spread seeds. \$5 Child member, \$10 Child guest. No fee for accompanying adults.

QC Environmental Film Series: Sustainable Nation

Oct 11, Time and location TBD, riveraction.org/filmseries

In a world where water is everything, Sustainable Nation follows three individuals who are doing their part to bring sustainable water solutions to an increasingly thirsty planet. \$5 adult, \$2 student/child, \$20 season ticket.

River Action's Environmental Book Club

Oct 27, 7 pm, River Action office, 822 E. River Dr., Davenport, riveraction.org

Discuss *Good News for a Change* by David Suzuki and Holly Dressel. Meetings are open to the public and meet at the River Action office between Tremont and Federal Streets.

Connect with Us



engage



learn



For over 30 years River Action has been dedicated to connecting people to the river. Our supporters help us to improve the quality of water that flows down the river. They help us instill a love of the river through encouraging participation in many activities that involve the river. Plus, River Action encourages educational programs that help our residents better understand river issues.



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- \$130 Action Membership**
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- \$75 Household Membership**
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- \$45 Individual Membership**
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