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MAGAZINE

Are You In?



of action



Inside:

- 2019 Eddy Awards
- Summer Events
- Flood Resiliency
- And much more...

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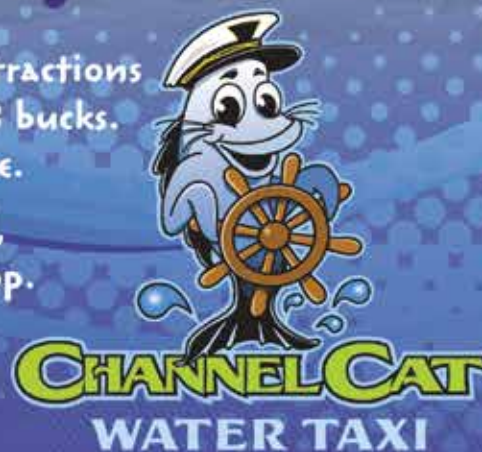


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May/June/July 2019

Volume 9 Issue 2

KATHY WINE, Publisher / Executive Director
BETH CLARK, Managing Editor, Milepost Ventures, LLC.
JEFF VANECHAUTE/pi design, inc., Design
APRIL KLECKNER, Calendar Editor

Contributing Writers

PHILIP TUNNICLIFF, River Action Staff
NOAH TRUESDELL, River Action Staff
KATHY WINE, River Action Staff
CAROL DOWNEY, River Action Staff

Contributing Photographers
RIVER ACTION STAFF

Printing Services
SUTHERLAND PRINTING

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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.

Linking Urban Vitality Back to the Planet

When, in the 1960s, many city centers were hollowing out, Jane Jacobs, influential urban planner and journalist addressed the problem in her book *The Life and Death of American Cities*. She said that conditions for a vibrant city were that they must serve as least two functions to attract people around the clock. With housing and renewed commerce and nightlife, the Quad Cities have definitely become more interconnected and vibrant. In addition, the value of our cultural institutions and cultural scene is well understood to add value to our quality of life here.

Today, with numerous conferences on how to create resilient cities and just as many on how to maintain a resilient river, it may be the best time to tie the two together; tie urban vitality back to a healthy planet. In the past, the focus for a resilient city has been the economic perspective. But today, let's take the opportunity to tie resiliency in with the natural world. It should not be just about the value of green space, though it contributes to protecting diversity and threatened. Today, we need to merge the physical green space with the awareness of the benefits to our health by being exposed to the natural world, even acting as a boost to productivity in the work place. Reconnecting people requires changing our perspective as well as creating safer, more pedestrian and bike-friendly streets, outdoor activities such as paddling and hiking, and endless outdoor 'day end points' for office workers.

In this issue, we explore two issues that tie cities back to nature; the QC Flood Resiliency Alliance which looks at collaboration in combating floods while lowering costs (smart cities need to be resilient if they are to counter some of the large rain events, flooding, and drought we are seeing today), and the transformation in transportation that is attracting more residents to live in our downtowns and participate in outdoor recreation. Let's begin today to link urban vitality back to nature and all it provides in order to be an even more vibrant region. ☺



Kathy Wine



of action

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Trails Update

- 4 Eddy Awards**
by Kathy Wine
- 7 Events: Ride the River & Floatzilla**
by Noah Truesdell
- 8 Planning for the Future - Bi-State**
by Philip Tunncliff
- 8 Events: Taming of the Slough**
by Noah Truesdell
- 9 Today's Transformation in Transportation**
by Noah Truesdell
- 10 Flood Resiliency**
by Carol Downey
- 11 eddy Calendar: May, June, July**
by April Kleckner

EDDY Awards

2019



Sunday in the Park play reading on Credit Island in 2017.

Art: **Chuck Oestreich**

The winner of the Art award enjoys making a scene, the theatre scene that is. Because art changes everything, there perhaps isn't any other thing that contributes as much dignified beauty to our lives. For the past several years, Chuck Oestreich has been doing it on the riverfront. His plays and play readings have a resonance that speaks of art, life, the here and now, and maybe the tomorrow. This summer, his "Art Along the River" program will have participants writing poetry, painting, participating in readers' theater, and Native American drumming. A former teacher now playwright and producer, he has confidence in the art and craft of playwriting while containing a million good ideas from flying out of the atmosphere. Many of those will be evidenced in 2019.

Design Award: **The Metro Operations and Maintenance Center**



The Eddy Awards celebrate forward thinking and innovative design that has defined multimodal transportation in the last decade and will redefine it into the next. Designed by Perry Gere, the 150,000 sq. ft. building is a statement piece. Not only is it dynamic in design, it is an inspired setting for Metro employees who work on multimodal transportation and a future of mitigating climate change.

At Metro, they practice what they preach. The building boasts an array of solar panels, uses a solar thermal system, powers buses with compressed natural gas, reclaims bus wash water, controls the facility's

temperature with variable refrigerant flow, uses a heat recovery technology, efficient lighting strategies reduce usage, prairie grasses prevent soil erosion, and bioswales control stormwater.

"This is what happens when you rethink everything," General Manager Jeff Nelson remarks. Endless visitors come to look at the building; it is most probably the best transit facility in the country.



Jack Cullen wades in floodwaters to get story of Rock River Flood in 2018.

Education: **Jack Cullen**

You can't always say the world is in danger. You can say the natural world is a wonder and a thrill, and an excitement in hopes of engaging readers, and Jack Cullen has done exactly that with his 2018 book, *The Great River*. This approach is capable of sparking change. In 2017, when he traveled the river, he became the voice of the River; He and QC Times photographers brought us to remote landscapes and gave us an intimate perspective on the their wonders. "When you concentrate on beauty rather than destruction, you can create stewardship" he believes.

As a Quad City Times reporter, his deeply reported columns focused attention on hiking, paddling (sometimes through flood waters to get a story), fishing, hunting, all to figure out how the river is doing and what the potential is for further recreation. A daily column, "Jack's Notes @ Noon", produced stories for his Times' Outdoors page that appeared online and in print every Saturday.

Today, Q2030 is being defined by Jack's energetic push to make the Quad Cities cooler, more connected, creative, and prosperous, paying testament to the truth that our future isn't written for us, but by us.



Education: **Alma Gaul**

Alma Gaul knows her subject so well she could run a think tank! As attention to environmental issues has increased, she has kept pace and shaped the views of thousands about conservation while raising awareness of what the changing climate is doing to the earth. The nitty gritty of delivering a column or story when interviews are canceled and phone calls not returned can be seen in the extraordinary talents of this skilled journalist. As she pays tribute to the leaders in conservation in a thorough, gripping, and readable way, she puts news of our planet into scientific and sociological context.

Her dad got her interested in conservation by his caring for the land; her work ethic came from him also.

Her greatest journalistic joy? "Getting my story in the paper, on the front page for the first time. It was at

Iowa State." Journalism can change the world, but every story has to have readers. As a columnist, she makes connections, and engages readers. "If you are a voice they know, you are not a faceless entity, and you get read," she reflects.

Revitalization: **German American Heritage Center & Museum**



When a project is complete, it is easy to forget what a long shot it was at the onset. In 1994, a volunteer board took the plunge, bought the historic Standard Hotel, and made it a win-win-win project — engineering-design-urban renewal — by transforming a derelict building into a dynamic center. Adaptive reuse of the Standard Hotel meant creating a whole new community resource. The restoration protects the 19th century character of the building and uses the neighborhood context to create a dynamic urban environment for the public. The board in 2009 was responsible for its legacy to the German American Culture with displays of artifacts, workshops, and programs celebrating German culture.

They have seen an increase in members. Skillful placement of night lighting enhances the site. Now, the public can gather to enjoy food, craft fairs, and live music in a relaxed atmosphere. Best of the Wurst is coming up in 2019!

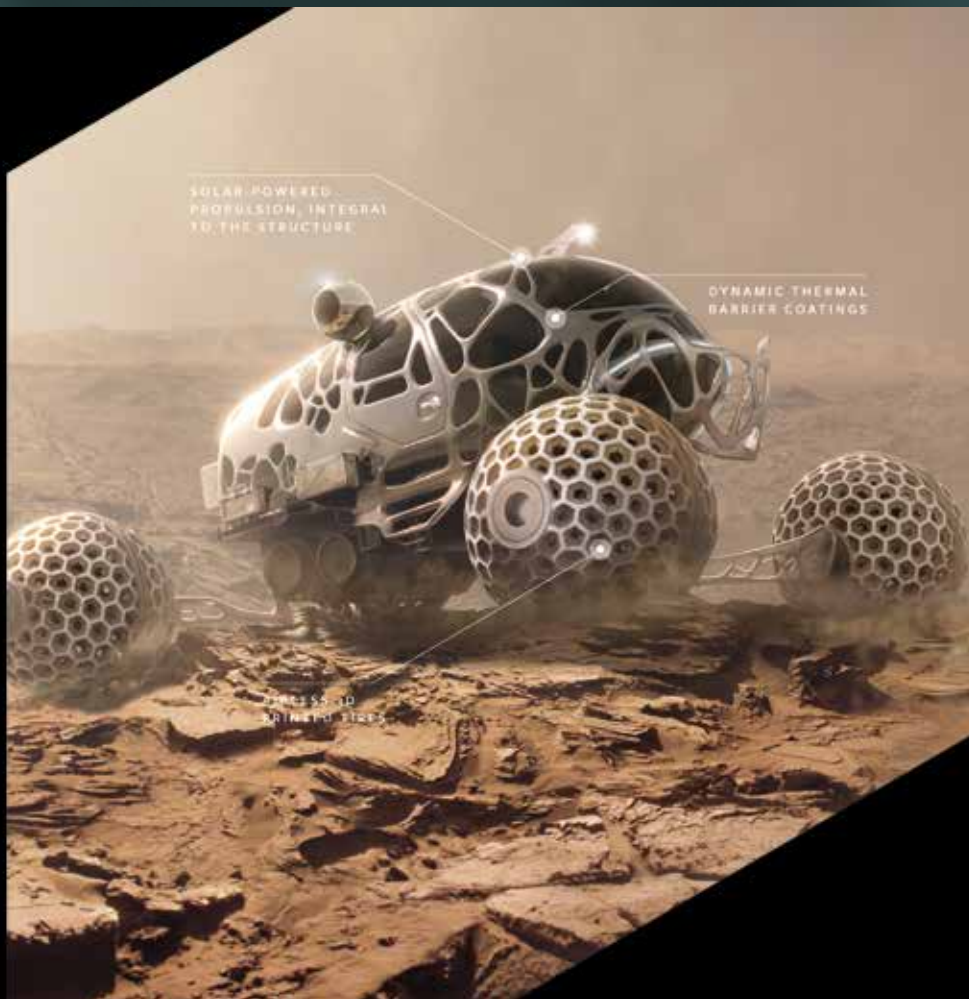
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Modern Woodmen Park offers fun on the riverfront for families.

River Activity: **David Heller**

How to succeed in business by really trying! David Heller knows the power of a bold gesture. That multicolored Ferris wheel that went up in 2014 signaled the beginning of many more activities such as a merry-go-round, sleepovers for kids, and a zip line. In 2016 Modern Woodmen Park was named Best Minor League Ballpark by USA Today. Since then, park improvements such as LED lighting were added. Why you ask? "To go green, lessen light pollution on the river, and so players don't lose balls in the air!" Heller explains. Asked what is his pride and joy he answers, "We transformed the skyline, and it will be here long after I'm gone." We honor David Heller, a catalyst for city development, giving the city a civic and investment amenity while making all of it fun!

Stewardship: **Olivia Dorothy**

If there is a woman perfectly suited to our times, someone seeming to embody all the principles and preoccupations pervading river revival, it might well be Olivia Dorothy, Assistant Director, Mississippi River Manager, American Rivers. She chose to begin her career on the Illinois River and that has led to the Mississippi River.



Olivia Dorothy samples water from a Rock River tributary.

She has stood in front of powerful audiences and urged them to action. In all meetings, we note that Olivia always seems to know the most influential river person we need to know. That is because she has laid down standards for collaborative leadership in stewardship initiatives with Upper Mississippi River Conference, Sierra Club programming, The Mississippi River Network, and now policy making with American Rivers.

Olivia Works to get to the point of changing policy that can lead to global change—not preaching to the converted, but to a wider audience. She recently put her voice and the weight of her authority to greater purpose by authoring part of the America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018 sent to Congress in same year.

Stewardship: **Quad City Audubon Society**

Much has been done in eagle research at the USFWS: Jody Millar, recently retired from the Rock Island Field Office, has been instrumental. But in the real world, the wind blows, the sun sets, night comes, rain falls, and all kinds of things happen that you don't get in a government office. That is where the QC Audubon Society is. It sponsors field trips, speakers at meetings, bio-blitzes, bird surveys, conservation projects, and Bald Eagle Days. It teaches that without biodiversity, there won't be air to breathe or water to drink. It works to empower people to do something about bird habitat and threatened species. These achievements merely scratch the surface of the QC Audubon's positive impact on eagle health and the environment at large. Add the impact of birding in our area, and the Audubon Society is a springboard for economic development as well. This organization is an excellent example of grass roots action bearing fruit! ©





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Bike ride and a ball game with Dad

Kicking off our summer event season for River Action's 35th year is the 35th Anniversary of Ride the River! This year we are partnering with the Quad Cities River Bandits to bring together two great memories of Dad, riding your bike and going to a baseball game. The ride spans the Quad Cities with optional routes as far as Cordova, and up to 60 miles of trails. Catch the Celebration Belle from Leach Park in Bettendorf to Ben Butterworth Parkway in Moline at 9:30 or 11 a.m.

Are You In?

—By Noah Truesdell

Ride the River headquarters will be located at Modern Woodmen Park. The park will be open for families to ride the Ferris wheel and play the games. Be sure to stop back at the ballpark after your ride to cheer on the River Bandits in their game at 1:30 p.m. 🌀

Floatzilla 2019

On Aug. 17, paddlers will launch from all over the Quad Cities for the 10th anniversary Floatzilla Paddle Sports Festival. We reached an all-time high of over 1,600 paddlers at last year's event. If everyone that came last year brings one person with them this year we will shatter the world record.

River Action will expand on the success of Cops, Kids, Kayaks, and Canoes from last year's event as well. We will once again be partnering with law enforcement agencies on both sides of the river to meet and teach local at-risk youth how to paddle. The program seeks to give both the youth and police officers a chance to interact in an at-ease and fun-filled environment, and to introduce the youth to a hobby that they can enjoy for the rest of their lives.

Early registration for Floatzilla 2019 ends June 30. Register now to be entered into all of our registration giveaways including a Pelican Kayak donated by Theisen's and a Thule Car Top Kayak Rack donated by Thule. Register now for Floatzilla at riveraction.org/Floatzilla. 🌀



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Trails Update:

Planning for the Future – Bi-State Regional Trails Committee

— by Philip Tunnicliff



The Bi-State Regional Trails Committee administered by Bi-State and composed of Bi-State member cities and organizations. The committee is beginning the process of creating a strategic plan for the future of its mission. According to 2019 committee Vice President Christine McDonough, the Regional Trails Committee

“facilitates communication, reviews, and coordinates projects which impact trail development throughout the Quad Cities.” Creating a strategic plan allows committee members to reexamine the organization’s goals and clarify how it should best advance its mission. This process began in December with a member survey on the direction the strategic plan should take. Out of that questionnaire came the first session of strategic planning and many actionable ideas for going forward.

While the strategic plan is in its early stages the committee is considering a variety of ideas that could elevate the cause of regional trails. One of the more popular ideas that is being put forward is a public input survey to discuss the importance of regional trails. The survey would pay special attention to input from so-called weekend riders, who bike regularly but not as a daily part of their lives, to see how the trails could

be safer for the more casual bicyclist. Another prominent outcome of the strategic plan will likely be a “toolbox” of data metrics (economic, tourism, health, environmental), maps, grant opportunities, resolutions supporting trails, and other tools to help advocates support, create, and maintain trails.

One possible intriguing idea that could come from the strategic planning session is a unified plan for regional trails. The intended benefits of a unified plan would be that communities will be able to show how their trail improvements fit into a larger regional plan instead of having separate communities build independent, and sometimes disjointed, trails. A unified map could be put online and made into an app to have trail information readily accessible to the public.

The future advocacy that is needed to support regional trails includes finding champions to promote key trail connections at meetings and convincing both large and small communities to sign resolutions of trail support and appreciation. Engaging and connecting every community across the Bi-State region will allow communities to marshal support and funding for improving key connections that are missing or insufficient in the regional trail system as well as national trail systems like the Mississippi River Trail. This effort will result in a stronger, more comprehensive and, more bike friendly trail system across the breadth of the QC area. ☺

RIVER ACTION'S taming of the SLOUGH™

— by Noah Truesdell

This year the Taming of the Slough Adventure Triathlon will be held on September 19. Compete by yourself or with a team in kayaking, mountain biking, and running. The course will take our racers into the Sylvan Slough, across Sylvan Island along its single track paths, and onto Arsenal Island for the final leg, a footrace. The finish line will be at Bass Street Landing where our racers will be treated to a post-race party ending with our awards ceremony.

Our racers have the option of competing individually, in two-person teams, or in three-person relays. Individuals may sign up in the youth category (under 18), standard registration (18-50), or in the masters category (50+). Two-person teams may compete as all male, all female, or co-ed. Both racers will complete all three legs of the race and their finish times are averaged for their placement. Two-person teams may also complete the paddling leg of the race in a canoe if they choose. Three-person teams compete in the event relay style, with each member completing one leg of the race. Three-person categories are also all male, all female, or co-ed.

Racers looking for more of a challenge can compete in the 3x3 Adventure Series. 2019 will be the third year of partnering with the Timber City Adventure Race in Maquoketa, Iowa, and the Annawan Canal Ambush in Annawan, Ill, to create the three-race series of adventure triathlons for our competitive racers. Register now at riveraction.org/taming. ☺

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Today's Transformation in Transportation

— By Noah Truesdell

In recent years, the Quad Cities have been improving their multimodal infrastructure and encouraging their citizens to use public transit, carpool, walk, or bike one day a week.

City planners urge improving public transit, walking and bike trails. And it is working. MetroLink has invested in and improved public transportation in the Illinois cities. It has updated docks for the Channel Cat Water Taxi, and built The Q Multi-Modal Station and Metro Operations and Maintenance Center. It has made improvements with the environment in mind, designing the new operations and maintenance center to be LEED certified for sustainability, and rolling out an electric bus program in 2018.

In addition, the cities have made improvements to roads and paths that have made them more accessible to pedestrians and cyclists. We have seen more bike lanes striping the streets. Bettendorf has expanded side paths along roads, earning recognition by becoming the only Quad Cities Bike Friendly City. Just recently, Moline received funding for the River to River multi-use path which will connect the Mississippi River Trail to the Rock River Trail. Finally, we have all had the pleasure of witnessing the construction of the I-74 Bridge, which will complete an important trail connection between the Bettendorf and Moline riverfronts.

On April 10, the Davenport City Council voted to incorporate DavenportGO, a multimodal transportation plan, into its Comprehensive Plan with the goal of increasing the number of people walking or biking, improving access, removing barriers for cyclists and pedestrians, linking neighborhoods to trails, improving public health, and improving safety on Davenport streets.

US Cities are Designing Complete Streets

Ever since the invention of the automobile, the United States has molded itself to the freedom of travel that it bestowed. An intricate interstate system now crisscrosses the country. Wide eight, ten, or twelve lane freeways have been cut through great urban landscapes. But sometime around the turn of the century as the climate started warming, public health began to deteriorate, and urban sprawl led to intense traffic congestion; a paradigm shift in urban design began to occur. Cities all across the country have begun designing their streets to better accommodate not just cars, but pedestrians, bicyclists, and efficient public transport. These layouts are called Complete Streets.

So, what are Complete Streets? These streets are designed to provide safe access for all users, regardless of age, ability, or income. They typically include sidewalks, bike lanes, special bus lanes, curb extensions, and narrower travel lanes. They also may include median islands, green buffers, or roundabouts. All of these options serve to allow more people to access these corridors no matter what mode of transportation they use. They slow vehicle traffic increasing the safety for pedestrians. Space set aside for public transportation allows larger volumes of people to move efficiently through the city.



Pictured is an example of a Complete Street, with the bike lane and designated bus lane highlighted.

Several states have some sort of multimodal policy statewide (Oregon, California, Illinois, North Carolina, Minnesota, Connecticut, Florida). Many cities have designated certain corridors be accessible to cyclists and pedestrians. More recently, some cities are designing all of their streets to be Complete Streets. But in order to begin converting streets to Complete Streets it is key to pass public policy that requires multiple modes of transportation to be incorporated in any new street repair or development. In this way, cities have a plan to turn to when updating old roads or designing new ones.

Cities that have implemented Complete Streets have seen many benefits. Streets become more efficient providing accessible connections between residential areas, retail destinations, and public transportation. Safety improvements have seen pedestrian risk reduced by 28% because they encourage more walking and biking which contributes to better health. Traffic jams are reduced due to the overall increase in the capacity of the transportation network. Finally, with less vehicle traffic, air quality improves. Complete Streets policies allow for modernization of the roadway while promoting public health for all. ☺



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QUAD CITIES FLOOD RESILIENCY ALLIANCE SPURRED ON BY SPRING FLOODING

— by Carol Downey



Canada geese paddle by in flood waters on River Drive in Davenport, Iowa, normally a high-traffic thoroughfare.

Participants in the new Quad Cities Flood Resiliency Alliance are on a learning curve. At the Feb. 28, 2019 meeting, the group heard from the National Weather Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. First up was Jessica Brooks, Service Hydrologist, National Weather Service with a report on projected spring flooding. Due to saturated ground, high winter snowfall totals and a forecasted wet spring, chances of major flood events were shown as high. In hindsight as of mid-April, the forecasts were accurate. Local rivers including the Rock, Wapsipinicon and Mississippi all experienced flooding already this spring. As of this writing, the Mississippi River is holding at major flood stage with a second crest possible.

Amanda Mueller, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District briefed the group on the availability of flood fighting supplies and the type of supplies and equipment offered. She also described the process by which a community can mobilize these resources. Following the unfavorable spring flooding outlook, participants were pleased to learn about the resources available to prevent or mitigate property damage.

The third speaker was Jason Conn, NFIP Specialist, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, who presented a thorough review of floodplain management basics, Iowa and Illinois floodplain management regulations, flood insurance, the National Flood Insurance Program, and its Community Rating System. Guidance was presented on reading flood insurance rate maps to better understand the meaning of various zones identified in flood-prone areas. Attendees also learned definitions of useful floodplain management terms and an overview of NFIP and how it works.

Following the February meeting, one local community redoubled its efforts to finish its application to join CRS and secure discounts on flood insurance for property owners. River Action is seeking grant funding to assist local communities with activities like surveys of homes and

WHAT: Quad Cities Flood Resiliency Alliance Meeting

WHEN: 1:30-3 p.m. May 30, 2019

WHERE: Riverdale, Iowa City Hall Community Room, 110 Manor Drive, Riverdale, Iowa

WHO SHOULD ATTEND: Concerned citizens, city/county/village leaders and administrators; emergency management personnel; floodplain managers; public works personnel; local and state-level elected officials

COST: Free

AGENDA:

- Community Rating System (CRS): What is it and how does it work?
– Lou Ann Petellaro, Insurance Services Organization
- Panel Discussion with representatives from CRS communities
- Meet with a CRS representative
– Lou Ann Petellaro, Insurance Services Organization

CONTACT: Carol Downey, River Action Program Manager, at 563-322-2969 or cdowney@riveraction.org

FUTURE QCFRA MEETINGS – MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

All meetings will be held at 1:30 p.m. at Riverdale, Iowa City Hall Community Room, 110 Manor Drive

Thursday, Aug. 22, 2019

Tentative Agenda:

- Hazard mitigation 'Hit List' – Identify the top three flood hazard sites from your community to share with the group to create a priority mitigation list
- Lessons learned from 2018 flood events

Thursday, Nov. 21, 2019

Tentative Agenda:

- Certified Floodplain Management (CFM) Training

businesses for flood elevations in previously unmapped areas. Floodplain mapping is just one of many creditable activities in the CRS program.

The second quarterly meeting is scheduled for May 30, 2019 and will include a deeper dive into the Community Rating System by a CRS specialist. A panel discussion also is planned with representatives from communities already in the CRS program. ☯

eddy Calendar

May



River Action's Explore the River Series

Memorial Day through Labor Day, Channel Cat Talks – Tuesdays and Thursdays 9-10:45 am, Riverbend Commons, 2951 River Dr. Moline \$14

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.



Nahant Marsh: Breakfast Nature Club: Turtles of Iowa

May 3, 8-9 am, Nahant Marsh Education Center, 4220 Wapello Ave, Davenport, nahantmarsh.org

Learn about the local turtle species and why these cold-blooded creatures are an important part of the ecosystem. \$5 suggested donation

May continued on page 12 >

Backwater Gamblers Water Ski Show

Memorial Day through Labor Day - every Wednesday and Sunday, 6:30 pm, Ben Williamson Park, 5000 44th St Rock Island, backwatergamblers.com

A free water ski show. Donations appreciated.

Celebration Belle River Cruises

April 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.

Riverboat Twilight

May through October; Schedule, prices and cruise times vary, 197 Front St. Le Claire, 800-331-1467, riverboattwilight.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.



Mercado on Fifth

Fridays, 5-9 pm, May 31 through Sept. 27, 5th Ave and 12th St, Moline, mercadoonfifth.com

An open-air night market featuring food trucks, live entertainment, produce and retail vendors.

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< May continued from page 11

Quad City Audubon Society: Spring Bird Count

May 4, quadcityaudubon.org

Many ways to help count birds in the state. The Illinois Spring Bird Count is coordinated statewide by the Illinois Natural History Survey. inhs.illinois.edu/collections/birds/sbc/

Nahant Marsh: Nature Hike

May 4, 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

FORC: Illiniwek Abermination VI

May 5, qcforc.org

The Aberm will be the third in the 2019 Iowa Mountain Bike Championship Series and Illinois State Championship Race Series.

Black Hawk State Historic Site: Annual Garlic Mustard Pull

May 11, 9 am-noon, A-frame shelter off 15th Street, Rock Island, blackhawkpark.org

Learn how to identify and correctly remove garlic mustard. Help remove exotic invasive species from Black Hawk forest or your natural area.



River Action: Great River Brewery Fundraiser

May 15, 4-9 pm, 332 E 2nd St, Davenport, riveraction.org

Enjoy local craft brews on the outdoor patio. Bring your friends and come support River Action! River Action will receive 10% of all sales.

River Action: Art Along the River

May 19, 2 pm, LeClaire Park picnic shelter, Davenport, riveraction.org

Poetry along the Banks with poet laureate Dick Stahl. Participants will get a short introduction to the art of poetry writing and have an opportunity to write about a river sight or experience. \$5 or free for River Action members



Kwik Star Criterium

May 27, The Village of East Davenport, quadcitiescriterium.com

The 54th annual race provides a challenging and exciting course in the Village of East Davenport. A full day of racing featuring competitive riders from novice to professional.



Pioneer Village Heritage Days

May 27-28, Dan Nagle Walnut Grove Pioneer Village, Long Grove, Iowa
Costumed interpreters demonstrate the crafts of old and sell their wares.

River Action's Environmental Book Club

May 28, 7 pm, River Action office, 822 E River Dr, Davenport, riveraction.org

Discuss *Two in the North*, by Margaret Murie. Meetings are open to the public and meet at the River Action office between Tremont and Federal Streets.

June**Nahant Marsh: Nature Hike**

June 1, 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

Nahant Marsh: Breakfast Nature Club – Topic TBD

June 7, 8-9 am, Nahant Marsh Education Center, 4220 Wapello Ave, Davenport, nahantmarsh.org, \$5 suggested donation

Tour of the Mississippi River Valley – TOMRV 42

June 7-9, Quad Cities Bicycle Club, qcbc.org/tomrv/

Enjoy a well-supported, challenging ride on scenic roads through Midwest farmland and along the Mississippi River. A great weekend cycling experience with riders from across the Midwest.

**Ballet Under the Stars**

June 7-9, 8-9:30 pm, Lincoln Park Classic Theatre, Rock Island, balletquadcities.com

An enchanting evening of dance with guest artists from the community. Ballet Quad Cities' annual gift to the community. Admission is free.

Quad Cities Museum Week

June 8-16, qcmuseumweek.com

Celebrate our region's museums and participate in special activities, exhibits, and promotions during this fun-filled week.

**River Action's 35th Annual Ride the River Father's Day Family Bike Ride**

June 16, 7 am-3:30 pm, downtown Davenport, riveraction.org

Celebrate the 35th anniversary of Ride the River by enjoying a bi-state tour of the Quad Cities along riverfront bike trails. Plus, cruise on the Mississippi River aboard the Celebration Belle riverboat from Iowa to Illinois or ride across the government bridge and historic Arsenal Island.

River Action: Art Along the River

June 23, 2 pm, Bechtel Park, Davenport, riveraction.org

Painting: The River and its Structures with watercolor artist Tom Hempel. Participants will create a personal individual sketch with coloring. \$5 or free for River Action members

River Action's Environmental Book Club

June 25, 7 pm, River Action office, 822 E. River Dr, Davenport, riveraction.org

Discuss *Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI*, by David Grann. Meetings are open to the public and meet at the River Action office between Tremont and Federal Streets.

July**Red, White, & Boom!**

July 3, 5-10 pm, 563-322-1706

The Quad Cities' Independence Day celebration. The bi-state fireworks will launch from the river with primary viewing areas and family activities located at Modern Woodmen Park, LeClaire Park, Schwiebert Riverfront Park, Centennial Park, and Davenport Skybridge.

July Calendar, continued on page 14 >

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< July Calendar continued from page 13

Genesis Firecracker Run

July 4, East Moline, firecrackerrun.com

Proceeds from run benefit tangible community projects.

Nahant Marsh: Breakfast Nature Club – Topic TBD

July 5, 8-9 am, Nahant Marsh Education Center, 4220 Wapello Ave, Davenport, nahantmarsh.org, \$5 suggested donation

Nahant Marsh: Nature Hike

July 6, 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

July 14, 2 pm, meet at Credit Island statues, Davenport, riveraction.org

Readers' Theater: Sunday in the Park Alive with Chuck Oestreich. Participants will read lines written with a Quad City slant based on the 'Sunday in the Park' statues at Credit Island Park. \$5 or free for River Action members

Rock Island County Fair

July 16-20, 4200 Archer Dr, East Moline, rockislandfair.org

Livestock shows, arts & crafts, talent shows, flowers, family fun for all ages! rockislandfair.org



Mississippi Valley Blues Festival

July 5, LeClaire Park, Davenport, mvbs.org/blues-fest

A weekend of music on the banks of the Mississippi River. Sit back, relax, and enjoy an incredible lineup of blues talent.

Bix 7 Run/Walk, Quick Bix, and Jr. Bix

July 26-27, 500 E 3rd St, Davenport, 563-383-2489, bix7.com

The 45th annual race up the Brady Street hill. One of the top ten running events in the country!

River Action's Environmental Book Club

July 23, 7 pm, River Action office, 822 E. River Dr, Davenport, riveraction.org

Discuss *If I Understood You, Would I Have This Look on My Face?*, by Alan Alda. Meetings are open to the public and

meet at the River Action office between Tremont and Federal Streets. ☺



RAGBRAI XLVII

July 21-27, Ride begins in Council Bluffs and ends in Atlantic, ragbrai.com

Register's Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa – a non-competitive ride going from west to east across Iowa.

Please join us throughout 2019 in celebrating River Action's 35th Anniversary!

WOULD YOU RATHER SAVE SOME TREES?

You can opt to receive a digital copy each quarter by email instead. Just drop us an email and let us know! riveraction@riveraction.org



of action



EXPLORE THE RIVER THIS SUMMER!

Explore the river through a program which teaches participants first-hand about the wildlife, history, culture, and geography of the Mississippi River and the Quad Cities through Channel Cat Talks and Riverine Walks, May 28–Aug 31.

Channel Cat Talk participants tour the Mississippi River aboard the Channel Cat Water Taxi, while experts narrate.

Riverine Walk participants explore the Quad Cities through guided walks and talks.

***NEW* Art Along the River** participants explore various art media in natural settings along the Mississippi River.

Join us in learning about the unique nature and culture of the Quad Cities!



Volunteer Opportunity

June 1, 2019

9 a.m.—Noon

Pigeon Creek Park

River Action and the City of Bettendorf are planting one hundred trees and organizing a clean up in Pigeon Creek Park.

6729 Shutters Lane, Bettendorf, IA

Gloves and bags will be provided.

To volunteer

Email: ptunnicliff@riveraction.org

**PLEASE RETURN THIS PORTION WITH PAYMENT TO:
RIVER ACTION, 822 E. RIVER DR.
DAVENPORT, IA 52803**

Pay online at www.riveraction.org/education, make a check payable to River Action, or provide credit card information.

CHANNEL CAT TALKS

Sessions are \$14.00 each and take place on the Channel Cat Water Taxi (space is limited). Meet at the Riverbend Commons, 2951 River Drive, Moline, IL 61265. If the Captain cancels, a rain date will be scheduled. **All Channel Cat Talks are from 9-10:45am.**

Set Sail

- ☐ Tue. May 28
- ☐ Thu. May 30

Fort Armstrong

- ☐ Tue. June 18
- ☐ Thu. June 20

Historic Bridges

- ☐ Tue. July 16
- ☐ Thu. July 18

R.I. Development

- ☐ Tue. Aug. 6
- ☐ Thu. Aug. 8

Midwest Future

- ☐ Tue. Aug. 27
- ☐ Thu. Aug. 29

Photography

- ☐ Tue. June 4
- ☐ Thu. June 6

Coast Guard

- ☐ Tue. June 25
- ☐ Thu. June 27

Sand and Gravel

- ☐ Tue. July 23
- ☐ Thu. July 25

River Landscape

- ☐ Tue. Aug. 13
- ☐ Thu. Aug. 15

Hydro Potential

- ☐ Tue. June 11
- ☐ Thu. June 13

Raptors

- ☐ Tue. July 9
- ☐ Thu. July 11

Beiderbecke

- ☐ Tue. July 30
- ☐ Thu. Aug. 1

Lock & Dam

- ☐ Tue. Aug. 20
- ☐ Thu. Aug. 22

RIVERINE WALKS

Sessions are \$6.00 each or FREE for River Action Members. If a presenter cancels, a rain date will be scheduled. **Wednesday walks are from 6:30-8pm, Saturday walks are from 9-10:30am.**

Walk with a Doc

- ☐ Wed.. May 29
- ☐ Sat. June 1

Riverside

- ☐ Wed. June 19
- ☐ Sat. June 22

Sylvan Island

- ☐ Wed. July 17
- ☐ Sat. July 20

Downtown R.I.

- ☐ Wed. Aug 7
- ☐ Sat. Aug 10

Messy Fields

- ☐ Wed. Aug 28
- ☐ Sat. Aug 31

Floodplains

- ☐ Wed. June 5
- ☐ Sat. June 8

Wild Side

- ☐ Wed. June 26
- ☐ Sat. June 29

Historic Moline

- ☐ Wed. July 24
- ☐ Sat. July 27

Deep Maps

- ☐ Wed. Aug 14
- ☐ Sat. Aug. 17

Center of Blackhawk

- ☐ Wed. June 12
- ☐ Sat. June 15

Barge Fleeting

- ☐ Wed. July 10
- ☐ Sat. July 13

Confluence

- ☐ Wed. July 31
- ☐ Sat. Aug 3

Best Management

- ☐ Wed. Aug. 21
- ☐ Sat. Aug 24

ART ALONG THE RIVER

Sessions are **\$5.00 each** or **FREE** for River Action Members. If a presenter cancels, a rain date will be scheduled.

<input type="checkbox"/> Poetry , May 19	<input type="checkbox"/> Reader's Theater , July 14
<input type="checkbox"/> Painting , June 23	<input type="checkbox"/> Music , August 11
<input type="checkbox"/> Painting, Sketching , September 8	

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