

eddy MAGAZINE

Connecting people to the river

ST. AMBROSE STUDENTS SELECT FILM
FOR ENVIRONMENTAL FILM SERIES:

My GARDEN — *of a* — THOUSAND BEES

INSIDE:

- :: Creating Avenues For Youth
- :: Students Planning the 2023 QC Environmental Film Series
- :: Remember, Last Stop: The Ocean
- :: and more...



We are creating avenues for youth

—by Kathy Wine

Goals in River Action's strategic plans have long included engaging youth in our mission, and it has been a number one objective.

Kathy Wine

We need to invest in the next generation of leaders. Keeping with that, we have worked to deliver content to young people through programs, events, and volunteer opportunities with more or less success. The surmise? We need some new strategies because what we saw reflected the wisdom, "Nothing about me without me is for me." We need to start getting youth involved in the planning of projects and the outreach of programs to their peers.

Currently, River Action and partners are creating new avenues for students to become involved, and it has brought some insights. Instead of delivering to youth, we have put young people on planning committees and asked them to generate plans or events with their peers. In this issue, we talk about the expansion of the Quad Cities Environmental Film Series with the Student Plan-it Committee. We showcased youth activism playing a key role in climate action by giving them a voice at the Upper Mississippi River Conference. While we have long supported paid college interns, this year, with funding from the American Water Foundation, we have paid for the intern's training at FEMA headquarters in Maryland, and are paying her salary to assist parttime the City of Bettendorf with its FEMA Community Rating System application.

Because involving more youth with the UMRC poster presentations by college undergraduate and graduate students, this year, we reached out to high schools, too. With a sponsorship from Graef, Madison, WI, we are able to offer cash prizes of \$300 for each division winner. This underscores not only the importance of academic endeavors, but recognizes the need for students to have funds for education and career paths. A final plenary, "Youth are Calling for Action" created meaningful conversion, too, with undergrad and graduate students presenting.

Finally, Liv Humphrey outlines her work with high schools and her lectures available for in-school presentations.

Other organizations are doing the same: The German American Heritage Center has a Young Adult Book club. American Hiking has just expanded its impact with NextGen Trail Leaders program, which provides for a diverse group of five 18-40 year-old leaders in outdoor advocacy to serve as influential ambassadors for the trail community.

Now that we are re-envisioning program planning for out-of-school time, to not just deliver content, but create content with students, we hope our mission of sustainability and advocacy will be more sustainable because youth see themselves in our programs and thus real connections made. ☀



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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.

Cover photo: Amy VanEchaute

Exploring the Mississippi 2022-2023



What people are saying about
River Action's 2022
Explore the River Series:

"One of the benefits attending these is the opportunity to learn about things that not only I might not know much about, but to be exposed to topics that I might otherwise think I'd have no interest in."

"Excellent presentations and content. Really enjoyed. Would highly recommend to others."

"What a privilege to be able to participate. Thank you!"

"Love what River Action offers the community"

— by Dayna Kraklio

In 2022, River Action offered the public 54 unique lectures as a walking tour or on the Channel Cat Water Taxi in hopes to form a deep connection between our audience and the Mississippi River in the Quad City area. More people attend our Channel Cat Talks and Riverine Walks than we have ever had in the past, a total of 1,096. It was great to see lots of new faces as well as some old for the education series.

Some of our most popular Talks included "Lock and Dam 15 Improvements" by Anthony Heddlesten, "Steam Boating on the Upper Mississippi" with Karen Anderson, and "Beiderbecke and Bellson" with Josh Duffee. This year, we also added on an extra Channel Cat Talk at the end of the series, "Commercial Fishing" with Schafer Fisheries. Not only did Mike Schafer lecture, he included fresh Mississippi fish they offer and how they make their homemade plant fertilizer. In addition, he had fresh, locally-caught fish prepared by The Machine Shed, for everyone to sample.

Some of our most popular Walks included "Green Rooftops" with Teresa Nelson, "History of Arsenal Island" with Kevin Braafeldt, "Hauberg Estate: A Jens Jensen Landscape Restoration" with Deb Kuntzi, and "The History of the Heights" with Matt Johnston.

Some of 2022 topics will return for our 2023 Explore the River Education Series, but we will also see some new topics. Two we will be featuring in 2023 are "Pelicans in the Quad Cities" and "The Coast Guard's Role on the Upper Mississippi". The pelican story will be given by Tim Murphy from the Quad City Audubon Society. He will be discussing the recent and sweeping increase of the population of American White Pelicans we see here in the Quad Cities. If you've ever been near or on the Mississippi River from the spring to the fall, you have most likely seen pelicans on the water or flying above it. During nesting season, the pelicans lay their eggs on islands north of the Quad Cities, in the middle of the river channel. The strange thing is, we did not see these pelicans, or nowhere near as many at least, twenty years ago. Tim Murphy will be discussing the reasons more and more pelicans have been attracted to the Quad City area. More details on the Coast Guard on the Upper Mississippi will be coming soon!

River Action will continue planning new subjects for next summer's Explore the River Series. Our brochures will be sent out at the beginning of 2023. If you have any ideas for a topic that you think is particularly interesting and pertains to the environment, culture, and/or history of the Mississippi River or the Quad City area, let us know. You can send me an email at dkraklio@riveraction.org or call our office at (563) 322-2969. ☺



Youth are Calling for Action:

A Plenary Session
at UMRC 2022

— by Liv Humphrey



Jack Hughes



Samuel Taylor

A NEW ELEMENT TO THE 2022 UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER CONFERENCE WAS A STUDENT PANEL THAT GIVE STUDENTS, BOTH UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE, AN OPPORTUNITY TO TALK ABOUT WHAT IS IMPORTANT TO THEM WHEN ENGAGING PEOPLE ON THE SUBJECT OF CLIMATE CHANGE.

It was inspiring and notable that each of these students brought their grandparents into their narrative, and how important having those relations and connections are in sparking an inspiration.

When asked if they experienced a backlash as they pursue a topic that can be seen as political and controversial, answers ranged from Samuel's "A significant portion of my academic journey has been presenting scientific information to the public. I have given talks to nunneries, as well as at bars. Of course, discord exists when discussing climate change; it is inherently a politicized concept these days. But I know through effective communication, we can lower backlash and improve the scientific literacy of our communities."

Jack explained, "I wouldn't say that I have experienced backlash, but there have been hurdles in working with people outside of the environmental world. One of the biggest hurdles... working with college

administration. Very often they are hesitant to work with environmental groups on campus because we are often viewed as having extremist ideas." I think hurdles does sum up the continuation of voicing your concern on the environmental, especially as a student to college administration.

Ava summed it up this way, "As I got older, I learned about better conservation practices that differed from those used on our farm. When I shared those with my family, they were hesitant and unsure if what I said had any value; the "if it ain't broke don't fix it" attitude has been omnipresent. It's been a bit discouraging, but my values haven't faltered, I simply changed the subject for now.

Bringing student's voices to the conference brought new and insightful opinions to meaningful discussions about climate change; they will be included each year hereafter. ☺

The panel included: Samuel KZ Taylor, a MS candidate for Earth and Environmental Sciences at the University of Iowa, Jack Hughes, Augustana senior studying Geology and Environmental Studies, and Ava Alford, a graduate student in biology at Western Illinois University.

When Samuel was asked what fueled his passion for environmentalism, he explained, "The first time I felt a deep fascination for my environment came from skipping stones with my grandfather in the alpine canyons of Logan, Utah. What is the monetary value of an experience such as this? It's unquantifiable, and I desperately want to provide my children and grandchildren the opportunity to simplistically fall in love with nature as well. There is inherent value in preserving the world around us, teaching the next stewards, and keeping it natural and viable for others. That is a passion I deeply hold."

Jack explained, "My passions for environmentalism stem from my grandpa who was constantly disheartened by unsustainable behavior because of my Grandpa I began exploring environmentalism during my senior year of high school. I did a suitability analysis of LEED architecture in my hometown Lubbock Texas. I found that areas with higher property values were more likely to sustain green architecture."

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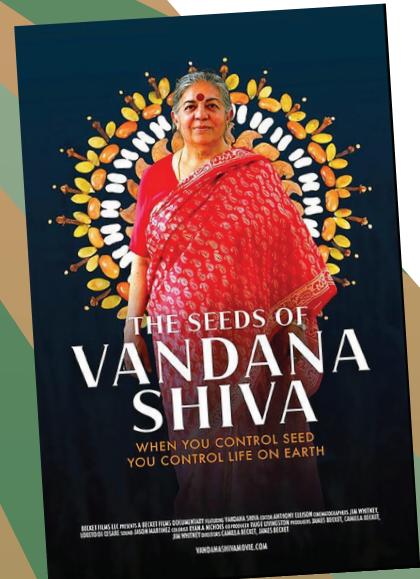
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Student Plan-it Committee to Host Environmental Films



The Seeds of Vandana Shiva:
Dr. Shiva demonstrates the only way
forward for the future of food.

—by Kathy Wine

After three great seasons, the QC Environmental Film Series planning committee was unhappy with one thing—not seeing young people in attendance. Knowing that the environment scores high in interest among students, we set about learning the why. Was it the 2 p.m. showing? Was the Figge a convenient venue? Could transportation be a problem? Was it the choice of movies? Was our marketing reaching the audience? We have a \$5 student ticket; is that affordable?

In order to attract the student audience that will one day be leading ecological movements and make them part of the reflection time or ‘talk back’ at the end of each movie, we reached out to environmental club sponsors and asked them to participate in our inquiry. Marilyn Bartels, Black Hawk College, Dr. Kevin Geede, Augustana College, Dr. Dennis Tarasi, St. Ambrose University, and Laura McCreery, Davenport North High School agreed to advise.

Their suggestions included a) allowing the films to be shown on campus, b) giving students the opportunity to review and select the films with the planning committee, and c) aligning film showings with school calendars. Each advisor found two or three students to serve, and the Student Plan-it Committee was formed with the first joint meeting held in September.

Charged with selecting new films in either the field of activism, energy, food sovereignty, land preservation, social justice in the environmental movement, water preservation, or wildlife, they began viewing our previewed list of 20 films. Some have selected, some are still in the process of choosing.

The QCEFS 2023 season will kick off on January 22, at the Figge Art Museum, 2 p.m. with the pending feature “*The Seeds of Vandana Shiva*” which focuses on the people, circumstances and seminal events in Vandana’s life—what shaped the thinking and defined the purpose of this Indian physicist and social activist. It also shows how the battle against multinational agribusiness has become an international struggle between two visions for feeding the world.

My Garden of a Thousand Bees:
Filmmaker records all the bee species in his English garden.



The Dead Sea Gaurdians:
Swimmers take on what has never been done; to swim across the Dead Sea.

Finally, each club will assist in finding a reflection speaker that follows each movie showing, help publicize the film at school as well as the public, and create a display of club activities or theme of the movie that will be exhibited movie day. Each club will receive a \$250 grant awarded by the QCEFS organizers. They are: River Action, The Joyce and Tony Singh Family Foundation, Sierra Club Eagle View Group, Nahant Marsh, and Jewish Federation of the Quad Cities.

Season tickets and the full playbill will be available online in November; go to www.riveraction.org/qcefs to purchase. ☺

St. Ambrose will show “*My Garden of a Thousand Bees*”, January 29, at the Galvin Fin Arts Center, St. Ambrose campus, Davenport. Since SAU is the Fighting Bees, and a Bee Campus USA, they thought it appropriate! The film follows acclaimed wildlife filmmaker Martin Dohrn during the coronavirus pandemic lock down as he sets out to record all the bee species in his tiny urban garden in Bristol, England.

February 5, North High School plans to host “*Youth Unstoppable*” on campus.

February 12, Augustana will host a yet-to-be-selected film on campus.

February 26, Black Hawk College Clean Sphere Club will host at the Figge Art Museum.

March 5, the Jewish Federation of the Quad Cities will host the film “*The Dead Sea Guardians*” (2022) at the Figge.

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FEMA-Trained Intern Assisting QC Communities

— by Dayna Kraklio

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With an America Water grant, River Action is employing Caroline Sorenson, Augustana College Senior majoring in Environmental Studies and Geography, as an intern to assist the City of Bettendorf with a FEMA Community Rating System application. FEMA-trained in CRA this summer, she works with Taylor Beswick, Bettendorf Floodplain Manager, on the preliminary data search, interviews and writing clear up until the time of submission.

Caroline recalls, "While working at my conservation internship during the summer, I was able to find time to fly out to Maryland for the FEMA training. This training gave me the background I needed pertaining to FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program and their Community Rating System. I was the youngest person at my training by far. Everyone that I met at the training was well into their careers while I am still in college. I met some great people who were able to offer me a lot of help with continuing education and possible career paths."

When asked for one of her biggest challenges she answered "digesting all the information I had learned at the trainings in such a short amount of time. This experience for me has been immensely valuable. I feel lucky to have received this opportunity to obtain real life experience in the public works sector of city planning while still being in college."

**"IN MY OPINION,
HANDS-ON
EXPERIENCE IS
THE BEST WAY
TO GET YOUTH
INTERESTED IN
THE ENVIRONMENT."**

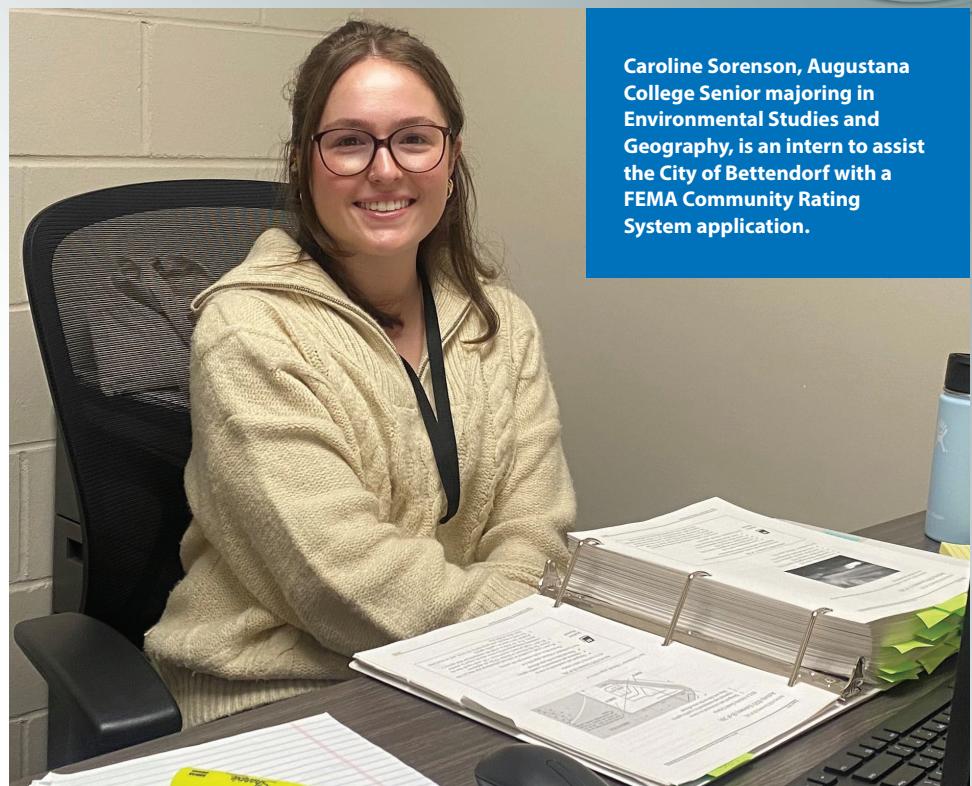
One of the reasons River Action pursued the American Water grant to assist cities with CRS is time-strapped city staff don't have time to complete the rather onerous application. (Only two cities, Davenport and Moline, and one county, Rock Island County, currently are enlisted with the FEMA program.) Caroline confirmed with "Throughout this process I have learned how much work a CRS application can take. Communities, especially flood prone communities, can benefit greatly from a reduced cost in flood insurance premiums.

By being part of a CRS community, the city's preparedness to flooding events is also a plus.

While completing this internship I have learned how to communicate with other professionals. I have also developed the ability to delegate importance to different tasks when given a lot of information at once. The planning department within the City of Bettendorf has been very welcoming ...very helpful with obtaining information across different public works departments."

Asked how more youth might get involved in environmental stewardship, she responded, "In my opinion, hands-on experience is the best way to get youth interested in the environment. I grew up camping, participating in clean ups, etc. I feel like I learned more about the environment through those experiences compared to traditional learning in a classroom."

Following the submission of the Bettendorf application, Caroline will move to Rock Island and assist with the city's CRS application. ☺

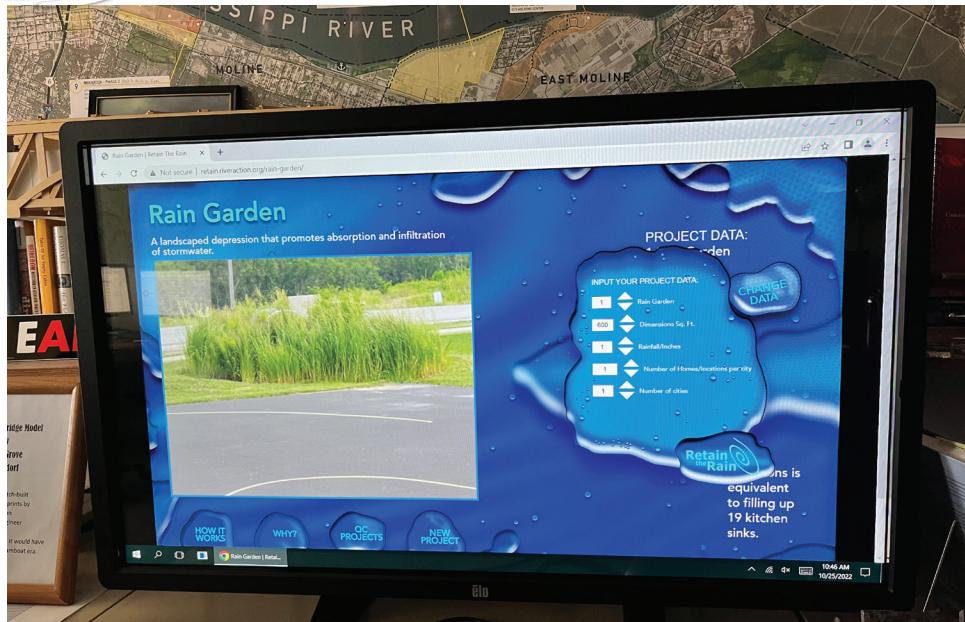


Caroline Sorenson, Augustana College Senior majoring in Environmental Studies and Geography, is an intern to assist the City of Bettendorf with a FEMA Community Rating System application.

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This Retain the Rain interactive exhibit will be displayed at the Davenport Public Library, Fairmount Street Branch, 3000 N. Fairmount St, the month of November.

— by Kathy Wine

Since 2000, when River Action initiated the Retain the Rain program, we have maintained the Retain the Rain calculator as a web page on the RA website. Also, a tall kiosk was created, and with the help of Iowa-American Water, was moved every month to a new location: college, city hall, library, public works headquarters, and more. Each month the numbers were totaled to keep a running tally of users by location. Through the years, it averaged 500 per month.

Now, with funds from Scott County Regional Authority, the display has been downsized, and is a 48" tv monitor that we can move easily. We invite schools and other organizations to register with us for the use of it.

It invites users to look at best practices for curbing stormwater runoff: rain barrels, rain gardens, bioswales, prairie restorations, green roofs, and porous paving. When dimension of the project along with a rain event are entered, the calculator gives the user how many gallons of water were retained.

In addition, the touch screen offers pages with maps, descriptions, plant lists, local Retain the Rain projects, installation guidelines, and a glossary.

Call River Action 563-322-2969, or write Dayna Kraklio, dkraklio@riveraction.org to schedule. Also available at the RA office, 822 East River Drive, is the "Six Simple Things You Can Do To Save the Mississippi River", a 32 page handbook about Retain the Rain best practices for homeowners. ☺

Take this Interactive Display to School, the Library, Student Center—anywhere inquiring minds gather!

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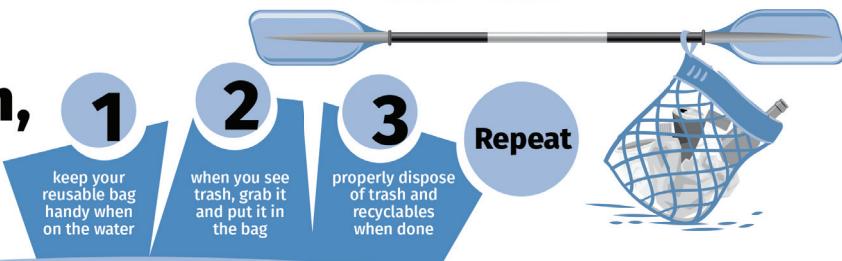
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While going down stream, keep the river clean



Remember, Last Stop: The Ocean

— by Kathy Wine

River Action had 1,300 join us on Floatzilla when we challenged paddlers to clean up the river while

paddling downstream. At Lake Potter, Kathy Morris and Megan Fox, Waste Commission of Scott County, and sponsor of the cleanup effort, sorted the plastic in order to take back to the commission the pieces that could be recycled. It was an impressive pile.

Since that time, these bags were distributed to those on XStream Clean up, October 15, so that the citizen science program could continue to cover more of the Quad Cities. Volunteers also used a debris tracker downloaded on their phones (www.debristracker.org) to identify the type of trash retrieved. It was a chance to build on last year's Mississippi River Plastic Pollution Initiative launched in October 2021. Litter data is useful anytime, anywhere!



Paddlers from Port Charlotte, FL with their blue bags!



Volunteers ready to empty a blue bag at Floatzilla.

In Port Charlotte, FL, paddlers collected trash blown in by hurricane Ian using remaining blue bags to clean its canals and waterways. The effort was organized by Pat and Tom Bolton, Davenport and Port

Charlotte, who each year are organizers of the Floatzilla Safety Team.

If you would like to know more, go to www.debristracker.org and see maps and results of the work being done nationwide. We salute those picking up litter wherever they are—even if it's just out for a walk in the neighborhood. Contact River Action, 822 East River Drive, Davenport, to pick up a bag. ☺

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November

Nahant Marsh: Breakfast Nature Club – The Notorious Past of Nahant

Nov 4, 8-9 am, Nahant Marsh Education Center, 4220 Wapello Ave, Davenport, nahantmarsh.org

Brian Ritter will discuss the notorious and brighter sides of Nahant's past, including the village of Rockingham that existed from 1835-1851 on a portion of Nahant Marsh's land. A continental breakfast will be served. Bring a travel coffee mug if you'd like. \$10 admission.



Nahant Marsh: Nature Hike

Nov 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. Free admission.

Nahant Marsh: Iowa Young Birders Field Trip

Nov 5, 9-11 am, Nahant Marsh Education Center, 4220 Wapello Ave, Davenport, nahantmarsh.org or wildapricot.org

November marks the peak of waterfowl migration through Iowa and wetlands are extremely popular among migrating ducks. Nahant Marsh is a premier

wetland area where you may see migrating ducks as well as other birds that frequent the area in the fall. Free admission, advanced registration is required.

Quad City Audubon Society's Field Trip

Nov 12, 8 am, Rapids City, IL quadcityaudubon.org

Meet at Shuler's Shady Grove Park/boat camp in Rapids City, IL. Free admission.

Festival of Trees Holiday Parade

Nov 19, 10 am, Downtown Davenport, qcfestivaloftrees.com/parade

The largest helium balloon parade in the Midwest and the only televised Quad City parade!



Quad City Arts Festival of Trees

Nov 19-27, RiverCenter, 136 E. 3rd St, Davenport, qcfestivaloftrees.com

A winter wonderland featuring over 150 designer displays, fun-filled attractions, and special events. Several ticketed special events held throughout the 10-day holiday extravaganza.

Lighting on John Deere Commons

Nov 19, 3:30-6 pm, 1201 River Dr, Moline, lightingonthecommons.com

Attractions include Santa & Mrs. Claus, tractor-drawn wagon rides, live music, children's craft area, lighting ceremony and fireworks.

River Action's Environmental Book Club

Nov 22, 7 pm, River Action Office, 822 E. River Dr, Davenport, 563-322-2969, riveraction.org

Discuss Rising: Dispatches for the New American Shore, by Elizabeth Rush. Free and open to the public.

Small Business Saturday November 26th

A day to celebrate and support small businesses and all they do for their communities!

Giving Tuesday November 29th

Global day of giving to support non-profit organizations.
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December

Nahant Marsh: Breakfast Nature Club: Constellations & Astrology

Dec 2, 8-9 am, Nahant Marsh Education Center, 4220 Wapello Ave, Davenport, nahantmarsh.org
A continental breakfast will be served. Bring a travel coffee mug if you have one. \$10 admission.

Christmas at the Village

Dec 2-3, 6-9 pm, Village of East Davenport, villageofeastdavenport.com

Santa Claus, Scrooge, Carolers and Musicians throughout the Village of East Davenport. Trolley rides, Kid's Crafting Center, Nativity with animals, and live music.

Nahant Marsh: Nature Hike

Dec 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. Free admission.

Christmas Bird Count

Dec 14 through Jan 5, audubon.org/conservation/join-christmas-bird-count
Be a part of this annual tally of wild birds!



Quad City Audubon Society Public Meeting: Pie Night

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

Bring a pie to share or just join in the fun. Program speaker to be announced. Free admission.



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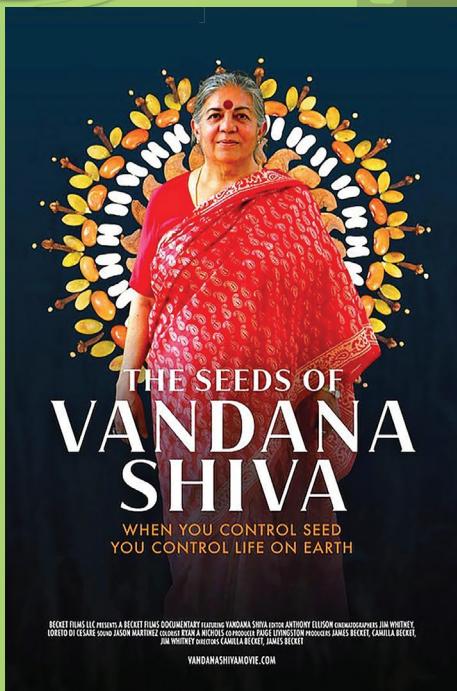
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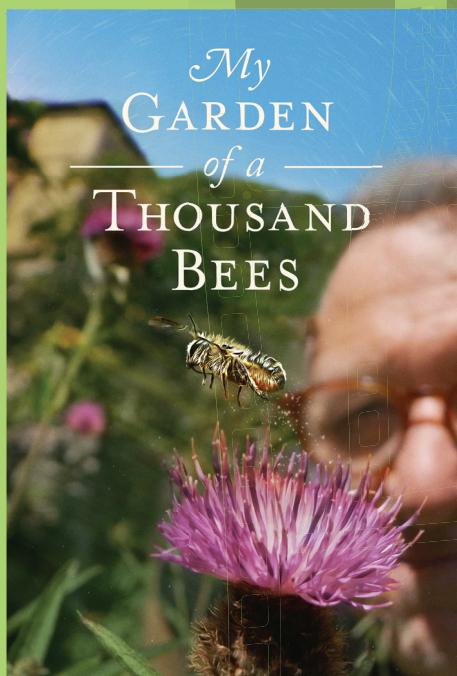
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Quad Cities Environmental Film Series

Jan 22, 2 p.m. Figge Art Museum, 225 West 2nd St., Davenport, riveraction.org/qcefs
Showing of 'The Seeds of Vandana Shiva'.
\$10 adults, \$5 students

Jan 29, 2 p.m. Galvin Fine Arts Center, St. Ambrose campus, 518 W. Locust St., Davenport
Showing of "My Garden of a Thousand Bees".
Free and open to the public.



Quad Cities Environmental Film Series



January

Bald Eagle Days

Jan 6-8, QCCA Expo Center, 2621 4th Ave, Rock Island, qccaexpocenter.com
Live eagle programs and live bird of prey demonstrations.
More than 100 display booths with information on outdoors-related organizations. Be sure to stop by River Action's booth!
Adults \$6, Children ages 6-15 \$1.



Quad Cities Farm Show

Jan 15-17, QCCA Expo Center, 2621 4th Ave, Rock Island, quadcitiesfarmshow.com
The only Ag show in the Quad Cities featuring over 200 Ag companies. Free admission.



River Action's Environmental Book Club

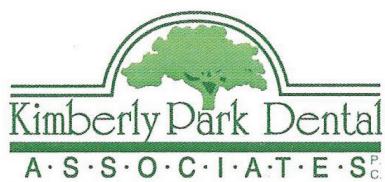
Jan 24, 7 p.m., River Action Office, 822 E. River Dr, Davenport, 563-322-2969, riveraction.org
River Action and Sierra Club host a monthly environmental book club. The book for January will be announced on River Action's website once selected. The book discussions are free and open to the public.

*****Send us your suggestion for the 2023 Reading List*****

Title: _____

Author: _____

Your contact info: _____



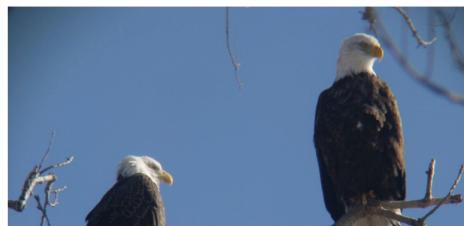
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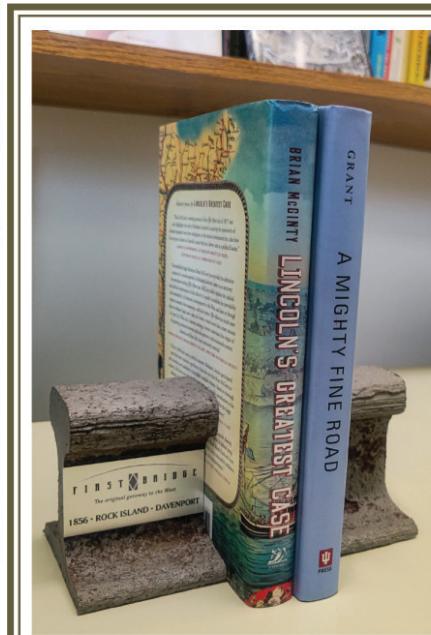


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For over 30 years River Action has been dedicated to connecting people to the river. Our supporters help us to improve the quality of water that flows down the river. They help us instill a love of the river through encouraging participation in many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



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