JOIN IN THE PADDLING FUN!

Saturday, August 20th
:: Canoe and Kayak Excursions
:: Help break the Guinness World “Float” Record!

ALSO INSIDE:
:: Go Green Guide – Workplaces
:: The Future of Electric Cars in the QCA
:: Profile: Ann Breen and the Waterfront Center
:: Riverside Dining
:: River Action Updates
“Powered by electricity without being tethered to electrical outlets, the Volt does everything a great car does and better.”

- Motor Trend

The Volt offers an initial electric range of 35 miles - totally gas and tailpipe emissions free. After that, you can drive for a total range of up to 375 miles with the extended range mode until you can plug it in or fill it up again.

Lujack's is your Volt Headquarters! Visit today to reserve yours!
My Hero

I have a hero, an extraordinary innovator named Ann Breen. The Waterfront Center, which she co-founded in 1981 in Washington D.C., provides an idea-to-implementation continuum of high-quality waterfronts and economic stimulus consulting based on the idea that you cannot separate people from the water! It has been the template for River Action’s projects and programs since our beginning.

Ann visited the Quad Cities at our invitation during 1983’s “Year of the River” and suggested that we not stop our work at year’s end, but start our own organization, which we promptly did, and the rest is history. The Center has conducted workshops five times in the Quad Cities focusing on not only what to do, but how to do it. Each time they have brought in talented people who share their successes and failures in finding smart solutions. Their suggestion led to the lighting of the Centennial Bridge.

The idea of river-hopping, public transport, and linking new bike trails led to the Quad City Water Taxi, which River Action launched in 1995. At the same time, the idea of integrating a way-finding system along our expanding trails was presented, leading to sixteen kiosks and twenty-six historic signs. Not long after, the Center suggested capturing the history, culture, and natural resources of the river through art, and our RiverWay Art program was launched. One of the workshops centered on the reuse of the Union Station and the Freighthouse, and that study helped frame those buildings’ renovations and revitalization.

Ann and co-director Dick Rigby are Olympians in the sport of travel, breaking out of the office to visit and photograph waterfront projects around the world. They gather real data to learn what really works in revitalizing waterfronts and cities themselves. This has resulted in many books full of photographs, commentary, maps, and drawings provided by architects. Reclaiming the Cities Edge and The New Waterfront are two must-reads for those working in the long-range public interest.

After 30 years, my endorsement isn’t necessary. But I still feel compelled to pull you aside and tell you about Ann, so full of grace, intellect, and determination. The Center’s mission is what I’m most inspired by when I think of River Action’s endeavors. It has found the perfect balance of economic development and accessibility for people who wouldn’t otherwise think about having accessibility, and then turning them into waterfront fans who care for water and waterfronts.

At their annual conference, each attendee brings a small bottle of water from the body of water that their city touches. We each pour our bottle into a bowl to symbolize the collective commitment we all share to the health of the world’s water and to sound waterfront planning.

So many thanks to the Waterfront Center and what they have done to inspire River Action.

[Read more about Ann Breen and the Waterfront Center on page 12.]
ART

1 Nahant Marsh, by Julie Malake.
It takes a lot of years looking before you learn to see the extraordinary, and Julie has spent years photographing Nahant Marsh in all four seasons. She has preserved the beauty by clicking the shutter, making time stand still. It is her wish to have the sale of her Nahant Marsh book, a sixty-two-page book of photos, help preserve the marsh over time by funding restoration and education there.

Julie says of her subject, “Nahant Marsh is an island of wildlife habitat in an urban setting. I have been irresistibly drawn back again and again in all weather and seasons.”

Her legs are her zoom lens helping her get up close, wading into the marsh for that one breathtaking shot.

EDUCATION

2 The Ugly Duckling, performed by Ballet Quad Cities
When art both entertains and educates, it is a powerful experience. With this in mind, Ballet Quad Cities wrote the Educator’s Guide designed to help teachers enhance the learning and creative experiences of The Ugly Duckling ballet.

We know that today children need a variety of stimuli to capture and hold their attention, and this specially designed children’s program is used as a springboard for classroom activities and learning. In this version of The Ugly Duckling the wetland home of the little ducklings is on the Mississippi River, so the teacher’s guide is a message about the watershed and its importance in providing clean water. There is also a strong anti-bullying message as well. Incorporating these lessons into the popular story was an artful transformation of a familiar fairy tale made powerful.

DESIGN

3 Genesis East Medical Center, Dr. Joseph L. Lohmuller and Steve Gabel
Many green building projects are proposed, but few are actually developed due to the complexities of adapting new technologies to building design and to project budget constraints.

When Dr. Joseph Lohmuller proposed a green roof at the Genesis East campus, he was thinking of the view from hospital rooms first and foremost. Second, but also important, was the message of retaining rain where it falls and making it a functional green roof, a demonstration project for the entire region.

The green roof design and engineering are exemplary and will surely lead the way to more green developments in Davenport and the Quad Cities.

REVITALIZATION

4 Hotel Blackhawk and Forrest Block

Apartments renovation, Restoration St. Louis, Amy and Armir Gill

Saving threatened buildings is a massive undertaking that requires a great deal of “Eddy” ingenuity, stamina, vision, and hard work. Restoration St. Louis, under the leadership of Amy and Armir Gill, has revitalized every part of the 1915 Hotel Blackhawk and returned life to the building. It is absolutely radiant today.

They have retained its historical character while featuring modern conveniences. Use of history such as the feather in the logo, Bix in the Bistro, and period shapes in furniture throughout the hotel are just a few examples of the care used in the $42 million restoration.

Another long-vacant landmark, the Forrest Block, has become new luxury apartments. It is the cornerstone of an important historic district and this restoration has saved a piece of history in downtown Davenport.

ACTIVITY

5 The Loop Bus, Quad Cities Transit System

The Quad Cities Transit System took on a challenge talked about for years. “Joined by a river” sounds easy, until one takes on the work of making the needed connections with public transportation, not just during festivals, which is daunting enough, but year round.

The Loop bus has been a success since it was first launched in 2009. A seamless corridor through the Quad Cities’ downtowns and along the river, this new route epitomizes the kind of organization River Action recognizes as true advocacy of urban waterfront development. The Quad City Transit System is an inspiration for other Midwestern cities wanting to connect their jewels on the riverfront.

STEWARDSHIP

6 Francis “Fritz” Fuhs, Area Maintenance Persons

Taking an idea in 1991, getting others to follow, working through initial skepticism of his big idea, and then seeing it through for 19 years, is the embodiment of an Eddy Award.

Fritz’s first cleanup was in May 1992 with fifteen volunteers. More citizens joined in the effort. He worked hard to do more and do it well, and before long 175 persons were sporting the signature yellow shirts, involved in weekly clean ups, picking up litter all over Davenport.

Fritz was the recipient of the Iowa Governor’s Volunteer Service Award in 2008 and Davenport’s Senior Hall of Fame. He is one of the hardest working citizens we have and has become a local hero.
Upper Mississippi River Conference

By Kathy Wine, River Action Staff

River Action thanks in advance the speakers and organizers of the 2011 Upper Mississippi River Conference. More than thirty speakers will share their knowledge and time with those attending the fourth annual meeting. Balancing Nature and Commerce, September 21-23 at the Isle of Capri Convention Center, Bettendorf, Iowa.

With the support of the US Army Corps of Engineers, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and US Coast Guard, the conference targets city planners, elected officials, landscape architects, architects, environmental groups, economic developers, government agencies, and environmental educators. The meeting addresses best case studies and provides attendees with resources to guide them through federal and state programs integral to implementation. Additional assistance is provided by Western Illinois University, the University of Illinois, Alter Barge Line, the City of Moline, and Exelon.

The conference commences at the welcoming reception, Wednesday, 5 p.m., sponsored by Western Illinois University. Exhibitors will display in the Center followed by a catfish fry on the lawn hosted by Alter Company.

New this year is the Youth Summit, scheduled to kick off on Wednesday, 4:30 p.m. Planned by River Action’s Youth Advisory Board, it is a challenge to youth to initiate change. Encouraged by speakers who have initiated projects on campus, they will be urged to initiate in the coming year. Keynote speaker Brian Soenen, AWARE Director of Planning, La Crosse, Wisconsin.

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How to Tame the Slough

By Evan Clark

Xstream Cleanup 2011
Saturday, August 13
8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Volunteers needed to help clean and beautify 40+ areas in the Quad Cities!
REGISTER AT WWW.XSTREAMCLEANUP.ORG

The workplace. A dreadful terrain of faulty printers, bubbling water coolers, and mountains of uncompleted TPS reports. A place where the only scenery comes from the Puerto Rican calendar your sister sent you after she got back from spring break in San Juan. But this fall, it’s time to unleash the workplace into the wild and take out that pent up aggression against your copier by competing in the Corporate Adventure Challenge at this year’s Taming of the Slough.

The annual race takes place on September 17 in Moline, Illinois and features a course consisting of 2.5 miles canoeing or kayaking through the Sylvan Slough, eight miles of mountain bike riding on Sylvan Island, and 1.75 miles of running through downtown Moline before you can officially tame the Slough.

The Corporate Adventure Challenge consists of teams of three from each company that signs up for the challenge in what can only be defined as the ultimate quest for office bragging rights. Tom Brackmann, president of Nichols Aluminum in Davenport, is a certified Slough tamer, along with five other Nichols Aluminum employees who have participated in the event. He recalls his first time participating in the event as testing but not overwhelming.

“I’d call it an accessible event,” Brackmann says. “It’s a challenge, but it’s not so hard that you can’t just go out and have a fun day doing it. The only thing is, hope it doesn’t rain, because that’s when the mud will get you when you’re running uphill at the end of the race.”

Brackmann really emphasizes to be prepared for the weather, and don’t underestimate the power a little rain can bring.

“It rained all last year, and the hill climb was just a complete mud shoot,” Brackmann says. “I think I was halfway up and then I wound up sliding a quarter of the way down. But nothing is really that difficult. If you want a little adventure challenge for yourself, this is a great start.”

Ian Frink is the Vice President of Crawford Company in Rock Island and a fellow Slough tamer as well. He credits the uniqueness of the event as a main component for getting his company involved with it.

“2008 was the first year I did the course, and it’s now the third year that we’ve been a sponsor with the event,” says Frink. “We’d noticed that the event had grown over the years, and it’s a very unique race that ties in with the river, which is a key asset for the Quad Cities. It also has the recreational component, so we thought that it’s something a little bit different and would be fun to participate in.”

While Frink participated in the race individually, his coworkers obtained office bragging rights that he still hears about to this day.

“We had a total of seven different people involved in Taming of the Slough last year,” Frink says. “We had two teams, and I was an individual racer, and one of the teams we had placed first in the corporate division, which was very cool to see. We try to promote these events to our employees because it’s a team building concept for all our workers who participate.”

While Frink and Brackmann will have their respected companies competing against each other this fall, they both agree that the key to taming the Slough is mastering the art of kayaking.

“I’m a terrible swimmer, plus I almost have a fear of water,” Brackmann says. “So kayaking was the toughest part for me.”

“I’m not a kayaker by any means, but the difference from the first time to the second time I did it was that I got the technique down a little better,” says Frink. “It’s a challenge, but it’s something different and fun, and I think a lot of people would really get into it.”

So, if you’re tired of trying to tame all your budgets, performance reviews, and sales reports, then put down your pen and pick up a paddle, and try taming the Sylvan Slough. See you September 17th!
Year of the Turtle at Nahant Marsh
By Mik Holgersson, River Action Staff

In 2010 River Action instituted a Turtle Monitoring Program at Nahant Marsh in Davenport, Iowa. Mik Holgersson, River Action’s Program Director of Natural Resources, coordinated and conducted the research with partial funding from the Iowa DNR. In total, 194 turtles were captured, measured, marked, and released back into Nahant Marsh through this study. Among them were painted turtles clad in ornate and colorful markings, snapping turtles of impressive size with tough-guy dispositions to match, spiny soft-shell turtles with their unique snorkel-like noses and leathery shells, and red-eared sliders, which have long been the quintessential pet turtle. More importantly, however, eleven state-threatened Blanding’s turtles (state-endangered in Illinois) were captured late in the 2010 season. These semi-aquatic turtles have a golden-yellow throat, and, much like gold, are quite rare and worthy of investment.

As such, the 2011 season of the Nahant Marsh Turtle Monitoring Program has focused additional resources on the study of the resident Blanding’s turtles. In addition to the capture and release methods used previously, radiotelemetry was incorporated to track the movements of six individuals in order to locate and assess vital Blanding’s turtle habitat, including nesting areas, at Nahant Marsh. The 2011 season will be completed in October and the results of the study will appear on the River Action website by December.

Coincidentally, River Action’s turtle conservation efforts at Nahant Marsh are part of a much larger effort that is taking place throughout North America. The Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (PARC), in cooperation with dozens of turtle conservation groups, declared 2011 the “Year of the Turtle” (visit YearOfTheTurtle.com for more information). Together, this partnership has championed turtle conservation throughout North America and has raised awareness of the plight of turtles worldwide. Most species are experiencing a reduction in habitat, number, and range, and today over forty percent of turtles are threatened with extinction in the wild.

Nahant Marsh is an important turtle habitat, and conservation of the marsh will help ensure conservation of the amazing turtles and hundreds of other plants and animals that live there. You can support these efforts by becoming a member of Nahant Marsh at NahantMarsh.org. If you’d like to contribute to or learn more about the Nahant Marsh Turtle Monitoring Program, please contact Mik Holgersson via email at mholgersson@riveraction.org or call River Action at (563) 322-2969.

A Sporting chance: Greenvalley wetland habitat
By Mik Holgersson, River Action Staff

Every year, thousands of Quad Cities’ athletes of all ages participate in baseball, softball, and soccer leagues at the Greenvalley Sports Complex in Moline, Illinois. Perhaps you’ve collected your share of grass stains as a fellow competitor, or cheered friends and relatives from the bleachers. Or you might recall the national recognition this top-tier sports facility received when it was selected to host a USA/ASA National Softball Tournament in 2010 – an event that was such a success that Greenvalley has been selected to host again in 2012. What you probably don’t know about Greenvalley Sports Complex is that it is adjacent to over 250 acres of contiguous, undeveloped Rock River floodplain that exhibits some of the best wetland habitat in Rock Island County.

In 2008 the City of Moline coordinated the creation of an Ecological Restoration Plan to catalog and assess these wetlands. The plan provided recommendations on how best to restore and manage these habitats for the plants and animals that call them home as well as to provide new recreational opportunities for Quad Cities’ residents and visitors.

River Action has since partnered with the City of Moline to restore over 30 acres of degraded wetland sandwiched between the Greenvalley Sports complex and the Rock River. Much of the site has been overgrown with invasive plants, including the infamous reed canary grass. With partial funding from the US Environmental Protection Agency through Section 319 of the Clean Water Act, this project will transform two drainage ditches and a field of invasive plants into naturally meandering streams, emergent wetland, sedge meadow, and wet prairie. These restored habitats will feature a diversity of native wildflowers and grasses that will attract a variety of wildlife, including waterfowl, butterflies, turtles, and frogs. The project will also feature a trail network complete with interpretive signage, boardwalks, and elevated platforms.

During the coming year, as you’re swinging a bat, kicking a ball, rooting for the home team, or eagerly anticipating a new place to explore nature, take a glance to the south of the Greenvalley Sports Complex to watch the restoration unfold. The anticipated project completion date is late 2012.
GO GREEN GUIDE

WORKPLACES

From large construction projects to smaller waste reduction or recycling plans, businesses are jumping on the “go green” bandwagon in droves. If your business doesn’t have a “reduce our carbon footprint plan”, here are some thoughts and ideas from the Waste Commission of Scott County to help you put the pieces together.

By Beth Clark
with special thanks to the Waste Commission of Scott County

RECYCLING & PROPER DISPOSAL IDEAS:

Acceptable materials include the following items (plus more) that are often used in offices or places of work:

PAPER PRODUCTS: Newspapers, magazines, catalogs, corrugated cardboard, pop cartons, paper towel rolls, office paper, colored paper, brochures and fliers, shredded paper, mail, envelopes, phone books.

COMMINGLED CONTAINERS: tin beverage cans, aluminum cans, glass pop bottles, food containers.

#1 AND #2 PLASTIC CONTAINERS: water, juice or soft drink containers, bathroom and kitchen cleaner containers.

Check online at these websites to make sure your items are acceptable:

http://www.ricwma.org/recycling/

Continued > > >
Eco-inspired design

Not only are we inspired by the beauty of our planet, but we design every interior with the environment in mind. While not every project will be LEED certified, preserving our natural resources is important and we use responsible processes, sustainable materials and energy efficient products in every design. We consider a Life Cycle approach to product selection, space planning, employee productivity and property value. We listen to what is important to you, pull in the best that nature has to offer, and plant it into your design.

Truly inspirational.
RECYCLE ELECTRONIC WASTE

E-waste includes items such as computers and televisions. All material is demanufactured and, to ensure data security, is not refurbished or reused. Demanufacturing, or disassembling, involves manually breaking down equipment into its separate components prior to shredding or recycling. Residents and businesses are charged twenty cents per pound for TVs, monitors and laptops. Console and projection televisions are a flat fee of fifteen dollars. All other electronic waste is accepted at no charge. Large or unusual items are assessed on a per item basis.

Drop-off site:
Scott County Electronic Demanufacturing Facility
1048 East 59th St. Davenport, Iowa 52807
Both Scott County and Rock Island County residents can use this facility. Materials accepted for electronic recycling include:
- Calculators, printer cartridges, cameras, printers, cassette recorders, radios, CD players, scanners, cell phones, stereo receivers, computers, tape recorders, copiers, televisions, DVD players, type-writers (electric), keyboards (typing and musical), VCRs, monitors, video game equipment.
- Calculators, printer cartridges, cameras, printers, cassette recorders, radios, CD players, scanners, cell phones, stereo receivers, computers, tape recorders, copiers, televisions, DVD players, type-writers (electric), keyboards (typing and musical), VCRs, monitors, video game equipment.

CONSERVATION / WASTE REDUCTION:

- PRINT AND COPY DOUBLE-SIDED. Default all your computers to print double-sided and educate your staff to make double-sided copies whenever possible.
- EMAIL PDFs instead of faxing. Look to purchase copy machines that scan to PDF and allow for emailing.
- INSTALL MOTION CENSORS to replace standard light switches.
- INSTALL HAND DRYERS to replace paper towels.
- INSTALL FOAMING HAND SOAP DISPENSERS to replace disposable bottles of hand soap.
- INSTALL PROGRAMMABLE THERMOSTATS to regulate temperature during and after operating hours.
- CONDUCT A LIGHTING AUDIT through a contractor. List and implement upgrades for energy efficiency to include things like a change-out of all fixtures, going from HID lighting to energy-efficient fluorescent bulbs.
- USE REUSABLE PLATES, BOWLS, COFFEE MUGS, AND SILVERWARE in break rooms and board or meeting rooms to replace disposable utensils.
- RE-FILL INK CARTRIDGES. Save and take old ink cartridges to a vendor who can re-fill them.
- TURN OFF LIGHTS AND EQUIPMENT. You can reduce the energy used to power lights, equipment, and computers just by turning them off at night when they’re not being used.
- SHUT OFF TAPS. Close water taps tightly after using them. One drop wasted per second wastes 10,000 liters per year.
- USE PAPER WITH RECYCLED CONTENT. Find a paper supplier who will sell you the maximum available recycled content.
- PURCHASE GREENER PRODUCTS. Conduct a products and services inventory for your business, and investigate alternative products and services that leave less of a carbon footprint.

DISPOSE OF OLD OR UNUSED CHEMICALS through a Hazardous Materials Facility.

Drop-off site:
Scott Area Landfill
11555 110th Ave. (County Road Y-48 near Buffalo), Davenport IA
Both Rock Island and Scott County residents may use the same disposal center (each county contributes to its operation). You need to make an appointment. Online go to http://www.wastecom.com/Content/Facilities/Household-Hazardous-Material.aspx or call 563-381-1300 to set one up.

Some of the acceptable items you will find around the workplace include:
- Floor care products, furniture polish, mercury thermometers, drain cleaner, compact fluorescent lights (CFLs), toilet bowl cleaner, abrasive cleaner, disinfectant, weed killer, pesticides, paint, stains, varnishes, adhesives, glue, resin, solvents.
- UNACCEPTABLE ITEMS: Explosives, radioactive waste, shock sensitive materials such as picric acid, pressurized gas cylinders (butane, propane and acetylene are acceptable).
PURCHASE REUSABLE WATER BOTTLES for all employees to prevent the use of bottled water, and go with a water delivery service.

SHOP LOCALLY WHEN POSSIBLE. This saves on fuel used in transportation of products.

CUT DOWN ON COMMUTING. Whenever possible see if people can work from home or organize car-pools to and from the office. Offer bus passes to employees as encouragement to use public transportation.

ASSESS YOUR VEHICLE FLEET. Take a close look at the vehicles you are using in your business. When it comes time to purchase replacement vehicles look for hybrids or vehicles with 35+ mpg ratings. Make sure employees are using the most efficient vehicles for the trips they are making (for example, your sales force should be using efficient cars versus taking the truck on a sales call).

USE ENERGY EFFICIENT EQUIPMENT. Office equipment, heating and cooling systems, toilets and urinals, and more all offer energy and water-conserving models. Check for incentive programs and rebates available through your utility companies, local, state, and federal government.

WORK WITH RECYCLING CONTRACTORS. Instead of just putting your waste in dumpsters, which many times just gets put into landfills, work with a recycling contractor who may wind up hauling your waste for much less money and disposing of items properly.

WALK THE TALK. Perhaps most important is to not just “green-spin” your business, but to truly commit to it with a plan, and to put measurements and rewards in place. Practice it! It is best for the environment, and, in many cases, over time it will save your business money.

Special thanks to the Waste Commission of Scott County for parts of the content of this article.

SSAB (WITH GERE DISMER ARCHITECTS)
1770 Bill Sharp Blvd. Muscatine, Iowa 52761

The steel manufacturer SSAB opened a Research and Development facility this year that’s in the commissioning stage of LEED certification, a feat only two other buildings in the Quad Cities have achieved. LEED, or Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, is the recognized standard for measuring building sustainability. Gere Dismer Architects in Rock Island designed the building to meet this goal.

“They’re very much concerned about the environment, so it was on the table right from the beginning,” says Perry Gere of Gere Dismer Architects.

The new R&D facility incorporates daylighting, zero-water landscaping, motion activated lights, recyclable materials, eco-friendly paints, and more.

Sixth Annual

OPERATION
MEDICINE CABINET

9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Thursday, September 22
Medic EMS Facility
LeClaire Rd. & Hwy. 61, Eldridge

Friday, September 23
Bettendorf Fire Station
Middle Rd. & Crow Creek Rd.

Saturday, September 24
Waste Commission of Scott County
5640 Carey Avenue, Davenport

This event provides residents the opportunity for free:
• Pharmaceutical Disposal
• Mercury Thermometer Exchange
• Sharps Container Pickup/Disposal
• CFL Disposal
• Document Destruction

For more information
www.wastecom.com
(563) 381-1300

No Cost Estimates Professional Landscape Architects

The Green Thumbers
Landscape Services
• Stone Walks & Patios
• Ponds & Water Features
• Outdoor Lighting
• Firepits
• Outdoor Rooms
• Tree & Shrub Installation
• Retaining Walls
• Mulching

3030 Brady St, Davenport Garden Center - Florist - Landscape
Ann first became interested in waterfronts while living in London during the late 1960s. It happened that her interest in the Thames River coincided with her pursuit of a Masters in Urban and Regional Planning. In London Ann became captivated by the role of waterways as trade, social, and historic centers. Visions of the Thames as a center for urban activity took on deeper meaning when a friend took Ann on a tour of the Thames dockland areas. It was there that Ann witnessed first hand how time and neglect can change a waterfront from a vision of beauty to one of ruin and disrepair.

Ann also places summer visits to the area of Newport, New Jersey into the mix of personal experiences that lead to the path of creating the Waterfront Center. Newport itself was undergoing urban renewal, and Ann witnessed how revitalization of an urban coastal area could transform a city or region. Glimpses of other areas of New Jersey such as Hoboken also crystallized for Ann the need to revitalize flagging waterfront areas and transform them into spaces for social and economic revival.

Although securing her degree would take ten years, mostly due to the pressures and needs of raising a family, Ann would ultimately graduate from George Washington University in Washington, DC. Ann’s studies on urban waterways lead to a position as a waterfront coordinator with the United States Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Office of Coastal Zone Management. As a waterfront coordinator, Ann spent her time providing technical assistance to communities and organizations seeking information on waterfront renewal. It was here that Ann first became acquainted with Dick Rigby who would become a co-founder of the Waterfront Center. Although Ann was initially satisfied with the work, the focus of the program began to shift when a new administration was ushered

By Julie Seier

Ann Breen

Committed to Waterfronts for Community Enrichment

Although people in the Mississippi Valley region may not have heard of Ann Breen, she has played a significant role in some of the most prominent waterfront projects in our area. Ann and her organization, the Waterfront Center, have worked with many local civic organizations such as River Action, Inc., the City of Bettendorf, the Quad-City Convention and Visitors Bureau as well as doing work in the Clinton area. Ann states that the Waterfront Center philosophy is “to encourage each city and town to aim for the highest aspirations for itself and its waterfront. We go beyond design and economics to reach deep into a community’s history.” This holistic approach makes Ann, and the Waterfront Center, unique in the world of waterfront renewal.
Ann defines the center taking a “holistic approach”... by looking at outcomes and changes that encompass both conservation and economic development.

Ann has used both approaches in projects in the Mississippi Valley region with mixed results.

Ann’s commitments to unique and thoughtful approaches to waterfront renewal led to the Urban Waterfront Manifest. Written in 1999, “The Manifesto” was developed to counter attempts by other organizations to create formulaic approaches to waterfront development. “The Manifesto” considers both planning and development as key aspects for successful urban waterfront renewal. “The Manifesto” states that each aspect must adhere to the idea that every community and every waterfront is unique.

The year 2011 marks the thirtieth anniversary of the Waterfront Center and the tenth anniversary of the 2001 conference on October 27-29. This year the conference is actually commemorating two historic milestones at the upcoming Waterfront Center Conference on October 27-29. This year the conference is actually commemorating two historic events: the thirtieth anniversary of the Waterfront Center and the tenth anniversary of the 2001 annual conference that was held in New York.

The twentieth annual conference was held in Brooklyn just days after the events of September 11. The smoldering ruins of the World Trade Center Twin Towers and the horrific impact of September 11 had a profound impact on attendees of the twentieth anniversary conference. This year’s attendees will have the opportunity to witness the rebirth of New York’s financial district – a rebirth that mirrors the rebirth of waterfronts to which Ann and her staff have contributed across the globe.

Over the years, Ann and her staff have witnessed many social and technological innovations, and waterfront projects have grown in sophistication and scope. Some of Ann’s favorite projects have included those in our area, but also those in the Tri-Cities of Washington State and in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. Ann’s affection for the Tri-Cities projects developed from their demonstration of the power of long-term planning and development. Eleven years after their initial consultation, Ann and Dick were delighted when Tri-State leaders invited them back, and every item on their list of recommendations had been completed. The Wilkes-Barre projects hold a special place for Ann because her presentation to their community board led to a reconsideration of their levee wall development to include a public access pathway which let the town garner protection while still providing a means of access and enjoyment.

Recent projects on which Ann has consulted have demonstrated a renewed interest in including historical buildings and artifacts as well as a deeper focus on environmental conservation and other “green issues.” The mandate that Ann remains most committed to, however, is public access. Waterways and waterfronts have always played an important role in civic and industrial development, but they also play a vital role in the psychic and physical history of a region. Ann’s vision and drive over the past thirty years have provided a means to keep waterfronts intact and vibrant for future generations.

For more information on Ann and the Waterfront Center, visit them online at waterfrontcenter.org, or contact them via email at mail@waterfrontcenter.org, via phone at (202) 337-0356, or by snail mail at P.O. Box 53351, Washington D.C. 20009.

The Waterfront Center is a 501(c)(3) organization committed to the idea of waterfronts as unique, finite resources. Since its inception in 1981, the Waterfront Center has been a frontrunner in the trend toward urban waterfront renewal and its growth worldwide. The Waterfront Center helps communities of all sizes transform abandoned, underused waterfront areas into vibrant, dynamic areas for parks and trails, residential projects, and industrial activity.

The Waterfront Center believes urban waterfronts make a special contribution to promoting the healthy communities essential for environmental, economic, and social advancement. The goal of the Waterfront Center is to assist community leaders and/or other professionals in making decisions that provide the best long-term uses of waterfront resources.

The Waterfront Center’s co-founders, Ann Breen and Dick Rigby, have written several books on waterfront renewal and are committed to recognizing the achievements of communities from across the globe in the area of waterfront renewal.
In June 2011 a committee met for the first time to begin a study on electric vehicles, or EVs. The committee, headed up by Paul Rumler, Senior Vice President of Community Development, Quad Cities Chamber of Commerce, will be looking at the infrastructure necessary to support EVs, how to get funding for public charging stations, and how to encourage public adoption.

One committee member who is optimistic about EVs succeeding is Steve Chesley, Executive Manager of the Quad Cities chapter of the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA).

“What we have right now is a perfect storm,” says Chesley. “Gas prices are increasing, there’s the desire to reduce dependence on foreign oil, the desire to be green, government incentives… we think the Quad Cities needs to be prepared for it because there’s going to be demand.”

Another committee member committed to EVs succeeding is Lujack’s Marketing Director, Gwen Tombergs.

“We’re the only Chevy dealer in the Quad Cities on the Iowa side of the river, so we’ve been trying to be proactive to help get the community ready,” says Tombergs.

Ready or not, EVs are coming. There were two Chevy Volts along with product specialists at the John Deere Classic in July, and Lujacks should have one arriving in late summer. The Volt is a plug-in hybrid electric vehicle with an extended range, meaning it runs on pure battery power for the first thirty-five miles before the gas-powered generator kicks in to extend the range by several hundred miles. The Nissan LEAF, which will arrive several months behind the Volt, is a battery electric vehicle that relies exclusively on an electric charge and has a range of about 100 miles.

While the committee met only recently, the groundwork was laid in February. The local NECA chapter, Lujack’s, and the NewVentures Center collaborated to host an information session in downtown Davenport with over thirty city and county leaders. NECA’s Executive Director of Market Development, Rob Colgon, flew in to present an overview of the EV market and the charging infrastructure needed for it to succeed.
While the process may seem like more work, NECA’s goal is to create a great customer experience by training and equipping electrical contractors.

The first wave of charging stations will most likely be installed in people’s garages, so that EV owners can charge their cars overnight during low power usage times. Consumers and businesses will have to choose a charging station based on cost and charging speeds.

A Level 1 charger will fully charge your car in about eight to ten hours. Level 2 chargers take four to six hours. In test markets in the East, these are the chargers most homeowners are putting in their garages. They run about $2,000. Level 3 chargers can recharge a battery in fifteen to thirty minutes, but these can cost $50,000 or more due to limited supplies.

Chesley says that most businesses are looking at Level 2 chargers. While four to six hours may seem like a long time to wait, it may simply require a mindset change. When you go to the store to get groceries or go to the mall, you plug in your car to “top it off” before you head home to charge it overnight. The NorthPark and SouthPark malls, downtown areas, and other business are all potential locations for charging stations. As the technology is embraced, battery life and charging stations will only improve.

“This is a big culture change for everyone that could be great for the economy and great for the environment,” says Tombergs.

The potential economic and environmental impact shouldn’t be taken lightly. Consumers who charge at home will spend between fifty cents and a dollar-fifty per day, depending on utility rates.

Colgon says, “It’s like buying your gasoline at fifty or seventy cents a gallon.”

 Federal tax credits of up to $7,500 can reduce the cost of the vehicles as well. The environmental impact is equally important. According to the Electric Drive Transportation Association, recharging the battery of an EV with a Level 1 or Level 2 charger produces less than half the greenhouse gases of the most efficient gasoline-powered engine, no matter what the source of electricity is.

Because of these benefits, the Quad Cities area isn’t the first or only region looking at an EV infrastructure. Some cities, like Portland, Oregon, have already installed a significant number of charging stations.

Tim Gauthier, Executive Manager of the Oregon-Columbia chapter of NECA, is not surprised at the early success.

“Portland is as green as green can get,” he says. “This is something that is wildly embraced here.”

Nationally, President Obama has called for one million plug-in hybrid and electric vehicles by 2015. Auto manufacturers and other stakeholders are gearing up for the demand. By the end of 2012, every manufacturer in the country will have a purely electric or hybrid electric vehicle.

While Lujack’s will be selling the cars, wholesale distributors, like The Republic Companies in Davenport, may supply the equipment for charging stations. The biggest question is the timing.

“With any technological development, you have laggards who are saying ‘It’s never going to happen.’ I do know it’s coming,” says Republic’s Vice President Don Adams. “At the end of the day, the consumer will be the ultimate judge of how fast it happens.”

One point on which everyone agrees is that for EVs to succeed, the community has to embrace them. Chesley, Tombergs, and the rest of the committee are doing everything they can to educate the Quad Cities on the economic and environmental benefits of this opportunity and pave the way.
In 2010 the response most heard was that everyone loved paddling on the guided floats. The Saukenuk Paddlers, a Quad Cities based kayak and canoe club, serve as “Trail Ambassadors” for the floats. In their thirty-four years of paddling on the Mississippi River, they’ve seen it all and know about the exceptional paddling opportunities right here at home.

Club member Rosie Dreesen advises, “Paddling on the Mississippi is more like paddling on a lake, although there is some current. It’s pretty wide open, but one has to steer clear of river traffic and always remember to wear a personal flotation device.”

There are four launch sites from which to choose. Beginners will enjoy Lake Potter at Sunset Park, Rock Island. Intermediates can launch from Credit Island, Davenport or Ben Butterworth Parkway, Moline while advanced paddlers may prefer Ben Butterworth Parkway, Moline.

The advanced route provides a truly unique experience for paddlers and is limited to the first 200 registered boats. After launching at 8 a.m. from Ben Butterworth Parkway, the flotilla will move into the main channel of the river while taking in gorgeous views of the Iowa shoreline as well as Arsenal Island.

Floatzilla 2010 attracted an impressive 1,337 paddlers (955 boats) from sixteen states to paddle kayaks and canoes on the Quad Cities Water Trails for River Action’s first annual paddle sports festival. It takes a pretty special event to get hundreds of people to drive to the Quad Cities from as far away as Texas, Florida, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Washington. Without a doubt, the Mississippi River was the star of the show, and Floatzilla 2011 is sure to build on last year’s success.

One thing is certain, that Floatzilla is not just for hardened outdoor types or experienced paddlers. Here’s a pretty basic litmus test: Are you a fan of the Mississippi River? Do you enjoy outdoor fun? Congratulations, Floatzilla is right up your alley. The event truly has something for all abilities, so here’s your chance to paddle with 1,000-2,000 of your closest friends and help the Quad Cities set the Guinness World Record for largest flotilla of kayaks and canoes in the process. The current record is 1,619 boats set by Pittsburgh, Ohio in 2010.

Last year’s Floatzilla attempt was an impressive 1,337 paddlers strong! But we want to do better: Be a part of the World Record on August 20, 2011!
The group will lock through the main chamber of Lock and Dam 15 with safety boats from the Corps of Engineers and US Coast Guard. Paddlers rarely get the chance to lock through, which makes this float the hottest ticket for Floatzilla.

Saukenuk Paddler Dave Hill says, “It’s really exciting to get into the lock chamber, have the water drop, and paddle out.”

Paddlers hold on to ropes along the side wall or onto each other’s boat so they are stable as the water level falls. Hill also advises to “stay alert when coming out of the lock as the water can be pretty choppy when it meets Sylvan Slough.”

**Intermediates that launch from Ben Butterworth** for a similar nine-mile paddle to Floatzilla will hug the Illinois shoreline into Sylvan Slough behind the i Wireless center. This hidden gem for local paddlers is a relaxing urban getaway that is full of waterfowl, lily pads, and great views of the historic limestone buildings of the Arsenal. The flotilla will encounter a seventy-five-yard portage around the Arsenal hydro dam and re-launch in the lower portion of Sylvan Slough to finish the paddle to Lake Potter.

The second intermediate launch is at Davenport’s Credit Island. This site will also host camping on August 19 and 20 for people interested in making the most of their outdoor experience. Boats launch from 10 a.m. to noon for the half-mile paddle across the river to Lake Potter for all the festivities.

Beginners, or anyone who doesn’t have time for a longer paddle, launch at Lake Potter and will encounter a very calm backwater of the Mississippi River. The lake is part of Sunset Park, surrounded on three sides by land, and it’s the ideal location for Floatzilla. As paddlers from the other launch locations converge on Lake Potter, water and land fills up with paddlers, boats, and the anticipation of the Guinness World Record attempt.

The US Coast Guard and Corps of Engineers will patrol the Mississippi River and Lake Potter with ten safety boats for this year’s event, renewing the effort to make safety a priority.

Matthew Perry of the USCG says that in 2010, “There were a couple kayakers that overturned, but were righted, dewatered, and they continued on their way.” He also recommends “being well hydrated because canoeing and kayaking can cause dehydration faster than most people think, especially in August.”

If all this sounds great but you don’t have a kayak or canoe, you’re in luck. Credit Island Adventure Rentals opened last summer and will rent boats for Floatzilla.

Kevin Kernan with Credit Island Adventures says, “We have rentals set up for Credit Island, Lake Potter, and Ben Butterworth. Renters can return their boats at Credit Island or to our tent at Lake Potter.”

Credit Island Adventure Rentals has solo kayaks, tandems, and canoes available. Call (563) 289-5445 to rent a boat.

Keep in mind that making it to Lake Potter is only half the fun. Floatzilla central will boast a trade show, music, food and beverage vendors, and the Burger Boat. Have you ever eaten a perfectly grilled burger in a kayak?

The try-before-you-buy tradeshow will feature Floatzilla memorabilia, outfitters, retailers, and organizations looking to share their message with paddlers. You will be able to try out boats, personal flotation devices, camping gear, and other paddling equipment right on site.

Paddlers are encouraged to bring bilge pumps, squirt guns, and anything else you can think of to fling water for an all out soaker of a water war. You’ll also want to get there to check out the costumes and theme-decorated boats.

In 2010 a couple of boats of Vikings really made a splash.

All the festivities will culminate in the Guinness World record attempt at 2 p.m. Paddlers will be called to the water starting at 1:30 to assemble Floatzilla. Rules say that all kayaks and canoes need to be connected by paddlers touching another boat. Once Floatzilla is assembled, the group must be linked up for thirty seconds before splitting up. Setting the Guinness World Record would be the cherry on top of a truly unique and memorable event.

While many in the area have been paddling our waters for years, the Quad Cities Water Trails just launched in 2010. The fact that so many were drawn to the first Floatzilla is a sure sign that paddlers love the Mississippi River. The Quad Cities is quickly becoming a nationally known destination for paddlers.
Outdoor Dining on the River

By Evan Clark

THE BOAT HOUSE
1201 E. River Drive, Davenport, IA 52803
(563) 326-3663

Lori Bentley, one of the owners of The Boat House, strongly believes that the view from the outdoor patio seating overlooking the river doesn’t get much better.

“It’s because we are so close to the river, and our view is panoramic,” Bentley says. “It’s just lovely to be able to view upstream or downstream, see all the bridges, pleasure boats going by, and all the wildlife that’s going by. It’s very refreshing.”

Established in 1995, The Boat House lies near the Davenport/Bettendorf border, right along the Mississippi River. For bikers, it’s perfect for taking a break from the bike path to stop in for great food and an even better view.

Known for its ribs, scallops, and catfish platters, The Boat House offers both outdoor and indoor dining for lunch and dinner. Bentley believes that the food, friendly staff, and scenic view will provide a relaxing and unique dining experience.

She says, “We are locally owned, we are an independent restaurant employing local people, and we offer a spectacular view on the Mississippi river unlike anyone else.”

THE CAPTAIN’S TABLE
4801 River Drive, Moline, IL 61265
(309) 736-9188

The idea for The Captain’s Table in Moline was simple according to manager Chelsey Ridge.

“The owners here are boaters, and they thought the area was very unique and perfect for a restaurant,” Ridge says. “All they wanted was to be able to utilize the area for outdoor dining and be more accessible for boaters, and our restaurant is one of the few places in the Quad Cities that’s literally right on the marina facing the river.”

Two years later, The Captain’s Table has established itself amidst the outdoor dining scene in the Quad Cities, featuring outdoor patio dining that overlooks the mighty Mississippi, along with boat docking access available for public use, and live music entertainment on the weekends.

The Captain’s Table has a menu that’s primarily known for its high-quality seafood, but offers a wide selection of other entrees as well, including steaks, pork chops, and an all-new lunch menu from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Ridge encourages customers to try her favorite dish, the Sesame Seared Ahi Tuna, and to bring the family for a salmon-filled Sunday brunch.

View upriver from the outdoor patio at The Boat House.
Nothing goes hand-in-hand with relaxing by the river like a refreshing drink, something that Martini's on the Rock has plenty of to offer. With daily specials on all kinds of drinks, manager Troy Fenner has many reasons why Martini's on the Rock won't leave you shaken nor stirred.

“We have a lot of drink specials during the week, and we carry a wide variety of martinis including our most popular, the Chocolate Explosion,” Fenner says. “We're more of a sports bar and grill environment. We have great appetizers and entrees, and whenever the weather's nice, we have live music played on the weekends.”

If you’re not full from Chocolate Explosions, Martini’s on the Rock offers a menu with appetizers, such as the local favorite Ahi Tuna platter and its well-known ribs and catfish. But it’s the view that Fenner says will impress the most. “We’re eye level to the river, so when you sit on our patio, you’ll be surprised the water isn’t sitting in your lap,” Fenner says. “The first thing people ask is, ‘How often do you guys flood?’ It’s that close that you’re practically part of the river.”

GO FISH MARINA BAR & GRILL

4619 34th St., Rock Island, IL 61201
(309) 732-1631

For those looking to find a different river to scenically accompany your dining, Go Fish Marina Bar & Grill is right off of Princeton Beach, perfect for docking your boat and enjoying the many featured menu specials available daily. Manager Jill Olberman says its prices and location on Princeton Beach can’t be beat.

“We have docks, and you can just dock your boat right at the restaurant and come up and eat,” Olberman says. “We do have nightly specials. Tuesday nights are Taco nights, Wednesday nights are Fried Chicken, Thursdays are for ribs, and Fridays are always catfish and shrimp night.”

Along with daily specials, Go Fish Marina Bar & Grill has a menu that boasts the local favorite grilled Mahi Mahi sandwich, as well as the make-your-own Bloody Mary and breakfast pizza bar every Sunday.

And if eating right off the dock isn’t enough paradise for you, Olberman will promise you’ll feel a million miles away if you come visit their tribal party weekends. “Every Saturday night we not only have live entertainment, but we have a Tiki hut that’s an outdoor bar, along with Tiki torches all over the place,” Olberman says. “A lot of people say they feel like they’re on vacation, because it’s all right on the water.”

GET A GREEN LAWN... in an Environmentally-Friendly Way!

Instead of relying on chemicals to ‘GREEN’ up your lawn, why not try a more environmentally-friendly approach? Aunt Rhodie’s has developed a way to improve your lawn by restoring soil quality, with an option of applying only a minimum amount of chemicals. Our method includes:

- Seeding
- Aeration
- Compost Topdressing
- Crabgrass Prevention
- Spot-Treating Weeds as Needed

For more information or to obtain a quote for your lawn, contact one of our landscaping professionals at 563.323.2840.
**August**

**40th Annual Bix Beiderbecke Memorial Jazz Festival**

*Thursday-Sunday, August 4-7*

Food, refreshments, souvenirs, tapes, and CDs are available at the different venues, which include The Hotel Blackhawk, The Col Ballroom, and LeClaire Park. For more information, go to BixSociety.org or call (563) 324-7170.

**Nahant Marsh Little Jr. Conservationist Day Camp for 4-5 Year Olds**

*Monday-Friday, August 8-12, 9-11:30 a.m., Nahant Marsh Education Center, Davenport*

The Nahant Marsh Little Junior Conservationist Day Camp is a week-long day camp that will allow kids ages 4-5 to learn and explore the natural world. This pre-school camp will teach awareness and a love of nature. Snacks and beverages will be provided daily. Come and join us for fun exploration and fun learning. Cost: $60 To Register. Please register online at http://recpro.ci.davenport.ia.us/ or call Davenport Parks and Recreation office at (563) 326-7812.

**Great River Tug Fest**

*Thursday-Saturday, August 11-13, LeClaire, IA and Port Byron, IL*

It’s the 25th Annual Tug Fest and the score is Illinois 14, Iowa 10. Don’t miss out this year! For more information, go to TugFest.com.

**Ya Maka My Weekend**

*Saturday-Sunday, August 12-13, Rock Island Arts & Entertainment District*

This festival brings the Caribbean islands to the Quad Cities, featuring nationally and regionally known reggae and steel drum bands. The open-air marketplace offers authentic island wares, Caribbean foods, sand volleyball tournaments, and a children’s craft area. The family area features a pirate costume contest, limbo contests, and street performers. For more information, call (309) 788-6311.

**Xstream Cleanup**

*Saturday, August 13, 8:30-11:30 a.m., Various locations*

Hundreds of volunteers clean up and beautify over forty sites in the QC area. Volunteers can choose light-duty or heavy-duty cleanups, invasive species removal, or greening and beautification efforts.

Register by August 5 to get a free T-shirt and a ticket to a special viewing area at River Roots Live in downtown Davenport on August 20. Go to XstreamCleanup.org or call (563) 468-4218 for more information.

**River Roots Live**

*Friday and Saturday, August 19-20, 11 a.m.-Midnight, LeClaire Park, Downtown Davenport*

Kick off with the Ribfest on Friday and a Ribfest Cook-off. Admission is free! Then on Saturday, the music starts with River Roots Live, Quad Cities’ largest music fest featuring nationally and regionally-recognized bands. For more information, visit RiverRootsLive.com.

**Environmental Book Club**

*Tuesday, August 23, 7 p.m., River Action office, 822 E. River Drive, Davenport*

River Action’s book club meets monthly, and it’s open to everyone! In August, Eaarth, by Bill McKibben, will be discussed. Go to RiverAction.org for more information or to be put on the e-mail list for notifications.

**Riverine Walks**

*August 1-31, Wednesday evenings, 6:30-8 p.m., or Saturday mornings, 9-10:30 a.m.*

Summer education during a leisurely stroll – different topics, different locations. Please note this is a walking tour. $5 per person or free to River Action members. Visit RiverAction.org for more information, or call (563) 322-2969.

**Floatzilla**

*Saturday, August 20, 2 p.m., Sunset Marina, Rock Island*

River Action’s Kayak and Canoe Festival with a Guinness World Record breaking attempt. Registration is $10 per paddler and includes a T-shirt. You must provide your own equipment. Camp sites are available, and different skill levels are accommodated. Visit Floatzilla.org for more information and to register, or call River Action at (563) 322-2969.

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**Order Rain Barrels on line!**

Collected rainwater can be used to irrigate lawns, water landscape beds or wash cars. Rain barrels also reduce storm-water runoff lessening the impact on storm sewers, local streams, and rivers.

Only $75! Go to www.riveraction.org and order today!

For more information call River Action at 563-322-2969
**September**

**Rock Island Grand Prix**  
Saturday-Sunday, September 4-5, Rock Island Arts & Entertainment District  
The world’s best drivers come to compete for one of go-karting’s largest cash purses. Last year, more than 30,000 spectators came to experience this two-day race. The festival includes nightly outdoor concerts, driver’s parade, fan autograph session, and special Sunday post-race awards ceremony. There will also be food, merchandise booths, kid’s activities, and more. For more information, call (309) 788-6311.

**Quad City Symphony Riverfront Pops Concert**  
Saturday, September 10, 6:30-8:30 p.m., LeClaire Park, Davenport  
Enjoy this wonderful concert as you sit in LeClaire Park in downtown Davenport along the mighty Mississippi River. Food and drinks available for purchase. Picnic baskets and coolers welcome. $20 admission, children 12 and under are free. For more information, please visit the Quad City Symphony Orchestra website at QCSymphony.com.

**Beaux Arts Fair**  
Saturday, September 10, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, September 11, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 2nd Street, Downtown Davenport  
Art in all mediums. Food, music, and activities for children. This is an outdoor arts and crafts festival in front of the Figge Art Museum. For more information, call (563) 326-7804.

**Bird Hike & Lecture for Seniors**  
Thursday, September 15, 8-11:30 a.m., Nahant Marsh, Davenport  
Learn about the migrating and resident birds at Nahant Marsh. Over 150 different species of birds have been observed at Nahant Marsh, and fall is an excellent time to watch the birds. We will start the morning by going on an easy hour-long hike around the marsh. Spotting scopes and binoculars will be provided, or you can bring your own. After the hike, we will have a brief lecture about the birds and other animals found at Nahant Marsh. Lunch is included. Cost: $19. To register, call (563) 441-4100.

**WQPT Brew Ha Ha**  
Saturday, September 17, 1-5 p.m., LeClaire Park, Davenport  
Brew Ha Ha is WQPT’s award-winning beer and cheese-tasting event continuing its tradition of being ranked as one of the top events in the Quad Cities. Admission to Brew Ha Ha includes unlimited tastings of ales, lagers, porters, and pilsmers from dozens of brewers, plus non-alcoholic beverages. Go to WQPT.org/brew for details.

**Upper Mississippi River Conference**  
Wednesday-Friday, September 21-23, Isle of Capri Convention Center, Bettendorf  
“Balancing Nature with Commerce.” For more information, go to RiverAction.org or call (563) 322-2969.

**Senior Citizen’s Golf Cart Tour**  
Thursday, September 8, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Mississippi Riverfronts  
Senior citizens can participate in guided golf cart tours along the river. There are five different tours with three different starting times from which to choose. All tours are two hours long, and sun screen and water are recommended. These tours fill up fast! To be put on the mailing list, call (563) 322-2969, or email riveraction@riveraction.org.

**Taming of the Slough**  
Saturday, September 17, 8 a.m., Moline  
Annual Mississippi River Adventure Race – Canoe or kayak Sylvan Slough for two miles, mountain bike Sylvan Island for eight miles, and finish with a run/off-road climb for two miles! Race individually or as part of a team. Pre-register online at RiverAction.org, or call (563) 322-2969 for more information. Call for “Tune Up for Taming” dates, times, and locations. This is a series of training sessions for Taming racers AND the general public.

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**Event Calendar**

**Channel Cat Talks**  
Tuesdays and Thursdays, August 1-31, 9-11 a.m.  
Get to know the Mississippi River, different topics from a different view! $12 per person, registrations preferred. Visit RiverAction.org for more information, or call (563) 322-2969.

**Nahant Marsh—The Book**

This 64 page book captures dramatic images of Nahant Marsh over several years. As a friend of Nahant Marsh, Julie Malake makes time stand still as she tells the story of the marsh with her camera. $25 purchase includes $10 donation to Nahant Marsh.

To purchase a book:  
In person: River Action Office at 822 E. River Drive, Davenport  
Nahant Marsh at 4220 S. Wapello Avenue, Davenport  
Or visit www.riveraction.org and click on Nahant Marsh or call 563-322-2969
Operation Medicine Cabinet
Thursday-Saturday, September 22-24, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Various Locations
Scott County residents can safely dispose of old medications, exchange mercury thermometers for a digital, drop-off compact fluorescent light bulbs, pick up and drop off sharps containers, and have data-sensitive documents shredded free of charge during Operation Medicine Cabinet. Thursday, September 22 – Medic EMS Facility, LeClaire Road & Highway 61, Eldridge; Friday, September 23 – Bettendorf Fire Station, Middle Road & Crow Creek Road, Bettendorf; and Saturday, September 24 – Scott Area Recycling Center, 5640 Carey Avenue, Davenport. For more information call 563-381-1300 or visit WasteCom.com.

QC Marathon
Sunday, September 25, Downtown Moline
The Quad Cities Marathon is a USATF certified course, 26.2 mile run, and starts and ends in downtown Moline. The event benefits prostate cancer research and helps fund screening. The flat and fast course features one of the finest, most scenic river views in the country. Along with the marathon, we offer a half-marathon, marathon relay, 5K, 1-mile walk, and even a micromarathon for the kids! Visit QCMarathon.org for more information.

Environmental Book Club
Tuesday, September 27, 7 p.m., River Action office, 822 E. River Drive, Davenport
River Action’s book club meets monthly, and it’s open to everyone! In September, Cradle to Cradle by William McDonough and Michael Braungart, will be discussed. Go to RiverAction.org for more information or to be put on the e-mail list for notifications.

October

Taxidermy for Beginners
Wednesdays, October 5-November 8, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m., Nahant Marsh, Davenport
This course is a hands-on introduction to Taxidermy. Students will learn basic techniques used in today’s taxidermy and will then apply those techniques in completing a mount. The mount will be a small mammal or bird such as a squirrel, mink, or pheasant. Specimens are the student’s responsibility to provide or can be purchased through the instructor. Additional supplies and materials are covered by the course fee. Cost: $80. To register call (563) 441-4100.

Music on the Mississippi
Monday, October 6, 6-7:30 p.m., Moline
Live music, food, and dancing along Ben Butterworth Parkway and 53rd Street! Please bring a lawn chair. Grilled sandwiches and soft drinks available for purchase. Donations for concerts will be gladly accepted. Call Moline Parks and Recreation Department at (309) 324-2424 for more information.

Autumn Cornucopia Native Harvest
Saturday, October 8, 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Nahant Marsh, Davenport
Prepare and enjoy a fall feast featuring edible, native vegetables and fruits. The day will include corn grinding, apple cider making, and other activities. We will enjoy a dinner of bison, corn bread, apple cider, buckwheat pancakes, and pawpaw preserves. Cost: $16 for adults, $9 per child. To register call (563) 323-5196, or email nahantmarsh@eicc.edu.

Corn Belt Running Club Pumpkin Dash
Sunday, October 23, 9 a.m., Credit Island, Davenport
The annual 8K run, 4K run/walk, and 1-mile, 1/4mi, and 4K competitive walk around Credit Island. Take in the fall colors around Credit Island and enjoy the post-race party with fall treats in the Credit Island Park Club House. For more information, call John Parker at (563) 332-9051 or (563) 323-7025.

Environmental Book Club
Tuesday, October 25, 7 p.m., River Action office, 822 E. River Drive, Davenport
River Action’s book club meets monthly, and it’s open to everyone! In October, Bottlemania, by Elizabeth Royte, will be discussed. Go to RiverAction.org for more information or to be put on the e-mail list for notifications.

Fright Night in the RI District
Thursday-Saturday, October 27-29, New York, New York
The Waterfront Center has a singular focus on waterfront planning, development, and culture. This conference includes the 2011 Annual Excellence on the Waterfront Awards Program. For more information, visit WaterfrontCenter.org.

Lagomarcino’s Hot Chocolate 5K Race
Saturday, October 29, 9 a.m., Lagomarcino’s, 1422 5th Ave., Moline
This 5K course is perhaps the most interesting and fastest course in the bi-state area. Roads, trails, scary Halloween stuff, and scenic Sylvan Island. Great fun for the whole family. In addition to wholesome fun, admission will include: high quality fleece vest, matching stocking cap, and Lagomarcino’s chocolate. Register at Lagomarcinos.com or call (309) 764-1814. For more information, call Terry O’Connell at (563) 343-5258.
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