

CHANNEL CAT TALKS

All aboard! 9 A.M. Tuesday & Thursday
Riverbend Commons: 2951 River Dr. Moline, IL

May 28th & 30th

Lock & Dam for Kids

Anthony Heddeleston, Civil Engineer, USACE

Geared toward the younger audience, this trip will teach children and their parents about the purpose of a lock & dam and its functions. Participants will get to experience locking through a dam during this exciting and informative journey.

June 11th & 13th

Raptors Along the River

Dave Murcia, Director, Wapsi River Env. Edu. Center

See a live raptor up close and personal as you learn from a Scott County Conservation Naturalist as he discusses birds of prey found in Quad Cities habitats. Hear about the local ecology and the impact humans have on these amazing flying predators.

June 25th & 27th

Fantastic Voyage on the Mississippi

Dana Starkell, Adventurer

At age 19 Dana and his father paddled a canoe from central Canada to the mouth of the Amazon River in Brazil. The Mississippi River was a memorable part of this 2-year Guinness World Record Breaking trip. Listen as Dana shares entertaining stories from their adventure, giving a unique perspective of life on the river.

July 16th & 18th

Quad City Pelicans

Tim Murphy, QC Audubon Society

Learn about the big white birds that can be found along the Mississippi River in our Quad Cities region. Twenty years ago this was not the case. Explore possible reasons the American White Pelican population has boomed recently.

July 30th & August 1st

The Music of Bix Beiderbecke & Louie Bellson

Josh Duffee, Musician / Jazz Historian

During this unique and exciting Channel Cat Talk you'll explore recordings by Bix Beiderbecke and Louie Bellson as Josh Duffee plays excerpts and discusses the music of each artist. This event will take place a few days before the Bix Jazz Festival begins, coinciding with the centennial celebration of Louie Bellson's birthday year.

August 13th & 15th

Plastic Pollution on the Mighty Mississippi River

Lori McCollum, PACG

Learn about the plastic pollution and contamination of our most important local water resource. Did you know that 40% of the plastic pollution in the Gulf of Mexico flows down the Mighty Mississippi? Find out what you can do as a Quad Citizen to help keep our waters clear of plastic waste.

August 20th & 22nd

Commercial Fishing on the Mississippi

Mike Schafer, Schafer Fisheries

Come for a ride on the Channel Cat and listen to a commercial fisherman tell stories of how they make a living on the Mississippi River. Stick around to enjoy a fresh-caught snack afterwards!

June 4th & 6th

Steamboating on the Upper Mississippi River

Karen Anderson, Historian

Iowa's earliest settlers walked, rode horses, or hopped a log into the Black Hawk Purchase, but by 1854 two miles of north-bound steamboats lined the St. Louis levee. By 1907 the Streckfus family of Rock Island had amassed the largest fleet of luxury steamboats in the world.

June 18th & 20th

Common Chord RiverCurrents Tour

Ben Schwind, Education Mgr. at Common Chord
Using the river as a guide, learn about the history of American Roots Music and its migration up and down the Mississippi River. From Jazz in New Orleans, Blues and Gospel in the Delta, to Rock and Roll in Memphis, hear about its influence on our Quad City area. Enjoy a live performance with musical examples and the stories behind the songs.

July 9th & 11th

Quad Cities' "First Residents"

Beth Carvey, Ret. Black Hawk State Historic Site
Learn about the many cultures of indigenous people that have occupied this region of the Mississippi River Valley over the last 10,000 years. Special emphasis will be given to the Meskwaki (Fox) and Sauk tribes who were the last two indigenous nations to occupy this portion of the river from 1740 to 1831.

July 23rd & 25th

I-74 Bridge & Its Features

Matt Dotson, Sr. Geotechnical Engineer
Though planning of the new I-74 bridge began in the early 2000s, the final design and construction didn't start until fall 2017. A more favorable alignment of the bridge and its approaches were chosen, requiring other preparations well in advance of construction and causing many businesses to relocate. Learn about the bridge foundations, structure, maintenance, lighting, and instrumentation items that were incorporated into our signature new bridge.

August 6th & 8th

Our River Landscape Mosaic

Professors Reuben Heine & Norm Moline
Pool 15 from Arsenal Island to Hampton reveals how physical geography and human actions combine to shape a landscape. Why does the river flow east-west here? What are key river processes and how have humans changed them? What are the current waterfront uses and environmental issues? Enjoy this river journey with us.

August 27th & 29th

Gongoozling with USACE - 200 years of operation, maintenance, and inspections along the Upper Mississippi River

Anthony Heddeleston & Josh Hendrix (USACE)
Lock through the first lock constructed in the 1930s for the 9-foot channel system and learn how it operates. On our way to and from the lock and dam we'll discuss why it was built and the maintenance and upkeep required to keep it running for over 90 years.

RIVERINE WALKS

Meeting locations listed below.
Wednesdays at 6:30 P.M. / Saturdays at 9 A.M.

May 29th & June 1st

The Past, Present, and Future of Moline Centre's Riverfront

Kirk Marske, Program Manager, Renew Moline
Explore Moline Centre's connection to the river front from its rich history and vibrant present to its exciting future. Hear the latest information on the Spiegel Building, the Moline River Front + Centre Plan, and other downtown Moline projects.
Meet at: City of Moline Water Department
Thirty 18th St. Moline, IL

June 12th & 15th

50 Years of Re-imagining the Riverfront

Gates Thomas, Professor, Berklee College of Music, Boston, MA
Along a short stretch of the river lie the sites of two Indian treaties, the first bridge across the Mississippi, several historic structures, and one of Davenport's two original industrial zones. This tour places Davenport's historical sites in modern context, allowing participants to imagine changes in Davenport's riverfront over several generations.
Meet at: Oneida Landing (D'Lua parking lot) 1201 E River Drive in Davenport, IA

June 26th & 29th

Patriots of the Prairie

Karen Anderson, Historian
From Dred Scott's groundbreaking days working on a Bettendorf land grant claim to the pistols and posses that rallied to aid John Brown's renowned slave train crossing on the Davenport riverfront, local abolitionist freedom fighters ignited the fuse that sparked the Civil War.
Meet at: Leach Park (west end under pine trees) 100 12th St. in Bettendorf, IA

July 17th & 20th

Helping Monarch Butterflies

Janet Moline, Ret. Environmental Science Teacher
Fewer monarch butterflies are returning from Mexico. What can we do to increase their numbers? Suggestions on how to raise them and plants needed for their survival will be covered. Recognizing milkweed and looking for eggs will be included. Handouts will be available.
Meet at: Sylvan Slough Natural Area
4501 3rd Ave. in Rock Island, IL

July 31st & August 3rd

Exploring the Marsh

Amy Loving, Director of Education, Nahant Marsh
Hike the trails at Nahant Marsh and discover the unique flora and fauna found in our region's largest urban wetland. Dress according to weather.
Meet at: Nahant Marsh
4220 Wapello Ave. in Davenport, IA

August 14th & 17th

Quad City National Weather Service Office Tour

John Haase, Meteorologist/Forecaster
Learn about weather, climate change, and the history of the NWS and its mission as you take a tour of the operations area and observe how they forecast and create weather warnings.
Meet at: NOAA/NWS, 9040 Harrison St. in Davenport, IA (near Davenport airport)

August 28th & 31st

This is a Farm

Sonja Kinser, Hydroponics Mgr., Tapestry Farms
Tour a 320 sq. ft. hydroponics farm that harvests up to 12,000 lbs. of fresh and nutritious produce annually - the equivalent of a 2-4 acre farm! The food stays local, directly benefiting the communities we call home. Innovative solutions like a self-contained Freight Farm reduce land use and help conserve precious resources like water.
Meet at: Botanical Center
2525 4th Ave. Rock Island, IL

June 5th & 8th

Ballpark Backstage Pass

Dave Heller, Owner - QC River Bandits

Join the team owner for a behind the scenes tour of what USA Today called "the Best Minor League Ballpark in America". Get an inside look at the clubhouses, batting cages, press box, suites, Quad City Sports Hall of Fame, Champions Club, even the dugouts, and hear behind-the-scenes stories from 17 years at Modern Woodmen Park!
Meet at: Stadium Suite Level at Entrance of Modern Woodmen Ballpark

June 19th & 22nd

Passion for Trees

Scott Carlson, Lead Consultant & Instructor, Iowa Arborist Consulting
Learn from a passionate and hilarious expert arborist as he takes you on a casual walk around Lindsay Park and teaches you to look at trees differently. Hear about the species, structure, defects, disease, aesthetics, planting, and functions. He'll share an easy trick that will cut your identification process in half!
Meet at: Lindsay Park Marina (right on the river) 2100 E. River Drive in Davenport, IA

July 10th & 13th

Hiking Smith's Island & Lock & Dam 14

Mike McKean, Park Ranger, USACE
Join a Corps of Engineers' Park Ranger for a guided hike around Smith's Island near Lock & Dam 14. Explore local river history and the Corps' pivotal role in how the Mississippi River looks today.
Meet at: Smith's Island, 22549 182nd St in Pleasant Valley, IA (lower gravel lot)

July 24th & 27th

Port Byron History

Dale Hachtel, Port Byron Historical Society
Port Byron is the first location along the Mississippi River between Fort Armstrong and Galena to be settled by Europeans and is the oldest named village in Rock Island County. Take a walk along the riverfront and downtown area of Port Byron and learn about its geological and cultural history and about current events.
Meet at: River Valley Library
214 S Main St. in Port Byron, IL

August 7th & 10th

Before Rock Island, There Was Farnhamsburg

Gena Schantz, Historian
Hear the exciting history of 'the Man Who Walked Around the World,' Russel Farnham, and learn how his fur trading post evolved from a few settlers' cabins into an inn and eventually became the first temporary courthouse where electors established the county seat of Stephenson, now known as Rock Island County.
Meet at: Schwiebert Park Pavilion in Rock Island, IL (bring a lawn chair)

August 21st & 24th

The South Branch of the Mississippi: Small but Important

Dr. Norm Moline
South of Arsenal Island is the Mississippi's South Branch, often called Sylvan Slough. Getting less attention than the main north channel, it was the key factor for the development of industries in Moline, eastern Rock Island, and the arsenal's location. This branch is now used for recreation. Enjoy this feature's story and scenery.
Meet at: Bass Street Landing, Moline, IL

Questions about locations, terrain, accommodations, or distance?
Call 563.322.2969 or email
ahamerlinck@riveraction.org



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