

Exploring the Mississippi from the Twin Cities to the Quad Cities

BIG RIVER

September-October 2007

***Best Backwater
Eco-Tours***

Restaurant Reviews

***Walk to a
Magical Bluff***

www.big-river.com

STEAMBOAT CRUISES ON THE JULIA BELLE SWAIN



A Real Steam-Powered Paddlewheel!

The Julia Belle Swain Steamboat, all decked out in red, white and blue bunting, provides a sentimental journey on a real steamboat cruising the Mighty Mississippi. The picturesque Julia Belle offers back-to-yesteryear public tours, private charters, and special theme cruises on the portion of the Mississippi that Mark Twain called the prettiest.

Escape from the hurried world and go back to a more genteel time. The sound of the calliope and the whistle blowing brings back a voice of America's past. The dining salon and mahogany bar provide meal and beverage service in the gracious manner of a bygone era.

Come aboard for a local cruise with great food or just a short refreshing sight-seeing trip. Day trips depart from La Crosse, Wis. to Winona, Minn.; Wabasha, Minn.; Lansing, Iowa; or Prairie du Chien, Wis. Don't wait to explore the many possibilities on the beautiful Mississippi!

Reservations are required. Call 800-815-1005.

For schedules online: www.juliabelle.com

Day trips

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner Cruises Weddings Company Outings Reunions, etc.

Great River Steamboat Company, 227 Main Street, La Crosse, WI 54601
(608) 784-4882 Toll-free 1-800-815-1005 www.juliabelle.com

We offer our passengers the

Experience of a Lifetime!



*Backwater Eco Cruises on the Upper
Mississippi River Wildlife Refuge.
Scheduled & Group Charters.*



*View nesting Bald Eagles, Pelicans,
Great Blue Herons, abundant wildlife,
Lotus and Lilies.*



Ports:

Lansing, Iowa

Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin

Dubuque, Iowa (at National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium)

Galena, Illinois (at Chestnut Mountain Resort)

*All four locations offer historic sites,
unique shops, great restaurants, and
small town charm.*

563-586-4444

www.MississippiExplorerCruises.com



© Kerry Loudon Design



GORDIAN'S KNOT LLC

Gordian's Knot offers construction management services for individuals who would like to build their dream home. Our services help you save money, stress, & hassle. From design to completion we are by your side helping you create the home of your dreams.

Gordian's Knot
Brad Ballard
(507) 429-2854

www.gordiansknotllc.com

Working with these professionals:



www.abodeinteriorsltd.com



www.customsight-sound.com

September-October 2007

BIG RIVER™




FEATURES

- 22** **Remembering Prairie du Chien's Fourth Ward**
A man remembers his childhood on St. Feriolo Island, in a neighborhood that no longer exists.
By Jeff Lessard
- 24** **Turkey Vultures**
Like eagles and hawks, these soaring birds ride thermals over the river bluffs.
By Pamela Eyden
- 28** **Backwater Tours**
Small eco-tours can get you out to places you can't see from overlooks or bigger boats.
By Pamela Eyden and Trudy Balcom
- 34** **Treasures Along the River — Fountain City Houses**
If you look around, you'll find several intriguing historic houses that reflect river history.
By Kate Halverson
- 39** **Grilling Up Good Times at the Trempealeau Hotel**
A favorite river restaurant has upscaled its menu.
By Pamela Eyden
- 41** **Bogus Creek Cafe**
You can dine alfresco on a tree-shaded patio in this Stockholm, Wis., restaurant.
By Molly McGuire
- 42** **Picnic in the Park in Guttenberg**
Pick up a lunch, kick back and head to Guttenberg, Iowa's, mile-long riverside park.
By Becky Sisco

DEPARTMENTS

- 5** **From the Riverbank**
Thank you to two good friends.
By Reggie McLeod
- 7** **River News**
Bridge collapses, casinos move, pelicans nest.
- 21** **Know Your River**
Barge and recreational boat traffic is down.
By Reggie McLeod
- 60** **Big River Places: Maiden Rock**
Walk out for an extraordinary view, but watch for snakes, drop-offs and poison ivy.
By Reggie McLeod
-
- 45** **City Page Ads**
Discover the delights of Upper Mississippi communities.
- 58** **Advertiser Index**
Where did I see that ad...?

On the cover: Voyaging up Big Slough near Lansing, Iowa. (Eric Dykman)




ROBERT J. HURT
LANDSCAPE PHOTOGRAPHY
 625 Main Street, Post Office Box 171, Dakota, Minnesota 55925
 Telephone: 507-643-6765 Email: arthurh@rjehgroup.com

Premier Aerial & Ground Landscape Photography


SERVICES INCLUDE: Custom Assignment Photography, Stock Photography, Digital Darkroom Imaging, Multimedia Slide Presentations, and Fine Art Photographic Prints.

INITIAL CLIENT LIST: National Park Service, U.S. National Aquarium, Wisconsin DNR, Grand Excursion 2004, The McKnight Foundation, Minnesota DNR, Audubon Magazine, National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium, Mississippi Valley Conservancy, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Geological Service, Destination Resorts Snowmass, Lutsen Mountain Ski Resort, Trust for Public Lands, Gurlfist Trail Association, Mayo Clinic, Midwest Living Magazine, The Nature Conservancy, Gunderson Lutheran, Organic Valley Skippers, Vermont Life Magazine, Xcel Energy, Caterpillar Inc., The City of Saint Paul.

Wild Rose Timberworks



Traditional timber construction for homes, barns, and shelters.



Wild Rose Timberworks
 Located in Decorah, Iowa
 (563) 382-8500 or (563) 382-6245
www.wildrosetimberworks.com



National Eagle Center
 Wabasha, Minnesota



Visit The NATIONAL EAGLE CENTER
 Open Seven Days A Week
 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Visit our new building and meet our eagles Harriet, Angel and Columbia

Join us for *our Grand Opening Celebration*
September 29th

NATIONAL EAGLE CENTER
 50 Pembroke Street, Wabasha, MN 55981
 651-565-4989

For more National Eagle Center information:
www.nationaleaglecenter.org




- 40' - 50' Slip Rental
- Full Service Gas Dock
- Marine/Gift Store
- Mechanical Services



- Inside/Outside Winter Storage on Site
- Protected Harbor bordered by Mississippi & Sabula Lakes
- Rent our FLOATING COTTAGE

ISLAND CITY HARBOR SABULA, IOWA 563-687-2825
WWW.ISLANDCITYHARBOR.COM MILE 534.7 RBD



THANKING TWO GOOD FRIENDS OF BIG RIVER

Reggie McLeod
Editor/Publisher

We always enjoy getting compliments on *Big River Magazine*, but we seldom take the time to explain that many people whose names do not appear in the magazine have gone out of their way to help those of us who do get the credit. Two people who have been very generous by sharing their ideas and encouragement with me over the years have died since the last magazine went to press.

Back when *Big River* was just a newsletter Rick Colvin wrote me a note saying that he enjoyed the publication, and he offered to help in any way he could. He also mentioned that he was executive director of Mayo Medical Ventures, the spinoff of Mayo Clinic that publishes the Mayo Health Newsletter as well as other periodicals and books.

It didn't take me long to see the opportunity there, and since I took Rick up on his generous offer, I have received a lot of good advice and encouragement. I also learned about some of Rick's connections with the river: that after law school he became an FBI agent based in New Orleans, and the first guy he tried to arrest jumped into the Mississippi to escape. He told me that when he and his wife, Irene, spent weekends in Wabasha, Minn., she would wake up from a sound sleep when a tow passed by, so she could spot it and log it in her *Little Tow-Watcher's Guide*. He told me that after he retired at the beginning of this year, he would come to the *Big*

River office to help us out every week. And he promised to bring donuts!

Rick was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer last fall. He was 62 when he died on June 16.

We wrote about Tom Kelley in the "River People" feature in January 2006, where we told about some of his work in the Twin Cities to protect the river and ensure that people could enjoy it. What we didn't say is that Tom is the second cousin of an old friend of mine, and that he gave my friend and me the last of many boats he owned, *The Turtle*, a clunky old houseboat that you could attach wheels to and tow, not that we ever tried it. Part of the deal was that Tom could come down to Winona and use it whenever he wanted, but poor health prevented him from ever doing that.

Before he gave us the boat, he took us out on the river in St. Paul a couple of times and showed us around. He and his companion, Kathy Stack, gave me a lot of insight into recent river history and St. Paul politics. Tom talked wistfully about some of his favorite spots on the river — some of which are down here in my neighborhood — probably wondering whether he would ever visit them again. He and Kathy often went out of their way to make us feel that *Big River* was doing something important.

Tom, who was 81, died on July 19.

I have never been very good at asking for advice, though I think I have slowly gotten better at it. When-

ever I got together with Tom or Rick, I brought a few questions, and I always left their company feeling a little smarter and more confident about our work on *Big River*. I know I thanked them for their help. I doubt that I thanked them enough. ☘

Big River™

Big River Magazine (ISSN 1070-8340) is published six times a year by Open River Press with assistance from Riverwise, Inc., 70 1/2 E. Fourth St., PO Box 204, Winona, MN 55987; (507) 454-5949; fax: (507) 454-2133; email: editors@big-river.com; website: www.big-river.com

Reggie McLeod.....editor/publisher

Molly McGuire.....managing editor

Pamela Eyden.....news/photo editor

Contributing editors

Marc Hequet.....Twin Cities

Becky Sisco.....Dubuque, Iowa

Maureen J. Cooney ..office/sales

Kathy Delano.....sales/design

Jenni McCool.....bookkeeping/subscriptions

Patricia McGuire.....bills & renewals assistant

Subscriptions are \$27 for one year, \$49 for two years or \$4.95 per single issue. Send subscriptions, single-copy orders and change-of-address requests to *Big River*, PO Box 204, Winona, MN 55987.

Second-class postage paid at Winona, MN.

POSTMASTER: send change-of-address requests to *Big River*, PO Box 204, Winona, MN 55987.

Big River Magazine, Volume 15, Number 5, copyright September 2007. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission of the publisher is prohibited.

Contacts (800) 303-8201. For information about stories, columns and River News, contact Reggie McLeod, Pamela Eyden or Molly McGuire (editors@big-river.com). For information about placing an ad in *Big River* or for information about selling *Big River Magazine* contact Kathy Delano or Maureen J. Cooney (ads@big-river.com). We must receive ads by Sept. 9 to get them into the November-December 2007 magazine.

RIVER CITIES

FLOATING CONDOMINIUMS

**JOIN US FOR AN ADVENTURE OF A LIFETIME
MAKE THE RIVER YOUR HOME**

OWNERSHIP OPTIONS

- FULL TIME
- HALF TIME



Cruise year-round on America's 6,600 miles of inland rivers and Intracoastal Waterways. Purchase a River Cities condominium and make the river your home. Choose full or part-time cruising options as you follow the seasons to your next adventure.

We invite you to join our community of modern day explorers. Call or write for a brochure and DVD to learn more about this exciting lifestyle.

**RIVER CITIES INC.
100 HARRIET ISLAND ROAD.
ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55107**

1-866-891-2503

1-651-344-5975

INFO@RIVERCITIESCONDOS.COM

WEBSITE: RIVERCITIESCONDOS.COM

Bridge Collapses

Minneapolis — The eight-lane I-35W Bridge collapsed into the Mississippi River near the end of rush hour on August 1. At press time, five were known to have died in the accident, and eight people were still considered missing. Foul play was not suspected, though the cause of the collapse had not yet been determined.

The bridge crosses the river with a single span just downstream from the Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam, and just upstream from the 10th Ave. Bridge. Downtown Minneapolis is immediately upstream from the south end of the bridge, and the University of Minnesota campus is downstream from the north end.

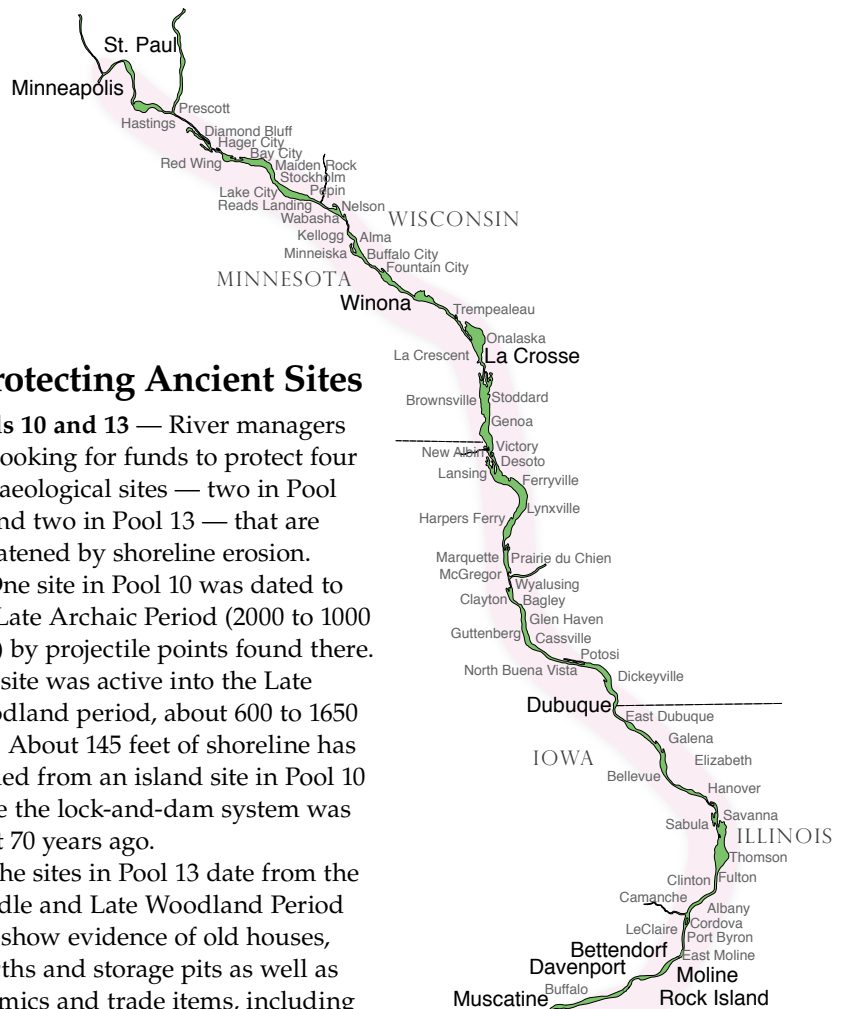
The tragedy sparked nation-wide concern about bridge maintenance and safety. The I-35W Bridge, built in 1967, had passed routine inspections. Many bridges built over the Mississippi River and elsewhere are older and have lower sufficiency ratings. The incident set off a flurry of concern by legislators about increasing funding for bridge maintenance.

At press time, five days after the collapse, officials were preparing to begin pulling cars from the river and had already launched procedures to take bids from contractors interested in replacing the bridge, which carried more than 140,000 cars a day over the river.

The National Transportation Safety Board began investigating the incident hours after the collapse and hopes to pinpoint the cause in coming months or years.

Corrections — In the "Summer Reading" collection of book reviews in the July-August 2007 *Big River Magazine*, we incorrectly identified the painter who created the cover and much of the art in *The Becoming of The Driftless Rivers National Park*. He is Frank Mittelstadt.

In "Rowing on the River" we misspelled the name of the Winona State University rowing coach. It is Paal Haddal.



Protecting Ancient Sites

Pools 10 and 13 — River managers are looking for funds to protect four archaeological sites — two in Pool 10 and two in Pool 13 — that are threatened by shoreline erosion.

One site in Pool 10 was dated to the Late Archaic Period (2000 to 1000 B.C.) by projectile points found there. The site was active into the Late Woodland period, about 600 to 1650 A.D. About 145 feet of shoreline has eroded from an island site in Pool 10 since the lock-and-dam system was built 70 years ago.

The sites in Pool 13 date from the Middle and Late Woodland Period and show evidence of old houses, hearths and storage pits as well as ceramics and trade items, including obsidian from Montana and shells from the Gulf of Mexico.

"They're tremendous resources with what they contain," noted Brad Perkl, archaeologist for the St. Paul District of the Army Corps of Engineers.

The Upper Mississippi floodplain contains more than 7,000 archeological sites. These sites were evaluated by the Systemic Cultural Stewardship Program, an effort to protect significant archeological sites on river lands managed by the Corps.

According to Jim Ross, archeologist for the Corps' Rock Island District, before rip rap can be placed to protect shorelines at these archeological sites, an Environmental Assessment Worksheet must be completed to ensure it does not harm mussel beds or other wildlife habitat. Ross and Perkl will also have to find funds for the project. They hope to fund it through the Navigation and Ecosys-

tem Sustainability Program for the Upper Mississippi River System, formerly known as the Navigation Study of the Upper Mississippi River and Illinois Waterway. Ross says funding may be worked into the annual channel operations and maintenance budget, if necessary.

WRDA Watch

Washington D.C. — During late spring and early summer both the U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate passed the 2007 Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) by large margins. Among many other items, WRDA funds and authorizes the Army Corps of Engineers to double the length of some locks on the Upper Mississippi and expand environmental restoration projects. WRDA is supposed to be reauthorized every two years, but Congress last ap-

Visit Winona, Minnesota



There's always something new to discover in Winona.

Upcoming Events

September 8	Pickwick Mill Day
September 14	Pavlo at SMU
September 28-30	Boats & Bluegrass
October 7	Polish Apple Fest
October 8	American Queen docks
October 10	MOMIX "Lunar Sea" at SMU

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT MINNESOTA'S HISTORIC ISLAND CITY, AT www.visitwinona.com
CALL

800.657.4972 or 507.452.0735
for a free Visitors Guide

Journey Through Time....

At the Winona County Historical Society



Upcoming Events

Sept. 14-15	Heritage Fair
Oct. 13-14	Woodlawn Cemetery Walk

Immerse yourself in the past in the region's largest and finest historical museum. Enjoy award-winning exhibits. Research Winona's colorful past in the museum's library and archives. Visit the museum shop and the "previously read" bookstore.

www.winonahistory.org
507.454.2723

Open Monday - Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Open Weekends noon - 4 p.m.



Visit Winona and the Winona County Historical Society are located at 160 Johnson St., Winona, MN 55987

proved it in 2000.

Proponents of the Ecosystem Sustainability Program for the Upper Mississippi River System, formerly known as the Navigation Study of the Upper Mississippi River and Illinois Waterway (Nav Study) are especially pleased, because this is the closest it has come to passage.

The initial price tag of \$3.7 billion would include the cost of seven new 1,200-foot locks and \$1.7 billion for habitat restoration. The economic value of building new locks has been debated since the early days of the study, but is supported by shipping and agriculture interests.

In addition, this WRDA calls for the Secretary of the Army to recommend a framework for long-term wetlands protection, and conservation and restoration in coastal Louisiana, another very costly project.

At least one critic has warned that the 2007 WRDA is loaded with pork-barrel earmarks. Dr. Ronald D. Utt, in a memo for the Heritage Foundation, which appears on its web site, warns that wealthy and influential coastal beachfront property owners have lobbied successfully to get big dollar beach replenishment projects added as earmarks. He cites \$101 million for beach replenishment at Ocean City, Sea Isle City, and contiguous New Jersey seashore resorts and \$65 million for a Lido Key Beach, Florida, replenishment project.

The House and Senate versions of the bills were in conference committee over the summer to reconcile differences between them. When the conference committee completes its work, the bill will head to President Bush's desk for final approval. ☺

River Bluff Over

McGregor, Iowa — After seven long years, three lawsuits and plenty of bitter emotions, the River Bluff Resort project has quietly disappeared. The multi-million-dollar proposed indoor waterpark and golf resort with additional condominium and upscale resi-

dential development was abandoned in muddy disgrace when California developer Jim Daughtry ran afoul of the Iowa Environmental Protection Commission at a hearing in April. Daughtry and two of his contractors were called before the commission because of serious stormwater runoff pollution violations in 2006. Muddy runoff from the construction site had polluted Sny Magill, a nearby state protected trout stream. The commission makes recommendations on which pollution cases get referred to the Iowa Attorney General's office for the highest level of prosecution.

According to Tim Mason, a long-time opponent of the project, the commission was not impressed with the developer's lack of remorse and his bickering with the contractors at the hearing. Mason and several other neighbors of the project had worked to oppose it as the Concerned Citizens of Clayton County. They even sued Clayton County in 2003 for offering the development tax increment financing. Although their suit did not succeed in court, they delayed local government assistance for the project. River Bluff then sued Concerned Citizens for tortious interference, and Concerned Citizens responded by filing suit against River Bluff for attempting to infringe on their rights to free speech and to petition the government.

"All we ever did was to show what these guys are made of," Mason said.

State pollution violations were only one problem the company faced as the project unraveled. By early this spring the development site had not seen any significant activity for two years. The company's only employee packed up and closed the office in March. At the Clayton County Courthouse, liens against River Bluff from unpaid contractors added up to nearly \$1 million. Parcels of the River Bluff property appeared on the Clayton County delinquent tax rolls in June.

Daughtry claims he has a potential buyer for the property, but no sale has yet occurred. Runoff from the property continues to be a problem after heavy rains.

Visit www.big-river.com for links to information about stories marked with the mouse ☺.

Eagles Landing is situated on the banks of the Mississippi River in the National Historic Business District of Downtown Wabasha. It features 27 richly-appointed condominiums ranging in sizes from 1,400-2,055 sq. ft. Each home offers spectacular sweeping views of the Mississippi River and the bluffs beyond. Designed with all the amenities expected by those who appreciate quality.



Optional ownership of Private dock right outside your door.
ONLY 7 RIVERFRONT HOMES STILL AVAILABLE!

Priced in the
 Mid **\$300's** to
 Mid **\$400's**

Blaine Marcou Broker/Realtor
 (651) 565-3321
www.eagleslandingwabasha.com
www.marcourealty.net
 email: Marcou@wabasha.net



MEMORABLE INTERIORS

From color swatches to the perfect furniture for your home, cabin or condo and everything in between – we're here to make your space unforgettable.

Serving the
Upper Mississippi River Region

TOUCH OF CLASS INTERIORS
 Kate Halverson, ASID, CID
 (612) 201-4175
www.tocinteriors.com

**Why Bird-Song.com, Inc. advertises in
*Big River Magazine***

"Big River Magazine is easy to read, with well researched articles on current topics.



This is a publication that we love to read and sell at Bird-Song.Com, Inc. It should be on everyone's reading list no matter what river you drift on. *Big River Magazine* is one of the Mississippi River's best friends."

Mike Kennedy
 owner,
Bird-Song.com, Inc.

Bird-Song.com, Inc.
 525 Junction St., Winona, MN 55987
 (507) 454-6711 / (800) 820-8530



Belvedere Mansion

1008 Park Avenue
 Galena, Illinois 61036
 Open to the public
 May thru October 2007
 Sunday - Friday: 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
 Saturday: 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.
 (815) 777-0747

Galena Cellars Vineyard & Winery



Wine Tasting • Gift Shop

515 South Main St., Galena, IL
 (815) 777-3330

*Tour The Vineyard on North Ford Rd.
 June through October
 7 days a week Tours at 2 p.m.*

Now open in Geneva, IL
 477 South 3rd St.

www.galenacellars.com



Piccadilly Gallery

Experience the beauty of the Upper Mississippi River Valley.
 See it in our wildlife and fine art prints!

- Local Artists
- River Art
- We Ship
- Gift Ideas

We offer a wide selection of well-known artists,
 custom framing for your prints,
 unique gifts and hand-forged damascus knives.

We are on Highway 61, 7 miles north of Winona, at mile marker 37.
 1-800-501-4278 www.piccadillygallery.com

Bluff Country Co-op

Couple Finds More Than Just Food



"Why do we love Bluff Country Co-op? Because they have soul. We buy 100% of our groceries at BCC because of their local, fresh, organic, grass-fed, and natural foods."

Heather Kitching
 and Jeff Strand
 Co-op Members, 3 Years

Shoppers at Bluff Country Co-op find more than just fair prices on great food, they reap the benefits of buying local, healthy and green. Visit Bluff Country Co-op to discover how good a locally grown shopping experience can be. Open Monday-Saturday 8-8 and Sunday 9-5.



Bluff Country Co-op
 121 W 2nd St, Winona
www.bluff.coop • 507.452.1815

Do YOU Shop Co-op?

Photo Contest Winner



Jenn Baechle took this photo while documenting the work of Chad Pregracke's *Living Lands and Waters*, and helping with river cleanups in 2005. Her hometown is Belleville, Ill.

Send entries for the November-December contest to *Big River* by September 19. If we select your photo, we'll send you three free copies of the magazine. The contest is open to amateurs, professionals, adults and kids. Email a digital JPEG (.jpg) photo file — high-resolution photos only, please — to photos@big-river.com. Write "PHOTO CONTEST" in the subject line.

Or send a print to Photo Editor, *Big River*, PO Box 204, Winona, MN 55987. (We cannot return photographs, though.)

Include your name, address, phone number and a short description of the photograph — who or what it is, when and where it was taken, etc. 📧

Eaglet Rescue

McGregor, Iowa — On June 2, strong winds blew down one of the 99 active bald eagle nests in the McGregor District of the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge (*North Iowa Times*, 6-20-07).

Jim and Karen Teaser of McGregor were out in their houseboat with visiting family members a few days later on June 5, when their grandkids, rid-

ing on top of the houseboat, spotted some young eagles in the water near the shore, clinging to sticks from their fallen nest. The Teasers had been keeping an eye on that very nest. They turned the boat around and made another pass to get a better look. They could see an adult eagle watching over the eaglets from a perch across the river.

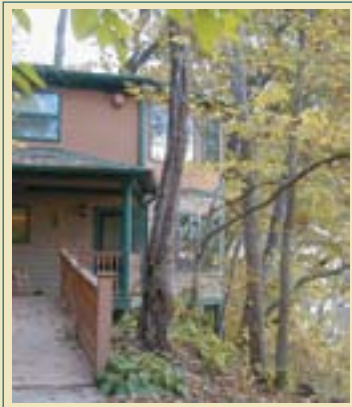
Karen Teaser used her cell phone to call the McGregor office of the

the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). A team of FWS employees and friends responded within a couple of hours.

The initial inspection of the eaglets revealed that the two young birds were about three months old and lacked the fully developed feathers needed to protect them from the elements. While the water helped cushioned their 50-foot fall and allowed them to escape injury, continued

Hawks View Cottages & Lodges

Deluxe forest cottages high above the Mississippi, overlooking historic Fountain City, Wisconsin



www.hawksview.net
inquiries@hawksview.net

CALL US TOLL-FREE:
1-866-293-0803

ALSO AVAILABLE, 2 AND 4-BEDROOM LODGES OVERLOOKING OUR SEVEN HAWKS VINEYARDS AND THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER VALLEY



BLUE HERON
COFFEEHOUSE

ORGANICALLY GROWN
COFFEES
TEA ESPRESSO

SOUP • SALAD • SANDWICHES • PASTRIES

Made from scratch using fresh, organically grown, local ingredients, whenever possible

162 West 2nd Street
Winona, Minn.
507-452-7020

Hours: Tuesday - Friday
7 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Saturday
8 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Sunday
8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Closed Mondays

exposure to the water and predators endangered their survival.

Despite their lack of expertise in nest building, the refuge crew built a new nest from two-by-fours, wire mesh, and available sticks and grass. The new nest was located within feet of the old nest tree but much lower.

"It was not pretty," Seth Kettler, a seasonal maintenance worker, admitted later, "but it worked."

The Teasers hung around to watch the nest building. "They really had some ingenious ideas on how to put it together," Karen said.

When the nest was completed, they carefully put the young eaglets in it after gently drying them off.

"It was just a tender thing to watch. They even put a dead fish and an unfertilized egg back in the nest, just as it had been. It was like watching National Geographic. It was lovely, super," Teaser said.

Kettler reported that when he visited the nest the following day all "appeared normal, both chicks were visible and erect in the new nest bowl, with one adult next to the tree keeping a watchful eye on my passing." The Teasers also checked the nest and noted that the adults had added some nesting material to their new home.

Over the years, the refuge staff has rebuilt several eagle nests, but it is not a frequent occurrence. Having the opportunity to save two young eagles is very satisfying, noted refuge manager Tim Yeager. "It's one of those things where you feel like you've accomplished something," he said.

Neil Henkenius, who conducts eagle surveys in Pool 10, said that eagle nests weighing as much as 2,200 pounds have been reported. "It's a wonder more nests don't tumble from their nest trees. It's like parking a small car in the top of a tree during a wind storm."

Rivertown Flash Floods

Marquette, Iowa — Residents of river towns like Marquette are familiar with the flooding that comes when the Mississippi overflows its banks, but some floods don't start on the river.

The steep, rugged bluffs that surround towns like Marquette and

McGregor can act like giant funnels when heavy rains come. In Marquette the valley along Bloody Run Creek is famous for devastating flash floods. Floods in 1896, 1908 and 1916 sent torrents of water down the valley that killed people and wiped out railroad tracks and bridges at the town's extensive rail yards. According to historical newspaper reports, after the water a flood of thousands of gawkers descended on the town and paid to be ferried out in boats on the still-swollen creek to survey the damage.

More recently, flash floods hit the area in 2004, when Marquette's neighbor, McGregor, was hard hit after a storm sewer channel through the city partially collapsed and overflowed

The Great River Road between Marquette and McGregor was closed for most of the following day, as front-end loaders worked to clear mud eight or more inches deep.

sending deep water coursing down Main Street.

It happened again this summer in the early morning of July 18, when more than eight inches of rain fell on the Marquette-McGregor area in five hours.

In Marquette, residents of Feller's Trailer Court lost homes and cars. The trailer court is located across the street from a dike built to protect the neighborhood from Bloody Run Creek. As water poured down from the bluffs it overwhelmed the storm sewer with mud and debris, and water began backing up against the dike and eventually reached a height of about six feet. Residents fled their homes, some by boat.

In McGregor, more than six inches of water rolled down Main Street, filling basements and partially flooding cars. The Great River Road between Marquette and McGregor was closed for most of the following day, as front-end loaders worked to clear mud eight or more inches deep, sprinkled with fallen trees and big rocks.

The storm hit Bagley, Wis., across the river, even harder. Many vacation homes were flooded by four or more feet of muddy water. Water rose behind a railroad dike along the river adjacent to the River of Lakes vacation home resort, causing extensive flooding there. Most of the flood victims do not have flood insurance. It is not required in areas protected by dikes.

Long Complicated Rescue

Upper St. Croix River — A man was rescued off of the St. Croix river after a 12-hour ordeal.

Martin Rike, 39, of Pine City, Minn., was tubing on the St. Croix River with two friends on July 16, when his tube went flat. The men were in a remote area several miles above the Sota Rec landing where they planned to pull out. Rike and his companions began walking, when Rike began experiencing chest pains and dialed 911 with his cell phone. (*Minneapolis Star Tribune*, 7-17-07)

Because of a poor signal, rescuers from the Pine County, Minn., Sheriff's Department; Pine County Fire Department; Grantsburg, Wis., Fire Department; Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources; Burnett County, Wis., Sheriff's Department; and Minnesota State Patrol joined forces for the search. They did not find Rike until 9:30 p.m.

Then rescuers encountered another problem. Rike, who weighs about 500 pounds, could not easily be moved to safety in the low water. Efforts to take him out by boat ran aground. Rescuers tried a hovercraft, an amphibious vehicle and an ATV without success.

Finally, they strapped together three rental canoes from a nearby outfitter to get Rike out. More than 50 people participated in the rescue, at times lifting and carrying the man and the canoes over shallow, rocky areas and sandbars. Rike was taken to Burnett Medical Center in Grantsburg for treatment.

Suburban Paddling

Minnetonka, Minn. — The City of Minnetonka, an affluent suburb west of Minneapolis, plans to spend more than \$2 million to open sections of

the Minnehaha Creek shoreline to the public. Minnetonka has purchased four homes to demolish to open up access to the creek and provide space for a trail. It also plans to open up additional space in the future for more canoe launches and trails.

The creek runs 22 miles through several suburban communities. When it reaches Minneapolis it bubbles through a beautiful parkway and then crashes over Minnehaha Falls and flows into the Mississippi. In the suburbs, it rolls through private residential property with a narrow public easement along the banks only.

Minnetonka is the only suburb purchasing private property along the creek to create more parkland. Minnetonka residents approved a \$15 million referendum in 2001 to improve parks and open space. The

*The Delta Queen
paddlewheeler will be
docked forever after its
2008 season.*

city even has its own department of natural resources. In early July, John Gunyou, Minnetonka city manager, led a canoe tour of the creek for officials from the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District and Three Rivers Park District to enlist their support.

At the creek's headwaters, on Gray's Bay of Lake Minnetonka, the clear water of a creek wetland even supports native wild rice. "In the first couple of miles it's a Boundary Waters experience in the middle of the city," Gunyou said.

Drive-By River History

Rock Island, Ill. — High school artists led by four professional artists spent the summer designing and producing a new river mural for the side of an old building. The Centennial Bridge Commission Building currently has a mural depicting the bridge, but it's falling apart — the mural, that is, not the bridge. The new mural is designed to be modern, colorful and tell the story of the Upper Mississippi River's history in a way that's easy for passing motorists to understand at a glance.

"We don't want people to be staring at it while driving by and run into a tree or something," said Sarah Robb, one of the professional artists.

The Centennial Bridge connects downtown Rock Island with downtown Davenport, Iowa. Built in 1940, it was the first four-lane bridge to span the river. The 1941, Art Moderne-style Centennial Bridge Commission Building is a city landmark.

DQ to be Retired

Washington, D.C. — The *Delta Queen* paddlewheeler will be docked forever after its 2008 season, because the U.S. Congress decided not to grant the ship another exemption to the no-wood-superstructure rule. Congress has granted the boat exemptions six times, but won't grant a seventh. The current exemption is set to expire at the end of 2008.

Built in 1926, the *Delta Queen* has a steel hull, but a wooden superstructure. U.S. Coast Guard regulations barring wood were enacted after the ship was built. Majestic America Lines, which owns and operates the boat, is planning lots of special commemorative events and encouraging patrons to book now for the last voyages on the Upper and Lower Mississippi, the Ohio, Tennessee, Arkansas, Black Warrior and Cumberland Rivers, beside the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway.

3M Chemicals Spreading

Minneapolis — Results of a new study sponsored by the 3M Company show that chemicals it once manufactured have contaminated an extensive area of soil and groundwater, and continue to seep into the Mississippi River near the company's Cottage Grove, Minn., plant.

The chemicals were once used in such wonder-products as Teflon™ and Scotchgard™. They do not break down in the environment and move quickly through water. The chemicals have been found in drinking water wells in several communities near the company's former dumps. Exceptionally high concentrations of one chemical, PFOA (perfluorooctanoic acid), were found in groundwater near a dump site at the plant. Dump

It's all about family...



Quiet, serene and natural, Hansen's Harbor offers the relaxation you expect and the nurturing you need in a natural and lush recreational setting.

At Hansen's Harbor it's all about family. We are fortunate to have the opportunity to build and run a business as a family. We're working together on a common goal to offer the best service we can. From our family to yours.

Slips Available for 2007!

A Tradition in family boating since 1952

1-651-345-3022

Lake City, MN 55041

www.hansensharbor.com



site samples registered 619 parts per billion; the state's recommended maximum level in drinking water is 0.5 parts per billion.

High levels of the chemicals have been found to cause birth defects and cancers in lab animals, but 3M maintains they don't threaten human health. Federal officials are still considering the issue.

The new study adds to the challenge of cleaning up the sites, which 3M will pay for. 3M will soon submit a plan for cleanup. Decisions will be made after a public comment period this fall.

Bird Events

Wabasha, Minn. — The National Eagle Center will hold a gala grand opening of its new building in Wabasha, on Sept 29 and 30. The new building, many years in the planning, has been open since May, providing new digs with a view of the river for the center's resident eagles, along with more space for presentations and educational exhibits.

This year's Midwest Birding Symposium, to be held Sept. 13 to 16 in the Quad Cities, will focus on birding field trips throughout the area. The last symposium held here was scheduled too late for participants to catch sight of the many migratory birds that use the Mississippi River corridor as their seasonal flyway to southern climes. Many of this year's birding trips will be in river habitats. Plans for the event include an opening reception at the Putnam Museum, a dinner cruise and a closing banquet, besides lots of educational workshops and help for beginning birders. For more information visit the symposium website or call the Quad Cities Convention & Visitors Bureau.

"Anyone and everyone who cares about birds" is invited to the Audubon Upper Midwest Regional Conference, Oct. 12 to 14 in Bloomington, Minn. The first day will focus on the Mississippi River and features a

Visit www.big-river.com for links to information about stories marked with the mouse 🖱.

boat trip with author Kenny Salwey. The second day features a choice of seven field trips, that include birding trips, a behind-the-scenes look at the University of Minnesota Raptor Center and a guided tour of the Bell Museum.

For more information visit the Audubon Minnesota website. 🖱

Cerulean Trench

McGregor, Iowa — Researchers from many organizations fan out into Upper Mississippi woods every spring and summer to take inventories of birds that nest here. Sometimes they discover something surprising, as did Iowa bird researcher Jon Stravers, while conducting a bird survey for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources last year. He discovered a high concentration of cerulean warblers in a remote wildlife area called North Cedar Creek.

Cerulean warblers are migratory songbirds with sky-blue plumage that are rarely seen for three reasons—they prefer remote areas, they nest high in mature trees and their numbers are diminishing.

Ceruleans need large, undisturbed tracts of mature forests near waterways; fewer and fewer such habitats remain. With plenty of mature trees on steep slopes along the creek bed, the 1,800-acre North Cedar Creek Unit meets the little birds' needs. North Cedar Creek is a tributary of Sny Magill, a protected trout stream that empties into the Mississippi below McGregor.

Checking 13 sites at North Cedar, Stravers and another researcher found 8 to 15 ceruleans a day, leading him to dub the area the "cerulean trench."

"This may be the biggest population of ceruleans in Iowa," Stravers said. "And it's one of the most remarkable areas I've been birding in. It's a deep canyon a mile long, and a long hike to get into it." The area also provides habitat for northern parulas, Louisiana waterthrushes, Acadian flycatchers and scarlet tanagers.

The Department of Natural Resources is continuing to sponsor bird surveys.

"Sny Magill is huge. We'll be



THE BIG RIVER ROOM



Winona, Minnesota
34648 Homer Road
507.452.8277
www.bigriverroom.com

The Twisted Chicken

"Beyond The Ordinary"

✿ Fresh Fish Flown In

✿ Organic & Locally Grown Produce

Eclectic Dining Lunch & Dinner Art Gallery Coffee Bar



Fall Hours:

LUNCH

11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Tuesday – Saturday

DINNER

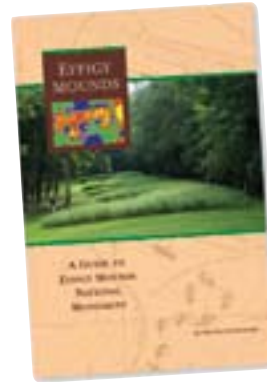
5 to 9 p.m.
Tuesday - Thursday
5 to 10 p.m.
Friday & Saturday

closed Sunday & Monday

212 Main Street, McGregor, Iowa 52157
(563) 873-1515 twstchx@alpinecom.net
www.thetwistedchicken.com

Offering An Alternative Dining Experience!

EXPLORE IOWA'S NATIONAL MONUMENT!



The newly revised handbook "A Guide To Effigy Mounds National Monument" beautifully illustrates American Indian pre-history and mound-building cultures near Effigy Mounds National Monument in Harpers Ferry, Iowa. You'll love the section on European settlement history and the establishment of the national monument, along with tips to visiting and hiking the park.

By Dennis Lenzendorf; \$15.95 retail;
ISBN 978-1-59091-063-4; 132 pages, full color



Available online at www.eParks.com

Edina Realty Inc.

"The Name Synonymous with Commitment and Service"

Specializing in Properties along the Lake Pepin Corridor

- Farms
- Residential
- Land
- Townhouses
- Commercial
- Condominiums

If you want a Real Estate Professional that listens and pays attention to detail,
"Here he is"



David Peters

715-386-0230

651-436-7072 (metro)

715-307-2407 (cell)

www.davepetersrealty.com

davidpeters@edinarealty.com



Wild Bird Products & Gifts

Store Hours:

Closed Monday
Tuesday 9-8
Wed - Fri 9-6
Saturday 9-4
Sunday 11-3

525 Junction Street

Winona, MN 55987

507-454-6711 / 800-820-8530

GPS Coordinates N44 02.997 W091 40.587

The little store that brings you closer to nature's songbirds

working on bird surveys for several years," Stravers predicted.

Dollars for Bluffs

La Crosse, Wis. — Governor Doyle announced in late June that the state would fund the purchase of 452 acres of land on the Mississippi River bluffs near La Crosse through a \$257,000 grant to the Mississippi Valley Conservancy. The nonprofit land trust was founded in 1997 and operates in seven Wisconsin counties. For the city of La Crosse it acts as an intermediary in purchasing land and easements to implement the city's Bluffland Protection Program.

Doyle stopped in La Crosse during a tour of the state, in which he announced grants totaling \$15 million to protect 10,000 acres.

The largest grant was to fund purchase of 6,000 acres for the Brule River State Forest in the north.

Fish Ban

In an attempt to slow the spread of two invasive fish species, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) has banned the import and interstate transport of silver carp and largescale silver carp.

Silver carp, which grow to three feet and 60 pounds, have moved up into the Mississippi, Illinois, Missouri and Ohio river watersheds, although few have been caught north of central Iowa on the Mississippi. These are the "flying carp" that jump into the air when startled.

Largescale silver carp have not yet been found in U.S. waters, but are deemed a threat because they could easily hybridize with silver carp and another invasive, the bighead carp.

According to a FWS press release (7-10-07), biologists fear the big invaders will out-compete native species, such as paddlefish, bigmouth buffalo, gizzard shad and native mussels, for food and habitat, with disastrous results for river ecology and the Great Lakes fisheries, if they are able to get around the electric fish barriers on the Illinois River.

City Hydropower

Rock Island, Ill. — The City of Rock Island needs 9.8 million kilowatt

hours per year to run City Hall, two sewage treatment plants, a water pumping station and a water treatment plant. About 6.5 million kilowatts of that could be provided by the city's own hydropower plant.

In late July, the city council voted to acquire the 95-year-old Sears Powerhouse plant and expand its capacity. The plant is on the north channel of the Rock River. Previous owners were Mitch and Melba White, owners of the White Hydropower Co., which sold power to MidAmerican Energy Co. since 1985.

The city got the idea to buy the plant after the Whites inquired about getting help to improve it. (*Quad-City Times*, 7-23-07)

Above the Falls

Minneapolis — The first phase of a "Master Plan for the Upper River in Minneapolis," which was approved by the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board and the City of Minneapolis in 2000, will be completed this year. Phase one reshapes the area above St. Anthony Falls along the west bank of the river.

An extended bike and pedestrian trail will replace informal footpaths by the side of West River Road north of Broadway St. That stretch of West River Road, a busy four-lane road divided by a median, will be reconfigured to two lanes with parking available only in some areas. Rain gardens, park benches and other amenities are also part of the plan.

The original plan was approved seven years ago, but has been revised several times. First, a private developer bought and built townhouses on about half the land that was envisioned as a park. Then new residents of the townhouses voiced concern about the noise and traffic that might be generated by another part of the plan — a large amphitheater. Then, to deal with stormwater runoff caused by the townhouses, the city decided to build a large basin on public land near the river.

The completion of phase one is counted as a victory.

Go, Ducks!

According to the U.S. Fish and Wild-

life Service's preliminary report from its annual Waterfowl Breeding Population and Habitat Survey, 41 million ducks nested in over 1.3 million square miles of Canada and the United States, including Alaska this year, which is 14 percent more than in 2006 and 24 percent more than the average population from 1955 to 2006.

Wetland habitat conditions for ducks and other waterfowl were the same or slightly better than last year.

Many species of ducks are more populous than last year, while at least two declined. Canvasbacks, mallards, blue-winged teal, green-winged teal, gadwall, redheads and wigeons are doing better than they have on average since 1955.

Scaups' numbers are down 33 percent from the long-term average and pintailed ducks are down 19 percent.

The Waterfowl Breeding Population and Habitat Survey, done by scientists from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Canadian Wildlife Service, samples the continent's most important nesting grounds.

Meanwhile, following its annual May waterfowl survey, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources came up with a different view of the duck population in its state, with total duck populations down by about six percent, although the number of breeding mallards had increased 51 percent over last year. ☺

Casino Moves

Quad Cities — In late July, Jumer's Casino Rock Island announced that it will move off the river and build a new spread at the intersection of Interstate 280 and Illinois Highway 92 in west Rock Island County. Although not on the riverfront anymore, the new casino intends to become a destination for travelers, with an events center, restaurants and more. According to Ron Wicks, president of Jumer's, that was the rationale for choosing what seems to be a remote location.

"Generally speaking, casinos located in suburban areas along interstate highways tend to do better than those located downtown," said Wicks (*Quad-City Times*, 7-24-07).

The move affects more than gam-



YOU ARE INVITED to take part in the Upper Midwest Regional Audubon Conference in Bloomington, Minnesota on October 12-14, 2007.

Open to all bird conservation enthusiasts, the conference will offer four concurrent tracks - birds and wetlands, forests, and grasslands, and birds in your neighborhood.

October 12: "America's Flyway: The Mississippi River" with informative sessions on river habitat issues plus a sternwheeler boat ride with Kenny Salwey, renowned naturalist, river guide, and author of *The Last River Rat*.

October 13-14: "Declining Birds, Declining Habitat: Reversing the Trend" includes keynote speakers Audubon President John Flicker, scholar Bridget Stutchbury, and Minnesota state climatologist Mark Seeley.

Join us! For more information, visit <http://mn.audubon.org>.



Fifty Uncommon Birds of the Upper Midwest

watercolors by Dana Gardner
text by Nancy Overcott

50 watercolor paintings
128 pages
\$34.95 hardcover

The Iowa Nature Calendar

by Jean C. Prior & James Sandrock
illustrated by Claudia McGehee

12 scratchboard with watercolor illustrations
12 pages, spiral bound
\$15.95 recycled paper



IOWA

where great writing begins

University of Iowa Press
www.uiowapress.org

"Twin Cities River Cruises" On the Mississippi River



PRIVATE CHARTERS AND
PUBLIC TOURS AVAILABLE

HISTORIC RIVERFRONT CRUISES DEPARTING DAILY FROM DOWNTOWN MINNEAPOLIS!
EXPERIENCE A "LOCK THROUGH" WHILE VIEWING THE UPPER ST. ANTHONY FALLS, MINNEAPOLIS SKYLINE
AND MORE!



612.378.7966 or 888.791.6220 WWW.TWINCITIESCRUISES.COM

blers, as the City of Rock Island is likely to see a 50 percent increase in gaming tax revenue, from \$4 million to \$6 million per year. After the casino departs, the city will use the vacated riverfront land in its joint RiverVision project with Davenport, Iowa.

The RiverVision plan calls for a coordinated waterfront redevelopment plan and brownfield reclamation. It won the two cities a first place award for Livability from the U.S. Conference of Mayors in June. The project was praised for being a cooperative, bi-city development partnership.

Meanwhile, Davenport is still working with the Isle of Capri Casinos on its proposal to move off the riverfront instead of building a \$40-million casino hotel on it. They are proposing that the Isle of Capri's Rhythm City Casino move to the city's River Center. Critics point out that the casino company has already built a \$175-million casino and hotel in Waterloo, Iowa, and a 12-story, \$45-million Paradise Hotel Tower in Bettendorf, and may not be in earnest about promoting a casino in Davenport's city-owned convention center.

Davenport is tossing around ideas for what to do with the riverfront after the casino leaves. One idea is to expand LeClaire Park, creating an \$11-million park with a pier extending into the river, eagle viewing platforms, fountains, gardens, sculptures, an amphitheater and festival grounds. (*Quad-City Times* 6-1-07)

Atrazine Whistleblower

St. Paul — When he was asked to testify at the Minnesota State Legislature about the dangers of the farm pesticide atrazine, hydrologist Paul Wotzka agreed. He knew a lot about atrazine in runoff and groundwater, having tested water quality for the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) for 16 years, before taking a position at the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) in 2006.

The MPCA denied permission for Wotzka to testify, then fired him two months later.

Wotzka filed a whistleblower lawsuit in federal court in June. Accord-

ing to the suit, he had intended to testify about the discrepancy between the MDA's data and its claims that atrazine levels met water quality standards.

The MPCA claims it terminated Wotzka's employment for destroying government data and diverting mail from his MDA office.

Brewing Wine

Dubuque, Iowa — Adding to the city's riverfront attractions, the Star Brewery Building, a large brick structure that has long been a landmark — an empty one in recent years — reopened in July when the Stone Cliff Winery moved its wine-making operations and a tasting room here.

The Star Brewery was built in 1898 to brew Dubuque Star Beer. It closed during Prohibition, re-opened and continued operations until the flood of 1965 damaged the building and equipment. A second owner modernized and produced Pickett's Premium Beer on the site, and a third owner produced a Rhomberg Beer there until 1985. The city of Dubuque now owns the building and is leasing space to tenants who will complement other riverfront activities.

Stone Cliff Winery owners Bob and Nan Smith have grown grapes and made wine a few miles north of Dubuque since 1988. They blend homegrown and California grapes in their wine.

In early October, Matt and Sarah Kluesner, owners of a popular restaurant in Galena, Ill., will move in and open the Star Restaurant and Star Bar on the second floor of the old brewery. Sarah Kluesner described the bar as an "ultra lounge with urban decor" and "something Dubuque hasn't seen."

The old brewery site also includes a deck for river watching and an amphitheater for outdoor music performances.

Where's the Buzz

Some Upper Mississippi-area residents dreaded the day when Brood XIII of periodic cicadas would come out of the ground. The cicadas known

(*River News continues on page 33*)

222 PEARL STREET
DOWNTOWN LACROSSE

**Authentic
New Orleans
Cuisine**
★ 14 Beers on Tap ★
Serving
Lunch and Dinner
7 days a Week



608-796-2277

Come On Down to the... *It's The Smartest Place in Town!*

**The
Starlite
Lounge**



2nd Floor Above Buzzard Billy's

608-796-0905

www.buzzardbillys.com

**NORTHWEST ILLINOIS
AWAITS YOUR EXPLORATION**



Call or e-mail TODAY to get the official Visitor Guide covering all there is to see and do in Carroll, Lee, Ogle and Whiteside counties.

Blackhawk Waterways CVB
Toll-Free: 800-678-2108
email: info@bwcvb.com
or visit www.bwcvb.com

ILLINOIS. MILE AFTER MAGNIFICENT MILE.

The Bridges GOLF CLUB

*A Minnesota
Masterpiece*

**Open to the
General Public!**

Stop by to experience our player friendly newly renovated tees, bunkers, and redesigned 13th hole.

Weekday and weekend/holiday rates for 9 or 18 holes available.

For tees times, or other golf information, please call 507-452-3535 ext.2



A Par 71 Championship Course

Cty Rd. 17, Pleasant Valley
Winona, Minnesota 55987

507.454.3767
www.signatureswinona.com

Mixing Oil, Corn and Muddy Water

by Reggie McLeod



Corn flows into a barge at Winona, Minn. (Pamela Eyden)

It appears that over the last few years, there's a connection between rising energy prices and falling river traffic. These graphs compare the numbers of barges and recreational boats locking through Lock 11, in Dubuque, Iowa, last year and a decade earlier.

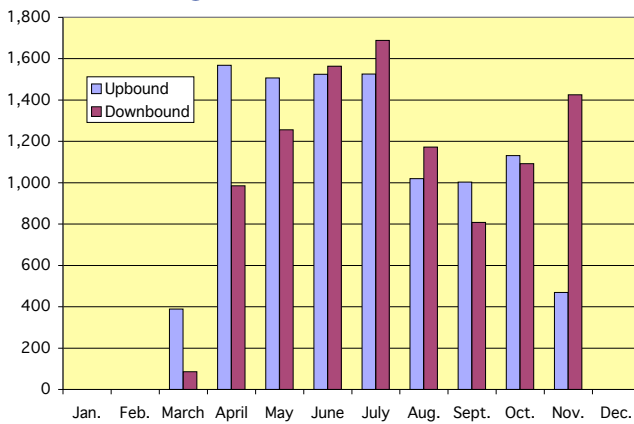
As a result of government subsidies and rising oil prices, more corn is being turned into ethanol in the Midwest, and less corn is being shipped downriver to New Orleans for export. The traditional November downriver rush of barges full of newly harvested corn appears to be dropping off.

Note that the barge graphs count both full and empty barges, rather than tows or lockages. A single tow can include up to 15 barges.

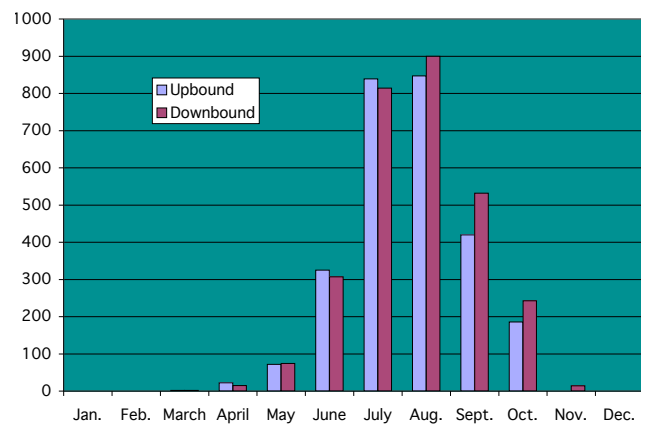
Last year many marinas reported that they sold less gas as prices rose. That appears to have reduced recreational boat traffic.

Note that in all four graphs, upstream traffic tends to exceed downstream traffic early in the season, and downstream traffic is higher later in the season. Apparently some boating snowbirds head south with the swans. Of course, barges shift south, because tows operate year round on the lower river. 🌊

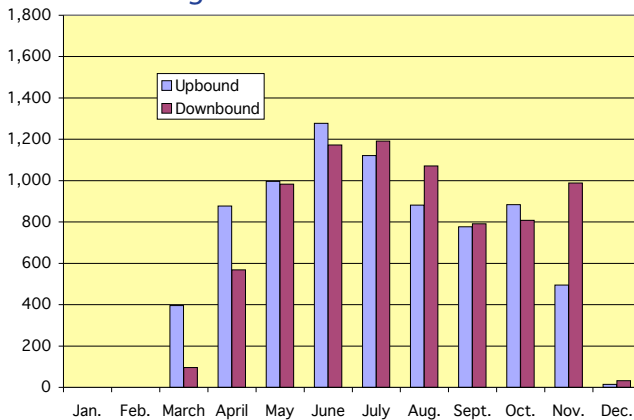
Barge Traffic at Lock 11 in 1996



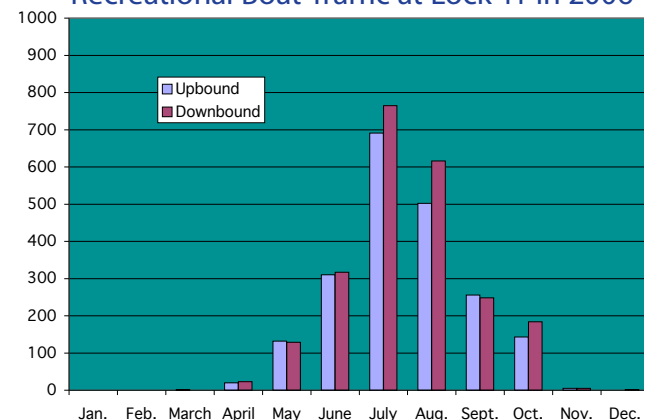
Recreational Boat Traffic at Lock 11 in 1996



Barge Traffic at Lock 11 in 2006



Recreational Boat Traffic at Lock 11 in 2006



Remembering Prairie du Chien's Fourth Ward

The river shaped life on St. Feriole Island

By Jeff Lessard

The river twists and turns from start to its finish, and in between its banks is an abundance of life. I was a part of this life growing up.

My father and his father worked the river. All my uncles on Dad's side did, too. We lived on an island. The proper name is St. Feriole Island (Prairie du Chien, Wis.), but the people living on it called it Fourth Ward. It was its own community. Most of the people living there worked the river.

My grandpa's brothers ran two clamming companies side by side on the river. Growing up I spent many hours at the Tennessee Shell Company shoveling clamshells into an elevator, which in turn dumped them into a semi trailer. At the Borden Shell Company we filled gunny sacks with 175 pounds of washboard clamshells or with 200 pounds of three-ridge clamshells. You had to lift the bags and stack them.

My grandparents on Dad's side lived within a block of the banks as did a lot of my uncles. When clamming season wasn't going, they set lines and we cleaned fish. Being young and around river rats was always interesting. All of them had stories as tall as the bridge that crossed the water to the exotic land of Iowa.

Grandpa's morning started when it was still dark. He would be moving around the kitchen like a mouse, never making any noise. When you heard the water come on, you knew that meant coffee, and not just any coffee — coffee boiled on the stove thick like motor oil. In the winter the coffee grounds floated like scum in

a farm pond. If you were too small to drink coffee, it didn't matter, the fumes coming from the pot were enough to make you hyper like a raccoon in a dew-covered garden. If you were able to drink it, it made you more jittery than a man peeing on a electric fence. You were going to be so wired for the day that if you were to try and nap it would take clothes pins to keep your eyes shut. I remember when my uncle passed away in the yard he lay peaceful and serene with his eyes open, and his brothers debated if he was dead or had fallen asleep after drinking Grandpa's coffee.

Now coffee wasn't the only thing

My grandfather passed away in his yard the day he started to move. I think he died from a broken heart. His livelihood was the river.

Grandpa made; he was famous for rabbit pie. Oh! It was good! Grandpa made apple pies and sweet rolls and bread, also good. He also raised a hog to butcher on the riverbank. He fed it clam meats. I remember it tasted great.

We spent a lot of time at my grandparents. In the spring you would go to the basement, and Grandpa was working on set lines. In the fall you could smell the ginseng drying, and after that it was furs being stretched. Always something.

When there were floods, they would have to leave their homes sometimes, and other times they just



Jeff Lessard

used a boat. It's funny — I remember a lot of people looked down on us for living there.

In the 1970s we were moved from the island as a relocation project to make life easier and to get us out of the floodplain. For some that was a good idea, for others it took their lives from them. My grandfather passed away in his yard the day he started to move. I think he died from a broken heart. His livelihood was the river. Several other neighbors became shells of their former selves after the move.*

Faced with condemnation, one might as well tie a person's hands behind his back and hold a gun to him. One can live a good life when they feel like it was their choice, but to have your home taken from you — even though compensation is offered — is like death to many. For those who truly love a life, money isn't a replacement. When it is a life where you are mostly self reliant, then money is less important. My parents chose to go gladly — Mom more hap-

pily than my father, who grew up on the river. Ultimately their choice was to do what was best for our family and moving was it. My choice, had I been old enough to choose for myself, may have been different.

It's a funny thing that a lot of the same people who wanted us out of there are the same people who are now trying to make the island into something they think will benefit everybody. Some of their ideas are great, but I also see a side that I believe is wrong. It seems everyone wants a chunk of the island for their own little project, but then there is no room for sharing that space, which is totally different than when people lived there.

I remember playing block tag at night and using the whole block — everyone's yards. I remember being called over to be told, "Now boys, I have planted extra radishes for you to

We did have several bridges leading to town and one to Iowa, though we never figured out why anyone wanted to go there.

raid out of my garden, but please stay away from my cabbage." It was funny, it seemed like certain gardens grew better cabbage or radishes or carrots than others.

We pretty much slept outside all summer in a big old field called the "rodeo grounds." At 3 a.m. we would be eating radishes from Mary Valley's garden and cabbage from Barney Moore's. Barney had dogs, but they never barked until we were back safe in our tents.

We would take the radishes to the Villa Louis pond. There was a little stream from an artesian well running into the big pond. We would plug the flow with radish leaves, and make our way back to camp and lay on our sleeping bags eating radishes and cabbage listening to Barney's dogs barking and Barney yelling, "What the hell you barking at. There's nothing there." We would look at the stars and listen to Blecker Street on

KAAY from Little Rock, Ark., or WLS from Chicago, both AM stations we could only get at night. We would laugh and never really say much. In the morning we would get up, and the sleeping bags would be damp. You could smell the dew, and the fog would be so thick you couldn't see five feet. We would throw our sleeping bags over our shoulders. They weighed a lot wet. Our pants would stick to our legs, shoes were full of sand. We made our way home, because we were tired and needed sleep for our next night of sleeping out.

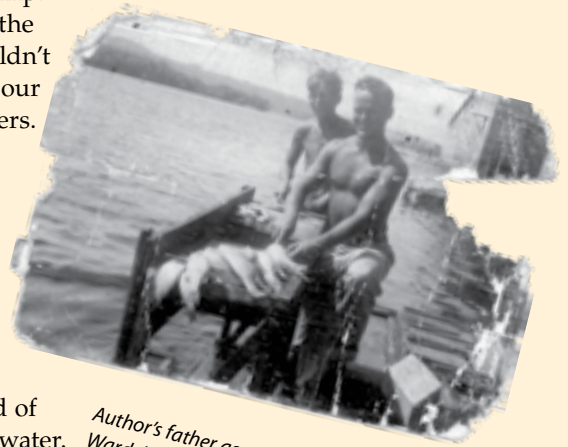
The island was like a big schoolyard, except that instead of a fence, it was surrounded by water. We did have several bridges leading to town and one to Iowa, though we never figured out why anyone wanted to go there. We spent many hours sitting along the riverfront fishing, and as we grew older, camping on the islands. It was a very good life, but it is mostly gone now.

The days of clamming are gone. Most of the catfish are farm raised. I guess the river rat is kind of like the cowboy, a vanishing breed. To me that's a sad thing. These people were very colorful and loved living. Most of the time they lived on a shoestring. When they befriended you, it was for life. The people living along the river were a big family, and if times were tough, they pulled together.

I could go on and on. I hope you enjoyed this little bit of life on the river, because I sure enjoyed living it. Every year the people who lived on this island have a picnic. I haven't attended for a while, but I think this year I will. 🌊 🦞

Jeff Lessard lives with his family in Woodman, Wis.

*For a story about the history of St. Feriole Island, see "Moving a Neighborhood Out of Harm's Way" *Big River*, December 1997. Read it online on the *Big River* website.



Author's father as a young man in the Fourth Ward. (Lessard family photograph)



Author's uncles bagging clamshells. (Lessard family photograph)



Author's grandfather on his clam boat. (Lessard family photograph)



Turkey Vultures — Beautiful, from a Distance

Turkey vultures soar on thermals like eagles, but even from below you can see the distinctive two-toned wings and the bald red heads. (Allen B. Sheldon)

By Pamela Eyden

Big dark turkey vultures are often seen soaring over the bluffs and the river, where they are sometimes mistaken for eagles. They soar beautifully, seeming to wheel and glide with barely a twitch of their wings, which span six feet or more. Sometimes they fly together in overlapping circles, as though each had its own way of exploring the rising thermals of hot air.

You might also see them feeding on dead animals at the side of the road, when they leap up in alarm at an approaching car. Their bald red heads look like they're covered with the blood of whatever they've been eating.

No wonder naturalist Julie O'Connor at Hawk Ridge in Duluth, Minn., said, "We spend more time telling people, 'No, they're not really gross!' than anything else about them."

Turkey vultures are the most common vulture in this hemisphere. They range far and wide throughout North and South America, and breed from southern Canada all the way down to Tierra del Fuego. Volunteers at Hawk Ridge count migrating vultures in their annual fall Hawk Count,

"They aren't aggressive birds, but they do have this threat: 'If you don't leave me alone, I'll barf!...'"

although they are not technically raptors. In fact, "TVs," as raptor counters refer to them, have been reclassified into the same group as storks. In Duluth their peak migration period is from mid-September to the first week of October.

They favor Louisiana, Florida and the Carolina lowlands during the winter, but some may go as far as Venezuela. Birds that breed here in the Upper Mississippi River Valley and Canada hop over the populations that live in the South. In the winter they sometimes gather in great numbers, as eagles do. The largest roosting site ever recorded is at Lake Okeechobee, where 4,000 vultures were seen at one time.

They return north early in the spring, like raptors. Breeding pairs arrive in southern Wisconsin from mid- to late March, when they immediately begin flying over traditional nest sites and performing aerial displays. They stay in pairs all summer and raise their young.

Sometimes you see them flying low over trees and farmlands, scanning for food. They have a very keen



Turkey vultures are brown, but their neck and upper back feathers have iridescent blue, purple or green colors, too. Their heads are red or purplish with black bristles. Males and females have the same coloration. (Allen B. Sheldon)

sense of smell, so they can find food even when it is hidden below a dense canopy of trees. In the wild, vultures never eat anything alive; they eat carrion — dead animals. Their genus name, *Cathartes*, means “purifier” in Latin, because they clean up the dead. (Black vultures, a more aggressive species, actually kill animals, but they live south and west of here.)

If vultures see other vultures around a carcass, they may join them, but generally they hunt by themselves. Even around a carcass, they don’t eat together. Usually one bird eats while the others stand around and wait their turn.

They eat often, every day, although they can go for several days without food. Their diet is extensive: small mammals (mice), big mammals (deer and cows), chickens, wild birds, snakes, turtles, fish, frogs, shrimp,

snails, grasshoppers, crickets and mayflies that have washed onto shore. But, because their claws and beaks cannot tear open thick skin, turkey vultures have to wait until their meal is slightly putrid. This partly accounts for the vulture’s reputation as a very smelly bird. Another reason is that in hot weather, they cool off by peeing on their legs (called urohydrolysis).

Karla Kinstler once had a close encounter with a vulture. She is director/naturalist of the Houston (Minn.) Nature Center, was a licensed falconer and has a license to keep a great horned owl, Alice, as an educational bird. She also finds help for injured wild birds. When someone in nearby Forestville State Park found a turkey vulture in a ditch one December, they brought it to Karla’s kitchen. She called the Raptor Center in St. Paul.

“There was nothing obviously

wrong with it, but under stress birds get dehydrated, so I tried to give it fluids,” she said. She loaded a small syringe with a slurry of veal baby food, gatorade and water. “As soon

Unlike most birds, the turkey vulture cannot call, sing or hoot, because it has no syrinx. All it can do is grunt or hiss.

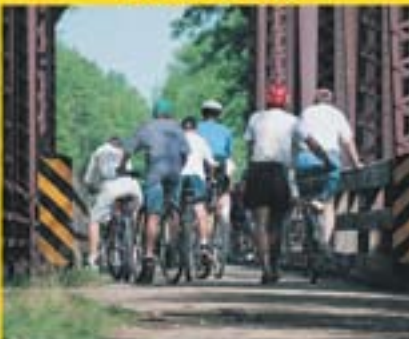
as I picked his head up and tilted it back, it leaned forward and barfed.”

The vomit smelled of old dead animals, partially digested. “The smell was horrible. I tried Lysol, Pine-Sol and everything. The smell just got stronger and stronger.”

The Raptor Center eventually found that the bird had an old wing


**Bike the
Rails to Trails...
Onalaska, WI**

**Your connection to over
101 miles of continuous
State Trails**



MILES TO ONALASKA FROM:

CHICAGO	273
DULUTH	234
EAU CLAIRE	87
GREEN BAY	196
MADISON	129
MILWAUKEE	204
MINNEAPOLIS	153
WAUSAU	164



**For Lodging &
Tourist Information**
1-800-873-1901 • (608) 781-9570
www.discoveronalaska.com



Turkey vultures usually lay one or two eggs under protective bushes, or in crevices or caves in cliffs near the river. Sometimes they will choose old granaries, barns, or abandoned farmhouses. This nest was at an unused bunker at Fort McCoy, Wis. (Allen B. Sheldon)

**boats and
bluegrass**

Fri, Sept 28 — Sun, Sept 30

40 Watt Bulb	Pert Near Carburetor
Ditch Lifes	Cornmeal
Creekbones	Brass Kings
Roe Family	Beet Root Stew
Hobo	357 String Band
Nephews of Uncle Fred	The High 48s
Rev. Eddie Danger	... Moss Piglets
... Mill City Grinders	Chris Kendall
Jimmy Liggett Bear Club Music Coop.	

Plus
Dinner and
Beverage Trip
for you and
another
One Ball
Uplifter

\$35
For Entire
Weekend
of Music!

Private Island Park and Campground
3120 Private Island Road
Winona Pk. 55967
For Tickets, go to: www.lansingmusic.com

507.474.1430

fracture that prevented it from migrating.

This bird doesn't need more image problems, but unlike most birds, the turkey vulture cannot call, sing or hoot, because it has no syrinx. All it can do is grunt or hiss.

"They're passive hissers," Kinstler said. "They aren't aggressive birds, but they do have this threat: 'If you don't leave me alone, I'll barf.' They're beautiful when they're soaring, but up close... they're just not what I'm used to."

Vultures and eagles are gliders — they do not flap, they soar. You can tell them apart because turkey vultures typically fly with their wings set in a shallow dihedral, a wide open "V," and tilt back and forth. Bald

eagles, on the other hand, do not "V" their wings when they soar. Golden eagles sometimes hold their wings in an upturned dihedral, but they never tilt from side to side.

Many longtime river valley residents agree that there are more turkey vultures here now than 20 or 30 years ago.

"Absolutely, there are more now!" said Ric Zarwell of Lansing, Iowa, longtime birder and a member of the Friends of Pool 9. "As a kid we never saw vultures. Of course, we didn't see bald eagles or pelicans or cormorants, either, in the 1950s and 60s. But now we do. A few weeks ago we saw 53 turkey vultures roosting on Mount Hosmer one evening." ❧



Caves make good shelter. However, they don't come with an indoor pool and video game room.

With so much for your family or friends to do at Stoney Creek Inn, you might not even find time for all the great local attractions. Once kids jump into the fun of the Wilderness Park pool, it'll be hard to get them out. Unless of course, they want to hit the video games. At Stoney Creek Inn, it's just one fun thing after another.

Galena: 940 Galena Square Drive • Quad Cities: 101 18th Street, Moline
Waukon: 407 Rossville Road • La Crosse: 3060 Kinney Coulee Road South, Onalaska
Call (800) 659-2220 or visit stoneycreekinn.com



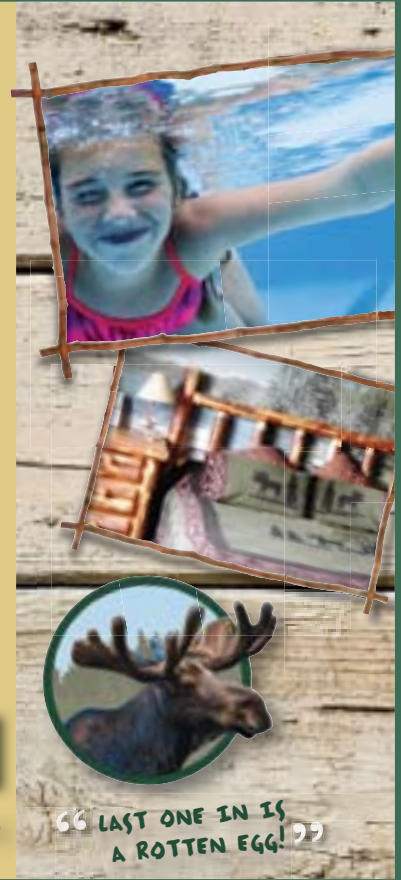
THE INN THAT CALMS THE INNER BEAST

ILLINOIS
Galena
Peoria
Quad Cities
Quincy

IOWA
Des Moines
Sioux City (2008)
Waukon

MISSOURI
Columbia
St. Joseph

WISCONSIN
La Crosse
Wausau



Do you like what you see in Big River?

We do custom publishing, too.

The same crew that designs and produces this magazine also designs books, promotional materials, interpretive signs, logos and websites. Let us help with your projects.

We can write, edit, design and lay out your documents. We take the same care with each project as we do with our own magazine.

Riverwise, Inc. BIG RIVER

Two companies, one crew

Books • Brochures • Business Cards
Logos • Newsletters • Websites
www.riverwise.com



Give us a call about your next project • 800-303-8201 • 507-454-5949



Do lotuses smell good? A small boat gets people close enough to find out for themselves. (Pamela Eyden)

Backwater Touring Getting Close to the River

By Pamela Eyden and Trudy Balcom

Jack Libby, owner of Mississippi Explorer Cruises, pointed the six-passenger jon boat upstream into the Main Channel from the dock in Lansing, Iowa, one July morning. When we neared the top of an island he cut the motor. As we floated and swayed on the big river — a wonderful sensation for people who rarely leave the shore — he pointed out a bald eagle sitting high in a nest in the top of a tree. It was an immature eagle, Libby explained, its coloring very different from an adult's.

The moment we all had our binoculars focused on the big bird, it lunged out of the nest, pursued by a small bird that picked at the feathers on his back and bumped him in mid-air.

"See the way he flies? He's not

quite as strong or confident as an adult," Libby pointed out. "And that little bird is right on him every time the eagle takes off."

Far from majestic, the young eagle looked oddly helpless, and we sym-

"I spent all my life learning and exploring the river. When I traveled and saw what others were doing, I wanted to do that here," Libby said.

pathized with him. He'll learn better evasive maneuvers as he grows, Libby said. Maybe the little bird is his teacher.

Jack Libby has kept his eye on that

nest all summer. It's just five minutes from the dock so he frequently brings tour passengers here to stop and talk about eagles, river navigation and safety rules.

Someone asks why they haven't heard of other backwater tours, especially around the Twin Cities, farther north.

"It's the refuge," Libby said. "We wouldn't be here if it weren't for the [Upper Mississippi National Wildlife and Fish] refuge," sweeping his arm to indicate the wild surroundings and the 261-mile stretch of public, protected land from Wabasha, Minn., to Rock Island, Ill.

As a boy, Libby, spent years exploring the labyrinthine backwaters above Lansing in small boats before learning to pilot towboats and ocean-going ships. He got the



Emerging from a backwater slough into the Main Channel brings a change of scenery and wildlife. (Pamela Eyden)

idea for his business, Mississippi Explorer Cruises, while working a month-on, month-off schedule as a Mississippi River towboat pilot. During his months off, he traveled the world, and wherever he went he took boat tours — sailing up the Yangtze River in China, pursuing manatees in Florida, whale-watching in Iceland.

“I spent all my life learning and exploring the river. When I traveled and saw what others were doing, I wanted to do that here,” Libby said.

His was probably the first “eco-tourism” outfit on the Upper River.

He started his company five years ago with a 20-passenger pontoon boat based in Lansing. Now he hires four more pilots to take seven boats of various sizes on tours from four towns — Lansing, Prairie du Chien, Wis.; Galena, Ill.; and Dubuque, Iowa (in conjunction with the National Mississippi River Museum). All except the jon boat sport roofs, and one has an encloseable, heatable cabin.



Shallow-draft boats take people to parts of the river that look much like it did before locks and dams were built. (Eric Dykman/Mississippi Explorer Cruises)



Kids like the adventure of moving quietly through the backwaters, searching for wildlife. (Eric Dykman/Mississippi Explorer Cruises)

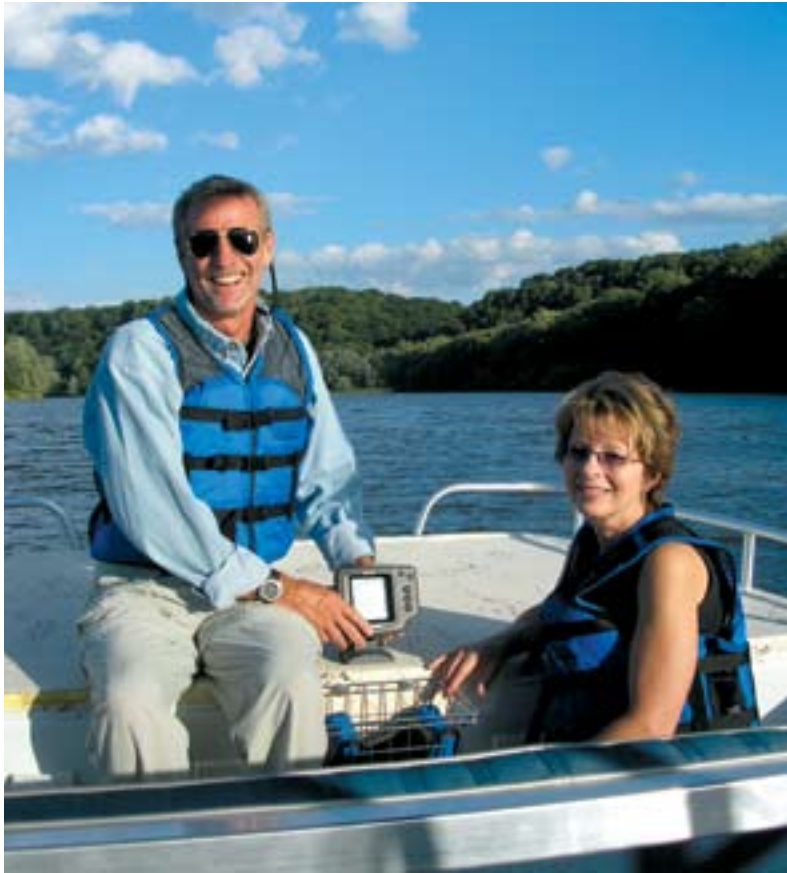
All the Comforts

“We know what people like. They want to be outside, but they want to be protected from the elements, too. And they don’t like the weather to ruin their trip,” Libby said.

Most tours are just a few hours long — just enough to give people a taste of the backwaters. The jon boat trip out of Lansing took us up Big Slough, which is narrow and tree-lined in some places, and opens up to marshes full of tall grass, pickerel weed, arrowhead and lilies in others. Our group was interested in birds, flowers and wildlife, so Libby steered the boat and the narrative in those directions.

“Unless there’s a special interest, we try to cover the whole circle — navigation, history, geology, flora and fauna, clamming, commercial fishing,” he said.

Some trips focus on history, or blooming lotuses and water lilies, fall foliage, bald eagles, and bird-watching. One of the most popular is the November tundra swan-watching tour in conjunction with Lansing’s Rivers and Bluffs Birding Festival. In icy November, most people wouldn’t set foot in any boat to see any kind of bird. But his new,



Clyde and Judy Male of Upper Mississippi Adventures know where the wildlife is and guide visitors to see it in the complex backwaters near Cassville, Wis. (Trudy Balcom)



Some passengers book special trips to go out and see the immense beds of American lotuses that bloom on the Upper Mississippi River Wildlife and Fish Refuge. (Eric Dykman/Mississippi Explorer Cruises)



Jack Libby of Mississippi Explorer Cruises has custom built several boats, including a "convertible" boat that can duck under bridges on Catfish Creek, on tours from the National River Museum in Dubuque. (Pamela Eyden)



Eagles nest in tall trees near the river, but you'll never get this close without your binoculars. (Eric Dykman/Mississippi Explorer Cruises)

custom-designed 90-passenger boat has high, wide windows, a heater and bathrooms.

"We even serve hot local apple cider," he laughed. "We couldn't do that without the bathrooms."

Libby is a man with a lifetime of knowledge and a great sense of humor, but he also recruits experts to help interpret the sights.

The 80 teachers who booked a five-hour guided tour out of Effigy

Mounds National Monument in early July were accompanied by several guides— archeologist Ernie Bozshardt, birder Jon Stravers, storyteller Duke Addicks, and Villa Louis curator Michael Douglas.

"That was a nonstop, action-packed trip!" Libby said.

Focus on Nature

Downriver in Cassville, Wis., Clyde and Judy Male operate Upper Mississippi River Adventures. They moved here 23 years ago when Clyde's career with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service brought him to the Upper Mississippi National Wildlife and Fish Refuge. Clyde, a zoologist by training, is assistant refuge manager of the McGregor District.

Their tour boat, a Carolina skiff that seats six, has a canopy that offers protection from sun and showers. Their most popular tour is the one-hour Sunset Cruise.

"Most people want to go out on the Sunset Cruise, but they're most

"Most people want to go out on the Sunset Cruise, but they're most interested in the wildlife. Sunset just happens," Judy noted.

interested in the wildlife," noted Judy. "Sunset just happens." The river runs west to east at Cassville, so spectacular sunsets come easily.

The two-hour Ecological Tour offers more time to explore and learn. Part of what makes this tour interesting is learning about the interplay of wildlife and human activities on the river. As Clyde and Judy explained the working river, we passed a barge-fleeting area for a close-up look at the towboats at work. But wildlife was never far away, as we saw when we passed the Dairyland Power plant and looked for the peregrine falcons that nest there.

Other tours include a Bald Eagle Tour, Beach Adventure, which takes passengers out to a sandy island beach with everything they need for the afternoon, including beach chairs and a picnic lunch, and the Night Drift, where they drift silently along with the river and listen for the prehistoric squawk of a great blue heron, the trilling of frogs or the slap of a beaver's tail.

"If you don't hear the sounds, you miss half of what's out here," Clyde said.



Passengers keep an eye on the shore for muskrats, beavers, herons and even otters. (Eric Dykman/Mississippi Explorer Cruises)



Teens like a chance to get out of the classroom and onto the big river. (Eric Dykman/Mississippi Explorer Cruises)



Birders watch for green herons, prothonotary warblers, eastern kingbirds and more as they move slowly through the backwaters. (Pamela Eyden)

Simple Things

In the company of an experienced tour guide you might see muskrats, beavers, otters, minks, northern water snakes or enormous leaping fish and tons of birds — raptors, wading birds, geese, swans, pelicans or ducks, depending on the season.

Tour guides have to be flexible. Clyde Male has a sharp eye, and if he sees something interesting, the boat will be pointed towards it in a jiffy. The fact is, no one ever sees the same river twice — that's where the adventure comes in, that and the way people react to it. Judy recounted the day they took passengers to see a muskrat house, and they spied a mink on shore carrying off a baby muskrat. Suddenly the rest of the baby muskrats came bubbling up alongside the boat, causing one of the passengers to wonder aloud if they planned to jump aboard.

Libby said he sees the river work a change over some passengers, especially in tours out of Galena, Ill., which draw international travelers and tourists from Chicago.

"They get on the boat and sit down, and everyone's rather reserved and introverted. Then we get going, and an eagle flies overhead, or they see herons fishing in the shallows,

Seeing bald eagles is the crowning grace for most people, but kids are fascinated by turtles and dragonflies...

and they start to liven up. After a while they're like different people. They're interested and talking to each other. They've become part of nature."

Seeing bald eagles is the crowning grace for most people, but kids are fascinated by turtles and dragonflies, and everyone is amazed by water snakes and lotuses.

"That's the fun part. There's always something happening out there. On the refuge, every week is like a new season. It's like For-

rest Gump's box of chocolates — you never know what you're going to get," Libby said.

Passion and Conservation

Conservation is always part of the message. Libby steered to avoid a sandbar where he said he ran his father's boat aground many times as a boy. He wondered aloud how it remains the same, despite so many other radical changes in the river's topography. Many familiar areas that were once deep are now just two or three feet deep. Some of these changes are happening very rapidly.

"When I started this business I used to take the 20-passenger pontoon boat all the way up Big Slough, but I can't do that anymore," he said. "It's too shallow now, and trees have fallen over."

Tour operators aren't giving up their day jobs yet. One runs a campground. Libby describes himself as semi-retired, but he occasionally pilots towboats out of Gary, Ind. On top of Clyde's full-time job, the Males operate a bed-and-breakfast in a Cassville building they restored themselves.

Operating a tour company is hard work. It's also a highly regulated and expensive proposition.

"This isn't a passive kind of business. You can't just advertise and run people around in a jon boat," Libby said.

All captains have to be licensed by the U.S. Coast Guard. All boats are inspected every year, and the staff undergoes yearly and random drug and alcohol testing. To run boats on the refuge, tour companies need permits from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. On top of that, there is always boat maintenance, personnel management, promotion and other routine business tasks.

"Despite the behind-the-scenes anxieties of this business, what makes it all worth it is getting to introduce people to this river," Libby said. 🌊

Pamela Eyden is news and photo editor for Big River. Trudy Balcom is a writer who lives in Harper's Ferry, Iowa. Her last story for Big River was "Hoffa's Eats and Sweets" (Sept.-Oct. 2005).

(River News continued from page 19)

as Brood XIII emerge in late May or early June every 17 years in southern Wisconsin, east-central Iowa, northern Illinois and northern Indiana. People didn't want to listen to four to six weeks of deafening racket from the males' mating call.

What turned out to be a spotty emergence of the cicadas came as a relief to many folks.

"The interesting thing is that some people in Grant, Iowa; Richland and Crawford counties (in southwest Wisconsin) reported lots of activity, whereas a half mile down the road there was nothing," said Phil Pellitteri, extension entomologist for the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He said most reports of cicadas came from the bluffs along the Mississippi, Wisconsin and Rock rivers.

According to the University of Illinois Extension Service, the population was spotty in northwest Illinois as well.

Iowa State University Entomologist Donald Lewis said only 11 counties in Iowa reported activity this year, compared to 22 counties in 1990.

He believes that commercial and residential development caused much of the decline. "Anything that disrupts trees eliminates periodic cicadas," Lewis said. "They have limited ability to move very far, very fast."

After this summer's emergence, the cicadas mated and the females laid eggs in the twigs of bushes or trees. When the eggs hatched, the nymphs burrowed underground, where they will live a quiet life a few inches to a few feet underground for 17 years, surviving by sucking the sap from the roots of mature trees, especially oaks.

Pelicans Nest Here

Thomson, Ill. — Staff from the Savanna District of the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge announced in June that white pelicans are nesting on Pool 13 of the Upper Mississippi River. They have photographs to prove it, although they were reluctant to give the exact location of the island.

Although more and more of the big birds have been spending sum-



Pelicans raised chicks on a Pool 13 island this summer, perhaps for the first time ever. (Russell Engelke / U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)

mers on the Upper Mississippi River, they have never been known to nest here. Experts have speculated that the birds were either nonbreeding birds or migrating.

The 50 to 75 pelican chicks were found on an island where double-crested cormorants, great egrets and great blue herons traditionally nest. Pelicans, like these other birds, are colonial nesters, gathering in groups to raise their young.

One of the most exciting bird sights on the river in the summer, pelicans fly in formation and swim together, using teamwork to catch fish.

Kelly's Bluff Controversy

Dubuque, Iowa — Residents are skeptical and concerned about the current project of developer A. J. Spiegel. They wonder what it might do to Kelly's Bluff, which overlooks the Mississippi River and downtown Dubuque.

"What will drilling the piles to support a structure like that do?" Francine Banwarth asked. "When I think of what A.J. Spiegel has done to the other bluff, I wonder what will happen to this one."

The "other bluff" is on the north side of Dubuque at Eagle Point Park. During an attempt to make way for a condominium project in 2003, Spiegel chopped off a portion of the rocky

structure about 10 feet deep and 250 feet wide. In February 2004, huge rocks broke loose from an area above the excavation site. That project is on hold indefinitely, as the city considers ways to stabilize the bluff, all of which would be expensive.

In March 2006, before receiving a final design, the Dubuque City Council gave Spiegel permission to build two 12-story condominiums on Kelly's Bluff. Spiegel has cleared the site but waited to begin construction until 60 of the planned 240 units sold. Unless there is an unexpected delay, building will begin this fall, according to project manager George Murphy.

"We've got graves up there. Human remains from the 1800s were found on the site in June. We've got caves up there. And we have historic neighborhoods up there," said S.A. Sutton, founder of Preserve Our Bluffs, of Dubuque. "There will be years of pounding, hammering and drilling, with the project being built in increments."

Sutton noted that the oldest section of Dubuque lies below Kelly's Bluff. "The neighborhood will not withstand the destruction and the noise," she said. "Our neighborhoods have become disposable."

Murphy said he doesn't believe

(River News continues on page 47)

Treasures Along the River Road — Fountain City Houses



The 55-ton boulder that plummeted off the cliffs and landed in this bedroom has become a tourist attraction.



Captain Henning's compact brick home is on the waterfront.

Story and photographs by Kate Halverson

Next time you zip through Fountain City, Wis., on the Great River Road, slow down. If you poke around for an hour, you'll find several intriguing historic houses that reflect the river and its history.

Located across the river and a few miles upstream from Winona, Minn., on Wisconsin Highway 35, Fountain City is set on the side of the hill below Eagle Bluff, named for the bald eagles soaring overhead. The town was homesteaded in 1839 by both Swiss and German immigrants, and was known as Holmes Landing. Residents built a fountain to take advantage of a spring that flowed out of the rock in town, which became a landmark and inspired the renaming of the town. The fountain is gone, but the name remains.

Fountain City has several historic residences that are unusual, interesting and worth a second look. All are private homes, except for the Rock in the House, which has a sign on the highway inviting visitors to come in and explore.

Heads Up!

The Rock in the House overlooks the Mississippi, just across the highway from the Army Corps of Engineers Service Base, at the foot of steep rocky bluffs. After being hit twice by gigantic boulders from those bluffs, this modest home was turned into a museum. You can enter and explore it on your own, throwing a buck in the bucket on the honor system. (Wisconsinites will note the playful jumbling of the House on the Rock, in Spring Green.)

Newspaper clippings, neatly laid out on counters inside the house, tell the story of the first and second boulders. In April 1901, a five-ton boulder rumbled down the 550-foot limestone cliff, crashed into a little back bedroom and killed the woman who was sleeping there.

Nearly 100 years later, in 1995, another boulder broke loose, gained frightening momentum and crashed into what was then the Dwight Anderson home. This one weighed 55 tons. It tore off exterior walls and wedged itself into the backside of their home. No one was injured, but

one month later Maxine and Dwight Anderson bid adieu to their little house.

Francis and John Burt had wanted to buy the house before the second boulder fell. They didn't want to see the house demolished so they proceeded with the purchase. The boulder was included, no extra charge.

"Something important happened in Fountain City and we wanted everyone to take note," the Burts explained. They established a River Road tourist attraction with a sign stating "The Rock Stops Here." Featured in *People Magazine* (9-4-1995) and the *Chicago Tribune* (8-9-2002), the self-guided tour through the three-room house is well worth the dollar.

How could gigantic boulders fall twice in almost the same spot?

"I think it has to do with spring thaw," said Francis Burt. Water that seeps into cracks in the porous limestone freezes and expands in winter, pushing the rock apart and making it split and give way when the water melts.

The Burts live elsewhere.

River Captain's House

A block downriver of The Rock, right on the river at 311 North Shore Dr., a neat one-story brick house attracts the eye with its compact design. The porthole window adjacent to the front entry provides a nautical look.

The house was built in 1947 for Captain William Henning, who spent most his life on the river. Henning was born and raised in Fountain City, and began his career on the river as a deck hand and fireman at the age of 16. At 21 he was a licensed pilot, shuttling passengers back and forth across the Mississippi on packet boats, such as the *Robert Harris*. (Packet boats, similar to ferry boats, were used to transport people and products prior to highways, bridges and train tracks.) Captain Henning commanded the dredge *William A. Thompson* during his last six years on the river, and retired in 1942 as one of the oldest master pilots on the Upper Mississippi. He died in 1967 at the age of 93.

Pioneer's House

Another, quite different, historic house is at 340 South Main St. This stately, white-columned two-story house was built in the 1890s by an early resident of Fountain City, Joseph Fugina. His descendents still maintain and live in it.

Alethea Fugina has the original paperwork documenting construction of the house for \$1,974, "excluding the furnace." The house has been remodelled only twice in more than 100 years — once for a family room on the back and again for a second floor extension over the front porch. A



Built in the 1890s, this house has a gracious wrap-around porch that opens onto gardens — both amenities typical of 19th century homes.



narrow, bleached elm staircase connects the 10 rooms on two floors. Original wall-coverings and elegant fixtures still hang in the entry foyer.

The wrap-around open porch graciously settles into the side yard, beckoning guests to sit a spell while gazing upon the river. A distinctive ginkgo tree provides summer shade.

Prairie School House

The house next door, at 348 South Main St., is a striking contrast. Built by a second generation Fugina, son Martin, in 1916, the house was designed by Prairie School architect Percy Dwight Bentley. It is presently occupied by fourth- and fifth-generation members of the Fugina family.

Percy Dwight Bentley, born in La Crosse, Wis., in 1885, was trained in Chicago, where he met architects Louis Sullivan and Frank Lloyd Wright. He became a devotee of the Prairie School design philosophy before returning to La Crosse and opening his own office in 1910.

Bentley and the Fugina homestead are featured in the book *The Prairie School*, written by H. Allen Brooks in the early 1970s. "When Mr. Brooks was researching his book, he told us our house was the architect's best work," Alethea added with pride.



Prairie School architect Percy Bentley designed dozens of homes in Wisconsin and Minnesota, including the one above in Fountain City.

The dark Roman brick house is on the National Register of Historic Places. With classic leaded glass windows, ornamental downspouts, cantilevered roofing and strong horizontal lines, the Fugina homestead is a Great River Road treasure.

A series of letters between the architect and her father-in-law, and the original colored design renderings are treasured by Fugina descendents.

"I remember Percy Bentley, so wanting to do what was right for the site, building the home into the terrain," Alethea said.

Stylish Look-alike House

The Fuginas' Prairie School house was so admired at the time, another Fountain City resident built one like it at 220 South Main St.

Unable or unwilling to hire architect Bentley, the Kirschner family hired the Fuginas' original contractor to build his house. Stucco siding was used instead of brick, and the porch extension was flipped, but the floor-plan is identical. The interior floors are one-inch white and red oak. The fireplace has the original green tile, and 76 leaded glass windows are still intact. The house is noted in the 1992 book *Frank Lloyd Wright in Wisconsin*, by Kirsten Visser.

Before leaving Fountain City, drive up Hill Street and



Another Fountain City home is modeled on the Percy Bentley house, including many external and interior details.

admire the breathtaking views of the river. Note that many historic houses were built into the steep south-facing hillside and look much taller from the downhill than from the uphill side. Just keep an eye on the cliffs overhead. ☸

Kate Halverson, ASID CID, is the owner of Touch of Class Interiors (Minneapolis-Lake City) www.tocinteriors.com. Her last story for Big River was "Chateau Frontenac" May-June 2007.



RIVER CITY
VACATION RENTALS-LLC

Four Season Vacation Rentals and Packages!



VacationsInLakeCity.com

Featuring 1 & 2 Bedroom Fully Furnished Luxury Condominiums with Spectacular Views of Lake Pepin.
The Rivage • Villas On Pepin • Bella Vista

1-866-212-3877 • 1-651-345-5033
1215 N. Lakeshore Drive, Lake City, MN 55041
Email: info@vacationsinlakecity.com
On-line reservations available!

A great gift idea.

Minnesota Weatherguide Environment™ Calendar



ORDER FRESHWATER SOCIETY

Order today!

This 60-page Wall Calendar and 120-page Weekly Engagement Calendar make great gifts. Order your calendar today for \$15.95. Visit www.freshwater.org or call 888-471-9773 to order.



Freshwater Society
freshwater@freshwater.org


Volume discounts for corporate employee or client gift giving.

888-471-9773
www.freshwater.org

Villa Louis

Enjoy a guided tour of a rare and remarkable restoration—made possible by an unparalleled archive of family photographs and records—that puts Villa Louis in a class by itself, truly one of the most authentically restored Victorian mansions in America.

- ◆ Open daily May 5 to October 31, 2007
- ◆ A lively round of special events throughout the summer including the War of 1812 Battle of Prairie du Chien and the Villa Louis Carriage Classic.
- ◆ A fine selection of books and gifts related to the Mississippi River, Villa Louis and Wisconsin history in the museum store.




Villa Louis is located on St. Feriole Island, on the banks of the Mississippi River, in Prairie du Chien.

Villa Louis

For more information about the 2007 season call Villa Louis at (608) 326-2721 or toll free (866) 944-7483 visit our Web site at www.wisconsinhistory.org/villalouis/ Email: villalouis@whs.wisc.edu

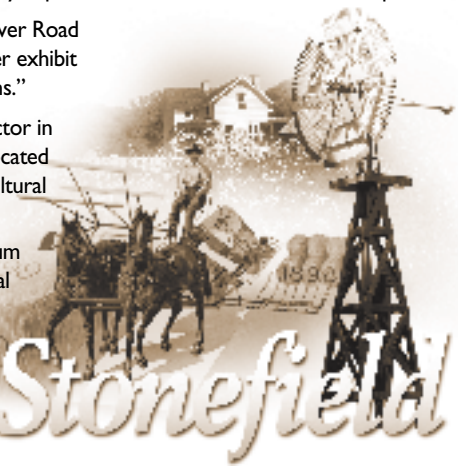
Owned and operated by the Wisconsin Historical Society



Stonefield

A museum of agricultural history and village life where you will discover a few 19th-century risk takers who helped shape Wisconsin's agricultural identity.

- ◆ Open daily May 26 to September 3 (Labor Day), 10 a.m.–4 p.m.; open weekends only September 8 to October 14, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.
- ◆ View the Great River Road Interpretive Center exhibit "River Connections."
- ◆ See the oldest tractor in North America, located in the State Agricultural Museum.
- ◆ Browse the Museum store of agricultural related books and gift items.



Stonefield is located on County Road VV in Cassville.

Stonefield

For more information about 2007 season call Stonefield at (608) 725-5210 or toll free (866) 944-7483 visit our Web site at www.wisconsinhistory.org/stonefield/

Owned and operated by the Wisconsin Historical Society



Grilling Up Good Times at the Trempealeau Hotel

Story and photos by Pamela Eyden

Some restaurants succeed because they're pretty or have a great view, some because of a good menu and a kitchen that follows through, and others because they provide an ambiance that encourages people to relax, talk and enjoy their friends.

The Trempealeau Hotel succeeds on all three criteria. It's made the most of its location on the riverfront in the picturesque town of Trempealeau, Wis., offering a panoramic view of the Mississippi River and the steep river bluffs. The eclectic menu ranges from their famous Walnut Burgers to Max's Shrimp & Andouille Sausage Penne, steaks, salmon and Mexican specialties. It's probably the only restaurant I've eaten at that offers pan-fried bluegills in both a sandwich and an entrée. And the place seems to have been designed for comfortable, casual good times.

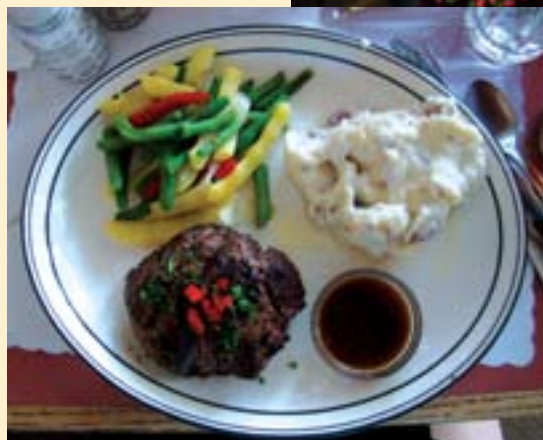
Four of us met there on a Sunday evening in late July after two of us had kayaked the Long Lake Canoe Trail, and another had tried his luck fishing on the nearby lock wall. In the spacious yard between the hotel and the river, hollyhocks and sunflowers were in full bloom. People were sipping and sitting in the Adirondack chairs on the veranda, while others helped their grandkids guide basketballs into the hoop near the outdoor concert stage. The river ran smooth under a soft gold sky. Dinner at the Trempealeau Hotel was the perfect way to cap a summer weekend.

The bar and restaurant draw boaters from the river, birders from the Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge, campers from nearby Perrot State Park and bikers from the Great River State Trail. The hotel rents eight simple rooms (with a shared bathroom) upstairs and a variety of rooms and suites around town.

We ordered from the menu of entrées and sat back to enjoy our microbrews and iced teas as we watched the river and discussed politics. Salads, soups and dinner rolls arrived just as we were ready for

them. The asparagus soup was a good beginning, with asparagus, corn and other vegetables in a light, flavorful broth.

The salad made a pretty plate, with tender mixed garden greens, rings of sweet onion, a few halved cherry tomatoes and black olives, and slen-



With a wide deck for viewing the river and a garden out back, along with a volleyball court, basketball court and concert stage, the Historic Trempealeau Hotel can be a very busy place on weekends.

der shreds of carrot. The blue cheese dressing was chunky and savory. The vinaigrette on my salad was so good I used the final drips instead of butter on the delicious hard rolls. They must have made it with extra virgin olive oil.

My tenderloin steak arrived on a white oval plate, garnished with tiny diced sweet red pepper. Unfortunately, it had been overcooked, going past medium rare into medium — not what I wanted for my \$21.95. The waitress apologized graciously, whisked the plate away and promised to return promptly with a replacement. That left me to graze from my companions' plates — not a bad situation when you're reviewing a restaurant. When the replacement appeared, I found it very tasty. The classic French demi-glaze was a rich, subtle au jus.

The yellow fin tuna (\$15.95) was grilled to a perfect pink-but-not-too-pink doneness. Accompanied by tamari and wasabi condiments, it made a light, tasty and healthy meal.

The rack of Barbecued Pork Ribs (\$19.95) impressed us all; it hung over both ends of a long plate. My ambitious and hungry companion shared his smokey-sweet tender ribs, ate his fill and brought some home.

All three dinners included steamed fresh green and yellow

The Decadent Chocolate Cake was nested in whipped cream, rich with chocolate and seemed to evaporate off the plate.

beans and a heap of garlic mashed potatoes, which complimented the entrée and rounded out the meals.

Though none of us were particularly hungry after our dinners, we felt it was our duty to test at least a couple of the desserts. The mango and raspberry sorbets were light and fruity. The Decadent Chocolate Cake

was nested in whipped cream, rich with chocolate and seemed to evaporate off the plate.

As we ate, guests occasionally squeezed between tables to examine the local historic photos on the dining room wall. Actually, the establishment's full name is the Historic Trempealeau Hotel, because it opened for business in 1871, and was one of the few buildings to survive a fire in 1888 that destroyed most of the booming city. Owners Jim and Linda Jenkins and a partner who is no longer involved bought the building in 1986 and restored it. The restaurant and bar made history again in 1994, when it went smoke free.

The Trempealeau Hotel, at the end of Main Street, serves lunch and dinner seven days a week from April 1 to October 31. It's open Thursday through Sunday in November and December, and closed January through March. For reservations and information, call 608-534-6898. ☘

Pamela Eyden is Big River Magazine's news and photo editor.

MINNESOTA MARINE ART MUSEUM



Featuring four galleries of local, regional and international marine art and artifacts from four centuries

Burrichter-Kierlin Marine Art Collection



Leo and Marilyn Smith Folk Art Collection

Rare, historic 19th-century photographs of the upper Mississippi River by Henry Peter Bosse



US Army Corps of Engineers dredge barge
William A. Thompson (2008)



Tues 10 am-8 pm, Weds-Sat 10 am-5 pm Sun 11 am-5 pm Closed Mondays

Family Friendly Group rates and tours Gift shop Self-service cafe

800 Riverview Dr. Winona, MN 55987 (507) 474-6626

www.minnesotamarineart.org

10th ANNUAL Northeast Iowa Artists' **Studio Tour**
Oct 5, 6 & 7, 2007
 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
51 artists at 37 locations
 A scenic, free, drive-yourself tour, featuring fine art, all located within 35 miles of Decorah.
 The first, and one of the largest studio Tours in Iowa. Many artists are award-winning and national caliber, with many new Artists exhibiting in 2007. Many of the studios are open to the general public exclusively for this event.
 For more information or for a brochure with a map...
1-800-463-4692
 Or in Decorah (563) 382-2023 • tour@iowaarttour.com
www.iowaarttour.com

Bogus Creek Cafe and Bakery

Story and photos by Molly McGuire

You can't see Lake Pepin from Bogus Creek Cafe in Stockholm, Wis., but you'll see a lot of the Mississippi getting there on scenic Highway 35.

Stockholm is a perfect small-town getaway and one of several interesting towns that circle Lake Pepin. Bogus Creek Cafe and Bakery is on Stockholm's only commercial street, just off the highway. To enter, one walks down through a garden to a tree-shaded terrace. The cafe and the bakery are on either side of this outdoor dining area. One can sit indoors, but on pleasant days, such as on the first of two visits this summer, there may not be a soul dining inside.

We sat in an area called Bogus Bay, shaded by trellised vines and a huge weeping willow. Sleepy from the drive, I welcomed the rich coffee served in a blue Fiesta cup while my companion chose a dark Sprecher beer. Later I sipped a Wisconsin wine, the Wollershiem Prairie Fumé. It was light and refreshing, just the thing for a sunny day that was starting to turn hot.

We were served a variety of fresh bread from the bakery. Our first course was a refreshing gazpacho. We tried to identify all its flavors and textures, then, with help from the head cook, Colleen Flynn — who is also the gardener and owner — we discovered its secrets were a dash of worcestershire and a good amount of tarragon. The flavors were well-blended and perked up the palate.

I ordered a pasta salad with fettuccine, lettuce, vegetables, chicken and pesto sauce. The veggies were crunchy and the romaine was fresh and crisp, although I might have enjoyed even more of the basil-and-garlic pesto mixed into the salad. My companion ordered the black bean burrito, actually only half, which she found delicious. It was topped with the works — cheese, tomatoes, cilantro, olives and avocado, and served with salsa, chips and sour cream.



A tree canopy and sun umbrellas create dappled shade for a relaxing breakfast or lunch at Bogus Creek.

For dessert we split an order of bread pudding, which was scrumptious, with pecans, cinnamon and caramel sauce — a soft, chewy and crunchy treat.

I returned to Bogus Creek Cafe again on the afternoon of the popular Stockholm Art Fair in July, when there was a longer waiting line, a special menu and lots of hubbub. Even under this pressure, the staff was friendly and helpful, and the food tasty and satisfying. My partner was pleased down to the last morsel with his fruited salad with chicken. He remarked on the complex flavor of the chicken, which I learned later was seared on a griddle, seasoned with salt, pepper, garlic and five-spice powder, then deglazed with a semi-dry white wine. My half a reuben sandwich was delicious and savory, accompanied by a generous helping of herbed potato salad and an assort-

(Bogus Creek continues on page 44)



The name may be "Bogus," but the cafe lives up to its motto, "Our Food is Real."



Limestone buildings along River Park Drive help create an old-world ambience.

Picnic in the Park in Guttenberg

Story and photos by Becky Sisco

Richard Dethoff sat on a park bench recently gazing out at the Mississippi, while his wife Lois browsed in a bookstore across the street. The Amboy, Minn., couple had stopped in Guttenberg, Iowa, on their way home from a vacation in Indiana. They had decided to go by way of the Great River Road. “We love the river,” Richard said. “We follow it whenever possible.”

Guttenberg attracts visitors with its limestone architecture, riverside shops, mile-long riverside park, and up-close view of the river and Lock and Dam 10.

Unlike most cities and towns, Guttenberg’s shoreline has remained accessible to the public, thanks first to Lenz Tujetsch, an early Swiss settler who grazed his cows there, according to local historian Barbara Leitgen.

Later, townsfolk became accustomed to picnicking on the land, so, when the Illinois Central Railroad wanted to lay tracks along the river in 1868, the German housewives refused to give it up. In 1902, they formed the Ingleside Women’s Club, which still exists, and hired a landscape architect to lay out Ingleside Park.

Today the park stretches a mile long and about a block wide through downtown beside the Mississippi and connects with city sidewalks for an additional mile. Large shade trees, benches and picnic tables dot the park, providing a perfect place for walking the dog, tossing a Frisbee or a cranking up the grill. Families and groups of friends still gather for picnics.

Just a half block off River Park Drive, which runs along the park,

Our Favorite Things continues the picnic tradition by offering lunches to go. My husband and I recently sampled the shop’s fare and took our lunch to the park.

While waiting for our meals, we looked around the cozy shop. Linda Ludovissy said she and her partners, Becky and Kim Moser, stock it with discoveries they have seen and enjoyed elsewhere — candy, jellies and jams, popcorn, jewelry, table runners and other gift items, some of which are made locally.

“We wanted to bring things into town that hadn’t been here before,” Ludovissy said.

The seafood salad sandwich, which consisted of shrimp and mock crab meat on rye bread, was light and cool. Some finely chopped onion and celery gave it just the right amount of crunch.

The ham and Swiss on a croissant roll was also very good. With lightly smoked ham, thinly sliced, and generously served, the sandwich was a deli treat with a Midwestern touch. Other choices consisted of chicken salad, tuna salad and egg salad.

Flavorful homemade potato salad accompanied both sandwiches. Ludovissy said they use mostly real mayonnaise to tone down the sweetness that is all too common in local dishes, but add just enough salad dressing to give it a bit of tang.

The iced coffees, of which there are 12 flavors, are popular. The Belgian Chocolate coffee, for example, was dark and rich, with just a hint of welcome bitterness. The berry smoothie was refreshing and so thick I couldn’t drink it through a straw.

As though we hadn’t eaten enough, we decided to sample two of the cafe’s homemade cheesecakes. Both the Chocolate Sundae and the Caramel Apple Cheesecakes were rich and creamy, baked high on a graham cracker crust.

During the cool months, Our Favorite Things offers homemade soup. Based on our experience, I suspect they’ll be wonderful.

The shop is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

After lunch we walked down to

the Guttenberg Aquarium and Fish Management Site to see some native fish, including a big, ugly catfish, up close. The facility is open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily May 1 through Oct. 1.

Along the way we also marveled at Guttenberg's many limestone structures. They include homes and commercial buildings as well as the Landing, an inn in a building that once housed a pearl button factory and contains some of the original factory equipment. The entire business district is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and Guttenberg's web site provides a downloadable walking tour of historic sites.

Leitgen said the town boasts so many stone structures because limestone was handy — it came from the limestone bluffs along the river — and because the Germans who established Guttenberg valued its durability.

The town was first settled by five German immigrant families, who arrived via steamboat in 1845. Initially, a group of 10 steamboats full of

immigrants, accompanied by two barges containing their belongings, set out from Cincinnati, bound for Prairie La Porte (named by French explorers and, in 1847, renamed Guttenberg).

According to Walter W. Jacobs, author of *The First One Hundred Years: A history of Guttenberg, Iowa*, the voyage was "so long and tiresome" with its countless stops for wood along the way, that most of the immigrants abandoned the convoy in Burlington, Iowa, rather than continue the voyage up the river.

Guttenberg now celebrates its German origins each year with German Fest. The event, which features authentic German music, food, games and a "Heidi contest," will take place September 22 this year. Visitors can enjoy the music, laughter and autumn colors. The riverside park in Guttenberg is prized



Linda Ludovissy greets customers at Our Favorite Things.

by many as one of the best walking places in the country. ☰ ☺

Becky Sisco is a writer based in Dubuque. Her last story for Big River was "Guide to Renting a Houseboat" May-June 2007.

**Trempealeau, Wisconsin
on the Mississippi**

Come and enjoy
all this area has to offer

Great River Road
Perrot State Park
National Wildlife Refuge
Great River State Bike Trail
Lock and Dam 6
McGilvray Road Bridges
Lodging, dining and specialty shops

Trempealeau Chamber of Commerce
(608) 534-6780
www.trempealeau.net chamber@trempealeau.net

Visit Historic Fulton, Illinois
"A vision Born of Heritage"

Authentic Dutch Windmill • Heritage Canyon - 1800's Village • Historic Downtown Shopping District • Great River Trail • Lock & Dam 13 • National Scenic By-Ways: Lincoln Highway and Great River Road • Martin House Museum • Quality Dining • Ancestral Home of Ronald Reagan

Upcoming Events

- International Wooden Shoe Exhibit
May 26 - October 14
- Fall Festival
October 13 & 14, 2007
- Christmas Walk
December 7 & 8, 2007
- Annual Bald Eagle Watch
January 5, 2008

Fulton Chamber of Commerce
1-815-589-4545 • www.cityoffulton.us

(Bogus Creek continued from page 39)

ment of fruit. Half a sandwich was plenty.

Some people flock to Bogus Creek for breakfast, which is served all day. The Swedish donut stuffed with ricotta cheese, bananas and toasted pecans sounds delicious. On Art Fair Saturday, the cook was serving up salmon cakes topped with poached eggs as well as regular breakfast menu items, including Bogus Hash with eggs, hash browns, peppers, ham or sausage, salsa and sour cream; and a breakfast burrito, with eggs along with the black beans.

On each visit I purchased bread from the bakery — a nice round loaf of herby foccacia and the cheese bread, still warm.

Bogus Creek Cafe is open daily 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and weekends 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. until the end of leaf-peeping season, through October. After that, it will be open Friday through Sunday 9 to 5 until Stockholm's Country Christmas, the first weekend in



Owner Colleen Flynn considers tending the garden good therapy.

December. Smoking is allowed outside. The cafe can accommodate 40 diners inside and 45 outside. They accept cash and checks, but not credit cards, and take reservations for large groups only. ☘

Bogus Creek Cafe and Bakery
N 2049 Spring Street
Stockholm, WI 54769
(715) 442-5017

Molly McGuire is Big River Magazine's managing editor.

*Meet
Muscatine*

For a free Visitors Guide
and
information on Muscatine
1-800-25-PEARL
www.meetmuscatine.com

Escape to Carroll County
the other treasure in Northwest Illinois

Located adjacent to historic Jo Daviess County, Carroll County is host to all of Galena's splendor, but at a more casual pace. To learn more about what awaits you in Carroll County and a chance for FREE lodging, contact us TODAY!

www.gocarrollcounty.com
866.367.6505

LANSING, IOWA



Where Eagles Soar

© All photos by RiverRoad Gallery. All rights reserved.



We'll make your quilting dreams come true!



Yellow Bird Art
a quilt shop

Restored 1880 limestone building housing the area's most unique collection of fabric, vintage kimono silks, beads, buttons and embellishments.
Monday - Friday 10-5, Saturday 10-4, Closed Sunday
201 Main St, Lansing, IA - 563-538-4350 - www.YellowBirdArt.com




River's
EDGE

Serving Breakfast,
Lunch & Dinner

Great View & Food • Fun! Docking Available
Open 6AM - 2AM Mon-Sat; 7AM - 2AM, Sun.
10 South Front Street Lansing, IA • 563-538-4497

YOU ARE INVITED
6th Annual RIVERS & BLUFFS

FALL BIRDING FESTIVAL
November 9, 10 & 11, 2007



Tens of thousands of Tundra Swans, Hundreds of Thousands of Ducks & Geese • Explore MN, WI & IA via Half-Day Field Trips • Expert Naturalists with Live Birds • Vendors & Artists • Cruises on Mississippi River for Close-up Views • Door-Prizes, • Gift Certificates • Silent & Live Auctions to Aid Conservation • Live Music

Sponsored by "Friends of Pool 9"
Full itinerary & registration details: www.lansingiowa.com

BIG RIVER
Magazine

Available at:
Mt. Hosmer Jam Shop
Thornton House B&B

Relax in style

Spend a memorable night or week in one of our four luxury suites restored with careful attention to detail and your comfort!

MCGARRITY'S INN
ON MAIN



203 Main, Lansing, IA www.mcgarritysin.com
563-538-9262

SEE WHAT'S NEW AT
www.lansingiowa.com



Get Ready to Fly!

Enjoy Winona's
Rivertown Artistry...

with the collective beauty of
these 7 ft. Blue Heron statues
on display at 15 locations
throughout our community,
each uniquely created
with diverse artistic
expression!



Statues on display
through Sept. 2007.

Pick up maps at the Huff St. Visitor's Center
located 1 block off Hwy. 61 at Lake Winona
or log on to www.cityofwinona-mn.com
or www.visitwinona.com

Downtown Winona, Minnesota

Jefferson Pub and Grill

Located at 58 Center St. on the Levee in Winona

Casual Dining, Steaks and Seafood, Burgers,
Soups and Salads, Kids Menu



Banquet Facilities

Boaters Welcome • Free Docking
Available at the Levee

www.jeffersonpub.com 507-452-2718

Magnolias

Something A Little Different

Polish Pottery & Gifts Created by Local Artists

177 Lafayette St. Winona, MN 55987 507/452-5077



Pieces of the Past



Walk through our door and enjoy the
colors, sounds, aromas, tastes, and
textures of the season.

Furniture
Home & Garden Décor
Gifts & More

Corner of 2nd & Lafayette Streets
www.piecesofthepast-winona.com (507) 452-3722
Mon. 12 - 5:30 p.m. Tues. - Fri. 9:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sun. 11:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

PENDLETON'S
Boutique
& MORE

Come and see what the excitement is all about!
Engravable Gifts for Every Occasion

P.L.U.S.

- *Body & Home Fragrances
- *Beautiful Antique Furniture
- *Jewelry & Inspirational Pieces
- *Hand made pottery - Art glass
- *Wood Inlay Art, signed by the Artist

HOURS: Mon - Fri, 10am - 5pm **452-6531**
Saturday 10 am - 2 pm

4th & Johnson Street - Downtown Winona, MN

(River News continued from page 33)

the project will harm the area. "We're building a minimum of 60 feet from the hill," he said. "We're on a hill, not the edge of a bluff. ... The piles will be drilled only 3 to 5 feet into the rock."

Regardless, Banwarth believes the condominiums will be out of proportion with the bluff. "They will be absolutely looming up there," she said.

Megacryometeor?

Dubuque, Iowa — Large chunks of ice, including one that weighed more than 50 pounds, fell out of the sky early one July morning. The big one bashed into the home of a woman who had just gotten up to go to church.

"It sounded like a bomb!" said 78-year-old Jan Kenkel, who was standing in her kitchen when an ice chunk crashed through her roof at about 5:30 a.m. "I jumped about a foot!"

She made a few calls, put the big ice ball in her freezer and began cleaning up the debris — insulation, ceiling tiles and chunks of the roof had come down with the ice. She drank her first cup of coffee of the morning then called her insurance company.

News traveled fast, and by next day, newspaper and radio reporters from across the country were calling Kenkel and neighbors who also reported basketball-sized chunks of ice.

There was speculation that the ice had fallen from a thunderstorm cloud, but the skies that morning were clear. Others suggested the ice could have fallen from an airplane, which happens sometimes, although the ice from airplane latrines is usually blue. Explanations finally settled on the possibility the ice was a "megacryometeor," which is like a hailstone, but needs no thunderstorm.

Most megacryometeor sightings have occurred in coastal areas, where atmospheric turbulence helps keep ice suspended long enough to grow into large chunks. Some scientists speculated that global warming had caused turbulence in Iowa skies, promoting the formation of big ice balls. ❧



Pepin, Wisconsin

Spend a Night, Spend a Weekend, Spend a Lifetime

Photo by ©Midge Bolt

Upcoming Events 2007

September 8-9
Laura Ingalls Wilder Days
Celebrate Laura with the "Pepin Laura" Contest, demonstrations, art & craft booths, parade, good food and great entertainment.

October 5-7
Fresh Art Fall Tour
Tour local artist's studios, watch art demonstrations and enjoy a breathtaking drive through the fall countryside.

December 1-2
Hometown Holidays
Kick off the season with an old fashioned family celebration. Lights, carols, cookie walk, Santa, business promotions, and more.



Laura Ingalls Wilder Historical Society
We carry all the Laura Ingalls Wilder books, plus others.

Hwy 35 Pepin, WI 54759
10 - 5 Daily
May 15 - Oct 15
1-800-442-3011

Laura Ingalls Wilder Days
September 8th & 9th, 2007

1-800-442-3011

www.pepinwisconsin.com

Pepin, Wisconsin

A warm sunny marina with beautiful sunsets over Lake Pepin.



DAN FEDIE
Harbor Master
 303 First Street
 P.O. Box 205
 Pepin, WI 54759
 Phone 715-442-4900
 Fax 715-442-3403



DOCKSIDE
Mercantile

Useful things for the way you really live!

shoes • t-shirts • sweatshirts • clothing • gifts

304 First Street Pepin, WI 54759 715-442-4009

The
Country Stop
of Pepin



Farm Fresh
Produce

The Area's
Premiere
Produce Market

• Gifts & Decorations
 • Seasonal Specialties

Corner of Hwy 35 &
 Cty Rd. CC in Pepin
 715-442-2429

BNOX
 GOLD & IRON



FRESH ART TOUR

October 5, 6 & 7

Bill Stark, Guest Artist

www.freshart.org

404 1st St. • Pepin, WI • 715-442-2201 • bnoxgold.com



PEPIN REALTY
Dana & Josie Lerum

WI Licensed Real Estate Broker Associates
 WI & MN Licensed Real Estate Auctioneers



PEPIN OFFICE:
(715)-442-4440
 Cell: (715) 495-1395
 Fax: (715) 442-2332
www.PepinRealty.com

RE/MAX
 Results, Inc.



The
Pickle
Factory

Breakfast All Year Sat - Sun 7am - 11:30am

Daily Apr 15-Oct 31 11am - 10pm

Wed, Thu, Fri Nov 1-Apr 14 4pm - 9pm

Deck & Patio Seating • Courtesy Dock • Event Planning

205 1st St. Pepin • 715-442-4400 • pepinpicklefactory.com

www.pepinwisconsin.com

Spend a Night, Spend a Weekend, Spend a Lifetime.



Photo by ©Midge Bolt

Smith Brothers Landing
Decorative Metal Work



*Perennials & Hostas
Fused Glass
Garden Art
Crafts*

200 E. Marina Dr. Pepin, WI 54759 715-442-2248
smbmland@hbc.com www.pepinsmith.com
Next to the Pickle Factory



*Specializing in the
Lake Pepin Area
and beyond...*



- Homes & Farms
- Lake Properties
- Bare Land Tracts
- Properties with Views
- Hunting & Recreational Land

David & Linda Brassfield
411 2nd St. Pepin, WI 715-442-4800
www.davidbrassfield.com



Tom & Catherine Latané
412 2nd St. P.O. Box 62
Pepin, WI 54759
(715)442-2419
www.metalsmith.org/gallery

GALLERY OF TRADITIONALLY
MADE FUNCTIONAL WORK IN
METAL, WOOD AND FIBER.

Sail Pepin!

*Cruises • Instruction
Weddings • Events
Teambuilding*

On-Deck

SEMINARS & CHARTERS

715.442.4424

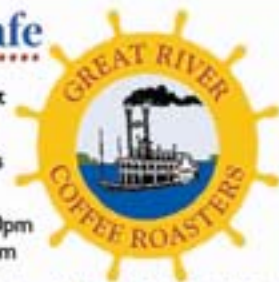
Gift Certificates Available www.SailPepin.com



First & Main Street Pepin, WI 54759
715-442-3893
www.HarborViewPepin.com

Great River Cafe

- Serving Gourmet Breakfast & Lunch
- Homemade Soups, Pastries and Quiches
- Mon - Thurs 7:00am - 5:00pm
Fri - Sun 7:00am - 7:00pm



Hwy 35 & Lake Street • Pepin, WI • 715-442-4100
www.greatrivercoffee.com/cafe

1-800-442-3011

Lake City, Minnesota

**Johnny Appleseed Days
October 6 & 7**



Swan Ltd. Jewelers
Expect the Unexpected

- Custom Jewelry
- River Pearls
- Classic Jewelry
- Laser Engraving

109 East Center Street
Lake City, MN 55041

(888) SWANLTD



Willows on the River
Luxury Condominium Rentals
Open views of the river from each suite!
Nightly and weekly rentals. Pool and Spa.

100 Central Point Road
Lake City, MN 55041
651-345-9900 Reservations

Visit us on the Web
willowsontheriver.com



Courtiers PEPIN HEIGHTS

**Pepin Heights Orchard:
The HoneyCrisp Place!**

Open 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
EVERYDAY!

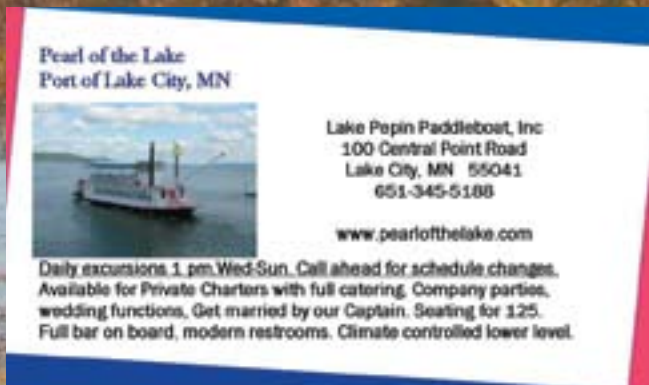
Located directly off of Hwy 61
just south of downtown Lake City...
Stop in and sample the region's
favorite apples!



Vintage Cottage Boutique
unique gifts, shabby chic, handmade treasures & Cottage Antiques

Made in Lake City. Freshwater Pearl Jewelry, Soaps & Sandries, Soy Candles, Vintage Pictures, Books & more.

Open Wed thru Sun 10am-5pm
110 EAST MARION ST. LAKE CITY
LOCATED IN THE HISTORIC JAILHOUSE BUILDING
NEXT TO SINCLAIR AND NOSH
651.345.4168 vintagecottageboutique.com



Pearl of the Lake
Port of Lake City, MN

Lake Pepin Paddleboat, Inc
100 Central Point Road
Lake City, MN 55041
651-345-5188

www.pearloffthelake.com

Daily excursions 1 pm Wed-Sun. Call ahead for schedule changes.
Available for Private Charters with full catering. Company parties,
wedding functions. Get married by our Captain. Seating for 125.
Full bar on board, modern restrooms. Climate controlled lower level.



RATHER BEE
"Your One Stop Quilting Shop"
Gift Certificates Available

Hours: Mon-Sat: 9-5
Sunday Closed

Janet Bruce & Judy Rutz - owners
(851) 345 3850 • TF: 877 233 9549
info@ratherbeequilting.com

118 S. Washington St, Lake City, MN 55041
www.ratherbeequilting.com

Photo by Mike Nelson



VISIT LAKE CITY, MINNESOTA

The Mississippi river - On Lake Pepin. Just 30 minutes north of Rochester, MN.
(877) 525-3248 • www.lakecitymn.org



McGregor-Marquette, Iowa

Two historic river towns with endless treasures!

www.mcgreg-marq.org

(800) 896-0910

Effigy Mounds National Monument
Pikes Peak State Park
Spook Cave

*Museums*Boating*Restaurants*Lodging
*Antique & Specialty shops*Outdoor Recreation*and much more!

MCCREGOR'S LANDING
Bed & Bath

Victorian Rooms near the Mississippi River
Located in historic McGregor, Iowa

Ring 563 873 3150 for reservations
or visit
www.mcgregorslandingbedandbath.com

Cozy log cabins,
nestled in the
Mississippi
River Valley
woods
surrounding
McGregor, IA
Open All Year
Long

**Grumpsters
Log Cabin Getaway**

McGregor, Iowa

3 Beautiful Cabins
To Choose From

Your hosts
Terry &
Juanita Long

535 Ash Street
website: grumpsterslogcabins.com
or e-mail us at
grumpstr@alpinecom.net
563-873-3767

**EAGLES
LANDING**
Bed & Breakfast
and Winery


563-873-2509



82 & 127 North St. • Marquette, IA
Free Wine Tasting 10-5 Daily
MARQUETTE MAID WINES
On the Mississippi River
www.halvorson.org/eagleslanding

The Paper Moon

Always "fishing" for the best Mississippi River books



206 A St. • McGregor, IA
1-563-873-3357
Open daily 10-5pm
Sunday, 12-4pm

www.papermoonbooks.com

Stauer House Bed & Breakfast
629 Main Street
McGregor, IA 52156

Hosts: Robert & Donna Staples
stauer@mchsi.com (563) 873-2713

**Golden Eagle
LOG HOMES** www.alpine.com



Contact Gayle Hartwig
(866) 286-1914 or (563) 873-2650
Edgar St., Marquette, IA 52158
email: hlvision@alpinecom.net
www.hartlandvisionloghomes.com

Fountain City, Wisconsin

Founded 1839



Live Music & Pizza
1st Sat of the Month
July 7 Aug 4 Sept 1

Picnic-Style & Take-Out
Thursday Nights 4:30-9pm
 May -Sept

www.smithgardensfarm.com
 Yaeger Vly Rd ♦ Cochrane, WI
 608-626-2122

Eagle Valley Realty



Karen Bagniewski
 Office: 608-687-4105
 Toll Free: 888-310-9058

W846 Lower Eagle Valley Rd. ♦ Fountain City, WI

Elmer's Auto & Toy Museum

W903 Elmers Road Fountain City, WI

608-687-7221 www.elmersautoandtoymuseum.com

See hundreds of muscle, antique and classic cars and trucks as well as pedal cars and thousands of antique toys, tools and dolls.



2007 SCHEDULE

May 12, 13, 26, 27, 28
 June 16, 17, 30
 July 1, 4, 7, 8, 21, 22
 August 11, 12, 25, 26
 Sept. 1, 2, 3, 15, 16, 29, 30
 Oct. 6, 7, 13, 14, 20, 21



Great River

Organic Milling

Great River Organic Milling is located on the upper Mississippi River, in the heart of what is called the Hiawatha Valley. Most Great River flour is stone-ground. We believe the natural granite millstones contribute to the quality, taste and nutritional integrity of whole grain flour. Grain flowing into the stones becomes very thin, flat flakes which integrates all parts of the wheat immediately into the flour, allowing the flour to have more flavor.

**Look for Great River
 Bread Flour, Bread Flour Blends,
 Pancake Mix and Hot Cereals
 at the store where you shop.**

Sales: Rick Halverson
 Phone: (608) 687-9580
 Fax: (608) 687-3014
 Email: rhalverson@greatrivermilling.com
 General Questions: Nadine Bayer
 Phone: (507) 457-0334
 Fax: (507) 454-5525
 Email: nbayer@greatrivermilling.com
<http://www.greatrivermilling.com>



Golden Frog Saloon

112 North Shore Drive
 Phone 608-687-3335



1878



Today

The Golden Frog or Zum Golden Frosch as it was known in 1878 is a wonderful place to relax, make new friends and sample a unique history, a stones throw from the beautiful upper Mississippi.

Great lunch specials every weekday and Thursday through Monday nights gourmet seafood and steaks at cafe prices. We specialize in Frog legs. Home made Soups and Desserts just like in 1878.

web: goldenfrogsaloon.com

Alma, Wisconsin

Mississippi River Pearl Jewelry Co.

125 N. Main Street, Alma, WI
651-301-1204



We specialize in jewelry made
with natural Mississippi River Pearls.



Water Lily Gifts

Sandy Schams

Unique Gifts
for
Special people.

1117 1/2 Main
P.O. 307
Alma, WI 54610
608-685-4911



Buffalo Trading Company Beef Slough Store

Candy, Coffee, Fine Gifts
and Accessories

200 South Main • Alma, Wisconsin 54610 • (608) 685-4555
& Downtown Alma Townhouse Lodging

REASONS VISITORS LIKE COMING TO ALMA

Fishing, Boating, Hunting, Birding,
Hiking Trails, Shopping

Fine and Casual dining
-inside, screened porch and garden seating

Museums, Gardens, Art Galleries

Historic "Stair Step" streets
connecting Main with 2nd Street

Lock & Dam #4
Buena Vista Park Overlook
Courtesy Dock downtown,
Alma Marina/Harbor

Art & Music Festival September 2nd

Kenny Salwey Film - *Mississippi: The Last River Rat*, Nov. 11th

WINGS OVER
ALMA

www.wingsoveralma.org
phone: 608-685-3303

Wings Over Alma is a Nature & Art Center located in downtown Alma on Main Street. The Center has a viewing deck overlooking the Mississippi River just below Lock & Dam #4 and is equipped with observation scopes for nature viewing. Wings Over Alma is also a local and regional art center with rotating exhibits and a gift shop. Visitor information is available and the center is open everyday all year around.

115 N. Main Alma, WI

608-685-4929



Restaurant and Lounge

Open everyday / All year / 11 a.m. - 9p.m.

FELICE PATRA INN "The Bluffs"

609 N. Main Street • Alma, WI 54610
DAILY/ WEEKLY ROOM RENTALS

1-608-685-4512

Art & Soul

303 N. Main, Alma, WI



Artwork by Jean Accola
and Gail Pommerening;
Mission-based Imports from
AFNA International
by Sarah Gailey

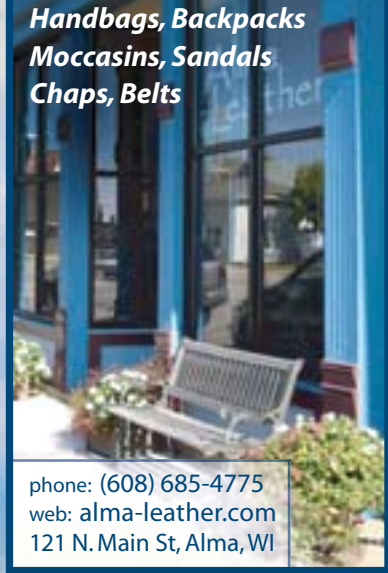
KATE & GRACIE'S RESTAURANT

215 North Main St., Alma, WI 54610
608-685-4505

Fine Dining - great wines and spirits
served in a relaxed, casual atmosphere
Open Mon., Wed., Thurs., & Fri., 11 a.m. to close
* Saturday & Sunday, 8 a.m. to close
* Breakfast 8 a.m. to noon, Saturday & Sunday only
closed Tuesdays
www.kateandgracies.com

Alma Leather

Biker & Hunter Accessories
Handbags, Backpacks
Moccasins, Sandals
Chaps, Belts



phone: (608) 685-4775
web: alma-leather.com
121 N. Main St, Alma, WI

Hillcrest Motel

on the Mississippi and Great River Road

Motel Rooms & Cabins

Open year-round
Highway 35 North • Alma, WI 54610
Phone 1-608-685-3511



Travel State Hwy 35, Wisconsin's *Great River Road and National Scenic Byway*, to beautiful and historic Alma, WI. Discover our vintage riverfront town on the banks of the Mississippi. Stroll, shop, dine, explore... "Step into Living History."

Artwork by Gail Pommerening, *Alma Fishing Float*

ALMA, WISCONSIN - INFORMATION
ADDRESS: P.O. Box 191, Alma, WI 5461
E-MAIL: almachamber@yahoo.com
WEB: www.almawisconsin.com
TELEPHONE: 608-685-3303



DUKE ADDICKS'
Native American
EAGLE TALES CD

May Be Purchased From The
National Eagle Center
651-565-4989

billc@nationaleaglecenter.org
www.nationaleaglecenter.org

Information about Duke's CDs
and the many public events
where Duke will tell his stories:
www.DukeAddicksStoryteller.com



**COMMONWEAL
THEATRE COMPANY**

206 Parkway Ave. N. Lanesboro, MN 55949

*Celebrating our 18th season
of year-round Professional Theatre!*

For Reservations & Information Call 800-657-7025
www.commonwealtheatre.org

Lynn Nardinger
Marina Manager



Office: 651-388-5839
Cell: 651-764-0247
Gas Dock: 651-388-8643

P.O. Box 505
Red Wing, MN 55066

lynn.nardinger@ci.red-wing.mn.us
www.olemissmarina.com

UNIQUELY DIFFERENT • ECLECTICALLY CHARMING • AMAZINGLY RELAXING

**McGregor
Lodging**



Phone: 563-873-3112

info@mcgregorlodging.com • www.mcgregorlodging.com
Beth & Zip Regan • P.O. Box 381 • McGregor, IA 52157

THE HISTORIC
TREMPEALEAU HOTEL
RESTAURANT & SALOON

*Home of the Famous
Walnut Burger*

- *Fine Dining Along the Mississippi River* in the historic Village of Trempealeau Serving lunch and dinner daily
- *Accommodations*
Luxury suites, Kingfishers Riverside Rooms, Pines Cottage, and European-style rooms
- *Stars Under the Stars*
Concert Series starts May 12



150 Main Street, Trempealeau, WI • 608-534-6898
www.trempealeauhotel.com • www.walnutburger.com



Kann Imports

gifts of distinction

www.kannimports.com

800-252-2072 866-252-1120



The Landing.....

a Riverfront Inn

(563) 252-1615

www.thelanding615.com

kann@alpinecom.net

IN GUTTENBERG, IA

Satori Arts Gallery

KNOWN FOR THE UNUSUAL
Ancient Chinese Artifacts

Custom Wedding Rings • Mississippi River Pearls
Unique Handcrafted Jewelry • Sculpture • Graphics
201 Pearl St., La Crosse, WI 54601
608-785-2779

Telephones of All Kinds

-Antique to Today's Technology-

Sales & Service-Testing & Repair-Antique Phone to Novelty

PHONECO, INC.

19813 E. Mill Rd., PO Box 70, Galesville, WI 54630

Monday-Friday 8-5*Weekends by Chance

Memorabilia and History*Visit our Showroom

Catalog & Tours Available

PHONE: 608-582-4124 FAX: 608-582-4593

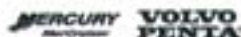
Email: phonecoinc@aol.com

Web Page: <http://www.phonecoinc.com>



WABASHA MARINA

Complete Marine Service
Brokerage Boats
Overnight & Seasonal Dockage
Inside/Outside Storage



P.O. Box 110
1009 East Main St.
Wabasha, MN 55981

Greg and Helen Coffman
Phone (651) 565-4747
Fax (651) 565-0201



**Spook
Cave
& Campground**

563-873-2144

13299 Spook Cave Road
McGregor, Iowa 52157

e-mail: spookcave@spookcave.com

www.spookcave.com

Located 7 miles west of McGregor

THE CRAFT BARN



**Browsing & Shopping
Fun
In a Renovated
Dairy Barn**

Hwy 53 thru Galesville, WI Turn at the Piggly Wiggly onto Silver Creek Rd; down 1 1/2 miles on the left.
Mon - Sat: 9 - 5 Sun: 12 - 5 Ph: 608-582-3447

**Performance
Marine & Machine, Inc.**

455 Jefferson Street Shop: 507-474-7110
Winona, MN 55987 Fax: 507-474-7515

Email: sales@performancemarineandmachine.com
www.performancemarineandmachine.com



Setzer Architects

**commercial • residential
licensed in Minnesota and Wisconsin**

2000 W. Main St., Red Wing, MN 55066
651-385-2218; e-mail: setzarch@redwing.net
website: www.setzerarchitects.com

Steven Setzer, AIA



**Captain Hook's
Bait & Tackle**
Open 7 days a week
Just off Hwy. 35, Genoa, WI
(608) 689-2800
www.raptfishhookstackle.com

**Clements
Fishing Barge**
Genoa, WI
(608) 689-2800
www.clementsfbag.com

**the
book cliffs**

**New and
Used Books**

161 Pembroke Avenue 651-565-5312
Wabasha, Minnesota 55981 866-500-9911 toll free
books@clear.lakes.com

Blueberries July to September
U-Pick Thursday thru Sunday
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.



Call 715-594-3648 or rushriverproduce.com
Rush River Produce
Maiden Rock, Wisconsin

Driftless Land Stewardship LLC

Natural Areas Management since 1997
Serving portions of WI, IA, MN, and IL



608-996-2135
info@driftlesslandstewardship.com
www.driftlesslandstewardship.com

**Natural Areas Management
Ecological Restoration
Invasive Species Control**

Hembrough Gallery

Contemporary Fine Art

103 West Amelia
Cassville, Wisconsin 53806
608 575-7750
www.hembroughgallery.com

**Connecting
Generations
Since 1868**

- Natural Personal Care
- Gourmet Spices & Extracts
- Other Fine Products



WATKINS
TRADE MARK

Watkins Museum & Store

Watkins Museum & Store Hours:
Monday - Friday 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

East 3rd Street between
Chestnut and Liberty Streets,
Winona, MN 55987 (507) 457-6095

The Barn Restaurant
Prairie du Chien, WI

Fine Dining in a Relaxed Atmosphere
Drive in...sail in...So come in to enjoy
fine dining in a rustic atmosphere
surrounded by antiques and
collectibles inside and spectacular
scenery outside.

For information or reservations call
(608) 326-4941
All major credit cards accepted

Public Dining all year round
Tuesday - Sunday 5 p.m. to Close
Seasonal Sunday Champagne
Brunch, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**BBANQUET ROOMS AVAILABLE
FOR 50 TO 500 GUESTS**

TAKE 5



No matter the need, we've got you covered for any river read.

Commercial and recreational publications for the inland waterways.

Published by the Waterways Journal, Inc.

1.800.366.9630

www.waterwaysjournal.net
www.heartlandboating.com

please mention this ad when ordering your subscription

When you're traveling the big river, be sure to visit the fine establishments that advertise in *Big River Magazine*.

Advertiser Index

50 Uncommon Birds of the Upper Midwest.....	18	Great River Organic Milling.....	53	Pepin Heights Orchard.....	50
Alma, Wis., Chamber of Commerce.....	55	Great River Coffee Roasters & Cafe.....	49	Pepin, Wis.....	47-49
Alma, Wis., Tourism.....	54	Grumpsters Log Cabin Getaway.....	52	Pepin Realty.....	48
Alma Leather.....	55	Hansen's Harbor.....	14	Piccadilly Gallery.....	10
Art & Soul Gallery.....	55	Harbor View Cafe.....	49	Pickle Factory.....	48
Belvedere Mansion.....	10	Hartland Visions Log Homes.....	52	Pieces of the Past.....	46
Best Western Quiet House & Suites.....	62	Hawk Watch 2007.....	59	Rather Bee Quilting.....	50
Big River Magazine Testimonial.....	9	Hawks View Cottages & Lodges.....	12	River Cities Floating Condos.....	6
Big River Room Restaurant.....	15	Hillcrest Motel.....	55	River City Vacation Rentals.....	38
Bird-Song.com, Inc.....	16	Island City Harbor.....	4	Rivers & Bluffs Fall Birding Festival.....	45
Blackhawk Waterways CVB.....	19	Jefferson Pub & Grill.....	46	Rivers Edge Restaurant.....	45
Blue Heron Coffeehouse.....	12	John Deere Pavilion.....	61	Riverwise Publishing.....	27
Blue Heron Project.....	46	Julia Belle Swain.....	inside front cover	Robert J. Hurt Landscape Photography.....	4
Bluff Country Co-op.....	10	Kate & Gracie's Restaurant.....	55	Signatures Restaurant.....	20
BNOX.....	48	Lake City, Minn., Chamber of Commerce.....	50	Smith Brothers Landing.....	49
Boats & Bluegrass Festival.....	26	Lake City, Minn., Tourism.....	51	Smith Gardens Community Farm.....	53
Bridges Golf Course.....	20	Lansing, Iowa.....	45	Stauer House Bed & Bath.....	52
Business Card Gallery.....	56	Laura Ingalls Wilder Museum.....	47	Stoney Creek Inn.....	27
Buzzard Billy's & Starlite Lounge.....	19	Magnolias.....	46	Swan Jewelers.....	50
Carroll County, Illinois.....	44	Marcou Realty.....	9	T&C Latane.....	49
Century 21 Pepin Office.....	49	Marquette/McGregor, Iowa, Tourism.....	52	Touch of Class Interiors.....	9
Chestnut Mountain Resort.....	1	McGarry's Inn.....	45	Traxx Restaurant & Lounge.....	54
Coffee Grounds & Buffalo Trading Co.....	54	McGregor/Marquette, Iowa.....	52	Trempealeau, Wis., Chamber of Commerce.....	43
Country Stop of Pepin.....	48	McGregor's Landing Bed & Bath.....	52	Twisted Chicken.....	16
Dan's Pepin Marina.....	48	Minn. Weather Guide & Environmental Calendar.....	38	University of Iowa Press.....	18
Dockside Mercantile.....	48	Minneapolis Queen Riverboat.....	18	Upper Midwest Audubon Conference-Twin Cities.....	18
Dyersville National Farm Toy Show.....	59	Minnesota Marine Art Museum.....	40	Villa Louis, Wis. State Historical Site.....	38
Eagle Valley Realty.....	53	Mississippi River Explorer Cruises.....	1	Vintage Cottage Boutique.....	50
Eagles Landing B&B and Winery.....	52	Mississippi River Pearl.....	54	Visit Winona.....	8
Eagles Landing Condominiums, LLC.....	9	Muscatine, Iowa, CVB.....	44	Water Lily Gifts.....	54
Edina Realty.....	16	National Eagle Center.....	4	Waterways Journal.....	58
Effigy Mounds Nat. Monument Guide Book.....	16	Natural Gait.....	61	Wild Rose Timberworks.....	4
Elmer's Auto & Toy Museum.....	53	NE Iowa Art Tour.....	40	Willows on the River Condominiums.....	50
Felice Patra Inn.....	54	Onalaska Bike Trail.....	26	Wings Over Alma.....	54
Fountain City, Wis.....	53	On-Deck Sailing Charters.....	49	Winona, Minn.....	46
Fulton, Illinois.....	43	Padelford Packet Boat Co, Inc.....	61	Winona County Historical Society.....	8
Galena Cellars.....	10	Paper Moon Gifts & Books.....	52	Wisconsin Historical Society.....	38
Golden Frog Restaurant & Saloon.....	53	Pearl of the Lake Paddleboat.....	50	Yellow Bird Art Shop.....	45
Gordian's Knot LLC.....	2	Pendleton's Boutique & More.....	46		

(Maiden Rock continued from page 60)

A few moments later I saw a healthy-looking timber rattlesnake laying across the path about 15 feet ahead. We stopped. It looked us over and eventually moved off the path. We counted 13 buttons on the rattle. We walked single file back to the car.

Wenonah, the Dakota Indian maiden immortalized by Maiden Rock, was said to have leaped off the cliff rather than consent to marrying the man her parents had picked for her.

A land trust recently finished brokering a marriage with better prospects, between government agencies, landowners, foundations and donors.

The West Wisconsin Land Trust purchased 250 acres and arranged for the protection of another 328 acres, including much of the bluff and bluff top.

The land trust manages the 250-acre Maiden Rock Bluff State Natural Area (SNA), which it purchased in 2004. It also helped arrange the purchase, in 2005, of a conservation easement from the Hedin family for 58 acres of contiguous land to the north and east of the SNA. This land includes a private home and is not open to the public, but the easement protects it from further development, logging or farming in the future. A 270-acre parcel contiguous to and to the south and east of the SNA includes a home and some of it will continue to be farmed, but a conservation easement negotiated with the Fernholz family this year protects it from further development. It, too, is not open to the public, explained Michelle Dingwall, director of external relations at the West Wisconsin Land Trust.

All this work resulted in a 578-acre parcel that protects a variety of rare plants and animals.

"We're thrilled about it. It has a huge ecological significance," Dingwall added.

"There are goat prairies above the cliff. There is also a remnant

oak savanna — a very rare plant community."

Oak savannas used to be quite common in the Upper Midwest. The land trust is removing cedars to favor the oak savannas in the SNA. It also replanted 70 acres of former cropland to prairie plants in 2005.

The land contains a number of rare plants and animals, including timber rattlesnakes and a pair of endangered peregrines that nest on the rocky



Maiden Rock is one of the most dramatic bluffs on the Upper Mississippi. (Linda Keefe)

bluff and hatched three chicks this summer.

The Eau Claire-based West Wisconsin Land Trust maintains a hiking and skiing trail loop in the SNA that includes a spot with an overlook. The trail begins at a gate installed to keep ATVs and other vehicles off the site. Visitors are encouraged to stay on or near the trail because of the rattlesnakes, cliffs and rare species.

The land trust also offers a variety of environmental programs for all ages on the bluff and Pine Creek, a Class 1 trout stream about two miles north. It also offers custom programs for groups with special interests. For more information call 715-235-8850 or visit their web site.

To visit the site, from Highway 35 (the Great River Road) take County J (Spring St.) north through Stockholm 0.73 miles. Turn left on County E and drive up to the bluff top one mile to Long Lane, the first left after the broadcast antenna. Drive 0.7 miles to the lot at the end of Long Lane. The trail begins to the north (right) of the parking lot. ☞ ☺

Hawk Watch
~ 2007 ~

Friday Evening Program
Event Saturday & Sunday
October 6th and 7th
9:00 - 4:00pm

- Come Celebrate the Migration -

Effigy Mounds visitor center is located in Northeast Iowa,
3 miles north of Marquette, on Hwy 76
— just upriver from Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin.
For more information, and program schedules,
contact the Monument
at 563-873-3491 • www.nps.gov/efmo

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

30TH ANNUAL NATIONAL FARM TOY SHOW
NOVEMBER 2, 3, & 4, 2007
Dyersville, Iowa
The Farm Toy Capital of the World

Held at Beckman High School, the National Farm Toy Museum and the Commercial Club Park

Sponsored by
TOY FARMER LTD
7496 106 Ave. SE
LaMoure ND 58458-9404
For more information
call Lori Aberle at
1-800-533-8293
Visit our web site:
www.toyfarmer.com



(West Wisconsin Land Trust)

A Hike on Maiden Rock Bluff

By Reggie McLeod

The mile-wide, 400-foot cliff of Maiden Rock dominates the view from Lake Pepin, a broad stretch of the Mississippi that begins about 60 miles below the Twin Cities. Driving along the Wisconsin side of the lake, the Great River Road climbs a bit to squeeze between the rock and the lake.

For years I've wondered what the lake and the Minnesota shore looks like from the top of that big rock cliff. I can now report that it's a pretty impressive view. Thanks to the work of many people who value this magical spot, the bluff top will not wind up as a golf course and condo development, and part of it has become a public space that anyone can enjoy.

The first time I visited the bluff was an early September morning a couple of years ago. We followed a work road through fallow cropland going to weeds. As we neared the place where we figured the edge should be, we started looking for a break in the trees lining the field. We finally picked our way gingerly through the trees and poison ivy towards the opening on the other side. That opening was the vast empty space over Lake Pepin. The drop-off made me dizzy, so I kept one hand on a tree limb as I leaned out to look at the tiny sailboats on the lake and the town of Frontenac on the other side.

As we continued exploring the blufftop on the clear sunny day, a big flock of pelicans rose up behind the trees and flew low over us a couple of times, as if showing off their nine-foot wingspans and precision maneuvers.

As we followed the workroad back to the car, it occurred to me that it could be a good place for rattlesnakes. If a rattlesnake is laying in the high

The land contains a number of rare plants and animals, including timber rattlesnakes and a pair of endangered peregrines that nest on the rocky bluff.

weeds and we pass by it on both sides at the same time, that rattler might get a bit nervous. While I'm not particularly afraid of rattlesnakes, I don't want to startle one.

(Maiden Rock continues on page 59)

ESCAPE

to the Magical World of The Natural Gait

A Family Friendly Resort For All Occasions!

The Place People Go To Get Reacquainted With What Matters Most!

- Cozy, Comfortable Log Cabins
- Hiking & Horse Trails
- Trout & Bass Fishing
- Tubing & Canoeing
- Wildflower & Scenic Views

WE ARE PET FRIENDLY!






www.naturalgaitresort.com • 877-776-2208
Near Marquette, IA • ntrlgait@acegroup.cc

Mississippi River Cruises



Noon & 2 p.m. Tues.-Sun. in June, July & Aug.
Lunch, Dinner & Sunday Brunch Cruises
Also, live theater on U of M Showboat

Buy Tickets Online

www.RiverRides.com

PADEFORD 
PACKET BOAT CO., INC.

Harriet Island ★ St. Paul, Minnesota
651-227-1100 or 1-800-543-3908

THE JOHN DEERE LEGEND LIVES ON



JOHN DEERE
PAVILION & STORE

The John Deere Pavilion in Moline, IL. is home to the world's most comprehensive agricultural exhibit. Visit the John Deere Collectors Center and shop for unique merchandise at The John Deere Store. Stroll early Deere family historic homes and gardens or nearby Deere & Company World Headquarters. Also see the John Deere Historic Site in Grand Detour, IL.

www.johndeereattractions.com

10th
ANNIVERSARY
AUGUST 18th, 2007

Phone: 309-765-1000



BIG RIVER ♦ BIG SUITES



- **Best Quality:**
Top percentage of all Best Westerns in North America

- **Best Rooms:**
All large rooms with living room area, UPSCALE DECOR

- **Best Selection:**
Of suites, whirlpool suites and theme suites



Best Western
Quiet House®
— & Suites —

- **Best Business Services:**
FREE HIGH SPEED INTERNET, voicemail, copy/fax services, free local calls

- **Best Amenities:**
Indoor/outdoor pool, fitness center, expected room amenities



Dodgeville WI, Mequon WI, Galena, IL Red Wing, MN

Reservations 1-800-WESTERN www.quiethouse.com