

The Otter's Tale

Newsletter of the Friends of Pool 9

June, 2009



President's View

Summer is here and the kids are out of school, and river use is skyrocketing. FOP9 continues to grow in popularity and commitment. I went to Washington and spoke before a House Appropriations Committee seeking increased funding for the refuge system in April. We had ten members complete the Motor Operator's Certification Course (MOCC) in April and May. Special thanks to Clyde Male, Bill Thrune, and Brian Pember that gave four days of their time to lead the course. All participants complimented the leaders and the course as being informative and very worthwhile.

Upper Miss Refuge Manager Don Hultman has retired (June 3, 2009) and we appreciate his leadership these past seven years. It was his willingness to work with the citizens that formed Friends of Pool 9. We owe him a great deal of gratitude and respect. *We wish him continued good health, success in his leisure activities, and fruitful purpose in his (and Laurie's) new adventure.*

The Upper Mississippi River Refuge has received a designation of international significance. This 261-mile long portion of the Mississippi River has been deemed a Wetlands of International Significance. Secretary of the Interior, Ken Salazar said, "The ecological, social, and economic values of the Upper Mississippi River make it one of the crown jewels of this nation's wetlands. This is the 27th U.S. wetland to be so designated." It makes me proud to be the leading Friends group on one of the nation's elite National Wildlife Refuges. Read more at www.fws.gov. and www.ramsar.org.

We received a \$1,000 grant from Canadian Pacific Railroad for our river clean up, a \$1,000 grant from the Alliant Energy Foundation for the Mississippi River Adventure Day, and a \$1,200 grant from Allamakee County Community Foundation for the MRAD activity

as well. We also received memorials totaling \$100 in memory of Tom Mohn, longtime friend and commercial fisherman. *We wish gentle winds at your back and good fishing in God's waters.*

On another note, we received a 2009 Governor's Volunteer Award from Chet Culver, (Governor of Iowa) on June 19, for our "outstanding contribution of volunteer service to the community." Go to our website friendsofpool9.org for an article and picture.

We have partnered with the Ferryville Vision and Promotion Board to place marker buoys from the navigation channel near the Power Plant to the Ferryville boat landing, read the article enclosed. And we've partnered with Dairyland Power and the Genoa Lions Club to provide a portable toilet at the Dairyland Power boat landing.

The theme for the Lansing Fish Days is, "Celebrate Mississippi River Refuge." We will have a booth and **need your help** to work a two-hour shift on Saturday, August 8. Contact me if you're willing to help (563-538-4836) from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

See you on the water,

John

Friends of Pool 9 Photo Contest Reminder

By Natalie Baugher

Dear Friends members, I have been checking my mail daily looking for your pictures. Remember you can't win by leaving those great pictures in your camera. You can find the rules and a form to send with your pictures on the Friends of Pool 9 web site, friendsofpool9.org or give me a call (563-538-4287) and I will mail you a form.

Enjoy your time spent in the Pool 9 area. Take a lot of pictures, the beauty of the area is free but those pictures could earn you money or a prize.

15,000 Pounds of Trash Removed from Mississippi

An eight-foot diameter livestock tank, four-foot diameter farm tires with rims, five-hundred gallon fuel tanks, 100 pound propane tanks, lawn chairs, a refrigerator, and a child's outdoor play set were among the items collected on the Friends of Pool 9 Annual river clean-up. A timely six-hour break in the thunderous weather pattern allowed volunteers to once again **pull tons of debris** from the backwaters of the Mississippi River.



Trash at Iowa Big Slough log-jam. Erin Brandt, Linda Brandt, and Jason Verdon work to recover a 100 gallon fuel tank from its log entrapment.

Over 100 volunteers gathered at the Lansing VFW building (and other locations around Pool 9) amid the cracks of thunder and lightning and pondered their options for the day. On the verge of postponing, and even cancelling the clean-up, the storm subsided and became dormant for hours. The event went off without any problems and concluded around 1:00 PM with lunch provided all workers by Friends of Pool 9. During the four-hour window of opportunity, volunteers removed **more than seven tons** of debris from the river corridor.



Farm debris recovered. FOP9 volunteers struggle to remove a mud-filled, 8-foot diameter livestock tank from the river backwater, near Iowa Big Slough.

Primary areas of focus for this year's clean-up included the riverfront along north Lansing, the Iowa Big Slough

log-jam and debris scattered by the Upper Iowa River flood of 2008, the backwater immediately below the Reno spillway, and the 3-mile causeway (Hwy. 82) beginning at the Winneshiek Bridge. Workers also cleaned the fire pits on area beaches, re-cemented fire rings, removed and dismantled discarded docks, cleaned the shoreline from the power plant to the north of Lansing, the shoreline from Ferryville to Lynxville, and around the Dairyland Power boat landing. Photo 3



Jim Kerndt (in tractor) awaits debris to be unloaded from trash laden boat at Brennan lot (old Fish Market site). Cam Kolkmeier and Mike Welsh assist trash removal.

Crews filled two Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) dump trucks with metal and plastic barrels; two 40-cubic yard dumpsters (donated by Waste Management of Prairie du Chien and Dennis Bahr) at the Lansing site and Ferryville site, were filled with over four tons of trash; another at Black Hawk Park (donated by Vernon County Waste Management) was also filled nearly to capacity. The metal was recycled and weighed over 3,000 pounds.

While much has been accomplished by our hearty band of souls, much still remains to be done. The Reno Bottoms area is home to hundreds of rusted metal barrels from another era. They'll be coaxed from their wooded island home at another time, perhaps May 1, 2010.

The Upper Iowa River flood of 2008 left the backwater littered with tons of debris. The group worked at it and will do more in another year. The Hwy. 82 dike needs more attention at the Winneshiek Slough end and will also be a focus area in 2010. But what a difference in the shoreline at the north end of Lansing, lots of folks worked together to improve the river. **The date for next year's clean-up effort is Saturday, May 1, 2010.**

Thanks to the following agencies and organizations that made the clean-up possible: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (liability insurance and use of Black Hawk Park), Iowa DNR (two dump-trucks), Canadian Pacific/Dakota-Minnesota-Eastern Rail Road (\$1,000 grant),



Before and after pictures of a clean up area along the waterfront at the north end of Lansing.



Dave Moritz, Sr. brings in a boat load of trash collected along the north shore of Lansing.

Mike A'Hearn and Bob Seeley arrive with a boat load of trash.

Waste Management of Prairie du Chien (two 40-cubic yard dumpsters at Lansing & Ferryville), Vernon County Waste Management (Black Hawk Park dumpster), Kwik Star (bottled water, coffee, rolls), Rethwisch Lumber (concrete for fire rings), Moore's Foods (buns), and City Meat Market (sandwich meats).

and Pool 9 has shown once again why FOP9 is the **National Friends Group of the Year, and a 2009 Iowa Governor's Volunteer Group of the Year as well.**

Thanks to the Lansing VFW for the use of their fine facility and WXOW Channel 19 and Dave Solie for covering the event. And, lastly, thanks to all the hearty participants who came forward with their boats, their willing hands and spirits, to pluck the trash and debris from the river, its shores and backwater areas, and the willing hands that made those delicious lunches again this year. This dedication to the Upper Miss Refuge

It was inspiring to see communities all around the pool pulling together. Whole families (moms and dads, sons and daughters, grandparents and friends) took part in the day. There's no better way to teach stewardship of the resource than to have our children share the experience and the work of keeping our river clean. It builds character, awareness, and appreciation for the natural environment. Enjoy the river and make plans to attend the **Second Annual Mississippi River Adventure Day (MRAD II) for kids and parents on July 20, 2009.** And remember to mark **May 1, 2010** on your calendar as well.



Tom Kerndt and son Tommy have a boat filled with barrels, a gas cylinder, and styrofoam.

Jerry and Guy Boardman worked tirelessly to locate navigation buoys in the backwater; returning them to the channel for US Coast Guard pickup, and these four crushed buoys as well.

Infestation of Emerald Ash Borers Impacting Tri-State Area

By Ric Zarwell, Friends of Pool 9

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is a very small insect and an extremely serious threat to the beautiful trees in our communities and throughout wooded landscapes near and far. This menace is in our midst, and attention to details will be an important deterrent.

This problem was confirmed near Victory in Vernon county Wisconsin earlier this spring. As of this writing, May 9, Wisconsin has quarantined six counties and Minnesota has quarantined three counties. Three of the four counties that are important parts of Pool 9 of the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge are quarantined: Houston in Minnesota, and Vernon and Crawford counties in Wisconsin. A great deal of effort is being placed on determining if the EAB problem has reached Allamakee county, and it is only reasonable to expect the borer to infest Northeast Iowa soon.

The threat from the EAB is so wide spread, so easily spread by people, and so deadly, that a well-informed and actively involved public is the best, and so far the only defense against it. This article will provide much of what you need to know, and explain how to begin taking effective action.

The EAB is an exotic, wood-boring, beetle from Asia. Importantly, it has no known biological controls in North America. To date the EAB is only known to kill ash trees, specifically: green, white and black ash trees. It commonly attacks unhealthy and stressed trees. However, unlike other insects, the ash borer will also attack vigorously growing trees of any size. Mountain Ash is in a separate genus, and, so far, has not been infected by this pest.

There are far more Green Ash, White Ash and Black Ash trees in our midst than most people realize, and identifying these trees is an important part of slowing or solving the problem. Therefore, ash trees and the EAB infestation ought to be a concern to everyone. People are causing the accelerated spread of this serious problem.



The EAB is a tiny beetle, the 1/2-inch-long bright green adult covers only part of Abe Lincoln's body as shown on a penny. However, the culprit that is killing so many millions of trees is the beetle's white, worm-like larva. The larval stage

feeds under the bark, and interrupts the transport of nutrients and water within the tree during the growing season. Trees often die within 3-4 years of being infested with the EAB larva. Early symptoms are usually crown thinning or dieback from the tips of the branches and unusual leafy sprouts growing from the lower trunk. As the tree declines and the adult insects emerge, there are small, "D"-shaped holes in the trunk. When the bark splits open, S-shaped larva galleries or pathways are evident. Damage to the ash tree ultimately ends with the death of the tree 100 percent of the time. Green Ash is a regular component of floodplain areas, and White Ash is found in wooded uplands.



Figure 3. Second, third, and fourth stage larvae.

According to Kurt Brownell, Natural Resource Specialist, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the forest inventory data developed by that agency and partnering agencies indicates that *ash is one*



Figure 4. Gallery of an emerald ash borer larva.

of the dominant tree species in the bottomland forests of the Mississippi River and comprises 25% or more of the all trees found there. Quite simply, we should work hard to prevent losing one fourth of the trees

in the bottomlands.

It is *people* who are causing the extremely fast advance of EAB across the U.S. Poorly informed individuals have unknowingly transported EAB larva within firewood, green lumber, nursery stock, branches, logs and sticks.

The single greatest threat for spreading this urgent problem to new areas is movement of infected firewood. Areas currently infested are under federal and state quarantines, which prohibit taking ash firewood, timber, mulch, pallets, or nursery stock that might contain beetles out of the county. To reduce the risk of spreading this invasive pest officials have encouraged citizens to transport as little ash wood as possible and to use only local firewood for home use, camping, etc.

Since up to 25% of our trees are ash, the EAB should be a major concern for everyone. The Friends of Pool 9 – Upper Mississippi Refuge, Inc. are taking this threat very seriously. We hope that all readers will do likewise.

The single best way to slow the EAB outbreak is by finding it early, and slowing human movement of infected wood. Identification of all types of ash trees, and identification of Emerald Ash Borers – and the signs they leave behind – are two critical steps that people can take. A good motto is to “buy local and burn local.” Remember that it is illegal to transport any firewood from a quarantined area (i.e Crawford or Vernon Counties in Wisconsin and Houston County in Minnesota) onto the Upper Mississippi River Refuge if you cross the State boundary into Iowa. Firewood cannot be transported from Black Hawk Park or any Wisconsin landings in Pool 9 to the beaches across the Mississippi to the Iowa side.

At a June 3rd workshop Friends of Pool 9 volunteers received training from Mark Hollister from the Iowa Department of Agriculture, to place 20 emerald ash borer traps on the refuge. These are purple triangular boxes with an attractant to capture the adult. They are located along the Iowa side of the main channel as well as in the backwater.

Jim Baugher places a purple emerald ash borer trap in a tree along the main channel north of Lansing.



For the very latest details on EAB, contact the following:

Best overall website: www.emeraldashborer.info/

Iowa: www.extension.iastate.edu/pme/EmeraldAshBorer.html
or, if you suspect you may have EAB in your ash trees, call 1-515-294-5963.

Minnesota:

www.mda.state.mn.us/plants/pestmanagementabquarantine.htm.

Wisconsin:

www.emeraldashborer.wi.gov/

Mississippi River: Canoeing and caring for its waters - Journey vs. Destination

By Lisa Brainard

I have come to the conclusion that lots of folks care about our Mississippi River and surrounding valleys. That's very good news, considering that a few years back the "Big Muddy" seemed to be quite polluted and on the brink of becoming something exactly the opposite of what it is today...

These days it's a wonderful resource providing lovely, wild backwaters to explore by kayak and canoe. I recently found myself joining a group that would be "testing" a new, signed canoe trail leading from the Reno Bottoms Research Natural Area, right beside Reno, Minnesota on downstream to take out at New Albin, Iowa. Our group of volunteers would see if we could follow the signs - also putting some in along the route - and provide general input on the trail.



Canoe trail sign attached to maple tree along the river bank. Photo by Linda Brandt

The Friends of Pool 9 offered just such an opportunity May 2, 2009. I hurried to get to Caledonia and on down to Reno by 9 a.m. A dozen people, including Upper Miss Refuge Wildlife Specialist Tim Loose, would be paddling. Well, let me clarify. Tim would be in a flat-bottom boat with a motor, carrying canoe trail signs, nails, hammer, ladder and more.

The day opened as we hauled our watercraft down to the dike, where the trail starts near the spillway. After introductions and brief comments, we took off on an excellent adventure. The wind was a bit strong on some of the larger pools, wanting to push our watercraft in ways we didn't want to go. But other areas were tight in among trees, more like a regular, old river channel rather than the Mighty Mississippi. We were far from the barges and motorboats on the main channel.

Wes Hardman and Tim Loose attach Reno Bottoms canoe trail sign to metal post embedded in grass island. Photo by Linda Brandt.



I can't tell you how long the trail is, but I do know we stopped at the Millstone Landing for a tasty lunch with burgers and brats grilled on site by one of the Friends volunteers. Some folks left, including the canoeing partner I'd been set up with. I was able to continue on in the boat, helping line up signs and nails as we floated (sometimes bumped) into trees where signs would be placed. Two kayaks continued on making that segment of the trip in about an hour and 10 minutes. Perhaps the whole trail is in the neighborhood of 6 - 8 miles.

For a look at other recreational opportunities on the Upper Mississippi River Refuge, go to: www.fws.gov/midwest/UpperMississippiRiver/, there are a few canoe trails, some on the more open river and others in the backwaters. Show me a backwaters canoe trail - and get me a canoe and canoeing partner - and I'm there.

I was pleased to meet so many people so concerned about the river. I'd expected most people to be fairly local, but they came from as far as Waterloo and Des Moines, Iowa. The Friends of Pool 9 group has also planned another Mississippi River Adventure Day for kids and parents, since it was so popular last year. And that's just the ticket to create another generation of Mississippi River lovers. For information on that event or to sign up, go to friendsofpool9.org/mrad.

Lisa Brainard is the news editor for the Republican-Leader and Chatfield News.

Friends of Pool 9 Members Take MOCC Training

By Bruce Re Voir

The last week in April, 2009 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife office in McGregor offered a Motorboat Operator Certification Course (MOCC). The course went for three nights of class work in Lansing at the Kerndt Brothers Community Center. To complete the course, one day of class was held in La Crosse at the YMCA swimming pool and on the Black River in north La Crosse.

Friends of Pool 9 sent ten members to the class, Bob Henkel, Russ Hagen, Jim Kerndt, Tom Kerndt, Dan Porter, Bruce ReVoir, Mark Schneden, Bob Seeley, Steve Thode and Don Thran. The class instructors were Clyde Male U.S. F&WS McGregor office, Bill Thrune U.S. F&WS La Crosse office and Brian Pember U.S. F&WS Winona office.

The course covered basic boating equipment one would need for a safe boat outing. The correct use of various pieces of equipment you would use on your vessel. The rules of the road are important on the water also, the biggest boat or the boat with the loudest horn does not have the right of way. The class room work covered knot tying, aids to navigation (Red Nun buoy or a Green Can buoy), fire suppression, boat maintenance and aquatic nuisance species.



Clyde Male instructs MOCC participants on proper boat operation.

The Saturday class at the pool had four stations: Emergency Gear, Throwing Devices, Reaching and Lifting Help, and Survival by Huddle, Chain and Group. The on-the-water instruction covered preparing your vessel for launching in the staging area, and not after you back down the ramp. It was stressed by the class instructors to use common sense at the boat launch ramps. When you back down the ramp **this is the only time you should not buckle your seat belt** when driving a vehicle. After launching, each student was instructed in driving a boat through a star pattern and a serpentine pattern, as well as avoidance of an object in the water at high speed and docking at a stationary float.

Friends of Pool 9 and all the participants would like to extend a sincere "Thank You" to Clyde Male, Bill Thrune and Brian Pember for doing a fine job.

New Buoy's to Mark Trail From Ferryville to Mississippi River Channel

By Sherry Quamme

Partnerships are vital to making progress and creating good things. On June 8, 2009, Jerry Boardman, Board of Directors of Friends of Pool 9, presented a donation check of \$800 to Don Yaeger, President of Ferryville Vision and Promotion Board to assist with the development of the buoy markers that will mark the Mississippi River Channel from the boat launch at Ferryville, WI to the main channel of the Mississippi River on the Iowa side. To quote Friends of Pool 9 President John Verdon, "Friends of Pool 9 seeks to enhance the stability of Pool 9 and give everyone an enjoyable experience when visiting Pool 9. That is our goal."

This project is made possible by a matching donation from Ferryville Vision and Promotion Board with additional donations by Ferryville Tourism Council and local businesses; The Sportsman's Bar & Grill, The Wooden Nickel Saloon and The Swing Inn. Ferryville Vision and Promotion Board is the sponsoring organization for the project.

Many community residents, visitors and business people have asked to have the channel marked with buoys for a long time, pointing out that the boat launch is actively used and the buoys are important to safe navigation on the river. "More folks use this boat launch than people realize" said Ferryville Village President, Alan Kirchner. Ferryville Tourism Council President, Jeanne Rutter (also member of the Village Board) commented that "Friends of Pool 9 do so much good for this river and the region and this is just another example of what we can do when we all work together". Don Yaeger, President of the Ferryville Vision and Promotion Board, pointed out that families and people of all ages use the river for fishing, camping, boating, birding, "and just plain having a good time."

"We want to help people use and enjoy this great resource."

The break through came in May when Friends of Pool 9 came forward with a donation plus volunteer help to move the project forward. Jerry Boardman, a "Friends of Pool 9" Board member, contacted Sherry Quamme, the Mississippi River Parkway Commission member from Crawford County, to advise that "Friends" wanted to help and see this happen. Another "Friends" member, Todd Lensing provided advice and became involved. Ferryville Vision and Promotion Board member Larry Quamme and Ferryville Public Works Director, John Lomas round out the committee. More information will be provided as the project moves to completion which has a target date of July 1, 2009. Just in time for the July 4, 2009 celebrations and family time.



Friends of Pool 9 Board Member Jerry Boardman presents the donation check of \$800 to Don Yaeger, President of Ferryville Vision and Promotion Board. In the photo: Alan Kirchner (Ferryville Village President), Jerry Boardman, Larry Quamme (Ferryville Vision & Promotion Board), Sherry Quamme (WI Mississippi River Parkway Commissioner-Crawford Co.), John Verdon (Pres.-Friends of Pool 9) and Don Yaeger (Pres. Ferryville Vision & Promotion Board).

Friends of Pool 9 to Host 2nd Annual Mississippi River Adventure Day Monday, July 20, 2009

Planning is well underway for the 2nd Annual Mississippi River Adventure Day! Perhaps you missed out on your chance to attend last year or had such a great time that you want to go again this year. Registration forms for this year's event are available on line at the Friends' website friendsofpool9.org.

The program will be run very similar to last year's event. Youth and adults will be transported by boats to the Mississippi River backwaters and islands for a day of Tom Sawyer and Huck Finn-like adventure. Participants will investigate an eagle nest, pollywog (swim) for mussels, seine for fish, search for frogs and turtles, collect aquatic



bugs and critters, learn about the floodplain forest plants and animals, have a picnic lunch, and enjoy exploring the Mississippi River under the leadership of outdoor enthusiasts and resource professionals. **There is no cost for children and their parents to attend the event.** In order to participate all youth must be accompanied by a parent or adult leader (no more than 4 youth per adult). This program is designed for youth ages 5 to 17. All participants must be at least 5 years of age by July 1, 2009.

If you do not have internet access you may go to the library and download the registration form there.

Lansing Fish Days “Celebrate Mississippi River Refuge”

The Lansing Fish Days celebration has been set for August 7-8-9, 2009. The theme is “*Celebrate Mississippi River Refuge*” and that means Friends of Pool 9 will be involved in a big way.

On Saturday, August 8, 2009 a Kids Fishing Tourney starts at 8:00 a.m. on the waterfront from the VFW building to the Bob Henkel property. Prizes are awarded for the youngest fisherman, the first fish caught, and most pounds of fish in all age divisions. There will also be drawings for fishing combos and equipment, and every child will win a prize. The tourney ends at 9:45 a.m. so kids and parents can get to the wildlife presentations that begin at 10:15 a.m. An adult fishing tourney



Fisherman anxiously waiting for a prize.

is taking place as well, with registration and weigh-in at the Village Creek landing. It starts at sun-up; contact Dan Halverson for more info.

The Wabasha Eagle Center will have two **live eagle** presentations in the “big tent” at the ice skating rink in the Festival Grounds starting at 10:15 a.m. A second presentation will begin at 11:15 a.m. and run until noon. (Co-sponsored by FOP9 and Lansing Fish Days.)



Happy girls with a prize winning sheephead in the net.

Friends of Pool 9 will have a booth that will include items for sale and we are working with many of our partner agencies (U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Genoa National Fish Hatchery, Iowa DNR, Allamakee County Conservation Board, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and Allamakee County Extension) to provide **some hands-on educational** activities on mussels, aquatic insects, turtles, fish, fur bearers, and the emerald ash borer invasion.

We need workers to sign up to work a two hour shift starting at 9:00 a.m. If you are willing to help, contact John Verdon at 563-538-4836 or PJVriverhouse@msn.com.



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Local Man’s River Legacy

*By De Soto Middle School
Reading and Language Arts Students*

Byron Clements knows the Mississippi River. He’s been fishing on it, working on it, and maintaining a business on it for decades. The river has always been an important part of the Clements family heritage, and Clements believes that current efforts to restore habitats along the river will make a big difference for the future. He has many important stories and much wisdom to share from his lifetime of experiences.

Mr. Clements began his career working in his family business which ran a fishing float on the river by the Genoa Lock and Dam. The Clements Fishing Barge has been in operation since the fall of 1937. The float is located just below Lock and Dam #8 on the Mississippi River. It is the largest fishing float on the river and at one of the most ideal locations, making it a prime fishing spot. Mark Clements, Byron’s son, currently operates the float with dad’s help, of course.

Byron didn’t always work on the fishing float. He got his River Pilots License and worked as a pilot and captain for

many years. He was pilot and captain of the first floating casino in Prairie du Chien for a number of years. He is still known at “Captain Hook.”

Many people may not know that Clements once survived a plane crash in Lac Lagrue, Canada, which left him and his fellow travelers stranded for four days. The men had to eat the fish they had caught and hike up the Copper Mine River to an old camp. There they found gasoline and some food stores to tide them over through a snowstorm until they were found.

One of Clements’s favorite fishing memories is of catching the limit of walleyes that were all over five pounds. The limit at the time was eight walleyes. Clements enjoys fishing with his family and Russ Cox.

Mr. Clements is also an avid supporter of all outdoor issues. He has been repeatedly elected to the Wisconsin Conservation Congress because of his relationship to the river and the outdoors. If anyone wants to know about almost any issue related to the river, hunting, fishing, or even water quality issues, Byron can answer questions, issue an opinion, and/or point us in the right direction. He recently received a River Guardian Award from the Upper Mississippi Refuge.

Clements and his wife Jen, own and operate Captain Hooks Tackle Shop in Genoa.

Friends of Pool 9
P.O. Box 455
Lansing, IA 52151



2009 Calendar of Events:

Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, July 7, 2009
Kerndt Brothers Community Center
Lansing, Iowa

Mississippi River Adventure Day

Monday, July 20, 2009

Friends of Pool 9 Summer Picnic/ Annual Business Meeting

Saturday, August 22, 2009
6-8 p.m.

VFW Waterfront

The Friends of Pool 9, Upper Miss Refuge, Inc. is a grassroots citizen action group, whose sole purpose is the protection, restoration, and preservation of our natural resources. The 500 member organization has no dues requirements, and pays for its activities through donations and grants. It is a 501c3 federally tax exempt organization, all donations are tax deductible. The communities that border Pool 9 are its primary contributors and supporters.

Friends of Pool 9 Receives Governor's Award

Friends of Pool 9 members received a 2009 Iowa Governor's Award for Volunteerism during a special ceremony on **Friday, June 19, 2009**. The presentation took place at Marion, Iowa, in the Linn Mar High School – Auditorium, at 9:30 a.m.

Attendance by members of Friends of Pool 9 was encouraged so all members of the group could accept the award and have their photo taken together. The group was nominated by Mike Griffin, Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

We thank Mike for the nomination and the Iowa Governor's Office for our selection. The award is a result of the tremendous volunteer effort the 500 member organization gives annually to the Mississippi River, Pool 9 and its perimeter communities.

An article and photos of the presentation will be available on our website friendsofpool9.org under the News section.