

The Otter's Tale

Newsletter of the Friends of Pool 9

September, 2007



President's View

Autumn's Splendor

The first days of autumn are upon us and foliage in the river valley is taking on its annual radiance of red, orange, and yellow. I marvel at the spectacular panorama one gets when viewing the bluffs and valleys from the river, awash in early morning mist and soft reddish sunlight. Honks and quacks fill my ears, and the river valley delights the eye with an overwhelming variety of beautiful sights. I am filled with awe once again, and the tranquility of the moment fills my soul.

We live in, and are witness to, one of the truly great wonders of the natural world, the Mississippi River Valley. It makes me proud to be part of a group such as the Friends of Pool 9,

Upper Miss Refuge, Inc., whose sole purpose is to perpetuate the natural beauty of it all for generations to come. Thanks to you and your willingness this year to support our clean up, our beach activities, and our Leave No Trace program, and everything else we did. Thanks go to the Officers, Board Members, Committee Chairs, and Agencies, but most of all the biggest thanks goes to you, the volunteers. We have a great team, (now 350+ strong) and we are making a big difference in our little corner of the world. Perhaps next year our influence will reach beyond the boundaries of Pool 9 and will motivate others to action as well.

Please read each section of *The Otter's Tale* carefully and respond to the call for volunteers and auction items for the Birding Festival, and monetary donations for 2007 to support our future FOP9 activities.

Take time this fall to visit the "Valley" and enjoy the splendor of nature's artistry. See you in the "backwater."

John

Pool-wide Clean Up 2007



One-hundred members of the Friends of Pool 9 gather at the VFW Building in Lansing for final instructions and safety briefing before departing.



*At driftwood snag in the channel below Lock & Dam 8.
L to R. Bill Kerndt, Linda Brandt, Phillip Hooker, Ken Steiber,
Larry McClellan, and Shawna Stringham.*

Following the Pool 9 clean up by 150 volunteers on April 21, 2007, thoughts by **The Father of Waters** may have been*"They came by boats big and small, houseboats, pontoons, johnboats, and runabouts. They came to clean my backwaters, my channel, my islands and beaches. I'm glad there are those willing to give of their time to make me a better place for all creatures big and small".*

Thanks to all of you; site coordinators, lunch coordinators, Agency personnel, volunteers, and waste recyclers. It was truly a team effort, and volunteers collected 150 barrels, 60 tires, a 500 gallon LP tank, seven buoys, a portable TV, and dozens of garbage bags filled with all sorts of trash. Other groups cleaned the beaches and fire pits and one group even placed experimental pit toilets on some beaches. Vice President Sue Stirn said, "I'm continually impressed with the enthusiasm of people. It's a wonderful thing to do for the river and gives everyone a feeling of self-worth. We are making a difference in Pool 9."



*L to R. Brent Darling,
Al Wuennecke, and
Kelly Wuennecke
unload boats full of
barrels and other
debris at New Albin
Landing.*



You Are Invited to the
**6th Annual
 RIVERS & BLUFFS
 FALL BIRDING
 FESTIVAL**
 November 9-10-11, 2007

Are you looking for a fun way to share your enthusiasm for the Friends of Pool 9 as well as your interest and love of the Upper Mississippi River with your family and friends? Then please make plans to join us for our 6th Annual "Rivers and Bluffs Fall Birding Festival." This year's festival will be headquartered in the Lansing Middle School, 696 Main Street, Lansing, Iowa.

This event is sponsored by the "Friends of Pool 9 - Upper Miss Refuge, Inc." with help from many local and distant festival sponsors. All proceeds benefit our organization and will be used to support future "Friends" projects.

Our festival doors will open on Friday night, November 9th at 5:00 pm. You can come in and register for field trips, boat excursions, or our special buffet dinner on Saturday Night.



Mississippi Explorer Cruises

The dinner is being catered by Clancy's Supper Club and will be held at the New Albin Community Center. A fund raising auction and live music will

follow dinner. Reservations are required for the dinner, but the auction and live music are open to everyone!

We'll kick off our weekend program with a Live Peregrine Falcon presentation by Bob Anderson, Director of the Raptor Resource Project at 6:30 pm on Friday Night.



Bob will also be showing "RaptorForce," very likely the most brilliant video of flight ever produced!

Living and working along the River and the Refuge we sometimes take for granted the magnificent migration of tundras swans, ducks, geese and shorebirds that grace

our communities each fall. Take time this fall to join us and share this beautiful fall spectacle with your family and friends.

You can save 20% off the festival fee by Pre-Registering by Mail: Adults only \$20 for 3 days; Youth, Age 17-7 \$2; Age 6 or less Free! Make checks out to: Friends of Pool 9, Send to: Friends of Pool 9, P.O. Box 455 Lansing, IA 52151.

For a complete schedule of events or to download a registration form online, go to: www.lansingiowa.com then click on **Rivers & Bluffs Fall Birding Festival**.

Volunteers and Auction Items Needed

RIVERS & BLUFFS FALL BIRDING FESTIVAL - Co-Chairs: Ric Zarwell & Mark Schneden. The Silent and Live Auctions bring in most of the income for the festival. Last year's festival netted over \$6,000 for our projects in Pool 9. Can we do better this year?

AUCTION ITEMS NEEDED - We are asking Friends members to donate items for both auctions (good or new wildlife prints and wildlife related or outdoor items). Your gifts are tax deductible, and we will provide you with a receipt following the auctions. In order to prepare the items before the Festival, we ask that you donate your item by **October 20, 2007**.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - All FOP9 members are encouraged to take an active part in the festival. Many volunteers are needed. See the list below to see where you can volunteer.

- Ten volunteers to help set up at the Middle School on Friday (Nov 9)
- Eight volunteers to help at the Registration table on Nov 9 & 10 (Four for each day)
- Six volunteers to help at the FOP9 booth on Nov 9, 10 & 11 (Two for each day)
- Six volunteers to help transport auction items to New Albin on Saturday (Nov 10)
- Six volunteers to assist with the auction Saturday evening (Nov 10) and help with cleanup following
- Ten volunteers to help with breakdown on Sunday afternoon (Nov 11)

If you are willing to volunteer to work one or more of the sessions, or have items for the auctions please contact Phyl or John Verdon at 563-538-4836 - PJVriverhouse@MSN.com.

DINNER, LIVE AUCTION, LIVE MUSIC - Though we encourage you to take part in the festival, you do not need to be registered for the festival to attend the dinner (the auction and live music is open to the public). We need your support and attendance at the dinner and auction. **Dinner reservations are due by October 20th** You can use the registration form shown below for dinner reservations only, or to register for both.

TO DOWNLOAD A FULL FESTIVAL ITINERARY - Check out the www.lansingiowa.com website and click on Rivers & Bluffs Fall Birding Festival

6th Annual Rivers and Bluffs Fall Birding Festival - Registration Form

Please Note: Registration price increases if you register at the door.

Pre-Registration Prices:

Adults-----\$20
Age 17-7-----\$ 2
Age 6 and under--Free

At-the-Door Registration Prices

Adults-----\$25
Age 17-7-----\$ 5
Age 6 and under--Free

Name: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Address: _____

City/ST/Zip: _____

City/ST/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Email: _____

If you are registering for multiple persons, please provide complete information for each Person who will be attending. If you would like to reserve a ticket for the Saturday Night Buffet, please include \$11 for each person. Total Amount enclosed \$ _____

Make Checks Payable to: FRIENDS OF POOL 9
Mail to: Friends of Pool 9, P.O. Box 455, Lansing, IA 52151

For further information contact:
Phyllis Verdon (563)538-4836
E-mail – PJVriverhouse@msn.com

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



Renew Your Commitment to FOP9

All members of Friends of Pool 9 should periodically reconfirm their commitment to the goals and activities of FOP9 by making a monetary donation to the organization, if possible. We prefer not to charge dues, and instead seek donations as we go along and the need presents itself. We have recently received generous gifts from many of you and we thank you for those gifts. But an active organization (such as ours) is in constant need of funding to support its activities.

Any gift you can give will be greatly appreciated, and is tax deductible on your Federal and State Income Tax Form, since we are a 501c3 organization. While our financial status is good, the Board of Directors feel it would be prudent to have sufficient funds on hand to meet the needs of a major expense (such as island nourishment and beach sand placement at the upper end of the pool in 2008), and still maintain our other expenses as well.

Please consider making a monetary donation to the Friends of Pool 9 and mail it to us at P.O. Box 455, Lansing, Iowa, 52151.

Thanks for your continued support of Friends of Pool 9, Upper Miss Refuge, Inc. We are making a difference in what happens in Pool 9. The Leave No Trace program has resulted in cleaner beaches, and others up and down the 261-mile long Upper Miss Refuge have heard of us and are trying to establish similar programs in their areas. With your support we will make even bigger strides next year, and make the Mississippi River a better place for all creatures big and small.

Calendar of Events:

Nov 5 - Friends of Pool 9 Board Meeting
Kerndt Brothers Community Building

Nov 9-11 - Rivers and Bluffs Fall Birding Festival
Lansing Middle School, 696 Main Street

Jan 26, 2008 - Volunteer Appreciation Banquet
Location to be Determined



708 N. Jackson St.
Charles City, IA 50616
866-508-3257