

The Otter's Tale

Newsletter of the Friends of Pool 9

November, 2023

www.friendsofpool9.org • www.facebook.com/friendsofpool9organization • email: fop9newsletter@gmail.com • Phone: 785-275-2258



PRESIDENT'S VIEW

As 2023 nears its end, I look back on the activities and events in which the Friends of Pool 9 was involved. Many of these events are covered in this edition of the Otter's Tail. The events and activities are only because of the action and support the members of Friends of Pool 9 provide. "Thank you" to the

Board of Directors for their commitment to the organization and to all the members who make the happenings of this organization possible.

As successful as 2023 was, I am excited as we look forward to 2024 and the centennial celebration of the Upper Mississippi National Fish and Wildlife Refuge. As members of Friends of Pool 9, we all realize that the refuge is truly a special place. How fortunate a group of people had the wisdom to protect and enhance Pool 9 and the Upper Mississippi River Refuge for the next 100 years. I want to encourage all members to join in the events planned for the centennial celebration.

Celebrating, teaching, and sharing what the refuge and Pool 9 mean to us on a personal level helps to encourage and build an appreciation in others that can only lead to better stewardship and understanding of the Upper Mississippi Refuge. Please enjoy the events and then the refuge throughout the year.

As 2023 comes to an end, we will be sad to see our founding board member depart the board of directors. "Thank you, John Verdon." You have been a great leader and mentor to this organization since its inception. You will be missed on the board, but we know you will still be an active member.

I am excited to have Jim Erbe of New Albin joining the board in 2024 as John's replacement. Jim is an avid river user and outdoors man with much knowledge of Pool 9. Thank you, Jim, for your willingness to serve.

Enjoy the refuge, Pool 9, and the holiday season. (Photo courtesy John Mitchell)

Alex Galema, President

FRIENDS



WELCOME TO THE NEW FOP9 NEWSLETTER EDITOR AND POINTS KEEPER

Hello, FOP9! I am Susan Cantine-Maxson, your newsletter editor. Taking over from John Verdon is no small task, but he has been a great mentor and has helped me tremendously. I was really worried that I wouldn't know what to put in the newsletter, but the FOP9 is such an active organization that it soon became apparent that the news is abundant! Keep sending me information as events happen. Plus we love pictures so we can see what's going on! Then, I'll start making the files for the next newsletter. *Please send all information to: fop9newsletter@gmail.com. My cell phone is 785-275-2258 if you'd rather call or text me.* (I apologize if I didn't get all the photo credits and content credited correctly this time; I'll work on that!)



I also help out by keeping track of the volunteer hour points, another job John did successfully for many years. Points can be sent to the same email as the newsletter. We only know about points if you report them, so get the points in while they are still fresh in your memory!

Who am I? I retired from teaching English, speech and theatre at Decorah High School in 2005. Then I married Bob Maxson, an NICC administrator. My husband and I bought a house along the river and moved in, but life has its twists and turns. An opportunity arose and we moved to Concordia, Kansas for eight years with Bob working as a vice-president at Cloud County Community College and I became executive director of the Brown Grand Theatre, a 100-year-old restored opera house. In 2014, we really retired and moved back to Lansing. I always like to stay busy, so I volunteer for FOP9, Main Street Lansing and LIFT. In addition, I write for the Standard Newspaper in Waukon and teach a few community college classes online.



I'm excited to be able to help out FOP9. Each day as I look out on the river, I marvel at its ever-changing beauty. That is a gift we need to preserve for the future. I know FOP9 will be a big part of making that happen. Here's to a great year ahead!

Susan



LET'S GO FISHING

AT THE GENOA FISH HATCHERY!

All photos courtesy of Erica Rasmussen, Genoa FWS Genoa National Fish Hatchery

FOP9 promotes fishing as a great hobby for everyone. To that end, the organization supports many volunteer activities which assist with teaching kids how to fish. Fishing days at Genoa Fish Hatchery, Black Hawk Park and the Driftless Interpretive Center in Lansing provide opportunities throughout the year. Often, during the winter months, there may be informative kids' days on how to ice fish. When the weather is better, fishing from shore is a great activity. Kids also enjoy boat rides during these days.

Several volunteers including FOP9 members Jerry Boardman, Galen Bremmer, Dave Sudal and Don Lathrop show kids how to bait hooks, throw the line in, wait patiently and reel in the big one, usually a small mouth bass, a sheephead, a bluegill or a trout depending on where they are fishing. In addition, in June during a summer school at Black Hawk Park, high school students from DeSoto participated in 3 days of fishing with Jerry Boardman.

As a way to end the 2022-2023 school year and promote the natural environment, students from De Soto did some fishing at Blackhawk Park. Forty-one 5th graders and thirty-one high schoolers spent two different days fishing. The younger set fished on May 24th and the older group on June 2nd. At the Genoa Fish Hatchery, 150 kids participated.



FRIENDS OF POOL 9 MARKS GENOA CLOSING DAM WITH BUOYS

River workers Jerry Boardman and partner Don Lathrop recently set marker buoys along the closing dam near the Genoa Dairyland Power Plant, downstream of Lock & Dam 8. The previously unmarked dam has been the site of numerous lost or damaged propellers, leaving unknowing boaters confused and upset. This 200-300 foot stretch of rocks poses a significant danger to all on the river.

In their attempt to make Pool 9 one of the best on the Upper Mississippi, Friends of Pool 9 has gained permission from the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Wisconsin DNR to place these "safety buoys" along the closing dam to inform unknowing boaters

of the obstruction. As a reminder, the color of buoys tells the type of warning: Orange and black relate to rock; red buoys means go to the left; Green buoys mean stay to the right; and white with stripes means you can go on either side.

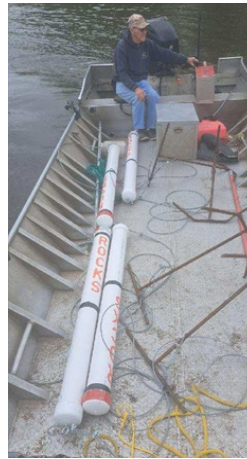
Friends of Pool 9 maintains the expense of purchasing, assembling, placing, and collecting the buoys, and also does the same with the No-Wake Buoys placed along the Iowa side of the navigation

channel at

Lansing. These programs will help make boating in Pool 9 a better experience for all. Boardman also oversees the buoys at Ferryville.

Jerry Boardman sits at the helm of his aluminum flat bottom boat with four maker buoys destined for the closing dam along the east side of the channel near the Genoa Power Plant.

Safety buoys marking the rock closing dam with buoys that say "Rocks". The buoys will mark the dam for the duration of the boating season, and will be collected in late fall before freeze-up.



A MAST YEAR FOR ACORNS

According to the WeatherChannel.com, 2023 is a mast year for many nuts and fruits, including acorns. This means there is an abundance of nuts and fruits. This may happen every other year or every four to five years, depending on the species. Scientists aren't sure what triggers this, but it may be related to temperature and rainfall.

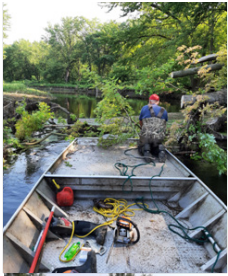


FOP9 Board member Jerry Boardman knows this because of his recent efforts to collect acorns with DeSoto fifth graders and seniors. Boardman with Kenny Loson supervised fifth graders in Pettibone Park, gathering 10000 acorns in an hour and a half. Later, a group of 7 DeSoto seniors worked with Boardman and Kenny Loson gathering 130,000 acorns in 5 hours. Boardman reported that this was a bumper crop. He has been leading the gathering efforts for 13 years.

These acorns are then sent to LaCrosse Fish and Wildlife Conservation and the US Corps of Engineers at Army in LaCrescent who in turn send them out to nurseries where they are planted. When the saplings are ready, they are returned to the refuge to be planted .

According to the LaCrosse Tribune, hickory nut, swamp white oak acorns and burr oak acorns are in demand because those species are tolerant to floodplains. If others want to assist with this program, contact forest ecologist Bruce Henry at (608) 779-2395. (Content Jerry Boardman, Susan Cantine-Maxson; photo courtesy Jerry Boardman)

RENO BOTTOMS CANOE TRAIL POSTED & CLEARED



On 6-2-23 Jerry Boardman, Linny Emrick and Bruce ReVoir went from Black Hawk Park, going north following the Reno Bottoms Canoe trail adding 19 new signs marking the canoe trail to the Reno Bottoms spillway tube. The Reno spillway tube at the north end of Running slough to the Army road boat landing at New Albin is 10.2 miles. You may download a copy of the map showing the route on the FOP9 website. www.friendsofpool9.org/canoe-trails



They discovered a log jam blocking the trail so on 6-3-23 Jerry Boardman, Don Lathrop and Bruce ReVoir went upriver from Black Hawk Park boat landing traveling the Reno Bottoms Canoe trail to clear the log jam blocking Running slough near the spillway tube. Trees and debris were removed to free the slough so boats, canoes and kayaks could navigate the passage south.



Next spring, taller signs will be placed because many of the previous signs have been overrun with vegetation. *(Content & photos courtesy Bruce ReVoir)*

A THANK YOU TO THE MEMBERSHIP FROM JOHN VERDON



As many of you know, I was born and raised right here in Lansing. Dad was a commercial fisherman and I witnessed many of his struggles and through it all I became a river-lover for the rest of my life. After retiring from 38 years of science teaching, Phyl and I returned to our beloved Mississippi River in 2002, and helped our three sons and grandkids develop a love for the river as well.

Fast forward almost 20 years after the beginning of Friends of Pool 9. It's fitting that older members (in any organization) step aside after years of service, and give new leaders with fresh ideas a chance to emerge, and help improve the overall effectiveness of the group. Otherwise, the trend is to continue down the same path for years on-end and lose some of the vitality and appeal to be a sustainable organization. My time is now, but it may not be for others. It has been a remarkable journey for me, helping form an organization that had simple and clearcut guidelines and ideals; to involve the local communities of Pool 9 and keep our little 31 miles of the Mississippi River as clean and enjoyable as possible, teach stewardship to the youth, and balance conservation of the resource with maximum use and benefit to all users.

I truly believe the small-town approach, with Board members from all the surrounding communities nurtures pool-wide involvement and appeal. And our voices have been heard far and wide with members throughout the world, as well as support in St. Paul, Winona, Des Moines, Madison, and even Washington, D.C. This organization is a success because of our simple grassroots approach, our small-town type of leadership, and most importantly, all of you - the volunteers and workers that share our common cause. Thank you to all of you young and old; you are the heartbeat of FOP9.

I have additional family related health reasons for leaving the Board after serving all these years since our amazing FOP9 beginning. But I will always support Friends of Pool 9, Upper Miss. Refuge, Inc. and try to be involved as much as I can in the coming years. It is indeed heartwarming and satisfying to see that so many of you feel the same way I do about the river resource and are committed to taking care of it for future generations to enjoy. Thank you for your membership and hard work.

See you on the river. John Verdon

THANK YOU – GREAT RIVER ROAD HOUSE

Josh and his staff at the Great River Road House chose the Friends of Pool 9 (FOP9) to be the 50/50 Community Partnership organization for the month of July, 2023. They named a pizza “The Fajita” and 50% of sales were donated to the FOP9. At month's end Josh sent us a check for nearly \$1,000. Since 2020, Josh has shared nearly \$20,000 to many Community Partners in the area. The Road House is located on Highway 35 just North of De Soto and we thank them and all the customers who purchased our pizza during that month. Thanks Josh, always wishing you the best. *(Content Larry Quamme; photo credit Facebook Great River Road House)*

Hungry for pizza, chicken, ribs, fish, Italian? Contact Great River Road House at (608) 648-2045.

2024 -100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER REFUGE LET'S CELEBRATE!



As a leading Friends' group on the Upper Mississippi River Refuge, the FOP9 board of directors are planning a variety of public activities during 2024 to celebrate this memorable centennial.

Certain events will be entirely new (surprises to FOP9 members and the public), while others will be expanded and enhanced versions of popular activities which have previously won widespread recognition and praise.

The 31-mile stretch of the Mississippi River between Lock and Dams 8 & 9 known as Pool 9 offers exceptional boating, fishing, wildlife viewing,, sandbar picnicking/swimming, hunting, photography, and other public recreation opportunities for local residents and visitors alike.

For a steadily growing list of enjoyable events and activities for the anniversary year, visit <https://uppermiss100.com/>

Watch and listen for future announcements. *(Written by Ric Zarwell, Celebration committee; logo courtesy of Upper Mississippi River Refuge)*

FRIENDS OF POOL 9 HAS GOOD CLEAN UP EFFORT

The day was a warm 85 degrees, the collection dumpster was in place, the water gauge at Lansing read 9.2 feet and a small but determined group of volunteers boated into the Mississippi backwaters in search of any un-natural debris. Recent high flood water (Lansing gauge 19.6 feet) in late April kept the river well above normal until early June.



Volunteers load the bucket of the Jim Kerndt tractor with debris. L. to R. Caleb Verdon, Tom Limbach, Ben Verdon, Tyler Verdon, Alex Galema.

While many enjoyed the early June weekend in other ways, approximately 30 volunteers loaded boats and searched backwater sloughs and islands for debris. The most common item was the ‘ever present’ blue or white plastic flotation barrel, probably relocated from areas to the north. The exceptionally high water may have dispersed the usual trash in Pool 9 to other areas downstream as well.

The lone dumpster for the entire FOP9 2023 river clean-up sits on the shoreline between the Lansing VFW building and the Bob Henkel property, at 120 South Front Street.



Photo courtesy of Ric Zarwell

The backwater search team of Carlson and Henkel show their bounty after a morning of boating on the lower part of Pool 9 below Lansing. *L. to R. Wyatt Henkel, Tom Limbach, Bruce Carlson, Bob Henkel.* These two river-rats have been clean up buddies for over 10 years and always come in with a good load.

Some began collecting debris and cleaning area beaches earlier. Volunteers began resetting some of the 23 fire-rings in Pool 9 and spraying beaches for poison ivy in cooperation with USFWS. The fire-rings were originally constructed and located on Pool 9 area beaches by the Board of Directors of Friends of Pool 9 years ago (with USFWS approval) for the use of river campers. Having fire-rings anchored in the sand with re-rod and cement keeps the beach bonfires in a designated site, and makes clean up at the beach much easier. High water tends to erode the down-slope portion of the fire-ring causing it to tilt toward the river and impacts its usefulness to campers and beach users.



Tom Limbach and John Verdon stand beside the Town and Country dumpster (coordinated by Allamakee County Solid Waste) awaiting more debris collected by area Mississippi River clean up volunteers on June 3, 2023.

After the clean-up, Dave Mooney, Allamakee County, reported a total weight of 2.5 tons of debris in the Town and Country dumpster, including an abundance of plastic barrels and old dock pieces. Special thanks to Doug Enke (Town & Country Administrator) for making a commitment to the river environment and for providing the dumpster. Adding this weight to earlier totals means Friends of Pool 9 volunteers have collected and removed more than 173,800 pounds (86.9 tons) of debris from the river and recorded 10,080 hours of volunteer time to keep Pool 9 clean over the years. Thanks to everyone that has helped over the years on this project.

Founding Father and longtime FOP9 Board Director Bob Henkel stated, “There really wasn’t a lot of debris out there, probably partly due to the record high water levels this spring, but also because I think we’re making a difference cleaning it every year. The river isn’t as filled with debris as it was years ago. And that’s all good.”



FOP9 thanks everyone that donated their time and energy to once again make Pool 9 one of the best on the Upper Mississippi River; maybe more can join the effort next year. In the mean-time get out on the river this summer and enjoy our beautiful river and beaches. Enjoy spending an afternoon swimming in the Mississippi River on a beach, or viewing the splendor of over two hundred American Bald Eagle nests in Pool 9 (many along the main channel), or trying your luck at some of the best game fishing in the backwater sloughs and lakes of anywhere in the U.S. This part of the river called Pool 9, technically named the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge is literally at our doorstep, get out and enjoy it. *(Written by John Verdon; Photos courtesy Bob Modersohn, DriftlessMode.)*

MISSISSIPPI RIVER ADVENTURE DAY SEPTEMBER 11, 2023

The day began with a slight dampness in the air, but things soon warmed in lots of different ways. Lisa Welsh (Kee Middle School) and Evan Wick (De Soto Schools) combined their students for a day of outdoor learning along the Mississippi River. This activity began years ago as a major goal of Friends of Pool 9, to help our youth be better citizens of the river and its natural resources.

Students were engaged each hour as they rotated in small groups to the River History Museum, a boat trip on the river to search for birds, kayaking at Village Creek landing, and activities at the Driftless Center centered around animal furs and snakes and, of course, fishing.



All costs for the day, including transportation and a noon lunch, were paid by the Friends of Pool 9 organization. Approximately 60 students and leaders were involved in the annual event. Thanks to all that made this special day possible. Friends of Pool 9, Upper Miss Refuge Inc. is a 501(c)3 non-profit with 800 members dedicated to the conservation and education of the natural resources in Pool 9, Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge. They can be reached at P.O. Box 455, Lansing, Iowa 52151 or at www.friendsofpool9.org

(Written by John Verdon; Photos courtesy of Lisa Welsh)

USFWS PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

Kendra Pednault, McGregor District Manager

Report from Lexie Ogdahl, USFWS Intern

Hello all! I am Lexie Ogdahl, the (grateful) intern you have hired to aid Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge operations. I have been a seasonal Biological Science Technician at the McGregor District for two seasons now. Your funding has allowed me to stay on three months longer and help complete field work like tree planting and invasive species removal. I've also helped with sign inventory, orders, and designs for interpretive kiosks, highway entrance signs, and the FOP9 Leave No Trace signs. I am a part of the Centennial planning committee as well and can't wait for the exciting celebrations we have planned for 2024!

It has been a very busy fall for U. S. Fish and Wildlife District staff. We have aided in planting over 400 trees on islands and along the river. Staff attended the ground-breaking ceremony for the construction of the new Black Hawk Bridge. The site of our future office building is coming along, and we recently had a team of maintenance professionals reshape two of the sewage treatment ponds. The site is now ready for seeding to native prairie. We are hopeful ground-breaking for construction of the office will commence in the Spring of 2024. In addition, many hours have been poured into boundary maintenance and posting closed areas for the season.

We are approaching peak migration season for many of our wonderful waterfowl! With that in mind, we want to remind everyone of the importance of the Voluntary Waterfowl Avoidance Areas. The river is important to so many users for a large variety of reasons, balancing these uses and their potential impacts to wildlife takes everyone: state and federal agencies, non-governmental organizations, rivers users, volunteers, and Friends groups. Every fall, about 40% of the waterfowl in North America migrate along the Mississippi Flyway and many stop on the refuge as they make their journey south. To give them a much-needed rest, there are areas which are closed to waterfowl hunting and we ask others to voluntarily avoid them. This simple act of avoidance can help our feathered friends conserve the energy required to complete their journey and increase their chances of survival.

Thanks to the generous contribution from Friends of Pool 9, we were able to spread awareness of Voluntary Waterfowl Avoidance Areas with 27 signs designed by Refuge Biologist Billy Reiter-Marolf. These signs are placed at boat ramps to humorously catch folks' attention and remind river users that the river is a wildlife refuge and respecting all wildlife that rely on it ensures the conservation of diverse species for future generations.



Live feed from Driftless Area Education and Visitor Center
www.youtube.com/channel/UCswDWTogk0dI2yn8--POAiQ/live

Genoa National Fish Hatchery at Genoa WI

Website: www.fws.gov/fish-hatchery/genoa

Facebook: [GenoaNFH](https://www.facebook.com/GenoaNFH)

Black Hawk Bridge Project Updates & Information

Website: iowadot.gov/lansingbridge

Facebook: [LansingBridge](https://www.facebook.com/LansingBridge)

FYE: IMPORTANT INTERNET SOURCES FOR YOU

Friends of Pool 9

Website: www.friendsofpool9.org

Facebook: [friendsofpool9organization](https://www.facebook.com/friendsofpool9organization)

Send points, newsletter pictures and information to:
fop9newsletter@gmail.com or text 785-275-2258

Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge McGregor District-

Website: www.fws.gov/refuge/upper-mississippi-river

Facebook: [UpperMissNWFR](https://www.facebook.com/UpperMissNWFR)

Allamakee County Conservation Driftless Center

Website: www.allamakeecountyconservation.org/driftless-center

Facebook: [Driftless-Area-Education-and-Visitor-Center-Lansing-Iowa/213441299400821](https://www.facebook.com/Driftless-Area-Education-and-Visitor-Center-Lansing-Iowa/213441299400821)

FRIENDS OF POOL 9, UPPER MISS REFUGE, INC. HOLDS 2023 ANNUAL MEETING



Friends of Pool 9 (FOP9) members and guests gathered at the New Albin Community Center on Saturday, September 30 for their annual meeting. The 144 attendees were treated to a dinner provided by Be Catered, a business in Waukon hired by the FOP9.

Members arrived early for the camaraderie of the social hour, as they reminisced about the year's activities and events. Two rooms were rimmed with Silent Auction items, ranging from tasty foods to tackle boxes with lures and other outdoor items, as well as trips and wine packages that teased the pocketbook of everyone. During the Business Meeting Secretary/Treasurer Quamme reported that the Friends of Pool 9 account on August 31, 2023 shows total Income of \$118,478 for the year and total Expenses of \$39,299 for the year; leaving a Checking/Savings balance of \$143,131. Five Board members were re-elected at the meeting and Jim Erbe was elected to replace retiring John Verdon. With Jim the following have agreed to serve for the next three years to 2026: Jerry Boardman, Mike Conway, Kevin Quillin, Bruce ReVoir, and Blake Schoh.

The Tim Loose Memorial Scholarship Raffle was a great success with four people winning cash. The scholarship funds students from the De Soto and Kee High Schools entering college, tech schools and the world of work.

Live Auction items drew particular interest. Larry Quamme acting as the auctioneer, got everyone involved in the spirit of giving. President Alex Galema thanked everyone for their attendance, their financial generosity, their commitment to Friends of Pool 9, and to the river itself. None of what we do would be possible without the effort of all the volunteers that give thousands of hours annually to make Pool 9 one of the best on the Upper Mississippi River. Thanks to all of you.

(Written by Larry Quamme; Photos courtesy Ric Zarwell)

President Alex Galema announced Ric Zarwell as the Friends of Pool 9 Volunteer of the Year in 2023 for his volunteerism. Ric was a founding board member in 2006 and after a few years was elected back to the board and has participated in almost every event over the years. (Photo courtesy of John Mitchell)



Pin Awards-Kendra Pednault, Manager US Fish and Wildlife Service, McGregor District presented Volunteer Hour pins to members that had achieved certain levels; 100 Hours to Judy Schild, 250 hours to Don Lathrop, 250 hours to Lisa Welsh, and 2,000 hours to Jerry Boardman.

Left to right: Jerry Boardman, Dan Lathrop, Judy Schild & Lisa Welsh



HOLIDAY SHOPPING WITH FOP9

Struggling with ideas for gifts for the upcoming holiday? Is there a birthday around the corner? Friends of Pool 9 can help with the shopping stress.

During November, Friends of Pool 9 will be offering merchandise for sale. Hooded, zip and crew neck sweatshirts, long and short sleeve adult tees, children's t shirts, and children's tees will be available for purchase. Sizes range from S-3XL in a variety of colors. If the order is received early enough there is a possibility that a size or color not in stock could be ordered. Check our Facebook page or website for examples of merchandise. There may be a slight charge for postage if the items are to be mailed.

FOP9 merchandise sales serve a dual purpose. Obviously, funds generated by the sales help pay for the many projects supported by the group, but equally important is the PR. Explanations in response to questions about the meaning of the logo or name on a shirt can result in new members, donations and, if nothing else awareness of our mission. *(Written by Sue English)*

For more information about purchasing items, call or email Sue or contact a member.

563-379-1129 (leave a message) rivergirl59@gmail.com

STARTING THE NEW LANSING BRIDGE PROJECT

(Design Image courtesy of Iowa Department of Transportation)



Design of the new Lansing Bridge

EAST SIDE BRIDGE SITE: LEVELING THE LAND - Official ground-breaking for the new Lansing Bridge occurred at the end of October. Two houses had to be removed on the Iowa side of the bridge and now the land is being prepared. The new bridge will sit approximately 10 feet north of the current bridge. The new bridge is expected to open in 2026. Stay up-date on bridge progress by visiting this website: iowadot.gov/lansingbridge/Home?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery Or following this Facebook page: www.facebook.com/LansingBridge

Monthly information meetings will be held at the Meehan Memorial Lansing Public Library. The next one will be December 14, 2023 from 5-6pm.

According to a recent press release from the McGregor District of the Upper Mississippi River National and Fish Refuge, Slough boat landing, located on Highway 82 near the Black Hawk bridge will remain open during the construction of the Black Hawk Bridge.

Construction activities are expected to start around October 9 and will include use of the adjacent beneficial use site. Overflow parking for boaters will not be available in the beneficial use site or up on the highway shoulder. Boaters are encouraged to use nearby landings including Winneshiek Boat Landing (Hwy 82 and Hwy 35) or Village Creek Landing (Lansing, Iowa).

For more information and or pools maps showing additional river access points, view pool maps at www.fws.gov/refuge/upper-mississippiriver/ <http://www.fws.gov/refuge/upper-mississippiriver/>

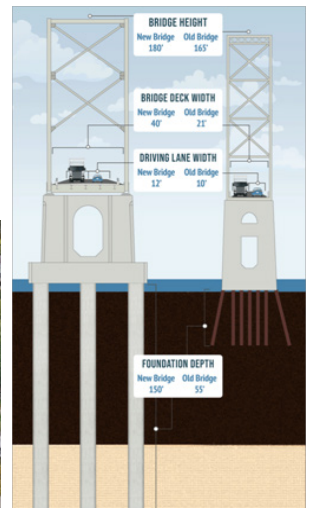
The Iowa DOT is aware of the impact this project will have on the surrounding environment and are working towards making minimal impact on and preserving the surrounding environment, Plans are underway to plant and reestablish a greater number of acres of wetland than needed for construction. For more information, see the following article. <https://environment.transportation.org/news/iowa-dot-details-wetlands-preservation-efforts/>

A recent photo shows efforts to collect mussels for relocation. (Photo courtesy Bob Modersohn; Driftless Mode.



Views looking west, then east, along the highway 82 dike from the east side of the Black Hawk Bridge over the Miss. River. First, trees were sawed down and removed, then the land smoothed. The west view gives a good picture of where the new bridge will be built immediately upriver from the old one. (Photos & comments courtesy of Bob Modersohn DriftlessMode).

Comparison of the new and old bridge structure: (Image courtesy of the Iowa DOT)



NEWS FROM THE GENOA NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY, GENOA WI

Photos & Information -Courtesy Erica Rasmussen, FSW at Genoa Fish Hatchery Interpretive Center Interested in volunteering at the hatchery? Contact Erica Rasmussen (Rasmussen@fws.gov) or call 608-689-2605 Stay up to the minute by following their facebook page: #GenoanFH



At the end of the summer growing season, juvenile mussels that have been cultured in outdoor and off-station locations are counted, measured, and moved into the mussel building at GNFH for winter culture. This season we've had juvenile and sub adult mussels in the MARS culture trailer at Blackhawk Park, a long-term collaboration with the US Army Corps of Engineers, and in the Dubuque Ice Harbor at the National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium.

Photo: The newly refurbished MARS trailer at the end of the culture season and Juvenile Plain Pocketbook brought back from cages in the Dubuque Ice Harbor. (Photo credit: Beth Glidewell/USFWS)

Harvest season is upon us! Now that



the Sturgeon are out the door it's time to see if all our hard work paid off this summer. Each year we raise many different fish species in our ponds including Walleye, Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, Yellow Perch, Bluegill, and Black Crappie. These ponds are then harvested in late September and early October. Once a pond is harvested the fish are brought inside to determine the number and weight of fish to see how they grew throughout the year.

Photo: USFWS workers scooping up fish to put into a tank. (Photo credit: USFWS).



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



PRSRT STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
NEW HAMPTON
IA
Permit No. 150

**UPCOMING FOP9
BOARD MEETINGS 2024**

All meetings 7:00 PM at Driftless Center.

- March 11**
- April 8**
- May 13**
- July 15**
- September 28 (Annual Meeting)**
- October 14**
- November 11**

**FOP9 CALENDAR OF EVENTS
FOR 2024**

- 100 Year Refuge Anniversary.....2024**
- River Clean-up.....April**
- Pool 9 Eagle Survey.....April/May**
- No-Wake Buoys Placed.....April/May**
- Scholarships for DeSoto/Lansing.....May**
- Beach Work-Reset Fire Rings.....June**
- Clean Fire Rings.....Monthly by Volunteers**
- Black Hawk Park Kids' Fishing.....August**
- Lansing Fish Days Booth.....August 10**
- Sturgeon Tagging at GNFH.....August/September**
- EACS/DeSoto MRAD.....September**
- FOP9 Annual Meeting.....September 28**

The Friends of Pool 9 (FOP9), Upper Mississippi Refuge, Inc. is a grassroots citizen action group, whose sole purpose is the protection, restoration, and preservation of our natural resources. The 800 member organization has no dues requirements, and pays for its activities through donations and grants. FOP9 is a 501(c)3 federally tax-exempt organization; all donations are tax deductible. The communities that border Pool 9 are its primary contributors and supporters. Donations may be sent to FOP9, Box 455, Lansing IA 52151.