

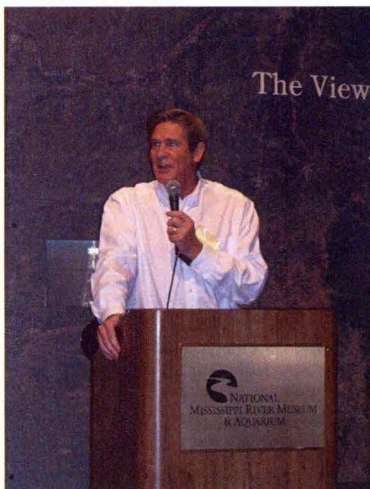
## You're invited! Great River Road Stakeholders will meet May 20-21

You are invited to network and learn from other Great River Road/America's Byway stakeholders on May 20 -21.

Is your community planning a project along the Great River Road? Come and learn about funding opportunities which have helped establish the National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium in Dubuque, the Great River Road Interpretive Network and Highway 52 overlook restoration at Guttenberg.

Are you connected to one of the sites on the Great River Road Interpretive Network? These include Effigy Mounds National Monument, Upper Mississippi River Fish Hatchery, Mines of Spain, Mississippi Valley Welcome Center, Putnam Museum, Toolesboro Indian Mounds, Nahant Marsh, Muscatine Pearl Button Museum, Old Fort Madison, and the Keokuk River Museum.

For members and friends of the network sites, the May 20-21 stakeholder meetings will feature important information about uniform signage and tools for promoting your site.



National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium Executive Director Jerry Enzler will be among speakers educating stakeholders in meetings in Burlington, Bettendorf and Dubuque set for May 20-21.

### DATES, LOCATIONS FOR STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS

1-3 p.m. Thurs. May 20 - Grand Harbor Resort, Dubuque

9-11 a.m. Fri. May 21 - Isle of Capri Casino, Bettendorf

1-3 p.m. Fri. May 21 - Burlington Chamber of Commerce

Watch for your letter of invitation, a stakeholder pre-meeting survey and how to RSVP; or write or call your county commissioner to learn more or say you want to attend.

### MISSISSIPPI RIVER PARKWAY COMMISSION/GREAT RIVER ROAD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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### INSIDE: NATIONAL MRPC MET IN IOWA, APRIL 2-3

COMMENTS AND SUBMISSIONS FOR THIS NEWSLETTER WELCOMED BY EDITOR

State Library Of Iowa  
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## TOUCHING THE RIVER

How do we help travelers along the Great River Road/America's Byway touch and know the river? How do we share our river stories?



We can tell our community's unique history, shaped by the Mississippi River, with enthusiasm and rich detail. We can volunteer at historical sites and help with festivals and make donations to those causes, which interpret the river.

As Great River Road/America's Byway stakeholders, we can promote our public and private boat launches and marinas.

We can encourage and model respect for the sandbars and river as well as support our local Department of Natural Resource personnel as they advocate safe boating practices.

As citizens lucky to live on the Mississippi River, we can share this natural treasure generously with those who travel on the road outside our door.

As people looking forward, we can set a vision for protecting, preserving and promoting the Mississippi River.

GOOD LEADERS MAKE PEOPLE FEEL THAT THEY'RE AT THE VERY HEART OF THINGS, NOT AT THE PERIPHERY  
WARREN BENNIS

## KEEPING IOWA BEAUTIFUL

Is your river community using the litter prevention and beautification program to welcome travelers along the Great River Road? Many Iowa communities or non-profit organizations have benefited from the Keep Iowa Beautiful Iowa income tax check-off program. This is the third year for grant applications.

In early 2004, applicants received \$43,677 to implement community projects related to litter removal and prevention, beautification, waste management, recycling, illegal dumping abatement, and public nuisance abatement. The remaining \$19,107 will be used for statewide efforts. The next deadline for submittal of applications is **Dec. 31, 2004**. Project application forms for this Iowa Department of Transportation program are available online at: [www.dot.state.ia.us/forms/index.htm](http://www.dot.state.ia.us/forms/index.htm).

STATE OF IOWA  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
DES MOINES, IOWA



*The Keep Iowa Beautiful program has financed litter control and floral plantings in Guttenberg. The program is funded through the Iowa income tax check-off.*

## **NATIONAL MRPC MEETING IN DUBUQUE**

Over forty delegates from the ten states bordering the Mississippi River gathered in Dubuque April 2-3 for the association's Semi-Annual working sessions. Iowa MRPC Chair Patsy Ramacitti welcomed guests from Minnesota to Louisiana with a gift of an **Iowa Treasure Chest**.

The gift box, assembled by county commissioners, included a Muscatine shell keychain, Sterzing's potato chips from Burlington, Isle of Capri Casino coffee cups from Bettendorf, a Skyline Center gun cloth from Clinton; River Talks Photo Notecards from Guttenberg, and a sewing kit from

John's Hardware in Postville among other mementos.

One of the first presentations was to the Iowa MRPC. The "Go the Extra Mile" award, given by the National Scenic Byway Program, recognizes the Iowa Great River Road/America's Byway signs posted along the 10-county river route in Iowa. Chair Ramacitti accepted the award for "making it easier for byway travelers to find their way." Iowa is the only state in the nation to complete the signing of their byway with the new America's Byway signs.

The establishment, signage and promotion of a 10-state interpretive network of sites along the Great River Road/America's Byway were a centerpiece of the meetings. Iowa boasts 10 of the 58 sites along this network. Your Iowa MRPC was proud to host the meeting at Grand Harbor Hotel and Convention Center and National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium.



*The Clayton Ridge Jazz Band, from Guttenberg, entertained guests at the national MRPC semi-annual meeting held April 2-3 in Dubuque.*

## Partnering with U.S. Fish and Wildlife

Sharonne N. Baylor is an Environmental Engineer with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge.

Sharonne attended the national MRPC meeting in Dubuque to talk about ideas for refuge projects that fit into the Iowa Great River Road/America's Byway interpretive plan, and said, "I am excited to be working with people on the Great River Road."

Examples of such projects include the New Albin Landing road improvement, Driftless Area kiosks and signage, Sturgeon Slough hiking trail, Turkey River access road improvements, Pleasant Creek improvements, Esmay Slough landing improvements, Rock Creek canoe trail, as well as kiosks, signs and wildlife observation projects, and improved access for shore fishing.

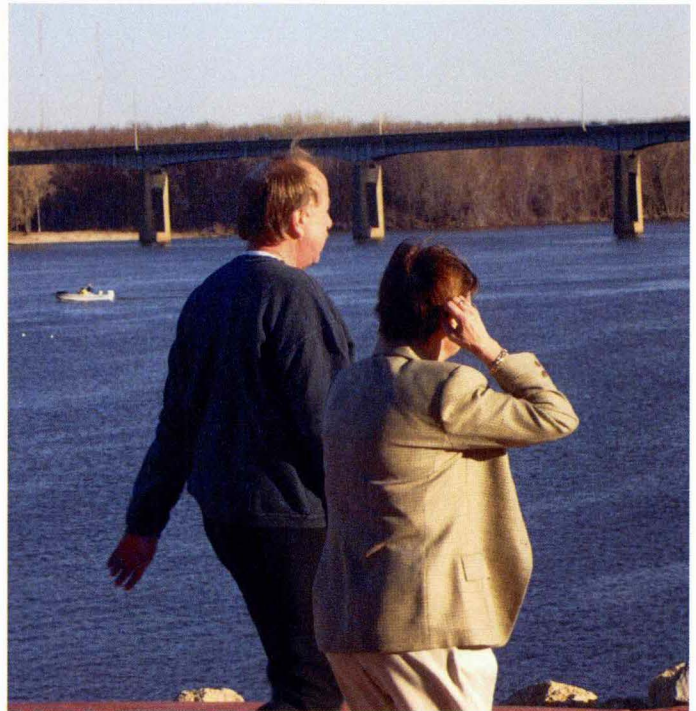
The America's River project in Dubuque used these U.S. Fish and Wildlife TEA21 project grants in its development.

## BIRDWATCHERS SPEND BILLIONS

As a stakeholder on the Great River Road/America's Byway, you live on a major flyway for migrating birds.

A new report found that 46 million birdwatchers across America spent \$32 billion in 2001.

Is your community promoting itself to birdwatchers? If not, contact Bonnie Koop at the Audubon Society, phone 608-784-2992. Bonnie distributes birding maps and educational resources to visitors' services sites in Iowa.



*Bill Seratt of Mississippi and Nancy Clark of Kentucky enjoy an afternoon walk at America's River in Dubuque during the national MRPC meeting.*

The new report, completed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, notes that nearly one in five Americans is a bird watcher, and defines one as "an individual who takes a trip of more than one mile from home for the primary purpose of observing birds or closely observes or tries to identify birds at home."



*A family of geese is among the American migratory fowl that enjoy spring on the Mississippi.*

**You are a stakeholder** on the Great River Road/America's Byway. Join us on May 20 or 21 to learn about promoting the road outside your door.

***However it gets there, the Mississippi is in our lives. ...From the River of Song, narrated by Garrison Keillor at the National Mississippi River***

The Federal Highway Administration funds this newsletter.



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