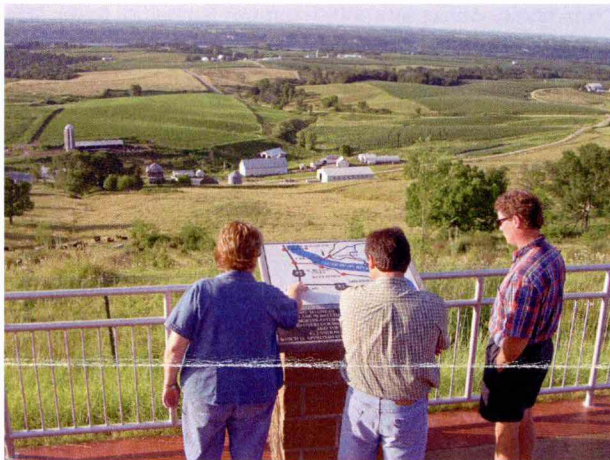


Discover TREASURES of the Great River Road

Iowa is proud to host 11 sites along the Great River Road Network of museums and interpretive centers that spans the entire length of the Mississippi River. Your state has the distinction of being home to more network sites than any of the other nine Mississippi River states.

A National Scenic Byway Grant to The Mississippi River Parkway Commission has funded dazzling new signage and colorful brochures and maps for all 11 sites. As a stakeholder along the Great River Road in Iowa, make it a point to know about and promote this national interpretive network, which stretches from Minnesota to the Gulf of Mexico. Iowa's interpretive network partners are Effigy Mounds National Monument, Upper Mississippi River Fishery, National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium, Mines of Spain/E.B. Lyons Interpretive Center, Mississippi Valley Welcome Center, Putnam Museum of History and Natural Science, Nahant Marsh Educational Center, Muscatine Pearl Button Museum, Toolesboro Indian Mounds, Old Fort Madison and the Keokuk River Museum.



The Great River Road links 11 interpretive centers and many other scenic, cultural and historical sites along the Mississippi River in Iowa. These Great River Road travelers stop in Dubuque County to survey the beauty of the Balltown valley. For information about how the Balltown scenic overlook (not an interpretive center) was accomplished, contact Mayor Herb Sigwarth at 405 Horseshoe Road, Balltown, Iowa 52073.

IOWA SCENIC BYWAY PROGRAM REPRESENTATIVES

State Library Of Iowa
State Documents Center
➤ Miller Building
Des Moines, Iowa

told stakeholders meeting at regional sites along the Great River Road last spring about 2005 National Scenic Byway grants.



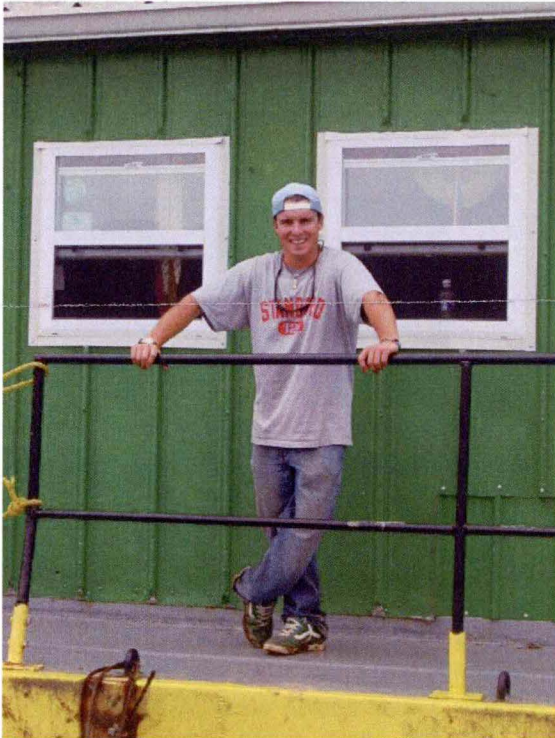
Wayne Buchholtz, of the Mines of Spain, attended the spring stakeholder meeting in Dubuque

For stakeholders who attended the meetings and have grants planned, click to www.byways.org to find out when FY2005 applications become available. Then send ten copies of your completed application to Patsy Ramacitti, Chair, Iowa Mississippi River Parkway Commission, 4674 Kynnelworth Drive, Bettendorf, IA 52722. If you missed last spring's MRPC course on federal grant writing, think about applying next year. To get started, go to www.byways.org. Go to the bottom of the page and click on: Byway Community. Next, click on: Grants. Then on: Important Documents. There you will find Guidance for FY 2005 Grant Applications. Read this information carefully to decide if your project is eligible for Federal Highway Administration funds. The National Scenic Byway Coordinator in Iowa is Troy Siefert, Iowa DOT Office of Systems Planning, 800 Lincoln Way, Ames, Iowa 50010. Phone: 515-239-1369 or send email to: troy.siefert@dot.iowa.gov.

NEED MONEY FOR YOUR GREAT RIVER ROAD PROJECTS? NEWS TO HELP YOU ON PAGES 3-4

REELING IN A REFRIGERATOR

Angler **Chad Pregracke** has had a good day on the River if he's reeled in a few refrigerators, a couple rusty sedans, and three or four antiquated PCs.



Chad Pregracke of Living Lands and Water

Yes, you read that correctly. Pregracke, founder of the nonprofit **Living Lands and Waters (LLW)**, and his crew are anglers of a different sort. Their mission is to beautify and restore the nation's rivers. "Community Cleanups" are perhaps LLW's best-known program.

Chad and his crew travel the Mississippi River to help coordinate local efforts to remove junk and trash from the shores. LLW provides the transportation for both the volunteers and the collected junk while the community provides the volunteers. The photos accompanying this article were taken right after LLW had assisted Lansing in its riverbank cleanup day. "Adopt-a-Mississippi River Mile" is another LLW River program, which operates much like the well-known "Adopt a Highway" programs so common in many states. LLW is about more than just cleanup.

Their "Riverbottom Forest Restoration Project" assists community volunteers in decreasing the damage caused by years of clear-cut harvesting of oak and hickory trees along the Mississippi. Another important program offered by LLW is educational "Big River" workshops, which can be organized for schools or for any interested citizens. If you or your organization

is interested in Living Lands & Waters programs, logon to : <http://www.livinglandsandwaters.org> or call (309) 496-9848.

Contributions to this not-for-profit organization can be sent to: Living Lands & Waters, 17615 Route 84 North, East Moline, IL 61244. *Thanks to former Allamakee County MRPC Commissioner Denise Strudthoff for sharing Chad's story and photos.*



The LLW barge displays the catch of the day.

YOUR IOWA MRPC COMMISSION HONORED

The National Mississippi River Parkway Commission named **Iowa** the **State Commission of the Year** at the organization's meeting in Tunica, Mississippi in August. Patsy Ramacitti, who accepted the honor on behalf of the commissioners from the ten river counties, chairs the Commission.



Chair Patsy Ramacitti, Iowa MRPC

KEEPING YOUR RIVER BEAUTIFUL

Keep Iowa Beautiful is an Iowa Department of Transportation program to reduce litter and beautify Iowa communities. Projects for litter removal and prevention, beautification, waste management, recycling, illegal dumping abatement and public nuisance abatement may be eligible for funding next year. The deadline for applications is Dec. 31, 2004. Project forms for this program are available at <http://www.dot.state.ia.us/forms/index.htm>. Select form 105005. Or, contact Kathy Ridnour, Iowa Department of Transportation, 515-239-1713 with questions.



Keep Iowa Beautiful funded blooming plants along the Great River Road at the Iowa Department of Natural Resources Boat Ramp in Guttenberg.

JOINING WITH FRIENDS ACROSS THE RIVER

Iowa and Wisconsin Great River Road Commissioners met September 28 to discuss the future of the Cassville Ferry. The ferry transports 40,000 visitors annually between Cassville, Wisc. and Turkey River Landing near Millville, Iowa. Flooding reduced their service by 28 days this year.

The boat also needs major engine and hull work. This year, the Cassville Harbor Commission estimates a \$30,000 shortfall in needed revenues. Together with many river advocates, Great River Road Commissioners have joined forces to help save the Cassville Ferry. A recent benefit organized jointly by Wisconsin and Iowa friends of the ferry raised nearly \$15,000. This will sustain operations for at least one more year of service.

But Cassville Village President Louie Oakie has stated that the ferry needs a permanent fix, possibly legislative action to create a permanent revenue stream.

In the meantime, stakeholders along the Great River Road are encouraged to do what they can to promote use and awareness of this unique visitor service.

The ferry runs through October on Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. For more information, contact the Cassville Harbor Commission or Louie Okie at Village of Cassville, 608-725-5976 or email @ lou.okie@tds.net.



The Cassville Ferry

KNOW A TEACHER WHO LOVES THE RIVER?

Old Man River Project is a three-year program established to provide the best in professional development through the theme of discovering and recording the rich history of American life up and down the Mississippi River.

Teachers in grades 5-12 are leading their students in the studies of history, social studies, geography, language arts, science, reading and special education by exploring connections to the river.

If you know an Iowa teacher who would be interested in nine days of professional development annually and using technology, software, and materials to enhance their curriculum, contact Trish Meyer, Principal Designer and Grant Coordinator at pmeyer@stclair.k12.il.us or call Trish at 618-397-8930, ext. 142.

You must get involved to have an impact. No one is impressed with the won-lost record of a referee.

John Holcomb

TRAILS & TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENT DOLLARS FOR YOUR COMMUNITY

Stakeholders who attended regional meetings in May were also reminded of two programs to support trails and enhancement activities along the Great River Road.

The **Federal Recreational Trails Program** funds creation or maintenance of motorized and non-motorized recreational trails and trail-related projects. A minimum 20% local match is required. Since the deadline is October 1, it is not too early to begin thinking about 2005.

The **Federal Transportation Enhancement Program** is to enhance or preserve transportation related projects including trails and bikeways, historic and archaeological, and scenic or environmental amenities. Public agencies and private non-profit organizations are eligible to apply. A 30% minimum local match is required for this program, which accepts applications October 1 annually. Federal grants take time. Begin now!

Examples of activities include safety and educational activities for pedestrian and bicyclists, acquisition of scenic easements and scenic or historic sites, landscaping, historic preservation, rehabilitation of historic transportation buildings, preservation of abandoned rail corridors, control and removal of outdoor advertising, archeological planning, and transportation museums. **For more information, contact: Nancy Anania, IDOT, at 515-239-1621.**

The Federal Highway Administration funds this newsletter. Send submissions and comments to editor at mjsmith@alpinecom.net



Iowa Great River Road/National Scenic Byway
Iowa DOT – Office of Systems Planning
800 Lincoln Way
Ames, IA 50010

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