

Big River Events

September-October 2025



Releasing a monarch at the Nahant Marsh. ()

Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation Announces new 'Preserve Passport'

The whole family can explore all eight preserves in Jo Daviess County with our free activity booklet. Pick up your passport at any of the JDCF public preserves. For a list of preserves visit www.jdcf.org

Friends of Pool 2 Mississippi River Institute September 5, 5:30 - 8 p.m. Harriet Island Regional Park St. Paul

Join us at the River Institute where experts will provide an overview of the growing threat of invasive carp. Learn cutting-edge deterrent technologies and ways you can get involved.

Mississippi Park Connection

Park After Dark September 5, 6:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m. October 3, 5:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Crosby Farm 2595 Crosby Farm Rd., St. Paul

Discover the magic in a floodplain forest along the Mississippi River. Several free events to join in on. Registration is not required but recommended in case of cancellation. For information or to register go to parkconnection.org/events

Mississippi Valley Conservancy

Scouting for Deer and Invasive Plants September 6, 9 a.m. - noon Boscobel Bluffs State Natural Area, Wis.

Learn about invasive species identification and management, deer bedding areas, their food sources and travel corridors. Registration required:

mississippivalleyconservancy.org/events

Nahant Marsh Monarch Release Party

September 6, 9 a.m. - noon
Nahant Marsh Education Center

Help scientists track monarchs by tagging them as they migrate to Mexico. Families will enjoy educational activities, crafts, milkweed giveaways and more. Participants can also search for and catch migrating monarchs along the trails.

Dubuque Audubon Iowa's Prairies

September 11, 6:45 p.m.
EB Lyons Interpretive Center
8991 Bellevue Heights Rd., Dubuque, Iowa
Join Natural Resources Ecologist Tony Vorwald in discussing the natural history and restoration of remnant prairies, oak savannas and woodlands in Jackson and Dubuque counties.

Muscatine Chamber of Commerce & Industry USS LST 325 Ship

September 11 - 15
Pearl City Station
100 Harbor Dr., Muscatine, Iowa
The crew will give detailed descriptions on the history of these ships. You will stand on the deck of a ship that was in the D-Day invasion and then made more than 42 trips to supply our allies, serve as a hospital, rescue ship and more. Muscatine.com/events

River Action Taming of the Slough Adventure Race

September 13, 8 a.m.
Bass Street YMCA
1701 1st Ave., Moline, Ill.
Compete individually, as a 2-person team or 3-person relay team in this annual triathlon. For more info or to register, go to riveraction.org/events

Effigy Mounds National Monument Prairie Bioblitz

September 13, 9 a.m. - noon
Harpers Ferry, Iowa
Join park staff in identifying insects on the North Unit Prairie. Park will provide nets and other tools.

Mighty River Art Studio Tour

Sat. & Sun., Sept. 13 & 14, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Greater La Crosse Area
The Mighty River Art Studio Art Tour is a self-guided studio tour in the La Crosse area. Explore the work of 20 artists in 15 studios from Stoddard, through La Crosse and up to Galesville.
For more information visit mightyriverartstudiotour.com

Minnesota Historical Society
Minneapolis Madams: The Lost History of
Prostitution on the Riverfront

September 19, 6 - 7 p.m.
Sibley Historic Site

1357 Sibley Memorial Hwy., Mendota, Minn.

Join us and author Penny Petersen as she brings to life this nearly forgotten story of how the commercial sex trade reshaped the central Minneapolis riverfront. Petersen is a historical researcher and co-founder of the Mapping Prejudice project at the University of Minnesota. Pre registration is required, mnhs.org .

Driftless Area Arts Festival

Sept. 20, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. & Sept. 21, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Beaufort T. Anderson Park

101 Church St., Soldiers Grove, Wis.

Regional artists gather together in Crawford County to celebrate the visual, performing and culinary arts. Stroll through exhibits, enjoy food, local wines and music. volunteer@driftlessareaartfestival.com .

Nahant Marsh
Fall Festival

October 4, 2 p.m. - 7 p.m., Davenport, Iowa

Join us for a family-friendly celebration to support environmental education and conservation in our community. Highlights include games, music, live raptors, petting zoo, food and more. crafts, milkweed giveaways and more. Participants can also search for and catch migrating monarchs along the trails.

Friends of the Mississippi River
Pine Bend Bluffs Brush Haul

October 4, 9 a.m. - 12 noon
Pine Bend Bluffs Natural Area
Inver Grove Heights, Minn.

Join us stacking pre-cut buckthorn brush and other restoration projects. No experience necessary and all tools and supplies provided including coffee, snacks and a hot lunch. Register at www.fmr.org/events .

Dubuque Unidos
LatinX Fiesta

October 11, 1 - 7 p.m.
Dubuque Museum of Art
Voices Dupaco Building

E 10th St. & Washington St., Dubuque, Iowa

Learn and celebrate the diversity of LatinX culture in Dubuque. Join us for this free event, with a 9 p.m. dance party to follow. Enjoy food, vendor booths, art exhibits and engage with LatinX community organizations.

Upper Mississippi River Conference

October 15 - 16
Stoney Creek Hotel
101 E. 18th St., Moline, Ill.

Join conservationists and regional stakeholders from all disciplines to form a more holistic perspective on river and climate issues. 🌿

🔗 Visit BigRiverMagazine.com for event links.

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The advertisement features a collage of magazine covers. The top row shows three covers: one with a blue bird, one with a brown rabbit, and one with butterflies. The bottom row shows four covers: one with a Native American figure, one with purple flowers, one with a pig in a field, and one with a sunset over a river.