

Highlights

Summer of Paddling 2012

The theme "1 River, 10 States 100 Events" grew to 200 events and ended with just over 300 events offered along the Mississippi River.



“The Summer of Paddling 2012 was a fantastic link to America’s Great Outdoors. It was about getting people outside and enjoying nature. ”

Tom Melius
Midwest Regional Director
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Compiled by:

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Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge

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Two Rivers National Wildlife Refuge





New experiences for some and new adventures for others:

The Summer of Paddling 2012 was a series of events designed to get Americans connected to the Mississippi River by offering paddling events. Paddlers with varying levels of expertise took part in events on the river and its tributaries. Experienced paddlers from conservation agencies, NGOs and adventure guide services led these events. Partnerships were formed to make these events possible through funding, promotion and hosting events. We all rallied around a theme of “1 River, 10 States, 300 events.” Thank you for a successful Summer of Paddling 2012. We all did this together.

Signature Events:

Partner Paddle – May

Minneapolis, MN

National Park Service

Wilderness Inquiry

America’s Great Outdoors - June

Moline, IL

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Trails Day Designation – July

Winona, MN

MN Department of Natural Resources

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

St. Louis Adventure – August

St. Louis, MO

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

National Park Service



Significant outcomes

- 300 events hosted with over 17,700 paddlers in the 10 states along the Mississippi River
- 1 new designated canoe trail – Minnesota/Wisconsin
- 1 designated canoe area in Illinois
- 1 State Water Trails Day Designation- Minnesota
- 4 trails received National Water Trail Designation– Minnesota/Wisconsin
- 1 Corps of Engineers Trail received National Water Trail designation – Illinois/Missouri
- 3 mascots paddled together in a canoe: Fred Bird of the St. Louis Cardinals, Bobber the Water Safety dog USACE and Puddles the blue goose USFWS - Missouri
- 1 Splash Mob Event was held in St. Louis, MO
- 1 Annual Event established – St. Louis Adventure – Missouri.

Facebook Data

Gender:

64.8% female

32.2% male

Top three age groups:

35-44=25.8%

45-54=21.6%

25-34=21%

Top Four cities:

Winona, MN

La Crosse, WI

Minneapolis, MN

St. Louis, MO



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Summer of Paddling 2012

438 likes · 21 talking about this

Non-Governmental Organization (NGO)
Paddle America's Great Outdoors!



About

Photos

Highlights



Excerpt from Danielle Quist's journal of her 261 River Mile journey through the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge:

8/15/12 Day 3:

After we headed away from Beaver Slough and down the river a few miles, we entered Hanson Slough.

Here we were greeted by a family of paddlers enjoying an early afternoon paddle along the Rock Creek Canoe Loop, one of the 16 canoe trails/area along the refuge.

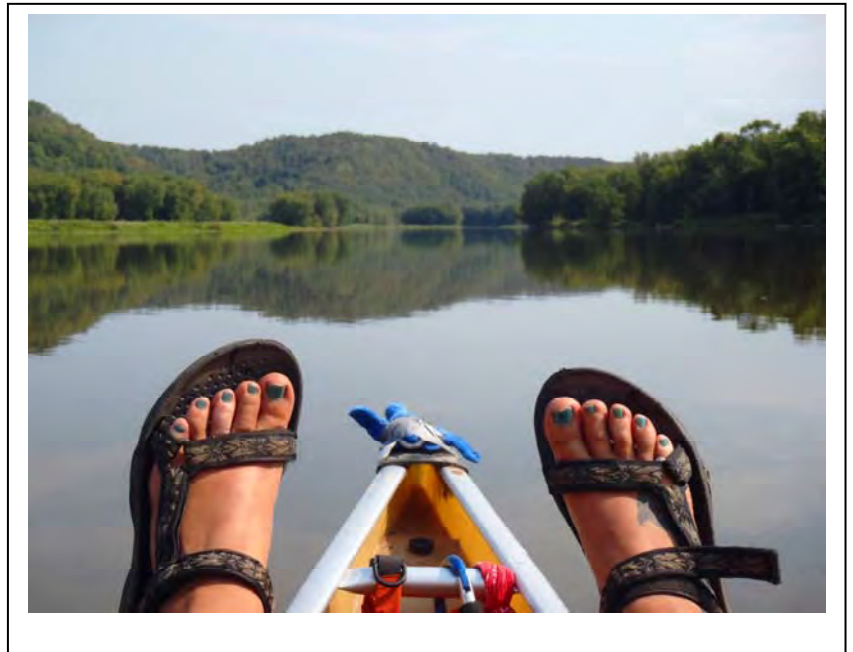
It was always a great treasure to meet fellow paddlers along our journey enjoying the refuge by canoe just like us.

We passed the Wapsipinicon River and canoe trail and headed down to Steamboat Slough. As we closed in on the end of the first part of our journey, we slowed down a bit to soak in the beauty and abundant wildlife the backwaters had to offer.

We found a narrow little chute which led us into a small and quiet slough that borders the Princeton Wildlife Area. This was the quietest moment we had yet encountered so far on our voyage.

We heard no boat traffic, no cars, no people, just a slight breeze through the trees and prairie grasses and the songs of the redwing blackbirds, kingfishers, and many other birds who call the refuge home.

It was almost like they came to greet us and wish us luck on the next part of our journey.



SATURDAY, JULY 21, 9AM-12PM



TIPPO BAYOU
SUMMER OF Paddling
2012

Tallahatchie National Wildlife Refuge

Explore the swamp floating in a canoe or kayak!

Canoes, kayaks, lifejackets and paddles are provided.


FOR ALL AGES AND EXPERIENCE LEVELS.

Meet at **TIPPO BAYOU FISHING PIER**
 Located at the Tallahatchie National Wildlife Refuge
 10.5 miles west of Holcomb on Hwy 8

Or check locations on our website: www.sop2012.org Contact **EVA KRISTOFIK**
662-226-8286



Summer of Paddling 2012



Paddle on Catfish Creek with Singer/Songwriter Erica Wheeler


Participants will be encouraged to share their stories about their connection with the river and their experience. Wheeler will then write a song about the adventure and perform this song in her concert "Finding Your Sense of Place" at the National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium at 5 pm which is open to the public.

When: Saturday June 23, 2012
 10 am-2 pm

Where: Catfish Creek canoe access
 Dubuque, IA (map will be provided to event registrants).

Registration required: To register and for more information contact Wayne Buchholtz 563-556-0620

Visit www.sop2012.org for more event details.



"Thanks for enriching the lives of so many people as they connected with the river through the Summer of Paddling events."

Erica Wheeler



Lyrics from Song with Junior Stewards:
 It's hotter than a furnace in early July and we took our canoe's to the river side and we started to glide through the slow and easy water... there's sweat through down my cheek but I'm happier than I've been all week... I'm living on river time....

Website

A donation by the Friends of Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge provided the funds for the Mississippi River Connections Collaborative to create a SOP2012.org website.

Key Partners

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
National Park Service
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Iowa DNR
MN DNR
Mississippi River Connections Collaborative
Mississippi River Trail
Great Rivers Greenway
Great Rivers Land Trust
Audubon Society
Discovery Expedition of St. Charles, MO
Mississippi River Water Trail Association
Meeting of the Rivers Foundation
St. Louis Canoe and Kayak Club
Mississippi River Network
American Canoe Association
Lower Mississippi River Foundation
Friends of the Upper Mississippi River Refuges
The Lower Mississippi River Water Trail
Visit Winona
Mighty Mississippi River Adventure
Friends Group of
Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge
Louisa County Conservation, Iowa
Scott County Conservation, Iowa
Muscatine County Conservation, Iowa

*Many thanks to
Wenonah Canoes and Current
Designs Kayak Company.*



"I learned that for kids, a mascot is the best dignitary you could have at an event. Having three mascots at the St. Louis Adventure was just fantastic."

*Kevin Foerster, Refuge Manager,
Upper Mississippi River
National Wildlife and Fish Refuge*