

Make it a Family Outing Celebrate It's Our River Day on September 19.

Throughout Illinois, communities of volunteers—old and young, urban and rural, paddlers and sportsmen, birders and biologists—annually devote the third Saturday in September to a celebration of Illinois' rivers.

Established in 2004 by the Illinois River Coordinating Council, a grassroots collaborative committee of not-for profit organizations, state and federal organizations, sportsmen, river enthusiasts and others and chaired by then Lt. Governor Pat Quinn, It's



Our River Day was launched as a fun way to increase awareness and appreciation of Illinois' rivers through activities and events that cultivate education, recreation and conservation.

By participating in It's Our River Day events, communities foster a bond with Illinois' aquatic resources and understand that we are all connected to the rivers as part of the

ecosystem. Keeping the history and culture of life along the river alive is important as a means of addressing the threats against river health, and to form new, innovative ways to appreciate the waterways.

On Saturday, September 19, gather family and friends and spend a day outdoors at an It's Our River Day event, learning about nature and yourself.



Stand up and be counted as a contributor to the health of Illinois' waterways.

Live near Bourbonnais—or always wanted to see the Kankakee River? Join the Northern Illinois Anglers Association at the Kankakee River State Park concession area at 8 a.m. and help clean up the river and Rock Creek area.

Rather participate in something with an educational focus? At Weldon Springs (Clinton), Beall Woods (Mt. Carmel) and Argyle Lake (Colchester)

“We abuse land because we view it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect.”

*—Aldo Leopold,
A Sand County Almanac*

state parks, participants of all ages can learn about aquatic organisms and do a little fishing. Some parks will have canoes available so participants can learn, or practice, paddling skills.

Grade 4-8 educators have a wonderful opportunity to explore the components of freshwater environments, and earn Continuing Professional Development Units, in a workshop at Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum in Chicago.

It is the responsibility of every citizen to learn how to protect and preserve Illinois' waterways for future generations.

Through family involvement, we demonstrate to our youth—our future leaders—the importance of working as a community to provide clean water.

Marc Miller, Director

For more on the 2009 It's Our River's Day events taking place throughout the state, visit www.CleanWaterIllinois.org.

Contact information for events planned at press time includes the following.

September 12

- Canoe the Cache, (618) 657-2064 or (618) 634-2231

September 19

- Kankakee Iroquois River Clean Up, (815) 939-2675
- Weldon Springs Water Celebration, (217) 935-2644
- Friends of Argyle Lake Exploration Day, (309) 776-3422
- Wabash River Appreciation Day, (618) 298-2441
- ENTICE Aquatic Resources Workshop for Teachers, dnr.teachkids@illinois.gov
- Sangamon Paddler's It's Our River Day, (217) 494-3957
- Mississippi Earthtones Festival, (618) 463-1016
- Ottawa RiverSweep, (815) 228-2058
- Morris RiverSweep, (815) 942-5478
- Tours of Starved Rock Lock and Dam, (815) 677-4054

