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E-News for August 26, 2013



## Rain Garden Ramble!

In celebration of "It's our River Day," join us for a Rain Garden Ramble and enjoy a guided bicycle tour of Champaign rain gardens!

[What's a rain garden? Click here to find out.](#)

We will meet the owners of residential rain gardens and also learn about the City of Champaign's stormwater utility fee and rain garden incentive program.

**WHEN: Saturday, September 21, 2013, 2-4 pm**

**WHERE:** Meet at the Prairie Rivers Network office (1902 Fox Drive, Suite G, Champaign) at 1:50 pm for a 2 pm start.

**This is a FREE event.**

- Bring your bicycle and wear your helmet! (Helmets are **REQUIRED**.)
- This will be a group tour, but we'll provide route maps if you want to go at your own pace.
- Recommended age for young riders is 12 years or older. (We'll be riding on city streets.)

If bike riding doesn't suit you or if your children are under 12 years old, stop by and pick up a map-- you can drive to meet us at the beautiful rain garden sites!

We'll finish at the Custard Cup (309 W Kirby Ave, Champaign) around 4pm.  
(But the custard is on you!)

[Please RSVP here!](#)

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## Prairie Rivers Network Annual Dinner — October 11, 2013

Join Prairie Rivers Network and friends for our Annual Dinner to celebrate clean water and the rivers of Illinois. Our keynote speaker will be Robert McChesney, Professor of Communications at the University of Illinois and a leading scholar on the changing roles of media in our

democratic society.

Read more about Robert McChesney and our Annual Dinner at [www.prairierivers.org/dinner](http://www.prairierivers.org/dinner).

Reservations will open in early September.

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## Call for Nominations — 2013 River Steward Award

Do you know a volunteer who is working hard to protect the state's rivers and streams? [Please nominate them](#) for Prairie Rivers Network's River Steward Award! Nominations are due by August 30, 2013. The winner will be announced at our Annual Dinner on October 11th in Champaign.

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## Troubled Waters: A Mississippi River Story

*Troubled Waters* tells the story of the unintended consequences of farming on the health of the Mississippi River. Fertilizers and pesticides leave farm fields during storms and make their way into our river systems, eventually draining into the Mississippi River and the Gulf of Mexico. Every year during the summer, a Dead Zone forms in the Gulf because of this pollution. This informative documentary by PBS is about an hour long.



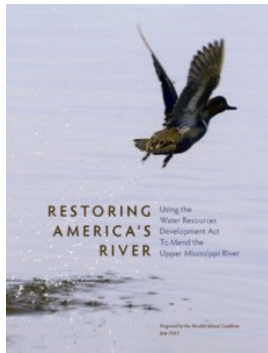
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## Prairie Rivers Network [Summer Newsletter](#)

Read the latest from Prairie Rivers Network, including:

- The Illinois River
- Greetings from Glynnis
- Coal Subsidies Drain Illinois' State Budget
- Thank You Runners, Walkers and Sponsors
- Singing the Farm Bill Blues
- Prairie Rivers Network Annual Dinner- October 11
- Charles Goodall: Tributes to a True River Advocate
- River Steward Award: Nominate your River Hero
- Upcoming Events





## Mending the Upper Mississippi River

A healthy Mississippi River matters to all of us, and Congress should act to restore the river's health using the Water Resources Development Act. This is a great opportunity for Congress to improve the way the Mississippi River is managed.

Read the recent report, [Restoring America's River](#), or read the [main points here](#).

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## Protect the Illinois River from toxic coal pollution

Peoria-area residents are calling on the Illinois EPA to protect public health and local waterways from toxic water pollution from the Ameren E.D. Edwards coal-fired power plant in Bartonville, IL. Currently, there are no limits on the amount of toxic metals the plant can pollute into the river. The Illinois River serves as a drinking water supply for many river towns and is popular for fishing and swimming.

You can help by sending your comments to the IEPA asking for a stronger permit. For talking points and instructions, [view the flyer](#). Read more about this issue at our [website](#).

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## Asian Carp: Leaping faster to Lake Michigan than our solutions



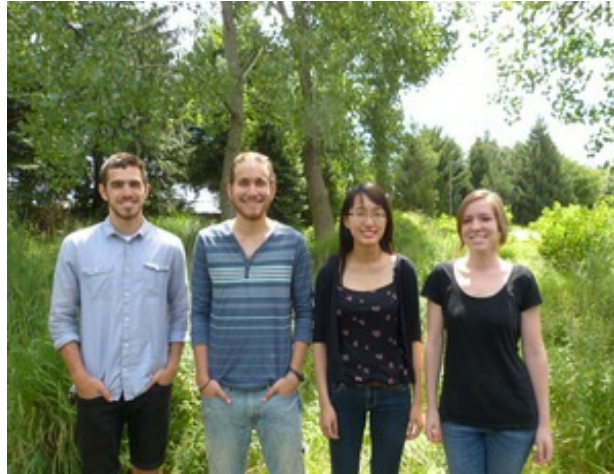
Data collected by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources in June shows that verified spawning of Asian carp — a key indicator of a viable Asian carp population and its ability to out-compete native fish species — has moved almost 100 miles, now within just 62 miles of Lake Michigan.

"Fish don't care about congressional authorization or timetables," says Robert Hirschfeld, water policy specialist at Prairie Rivers Network. "The half-measures currently in place have not stopped the advance of Asian carp. Congress needs to act now to separate the basins or it will bear responsibility for a devastating blow to the Great Lakes economy."

Read more at our [website](#).

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## Thank You Summer Interns & Staff



PRN summer interns and staff Tyler Rotche, Nick Moraski, Amy Liu and Megan Johns (also Rebecca Carcagno Rodriguez, not pictured here) did great work for us this summer. The waters and people of Illinois have benefited from their dedication.

We thank them for their hard work!

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## PRN in the News

- [Environmental concerns remain over Dynegy coal-ash ponds](#) (August 19, 2013)
- [Press Release: Asian Carp spawning population moves closer to Lake Michigan](#) (August 19, 2013)
- [Press Release: Tax dollars subsidizing destruction of Upper Mississippi River](#) (August 14, 2013)
- [Press Release: Peoria group calls for protection of Illinois River from toxic coal pollution](#) (August 7, 2013)
- [Protesters speak out against pollution from power plants](#) (August 7, 2013)
- [Gulf Dead Zone is the size of Connecticut](#) (July 30, 2013)
- [Canton mine moves forward](#) (July 16, 2013)

## SAVE THE DATE: Prairie Rivers Network Annual Dinner Oct. 11, 2013

Other upcoming river events:

- [September is Round-Up Month](#) for Prairie Rivers Network at Common Ground Food Co-op (Urbana, IL)
- [Great Lakes Restoration Conference](#) September 10-12 (Milwaukee, WI)
- [Mahomet Aquifer Consortium Meeting](#) September 13, 8 am - 4 pm. (Decatur, IL)
- [Green Infrastructure Conference](#) September 17, 8 am - 3:30 pm (Champaign, IL)

- [It's Our River Day](#) September 21 (statewide)
- [Sangamon River Clean-up](#) September 21, 8:30 am - 3:30 pm (Mahomet, IL)
- [Salt Fork River Art & Music Festival](#) September 28-29 (Sleepy Creek Vineyards, Fairmount, IL)

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