



Patrick McGinnis to present "A Riverlands Story: Establishing a Foothold for Water Resource Awareness and Stewardship"

September 22 2016 9:53 AM



ALTON —On Friday, October 7th, at 7pm, Patrick McGinnis, certified wildlife biologist and systems ecologist, Senior Advisor for Water Resources Policy and Practice, The Horinko Group, USACE retired, will elucidate the little known story and visionary process of reclaiming Riverlands, 3700 acres of public lands now a globally significant Important Bird Area.

The Riverlands Story opens a joint Nature + Art exhibit “Running Water: Riverwork Project and Watershed Cairns,” on view at National Great Rivers Museum, Audubon Center at Riverlands, and at Jacoby Arts Center where the talk will be presented.

Within *The Riverlands Story*, McGinnis will reveal what he sees as major challenges and opportunities going forward to insure our future water security and opportunities he sees for the Riverbend region to optimize its position as a national water resource research and technology hub and recreational gateway to the Mississippi River.

Thirty years ago in the mid 1980s, McGinnis began a strategic effort with the Corps of Engineers to establish a Natural Resource presence on the Mississippi River, in part to position the Corps' St. Louis District to better serve their operational interests on 110,000 acres of operational lands and waters along 300 miles of the Mississippi River and the lower 80 miles of the Illinois River. This became an opportunity to smartly leverage federal resources to drive positive and lasting impacts at the community and system level.



Under McGinnis' leadership The Riverlands Area Office, established in 1989, became widely recognized as a water resource stewardship leader and innovator. Early accomplishments included the design and completion of the Riverlands Environmental Demonstration Area later renamed the Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary, the formulation and successful implementation of Riverlands 2000, restoration of native plant communities to a portion of the American Bottoms, and making the case for authorization and completion of the National Great Rivers Museum.

Today Riverlands is home to an emerging interdisciplinary water resource campus and living laboratory that includes the Rivers Project Office, the Riverland Migratory Bird Sanctuary, the Audubon Center at Riverlands, the Mel Price Locks and Dam, the National Great Rivers Museum, and the National Great Rivers Research and Education Center (NGRREC). The Campus and NGRREC will soon welcome its newest addition, the Swarovski Water School.

The Riverlands Story presents McGinnis' experience making the case for the Riverlands Project, how he and his team built consensus and were effective in pursuing big ideas, and how the water based attractions they developed are helping reshape attitudes about rivers in our region and the opportunity to reconnect communities to rivers and their natural capital in sustainable ways.

The Audubon Center at Riverlands embodies a unique partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Rivers Project Office. The Center is a flagship project of National Audubon Society and Audubon Missouri, collaborating with the Corps on river policy

issues, both locally and throughout the Mississippi River watershed. October marks the 5-year anniversary of Audubon Center at Riverlands and the launch of a new strategic plan.

NGRREC, established in 2001, and more recently co-located with the Corps's Mel Price Locks and Dam and National Great Rivers Museum in 2010 is building a reputation for thoughtful forward thinking river and watershed science and assisting Federal program managers make better informed decisions regarding our nation's water resources while raising student awareness and challenging the next generation of scientists to make important contributions to the resiliency of our natural systems and communities.

McGinnis retired from the Corps of Engineers in 2009 and now serves as Senior Advisor for Water Resources Policy and Practice to the DC-based Horinko Group.

The Riverlands Story begins at 7pm on October 7th at the Jacoby Arts Center. The event is free; all are welcome to attend. Doors open at 5pm to view the exhibit *Running Water: Riverwork Project and Watershed Cairns*. To pre-register [visit www.jacobyartscenter.org](http://www.jacobyartscenter.org)

Running Water

Riverwork Project and Watershed Cairns

Artists: Sun Smith-Foret • Libby Reuter • Joshua Rowan

October 7–November 19, 2016

Unique installations at

Audubon at Riverlands 301 Riverlands Way West Alton, MO 63386 636.999.0090 Open daily 8am–4pm Free Admission	National Great Rivers Museum 82 Locke and Dam Way E. Alton, IL 62024 618.462.6979 Open daily 9am–5pm Free Admission	Jacoby Arts Center 627 East Broadway Alton, IL 62002 618.462.5222 Open Wed–Sat Noon–4pm Free Admission
--	---	---

Events at Jacoby Arts Center

Opening Reception Friday, Oct 7, 5–7pm

All are welcome

The Riverlands Story: Establishing a Foothold For Water Resource Awareness and Stewardship

Friday, Oct 7, 7pm FREE

Patrick S. McGinnis, Certified Wildlife Biologist and Systems Ecologist, The Horinko Group, USACE Retired

The Everyman and the Ecologist

Thursday, Oct 13, 7pm FREE

An interactive discussion with Ryan Hanson, Route 3 Films, Anthony Dell, Research Scientist, NGRREC, and Natalie Marioni, Director of Environmental Education, National Great Rivers Research and Education Center

River Bend Band

Saturday, Oct 15, 7pm \$10

Traditional bluegrass

The First Secret City

Friday, Oct 21, 7pm FREE

Documentary followed by Q & A with co-directors Alison Carrick, C.D. Stalzer, and lead subject Larry Bungan

Effervescent Pop

Friday, Nov 11, 8pm \$10

Gigi Darr, Jessica Butler, Rich Mendoza Trio
Jazz standards and French pop

Honky Tonk

Saturday, Nov 19, 7pm \$10

Daryl Wayne Dasher
Folk & Western Guitar

Gallery Talks

Every Saturday, 2pm FREE

Sponsored by

Liberty Bank • Philips 66 Wood River Refinery

The Bank of Edwardsville • MSD Project Chair • Audubon Center at Riverlands

Meeting of the Rivers Foundation



JACOBYARTSCENTER

627 East Broadway, Alton, IL 62002 www.jacobyartscenter.org

Photo courtesy of Maria Garcia 2016 ARB

