

River enthusiasts come together for Mississippi Meanderings

by Steven Spencer, Staff Writer
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ALTON - Mississippi River Water Trail Association held their Mississippi Meanderings at the Old Bakery Beer Company on Saturday evening.

Outdoor enthusiasts were able to listen to guest speakers including Bryan Hopkins, Yolanda Wood, Carol Heddinghaus and Porsche Schlapper.

Wood and Heddinghaus provided details and photos of their source to sea adventure, a two month 2,200-mile paddle down the the Mississippi River from Minnesota to Louisiana.

River racer and paddler Bryan Hopkins held an introductory discussion regarding paddling on the Mississippi River.

Porsche Schlapper, Curator at the Herman T. Pott National Inland Waterways Library, presented a history of the Mississippi from Saverton, Missouri to Cairo, Illinois.

JACKET
ZONE

Mitigate Risk

Natural Conditions

- Wind
- Waves
- Current
- Visibility
- Temperatures

Man-Made Circumstances

- Barges
- Ferries
- Boats
- Bridges
- Buoys
- Dams
- Wing Dikes

What Do You Do?

- Always Wear a Life-Jacket
- Get Educated
- Take Safety Clinics
- Weather Awareness

Fun and Historic...It's about the Adventure!

Recreation:

- Paddling
- Camping
- Exploring Nature
- River Lore
- Geocaching
- Firepits
- Birding
- Get away from it all



The Mississippi River is a treasure trove of history and adventure. From the ancient Native American trails to the modern-day highways, the river has been a constant presence in our lives. It's a place where you can experience the thrill of the unknown, the beauty of nature, and the rich history of the region. Whether you're a seasoned paddler or a beginner, the river offers something for everyone. So grab your paddle and head out on the water. You won't regret it.



Representative Events: Paddler's Winter Meanderings: Such as Tour of Lock and Dam 26, Earth Day in Forest Park, Advanced Paddler Skills Classes - for example... Lock Through Mel Price Lock and Dam and Circumnavigate Maple Island for Safety Boaters, Riverlands Public Festival Family Event.

Riverlands at West Alton, MO, Lock Through Class for experienced paddlers at Mel Price Lock and Dam 26, Firecracker Race for kayakers, stand-up paddleboards, and canoes - adult and youth races... Free to Veterans, River Soundings Affiliations, Mississippi River for Children and Beginners partner activity, Drouse Island to Riverlands, Partner Paddle for those interested in partnering with MFWTA.

Learn About:

- Mississippi Fl
- Water Chemi
- Stream Team
- Food Webs
- Population S
- Invasive Spec
- Endangered
- Effect of Herb
- Effect of Pest
- Floods
- Wetlands
- Engineering
- Impact of Fer
- Wildlife and
- Forestry
- Soils and Sub
- Spills
- Floods