

# **"Going with the Current:" What to know before this weekend's Mississippi Earthtones**

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ALTON – Mississippi Earthtones 2018 is coming this Saturday, and here is what anyone looking to celebrate river culture, the community and sustainability needs to know for the weekend.

The festival is a cooperative event between Alton Main Street and the Sierra Club and is billed as a “celebration of our river through art, music and conversation. This is the 12<sup>th</sup> incarnation of the event, which is usually held the third Saturday of September and has been moved in recent years to Broadway, which is closed between Alton and George Streets from noon – 10 p.m. Saturday to accommodate the event. Main Street focuses on the art and small business aspects of the event as the Sierra Club works with conversation and education aspects with this year's theme being sustainable energy.



According to an email from Sierra Club representative Christine Favilla, the event was spurred into creation by former Illinois Governor Pat Quinn's "It's Our River Day" initiative in the early 2000s when he was Lt. Governor of Illinois.

"The initiative required events to focus on either conservation, education or recreation," Co-Coordinator of the Three Rivers Project and Sierra Club Virginia Woulfe-Beile said. "Earthtones combined all three."

So this year's event will last from noon – 10 p.m. Saturday with the theme of Positive Energy – Go With the Current. This theme was chosen by the festival's steering committee due to several of the theme's nuances, which include wind, solar and kinetic energy as well as "thoughtfulness and personal practices such as yoga, meditation and reiki."

To display this year's theme, the festival will have a large solar charger for phone chargers, wind energy credits purchased to offset energy used, a booth operated by Solarize Metro East, a solar cooker contest and meditation workshops.





Music will be provided by the following acts:

### **MAIN STAGE**

- Big George Brock and the NGK Band (blues, 60s and 70s Dance tunes) 2-4 p.m.
- Rogers and Neinhaus Band (Classic Rock and Rock) 4:30-6:30 p.m.
- Jake's Leg (Rock, Jam Band) 7-10 p.m.

### **MINDFULNESS TENTS**

- Nancy Lippincott (Celtic and Appalachian Songs) 1-2:30 p.m.
- Raw Earth (Urban Trivial Fusion/Jazz) 4-6 p.m.

Food and beverages will be available from these fine establishments:

- The Old Bakery Beer Company
- Brown Bag Bistro
- Gentelin's

- Melvey's
- Germania Brew Haus
- Bubba Gump Smoked Pretzels
- Sammi's Sandwiches
- Indian Sunshine Cuisine
- TC's Treats
- Nonie's Family Food Cart
- Team Honduras from Man Street Methodist Church

Exhibitions and educational booths will also be on-hand alongside artist and artisan booths, which have been approved by the group and match their environmental principles and sustainability standards.

***Other activity at the Mindfulness Tents:***

12:00-12:30 - Mindfulness Meditation with Rachel Treadway

12:30-1:00 - Open Meditation

2:30-3:00 - Intergalactic Meditation with Dawn Church

3:00-3:30 - Violet Flame Meditation with Amber Kwentus

3:30-4:00 - Unity Meditation with Amber Kwentus

**Exhibitions/Educational booths:**

Sierra Club Kids'

Sierra Club Adults

The Nature Institute

TreeHouse Wildlife Center

Jacoby Arts Center

Army Corps of Engineers

Better Building Institute Inc.

Solarize Metro East  
Illinois Environmental Council

Renewal by Andersen

Trinity's Way

Jacob Sunrooms and Exteriors

Golden Road Organics  
Alton Museum of History & Art  
Environmental Resources Training Center  
Faccin Chiropractic  
Art of Universal Language  
Green Thumb Nursery  
Bring Your Own Glen-Ed  
PRIDE, Inc.  
Illinois Natural History Survey, Great Rivers Field Station  
Riverbend Rice

Mineral Springs Haunted Tours - hearse  
Tesla - John Hentrich  
STL Science Center  
IL American Water Trailer  
Principia Solar Car  
IDNR Trailer

**Artist Booths:**

sHe Handmade Soaps  
Cope's Country Creations  
General Grass  
Bubs and Dickies  
Hanna Herbals

Levi's Beehives  
Kit Kat This and That  
Haul and store  
Piasa Body Art & Salon

Once Design  
Planet TieDye

Blair Lair Studios  
Jabberwock Emporium  
Kashmir Candle Co.  
Dancing in the Rain  
Spider Web Arts  
A Glass of Harmony  
Swanky Additions  
Mississippi Moon  
Clever Endeavors  
Upcycled By Allen

Renegade Herbals  
Pattan & Co., LLC.  
River Rosie  
Willow Furniture  
Love Bark Play

Year of the Hippie  
Ima Rose Design  
Mommiez Blingy Bows  
Nat's Looking Glass  
Sly Hedgehog Productions

Face painting

**Sponsors:**

Sierra Club

Alton Main Street  
Old Bakery Beer Co.  
Illinois Natural History Survey, Great Rivers Field Station

Riverbender.com

The Telegraph

WBGZ Radio

AdVantage News  
Alton Regional CVB  
Imperial Manufacturing

Alton Memorial Hospital  
CNB Bank & Trust  
It's Raining Zen  
Simmons Hanly Conroy  
Alton Materials  
Madison County Planning & Development

Renewal by Andersen  
Solarize Metro East  
Eckert's Farm  
LCCC  
Green Thumb Nursery