

# MVD

December 2023

FIRST QUARTER

# WATER SAFETY INITIATIVES

Prepared By :

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**SAFETY TEAM**  
**REPRESENTATIVE**

Life Jackets Worn...Nobody Mourns  
PleaseWearIt.com



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 [National Water Safety Program Gateway](#)

Saylorville



National Water Safety Product orders are due by January 31st, 2024. Please send those to my email. Thank you.

## National Water Safety Team

Pam Doty - *Program Manager*

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Romanda Walker - *Public Affairs Rep*

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Pam Bowie - *SPD Rep*

Abby Jones - *SWD Rep*

## This issue:

MVN

MVS

MVR

*I wish you all a very Happy Holidays!*



# NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT (MVN)

## Atchafalaya Basin Floodway System and the Bonnet Carre Spillway Projects

Wild Things Event: 14 October 2023– Both ABFS and BCS projects participated in the annual Wild Things event, sponsored by USFWS at their headquarters office in Lacombe, LA. Over 1200 visitors were greeted by Corps' park rangers who distributed project and water safety items. Most state, NGO, and other Federal agencies participated, including NASA who distributed glasses to view the solar eclipse. The weather was beautiful, and all event participants were able to enjoy the natural resource exhibits throughout the grounds.

### Bonnet Carre Spillway

1. Four new Life Ring cabinets were ordered and installed at locations throughout the project.
2. Life jacket loaner stations were cleaned and re-stocked with life jackets.

### Atchafalaya Basin Floodway System

1. Boat patrols were conducted during duck season to provide visitor assistance and to enforce the life jacket requirement for all when operating tiller-steer outboard motors.
2. Life jacket loaner stations were cleaned and stocked with life jackets.
3. The Annual commercial crawfish permit for ABFS was updated with water safety messages. The project issues almost 200 special use permits annually and each permit holder is allowed up to 500 crawfish traps.



# ST. LOUIS DISTRICT (MVS)

## Carlyle Lake



Carlyle Lake Project park rangers offered a Bobber the Water Safety Dog Scavenger Hunt as part of the annual Campers & Family Trick-or-Treat event in Dam West Campground. An estimated 225 children and their families were in attendance each enjoying the decorated campsites and search for candy. Those that reported finding any number of the 20 Bobbers were awarded with water safety-themed swag bags from the USACE.

Posted water safety messaging on Illinois Highway 27 digital reader board and on all day-use bulletin boards.

### COLD WATER FACT

Dress for the temperature of the water not the air.

Have you been good and wore your **LIFE JACKET** this year?



All five billboards, located in high visitation areas of the Carlyle Lake Project, were transitioned from summer to winter messaging to remind the public of various general and water safety tips. Messages include, but are not limited to, "Lake Ice Is Never Safe" And "Know Your Target and Beyond".

The Carlyle Lake Haunted Trail was held October 20 & 21. The USACE made sure to add in a small, water safety-themed display along the trail to haunt the over 1,600 participants throughout the weekend.

Promoted safe hunting practices both on land and water in the 2023 Breese Journal Hunting Guide which is distributed to the entire Clinton County area.

### LIVE TO HUNT ANOTHER DAY

*True outdoor enthusiasts think safety.*

IDENTIFY YOUR TARGET BEYOND ALL DOUBT

TREAT YOUR FIREARM AS IF LOADED

AVOID HYPOTHERMIA DRESS IN LAYERS

ALWAYS WEAR YOUR LIFE JACKET



**CARLYLE LAKE PROJECT OFFICE**

Promoting responsible and sustainable use of natural resources.



For more information on hunting opportunities at Carlyle Lake please contact the Project Office. 618-594-2484 Carlyle Lake Wildlife Army Mill 891 Lake Road, Carlyle, IL 62231

# ST. LOUIS DISTRICT (MVS)

## Mark Twain Lake

Trick or Treat Event:  
8,300 attended total  
3,800 Friday  
4,500 Saturday  
(Estimated)

Over 14,000 water safety items were distributed through this event. The water safety bags are distributed for the candy distribution and flashlights are provided as this is an evening event. The event provides a safe, vehicle free roadway for children of all ages to recreate at the Indian Creek Campground. A total of 4 partners for the event – FOREST Council (volunteer and ticket processing) Ralls County Health Department (volunteer) Missouri Department of Conservation (volunteer) M.W. Boudreaux Visitor Center and Educational Resource Committee (volunteer)



Mark Twain Lake - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
November 13 · 🌐

**Wearing a LIFE JACKET isn't a sign of weakness. It's a sign of WISDOM.**

Life Jackets Worn...Nobody Mourns  
PleaseWearIt.com

👍❤️ 15      2 comments 1 share

👍 Like      💬 Comment      ➦ Share

A social media post from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The main image shows a man in a grey hoodie and a black cap wearing a yellow life jacket on a boat. The text reads: "Wearing a LIFE JACKET isn't a sign of weakness. It's a sign of WISDOM." Below the image is a circular logo with a life jacket and the text "Life Jackets Worn...Nobody Mourns PleaseWearIt.com". The post has 15 likes, 2 comments, and 1 share.

# ST. LOUIS DISTRICT (MVS)

## Rend Lake

The Rend Lake ISOP team partnered the Rend Lake Area Tourism Council to staff a booth at the annual Southern Illinois Hunting and Fishing Days September 23 and 24. The Rend Lake team and tourism partners answered questions about the Corps mission, shared information about water safety, and passed out water safety giveaways. The team made 645 water safety and Corps mission contacts.



The Rend Lake ISOP team attended several community trick or treat events during October including the annual Trick or Treat the Campground at Wayne Fitzgerald State Park (hosted by IDNR) and a Trunk or Treat hosted by the Rend Lake Marina. Bobber the Water Safety Dog made an appearance at both events, while Park Rangers shared water safety tips and freebies. 735 people participated in these events.



The Rend Lake ISOP team participated in the annual Southern Illinois Conservation Fair. Park Ranger Breanna facilitated the “Beavers: Nature’s Engineers” program that focused on water safety at lakes and other reservoirs as well as STEM education. 196 students of all ages participated.



The Rend Lake team partnered with local businesses and organizations to host the annual Trick or Treat the Visitor Boat on Tuesday, October 31. This event was open to the public but specifically designed to meet the needs of pre-k and home school students. The event featured a water safety scavenger hunt, environmental education, and other activities that interpreted agency missions. 212 participants attended the event.

# ST. LOUIS DISTRICT (MVS)

## Rivers Project Office

Lewis and Clark Community College welcomed the National Great Rivers Research and Education Center (NGRREC) 21st Annual Water Festival on September 29, 2023, in Godfrey, Illinois. The event connects elementary school students to water, their local environment, and organizations that help conserve the environment. Nine regional schools were in attendance and rotated through various interactive booths including the Rivers Project water safety relay. 250 students were introduced to multiple practices needed to ensure a safe trip out on the water.



On October 18, 2023, in collaboration with River Works Discovery the NGRM hosted Who Works the River - a free career education event. At this event 200 students participated in a mini career fair and met with representatives from the maritime industry and related fields to become more informed about careers on America's rivers. Water safety practices is an integral part of working at most of these companies and were mentioned at various stations.



The National Great Rivers Museum celebrated the museum's 20th anniversary on 4 November 2023 with nearly 900 visitors and 20 participating partner organizations. With help from the St. Louis District and additional project offices, the NGRM provided a water safety activity booth, handed out nearly 100 water safety goody bags, and had a special appearance by Bobber the Water Safety Dog. Additional highlights include: a museum Commemoration Ceremony led by our District Commander, COL Pannier, formal volunteer recognition, VIP Engineering Tours, panel discussion on river recreation.



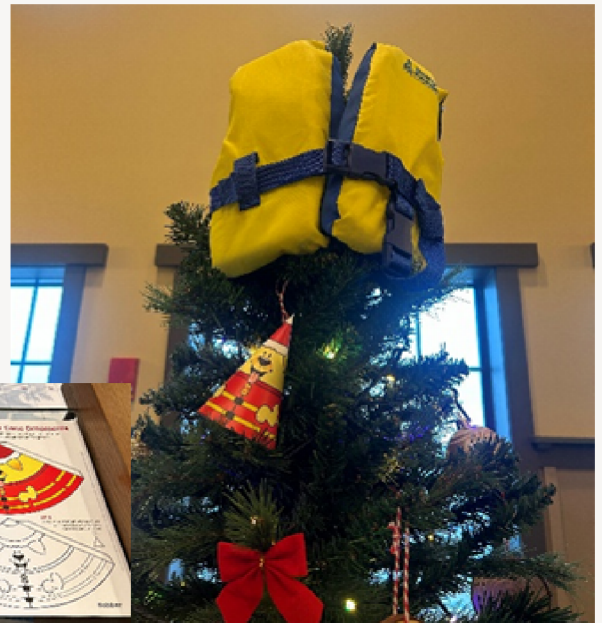
On the evening of 31 October, Rivers Project Rangers participated in the 106th annual Alton Halloween Parade reaching thousands of parade spectators with water safety messaging. The 2024 theme reflected pop-culture of today with Malibu Barbie promoting the use of life jackets as the best accessory.



# ST. LOUIS DISTRICT (MVS)

## Lake Shelbyville

To encourage water safety to visitors during the holiday season, Lake Shelbyville Park Rangers created a water safety Christmas Tree in the Visitor Center that displayed Bobber, Corkey, and Sinker ornaments. Blank copies of the ornaments are now available for visitors to take home and create.



Door wraps with interactive Bobber water safety activities have been ordered and will be placed on facility doors in high usage areas like Dam West Beach and several beaches at Lake Shelbyville.

**Make No Mistakes With Frozen Lakes**  
Posted Saturday Morning by Tim Zarkaki  
As the cold temperatures roll in the community must keep in mind water safety while lakes still allow for boating and fishing. Brock Key, a Park Ranger with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers provides some basic tips to avoid emergencies while winter boating. Lake Shelbyville has the potential to freeze over and Key says to stay off of the lake and to never drive a vehicle onto seemingly safe ice.

Similar to all season life jacket use is required while out on the water and Key says that falling into the cold lake will create less time to reach safe conditions.

Overall, Key says to use common sense while interacting with area lakes.

For information on Lake Shelbyville visit the website at [www.lakeshelbyville.com/](http://www.lakeshelbyville.com/).

Brock Key appeared as a guest on the WTIM Morning Show live from our downtown studios in Shelbyville.

Park Ranger Brock Key spoke at the Shelbyville News Station, WTIM, on water safety reminders at Lake Shelbyville. Ranger Key hit on the dangers of lake ice, the importance of life jackets, and water safety common sense.

**BOBBER**  
The Water Safety Dog  
[www.Bobber.info](http://www.Bobber.info)

**PLEASE WEAR YOUR LIFE JACKET!**

Bobber is taking Corkey and Sinker to the beach, but Sinker forgot his life jacket!

1. Help them find their way to the life jacket loaner station.
2. Find all 11 life jackets.

A colorful maze game. At the top, a dog named Bobber is walking towards a sign that says 'Lake Shelbyville'. Below the sign is a maze. At the bottom of the maze, there are two cartoon characters, Corkey and Sinker, and a sign that says 'Life Jacket Loaner Station'. There are 11 life jackets scattered throughout the maze for players to find.

**LAKE ICE IS NOT SAFE ICE**

Lake Shelbyville

**WEAR IT**

US Army Corps of Engineers  
St. Louis District

Lake Shelbyville USACE

Lake Shelbyville created multiple water safety ads to be displayed at the Roxy Movie Theater in Shelbyville, IL to play before each movie starts. Each month highlights a different water safety tip.



# ST. LOUIS DISTRICT (MVS)

## Wappapello Lake

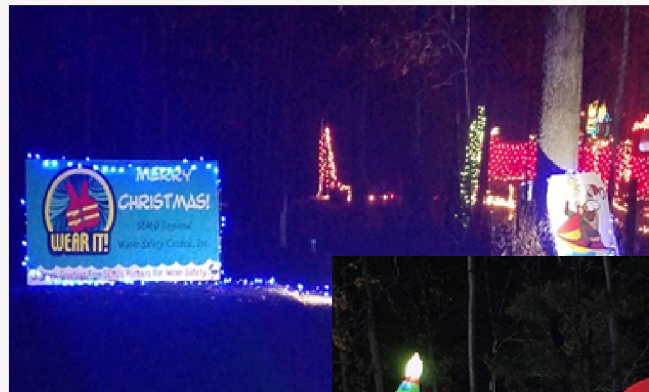
October 14 Home Depot Safety Day – Park Ranger Andrew Jefferson staffed a booth at this event. He made direct contact with 226 attendees. Adam and Tyler from the Ozark Federal Union assisted Andrew as volunteers.



2023 The Annual Greenville Jack O Lantern Jubilee was held at the Greenville Campground. Campers decorated their campers and distributed candy and goodies to all who dared to show up. The Corps of Engineers staffed a booth each evening with assistance from Leon Fox and Rick Lakey (volunteers). Volunteers. Total attendance for all three evenings was 1,510.



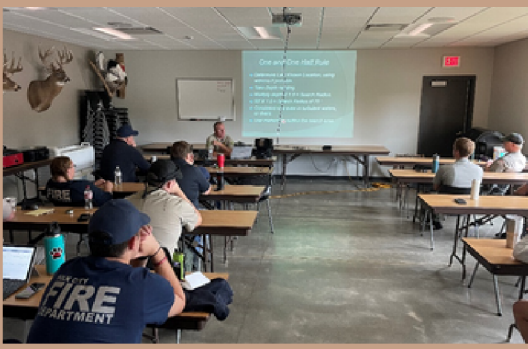
The 31st Annual Wappapello Lake Festival of Lights Auto Tour kicked off on Friday 24 November 2023. This event was moved to the Redman Creek Campground West (original location) due to renovation of the Redman Creek Campground East. It will be opened nightly 14-25 December from 5pm-9pm. It is done in partnership with the Wappapello Lake Area Association, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and River Radio. As of 11 December, just over 18,000 folks attended this event.



# ROCK ISLAND DISTRICT (MVR)

## Saylorville Lake

On September 20th Park Rangers from Saylorville Lake attended a joint training for side-scan sonar, held by the Iowa DNR at Big Creek State Park. Rangers learned how to use our Hummingbird Side-Scan Sonar efficiently and effectively for use in water emergencies. In attendance were other agencies that work around Saylorville Lake that assist in water emergencies.



On September 16th park rangers attended Grow Wild at the Jester Park Nature Center. Rangers brought the patrol boat to display and set up a water safety table with water safety handouts, lake information, and a Plinko game for children to participate in to win a water safety prize. This event was hosted by Polk County Conservation and is a family-friendly event for all ages and gets the public involved with various educational programs conducted by natural resource agencies from around the Metro. More than 200 water safety contacts were made.

On October 7th Rangers attended the Polk County Sheriff's Office Candy Crawl event. Rangers took the patrol boat to this event to spread a water safety message to trick-or-treaters. A water safety table was set up as well with giveaways, water safety information, and treats! Many other agencies from around the area had safety-themed Halloween displays and demonstrations for all ages. Around 150 water safety contacts were made.



On November 19th Park Rangers attended the Iowa Wild Pucks n Paws hockey game. This provided an opportunity for rangers to promote water safety with a table in the concourse area for spectators. Water safety information and promotional items were given away at the event. Around 150 water safety contacts were made.



# ROCK ISLAND DISTRICT (MVR)

## Illinois Waterway Project

Rangers from the Illinois Waterway Visitor Center continued their partnership with the St Genevieve Paddlewheeler Riverboat into October. Rangers narrated two tours a day on the river between Ottawa and Utica on the 10, 17, 19, and 24 of October, totaling 8 tours. These trips involved locking through at Starved Rock Lock and Dam and included important water safety information such as how to safely lock through. Kayakers were observed at the Kayak Starved Rock business, and rangers covered the importance of lifejackets and safety gear while in paddle craft and other boats along the river.



On October 20th His Cross Lutheran School sent 35 People (25 students and 10 adults) to the Illinois Waterway Visitor Center. Students received a lesson on the Illinois Waterway and learned about how a Lock and Dam functions. Students received Water Safety materials including Safe Passages books, lifejacket stickers, and temporary tattoos. Since it was a 4th grade class, 25 EKO passes were issued as well.

On November 8th Ranger Sarah Fisher attended the I&M Canal Corridor Conference at the Four Rivers Environmental Education Center in Channahon. The center is on the bank of the Des Plaines River just before the confluence with the Illinois, and barges were observed traveling up and downstream. Ranger Sarah had the opportunity to talk about boating safety right of ways between different vessels on the water.

On November 21st Ranger Sarah Fisher presented at the I&M Canal Heritage Corridor Board Meeting. Ranger Sarah discussed different offerings at the Illinois Waterway Visitor Center including IDNR Safe Boating classes and other Water Safety initiatives such as patrolling the river in the summers, and doing courtesy safety checks at local boat ramps and marinas. Board members were in attendance from communities as far as Lemont and Joliet, spanning a broad swath of the Illinois Waterway Project area.



# ROCK ISLAND DISTRICT (MVR)

## Mississippi River Project

Park Rangers participated at the Tri-County Conservation Day at Palisades Park in Savanna, IL on September 28. 500 area students visit different education stations throughout the day in the park. The Corps had a station on Navigating the Mississippi River and one on water safety. The water safety area had kid's participate in a relay race where they had to try on life jackets and throw a rescue device before racing back in line.

Bobber and Mississippi River Visitor Center volunteer Gene Sperry handed out candy and other water safety giveaways during the "Boo on the Rock" Trunk or Treat event on the Rock Island Arsenal. This popular event is open to Arsenal families as well as members of the public and consists of both indoor and outdoor activities. An estimated 1,400 people attended the event on October 18.



Bobber attended a Lighting of the Trees celebration at Heritage Hall on the Rock Island Arsenal on December 1. Bobber dressed in his best ugly sweater and greeted kids and families as they waited to meet Santa and Mrs. Claus and enjoy other holiday activities. Approximately 350 people attended the event.





# ROCK ISLAND DISTRICT (MVR)

## Lake Red Rock Project

Lake Red Rock purchased ad space in the Pella Travel Guide and the Marion County Travel Guide for the 2024 season to share a water safety message with potential lake visitors.



To incorporate a water safety message during the holiday season, interpretive staff set up a tree in the visitor center decorated with key chains, decoupage ornaments with water safety messages, pens, and other related items.



Lake Red Rock continued its “Water Safety Wednesday” Facebook posts after the recreation season. Most of the content was provided via the Please Wear It Facebook page which offers many messages pertinent to all seasons of the year.



While many fair-weather boaters finish their season around Labor Day, there are still many fishermen that use the lake during the fall months. To ensure off-season boaters still have access to life jackets, the PFDs at Corps managed boat ramp loaner stations remained available until the courtesy docks were removed for the season. A local volunteer that assisted with the loaner stations’ weekly inventory and inspection during the summer continued to check them throughout the cooler months until her volunteer service ended for the year. Many off-season boaters are men that fit the demographic age of the most common drowning victims (men aged 18-54, in smaller watercraft, boating alone).