

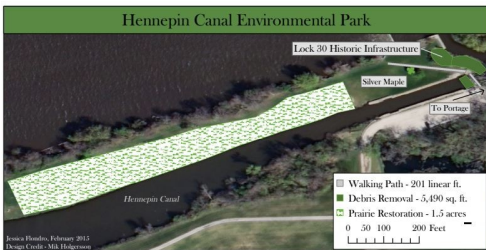


# Wanderings

## Friends of the Hennepin

Volume 18, Summer

### News from Superintendent Hahne



⇒ Good news! Near Lock 6, where Bureau creek is attempting to hijack the waters of the Hennepin. Sheet pilings are being installed later this week (June 10th). This will hold the creek in its course until IDNR can permanently fix this invasive creek.

⇒ The Big Island supporters near Milan volunteered to remove fencing at Sheppie Island. Illinois DNR picked up the fencing and poles. Now the Conservation Club will mow this section along the canal.  
 ⇒ Also in Milan along the Steel dam, River Action is working on a portage. Vlidmark cleared trees from

the Tanier Gate and the Rock River Trail. People have planted Prairie grasses in the portage area.

⇒ New signage has been installed along I-80 pointing out the exit for Lock 29 near Milan.  
 ⇒ Bob Smith, the Regional Engineer for the IDNR is working on a plan for the breach in the Green River bottom.



### Inside this issue:

<i>Fix ups on the Hennepin</i>	1
<i>Dates to Remember</i>	1
<i>What's the Hennepin 100?</i>	2
<i>Sign Cleaning!</i>	2
<i>Acrylic Stands donated by new Board member!</i>	2
<i>Just Add Water...</i>	3
<i>Membership Info and trivia answer!</i>	4

### Dates to Remember...

The next meeting of the Friends of the Hennepin Board will be **August 4th at 6:30 pm**. We will meet near Sheffield at the State Park Headquarters. While you have your calendar app open, why not jot down the Annual Picnic date. It will be **October 4th** begin-

ning at **2 pm**. Bring a dish to pass, and enjoy



the delicious fish Friends members Ed and Ray have slaved all summer to catch. They are excellent chefs as they fry up a variety of Hennepin Haut Cuisine!

Who hiked the most miles? What's going on in the canal? Don't miss

### Special points of interest:

- Next Hennepin Hike will be July 19, 2015 Meet at Il Rt. 92 & Canal. 3.8 miles Red Tail Hawk Hike. Bridge 59 to Bridge 56 will be hiked. Join us!
- Hennepin Trivia...In what year did the Hennepin canal begin to be built? (Answer on the back page.)

## Hennepin 100—coming this fall to a canal near you!



who's sleepy paths will thunder with the sound of (hopefully) 350 runners. They will

The Mud Runners have selected the Hennepin canal as the site for the third and northernmost race in their new Illinois triathlon, and the Friends of the Hennepin are going to help. This is very exciting news for the canal,

run all night! This elite corps of long distance runners have support teams that enable them to keep going and going and going. They look after each other, travelling the US looking for interesting long trails to trod upon,

bringing dollars to the local economy and a trail improvement group with them. We hope this inaugural race returns, growing in fame and numbers. Our sleepy little canal can use the business, the attention, the publicity, and the excitement that this event will infuse in the region. Mark your calendars for the weekend of September 11th and 12th.

Register here: <https://ultrasignup.com/register.aspx?did=29711>

## New task force formed, sign cleaning!

Consisting of members of the Hennepin Hikers, several members have asked how else they might help. Besides picking up garbage as we hike and boat the canal, we wanted to do more. So Phil St. John, Rene Robinson, Janice Dzierzynski, and Wayne Leader have formed a sign cleaning task force. As we arrive at or depart from any lock with signage, we break out the Comet, the Spray Fantastic, the scrub brushes and the paper

towels and remove months of dirt, grime, algae, and in some cases, even lichens growing on the IDNR signs that explain the engineering and history of the canal.

“You can really see where we’ve been!” noted one team member. “We feel like we’re helping with the education of the visitors to the canal. The signs are here, it would be a shame not to be able to read

them,” notes another.

If the signs are too far gone, they report this to the IDNR for replacement.



## Acrylic stands really spruce up our new tri-fold flyers

New Board Member, Phil St. John took a “stand” and devised a clear, plastic acrylic container that sits on countertops and looks so professional! It will serve as a display setting for our new tri-fold brochures about the Hennepin. All of our advertisers are mentioned; places to stay, eat, rent boats, buy bait, and camp are outlined. A very detailed map is contained on the in-

side. He has handed them out to several board members to disseminate to businesses and other places that are willing to promote our canal. If you would like a few, please contact Superintendent Hahne at the State Park Headquarters. He will be happy to get some to you. They also note who to contact to refill them when they be-

come empty. Good Job Phil! Thanks for the donation!



## Just Add Water...

We all like recipes that say “just add water” it’s easy, it’s convenient. We take for granted that water is the source of life on this planet. When the engineers diverted a smidgen of the Rock River and allowed it to fill the Hennepin, they enabled the birth of an entire ecosystem! Where there is water, there is life and lots of it! It attracts life like a Siren calls a Sailor.



The water in the canal creates plant hierarchies that change as you go from totally submerged duck weed up through the water lilies, through the rushes and grasses, up to prairie wildflowers, and into the dark, dense woodlands. People are drawn to water for a myriad of reasons. Fishing, canoeing, kayaking, swimming, contemplating, daydreaming, from physical to psychological, water is healing us all the time.

The canal allows and invites different modes of transport – boats, Stand-Up Paddle Boarding (SUP), kayaks, canoes in summer, Ice skates, cross country skis, snowmobiles in winter.

Sound over water is am-

plified – we are hushed when we are near it. We speak quietly, in whispers, like in church.

The waters of the Hennepin are Micro-Climate changers. On days when the prairies are blistering hot and the corn rustles its neighboring stalk for elbow space, the canal offers a cooler, shadier respite. Water falling creates negative ions that actually improve our moods. The reason Niagara Falls is the honeymoon capitol of the world is attributed to the “Ion Effect”, sitting next to a dam-now-converted-to-waterfall creates the same ions that just make you feel elated! Try it sometime when you are blue.

Reflective surface allow you to daydream, loose your thoughts in the ripples, and mentally rest from our stressful lives. The sound of the water crashing over a dam soothes us with its melodious timbre.

When we think of forgiveness, we use water. People drive hundreds of miles to “take the waters” at far flung spas. We can ask how it’s going with my favorite local artist, Lojo Russo’s, song title “How blows the wind cross the water?”

We have a zillion water analogies and sayings.

“Still water’s run deep.”

“In over your head.”

“Like a duck out of water.”

“Like a fish out of water.”

On a recent flight home from Chicago, I witnessed the entire feeder spread out at my feet running south. I could see it all the way down to the conjunction of feeder, west, and east sections. It looked like a silver thread teeming and greening with life across the dead brown fields in March. The Hennepin waters draw me, my camera, and my friends back to its sylvan sliver of goodness slicing across our prairie state. Walk it with us this summer, ask a friend on a picnic, keep the canal alive! Just by using it, **you** are a powerful statistic! Let’s keep “just adding water.”



Written by René Robinson, a naturalist, writer, and explorer, board member of the ‘Friends of the Hennepin’. Look for her book soon. Read her blog now!

<http://reroqc.tumblr.com>



## Friends of the Hennepin

Become a member today!

Join online <http://www.friends-hennepin-canal.org/> OR

Mail in Membership Application

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Business, Home, Cell (circle one)

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Please circle the appropriate membership category:

\$20.00 Individual

\$30.00 Family

\$50.00 Not-For-Profit

\$50.00 Municipality

\$100.00 Business/Corporation

### Mission

To maintain and develop recreational and educational opportunities and assist in the preservation of the historical features of the Hennepin Canal Parkway State Park.

Mail the completed application and check to:

Friends of the Hennepin Canal

C/O Ed Herrman, Treasure

823 W Dakota St.

Answer to Trivia: Construction finally got underway in 1892. First Boat went through in 1907.