



NEWS RELEASE

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Open House Onboard the Dredge Potter in Alton, Ill.



ALTON, IL – The Meeting of the Rivers Foundation and the St. Louis District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, will host the first ever Dredge Potter Open House, a special opportunity to tour a working Mississippi River dustpan dredge from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the National Great Rivers Museum. The event is scheduled for Saturday, June 26 and Sunday, June 27. The purpose of the event is to enlighten visitors to the role the Dredge Potter and its 50 member crew has during channel maintenance on the Mississippi River.

The Dredge Potter is a working dredge that uses a dustpan head to excavate sandy material from the river bottom. Built in 1932, the Potter is the oldest active boat in the Army inventory. Measuring 240 feet long, and displacing 1514 light tons, the dredge has 3 decks and tours will pass through the cookhouse, pump and generator room and pilot house. Originally, powered by steam, the dredge was modernized in 2001 and now has an all new stern along with a diesel electric power plant.

Vessel tours are free and open to the public. This is a first come, first serve event. Visitors must be able to climb stairs to board the vessel. The event will be cancelled if raining. Tours of the Melvin Price Locks and Dam will also be available during the open house. The National Great Rivers Museum is located adjacent to the Melvin Price Locks & Dam, off River Heritage Parkway (IL-143) two miles south of the Clark Bridge near Alton, IL. For more information, please call 618-462-6979.

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