



NEWS RELEASE

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Eagle Watching Field Trip Opportunities

Alton, IL. –The Meeting of the Rivers Foundation is pleased to announce “Masters of the Sky: School Days” at the National Great Rivers Museum. These workshops are open to 4th - 6th grade classes from throughout the region on February 17 & 18, 2011. Students will have the opportunity to watch a Masters of the Sky birds of prey show and participate in several nature-related activities, including eagle watching from the top of Melvin Price Locks & Dam. To register, teachers must call the National Great Rivers Museum at 618-462-6979 by January 31.

This program is made possible by the Meeting of the Rivers Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to the education and preservation of rivers. Participation in the “Masters of the Sky: School Days” program is limited, so teachers are encouraged to register as soon as possible. Much of the programming will be outdoors, so it is important to dress for the weather! Remember, temperatures and wind-chills are usually lower near the river.

Bald eagles use the Riverlands and Melvin Price Locks and Dam area as a migration thoroughfare this time of year. The educational shows proudly complement the winter migration by bringing live bald eagles, owls, falcons, vultures and hawks to the National Great Rivers Museum where everyone can get an up-close view. These rehabilitated birds serve as ambassadors for their species. Naturalists focus their presentations on teaching the importance of raptors in the food chain, challenges they face as they travel from their northern nesting grounds to find a food source along the Mississippi River, and interesting traits of the species. One of the highlights of the show is experiencing flyovers from specially trained birds that skim just above the audience.

The National Great Rivers Museum is located off of River Heritage Parkway (IL Hwy 143) at #2 Lock & Dam Way, East Alton, IL 62024, adjacent to Melvin Price Locks & Dam. It is open from 9:00 to 5:00 seven days a week, with no charge for admission or lock and dam tours. For more information, call 618.462.6979 or toll free 877.462.6979.

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