

News Release

DeSoto & Boyer Chute National Wildlife Refuges Visitor Services

1434 316th Lane, Missouri Valley, IA 51555
712/388-4800 Fax: 712/388-4800 <http://fws.gov/refuge/desoto>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact:

Ken Block, 712.388.4803, Kenneth_block@fws.gov

Steamboat Bertrand Day on March 29 at DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge

Missouri Valley, Iowa – Head out to DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge and attend Steamboat Bertrand Day on Saturday, March 29. April 1 marks the 149th anniversary of the sinking of the steamboat. Steamboat Bertrand Day will commemorate the history, the recovery and preservation of the steamboat's cargo and the changes that transportation and settlement brought to the Missouri River valley and its native wildlife.

A variety of fun, family friendly educational activities will take place throughout the day. At 10:00, 12:00 and 2:00, attend a "Curator Chat". Chat with a museum curator and learn the inside story of the Steamboat Bertrand, her passengers and the artifacts left behind. Meet at the DeSoto Visitor Center.

At 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m., join a ranger at the Missouri River Overlook to learn about how exploration, settlement and nation-building heralded dramatic changes to the natural environment of the Missouri River valley. These changes had substantial impacts on the wildlife and habitats in the Missouri River floodplain. Hear about how the refuge is working to conserve, protect and enhance a diversity of habitats on the refuge for the benefit of wildlife.

From 10:00 a.m to 3:00 p.m., enjoy Steamboat Bertrand button making, steamboat films on the hour and watch a PowerPoint presentation about the evacuation of the Steamboat Bertrand Museum during the flood of 2011. These activities take place at the visitor center.

An entrance permit is required for all vehicles on days other than fee free days. The regular daily entrance fee for private vehicles is \$3.00. Permits may be obtained at the pay stations near the entrances or at the Visitor Center. The charge for commercial vans and buses is \$20, or \$30 if 21 or more people are aboard. Annual permits, including the \$15 DeSoto Refuge Pass, can be obtained at the visitor center.

(more)

DeSoto & Boyer Chute National Wildlife Refuges are located north of Omaha, Nebraska along on U.S. Highway 30 between Missouri Valley, Iowa and along U.S. Highway 75 near Ft. Calhoun, Nebraska. For more information contact 712/388-4800 or email the refuge at desoto@fws.gov. Check our websites, www.fws.gov/midwest/desoto/ or www.fws.gov/midwest/boyerchute/, for refuge updates. Like us on Facebook - search for DeSoto and Boyer Chute National Wildlife Refuges.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit www.fws.gov.

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