awareness of boaters and anglers to the real threat of invasive species, particularly the Asian carp, in the Missouri River," said Paul Lepisto of Pierre, regional conservation coordinator with the Izaak Walton League of America

"Many (Asian carp) have gotten up to Gavins Point Dam and into the tributaries, but not into Lewis and Clark Lake. We also don't have zebra mussels or Quagga mussels in Lewis and Clark

In 2013, the education festival is scheduled for May 4 at Riverside Park in Yankton. The clean-up follows on May 5, running downstream for several miles from Gavins Point Dam near Yankton.

Following its new format, the clean boat event will run multiple weekends along local boat ramps from May 11 through June 1, with the possible exception of Memorial Day weekend.

EDUCATION FESTIVAL

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confirmations from 16 of the 19 needed

"We are hoping to finalize our list at the end of the year," she said. The following presenters and topics

were confirmed as of Monday:

• Karla Zeutenhorst with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Sam Schelhaas with South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GF&P) on playing in the water:

• Lisa Yager with the NPS and Carol Smith with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) on cottonwoods;

• Missouri River Institute (MRI) and NPS, demonstrating a stream table; • MRI, wetland ecology; • Yankton Sioux Tribe, the river's sig-

nificance from a Native American per-

• Corps of Engineers, terns and plovers;

• Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (NGPC), pallid sturgeon;

• NGPC and USFWS, fish of the Missouri River:

• GF&P, invasive species; • Smith with the NPS, the Missouri

National Recreational River; • Jarrett Bies, South Dakota Canoe and Kayak Association, the Missouri River water trail;

• Sarah Chadima, South Dakota Geo-

logical Survey, Missouri River geology.

"We are trying to cover all the different aspects of the learning experience to interest every student," Robb said. "We are covering the science, history, cultural and biological. We are asking all of the presenters to focus more on the hands-on experience."

The committee believes the 2013 festival will require 40-50 volunteers. The committee is also seeking more donations to cover expenses.

'We have schools that come back every year," Robb said. "And we have presenters who say, 'I want to be here, because I know it's going to be a very

mrobb@cityofyankton.org.

good experience for the students." For more information, contact Robb at (605) 668-5211 or by email at

RIVER CLEAN-UP

Past river clean-ups have drawn about 150 volunteers, and this year's event will seek to broaden its base, said Ranger Smith.

We will try to reach out to the larger community," he said. "We will ask organizations, bigger businesses and the community and youth groups to take the time to volunteer."

The event has grown dramatically,

from one or two boats to the current eight boats that drop off volunteers along the river and haul back debris, Smith

"Since 2004, the first volunteer event, it has really taken off," he said. "We always get a lot of good feedback, and some people come back year after year."

The three Missouri River events tie together well, Smith said.

"We teach young people about the natural resources and the cultures at the ed festival," he said. "Then, at the river clean-up and clean boat event, we talk to the public about how we preserve and protect the river."

This year's anniversary clean-up may be the best yet, Smith said.

'People see what can be accomplished," he said. "They gain an appreciation for the river, and they feel like they have ownership of it."

For more information, contact Smith at (605) 665-0209 or by email at dugan_smith@nps.gov.

CLEAN BOAT EVENT

The more flexible schedule for the Clean Boat Event has allowed teams to reach more people, Lepisto said.

"Last year, we stayed mobile and bounced around from boat ramp to boat ramp. We talked to people or left information on their vehicles," he said.

'If you go with a rotating schedule, we end up talking with more boaters and anglers, and weather isn't a factor if you have one bad day."

Lepisto said the visits — which emphasize the need to "clean, drain and dry" boats and equipment — are voluntary for the boaters and anglers. In addition, the talks remain strictly informational with no law enforcement

aspect to it. The vigilance remains important, because the Asian Carp entered the James River all the way to North Dakota because of the 2011 flood, Lepisto said.

Next spring's effort will contain updated information from throughout the Missouri River basin, he added.

The vast majority of people on the water above and below Gavins Point Dam may think that invasive species are nothing to worry about, that it isn't here yet," he said. "But if we show them pictures or tell them that Asian Carp literally lies in the shadow of the dam, they'll know this is something to take seriously. Just one boat can spread an invasive species."

Lepisto can be contacted at (605) 220-1219 or by email at plepisto@iwla.org.

You can follow Randy Dockendorf on Twitter at twitter.com/RDockendorf



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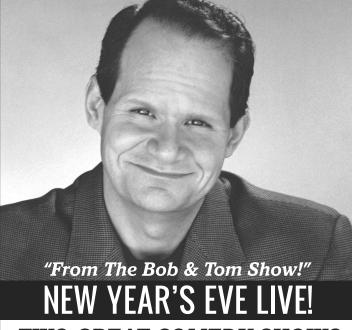
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