



## Field Trips & Preconference Experiences March 26th

### Project WET Educator Training (12:30 - 4:30 pm) \$15

Join us along the Mississippi River at the [NGRREC Jerry F. Costello Confluence Field Station](#) for a hands-on **Project WET Foundations of Water Education** teacher training. This interactive workshop is facilitated by the Illinois Project WET State Coordinator and equips educators with research-based, classroom-ready activities that build water literacy through inquiry, systems thinking, and place-based learning.

Participants will engage in several core Project WET activities aligned to Next Generation Science Standards and designed for upper elementary through high school classrooms. The training emphasizes practical implementation, outdoor learning connections, and adaptable lessons focused on watersheds, water resources, and human–environment interactions.

Educators who complete the workshop will receive an official **Project WET Foundations of Water Education** guide, hands-on materials for at least one activity, and a **certificate of completion**. Attendees are also eligible to receive 4 Illinois CPDUs upon completion of this workshop.

### Birds and Brews (1-4 pm) \$15

Are you a bird enthusiast with a thirst for fermented delights? This adventure is your perfect match! Gather with fellow feather fans for a DIY lunch at [Good News Brewing](#) in Alton, Illinois—think scrumptious pizza and maybe a frothy brew. Once fueled, flap your way over the river to the [Audubon Center at Riverlands](#). This birdie paradise was born when the Army Corps turned soggy land from the 1993 flood into a sanctuary for resident and migratory avians. Grab those binoculars, hit the trails, and spot the winged wonders during migration season!

**River Travel: Past vs. Present (1-4 pm) \$15**

Embark on your river adventure where the Corps of Discovery first set sail—[Camp River Dubois](#)! This historic hotspot is where Clark readied the crew for their epic 2.5-year westward escapade. Meet a savvy staffer at the Lewis and Clark State Historic Site, dive into expedition tales, and check out how they crammed the keelboat with all their gear. Then, cruise over to the [Melvin Price Lock and Dam](#) to see how modern boats navigate the river's twists and turns today!

**Big Medicine: York Outdoors (5-7:30 pm) Free, dinner on your own**

Make your way to [Old Bakery Beer Company](#) for dinner (starting around 5pm) and then a showing of [Big Medicine: York Outdoors](#), a documentary honoring the legacy of [York \(the enslaved body servant to William Clark\)](#), and finding joy in America's open spaces. *This* 30-minute documentary produced by Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail in partnership with NEW Multimedia follows eight adventurers on a four day river expedition along the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument in Montana, a rugged and beautiful landscape traversed by the historic Lewis and Clark Expedition of 1803-1806. While following in the footsteps of the Corps of Discovery, the film highlights the significant contributions of York making connections between his legacy and the value of recreation access today.

Following the documentary the floor will be open for discussion around some of the main themes of the film.