

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Subject: Mark your calendars! “Celebrate the Rivers!” event on July 22

Date: June 28, 2011

Mark your calendars to be part of the “Celebrate the Rivers!” event at Mercord Mill Park in Prescott on Friday, July 22 from 3- 9:30 pm. This special event features music, food, an international river flag exchange ([www.kinshipofrivers.org](http://www.kinshipofrivers.org)) between the Mississippi and Yangtze rivers, the grand finale of the St. Croix Paddle, and more. Be part of a Chinese tea ceremony, participate in a Native American blessing of the River flags by Wisconsin’s poet laureate Denise Sweets, enjoy the program celebrating the completion of the 18 day Paddle, listen to a strolling barbershop quartet, tap your toes to lively Mississippi river music, meet dignitaries and folks from across the country, talk to paddlers who have just completed a 117 mile trip down the St. Croix, stay and watch the evening motor boat flotilla, enjoy food and much more. Free shuttle bus service will be provided between Mercord Mill Park and the Prescott High School between 2:30 -9:30 p.m.

For a complete program, go to the City of Prescott’s home page and click on the link to “Celebrate the Rivers!”



Caption: Mercord Mill Park, where the St. Croix and Mississippi Rivers meet, is the site of the July 22 *Celebrate the Rivers!* event.

# Celebrate the Rivers!

**Friday, July 22, 2011**

**3 – 8:30 p.m.**

**A grand celebration of the St. Croix and Mississippi  
Rivers!**

**Mercord Mill Park, Prescott, WI**

**Music, food, and special programs**

**Kick off the River Flag Exchange between the  
Mississippi and Yangtze Rivers 3:30-4:30**

Chinese Music and Tea Ceremony

Native American Blessing

River Flag Raising

**Be Moved by the River Paddle Finale! 4:30-5:30**

National Park Service

Prescott Mayor

We-No-Nah Canoe Raffle

**5:30-8:30**

**Music:** River music, barbershop quartet, Dixieland bass and banjo

**Food booths** with burgers, brats and “walking tacos” and beverages

Free Coupons to local restaurants and bars

## **Celebrate the Rivers! July 22, 2011 Program**

### **3:00 – 3:30-pm The NPS Exchange and Landing**

3:00-3:15 (approx) Exchange of Paddles/handshake by NPS (MNRRA/ SACN)

### **3:30-4:30 Kinship of Rivers program Mercord Mill Park**

Windsongs of the Yangtze and Mississippi

Wang Ping introduces Kinship of Rivers Project and program

WI poet laureate Denise Sweets – Native American blessing

*We-no-nah canoe raffle drawing (approx 4 pm)*

10,000 Waves ensemble

Accept SCRA river flag for Kinship project from Dan McGuiness

The tea ceremony, river flag making, dumpling making will take place during the entire 3-8 p.m.  
program

### **4:30 pm – 5:30 pm SCRA Program**

Dan McGuiness, Chair, 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Paddle Steering Committee MC

Welcome and Key to the City – Mike Hunter, Mayor, City of Prescott, WI

Peter Gove, Chair of the Board, SCRA

Chris Stein, Superintendent, St. Croix National Scenic Riverway

Paul Labovitz, Superintendent, Mississippi National River and Recreation Area

Laurie Allmann- St. Croix Suite (poem and music)

Deb Ryun, Executive Director, SCRA – A Look to the Future

### **5:30- 8- Food and Entertainment**

**Food-** Prescott Chamber booth: brats, hot dogs, “walking tacos”, pop and water. Also Chinese tea and Chinese dumplings. Information given out about local restaurants.

#### **Music:**

5:30-6 SummerTime Barbershop Quartet,

6-7: Banjo Deb and Tom (River Boat Music);

7- 8: Junction Mill (Americana Music)

### **8:30 pm- Motor Boat Flotilla**

**Shuttlebus service from Prescott High School to Mercord Mill Park: 2:30- 9:30 pm.**