

The Marketplace Merchant

SEPTEMBER 2009 ISSUE



Join Alton Marketplace & the Sierra Club for the Mississippi Earthtones Festival on Sat 9/19!

www.RiverfrontAmphitheater.com/EARTHTONES

The 3rd Annual Mississippi Earthtones Festival will be held from 11am-7pm on Sat, Sept 19th at Riverfront Amphitheater. Festival-goers at this free & family-friendly event will find countless ways to celebrate the Mississippi River through art, music, and conservation.

Come learn more about our area's conservation-based programs, and local businesses that are working to help us all "green" our lives. Agencies such as the Sierra Club, National Great Rivers Research and Education Center, and the McCully Heritage Project will teach consumers how to incorporate more sustainable practices into their daily lives.

Educational exhibits will be presented by The Nature Institute, American Water, & Alton's Cool Cities Committee.

Wind power credits will be purchased to offset the energy used at this sustainable event, and festival-goers will have many

chances to have other positive effects on the environment throughout the day. The MEF committee is organizing a 2-hour river clean up that will depart from Piasa Harbor at 9am to remove litter from the riverbanks and islands (please call 462-6802

such as nature-related arts & crafts projects, and solar-power experiments. Two organized bike rides along the levee and country roads will depart from the festival grounds at 9am & 11am (helmets required). Pre-order a rain barrel & pick it up at

MEF Musical Guests:

Alton River Ramblers (4pm-7pm) a traditional bluegrass band featuring some of the area's favorite pickers in a brand new incarnation: Jason Gordon - guitar & vocals, Kris Shewmake - banjo, Matt McGibany - fiddle & Will Miskall - stand-up bass & vocals

Jake's Leg (1pm - 4pm) a jam band based out of St. Louis that has been interpreting the music of the Grateful Dead for over 30 years

Irony Rains (11am-1pm) a wonderful alternative pop band featuring Josh Davis on guitar /vocals & Alicia Clayton on violin

to RSVP). Also, the public can bring plastic gardening pots and old cell phones to the festival to be recycled. There will be a car seat safety check from 11am-1pm courtesy of the Alton Fire Department. Many fun outdoor activities are planned for families,

the festival (reserve yours by calling Prairie Rain Harvester at: 217-621-1273) Various nature crafters and artists will be on hand—vote for your favorite river-related painting and photograph! Kids 6th-12th grade can enter their design for a chance at having their artwork published in a

coloring book that will be given away at the festival - but hurry, the deadline is Sept 4th! (For more info on entering the art contests, please call 463-1016). Vendors will be serving lunch & dinner, and great music will fill the air throughout the day!

Lace up your running shoes!

Here's a list of upcoming fitness events:

Challenge of the Bluffs Run - 10/4

5-mile run & 2-mile walk start at 8:00am — please note new earlier start time!

Entry fee: \$20 before 9/29

Download registration form & pay online at:

www.AltonMarketplace.com

Pride Inc. Cyclocross & 5K Run Series

Rock Springs Park - 9/12

Glazebrook Park - 10/10

La Vista Park - 10/24

Gordon Moore Park - 11/7

Registration opens at 10:30am

Entry fees: Runners \$15, Beginner Riders \$20, Riders \$25

Contact: Wild Trak Bikes at 462.2574 or

www.wildtrakbikesracing.com

Miles for Mesothelioma 5K Run/Walk - 9/26

Presented by the Simmons law firm and coordinated by the Metro Tri Club.

The race starts at 9am at the Simmons firm's new Alton location: 4th & Alton Streets
Entry fee: \$15 before 9/16

...and the Simmons Firm will match your donation!

Learn more & register at:
www.milesformeso.org

Director's Note ~

On behalf of Ralph Butler Entertainment, I would like to invite you to the **Labor of Love Music Festival** at Riverfront Amphitheater on Sun, September 6th from 5:30-9:30pm. You'll enjoy great music by the Ralph Butler Band, More Pleasure Band, Hudson & the Hoodoo Cats, Western Satellites, Rhythm Rockers, Mondin Band, Clarence, Amy Conrady, Gigi Darr, The Usual Suspects, and more! The general admission tickets are \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door. The venue has tiered lawn seating, so bring a chair or blanket but please leave your large coolers & outside alcohol at home. Food & beverage will be available. A portion of the proceeds will benefit KidSmart, and you can purchase your tickets at: www.RiverfrontAmphitheater.com. See you at the show!



~ Sara



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A community based,
not-for-profit, volunteer
organization dedicated to
securing the economic
vitality and aesthetic
quality of the district.



Madison County Hazardous Waste Collection

Saturday, Sept 26th

8:00am - 3:00pm

*Madison County Wood
River Facility—*

*101 E. Edwardsville Rd,
Wood River*

Properly dispose of your:

- ◆ CFL Bulbs
- ◆ Pesticides
- ◆ Spray Paint
- ◆ Pool Chemicals
- ◆ Motor Oil & Antifreeze
- ◆ Household batteries

For more info: 296-6647

or: www.madison

countycycles.com

Alton Marketplace Partners—News, Sales & Events!

Oz Artisan Bakery—

Oz has special brown bag lunch specials for your business or office lunch. \$8.00 for a sandwich, main dish salad, bowl of soup and side with cookie. Order for 5 or more and get a ½ gallon of their fresh made lemonade or ice tea for free! Deliveries available- call by 3pm the day before delivery.

Lighthouse Media Center—

is a great place to hold holiday parties and award ceremonies for small businesses. Dates are booking up quickly but they have availability Oct- Dec. Lighthouse Media Center is offering partners of Alton Marketplace a discounted rate of \$15 per hour to use the facility. If desired, you can cater your own food and drinks. There is a stage area for presentations or bands, and there is a sound system available for a small additional cost. Up to 75 people can be accommo-

dated. Call 593-8729 to schedule a visit or to book your party. Located at 115 Market Street in Alton.

Riverbender.com—

continues to expand; now offering a new product in print! RIVERBENDER EVERYWHERE is clearly the vision for owner John Hentrich who recently purchased a small placemat advertising business. "The placemat business is a great addition to our marketing efforts and we think it is a great fit for our customers as well." says John. Riverbender.com has over 200 advertisers, including more than 30 area restaurants, currently taking advantage of the many affordable internet marketing options they provide. In addition to internet exposure, Riverbender.com can now offer business card size print ads for as little as \$40 a month; that's less than 2 cents per ad! To see a complete price list and actual placemats visit:www.Riverbender.com/placemats or call 465-9850 today to learn more about

how Riverbender.com can help you market your business for less!

Simply Foo Foo—

Cordially invites you to a River Bend Business Appreciation Night & open house at their new premiere Broadway location on Wednesday, Sept 23rd from 5pm- 8pm. Each guest will receive 10% off their total purchase, along with a FREE gift, to show their appreciation for area businesses. Door Prize Drawings - Chair Massages & Special Spa Service offers exclusively for you! Stop by and enjoy hors d'oeuvres & wine, and meet the Simply Foo Foo staff. Book your free Employee Appreciation Event! Great for enjoying the holidays and showing your employees how much they are appreciated. 301 East Broadway, Alton, IL (former A&A Beads location) PLEASE RSVP at (618)465-6030 or simplyfoofoo store@hotmail.com or go to: www.simplyfoofoo.com

Greg Mortenson, Best-Selling Author & Nobel Peace Prize Nominee to Speak at Alton's Riverfront Amphitheater

On October 9, Greg Mortenson, author of the *New York Times* Bestseller *Three Cups of Tea*, will speak about the work of his Central Asia Institute: building schools in Afghanistan. Mortenson's vision of "making peace, one school at a time" has inspired millions. He is currently in Afghanistan nurturing the relationships that support his projects, which have benefited thousands ~ particularly school-aged girls ~ in Central Asia (Pakistan and Afghanistan).

At 12:45, Mr. Mortenson will address area 4th-graders, and at 2pm he will address the general public. A book signing will follow the talk until 3:30. The City of Alton in conjunction with United Way will also kick-off a volunteerism program at this event, which is free and open to the public. Funding for this appearance comes from Principia College.