

The Great Mississippi River

By Kathy Guzzo

The Great Mississippi River has always been a resource for exploring, for food, for transporting people and goods as well as for activities of leisure. A waterway where people can relax in its gentle flow, breathe in the tranquility, absorbing its life-giving quality.

Yet, this river is so much more. Usually flowing gently, other times moving with fierce swiftness grabbing anything loose along its shore carrying it to a new destination. Its banks lush with foliage and trees, roots deep in the soil, dead and alive, create safe refuge for wildlife from deer to muskrats all relying on the elements of the river to sustain them.

And looking closely a reflection of a majestic bald eagle is seen, circling high overhead, showing in the ripples of the water as it soars, searches and dives into the murkiness of the river to catch its prey, creating oneness with the sky and river.

Seasons come and go, the colors of its banks change, but the river is a constant. A staple, giving life to a variety of species below the surface, waterfowl paddling on top, wildlife on the banks, and the birds soaring above. In a world that's ever changing, it's calming to know the Mississippi, in all its greatness will be a constant, even as it continuously moves.