



# UMRA

## UPPER MONONGAHELA RIVER ASSN.

[www.uppermon.org](http://www.uppermon.org)



Monongahela River at Morgantown, W.Va., 8-29-08. The Waterfront Place Hotel, site of the Mon River Summit, casts a stately reflection. (David Weaver photo)



Wallace Venable, UMRA's Chief Technical Officer, towing the river fountain (below) to BoParc's McQuain Park. (Don Strimbeck photos)



*As public awareness and use of the river grow, through the efforts of UMRA and the Mon River Recreation & Commerce Committee of the Morgantown Area Chamber of Commerce, the Summit provides a forum for discussing recreation and commerce on the "Mon."*

**Mon River Summit IV**  
**April 13, 2009**  
 Open to the Public  
[MonRiverSummit.org](http://MonRiverSummit.org)



Touring the Mon: "River of Falling Banks," (L-R) David Wellman, WV DNR, and Chad Pierskalla, WVU Professor. (David Weaver photos)

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**Upper Monongahela River Association**  
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*We're working to improve our river corridor.*



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**The 2008 Summit, "Back to the Future": Monongahela River Summit III** was held April 7 at the Waterfront Place Hotel in Morgantown's Wharf District. Keynote speaker was Patrick Donovan (right), Executive Director of the West Virginia Public Port Authority.

*(Proceedings are posted at MonRiverSummit.org).*

Col. Mike Crall (lower right), District Engineer of the Pittsburgh District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, gave an overview on key projects and current status of facilities. The Pittsburgh District comprises 26,000 square miles in five states (NY, WV, PA, OH, and MD) and oversees 23 navigation locks and dams on ten river systems. Its 628 employees are responsible for operation and



Corps of Engineers' M/V Evanick pushing work barges near Granville. *(Don Strimbeck photo)*

maintenancance of 16 multi-purpose reservoirs and 40 local flood management projects The Corps' primary responsibilities are navigation, flood damage reduction, recreation and the environment. Also, hydropower, regulatory functions, water supply and emergency management. The Summit focused on the river's vital role in economic development through recreation and commerce.



**The 2009 Monongahela River Summit IV is April 13 at Waterfront Place Hotel in Morgantown. It is open to the public. Details are at the website, MonRiverSummit.org.**

**The purpose of UMRA is to promote the general development of the Upper Monongahela Watershed Region in WV and PA.**

Fact: The Monongahela River in WWII carried more annual tonnage than did the Rhine in Europe (from Arthur Parker's *The Monongahela: River of Dreams, River of Sweat*, 1999) (at Amazon .com).

In 1977 was published *The Headwaters District, a History of the Pittsburgh District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*, which is available from UMRA. This 380-page book is a fascinating historic account that goes back to the very beginning of this nation. *(Contact dcsinks@comcast.net)*

Did you notice? The Monongahela River flows north, so the Upper Monongahela is the southern-most part of the river.

**MonRiverSummit.org**  
**www.uppermon.org**

**Go to UpperMon.org for information about Marcellus drilling.**



Condensers for Longview powerplant delivered by barge to new WV DNR recreational boat launch ramp at Monongalia County Industrial Park. January 2009.

*(Photo courtesy of Frank Jernejcic, WV DNR)*



Aboard the *Enchantress* *(Judy Reckart photo)*



The 52-foot *Enchantress* *(Judy Reckart photo)*



Upper Mon River Center docks. *(David Weaver photo)*

**September 13, 2008**, community leaders toured the Monongahela on the *Enchantress*, Tom and Barbara Bartlett's 52-foot coastal cruiser. The tour was sponsored by Mon River Recreation and Commerce Committee, Morgantown Chamber of Commerce, and UMRA. At right are Peggy Myers-Smith, CEO and Executive Director Greater Morgantown Convention & Visitors Bureau, Barry Pallay, Chair, MRRCC, Chamber of Commerce, & V-P of UMRA, Charles Huguenard, V-P & General Manager, Longview Power, and Frank Jernejcic, WV DNR, who served as a tour guide along with Wallace Venable, UMRA.



Myers-Smith, Pallay, Huguenard, Jernejcic *(Judy Reckart photo)*

Historical information, current uses of the river, and potential new uses were among the topics of discussion. Shoreside developments were observed from the very educational viewpoint of the river traveler (some say river rat). Water quality, access to the river for fishing and for boaters, campsites, WV bass tournaments, the Upper Mon Water Trail, trash and debris problem, need for full-service marina and fuel sales sites, and other related matters were topics of conversation.

Attention was given to the importance of recognizing the role of the Corps of Engineers, of access to locks for recreational boating, and Corps funding shortfalls for maintenance and improvement of river transportation.



Morgantown Lock and Dam. At left is "Red Rock," a historic popular jumping-off place for swimmers *(David Weaver photo)*



WV BASS Federation tournament at Pricketts Fort State Park. *(photo courtesy of Frank Jernejcic, WV DNR)*



Pittsburgh-based Gateway Clipper party barge and tow boat, 8-15-2008, at the Walnut Street ramp, McQuain Park. *(Martin Christ photo)*