



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Mississippi National River  
and Recreation Area

111 Kellogg Blvd. E., Ste  
105  
Saint Paul, MN 55101-1256

Use the complete site  
name here (e.g. Palo Alto  
Battlefield Historic Site).

651-290-4160 phone  
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## News Release

Use a "short-hand" version of the site name here (e.g. Palo Alto Battlefield not Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Site).

For Immediate Release

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### **Rat Tales to be told at the Mississippi River Visitor Center**

The "last river rat", Kenny Salwey, will emerge from the Mississippi River bottoms on Sunday, December 4th to present Rat Tales, stories about his life as a river guide, trapper, and storyteller. Rat Tales begins at 1:30 at the Mississippi River Visitor Center, located in the lobby of the Science Museum of Minnesota, 120 West Kellogg Blvd. St. Paul. *The event is free, but reservations are required. Call 651-293-0200 for reservations.*

His just released second book, *Kenny Salwey's Tales of a River Rat*, describes his personal thoughts on respecting and learning from nature, his unique way of life in the river bottoms, and sage advice about river ecology. His previous book, *The Last River Rat: Kenny Salwey's Life in the Wild* (2002) is now available in paperback. Both books are available at the Mississippi River Visitor Center. A book signing follows the program.

Kenny Salwey is a modern-day American hermit who has lived most of his life in the Mississippi River bottoms, and has come to know the river ecosystem with a special intimacy. Some folks say he "cut his teeth on a canoe paddle and seasoned it with Mississippi Mud." Kenny Salwey has earned a living with the land, close to nature and the Mississippi River all his life, using only his native wit and intelligence – getting by as a river guide, trapper, fisherman, hunter, woodsman and root and herb collector. He may be the last of a breed of men whose lifestyle has all but disappeared.

By sharing his hard-learned experiences, his respect for the Mississippi River and his love of the natural world, Kenny hopes to inspire his audiences to protect this precious and fragile river ecosystem. Kenny is the subject of a new film produced by the British Broadcasting Corporation, and scheduled for broadcast on the Discovery Channel later this year. It is now being translated into 16 languages. This legendary storyteller's thoughts on respecting and learning from nature will delight, inform and entertain.

For more information, visit [www.nps.gov/miss](http://www.nps.gov/miss).

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