

Press Release for Immediate Release

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Brian Fox Ellis & Barry Cloyd to **Perform Stories of** Riverboat Captain Henry Detweiller **and Songs of the River** April 19th at 4:00 p.m.

Help Save Detweiller Playground Park & Marina **from Sale to Private Organization!**

Brian Fox Ellis will become historic Peoria riverboat Captain Henry Detweiller, with river songs by Barry Cloyd, Sunday, April 19th, 4:00 p.m. at the **Universalist** Unitarian Church of Peoria, 3000 West Richwoods Blvd.

The event is to raise awareness of plans by the Detweiller Playground Trust to sell or disperse a large part of the Detweiller Playground and **Marina** riverfront property **in their keeping since 1948**. This **land** was **placed** into a Trust by the Captain's son **Thomas** whose 1947 Will states his gift of land and financial resources to support it were for the "People of Peoria". Thomas H. Detweiller **referred to the industrial use of Peoria riverfront and lack of public access to the river** and wanted to provide and save open space along the river for public recreation **and access**.

Learn about Captain Detweiller and the property's **significant history** — Native American encampments, the first explorers setting foot on what is now Peoria, the first settlement where Peoria began — and why this area deserves to be kept for public access. The Detweiller Playground Trust is planning to sell a large section of park to O'Brien Steel and is rumored to be planning to give land to the Private Peoria Boat Club. The park land sale did not become public until some weeks ago and stunned neighborhood residents and many in Peoria. Public help is needed to oppose this action by the Trust, whose members have included JR O'Brien for numerous years and members who live outside of Peoria.

This event is sponsored by the Detweiller Playground Protectors, which includes the Detweiller Marina Neighborhood Association members and members of Friends of Riverfront Park. Donations will be accepted. For more information contact [Tim Herold, herold1961@gmail.com](mailto:herold1961@gmail.com)

