



Working on the Mississippi River

Name _____ Date _____

Meet some of the people who have river-related careers and read about their jobs. Choose which job sounds the most interesting to you and research that occupation. Based on your research, brainstorm at least three questions you would like to ask. As a class, send one letter to that person requesting additional information.

Read Below



Christine Favilla

*Three Rivers Project
Coordinator*

Sierra Club, Illinois Chapter
223 Market Street
Alton, IL 62002
illinois.sierraclub.org

The Sierra Club is a non-profit, member-supported, public interest organization that seeks to practice and promote the responsible use of the earth's ecosystems and resources and to educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment.

As the Three Rivers Project Coordinator, Christine Favilla helps to protect the region's big rivers, valuable wetlands, and tributaries. She reviews and comments on permits for development or the release of pollutants in the waterways. She is also active on several committees that work with landowners and government agencies to reach sustainable goals in their planning efforts.

" My vision for the upper Mississippi River is one that moves us from managing the river solely for our benefit to managing ourselves within the capacity of the river system. This strong sustainability goal includes a movement to local economies and local agriculture, resulting in less nutrient pollution, a smaller carbon footprint, and stronger communities. Working together, we can have healthier rivers, healthy economies, and healthier communities."

-Christine Favilla



Paul Rohde
Vice President
 Waterways Council, Inc. (WCI)
 225 South Meramec Avenue,
 Suite 305
 Saint Louis, MO 63105
www.waterwayscouncil.org

Waterways Council, Inc. (WCI) is the national public policy organization that advocates for a properly funded and well-maintained system of inland waterways and ports. As WCI Vice President, Paul Rohde seeks to educate decision-makers in the states and federal government, the news media and the general public about the critical importance of our nation’s inland waterway system and the need to sustain and increase its reliability now and for our future.

The inland waterways industry was created for commerce back when Lewis and Clark set out on their exploration of the river system in the early 1800s. Today, our inland waterways transportation system offers the most fuel efficient, environmentally sustainable method of moving our nation’s bulk commodities, at the lowest cost to shippers and, therefore, to everyone as consumers.

“ I work closely with environmental, conservation and recreation groups, as well as many other advocates, to discover ways our organizations can work together to benefit both the environmental and economic concerns on river issues. Affecting river policy is all about building coalitions – finding where groups can work together, rolling our sleeves up, and working to change the status quo.” - Paul Rohde



June Jeffries, PE
Project Manager
 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,
 St. Louis District
 Hydraulics Branch Engineering
 and Construction Division
 1222 Spruce St.
 St. Louis, MO 63103
mvs-wc.mvs.usace.army.mil

June M. Jeffries, Professional Engineer, is the Chief of the Environmental Engineering Section at the St. Louis District, US Army Corps of Engineers. Her responsibilities include water quality, environmental services and lab analyses, industrial hygiene, HTRW (hazardous, toxic, or radioactive waste) activities, sanitary engineering.

She was formerly the project manager for the St. Louis District dike and revetment program and regulating works projects, which provided safe and dependable navigation channels on the Mississippi River, Kaskaskia River, and Illinois Waterway. She also managed programs to avoid and minimize impacts of navigation upon the environment.

June has 20 years engineering experience, with an undergraduate degree in mechanical engineering, and graduate degrees in civil/ environmental engineering, ecology, and manufacturing engineering. While at the Corps of Engineers, June has worked as a water control manager and as a project manager for flood risk management projects.

“ My job is a challenge that I enjoy meeting every day, and it is the best job I have ever had. My job allows me to work with people with a wide range of talents, for example with biologists, engineers, towboat pilots, and farmers. I very much enjoy opportunities to visit the river and see my projects in person.” - June Jeffries



Michael F. Clark
*Owner, River Guide
 and Outfitter*
 Big Muddy Adventures
 539 Scranton Avenue
 Riverview, MO 63137
 www.2muddy.com

Michael Clark has over 10,000 miles of experience as a river guide and outfitter. He also teaches history, science, and computer science at St. Ann’s of Normandy in St. Louis.

As the owner of Big Muddy Adventures, Michael’s mission has been to connect people of all ages to rivers and facilitate a lifelong love of learning through exploration. Since 2001, he has guided groups on the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers and conducted live learning adventures for school children across the country.

Michael also lends his talents and equipment to numerous community service organizations to help clean the rivers. In 2009, Michael and his guides helped pull dozens of tires and barrels along with nearly a ton of plastic, aluminum, Styrofoam, metal, and cast iron from the rivers.

“ The Mississippi River provides some of the best habitat in the world for a variety of species. Showing people some of the awesome places where nature remains intact and resilient is one of the keys to what we do.”

- Michael F. Clark



Jeff Janvrin
*Fisheries Biologist/
 Mississippi River
 Habitat Specialist*
 Wisconsin Department
 of Natural Resources
 3550 Mormon Coulee Road,
 La Crosse, Wisconsin, 54601
 dnr.wi.gov

As a fisheries biologist and habitat specialist with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Jeff Janvrin’s mission is to protect and enhance the river environment and to promote responsible use of river resources. He thinks of the health of the river from a larger perspective: habitat loss, endangered species, and sedimentation.

Jeff Janvrin coordinates the identification, selection, planning, implementation, and evaluation of Mississippi River habitat restoration projects along the Wisconsin border. This involves a collaboration of efforts with other states, government agencies, organizations, and individuals.

An important part of Jeff’s job is the collection of data both before and after a project. This helps determine if project goals were met and documents lessons learned that can be used to improve future projects.

“ Restoration of an ecosystem is much more complex than grabbing the keys to a bulldozer and starting to push things back into place. Habitat restoration requires careful planning and patience. In some respects, it is much like trying to figure out how to put a puzzle back together, only you don’t necessarily have, or know, where all of the pieces are and where they go.” - Jeff Janvrin



Matthew E. Schramm

Resource

Conservationist

Rock Island County Soil and Water Conservation District
3020 East 1st Ave.
Milan, IL 61264
www.aiswcd.org

Rock Island County Soil and Water Conservation District’s mission is to promote conservation of natural resources (soil, water quality, air, vegetation, and wildlife habitat) through delivery of a variety of programs to local landowners, the public, and public agencies.

As a resource conservationist, Matthew Schramm works with landowners and public agencies to coordinate conservation efforts to improve water quality and reduce soil erosion. He also manages projects that restore ecosystems and prevent wildfires.

Since the local watersheds in his district all drain into the Mississippi River, everything his agency does has the potential to affect its health and water quality. The communities in his district are shaped by the Mississippi River and its history, including the decisions made today.

“ One of the best parts of my job is working on collaborative efforts with other agencies, partners, and profession colleagues to advance local conservation of natural resources. Money, staff resources, and time are at a premium these days, but it is really neat to see what we can accomplish when we sit down together and work towards a set of common goals and objectives.” - Matthew E. Schramm

Write down the three questions that your class would like to ask in the letter.
