



Rivergator Fall 2014 **Celebratory Expeditions**

*Celebrating the opening of the Rivergator:
Middle/Lower Mississippi River Water Trail
Now live at www.rivergator.org*

Nov 15-25
St. Louis to Caruthersville

What are The Rivergator Celebratory Expeditions?

In Fall 2014 we'll be running a series of multi-day expeditions to celebrate the opening of the Lower Mississippi River Water Trail from St. Louis, Missouri through Memphis, and then from Vicksburg, Mississippi to Baton Rouge, Louisiana. By voyageur style canoe. No previous experience necessary, but must enjoy wilderness-style camping and must be willing to paddle! We are reserving at least 4 seats on every segment for writers, photographers and any journalists who will help us share the story about the beautiful and dynamic Mississippi River and the *Rivergator* Middle/Lower Mississippi River Water Trail describing it!

Please contact John Ruskey, 662-902-7841 or john@island63.com to reserve your seat, and for more information.

Nov 15-25

St. Louis to Caruthersville

Meet: Saturday, Nov 15th at 1pm at Columbia Bottoms Boat Ramp (last boat ramp on the Missouri River). Pack your gear into drybags and then load canoe. Push off around 2pm down the last three miles of the Missouri River, confluence with the Upper Mississippi River, and continue on through St. Louis and downstream the Middle Mississippi to the Ohio River confluence and onward. The Middle Miss carves an wide elegant valley in between the Shawnee Hills of Illinois and the Missouri Ozarks. At Cairo Illinois the Ohio River and the Mississippi meet, shake hands and continue on downriver as the Lower Mississippi River. At this point the Mississippi becomes the biggest volume river in North America. We'll paddle 108 miles of the Lower Miss to Caruthersville with the Kentucky Bluegrass Hills on our left and Missouri Bootheel on our right. At Bessie's Bend the Mississippi makes a giant 20 mile loop to cover one mile of distance, the biggest and most prominent bend on the entire Mississippi River system (New Madrid at its crown), so big it can be seen from outer space. You can join us for a short portion or the entire expedition. Two weeks on the river including St. Genevieve, Grand Tower, Tower Rock, Cape Girardeau, Trail of Tears, Thebes, Cairo, Hickman, Reelfoot Lake, Bessie's Bend, and Caruthersville.

Itinerary subject to adjustment depending on wind, water levels and prevailing weather conditions.

Nov 15-25
St. Louis to Caruthersville

Saturday, Nov 15

Meet 1pm at Columbia Bottoms Boat Ramp (on the Missouri River). Pack your gear into drybags and load the big canoe. Push off around 2pm down the last three miles of the Missouri River. Sites of interest include the Missouri/Mississippi Confluence, Duck Island, Route 66 Bridge, City of St. Louis Waterworks, the I-270 Bridge, and Chain of Rocks. Camp on Mosenstein Island.

Sun Nov 16: Paddle through St. Louis with the best views you've ever had of the Great Arch, LaCledé's Landing, the Stan Musial Veteran's Memorial Bridge (newest bridge on the Mississippi), Eads Bridge, the McKinley Bridge, East St. Louis, Anheuser Busch Brewery, Jefferson Barracks, JB I-255 Bridge, Meramec Confluence.

Mon Nov 17: Herculaneum, Harlow Island, Fort DeChartres

Tues Nov 18: St Genevieve, Moro Island, Kaskaskia River, Chester, Rockwood Island

Wed Nov 19: Tower Rock, Grand Tower, Trail of Tears State Park, Devil's Island

Thurs Nov 20: Cape Girardeau, Marquette Island, Thebes, Pawnee Hills

Fri Nov 21: Big Bends of the Middle Miss around Dogtooth Island and Missouri Sister Island, Cairo, Fort Defiance, Mouth of the Ohio River

Sat Nov 22: Wickliffe, Columbus Belmont, Wolf Island

Sun Nov 23: Hickman, Is No 8, Reelfoot Lake

Mon Nov 24: Bessie's Bend, New Madrid, Kentucky Point

Tues Nov 25: Tiptonville, Lee Towhead, Hathaway/Island 14, Sandy Hook Bar, Caruthersville

Itinerary subject to adjustment depending on wind, water levels and prevailing weather conditions.

**Rivergator:
St. Louis to Caruthersville**

Mileage:

The Middle Mississippi River is measured upstream from the Ohio-Mississippi Confluence at Cairo Illinois. Lower Mississippi River is measured upstream from the "Head of Passes," the center of the birdsfoot of the Mississippi Delta, where all the major channels split and drain into the Gulf of Mexico.

----Middle Mississippi River ----

196 Missouri-Mississippi Confluence

190 Chain of Rocks

188 Mosenthien Island

180 Ead's Bridge/Great Arch

169 Jefferson Barrack's Bridge

148 Calico island

139 Salt Lake Chute

134 Fort Chartes Island

123 St. Genevieve, MO

122 Moro Island

118 Kaskaskia River

110 Chester, IL

102 Rockwood Island

94 Red Rock Landing

81 Grand Tower, IL

80 Tower Rock, MO

76 Big Muddy River

67 Moccasin Springs

52 Cape Girardeau, MO

44 Thebes, IL

24 Dogtooth Island

14 Missouri Sister Island

0 Fort Defiance/Cairo, IL

----Lower Mississippi River ----

952 Wickliffe, KY

937 Columbus, KY

934 Wolf Island Bar

919 Hickman, KY

911 Chute of Island No. 8

890 New Madrid, MO/Kentucky Point

872 Tiptonville, TN

859 Lee Towhead

855 Hathaway, Island No. 14

846 Caruthersville, MO

307 miles total



Rivergator: St. Louis to Caruthersville

Food & Gear: Quapaw provides all necessary river gear & emergency equipment. Normally we prepare all food & refreshments, drinks include spring water, juices and milk. Alcoholic beverages BYOB. We will pack all necessary cookware and eating utensils, as well as camp tables and camp chairs.

Bring all personal gear and stuff into our waterproof drybags before launching (or use your own). These are backpack-style bags made of tough waterproof material - great for packing on a rainy day! It takes three complete fold to make them water-proof, be sure to lock all four buckles! If you have any questions, check with your guide.

Be prepared for rain or intense sun UV exposure! Sunlight is surprisingly intense on the river, even in the winter (you get the sun twice – once from above and once reflected from below). Sunburn is our number one complaint and has caused more than one Mississippi River paddler very painful days and sleepless nights. Be forewarned! Sunglasses, sun screen, long sleeve clothing and a wide brim hat are all good ideas, especially for anyone particularly sensitive.

We can supply tents & sleeping bags to anyone who needs them, \$70ea/person for this 2-week trip. Otherwise, bring your own and pack with your gear into our dry bags.

Camping: Remote islands, sandbars, towheads, usually sandy places, sometimes it's necessary to make a muddy landing. In inclement weather it might be necessary to find shelter within the forest. This is primitive camping on a river island, no services of any sort. Bring everything you need to make yourself comfortable. Bring your own toiletry. Bring a change of warm clothing, including summer months, when mornings can be cool. It's always cooler on the river.

Charge: is \$125/day which includes canoes, paddles, lifejackets and all necessary river gear, first aid kits and emergency gear; and meals, which include all the food prep, campfire cooking, cookware and eatware, and cleanup. There is a separate shuttle fee of \$200/person which covers transportation of canoes and gear plus our vehicles and drivers to and from Vicksburg, Baton Rouge, St. Louis or Memphis for drop-off and pickup.

The Rivergator is overseen by the Lower Mississippi River Foundation which is dedicated to access, education, and the betterment of public outdoor recreation on the Middle & Lower Mississippi River.



