

1309 Norplex Drive, Suite 9 La Crosse, WI 54601 (608) 784-3606

Welcome!

Thank you for your interest in volunteering with the Mississippi Valley Conservancy. There are many ways to be involved in protecting and preserving the natural and scenic areas of western Wisconsin. As a volunteer you are joining the ranks of over 500 individuals who work with us on a variety of projects year round. Opportunities include seed collection, species inventories, brush removal, trail building and sign posting on protected land. Other ways to be involved include assisting in the Conservancy office with data entry, record keeping and other organizational tasks. As we grow, the number of ways to volunteer will be increasing and we are always open to suggestions for new volunteer opportunities.

Currently the Conservancy has protected over 19,500 acres and of that over 4,000 acres are open to the public for recreational use, including bird watching, hiking, nature photography, hunting and fishing, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. Since 1997, Mississippi Valley Conservancy has been conserving land in Buffalo, Trempealeau, Jackson, La Crosse, Monroe, Vernon, Crawford, Richland and Grant Counties by working with landowners, local and state officials and other groups and organizations committed to environmental conservation. Annually, we strive to reach a goal of protecting additional acres as well as provide educational and recreational events on Conservancy properties for the public to enjoy. Without the support of volunteers like you, we would not reach these milestones.

In this packet you will find a volunteer information sheet, listing of volunteer opportunities, a staff directory, volunteer information sheet, and a map of the counties the Conservancy protects properties in. Volunteers giving 10 hours or more earn a free one year membership to Mississippi Valley Conservancy. Please fill out the information sheet and return it as soon as possible, so we can add you to our list of volunteers and notify you of opportunities in your area. Most of our communication with volunteers is done by email, so please be sure to include your address or indicate your preferred method of communication.

Thank you again for volunteering your time and talent in support of the mission of the Mississippi Valley Conservancy. On behalf of the staff and the over 500 volunteers we want to personally welcome you to our ranks and look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Rob Tyser MVC Board President

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Carol Abrahamzon Executive Director



# **Volunteer Opportunities**

#### Land Management:

- <u>Seed Collection and Species Inventories</u> Help collect seeds of native plants and determine the existence and numbers of threatened and endangered species on MVC lands.
- <u>Firebreak building and removal</u> Build and remove firebreaks used to control and remove invasive species. Involves cutting, clearing and removing brush.
- <u>Prescribed Burns\*-</u> Primarily done in the early spring; assist with burning areas to control and remove invasive species to restore native vegetation.
- <u>Trail Building and Maintenance</u> On MVC-owned properties, this includes marking trails, building, erecting and stocking kiosks at trailheads, clearing trails, and can include mowing.

Volunteer Angel - Provide beverages and snacks on site for work days.

#### **Outreach/Education:**

- <u>Guided Hike Leaders</u>\* Lead groups (school-age, workplace, outdoor enthusiasts) on hikes over MVC-owned properties. Identify native species; explain the natural environment, and role of land trust organizations like MVC.
- <u>Educational Presentations</u> Deliver presentations about outdoor education, the roles of land trusts and ways to protect and preserve the environment while enjoying being a part of nature.

### Promotional:

<u>Event and Site Photography</u> – Are you the family shutterbug? Photograph the scenic vistas, native wildlife and participants enjoying the outdoors on MVC properties.

- <u>Display Organization and Preparation</u> Assist MVC staff in organizing and distributing materials and creating displays to be used at events and throughout the area to inform and educate residents about the Mississippi Valley Conservancy.
- <u>MVC Event Representative</u>\* -- Alongside MVC Board members and staff, represent the organization at area events and attractions to educate and inform the public.

#### Administrative:

Special Projects Assistant – Prepare supplies, staff and evaluate events.

Recorder - Assist in finding and recording media exposure of MVC and sponsored events.

Data Entry - Record membership information and maintain up-to-date records

Bulk Mailings - Compile and verify mailing lists, prepare material for mailing and track results

This is only a partial listing of volunteer opportunities. Opportunities listed above are short and long-term in duration, are located indoors and outside, and may not require completion on MVC property. Please visit our website or call for more specific details

## Staff Directory

#### **Mississippi Valley Conservancy**

PO Box 2611 La Crosse, WI 54602 (608) 784-3606 – main line for all staff (608) 784-0257 – Fax www.mississippivalleyconservancy.org

Nancy Larson - Office Manager

Ext. 1 <u>nancy@mississippivalleyconservancy.org</u>

Abbie Church - Land Protection & Management Director Ext. 2 <u>achurch@mississippivalleyconservancy.org</u>

Mary Dresser - Conservation AssistantExt. 3mary@mississippivalleyconservancy.org

Carol Abrahamzon - Executive Director

Ext. 4 <u>carol@mississippivalleyconservancy.org</u>

Levi Plath - Land Manager

Ext. 5 <u>levi@mississippivalleyconservancy.org</u>

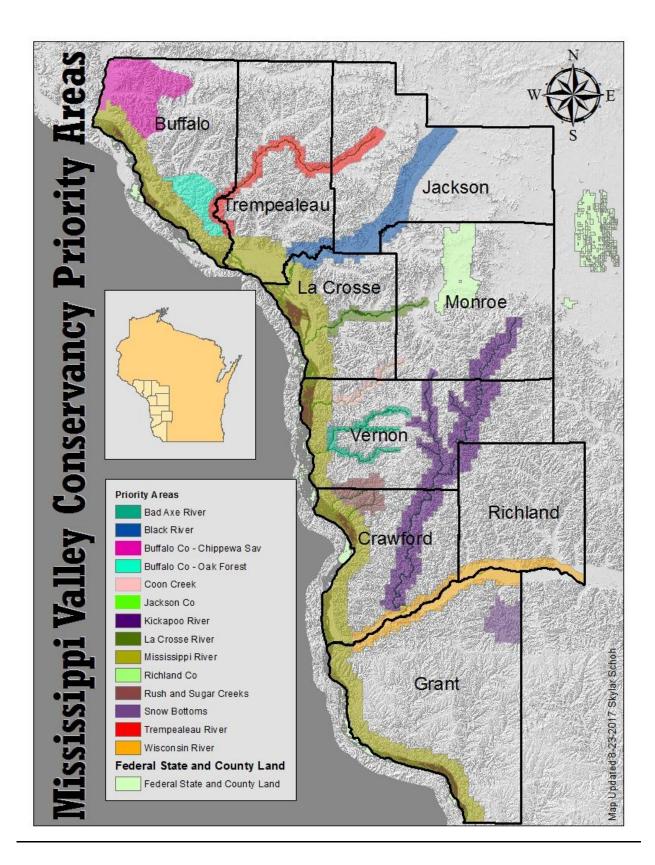
Kathy Frise-Groth - Outreach Coordinator

Ext. 6 <u>kfrise@mississippivalleyconservancy.org</u>

Megen Kabele - Conservation SpecialistExt. 7megen@mississippivalleyconservancy.org

Sarah Bratnober – Development Associate

Ext. 8 sarah@mississippivalleyconservancy.org



<b>Volunteer Information</b>	Date:
First Name:	Last Name:
Street Address: State:	City: Zip code:
Phone: Alt Phone:	Email: Preferred Contact? □Phone□Email
<u>Areas of Interest</u> : <i>Check all that apply</i> □Land Management □Outreach □	Promotional
Specific Locations of Interest:Check all that apply□Buffalo County□Trempealeau County	□La Crosse County □Jackson County
□Monroe County □Vernon County □Crawford	d County $\Box$ Grant County $\Box$ Richland County

#### Availability: Check all that apply

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
□Morning	□Morning	□Morning	□Morning	□Morning	□Morning
□Afternoon	□Afternoon	□Afternoon	□Afternoon	□Afternoon	□Afternoon
□Early	$\Box$ Early	□Early	$\Box$ Early	$\Box$ Early	□Early
Evenings	Evenings	Evenings	Evenings	Evenings	Evenings

Skills, Certifications and Abilities: Click here to enter text.

#### **Employment/Education**:

Organization/School: Position: Field of Study:

Emergency Contact Information: Name: Relation:

Phone: Alt Phone: