

The Ferryville Tourism Council is happy to announce the second of the four Chautauqua Summer Series programs for this season. On Wednesday, July 8, 2026 we will be having Lee Hendrix doing a presentation on his life as a tow boat captain all up and down the Mississippi River. This will be held at the Ferryville Village Hall at 6:30 PM. Treats will be available. There is no cost for this program, and a donation can will be out to help defray the costs of our events.

Lee grew up in the St. Louis area, and he became a deck hand on a tow boat in 1972. The river "bug" caught him, and he received his license to be a tow boat pilot just four years later. His long career includes teaching, developing curriculum for schools about the Mississippi River, and piloting casino boats in the Quad Cities. In 1993, Lee became the pilot for the passenger boat, the *American Queen*, and continued in that role for many years. He later was employed by the US Army Corps of Engineers as a pilot of the largest tow boat in the world, the *M/V Mississippi*. After his retirement from the Corps, he returned to the *American Queen* as a Riverlorian, a first class story teller. He has since written a book about all of his adventures called "Peep Light: Stories of a Mississippi River Boat Captain". Those will be for sale after his program.

We will look forward to Lee's presentation with excitement and curiosity! So bring your questions and your sense of awe and wonder as we all will learn what adventures await a tow boat captain on our beautiful Mississippi River!