

## EVENT

Great Flying Carp Canoe Clean-up with the River Ladies Auxiliary  
Huntsdale to Cooper's Landing  
October 21

During the peak of fall color, Missouri River Relief helped in a truly unique clean-up experience. Called the "Great Flying Carp Canoe Clean-up", the event involved a collaboration between River Relief and a local group of longtime friends called **River Ladies Auxiliary**.

It was our sixth annual clean-up down in the southern Boone County area. Although cleaning up the Missouri River is a never-ending process, we have done an excellent job of ridding this area of some of the largest trash deposits. It seemed an ideal time for a new approach.

We put in a group of canoeists at the private **Katfish Katy's** ramp in Huntsdale. The flotilla paddled downstream, pulling in at locations all along to route to get out and pick up trash. They used their canoes to shuttle trash to locations where our trash boats could pick it up.

Despite a cold rain that started just after lunch (provided by our "food angels" in the charming river town of Lupus), the group of 45 volunteers pulled 2.1 tons of trash off the river, including 27 tires and a washing machine. One pair of paddlers pulled a navigation buoy over a mile to a spot where it could be picked up.

Crews sorted the trash in the rain into scrap metal, recyclable plastic and aluminum. Soggy, wet and exhausted, the volunteers were treated to a garage concert at **Cooper's Landing Marina** by **Naked Dave and the Blue Cats** and free massages courtesy of **Greenway Massage Team**.

The clean-up was funded by a benefit held by the River Ladies Auxiliary and Missouri River Relief in May 2006. Called "**River Fest**", it was a perfect river community building event including a silent art auction, a day full of music, a canoe/kayak race, sunset boat cruises and a dance contest.



*Volunteers paddled ten miles of the Missouri River, scouring sandbars and wing dikes for trash.*



*Hard work, good times and learning new skills are all draws to our volunteer crew.*

## The Missouri River's Clean-up Crew

One of the keys to Missouri River Relief's momentum is the growth of our Core Crew of volunteers. This homegrown, grassroots crew of over 30 dedicated river lovers of all ages puts in countless hours all year long to keep our clean-up machine in top shape. From motorcycle mechanics and chefs to ecologists and government officials, they all love to work hard and enjoy the river.

This amazing crew plays a role in all aspects of our work. At events, they drive boats, conduct safety trainings, plan on-the-river strategies for clean-ups, cook meals for volunteers, haul and sort trash, present educational games and booths and keep our events running smoothly.

Between events, they attend planning meetings, help with publications and web content, keep equipment in working order and organized and lend a hand whenever needed.

### Passing the Stick

Cross training is the key to our crew's strength. To deepen our base of boat drivers, our Quartermaster and Board Chairman John Brady teamed up with John Breyfogle to hold on-the-river boat training workshops in Kansas City and Cooper's Landing near Columbia.

Breyfogle wrote and published a "Missouri River Relief Boater's Manual" with tips on navigation, boating laws and reading the river. **During the training, we added 10 new drivers to our list, more than doubling our qualified crew.**

### Visioning the Future

This December, the staff, board and volunteer crew of River Relief met for an all-day visioning retreat in the river town of Lupus.

Volunteers and staff alike contributed and collaborated on a five year vision for the organization. Work continues on honing these ideas for an exciting future.