

cleaning up the big muddy 2008



year in review

Join us to clean up the Big Muddy in '09

Missouri River Relief 2009 schedule of community events

- March 7** Mari-Osa Dump Clean-up Part 2
Loose Creek, MO
- March 21** River Otter Day
Kansas City, MO
- March 28** Confluence Trash Bash
(Away Team) St. Louis, MO
- April 4** Blue River Rescue
(Away Team) Kansas City, MO
- May 9** Yankton, S.D. (Away Team)
- May 30** Omaha/Council Bluffs Clean-up
- June 27** Siouxland Clean-up
- August 4-8** Missouri River 340 Race
- August 22** Operation Clean Stream
(Away Team) Meramec River
- Sept. 12-19** Mid-Missouri River Camp
a week long series of events
- Sept. 19** Jefferson City Clean-up
- Oct. 2, 3** Kansas City, MO
Watershed Festival & Clean-up

**Sign up on our website
for any and all clean-ups.
They're free. They're fun.
*And the river needs you!***

**Groups, individuals, and all ages
& abilities are welcome.
Come join in the fun!**

www.riverrelief.org

**Read our River Notes blog
for photos, stories and trash lists...**
<http://riverrelief.blogspot.com/>



Sign up at www.riverrelief.org
Call 573.443.0292 for more info.
Email riverrelief@riverrelief.org

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Cover Photo by Melanie Cheney

Missouri River Relief

Making a difference on the Big Muddy

10,000 volunteers in 8 years!

In eight years of cleaning up the Big Muddy, Missouri River Relief has witnessed a change along this winding, historic stream. Communities that previously ignored the river are embracing it as an important part of their identity. People who shrugged off the work of cleaning up its banks are now wondering how they can play a part. River lovers separated by hundreds of rivermiles are finding each other in what once seemed like a lonely community. Federal, state and tribal agencies are beginning to work together in an unprecedented way for the restoration of the river.

Many forces are converging at once to increase interest, and love, for this amazing resource. Missouri River Relief is proud to be one of those forces. Our river clean-ups, education activities, river excursions, riverbottom restorations and special partnerships are strong threads in this growing tapestry.

Our partnerships are increasing along the river and, in many cases, it's our hands-on, get-it-done attitude that is connecting these partners to each other. We're finding creative ways to get more people on the river, serving our mission and helping others accomplish their goals.

2008 was a year of new challenges, new friends and new successes. We hope you'll join this momentum in 2009.

See you on the River!

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Missouri River Relief's Mission

Our Mission is to **engage individuals and communities** along the river in the **exploration, enjoyment, restoration and care** of the Missouri River through hands-on, on-the-river **stewardship and education** events and activities.

Since 2001, Missouri River Relief, with the help of 10,032 volunteers, has cleaned up 479.4 tons of trash from 517 miles of river.

Photo by Melanie Cheney



2008 at a glance

| | |
|--|---------------|
| clean-ups hosted or participated in: | 17 |
| tons of trash removed: | 71 |
| miles of river cleaned: | 82 |
| communities involved: | 20 |
| all volunteers: | 2,824 |
| students and teachers: | 825 |
| educational river trips: | 14 |
| hours of volunteer labor in 2008: | 11,660 |



Missouri Stream Team #1875

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photos by Dylan Lehrbaum, Dory Colbert and Melanie Cheney

2008 Clean-up Stats

| Clean-Ups | Clean-up Volunteers | River Relief Core Crew | River Miles Cleaned | Tons of Trash | Media Coverage |
|--|-------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|--|
| MariOsa Dump - Osage River (2 days) | 94 | 31 | .5 | 19.9 | 2 TV, 4 Newspapers, 1 Magazine (Rural Missourian) |
| River Otter Day - Kansas City, MO | 50 | 10 | 1 | 2.25 | 1 TV (NBC) |
| Old Plank River Road - Easley, MO | 30 | 32 | 2.5 | 1.05 | |
| Blue River Rescue -AWAY | 20 | 23 | .5 | 1.84 | |
| Confluence Greenway - AWAY | 13 | 2 | .5 | 1.14 | |
| Hartsburg-Missouri River | 165 | 31 | 10 | 5 | 4 Newspapers, 6 Community Calendars, 1 TV, 2 Radio |
| Franklin Island-Missouri River | 33 | 5 | 4.5 | .9 | 1 Newspaper |
| Goat Island - Missouri River - AWAY | 16 | 19 | 1 | 3.2 | |
| Yankton-Missouri River - AWAY | 20 | 23 | 1 | 1.6 | 1 Newspaper |
| Siouxland-Missouri River | 230 | 20 | 10 | 15 | 3 TV, 2 Newspaper, 1 Magazine (Prairie Fire) |
| Washington-Missouri River | 57 | 19 | 15.4 | 1.6 | 3 Radio, 1 Newspaper |
| Flood Relief at Cooper's Landing | 6 | 6 | .5 | .45 | |
| Living Lands & Waters at Starved Rock State Park-Illinois River - AWAY | 1 | 3 | 2 | .03 | |
| 41st Operation Clean Stream (2 days) Meramec River - AWAY | 10 | 14 | 8 | .4 | |
| St. Louis-the Confluence | 168 | 19 | 12 | 5.4 | |
| Kansas City-Missouri River | 411 | 53 | 12 | 9.9 | 3 Newspapers, 1 TV |
| Alton-Mississippi River - AWAY | 60 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 Newspaper |
| CLEAN-UP TOTALS | 1,384 Volunteers | 314 Crew | 82.4 River Miles | 71.2 Tons | 8 TV, 17 Newspapers, 6 Radio pieces, and 2 Magazine |

River Clean-ups

Gathered by thousands, measured in tons

It's been eight years since Missouri River Relief held our first community clean-up in Easley, MO. Since then, we've brought over 10,000 volunteers to the Missouri River to clean it up, learn from it and restore it.

Volunteers are what make it happen. From old dumpsites and neglected "party spots" to tons of debris washed in by the river in high water. One piece of trash at a time, one person at a time, one hand at a time. It all adds up!

What also adds up is the change in volunteers' hearts. Suddenly they realize that the Missouri River is their river. Their hard work has visible results: Dumpsters overflowing with trash, piles of heavy, mudfilled tires. Beautiful, pristine riverbanks.

And many of these people come back. Hidden in our total of 10,000 volunteers are the many, dedicated souls that wouldn't miss a clean-up or a chance to go on the river. And when they visit their favorite river spots during the rest of the year, they can't resist coming back with a bag of trash.



Photo by Jill Hamilton-Anderson

A boat load of trash and volunteers head into the ramp at La Benite Park during our Kansas City area clean-up in October.

Trash Tally!

Here's a sample of what volunteers hauled out of the Missouri River in 2008:

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| 1,328 Bags of Trash & Recyclables | 5 Signs (Our favorite said "Be Courteous") | 3 Full Cans of Beer |
| 461 Tires | 6 Car Batteries | 76 Box Springs & Bed Frames |
| 24 Tons of Scrap Metal | 19 Metal Grills | 6 Navigation Buoys |
| Countless plastic bottles | 58 Hot Water Heaters | 1 Juke Box |
| Countless styrofoam chunks | 40 Stoves | 1 1960s Plastic Microscope |
| 4 Messages in Bottles | 42 Gas Cans & Tanks | 2 1/2 Lawn Mowers |
| 218 Plastic Jugs & 5-Gal. Buckets | 13 Bicycles-whole and in parts | 38 Metal Cabinets & Shelves |
| 1 Bottle of Diazonon Insecticide | 1 Unicycle | 1 Set of New Testament Audio Cassettes |
| 2 Jugs of Oil-based Wood Stain | 8 Duck Decoys | 1 Plastic Green Pepper |
| 1 Bottle of Used Car Oil | 84 Car Parts & Panels | 23 Fishing Bobbers |
| 212 55-Gallon Barrels | 9 Freon Tanks/AC Units | 1 Pair of Long Johns |
| 23 Chairs | 8 Furnaces | 3 Toy Cars |
| 19 Coolers | 10 Kitchen Sinks | 1 Adam Sandler DVD-"Going Overboard" |
| 51 Refrigerators & Chest Freezers | 5 Missouri License Plates (1976, 1930, 1971, 1931) | 1 Inflatable Love Doll |
| 76 Washing Machines | 4 Dolls & Parts | 3/4 of a white Christmas Tree |
| 8 Dryers | 17 Shoes & Flip Flops | 2 Traffic Cones |

2008 Clean-up Highlights

Here's a small sample of some of our most exciting events of 2008.

March 1&2 - Mari-Osa Clean-up
94 volunteers spent two days cleaning up a decades-old dump site spilling down a bluff into the Osage River - **we filled five 40-yard dumpsters with junk!**

Goat Island/Yankton Clean-ups
We spent one day scouring Goat Island, a spot soon to be managed as public land. **Every piece of barbed wire was removed, in addition to 3.2 tons of trash.** The following day, three of our boats assisted with the 5th annual Yankton Clean-up.

Siouxland Clean-up
Our first time in Sioux City, IA, the first city of the channelized river. We established long-term partnerships with local groups in this tri-state area. We worked out of boat ramps in NE and IA. **230 volunteers removed 15 tons of trash!**

Sugar Creek Clean-up
Our network of river stewards in the KC area is impressive. So are the results. **411 volunteers removed 9.9 tons of trash below the metro KC area in 2008!**



Photo by Melanie Cheney

Crew members Jen Courtney and Francis Baum dig a massive tire out of a muddy bank near St. Louis.

The results speak for themselves.

Find more details on the web: www.riverrelief.org

Volunteers unload some of 19.9 tons of junk from our trash boat Saskia at the Mari-Osa Dump Clean-up in March.

Photo by Jen Courtney



Meet the Team

The Missouri River's Clean-up Crew

Missouri River Relief would not exist without our volunteer Crew. This homegrown, grassroots group of over 40 dedicated river lovers of all ages devotes countless hours all year long to keep our clean-up machine in top shape.

From motorcycle mechanics and chefs, to ecologists and government officials, the River Relief crew loves to work hard and enjoy the river. During 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 train in first aid and boat operations.

2008 was a great year for the development of our Kansas City area crew. Our board president David Richter and Middle Reach Manager Vicki Richmond helped spearhead this growth, expanding our efforts and establishing a well-trained crew in Kansas City.

The Missouri River Relief crew in Yankton, South Dakota.



Photo by Wayne Werkmeister

Board of Directors

2008 Officers

President: David Richter - Founder and president, Intellectual Property Management Group, Inc.

Vice-President: Jeff Barrow - Project Director of Greenbelt Land Trust. One of River Relief's founding Crewmembers. (resigned from board 2009)

Secretary: Kathy Love - public information officer for the Missouri Department of Higher Education; former editor of *Missouri Conservationist* magazine

Treasurer: Jan Weaver - Director of Environmental Studies, University of Missouri, Columbia

2008 Board

John Brady - HVAC Technician, Fisher Controls. Former big river barge pilot. One of River Relief's founding crewmembers.

John Jansen - Jackson County Parks, MO.

Jim Karpowicz - Founder and former coordinator of Missouri River Relief; founder and owner of the Documentary Group film production company.

Carl Korschgen - Chief of River Studies Branch of U.S. Geological Survey; Waterfowl and fisheries biologist.

Charlotte Overby - Marketing, Patagonia, Inc.; former Missouri River Relief coordinator; freelance writer.

Dave Stous - Chief Water Supply Hydrogeologist, Burns and McDonnell Engineering Company (retired 2009)

Missouri River Relief Staff

Diverse skills in a group of people dedicated to the Missouri River



Jeff Barrow - Director

Jeff has been involved in clean water issues for years, from being a founding member of Show-Me Clean Streams and Missouri River Relief to his work at Greenbelt Land Trust. He is also co-author of “From the Bottom Up - One Man’s Crusade to Clean America’s Rivers” published by National Geographic Society. He’s been involved in MRR since the first clean-up as a coordinator and board member. He’s rejoined staff in 2009 as Director.



Steve Schnarr - Lower Reach Manager

Steve lives near Easley, MO, a stone’s throw from the Missouri River. His love for the river developed from years of exploring its waters by canoe. He was drawn to Missouri River Relief as a clean-up volunteer, later serving as event coordinator, MegaScout coordinator, MRR board member and Program Manager. Steve has cultivated a diverse career, working as a journalist, carpenter, organic farmer, park ranger and forest restoration worker.



Vicki Richmond - Middle Reach Manager

Vicki works with Kansas City and communities further upstream. She became involved in river clean-ups in the early 90’s as a volunteer, then as coordinator, of the Project Blue River Rescue in Kansas City. Her water and restoration projects have earned many awards, including the Missouri Department of Conservation “Master Conservationist Award” and Conservation Federation of Missouri’s “Water Conservationist of 2006”. She is also a Stream Team Assistant with MDC.



Melanie Cheney - AmeriCorps Stream Team Asst.

Melanie is Missouri River Relief’s AmeriCorps Stream Team Assistant. Melanie has been a crewmember with Missouri River Relief for over 6 years, working on clean-ups, special projects, and educational events. As a Stream Team Assistant she works to further River Relief’s goal to develop more educational programs and network with Stream Teams in the area.



“Racin” Dave Stevens - Fleet Manager

Dave has been River Relief’s equipment and logistics coordinator, operator and mechanic, as well as a volunteer at every cleanup since 2001. He gets his name from road racing motorcycles across the country for 11 years and the name has stuck. Dave can operate and work on anything from tractors to boats to motorcycles and the man runs a mean chop-saw.



Jan Thompson - Office Manager

Jan is a semi-retired CPA and has done public accounting for 20 years. She spends her free time with her grandchildren, as well as gardening, hiking and biking. She lends her accounting expertise to non-profit causes. In the past, she served as campaign treasurer for local Green Party elections. This is her sixth year managing our finances.

Education

Hands-on, on-the-river learning

Cleaning up all the trash on the Missouri River is a daunting goal. Very quickly we realized that the easiest way to get rid of trash is if it never ends up in the river in the first place.

That happens through education. Get people on the river, engaging their hands and their minds. Get their feet muddy!

Watershed Festivals

Hands-on learning is the focus. The riverbank is the location. We bring dozens of scientists, educators and volunteers together to teach their expertise to hundreds of school children.

Confluence Watershed Festival

September 12, Columbia Bottom Conservation Area,
St. Louis, MO

30 exhibitors, 206 students and teachers

Missouri River Watershed Festival

October 3, La Benite Park, Sugar Creek, MO

30 exhibitors, 317 students and teachers

In 2008, we brought 825 students and teachers to the river to learn about its secrets.



Photo by Jill Hamilton-Anderson, NPS

Students get a hands-on look at shovelnose sturgeon at the Missouri River Watershed Festival at La Benite Park in Sugar Creek, MO.



Photo by Melanie Cheney

Missouri River Relief Director Jeff Barrow discusses the problem of trash on the Missouri River at the Confluence Watershed Festival.



Photo by Melanie Cheney

Missouri DNR Wetlands Coordinator Bryan Hopkins describes the prehistory of the Manitou Bluffs to two plate boats full of scientists and policy makers.

River Outreach

Bringing river education to the people - bringing people to the river

Community Festivals

Washington River Festival

- June 14 - Our cleanup inspired a locally grown music and river education family festival.

Eco-Art-Fest

- AmeriCorps Stream Team Asst. Melanie Cheney coordinated the river education and arts part of the two-day festival, including short river trips for festival goers.

Big Muddy Sessions

In partnership with Friends of Big Muddy & Big Muddy National Fish and Wildlife Refuge (NFWR).

Monthly presentations on Missouri River topics by the experts in their field. History, biology, hydrology, and river uses are just some of the topics. Presenters include: US Geological Survey River Studies, Missouri Dept. of Conservation, Big Muddy NFWR, Missouri Dept. of Natural Resources, University of Missouri, Columbia, and many more.

Canoe Races

Recreation on the Missouri River is growing by leaps and bounds. The **Missouri River 340**, a paddler's race across the state of Missouri is one shining example. For the first time ever, we brought our crew skills and boats to serve as safety patrol for this 100 hour race. We've also served as safety crew at **Greenway Network's Race for the Rivers**. Plus, we hosted our own **Flying Carp Canoe & Kayak Race** - an outrageous up- and down-river race at Cooper's Landing.

River Excursions

Learning best takes place on the river itself, where every moment brings a new experience.

Earth Day at Overton Bottoms

- Student workshop involving many local partners and Eldon High School.

Teacher/Student Workshop at Overton Bottoms

Hosted by Living Lands & Waters.

- Tree planting, wetlands ecology, fisheries biology, river trip.

Douglass High School Day on the River

- Huntsdale, MO

Greenworks Kids Day on the River

- Kansas City, MO

Department of Natural Resources Succession Planning

Rocheport, MO, to Cooper's Landing

- As part of the Missouri Dept. of Natural Resources Succession Planning Program, we took groups of department leaders on day-long river trips through the Manitou Bluffs.

Riverbottom Restoration

Our partnership with the Big Muddy National Fish & Wildlife Refuge has expanded to include workdays on the refuge planting trees, native bottomland shrubs and prairie cordgrass. The increase in public land along the Missouri River raises new opportunities for citizen involvement in ecosystem restoration. **In 2008, we participated in 4 restoration plantings.**



Photo by Dave "the River Slave" Marner

In addition to river clean-ups and education, Missouri River Relief crews use our skills to serve as safety boats on several Missouri River paddling races. Here a paddler negotiates tricky water at the Flying Carp Canoe & Kayak Race.

Partners

A growing network of river stewards

When you work across 811 miles of the Missouri River, there are lots of opportunities to work with like-minded groups. We've found that an important role we serve is to bring together folks with a common interest that aren't already working together.

These are some of the groups that make our mission possible:

AmeriCorps Stream Team Assistant Program

We are Missouri Stream Team #1875, one of over 3,700 teams in the state. Our Stream Team Assistant, Melanie Cheney, helps share our experience with other groups and helps them network with each other.

Government Agencies

Our clean-ups would be impossible without the help of river biologists and agents that bring their skill and boats to clean-ups to put volunteers on the river.

Non-profits and schools

Local organizations bring muscle and local knowledge to clean-ups and education events. These events give them an invaluable networking opportunity to spread the word of their good work with other folks that think clean rivers are worth working for.

Communities

Our goal is to help cities realize that the river is a resource for them. By bringing them in on our efforts, we are helping them see the potential.

Corporations

Businesses are often looking for ways to serve their community and environment. What better way than a day of service or a donation of support to clean-up the Missouri River?

Away Teams

Our stockpile of cleanup equipment, including 4 boats, means we have resources and crew that can assist other groups with their cleanups.

We call these Away Teams.

Since 2005, we've done 26 Away Teams, from Yankton, SD, to the Illinois River. Our away team crews really got around in 2008!

Blue River Rescue

Hosted by: Friends of Lakeside Nature Center

Confluence Clean-up

Hosted by: Confluence Greenway

Goat Island/Yankton Clean-up

Hosted by: National Park Service

Starved Rock Clean-up

Hosted by: Living Lands & Waters

Operation Clean Stream

Hosted by: Open Space Council & MANY others!

Alton Clean-up

Hosted by: Piasa Palisades Sierra Club



Missouri River Relief crew and Bayer Crop Science employees celebrate a successful Project Blue River Rescue.

Photo by Melanie Cheney

2008 Sponsors

Thank you!

This project would be impossible without the generous and dedicated support of our many sponsors.

\$20,000 to \$55,000

Missouri Department of Natural Resources



\$10,000 to \$20,000

Missouri Department of Conservation
Mid-MO Solid Waste Mgmt. Dist.
Pat Jones



Mid-Missouri Solid Waste
Management District

Pat Jones

\$5,000 to \$9,999

Bass Pro Shops
BP
Cargill
Great Rivers Greenway District
Kansas City Water Services
Kansas City Port Authority
Missouri American Water
National Park Service



Kansas City Water Services
Kansas City Port Authority



\$2,000 to \$4,999

Ameren UE
American Compressed Steel
AmeriCorps
Belle of Sioux City - Argosy Casinos
Boone Electric Community Trust
Coca-Cola Enterprises
Earth Share of Missouri
Fred Weber, Inc.
Jackson County
Living Lands & Waters
Mid-America Regional Council
Missouri River Communities Network
Missouri River Historical District
Rivermiles, LLC
St. Louis - Jefferson Solid Waste Mgmt. Dist.
St. Louis Metropolitan Sewer District
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Waterways Council

\$500 to \$1,999

Anheuser Busch
City of North Sioux City
Dakota Dunes
John Brady
Joe Engeln
Friends of Lakeside Nature Center
John & Alex Jansen
Kansas City Power & Light
McCook Lake Izaak Walton League
Nutra-Flo
Open Space Council
Dave & Fran Stous
Walmart
Jan Weaver

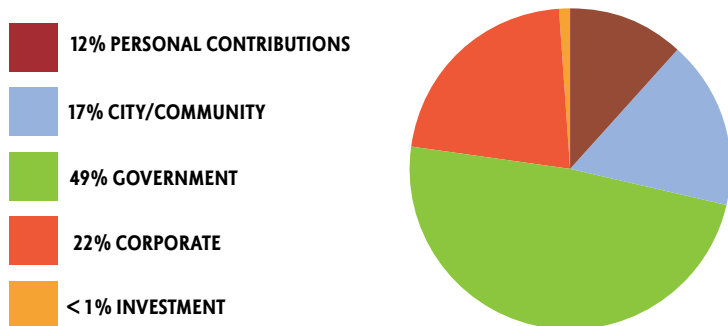
In-kind donations & services

Allied Waste
Big Muddy National Fish & Wildlife Refuge
Burns & McDonnell
Civic Recycling
Courtney Ridge Landfill
City of Sugar Creek, MO
EcoWorks Unlimited
Fabick CAT
Forrest Keeling Nursery
Intellectual Property Management Group
Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Missouri Stream Team
Nebraska Game & Parks Commission
Notley Hawkins
Redwood Creek Wine
Riverview Traders
Timberland
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Veolia Environmental Services

2008 Annual Report

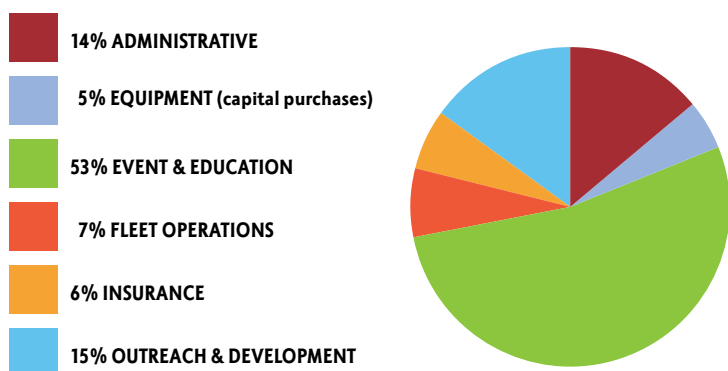
REVENUE

| | AMOUNT | PERCENTAGE |
|------------------------|------------------|------------|
| Personal Contributions | \$23,409 | 12% |
| City/Community | \$32,316 | 17% |
| Government | \$94,146 | 49% |
| Corporate | \$43,225 | 22% |
| Investment | \$ 126 | <1% |
| TOTAL | \$193,222 | |



EXPENSES

| | AMOUNT | PERCENTAGE |
|-------------------------------|------------------|------------|
| Administrative | \$ 24,119 | 14% |
| Equipment (Capital Purchases) | \$ 9,157 | 5% |
| Event & Education | \$ 92,377 | 53% |
| Fleet Operations | \$ 11,837 | 7% |
| Insurance | \$ 9,786 | 6% |
| Outreach & Development | \$25,294 | 15% |
| TOTAL | \$172,570 | |



River Relief, Inc. is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. EIN 03-0425187

Photos by Dory Colbert & Dylan Lehrbaum



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