

A DECADE OF GOOD CLEAN FUN

TRASHY



RESULTS SNAPSHOT 2011

30 River Clean-ups
2,333 Volunteers
1,503 Students & Teachers
117 Rivermiles Cleaned
83.5 tons of trash removed
653 tires
19 communities in **6** states
8,514 volunteer hours
1 full trash barge

In 2001, it started as an idea.

Gather as many people as you can on the banks of the Missouri River. Stick them in boats, drop them off along the banks of the river, and see how much trash they can get out of there.

It turned out to be a really good idea.

There is no better way to get a bunch of river lovers to work side by side with folks that have never been on the river before. After a few precious weekend hours, you have a pile of trash everyone can feel proud of. Tons of trash pulled from the stream of garbage pulsing down our great river.

As this thing grew up and down the river, a community grew. A community of people that love the river and are beginning to see it in a new way.

Missouri River Relief is a living part of this community. We bring the tools, expertise, knowledge and an undying desire to get the work done.

2011 was our 10th anniversary cleaning up the Big Muddy,

and it was our biggest year yet.

The centerpiece of this celebration was the **Big Muddy Clean Sweep** - a cross-state clean-up by barge. You'll find out more about this amazing project inside. And we hope you'll join us in 2012 and beyond.

See you on the River!

The River Clean-up Barge was the floating headquarters for our Big Muddy Clean Sweep - the largest volunteer-driven clean-up of the Missouri River.

photo by Steve Schnarr



What makes River Relief tick...

The River Relief Crew

The MRR volunteer crew is the backbone of our clean-up machine, and these folks dedicate many weekends travelling throughout the valley to get people out on the river. Driving boats, educating volunteers, managing safety, cooking meals... these folks do it all.

River Clean-ups

This is the best way to develop a relationship between people and the river, which is the best way to guarantee we'll care for our river into the future. Hands-on & on-the-river action.

River Education

From film festivals to our **Big Muddy Speaker Series** (now held monthly in Kansas City & Rocheport), from student watershed festivals and group river excursions, our education program is designed to increase our community's knowledge of the river we share through direct experience.

Our Fleet

Boats, trucks, equipment. We added our third trash-hauling plate boat to the mix this year, and by chartering the Living Lands & Waters' **River Cleanup trash barge** we leveraged our equipment base into massive results.

Dedicated Sponsors

A diverse group of generous sponsors believes in Missouri River Relief, and their support makes it possible. Individuals, corporations, agencies and municipalities all chip in to turn the props on this clean-up machine.

Amazing Partners

We are nothing without our partners all up and down the river. Agencies, organizations, municipalities, businesses and individual river lovers. They bring the local knowledge to leverage success.

The Hardest Working Volunteers on the River

Volunteers turn our capabilities into results. **2,333 volunteers** donated **8,514 hours** of labor into our project this year. They removed **83.5 tons** of trash from the banks of the Missouri River.

Hands-on - On the River

Missouri River Relief's 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.



Unloading trash at Washington, MO. photo by Alicia Pigg.



Cleaning up the Siouland area. photo by Dylan Lehrbaum.



Finding trash treasures on a Missouri River sandbar. photo by Andy "Tex" Bugh



2011 at a glance

“This was a perfect example of a quality service learning project. I think the students and the teachers learned a great deal. I hope we can do it again next year.”

- Teresa Regan, principal, Owensville MS

Big Muddy Clean Sweep

Our biggest project ever. Clean-ups, education and networking across the state of Missouri based on a river cleanup barge. Check out the following page for more on this project.

Education and Outreach

The Missouri River is a huge and complex system, the longest river in North America. We continue to develop our capacity and tools for increasing the knowledge of this river among the people that share it.

Big Muddy Speaker Series

This year we worked with partners to expand our monthly speaker series to Kansas City and Rocheport. Every month we host two presentations on a wide range of Missouri River topics, including river restoration, history, ecology, agriculture and beyond.

Service Learning

Get kids out on the river to clean it up! Through direct experience and a little effort, they walk away with a renewed relationship to the river and more knowledge than they thought they'd gain on a boat trip.

Social Media

Through our website and blogs, we keep our fans up to date on our projects and Missouri River issues. Our new “Big Muddy News” blog posts searchable articles on Missouri River news.



“Upriver” Clean-ups

Spring 2011 was a trip upriver. We spent several weeks working with our local partners on clean-ups in Yankton, the Missouri National Recreation River, Sioux City and Omaha/Council Bluffs.

“Away Teams”

Our “Away Team” program brings our equipment and expertise to help other river organizations with clean-ups they organize. Our away teams helped with clean-ups in St. Louis, Kansas City, Yankton, S.D., Alton, IL, and Paducah, KY.

River Races

Paddle-powered recreation on the Missouri River is taking off. From the Missouri River 340 to the Race to the Dome and Kawnivore, we supply our skilled boat crews to provide safety boat support for this growing phenomena. These races are creating a new community of Missouri River lovers with a new perspective on the river.



Top: Douglass High School Service Club Clean-up, Cooper's Landing, MO. Middle: Hauling away an old farm dump on the Missouri National Recreational River, South Dakota. Bottom: racers begin the Missouri River 340 at the mouth of the Kaw River, Kansas City, KS. photos by Melanie Cheney & Vicki Richmond.

Big Muddy Clean Sweep — SEPT 10 - NOV 2 — 2011

a cross-state Missouri River Relief cleanup by barge



*missouri river - kansas city - cooper's landing - jefferson city - mokane - hermann
new haven - washington - st. charles - st. louis - confluence*

1473 VOLUNTEERS § 60.8 TONS OF TRASH § 9 COMMUNITIES § 493 TIRES § 5 MESSAGES IN BOTTLES



photo by Steve Schnarr

As the keystone event of the 10th anniversary of Missouri River Relief, we embarked on a series of Missouri River clean-ups based on a trash barge. The project was called the Big Muddy Clean Sweep, and it was the largest scale cleanup of trash on the Missouri River ever undertaken.

Working with students, communities, corporations, individual volunteers and partnering organizations, we combined our goals of direct river education with this unique opportunity to remove unprecedented amounts of garbage from a piece of our nation's longest river.

For more details, see:

www.riverrelief.org/updates/entry/big-muddy-clean-sweep/



Big Muddy Clean Sweep

Sept. 10 - Oct. 31, 2011

1473 volunteers
removed over 60 tons of trash
from the Missouri River
including...
1201 bags of trash
493 tires
21 refrigerators & freezers
& 5 messages in bottles



Clean Sweep in the News

The story of the Big Muddy Clean Sweep is compelling and visually impressive. Many local reporters visited the barge and attended clean-ups, at times telling our story better than we could.

We have a comprehensive list of links to Clean Sweep stories on our website: www.riverrelief.org/media/entry/big-muddy-clean-sweep-media-clips/

And a great collection of River Relief films, articles, radio shows and more: www.riverrelief.org/media/

Here's a couple examples, with links to the full articles.

Originally published October 5, 2011, in the Washington Missourian

“We All Live Downstream”

Big Muddy Clean Sweep Will Bring Educational Activities, River Cleanup to Washington Next Week

By Karen Cernich

You may not pay any attention to the trash you see along the roads in your neighborhood or any of the streets around town, but those empty water bottles, soda cans, Styrofoam cups, plastic drinking straws and other bits of plastic that you see lying on the ground, forgotten, are ending up in the Missouri River.

Heavy rains and winds carry the trash from the streets into storm drains and creeks, which then empty into the Missouri River and eventually reach the oceans.

Steve Schnarr, program director with Missouri River Relief, “a grassroots, volunteer and equipment-based organization dedicated to reconnecting people to the Missouri River through hands-on river cleanups and education events,” describes it as “incidental trash,” or in other words, trash left behind by well-meaning people who just weren’t paying attention and are unaware of how their forgotten trash could end up polluting rivers and oceans.

Schnarr has seen plenty of incidental trash over the last 10 years as he and teams of volunteers have hauled ton after ton of trash from the Missouri. Last year alone the group pulled out 592 tons of

trash.

Missouri River Relief will be in Washington next week to lead a series of events, including a hands-on educational workshop with local fourth-, fifth- and sixth-graders on Wednesday and Thursday, a fundraising dinner on the barge Thursday evening and a daylong cleanup on Saturday.

A river festival also will be held Saturday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. (See story on 5C.)

It’s all part of the Big Muddy Clean Sweep, the keystone event marking Missouri River Relief’s 10th anniversary this year.

Missouri River Relief has led cleanups in Washington several times before but this time will be a little different. The crew will be arriving by barge.

The River Cleanup towboat will push into town early next week with a sand flat that looks like a giant dumpster, a house barge that features the crew’s quarters and kitchen, and a work flat which is simply a flat work area.

At first glance, the river and its banks may look pretty clean, no trash in sight. But when you look closer,

you begin to notice it.

Because of the flooding earlier this year, much of the trash has been pushed up into the woods along the banks, said Schnarr. During the clean up in Jefferson City last week, a crew found a slew of trash 150 yards into the woods.

Schnarr said he doesn’t usually get upset anymore at seeing all of the incidental trash. He picks it up and works that much harder at educating people about it.

“We definitely see a pattern,” he said. “Below urban areas where streams come into the Missouri River, we will see all of this plastic garbage, mostly general trash that gets washed into storm drains during rain events and end up in the Missouri.”

Not all of the trash comes from such innocent sources, Schnarr realizes. There are definitely people who intentionally dump things into the river — tires, carpet, old broken down refrigerators that would cost them \$10 to place in a landfill, used motor oil . . .

“Anything that costs people money to dispose of are things we find in the river,” said Schnarr... (continued)

You can read the full article at:
<http://bit.ly/washsweep>

photo by Melanie Cheney



originally published October 12th, 2011 in the Gasconade Republican

“MoRR Learning Festival draws praise from area administrators”

by Dave Marner

HERMANN — Dr. Chris Neale, superintendent of the R-1 School District in Hermann, said he’d love to be able to offer more “real world learning experiences” like the Missouri River Relief Learning Festival held last Tuesday and Wednesday in Hermann.

Teresa Ragan, principal at Owensville Middle School, said her only regret was not being able to take all of her students to the day-long festival which include land-based educational programs followed up by the chance to help clean up a section of the river’s shoreline. “I thought it was

amazing,” said Ragan. “I wish I could have taken every student with us.”

Instead, the 60 from OMS who participated were involved in real-time skyping exercises where streaming video of their adventures was transmitted back to the school for their classmates to watch. Ragan said teachers and students at OMS viewed them on Smartboards through a “professional friends” Facebook page which educators use.

Owensville High School science instructors transmitted video clips of their activities on Oct. 4 back to the school’s iHigh.com site.

Ragan said the school-wide interdisciplinary unit taught prior to the event was a strong lead-in to the programs offered by local and state agencies such as the Soil and Water Conservation District, FSA, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Stream Team, and the Missouri Department of Conservation.

And those land-based programs tied in nicely with the experience students had on the banks of the Missouri River as they had the chance to participate in a “service-based” cleanup along with River Relief staff and project crew members.

The group Ragan was chaperoning was transported a mile up river to a log rack pile by Jodi Pfefferkorn and immediately discovered numerous trees cut down by beavers. Pfefferkorn stopped the group by the stumps and talked about various animals found in the watershed. Later, she took the group for a boat ride into the Loutre River basin where they had the chance to see the infamous Asian Carp in action.

OMS students in a group chaperoned by Kevin Koppelman managed to catch several of the “flying carp” which landed in the boat and brought them back to school.

Neale, Ragan and Kurt Keller, principal at OHS, all thought the learning stations and “service learning” experience of helping with a cleanup project provided an educational experience beyond what their students could learn from a book.

“They were very professional and interacted well with the students,” said Ragan of the River Relief and agency personnel leading the programs. “This was a perfect example of a quality service learning project. I think the students and the teachers learned a great deal. I hope we can do it again next year.”

Missouri River Relief has moved on down to Washington this week. The group has scheduled a cleanup there on Saturday. The group will push the garbage barge and houseboat to St. Charles the following week and conclude their 6-week “Big Muddy Clean Sweep” with a cleanup on Oct. 29 at the Columbia Bottoms Conservation Area near where the Missouri meets the Mississippi.



Above: Owensville High School students (above, from left) Ray Page, Dalton Littrell, Steven Howard, and Jacob Piles move a refrigerator to the bank of the Missouri River during a cleanup near Hermann conducted under the supervision of Missouri River Relief. **Below:** OMS Principal Teresa Ragan uses her iPhone3G device to skype video back to classrooms at the middle school as her group, The Rubber Duckies, travels upriver to a cleanup site. Kylee Mistler, Rylee Adams, Patrick Martin, and Mackenzie Hoffman are also pictured (from left). **photos by Dave Marner**

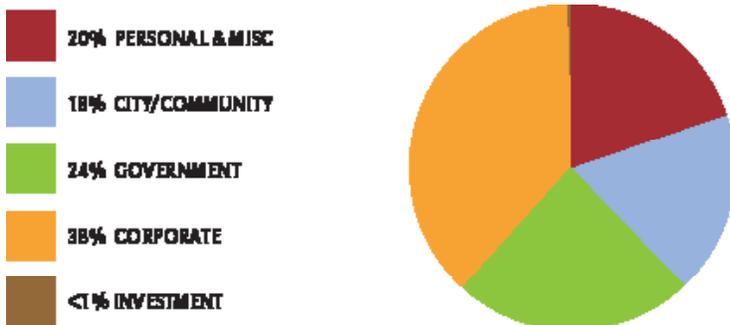


Annual Report

2011

REVENUE

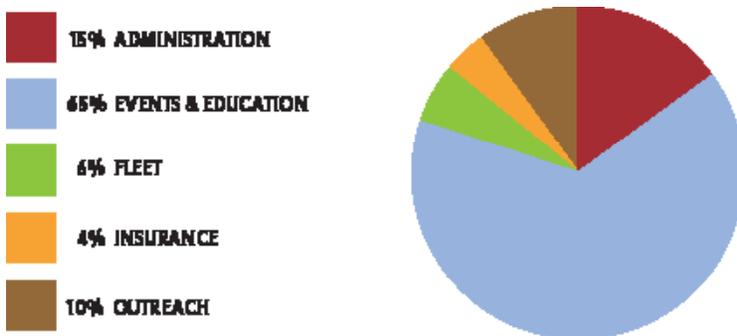
	AMOUNT	PERCENTAGE
Personal & Misc.	\$45,914	20%
City/Community	\$40,283	18%
Government	\$54,898	24%
Corporate	\$88,270	38%
Interest	\$10	<1%
TOTAL REVENUE:	\$229,375	100%



Donations from individuals are an important part of Missouri River Relief's income. Donations from volunteers and admirers were 1/5 of our funding this year.

EXPENSES

	AMOUNT	PERCENTAGE
Administration	\$37,741	15%
Events & Education	\$168,503	65%
Fleet	\$19,167	6%
Insurance	\$9,652	4%
Outreach	\$24,730	10%
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$259,792	100%



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

photos by Steve Schnarr & Sarah Pennington



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2011

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*Our Big Muddy Clean Sweep project
would have been impossible without the
generous and professional donations
and services of these companies,
agencies and organizations:*
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