

# MISSOURI

## RIVER RELIEF

# 2014 at a glance

## RESULTS SNAPSHOT

*st. louis - sugar creek - orrick - leavenworth - weston - kansas city - st. joe - brunswick  
glasgow - boonville - jeff city - huntsdale - easely - mckittrick - hermann*

**26** River Clean-ups

**1,442** Volunteers

**1,029** Students & Teachers

**107** Rivermiles Cleaned

**45** Tons of Trash removed

**564** Tires

**27** Communities

**8,457** Volunteer Hours

**30** Big Muddy Speakers Series

**20** Educational River Trips

**13** Missouri River Presentations

**1** "Meet the Big Muddy" camp

The mission of Missouri River Relief is to **engage individuals and communities** along the Missouri River in the **exploration, enjoyment, restoration and care** of the river through hands-on river **clean-ups, education events & stewardship activities.**

**F**rom St. Louis to St. Joseph, River Relief volunteers got a lot done, helping us to conduct and participate in more river clean-ups than ever before.

1,442 volunteers, helped us remove 45 tons of trash, from more than 107 miles of river! It's been a true Missouri River, community effort.

We began the year cleaning up at the Confluence of two of America's largest rivers, and then headed upriver in the Spring to host our big community clean-ups in the river towns of St. Joe and Leavenworth.

Our first clean-up in Leavenworth and Weston, these two river communities welcomed us with hospitality and openness to our organization. Both communities were easy to work with and made planning this first-time event fun and seamless. During our trash scouts, we were amazed at the amount of trash we DIDN'T see. Amazing.

In the Fall, we saw the return of the Big Muddy Clean Sweep, a two-month continuous clean-up voyage from Brunswick to Hermann, only without a barge. The river threw us constant curveballs, with several events being revamped at the last minute by flood conditions. But as always, the Missouri River Relief staff and volunteer crew rolled with the punches and made each event a special one.

And the most exciting story of 2014...

Missouri River Relief made a conscious effort to grow our organization this year with the addition of a full-time educator! Meet Alex, see our full 2014 results report, photos and more in depth stories at:

<http://www.riverrelief.org/results/2014/>



*Missouri River Relief worked with UMKC students to remove 1.4 tons of junk from a "trash trap" on the Missouri River downstream of Kansas City as part of the 24th Annual Project Blue River Rescue.*

Photo by Alex Prentice

# “I bet you find the craziest stuff in that river..”

Here's a sample of what volunteers hauled out of the Missouri River in 2014:

1,309 bags of trash	1 bow of a canoe with the name painted “BLU BY U”	1 1957 fiberglass boat (Saber)	1 moss covered tennis shoe
128 bags of recylcables	19mm handgun	3 barge lines	1 padded bra (pink)
564 tires	1 smoke grenade canister	1 fire extinguisher	3 drink thermos'
7 tons of scrap metal	1 1982 World's Fair plastic cup	1 plastic horseshoe	1 garden watering wand
12 refrigerators	1 stainless steel vegetable steamer	1 dog kennel top	1 car hood (midsize compact)
3 chest freezers	4 plastic milk crates	1 big plastic bowl for Clifford	1 exhaust pipe
111 chunks o' Styrofoam	1 vinyl record	1 newspaper mailbox	1 truck seat
22 coolers	2 cassette tapes	1 Leinenkugel's beer bobber	1 600 lb automotive transformer
21 chairs	1 vhs tape - Professional Gun	2 full cans of beer	2 fishing lures
38 plastic barrels	1 ceramic heart that says “Conncted by Love, Guided by Faith”	1 large beer keg	4 fishing poles
48 plastic buckets	2 watches	1 box of wine, 8 oz, chardonnay	2 wads o fishing line
21 metal drums (one with unknown chemical)	1 football helmet	4 orange floating booms	8 bobbers
11 metal buckets	1 dirty diaper	5 drain tile pieces	1 electric bilge pump
23 plastic tubs	1 air compressor	40 ft. of hose	1 boat bumper
16 propane & freon tanks	1 softball owned by Gary Babetz	2 tents	1 boat dock with 4 barrels
4 water heaters	1 coconut	2 plastic culvert pipes (12 ft x 3ft)	2 minnow traps
200 aerosol cans	1 water ski	1 metal sculpted flower	4 baby dolls
21 TVs & computer monitors	1 tiny painting	1 marble cheese plate	4 baby doll heads
12 car headlights	1 ammo case from KC Waters.org	1 full can of hairspray (volumizing)	1 “Hello Kitty” love seat
1 microwave	1 styrofoam strawberry	1 french press	2 plastic toy dogs
53 light bulbs	1 giant candle shaped & painted like a strawberry	1 laughing gas mask	2 rubber duckies
1 florescent tube	1 printer with ink cartridges strewn	1 ice scraper	1 plastic whale
7 duck decoys	1 seed spreader	1 shopping cart	1 pair angel wings
1 goose decoy	1 blue six sided die	1 16” Ice Skate	2 baby rattles
2 mattresses, 5 box springs	2 railroad spikes, 3 insulators	2 cobbler's shoes	1 crocheted baby doll dress
1 – 1000 gal. farm spray tank	1 piece of an alien airship	3 plastic hair combs	1 “Chicken Dance” Elmo doll
5 messages in a bottle (one from 1964)	1 old fm receiver	2 hats	1 child's snow sled
1 message on a ping pong ball	1 couch	1 decorative popcorn tin	1 plastic apple
1 jug of hydraulic oil	2 couch frames	1 swiss army knife	1 baby pacifier (shades of pink)
1 full jug of Atrazine	1 metal loveseat (very nice)	1 army canteen	1 torpedo (plastic)
3 chemical jugs		1 electric guitar	2 green army guys
		1 toothbrush	1 plush “newborn chimp”
		1 playing card (2 of spades)	1 glow-in-the-dark mustache

**Too numerous to count:** “single-use” plastic bottles, styrofoam cups & clamshells; misc. shoes & flip flops; 1 swirling gyre full of stryrofoam & plastic now known as the Kansas City “Trash Trap”; a gazillion different types of balls to include 1 gold bowling ballll; a bunch of 6 pack rings, plastic wrappers, plastic eating utensils, plastic straws; many, many 5-hour energy drink containers, disposable lighters and chewing tobacco cans.

## HOW CAN I HELP?

- **Donate** - It takes cash to turn the props!
- **Volunteer** - at one of our community clean-ups.
- **Share your knowledge** - at a river education event.
- **Partner with us!** - We are looking for partnering agencies, businesses and non-profits that want to leave the river a better place. If you have ideas on projects that need accomplished, let's work together to make it happen.
- **Sponsor an event** - Show your business cares about the river. Sponsor one of our clean-up or restoration efforts.
- **Keep posted on our website** - as details develop, we'll keep our needs and events posted on the web. That's where you can sign-up to help, [www.riverrelief.org](http://www.riverrelief.org).
- **Spread the word!** - Help us get the word out, recruit your friends!



**Missouri River Relief**

PO Box 463

Columbia, MO 65205

573.443.0292

[riverrelief@riverrelief.org](mailto:riverrelief@riverrelief.org)

[www.riverrelief.org](http://www.riverrelief.org)