

Missouri River Relief

WE BRING PEOPLE TO THE MISSOURI RIVER



2013 ANNUAL REPORT

LESS TRASH, MORE TREASURE



People joke with me about “job security” working on river clean-ups because our society’s source of litter seems endless.

On top of that, people invent new ways to make waste. One obvious example is how plastic bottles have replaced glass containers. In fact, one of our young clean-up volunteers kept a glass bottle as a souvenir. He wanted to take this strange artifact home to show off to his family!

But something both good and strange has happened recently at our river clean-ups. It has become harder to find trash! And we’ve heard from fellow “river rats”—people who have worked on the waterway for years—the river is visibly cleaner. This observation offers a wonderful sense of accomplishment. It also challenges us to evolve our programs.

In our 2013 report, you can read the stories of mothers, teachers, volunteers and government agencies who have stepped up to create a better river environment for their communities. They are educating others about the river, its history, its trash, and its treasure in ways both conventional and innovative. We’re proud to call them our own, and couldn’t do any of our work without their social and financial support. Please join us in our efforts, as every hand helps.

See you on the river,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JM Barrow".

Jeff Barrow,
Director, Missouri River Relief

Missouri River Relief’s mission 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 and stewardship activities.

Contents

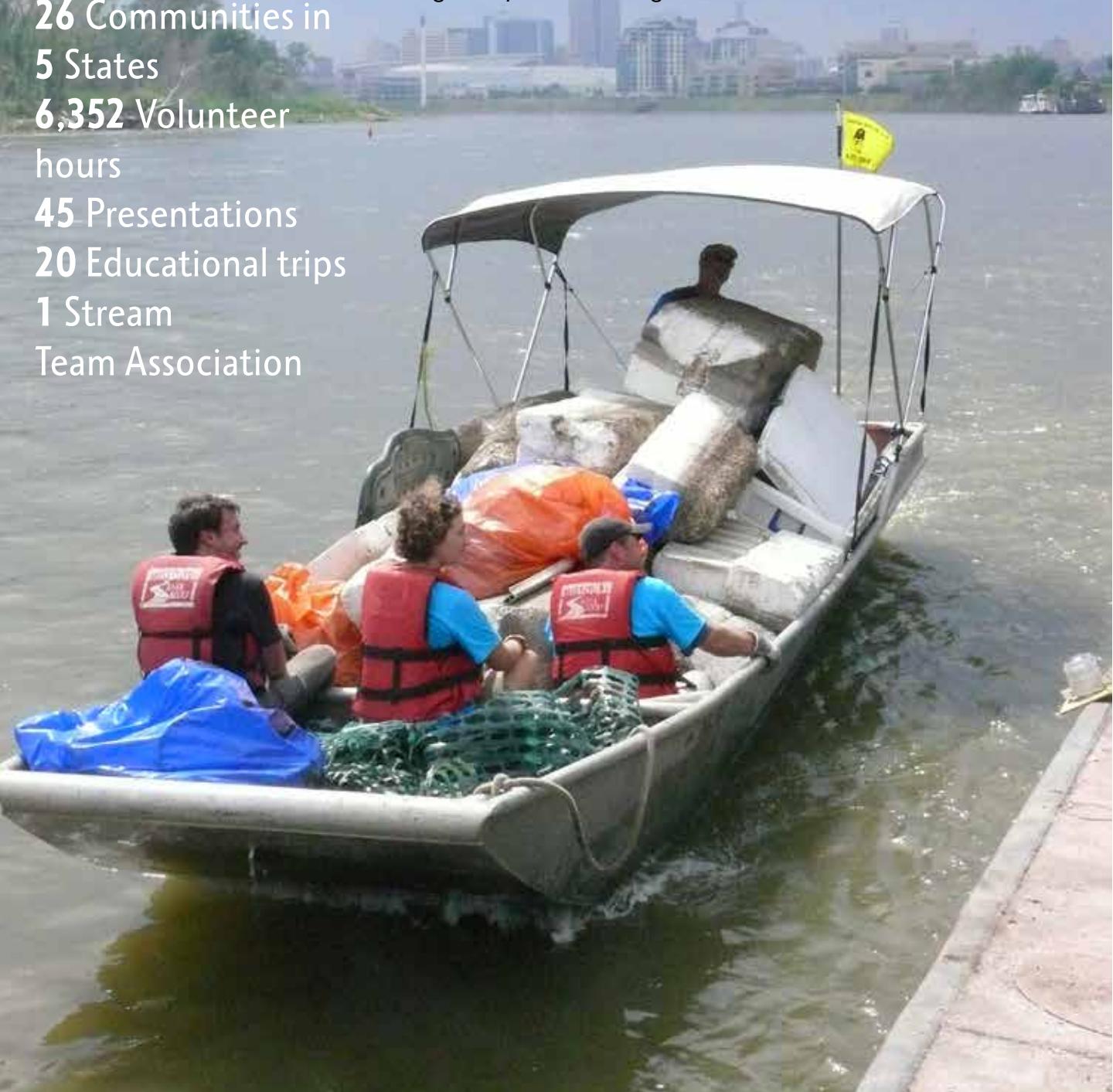
- 2 INTRODUCTION**
- 4 CLEAN-UPS**
- 6 EDUCATION**
- 7 SPEAKERS SERIES**
- 10 ENGAGING**
- 12 MEET THE TEAM**
- 14 PARTNERS AND SPONSORS**
- 16 ANNUAL REPORT**

24 River clean-ups
1,637 Volunteers
882 Students and teachers
89 Rivermiles
38 Tons of Trash
424 Tires
26 Communities in **5** States
6,352 Volunteer hours
45 Presentations
20 Educational trips
1 Stream Team Association

2013 AT A GLANCE

89 river miles. That's about the distance from Boonville to Hermann, if you travel by river or on the Katy Trail. That's a long stretch of trash to dig out from the muck, bag up and haul off the banks. And while we're talking distance, factor in the lengths our volunteers drive to come clean the Big Muddy, and the mileage

teachers get when they take our lessons back home. Who knows how far our messages eventually go? In 2013, we may have actually garnered less trash in some categories, but we think we made up for it in the lives that we touched.



WHAT WE'VE FOUND:

a sampling of items cleaned from the river

1,146 Bags of Trash	3 Refrigerators	10 Pieces of Carpet and Padding
141 Bags of Recyclables	9 Chest Freezers	1 Plastic Koala
424 Tires	3 Compressors	2 Rolling Suitcases
90 Chunks O Styrofoam	8 TV's	30 ft of Fire Hose
394 Hunks O Metal	2 Lawnmowers	2 Pieces of Siding
17 - 55-gallon Plastic Barrels	15 Chairs	5 Balloons from a Pedestrian Bridge
11 - 55-gallon Metal Drums	19 Plastic Tubs	1 Chain
48 - 5-gallon Buckets	3 Duck Decoys	1 Exercise Machine
13 Coolers (plastic & styrofoam)	3 Rubber Duckies	12 ft. of Chain-link Fence
2 Water Coolers	1 Plastic Net Float	1 Machete
	8 Propane Tanks	
	27 Metal Posts	
	1 Pile of Roof Shingles	

Away Teams

THE MRR CREW BRINGS BOATS, EQUIPMENT AND EXPERTISE TO HELP OTHER ORGANIZATIONS WITH THE CLEAN-UPS THEY ORGANIZE.

Living Lands and Waters: March, Memphis

Confluence Trash Bash: March, St. Louis

Current River Cleanup: June, Eminence, MO

Operation Clean Stream: August, St. Louis

Stream Team 211: August, Big River

Earthtones: September, Alton, IL

Working for a Clean River

“It is important for my daughter to see how important it is to keep our environment clean, and to have a good time while we are doing it.”

– Tim Dorius, who volunteered with his daughter Ashley and their church group.

HIGHLIGHTS

OUR MOST EXCITING EVENTS FROM 24 TOTAL CLEAN-UPS IN 2014

APRIL 6: MISSION CLEAN STREAM

- ST. CHARLES, MISSOURI

Even after nine years of visiting this site, we still uncover old flood debris. 150 volunteers removed 4.1 tons of trash from 6 rivermiles.

APRIL 28: WASHINGTON RIVER FESTIVAL AND CLEAN-UP

With the river in flood stage, we couldn't get folks out in boats. So on Friday our scout crew made a new plan: 70 volunteers removed a whopping 2.7 tons of trash from land sites! More than a thousand people attended the River Festival, enjoying music, art and booths by local and regional organizations.

AUGUST 17: GLASGOW CLEAN-UP

Volunteers came from as far away as Kansas City, Chillicothe, and Arnold. 123 volunteers removed 3.9 tons of junk from the banks of the river.

SEPTEMBER

7: OMAHA/COUNCIL BLUFFS

CLEAN-UP
On a super hot day, 248 volunteers removed nearly 3 tons of junk, including 3 boat loads entirely full of styrofoam. All of the trash was hauled to a Corps of Engineers barge loaded up with dumpsters. A great sign that interstate partnerships work fantastically.

OCTOBER 5:

KANSAS CITY,

MISSOURI

CLEAN-UP

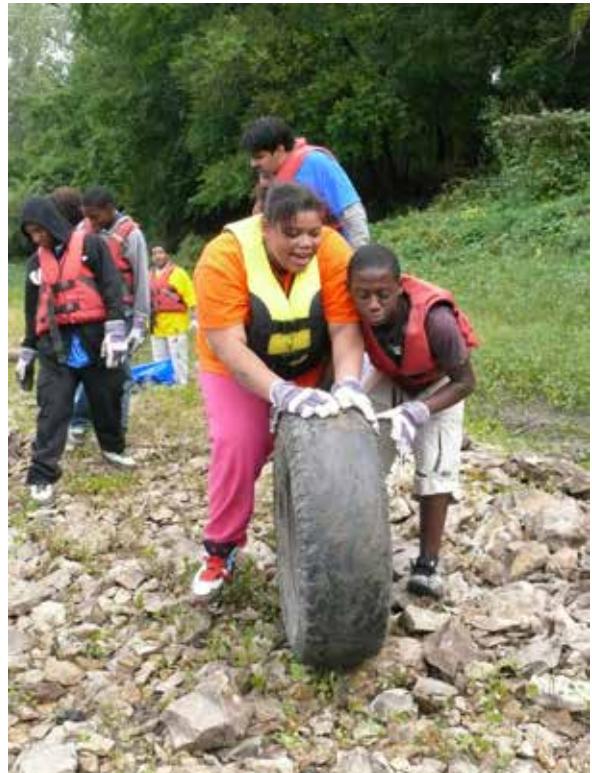
Even on a chilly morning after a good soaking rain, more than

280 volunteers teamed up at La Benite Park in Sugar Creek, MO to help clean up 10 miles of the Missouri River with MRR and Healthy Rivers Partnership,

a newly formed river-stewardship, nonprofit in Kansas City.

OCTOBER 19:
HARTSBURG
CLEAN-UP
More than 115

bags of trash were collected and sorted, including 39 bags of recyclables and tons of scrap metal and other materials including a small john boat!



The River is a Classroom

EDUCATORS HOW ONE MOTHER'S SIMPLE IDEA UNITED A RIVER COMMUNITY

Gloria Bauermeister started with a modest goal: get people to come out to the Washington River Festival.

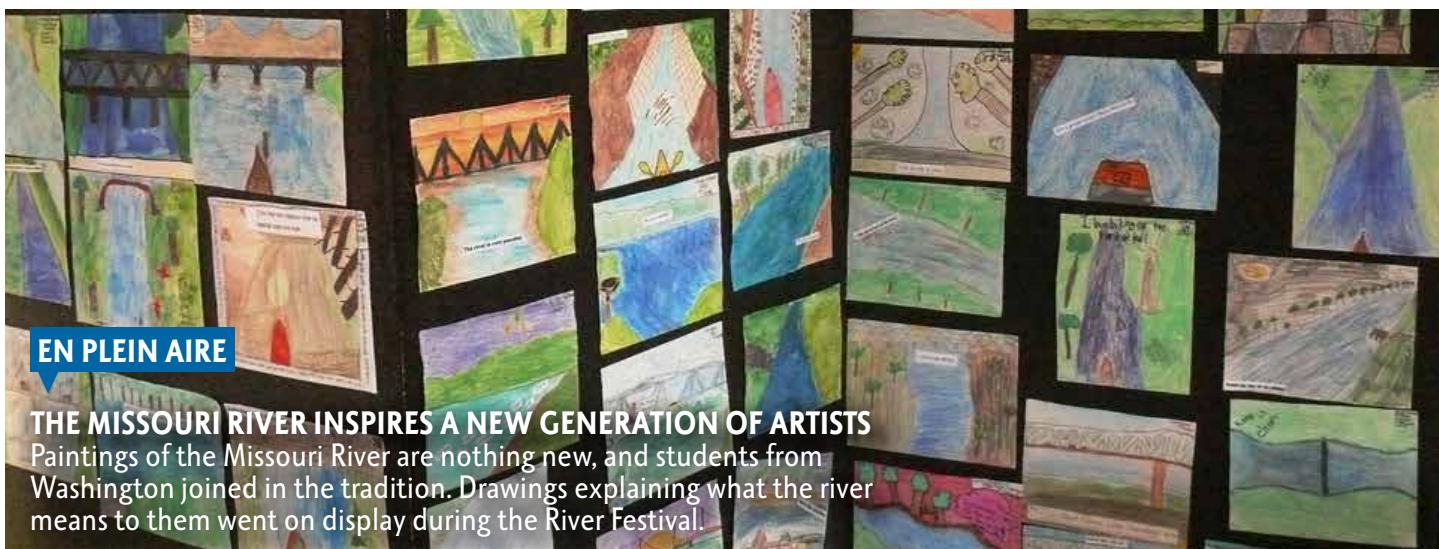
She got way more than she bargained for. Engaging kids in nature leads to long-term conservation ethics, and it takes all kinds of visionaries to pull that off. For instance, Gloria met a young mother in her yoga class, and they bonded over talking about the environment. “We had all these conversations about trash around the school,” Gloria says. “I asked her if she wanted to be involved in the river festival; She had an idea of getting her daughter’s class to draw posters of ‘what the river means to me.’” The woman joined Gloria’s hand-picked advisory committee to plan for the festival.



That idea bloomed into a city-wide project attracting a hundred art entries that were put on display the day of the festival. That was just one aspect of the event; Gloria contacted individual teachers in all eight schools to gauge their interest in a “Day on the River” with Missouri River Relief. So many people responded that they had to turn nine classes away. Businesses and service organizations

got behind them with funding and advertising, which drew hundreds to the festival.

Fostering a sense of wonder, appreciation and respect for the environment is vital to foster future citizen action. The city’s investment in its youth – and its teachers’ dedication – is a hopeful sign that Washington’s vibrant river culture will shine bright in the future.

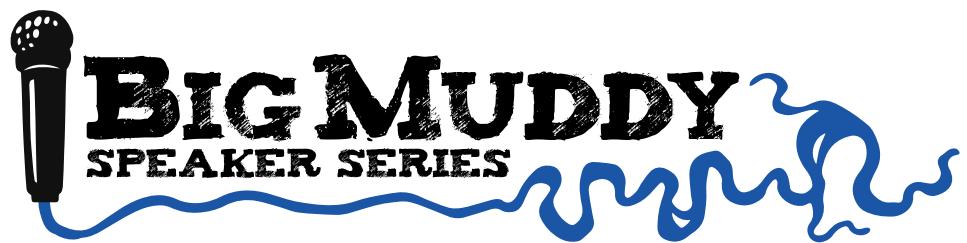


EXPERTS ENHANCE OUR KNOWLEDGE.

For the fifth year, river rats, academics, and passersby converged at The Big Muddy Speakers Series, held monthly in Rocheport, Kansas City and St. Charles, Missouri.

The following is a sample of the Missouri River policy, history and ecology we discussed in 2013:

PREHISTORIC CULTURES OF THE LOWER MISSOURI RIVER Joe Harl, St. Louis Archeological Research Center



INTERSEX STURGEON ON THE MISSOURI RIVER? The effects of emerging contaminants on a big river - Diana Papoulias, U.S. Geological Survey

"TOO MUCH WATER, NOT ENOUGH WATER – BALANCING THE 8 'AUTHORIZED PURPOSES' OF THE MISSOURI RIVER" Larry O'Donnell – Healthy Rivers Partnership, Little Blue

River Watershed Coalition and Missouri River Relief

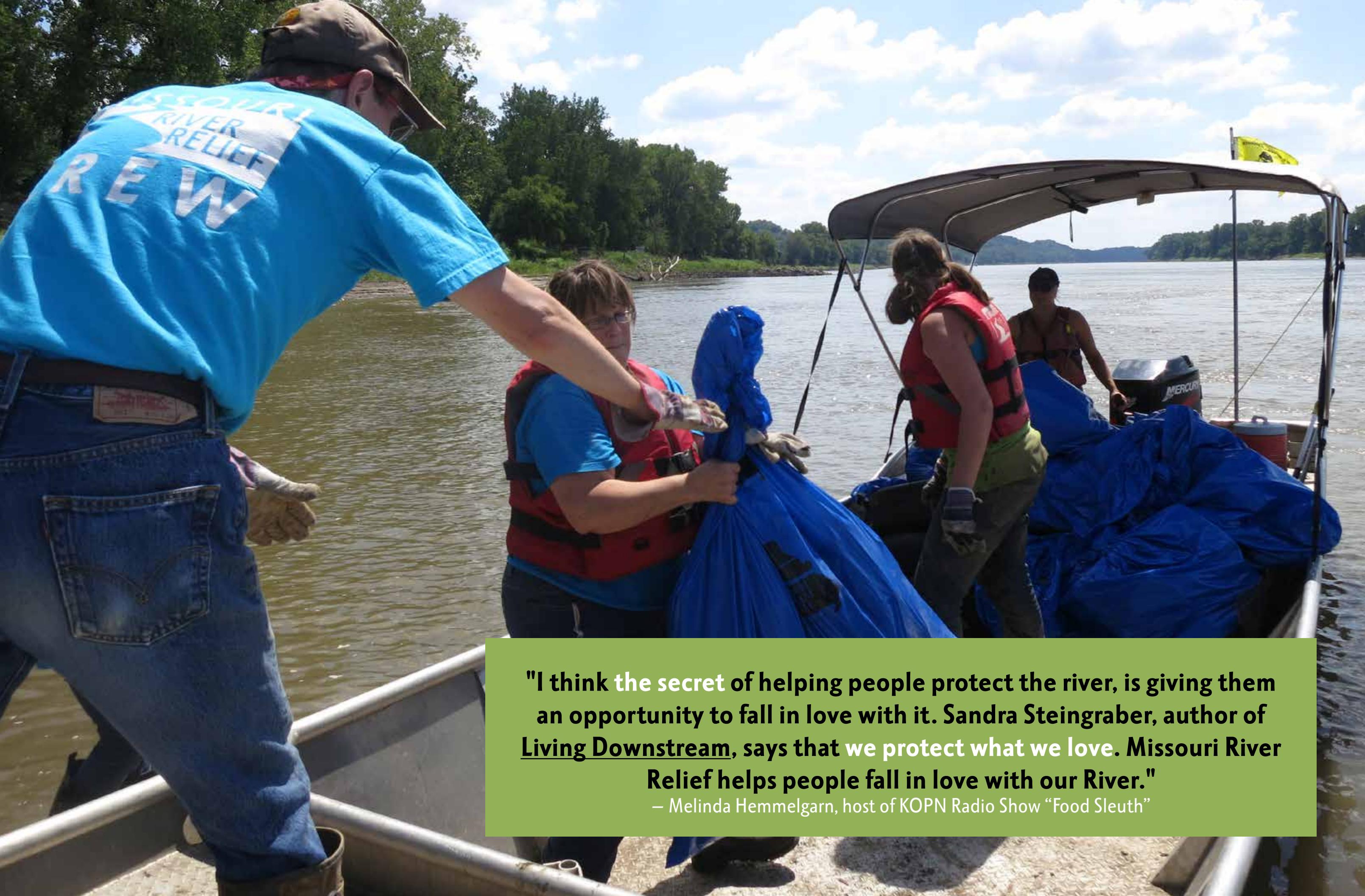
BUILDING A NATURAL LEGACY IN BOONE COUNTY Roger Still, Greenbelt Land Trust

THE RIVER BENEATH THE MISSOURI RIVER David Stous and Pat Higgens, Burns & McDonnell Co.



“Only if we understand, can we care. Only if we care, we will help. Only if we help, we shall be saved.”

– Jane Goodall



"I think the secret of helping people protect the river, is giving them an opportunity to fall in love with it. Sandra Steingraber, author of Living Downstream, says that we protect what we love. Missouri River Relief helps people fall in love with our River."

– Melinda Hemmelgarn, host of KOPN Radio Show “Food Sleuth”

The River is a Playground

EXCURSIONS

TRIPS EARN MORE THAN EXTRA CREDIT

Steve Schnarr, program manager for Missouri River Relief, loves working with student leaders. “It’s really inspiring to see them ripple out into the community,” he says, and attributes students’ initiative to the learning that takes place on a boat. “There’s a different experience, to be surrounded by that water, by that nature, the trees, the birds. People

connect on a deeper level with just how big this river is.”

In 2012, Anniya Preisberga and her fellow classmates at the University of Missouri-Kansas City attended a cleanup for extra credit. They left with inspiration. “It reminded us why we liked the environment to begin with,” she says. She started an environmental organization on her campus because of the experience.

The River Relief crew strives to imbue that sense of ownership with every potential River Rat. Look to the right for examples of how we engage the community.

RIVER TIME ONLINE

Online: history, information and regular updates are online at www.riverrelief.org

Facebook: events, photo albums and river related articles go out to 1,500+ fans

River Notes: blog features stories, photos and trash lists



FUN & GAMES

HANDS-ON ENGAGEMENT

River Relief runs tire and trash races at Prairie Fork’s annual Earth Day event, which promotes “educational experiences related to forestry, fisheries, wildlife, soils, and environmental conservation, especially for our youth.”



ENGAGING COMMUNITIES

THE MR340 IS THE WORLD'S LONGEST RACE AND RIVER RELIEF'S BIGGEST COMMUNITY COMMITMENT.

A lot can happen in 88 hours, with 400 kayakers racing on the river. During the Missouri American Water MR-340, you can find River Relief crew members at the helm of safety boats, ensuring each participant has a safe and enjoyable experience of the stream we call home.

CANOE RACES

Race to the Dome: The fourth annual Mid-Missouri race raised funds for MRR.

Race for the Rivers St. Charles paddle event sponsored by Greenway Network.

Freedom Race: A 65-mile paddling race from the Lamine River to Jefferson City.

MR340: The longest non-stop river race in the world!

COMMUNITY FESTIVALS

Wild & Scenic Film Festival

A friend and fundraiser that brings environmental stories to our hometown.

Earth Day Festivals

Crew members led more than

500 children through the action-oriented Recycle Relay Race at Peace Park in Columbia and Prairie Fork Conservation Area near Williamsburg.

EcoArtFest

MRR crew members gave educational boat rides to more than 150 people.

RIVER EXCURSIONS

Douglass High

School Service Club River Trip & Clean-up

Huntsdale, MO
We gave a quick tour of Manitou Bluffs followed by a small-scale river clean-up.

Greenworks Kids Day on the River

Kansas City, MO
These students are learning about the emerging green economy. We show their community from the river's perspective.

Missouri Master Naturalists

Kansas City, MO
A river clean-up combined with an overview of river ecology.

Conservation Careers Academy

Eagle Bluffs Conservation Area - High School students from across the state learn about potential jobs on the Missouri River in a program sponsored by the MU School of Natural Resources.

"Party on the River" with Certified Commercial Investment Members

Kansas City, MO
"Membership Meeting" event at Kaw Point Park. A riverside party highlighted by educational boat rides on the Missouri River along the city's waterfront.

People Make it Possible



**“This person has been
the calm before and
during the storm.”**

– Melanie Cheney, presenting the “True Blue Tributary” Award to Emily Pherigo

CREW REPORT

**TO RUN EACH EVENT,
WE NEED DOZENS OF
VOLUNTEERS. EMILY
PHERIGO IS ONE.**

The Missouri River Relief volunteer crew is an amazing group of people, the heart of this organization. They help organize events, drive boats, provide the human infrastructure and staff at clean-ups, cook food, travel all over the watershed and provide the energy and love that keeps it all going. More than your normal nonprofit, these folks form a tribe: an always-growing, always-caring family of river lovers that want to share the river with others.

To highlight one example, University of Missouri graduate student Emily Pherigo has been the calm before and during the storm – she’s a real go-getter, full of ideas, formulates a plan, and then takes action. While we don’t often see her as crew at clean-ups, meetings or in camp, she is often in the mix as an educational presenter with live fish, shrimp and even plankton, engaging kids in her science. Even better, she is a fantastic boat driver, and often takes the time to talk to clean-up volunteers about the river and take them for a spin to catch a flying carp. She is a great role model at these events.

For the last several years, Emily has helped us with outreach and donations for the Wild & Scenic Film Festival, confidently and systematically hitting a number of downtown businesses, and coming up with new ideas for more experiential auction items like last year's "fish biologist for a day," in which she was able to share her work fishing on the tributaries to the Missouri River.

Emily lives out the values that keep this organization strong. We're proud to list dozens such dedicated volunteers among our ranks and look forward to developing more leaders for many years to come.

MEET THE STAFF:



JEFF BARROW
Director



STEVE SCHNARR
Program Manager



**RACIN' DAVE
STEVENS**
Mechanic



JAN THOMPSON
Office Manager



MELANIE CHENEY
Asst. Program Manager



JOHN BRADY
Fleet Manager

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2013 OFFICERS

President: Tim Nigh - Retired Resource Scientist, Missouri Dept. of Conservation.
One of River Relief's founding crew members. Coordinates River Relief mapping services.

Vice-President: Bill Fessler - Conservation Corps supervisor with Kansas City Parks and Recreation Dept. Leads volunteer and staff crews in KC park restoration and education.

Secretary: Sarah Pennington - Graduate Research Assistant, School of Natural Resources, University of Missouri - Columbia, research with bats.

Treasurer: Mike Crist - Managing Member of Tatanka Resources. Works in project finance, business lending, and alternate energy projects.

2013 BOARD

Dave Stous - Retired Water Supply Hydrogeologist. Missouri River houseboat enthusiast, Kansas City, MO

Allison Kellenberger - Cardiology Outreach Nurse at the University of Missouri, Columbia.

Francis Baum - Senior Software Engineer, Boeing, University City, MO

Mark Chambers - KC Master Naturalist, retired from Social Service Administration, Gladstone, MO

Kathy Love - Public Information Officer, Missouri Department of Higher Education, Columbia, MO

Patrick Lynn - Legislative Liaison, Missouri Dept. of Social Services, Jefferson City, MO

Larry O'Donnell - Independent Contractor, President of Little Blue River Watershed Association, Kansas City, MO

Tony Sudekum - Medical Doctor and Surgeon, O'Fallon, MO

Thomas Whittaker - Chief Legal Officer, JE Dunn Construction Company, Kansas City, MO

We can't do it alone

THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS

MDC MISSOURI RIVER FISHERIES UNIT NAMED “PARTNER OF THE YEAR.”

There's no way we can get hundreds of people on the river in less than an hour without a stable of agency boat drivers giving up their Saturday morning and driving to whatever remote boat ramp we ask them to come to. The MDC Missouri River Fisheries Unit has taken that mandate to a new level of dedication. From St. Joseph down to Jefferson City, we can count on the help of both the Fisheries and Missouri River Units from Chillicothe to make the drive and safely haul huge numbers of volunteers onto the river in their massive research boats. They've caught live fish to display to children at our events. And one of them has recruited his family to come to countless clean-ups, becoming super clean-up pros themselves.

We want to express our deepest gratitude to the Chillicothe Crew for your years of dedication to our project cleaning up their “office.” Special thanks to Jason Datillo, Thomas Huffmon, Darby Niswonger and Greg Pitchford.

“We have no finer partnership than our relationship with Missouri River Relief.”

- Tom Bell, Manager,
U.S. Fish & Wildlife
Big Muddy Refuge



THANK YOU TO OUR MANY SPONSORS

THIS PROJECT IS ONLY POSSIBLE THROUGH THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT.

\$20,000 TO \$30,000

Pat Jones
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service -
Ecological Services Columbia Field Office

\$10,000 TO \$19,999

Bass Pro Shops
Missouri American Water
Missouri Dept. of Natural Resources
Hulston Family Foundation
Missouri Dept. of Conservation

\$5,000 TO \$9,999

Constellation Energy
Healthy Rivers Partnership
Great Rivers Greenway District
Rivermiles, Inc.
Thomas & Anne Smith Charitable Fund
Walmart

\$2,000 TO \$4,999

AEP River Operations
Boone Electric Community Trust
Boeing Co.
Certified Commercial Investment Members
Greenway Network
Jackson County
John Burroughs School
Mo. Environmental Fund
Living Lands & Waters
Missouri Scholars Academy
Patrick & Becky Lynn
Race to the Dome
St. James Winery
University of Missouri - Columbia
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Omaha
Bryan Johnson

\$500 TO \$1,999

Alton Marketplace Association
Ameren Missouri
Ameristar Casino - St. Charles
Anheuser Busch
Back to the River - Omaha
Bank of Washington
Bernie Arnold
Big Muddy Adventures
Central Bank
Colliers International
Dave & Fran Stous
Francis Baum
Gallup
Greenway Network
Jan Weaver
Jan and Clayton Schnarr



Pat Jones



MISSOURI
AMERICAN WATER



Hulston Family Foundation



MISSOURI
DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES



WAL★MART®



Thomas & Anne Smith Charitable Fund

Jed Friedrichson
Jodi Pfefferkorn
Joe Engeln
Kohls
Marilyn Barrow
Morgan Stanley
Open Space Council of St. Louis
Patagonia

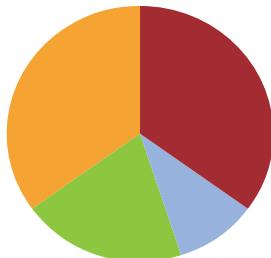
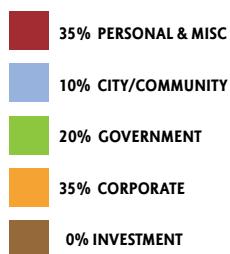
Roger & Barbara Giles
Rotary Club of Washington
St. Louis-Jefferson Solid Waste District
The Blue Note

Donations Hard at Work



REVENUE

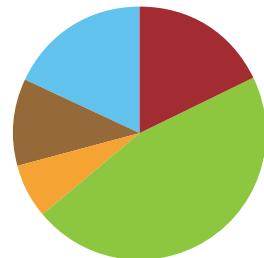
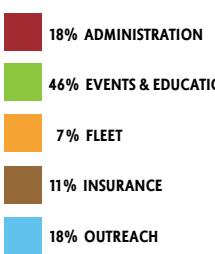
	AMOUNT	PERCENTAGE
Personal & Misc.	\$75,453	34%
City/Community	\$22,778	10%
Government	\$44,444	20%
Corporate	\$78,100	35%
Interest	\$0	0%
TOTAL REVENUE:	\$220,775	100%



Donations from individuals are an important part of Missouri River Relief's income. Donations from volunteers and admirers were 1/3 of our funding this year.

EXPENSES

	AMOUNT	PERCENTAGE
Administration	\$36,102	18%
Events & Education	\$90,890	46%
Fleet	\$14,407	7%
Insurance	\$20,634	11%
Outreach	\$34,527	18%
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$196,560	100%



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