



St. Charles Missouri River Cleanup

APRIL 6TH, 2013

150 VOLUNTEERS § 108 TIRES § 6 RIVER MILES § 4.1 TONS OF TRASH § 1 MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE

This was our 9th year hosting a Missouri River clean-up in the first Missouri capitol, the historic town of St. Charles. This year we were one site in the county-wide **Mission: Clean Stream** clean-up organized by **Greenway Network** (with dozens of partnering municipalities and organizations). Greenway Network is a fantastic stream advocacy and restoration organization that is celebrating its 20th anniversary!

You might think that after 9 years of cleaning up the same stretch of river we'd have it all done, right? Well it is definitely true that tons of old flood debris and illegal dumps have been removed forever. And what we call the "background noise" of old trash is greatly diminished.

But each new flood pulse brings more trash and people unfortunately keep littering. Believe it or not, even after 9 years our hardworking volunteers do keep finding old flood debris that has not yet been removed. Cleanup veterans Janeen Sifford and Nate Guyton, co-workers at **bioMerieux**, found a backwater slough that was choked full of huge tires and trash, apparently deposited in a flood quite a few years ago near the Hollywood Casino.

Other volunteers worked along under the 370 bridge, finding small dumps and bags of litter drifted down from the highway. A group of **Ameristar** employees scoured the beaches of Frontier Park, cleaning up this most beautiful urban/river interface.

Most of these volunteers went out in boats piloted by **Missouri River Relief** crew volunteers and biologists from the **Mo. Dept. of Conservation** and the **US Army Corps of Engineers**. But we also worked in tandem with **St. Charles Public Works** employees who had mapped out land sites for those that didn't want to get in boats. Immediately a lot of great work got done by all of these awesome volunteers giving up their Saturday to beautify their town and river.

After the cleanup, we had a trash contest, where people brought in the most interesting items they found during the day. The "Best Darned Find of the Day" went to Shane Jordan, a manager for the **Chesterfield Walmart** who found a scale model of the Ameristar Casino in the mud just below the casino.

Event Snapshot

Total Volunteers: 150

MRR Crew: 24

Boats: 7 (4 MRR boats, 2 Mo.

Dept. of Conservation, 1 Corps of Engineers)

River Miles Cleaned: 6 miles (Rivermiles 26.5-32.5)

Landfill: 1.8 tons

Scrap Metal Recycled: .3 tons

Tires Recycled: 108 (est. 2 tons)

Total Tonnage: 4.1 Tons!

Groups & Agencies Involved: The Missouri River Relief Crew, MO Dept. of Conservation, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, ALF Campers, Commons Lane Elementary School - Stream Steam #3362, St. Phillips Church, Project HEART - Willows Way, Walmart - Store #1265, Sierra Club, Missouri American Water, Cub Scout Pack 971, Clean Stream Crusaders, Starbucks, Everest

Names of River Teams: River Raiders, Nothings, Lego Otters, River Otters, Friends, ALF, Willows, Operation Irony, Team Melissa, Smooth Operators, Team Green Stream Clean, Cardinals, The Ball Team, River Savers

photo copyright 2013 by Francis Baum

For more about the St. Charles Clean-up and a link to photos of the event, see:

<http://bit.ly/stcharles2013results>

Missouri River Relief • PO Box 463 • Columbia, MO 65205 • 573-443-0292 www.riverrelief.org



Top: Prepping cleanup crews to hit the river.

Middle: Proud river cleaners.

Bottom: St. Charles Public Works were priceless with a backhoe working the ramp to move trash.



Above: Dirty hands!

Right: Best Darned find of the day - a model of the casino.

photos by Francis Baum, Danny Brown & Patty Farrar.



Partners

Our partners drove boats, donated trash disposal, brought heavy equipment, donated supplies, served our crew dinner and hosted our campsite.

City of St. Charles Public Works
 Republic Services
 Greenway Network
 Trailhead Brewing, Inc.
 Lewis & Clark Boat House and Nature Center
 Missouri Stream Team
 Missouri Stream Team Watershed Coalition
 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers



Trash Tally!

Partial list of trash collected

Trash Contest winners in **BOLD**

- 144 Bags of Trash • 71 Tires on rims • 30 Tires without rims
- 2 tractor-trailer Tires on rims • 1 very tiny trailer tire on rim
- 4 Inner Tubes • 6 Chunks O' Styrofoam
- 3 squares of green Astro-Turf • 2 Styrofoam Coolers
- 1 - 5-gal. Metal Water Jug • 1 Plastic Tub full of Plastic Mesh
- 1 - 10-gal. Plastic Bucket • 8 - 5-gal. Plastic Buckets
- 2 - 55-gal. Metal Drums • 6 - 55-gal. Plastic Barrels
- 1 Garbage Can • 1 Backpack • 1 MO license plate
- 1 mile marker 8 Highway Sign on post • 1 toy Toilet
- 1 Ameristar Casino Scale Replica**
- 1 Power Brake Booster • 1 Camper Shell • 1 Leather Sandal
- 1 Baby Doll Head**
- 1 Tennis Shoe • 1 wooden Dice Sign (#5) • 1 large actual Dice
- 1 Message in a Bottle - "We're drowning...with love. Liz & Kevin, Future Alcoholics of the Midwest, 2007"**
- 1 artificial Hibiscus Flower (faded) • 1 Skateboard
- 1 purple Bubble Wand (which blew beautiful bubbles still)**
- 1 empty pulltop can of Busch** • 1 full Can of Beer
- 1 plastic Red Shovel • 1 Baseball Helmet
- 1 Arrow**
- 1 Oil Drainpan • 1 Philips head Screw Driver • 1 Toy Horse Cart
- 1 200-gal. Metal Drum**
- 1 flammable Class 3 Window Placard #1993
- 1 signed Tony the Tiger Baseball • 25' of Plastic Corrugated Pipe
- Plastic Pallet • 1 Plastic Hose • 1 Plastic Grate
- 6 Chunks O Plastic • 2 Plastic Gas Cans • 1 Aluminum Panel
- 27 Chunks of Rusted Metal • 37' of coiled Metal Cable
- 2 Metal Gas Cans • 2 Metal Gas Tanks • 1 Metal Oil Drum
- 32 concrete Construction Pins • 15' of Iron Pipe
- 9' of Rebar • 1 auto Exhaust Pipe • 1 sheet of Fiberglass
- 4' of PVC Pipe • 7' of orange Plastic Tubing
- 1 orange Construction Cone • 2 green Plastic Lawn Chairs
- 1 rusted Folding Chair • 1 round Plastic End Table
- 2 Quilts • 1 - 4x8 sheet of Fiberglass



Sponsors

