



ANNUAL REPORT 2019

coming to a river near you

DEAR FRIENDS,

If you're reading this, thank you for your time! Your continued support and interest in Living Lands & Waters means the world to us.

As you may know, I founded the organization 21 years ago and, to keep it simple, I just want to say THANK YOU! You give me and the wonderful team here the opportunity to do what we love every day. I take great pride in what we've accomplished so far and am also extremely focused on where we're headed. We continue to produce real, tangible results - from America's rivers to helping to protect our oceans - and we just couldn't do it without you!!

Here are a few results from this year:

521,351 POUNDS REMOVED FROM U.S. WATERWAYS

103,852 TREES DISTRIBUTED

4,680 STUDENTS EDUCATED

7,411 VOLUNTEERS ENGAGED

The flooding made for a tough year for so many, including us, but it ended up being extremely rewarding in so many ways as evidenced by the numbers! The floodwaters tested our crew's resilience by being able to quickly adapt and we always find it rewarding to help our fellow communities out.

Thanks again for helping us make it happen. **Whether you're near or far, you're always in the boat with us!!**



Sincerely,

Chad

Chad Pregracke
 Founder and President
 Living Lands & Waters

133,905

BAGS OF TRASH

91,605

SQUARE FEET OF STYROFOAM

**10,725,430
 POUNDS TOTAL!**

90,955

TIRES

49,725

FEET OF BARGE LINE

29,478

FEET OF BARGE CABLE

24,654

BALLS

Jet Skis	9	Dishwashers	71	Bath Tubs	35
Milk Crates	1,480	Bicycles	132	Outboard Boat Engines	8
Mannequin Parts	17	Hot Tubs	16	Microwaves	17
Cars/Trucks/Vans	25	Gas Cans/Tanks	635	Fire Extinguishers	130
Refrigerators	891	Baby Dolls	747	Life Jackets/PFDs	359
BBO Grills	175	Sunken Barges	3	Couches/Recliners	87
55 Gallon Barrels	10,427	Portable Toilets	38	Motorcycles	12
Stoves	194	5th Wheel Trailers	4	Sinks	149
Messages in Bottles	95	Pianos	1	Tractors	20
Patio Chairs	394	Tops of School Buses	1	Campers	4
5 Gallon Buckets	7,231	Bags of Ammo (lbs)	5	Shower Stalls	2
Air Conditioners	73	Hot Water Heaters	369	Kegs	2
Trash Cans	1,402	Propane Tanks	910	Record Players	1
Shopping Carts	67	Helmets	67	Semi Truck Hoods	1
Car Engines	20	Waste Oil (gallons)	450	Weed Whackers	1
Computer Monitors	139	Unicycles	1		
Lawn Mowers	59	Aquariums	1		
Televisions	415	Windmills	1		
Construction Barrels	518	Ping Pong Tables	1		
Civil War Mortar Shells	1	Oxygen Tanks	5		
Navigational Buoys	746	Truck Toppers	3		
John Deere Combines	1				
Prosthetic Limbs	13				
Coolers	922				
Mattresses	121				
Boats	123				
Freezers	133				
Duck Decoys	316				
Bags of Police Riot Gear	6				
Washing Machines	171				
Safes	29				
Bowling Balls	20				
Clown Shoes	2				
Electric Guitars	2				
Toilets	132				
Big Wheels/Kid Bikes	86				

All the trash! 21 years and counting, this small but mighty crew has the drive to keep removing trash from America's rivers until our waterways are Mr. (and Mrs.) Clean!

MEET THE TEAM

1. DAN BREIDENSTEIN *

Program Coordinator/
Multi-Media Specialist
Geneseo, IL

2. DEREK MITCHELL *

Safety Manager
Geneseo, IL

3. CHAD PREGRACKE

Founder & President
East Moline, IL

4. MIKE COYNE-LOGAN

Education Facilitator
Rock Island, IL

5. RACHEL LOOMIS

Education &
Program Coordinator
Union Grove, WI

6. SHELLY HAMM *

Finance Manager
Blue Grass, IA

7. BRADY HARRIS

Crew
Paducah, KY

8. TAMMY BECKER

Programs Director
Bartelso, IL

****KASEY ECKSTEIN**

Director of Partnership
Development
Ponte Vedra, FL

9. CRYSTAL MILBURN *

Office Manager
East Moline, IL

10. PATRICK RUSSELL

Operations Facilitator
Jerseyville, IL

11. JOHN BOSTROM (J.B.)

Operations Manager
Moline, IL

12. LEAH CAFARELLI

Marketing Manager/
Program Coordinator
Tewksbury, MA

13. MEGHAN ELGAN

Education Coordinator
Algonquin, IL

14. DAVID POST

Operations Facilitator
Altus, AR

****RHIANNON ROGSTAD**

Development
Coordinator
Seattle, WA

15. KOTA *

Barge Dog

16. PORKCHOP *

Barge Dog

17. TRAVIS *

Barge Dog



* TOTALLY NOT PHOTOSHOPPED
** NOT PICTURED

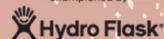
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CARGO CARRIERS



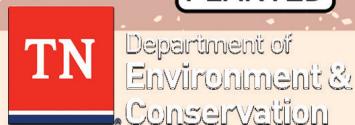
Anheuser-Busch



INGRAM



the **DREAMING TREE**



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CATERPILLAR



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BUNGE



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Angle, Joe

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GFVC Illinois Federation of
Women's Clubs
Golding Foundation
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Hammond, Cathy
Hettel, Marty
Howard's, Inc.
Joy, James & Catherine
Judd, Damon
Kameros, Dean & Emily
Kari & Fred Barton Foundation
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Kiyosaki, Kim & Robert
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Midwest River Expeditions/
Great River Rumble

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Mortenson, Marshall & Susan
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The Raney Family Fund
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The Shearer Group
Toblin, Robin
Truettner Family Foundation
Tunberg, J.R.
Waterways Journal
WIMOs Association
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and memorial donations
under \$1,000.

Living Lands & Waters is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. All donations are tax deductible.



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WATSON, ALEXANDER

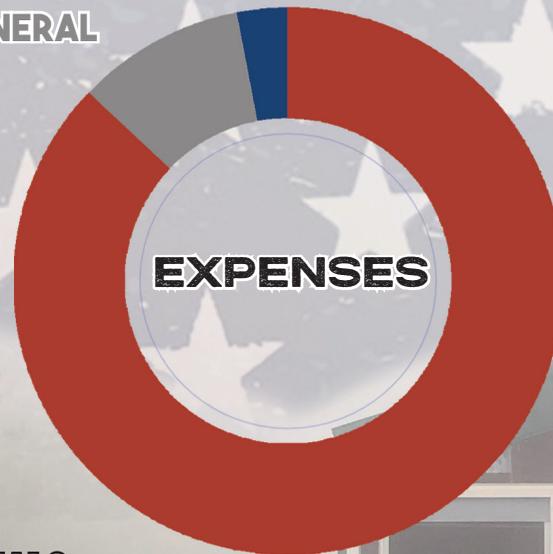
2019 EXPENSES & REVENUE

A WORD FROM THE BENCH

2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

10%
MANAGEMENT
& GENERAL

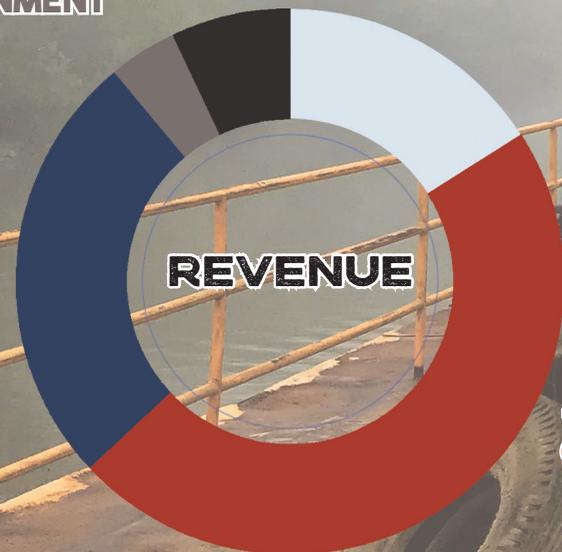
3%
PUBLIC RELATIONS



7%
OTHER

13%
INDIVIDUALS

4%
GOVERNMENT



47%
CORPORATIONS

26%
FOUNDATIONS

One of my favorite quotes goes something like this, "No person can step into the same river twice, for it's not the same river, and they are not the same person." This quote epitomizes this organization, its team and its volunteers.

Fifteen years ago, I had the privilege of volunteering with Living Lands & Waters on a river cleanup for the first time. While I hope my efforts changed the river, I know for sure the experience changed me. With an amazing crew, volunteers, students, sponsors and supporters, Chad Pregracke with his endless energy continues to change our rivers.

This past year, LL&W was back on the Ohio River again, facing the unique challenges that it brings. Even after 19 straight years there, the team is just beginning to make a dent in the cleanup needs. They are armed with the right equipment made possible through countless contributions by corporate and individual donors. In addition, education and volunteer opportunities continue to change how people see the river. A few years ago, I was traveling on the barge when a workshop was taking place in the floating classroom, so I stopped by to take in the class. What struck me most was talking with the teachers who brought their students from a small, rural high school. They were appreciative of not only the chance to participate but how eye-opening it was to know and understand the river and all it does for us.

Through Living Lands & Waters' efforts, I believe our rivers are in a better place than they were even a year ago. I also believe for those lucky enough to interact, volunteer or attend a class with the crew, that their lives have been changed for the good. I have been humbled to be a part of such a wonderful organization this past year as Board Chair. In this next year, I invite you to the barge and hope all of you can find an opportunity to make the river a better place and, hopefully, find a positive change for yourself along the way.

Fred Oelschlaeger
Chair, Board of Directors

Chad Pregracke, Founder & President

Fred Oelschlaeger, Chair
Business Trans. & Logistics Leader
Cargill Ag Supply Chain, North America

Kathleen Logan, Vice Chair
Manager, Operations & Administration
Terracon

Mark Werning, Treasurer
VP - Customer Experience
LandJet, LLC

Bucky Mansuy, Secretary
Retired Attorney - Lockheed Martin

Alain Pfaff
Retired - LafargeHolcim

Andrew Brown
Assistant General Counsel
Ingram Barge Company

Darin Adrian
Executive VP, River Division
Marquette Transportation

Gary Swick, Education
Instructor
Northern Illinois University

George Leavell
Executive VP
Wepfer Marine

Jeff Becker
Retired - ADM

Jim Wiegand
Manager, Environmental Engineering
John Deere

Lee Nelson
President
Upper River Services

RIVER CLEANUPS

FLOOD RELIEF

If the river was a dance floor, then we'd just keep dancing but we'd never dance alone! Our supporters and volunteers are always in the boat with us, literally or metaphorically, and we simply couldn't do it without all of you!!

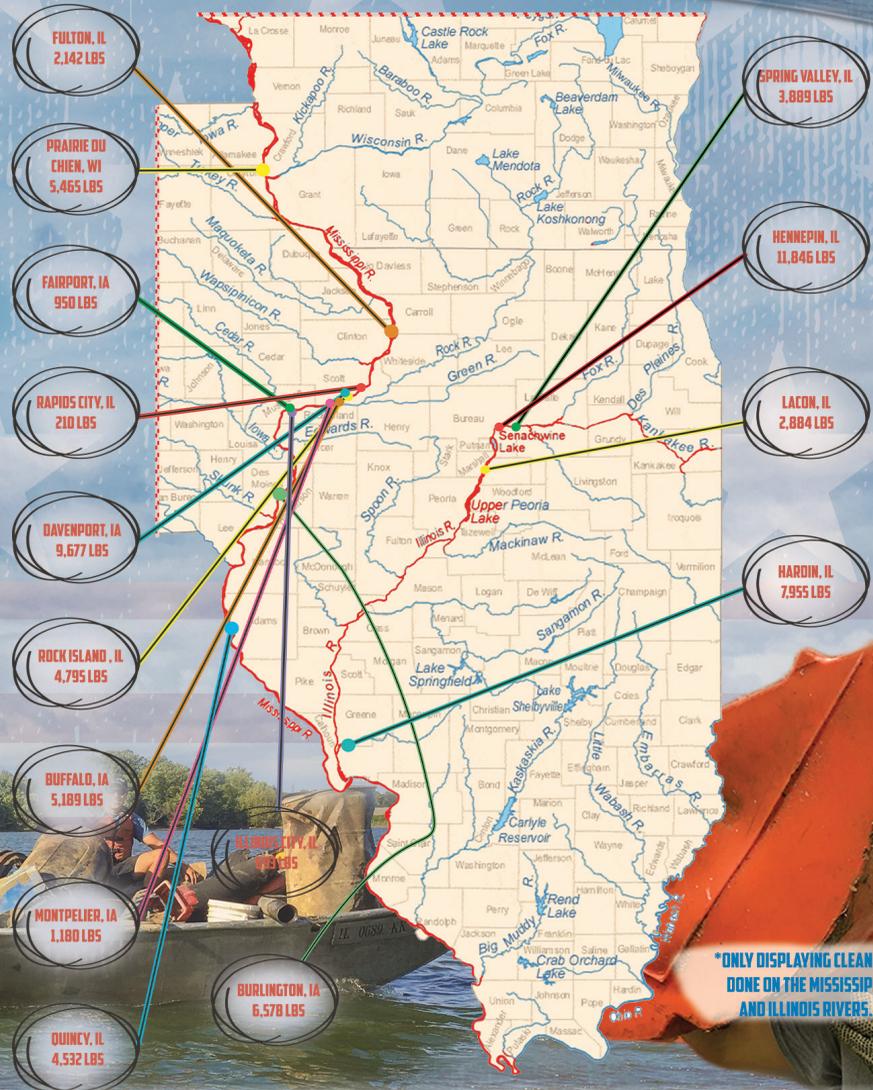
With your help, we were able to remove 521,351 pounds of trash from six U.S. rivers this year. Our handy excavator helped us with some of the heavy lifting, including removing items such as cars, boats and semi tires! Check out our stats below and know that every piece of trash you pick up, every like, comment, share and follow on social media and every dollar you've given have ALL counted toward these numbers!!

**189
CLEANUPS**

**6
RIVERS**

**2,706
VOLUNTEERS**

**521,351
POUNDS REMOVED!**



ONLY DISPLAYING CLEANUPS DONE ON THE MISSISSIPPI AND ILLINOIS RIVERS

The flood in 2019 was one for the books, placing many river towns along the upper Mississippi above flood stage for more than 100 days. Flooding to this degree carries a lot of roadside and city trash to the river, so we went to work. The crew and volunteers cleaned up in 15 cities directly involved in the flooding, many of which haven't needed our help in recent years. We will be back again in 2020 to finish what we started!

GREAT MISSISSIPPI RIVER CLEANUP

& ADOPT A RIVER MILE

GMRC

What better way to connect with your local section of the mighty Mississippi River than through a river clean up! The Great Mississippi River Cleanup (GMRC) program allows community members to do exactly that. Even from afar, we are able to guide people to clean up the river with our support and by sending supplies.

GMRC STATS TO DATE

631,809 Pounds Removed | 10,654 Volunteers | 130 Events

AARM

Modeled after the Adopt-A-Highway program, our Adopt-A-River Mile (AARM) program began in 1999 along the Mississippi River and has since expanded to all of our nation's waterways. It allows community members, groups, organizations and companies to join our clean river efforts 1) on their own schedule 2) using our provided supplies 3) at no charge! These efforts are much appreciated as they are an extension of our mission. To date, we have **347.5 river miles adopted** and **147 adoptees**. River stewards unite!

RIVERS ADOPTED

- Beaver Creek | Beaver Dam River | Blue River | Calfkiller River | Chicago River | Clear Creek | Colorado River | Conecuh River | Delaware River | Edwards River | First Creek | Fox River | Illinois River | Mississippi River | Ohio River | Pigeon River | Piles Fork Creek | Plum River | Raritan River | Red River | Saline River | South Skunk River | St. Croix River | St. Louis River | Tennessee River | Waccamaw River | Wapsipinicon River | Winnebago River | Wisconsin River



RECYCLE LIKE A ROCKSTAR



In 2019, we were able to host TWO Recycle Like a Rockstar events. These events are an awesome way for us to quickly sort, recycle and divert from the landfill the river trash that piles up on our garbage barge throughout each season.

June 6: We celebrated World Environment Day by working side-by-side with 169 volunteers from Anheuser-Busch at their corporate headquarters in downtown St. Louis, MO. Of the 18,540 pounds of waste brought in, a total of 6,940 pounds were rescued from the landfill.

December 17: With the help of 290 John Deere employees in Horicon, WI, we sorted through an additional 14,460 pounds of debris that was cleaned up from the shores of the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers. A total of 1,980 pounds of plastic (two 30-yard roll-offs) were recycled at this event!



RECYCLABLES ACCOUNTED FOR 60% OF THE VOLUME OF ALL DEBRIS SORTED.

EDUCATION, SUMMER CAMPS

& GUEST SPEAKING

ALTERNATIVE

SPRING BREAK

SPRING STUDENT EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS IN ALTON, IL: 9 GROUPS / 278 STUDENTS



SPRING STUDENT EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS AT ILLINIWEK FOREST PRESERVE: 10 GROUPS / 260 STUDENTS



3 WEEKS
201 STUDENTS
474 COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS
141,291 POUNDS REMOVED



Cleaning up rivers is only one part of the equation. What about the future, and how can we prevent more trash from continually entering our waterways? We have two educators on staff who make learning an absolute hands-on riot! They pick up trash one day and teach our future generations the next. They are flexible enough to be able to teach their lessons on the barge, at your kids' school, at an educator workshop or at summer camp. They put their all into every lesson, and there's almost nothing they can't teach. They'll even wear superhero capes (if the river has one to spare)!

We kicked off our 2019 river cleanup season in the most impactful way we know how: people power. We took Alternative Spring Break (ASB) back to McKellar Lake in Memphis, TN for three straight weeks of college and community cleanups. The water was high and the temps were freezing, but that didn't slow anyone down! We were joined by 201 students from 13 different colleges and universities, as well as 474 community members who collectively put in 7,050 hours of work. Together, we removed 141,291 pounds of garbage from a mere three-mile stretch of water! With much more work to accomplish, we'll be back again in 2020.



4,680 STUDENTS EDUCATED!

SUMMER CAMPS IN ROCK ISLAND, IL: 7 GROUPS / 137 STUDENTS

FALL OHIO RIVER TOUR IN THE FLOATING CLASSROOM: 15 GROUPS / 509 STUDENTS

OUTREACH PRESENTATIONS: 35 GROUPS / 3,496 STUDENTS

2019 COLLEGES / UNIVERSITIES

ALLEGHENY COLLEGE | GRINNELL COLLEGE | ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY | MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY | SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY EDWARDSVILLE | ST. AMBROSE UNIVERSITY | TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY | UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL ARKANSAS | UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN COLORADO | UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST | UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS | UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-STEVENS POINT

I-80 RESTORATION PROJECT

Two years ago, we began a three-phase project restoring land that was devastated by a 2016 tornado and covered in invasive species. With close to 43,000 vehicles passing through daily, this land acts as either the first or last impression of Illinois and we wanted to make sure it was a positive one!

In 2019, we finished restoring the first parcel to its native prairie state and got started on the second parcel with volunteers spending their time and energy removing invasive honeysuckle. We then brought in some heavy machinery to help remove the larger invasives and downed trees. By the beginning of 2020, we will have planted another five acres of prairie, bringing our total for this project to 18 acres!

Note that the beautiful prairie we planted is a special pollinator mix to help our bees and butterflies thrive.

*Background photo is a prairie bloom which took place at the first parcel of the I-80 Restoration Project in 2019.

INVASIVE SPECIES REMOVAL

A species is invasive when it is both non-native to the ecosystem in which it is found and capable of causing environmental, economic or human harm. As part of our mission to protect, preserve and restore the natural environment of our rivers and their watersheds, we continue to pull invasive species from a variety of landscapes.

Think of us as the invasive species police, here to protect and (pre)serve! Below are this year's stats!

7
EVENTS

296
VOLUNTEERS

6
ACRES REMOVED

MILLIONTREES PROJECT

For the spring 2019 season, we received 231 orders for a total of 103,852 trees being planted across 22 states. Species distributed included red, swamp white and bur oaks, as well as redbuds. These saplings were distributed to dozens of schools, businesses, park districts and individuals!

Our mobile tree wrapping unit, new in 2018, continues to be a huge hit at local schools. Each student who participated received a brief lesson on the value and importance of trees and why planting native trees is so helpful to our ecosystem. Together, we worked with 3,920 students from 12 junior high and high schools in the Quad Cities area to wrap over 70,000 trees!

YES PLEASE TO TREES!

THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS PROJECT

Over the last 150 years, there has been a decline in tree diversity along the shorelines of the Midwest's mightiest rivers as hardwood trees (such as oaks, hickories, pecan, paw paw, etc.) have been depleted for fuel and building materials, and by flooding and disease. Trees planted by the MillionTrees Project will act as a food source and habitat for wildlife, a filter for rivers and streams from polluted runoff, erosion control, a sponge to absorb harmful carbon and shade along rivers to prevent deadly algae blooms!

103,852 TREES DISTRIBUTED ACROSS 22 STATES!

IN GOOD COMPANY

For two weeks in 2018, we had the privilege of having fun and getting a lot done with the good folks at CLIF BAR's In Good Company (IGC)! So we figured, why not do it all again this year but for three weeks instead? Yeah, that's right! The amazing folks at IGC spent three weeks cleaning up the Ohio River with us in 2019!

3 WEEKS
21 SUSTAINABLE BRANDS
45 VOLUNTEERS
115,684 POUNDS REMOVED FROM THE OHIO RIVER

So what's next? We're excited to expand the program and host them all again for four weeks in 2020, working between Paducah, KY and Cairo, IL!

Thank you to all of the amazing companies and people who made up the In Good Company Ohio River Project alliance this year:



American Licorice Company | Annie's Homegrown | Aspen Skiing Company | Chico Bag | CLIF BAR | Clif Bar Baking Company | EILEEN FISHER | Fairware | FST Logistics | King Arthur Flour | Klean Kanteen | NativeEnergy | Presence Marketing | QBP (Quality Bike Products) | r.Cup | Seventh Generation | Sir Kensington's | Smartwool | Sprouts Farmers Market | States Logistics | Timberland

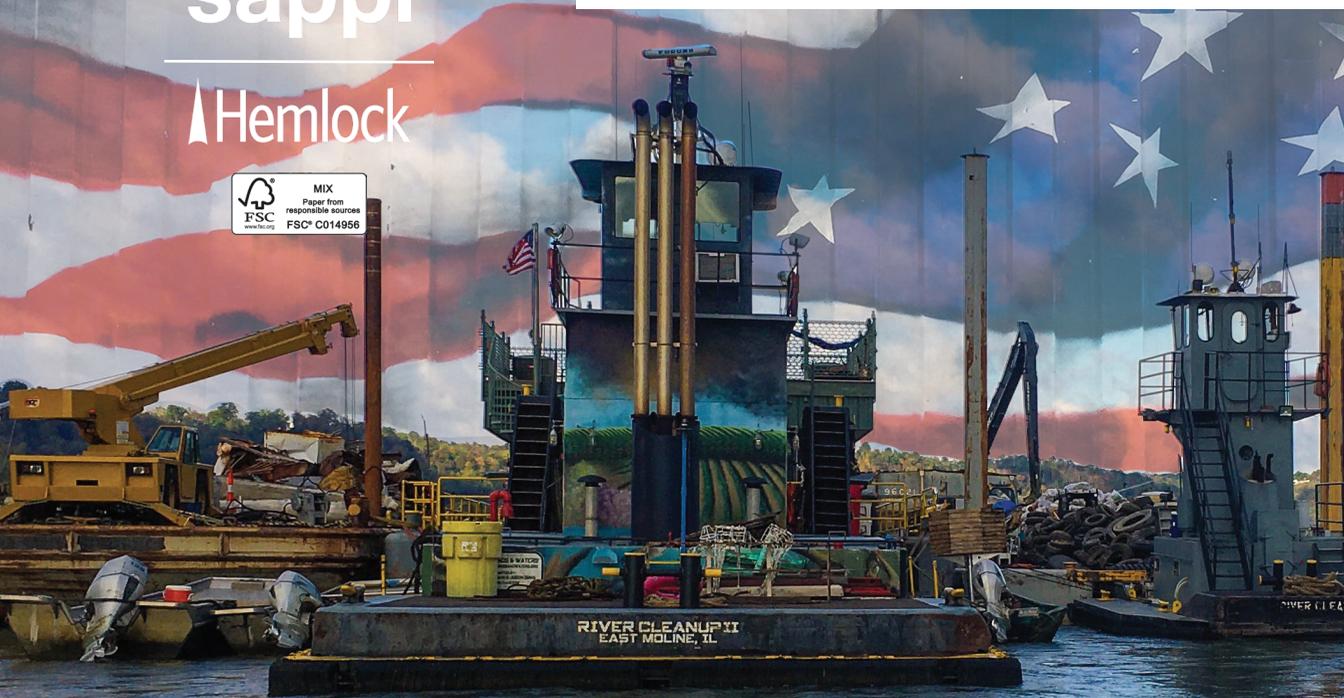
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OUR MISSION

To aid in the protection, preservation, and restoration of the natural environment of our nation's major rivers and their watersheds.

To expand awareness of environmental issues and responsibility encompassing our rivers.

To create a desire and opportunity for citizens to take an active role in helping to make a cleaner river environment.

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