

# DEAR FRIENDS,

I want to start off by thanking you for continuing to move our mission forward. 2024 has been an amazing year for Living Lands & Waters. Most notably, our new education barge, the Mississippi River Institute, is in full swing. It has been such an excellent addition to our fleet and our education programs! We currently have it parked under the St. Louis Arch. Since July, we have had **22** organizations utilize the space for meetings, and we have hosted **377** students in our free river-related career workshops since we have been in the St. Louis area.

One of my favorite accomplishments this year is that the LLW team set a crew record by pulling **52** cars out of the three rivers in Pittsburgh within 4 days! In the past 26 years, I have never seen so many people on the street stopped with their jaws dropped in awe of what we are doing. It was extremely rewarding and impactful work to say the least. We then proceeded to unload the cars at the scrapyard and focused on sunken boats!

Another record set in 2024 - we distributed and planted **181,631** trees this year AND planted our **2 millionth** tree for the MillionTrees Project! We were so grateful to plant the 2 millionth tree! A huge thank you to everyone who has participated in this beloved program over the years, from wrapping trees, to helping at giveaways, to planting saplings in your yards, businesses, schools, and parks. Together we are making an impact!

We were able to work in some new areas this year, including the Detroit River and in North Carolina, and we also acquired a hopper barge to add to our fleet simply due to the volume of trash we remove from the rivers. We will end our year with all of our equipment, including our new classroom barge, down in Memphis, which is where we will kick off the 2025 season with our annual Alternative Spring Break program.

I'm so proud of the crew and their incredible dedication to our mission. They pour their energy into producing tangible results, creating connections with the river for thousands of students and volunteers, and showing up day after day to make an impact. As our fleet expanded and crew logistics became more complex in 2024, the crew never stopped bringing energy, passion, and enthusiasm to our programs. Our volunteers and students also continue to amaze and motivate us with their work ethic, commitment to their local stretch of river, and excitement to engage and make an impact. Thank you to all the teachers, students, and volunteers who have made 2024 a successful and memorable year on the river!

We hope to continue to exceed your expectations as your continued support means the world to us. The more we have the more we can do, and as I always say, "no matter how you choose to contribute, you're always in the boat with us."

Sincerely,

Chad Pregracke  
Founder & President  
Living Lands & Waters



I want to support Living Lands & Waters and join in the effort to help restore our river environment.

Please accept my donation in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

(\$1,000+ donors will be listed in the annual report and on the LLW website unless otherwise specified.)



☐ Check enclosed (Please make check payable to Living Lands & Waters.)

☐ Please charge my Credit Card (Type)\_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Number\_\_\_\_\_

Expiration\_\_\_\_\_ CVV(3 numbers on back of card)\_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name\_\_\_\_\_ Signature\_\_\_\_\_

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You can also donate online by scanning the QR code above or heading to [www.livinglandsandwaters.org](http://www.livinglandsandwaters.org).



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**13,595,555 POUNDS REMOVED**  
**134,813 VOLUNTEERS ENGAGED**  
**28,633 STUDENTS EDUCATED**  
**2,139,378 TREES PLANTED**



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