



2021 ANNUAL REPORT

...COMING TO A RIVER NEAR YOU...

LETTER FROM *The President*

Dear Friends,

What an amazing year 2021 has been! I want to thank you for helping us clean up our rivers. In the past, we hosted large community cleanups, but coming out of COVID we needed to change that. In 2021, we focused on hosting cleanups with smaller groups which proved to be very productive! We removed **565,510 pounds of garbage** from America's rivers!

This year our MillionTrees Project set a new annual record - **by planting or distributing 176,017 trees**. Many of the areas that received trees were impacted severely by the derecho last August; these new trees will help revitalize the devastated area over the coming years. We expanded our efforts this year to include Cleveland, which is in the Cuyahoga River watershed. We worked with some amazing volunteers and organizations, to not just plant trees but to also work on the river. As you may or may not know, the Cuyahoga River was greatly affected by industrial pollution which started on fire in 1969. This led to the implementation of the Clean Water Act.

Education in communities and amongst students remains a priority for us. Thanks to our education team, our virtual workshops have been a hit nationwide. To date, we've **educated 4,458 students virtually in 14 states** and will have hundreds more participate before the end of the year!

Our land restoration efforts are ongoing and in March we launched an effort to start a new National Park by repurposing the Interstate 80 Bridge. Inspired by other infrastructure repurposing projects and wildlife bridges around the country, the Bison Bridge Foundation was formed to develop a plan for retaining the bridge and repurposing it as the Bison Bridge. The Mississippi River crossing would be transformed into a pedestrian parkway on the eastbound lanes and a crossing for wildlife, including a small herd of American bison, on the westbound lanes. The project has gained supporters across six continents and is only 13,189 signatures shy of reaching our 50,000 signatures goal to help us move the project forward. We believe millions of people will not only be able to view wildlife but learn how important the Mississippi River is to wildlife, economy and culture. **To learn more, visit bisonbridge.org.**

As I said, 2021 has been an amazing year and our team remains steadfast in our mission to clean America's rivers! Your continued support means the world to us and we truly need it to do our work. As I always say, "no matter how you choose to contribute, you're always in the boat with us." Thank you so much for your time and consideration.

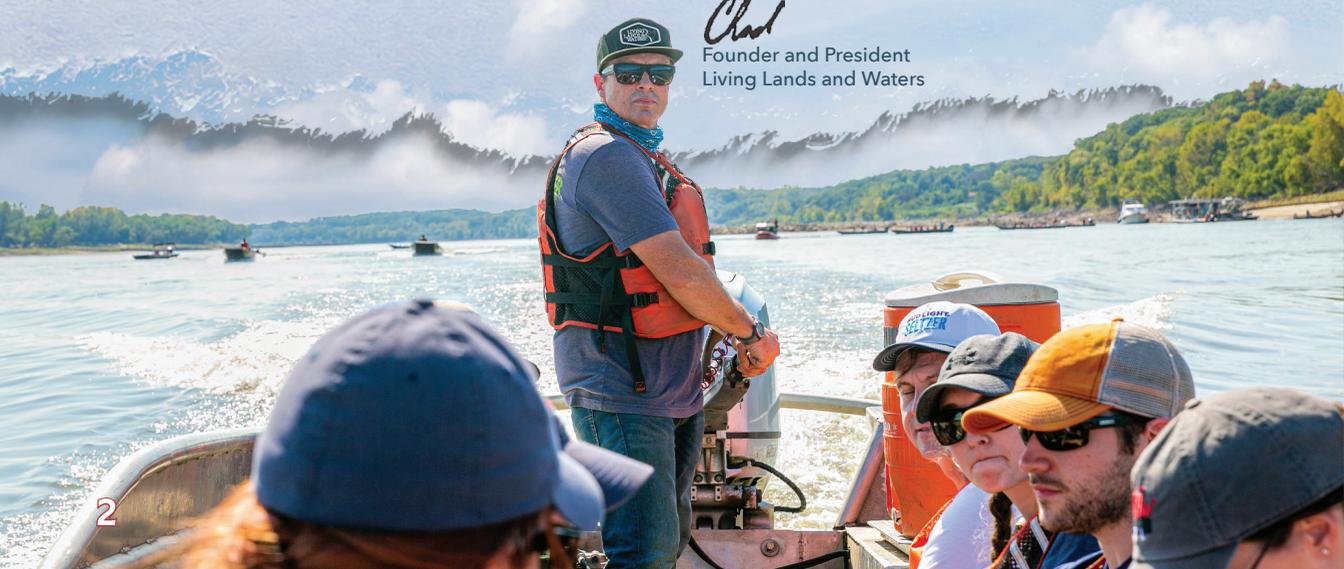
Sincerely,
Chad Pregracke

Chad

Founder and President
Living Lands and Waters

CUMULATIVE *Garbage Stats*

Bags	141,500	Unicycle	1	Dishwashers	71
Tires	94,616	Coolers	1,007	Bicycles	135
Styrofoam (sq ft)	97,983	Mattresses	134	Hot Tubs	19
Barge Line (ft)	60,630	Boats	143	Gas Cans	711
Balls	25,054	Duck Decoys	356	Portable Toilets	42
Milk Crates	1,699	Big Wheels / Kid's Bikes	91	Tractors	20
Mannequin Parts	17	Sunken Barges	4	Aquariums	1
Cars/Trucks/Vans	31	Hot Water Heaters	403	Truck Toppers	3
Refrigerators	922	Washing Machines	173	Oxygen Tanks	7
BBQ Grills	180	Bowling Balls	123	Outboard Boat Engines	9
5-Gallon Buckets	8,380	Clown Shoes	2	Campers	4
Stoves	197	Toilets	139	Sinks	151
55-Gallon Barrels	11,454	Hot Water Heaters	402	Pianos	4
Messages in Bottles	104	Baby Dolls	763	Bath Tubs	38
Patio Chairs	510	Bags of Police Riot Gear	6	Ammunition (lbs)	5
Air Conditioners	74	Computer Printers	2	Guns	3
Trash Cans	1,065	Navigational Buoys	797	Couches	90
Shopping Carts	70	John Deere Combine	1	Motorcycles	12
Car Engines	20	Propane Tanks	1,030	Shower Stalls	2
Computer Monitors	142	5th Wheel Trailers	1	Ping Pong Table	1
Lawn Mowers	60	Tops of School Buses	1	Trampoline	1
Televisions	452	Windmills	1	Typewriter	1
Civil War Mortar Shells	1	Fire Extinguishers	144	20th Century	
Prosthetic Limbs	13	Freezers	140	Steam Boat Boiler	1
Construction Cones	638	Life Jackets	383	Electric Scooters	2
Helmets	73	Jet Skis	11	Helipad	1
Kegs	3	Safes	30		
Waste Oil (Gallons)	470	Electric Guitars	2		



MEET THE *Current Crew*

CHAD PREGRACKE
FOUNDER & PRESIDENT

DAN BREIDENSTEIN
VICE PRESIDENT

RACHEL LOOMIS
EDUCATION COORDINATOR

CAPTAIN SCOTT
TOW BOAT CAPTAIN

RHIANNON ROGSTAD
DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR

CODY BREECHEER
OPERATIONS MANAGER

ETHAN BEYER
EXCAVATOR OPERATOR

CHRIS DINWIDDIE
OPERATIONS CREW

CHIEF
BARGE DOG

PORKCHOP & TRAVIS
BARGE DOGS

MIKE COYNE-LOGAN
EDUCATION FACILITATOR

SHELLY HAMM
FINANCE MANAGER

ANDREW LAYER
TREE NURSERY MANAGER

CALLIE SCHASER
COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST

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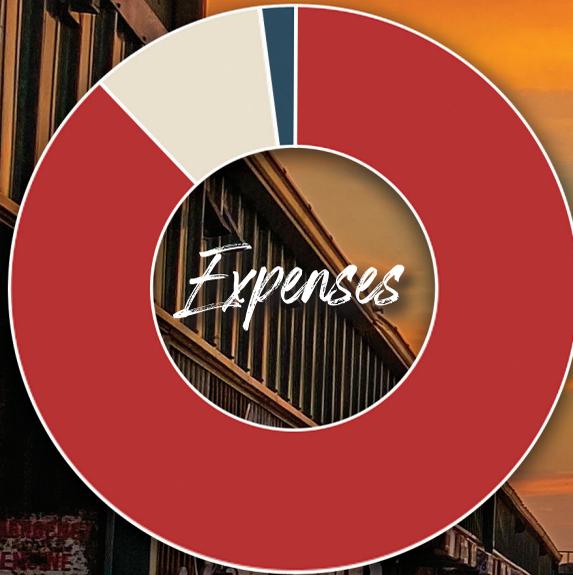
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Plus 740 additional donors under \$1,000.

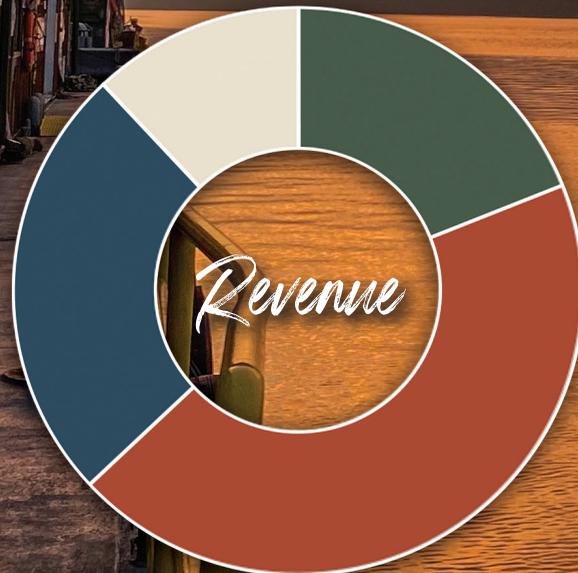
Living Lands & Waters is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. All donations are tax deductible.

EXPENSES & Revenue



- 88% PROGRAM SERVICES
- 10% MANAGEMENT & GENERAL
- 2% PUBLIC RELATIONS

- CORPORATIONS 44%
- FOUNDATIONS 25%
- INDIVIDUALS 19%
- OTHER 12%
- GOVERNMENT 0%



A WORD FROM *The Bench*

You know that feeling you get when you are around people that cannot be deterred from making a difference? If you have met Chad and his crew, you know exactly what I am talking about...

Despite another year of challenges and uncertainty, the team has charged on with enthusiasm and creativity. They have collected over **565,000 pounds of garbage**; planted/distributed over **176,000 trees**; designed and implemented a new virtual education program reaching over **3,100 students**; AND assisted with Hurricane Ida disaster recovery efforts by supplying food, tarping roofs, removing downed trees and more. I could go on and on... Clearly, the pandemic has NOT deterred Living Lands & Waters from making a difference!

Having the honor to be a small part of this wonderful organization by serving on the Board has been nothing short of delightful and humbling. To Chad and the crew, thank you for your tireless hard work, passion, and dedication. To the Board, thank you for always being there to assist with budgeting, planning, policies, and strategies, especially during the last few years which have been so challenging for everyone.

I want to also thank YOU - the volunteers, supporters, and advocates of Living Lands & Waters. Since 1998, when Living Lands & Waters was born, you have been there helping to make it happen. All of us look forward to the years ahead - together - making a difference.

Kathleen Logan
Chair, Board of Directors

2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Founder and President

Kathleen Logan - Chair
Terracon

Alain Pfaff - Vice Chair
LaFarge
Retired

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Procurement

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Ingram Barge
VP - Vessel Operations

RIVER Cleanups

It was great getting a bit back to normal this past year, while still trying to safely navigate the pandemic. In 2021 the crew tackled **216 cleanups** on seven different rivers - the Mississippi, Illinois, Ohio, Tennessee, Rock, Des Plaines, and Cuyahoga Rivers.

The crew with the help of **1,399 volunteers**, and our trusty John Deere excavator absolutely crushed it this year removing **565,510 pounds** of trash in 2021.

This brings our cumulative total poundage to (drum roll please)...
11,463,579 POUNDS!

7
RIVERS
216
CLEANUPS
1,399
VOLUNTEERS
565,510
POUNDS REMOVED!



EXCAVATOR: *Fully Loaded!*

The excavator was fully loaded and loaded this year! We were still navigating through COVID which means we could not work with as many volunteers as we are used to. However, our **John Deere excavator** makes it possible to continue to maximize our trash grabbin'. We added Ethan, our full time excavator operator and Chris, our seasonal River Cleanup 1 Pilot to the crew. These two killed it and removed **211,630 pounds** of garbage from our nation's major riverways.

GREAT MISSISSIPPI *River Cleanup*

After postponing their events from 2020, the Great Mississippi River Cleanup (GMRC) groups were ready to re-conquer the mighty Mississippi River! The GMRC Program encourages community members to take garbage grabbin' action on the river banks themselves, and with the determination from a designated site coordinator and the support from LLW on supplying gloves and bags, these groups are able to do exactly that. **With 4 clean ups from 3 different sites, 578 GMRC participants removed 32,072 lbs** of garbage from the Mississippi River this year!

ADOPT A *River Mile*

CURRENT RIVER MILES ADOPTED

Other Rivers
105 Miles

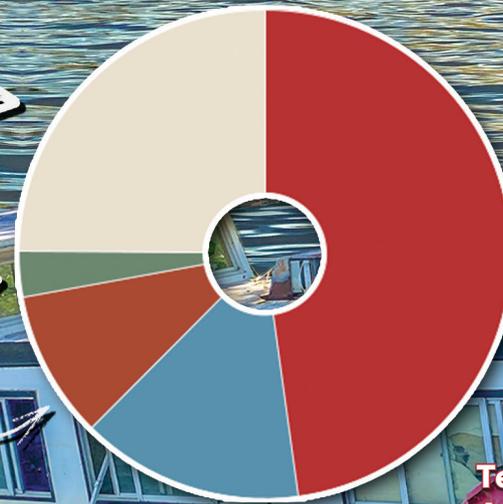
Mississippi River
202.5 Miles

*219 Total Adoptees
taking care of
423.5 River Miles!*

Ohio River
13 Miles

Illinois River
31 Miles

Tennessee River
62 Miles



MILLION TREES Project

22 STATES | 983 VOLUNTEERS
176,017 TREES DISTRIBUTED FOR PLANTING!

What's the best way to follow up a record year? Another record year! We didn't set out with that goal, but just like last year we found ourselves distributing more than ever - **176,017 TREES!**

Kicking off the start of 2021 was our first chase to find a way to still engage with volunteers, but in a safe, COVID friendly environment. We were lucky enough to run the project out of an old factory in East Moline, IL to keep everyone out of the elements while keeping our distance. With a new year we also brought in two new species of trees to our lineup. Shagbark and Shellbark Hickory, along with Bur Oak, Swamp White Oak, and Red Oak made up the record-breaking list.

We also had another opportunity to harvest from our nursery in Davenport, IA. Last year due to weather-related issues we had to postpone, which made our stockpile even larger! Yet, another opportunity to engage with those in our community to help us unearth the seedlings to be prepped and ready for distribution to over **22 different states.**

Our MillionTrees Project is always a great reminder on how many hands make light work. With the help of **983 people**, we were able to take the bare root trees, wrap them up in newspaper, dip them in water, secure them in a bag and bundle them for distribution. A big THANK YOU to everyone who played a part in making this year such a success!



BISON *Bridge*



For over a decade, Chad has waited for the opportunity to repurpose the I-80 bridge for locals and visitors to experience the beauty of the Mississippi River and the Quad Cities. How is he going to do that? Bison...yes, real bison! Chad's long term vision is to turn the Bison Bridge and the acreage on either side of the Mississippi River adjacent to the bridge into a new National Park. Visitors will have the chance to learn about the history of the prairie, native wildlife - including a small herd of bison, and the historical significance of the Mississippi River. With over 42,000 cars a day traveling over the Mississippi on I-80, the Bison Bridge will attract locals and visitors alike for the chance to experience all the river and the region have to offer.

Bison Bridge has over **37,000 signatures**, but we can always use more support. Join the herd and support Bison Bridge by signing the form found on bisonbridge.org, today!



EDUCATION *Workshops*



The LL&W Educators were excited to continue reaching students from all over the country through virtual education and several safe, in person events on the river. In between retrieving garbage from the river and virtual sessions with formal school groups, Mike and Rachel hosted a new program, LL&W Virtual Community Exploration & Challenge (LLWVCEC) Program, in which **28 students** from across the country successfully completed a 6-month program right from their homes, encouraging them to get outside and take action. Students received materials, followed lessons, completed challenges, and virtually met with our educators each month. As a result, **5,583 lbs of garbage removed, 30 bee houses built, native seeds dispersed, invasive species removed and 150 storm drains investigated.** Not to forget some trash talk and friendly competition between Mike's and Rachel's classes, too! No matter the education style this year, our programs are creating stewards for our rivers and world for today, and for generations to come. River cleaning is our name, inspiring students for our waters is our game!



HURRICANE Relief



On the 16th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, Louisiana was struck with yet another disaster, Hurricane Ida. This category 4 terror made landfall on Sunday August, 29th near Port Fourchon. Ida was one of the most powerful and rapidly intensifying storms to ever hit the United States with winds getting as high as 150 mph. The power was knocked out for over 1 million people in the Louisiana and Mississippi area. There were thousands left without the essentials needed as humans to survive: food, water, and shelter.

"The grocery stores are open, but the only things we can't get are gas, ice, and water. There is nothing like that in the grocery stores. We appreciate everything LL&W is doing. Thank you so much." - Homeowner.

Louisiana needed our help. The LL&W crew went down for 10 days with a U-haul full of essentials to do as much as we could. Throughout those 10 days LL&W provided over **4,000 gallons of fuel, 4,000 lbs of ice, 3 generators, tarps, 150 2x4's, and a palette of water.** We managed to tarp over 12 roofs, removed trees from yards, and helped gut houses from the flooding. So many personal items with sentimental value were ruined and lost. It was a humbling experience filled with so many emotions and heavy hearts for all of those affected. LL&W wishes nothing but the best for those impacted by Ida, and appreciated the experience we had to help those in need.



REMEMBERING Tim Wilkinson



Chad & Tim - 1999



Chad & Tim - 1999

Living Lands and Waters lost a true champion on October 5, 2021. Tim Wilkinson played a huge part in the initial start and success of our organization that has been going strong now for nearly 25 years. After receiving countless no's, over several years in my request for help in cleaning the river, I had the great fortune of meeting Tim. Within 20 minutes of meeting, Tim realized the need, witnessed my passion, and committed to helping us with our mission. He was instrumental in our 501(C)(3) filing, obtaining our first corporate funding, giving great advice and his can-do positivity was motivating. I can truly say without his help there is a strong possibility my life would have taken a much different direction.

I know Living Lands and Waters is not alone in our gratitude. Over the years Tim helped countless individuals and charities making a huge impact on us. Tim's legacy will live on through all of us and he will be greatly missed.



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Living Lands & Waters
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East Moline, IL 61244

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.

LIVINGLANDSANDWATERS.ORG



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