



**ANNUAL**  
*report*  
**2018**

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ coming to a river near you... ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

# DEAR FRIENDS,

It's been 20 years since I set out on the mission to clean up the Mississippi River. So many people have helped in countless ways from financial support to volunteering time, expertise and energy, and the list goes on and on.

Our accomplishments to date have far exceeded any expectations that I ever had. Back in '97 when I set out on this mission, I didn't have a grand plan for what it would look like in 20 years. For that matter, I didn't even know what a nonprofit organization was (until I started one of my own the following year).

Now, I'm overwhelmed with sheer gratitude for those willing to contribute to something so near and dear to my heart.

After an extensive two-day planning session where we recapped 2017, discussed our overall stats, looked at what's ahead in 2018 and how we can be better, one thing was clear - our team is made up of 100% rock stars.

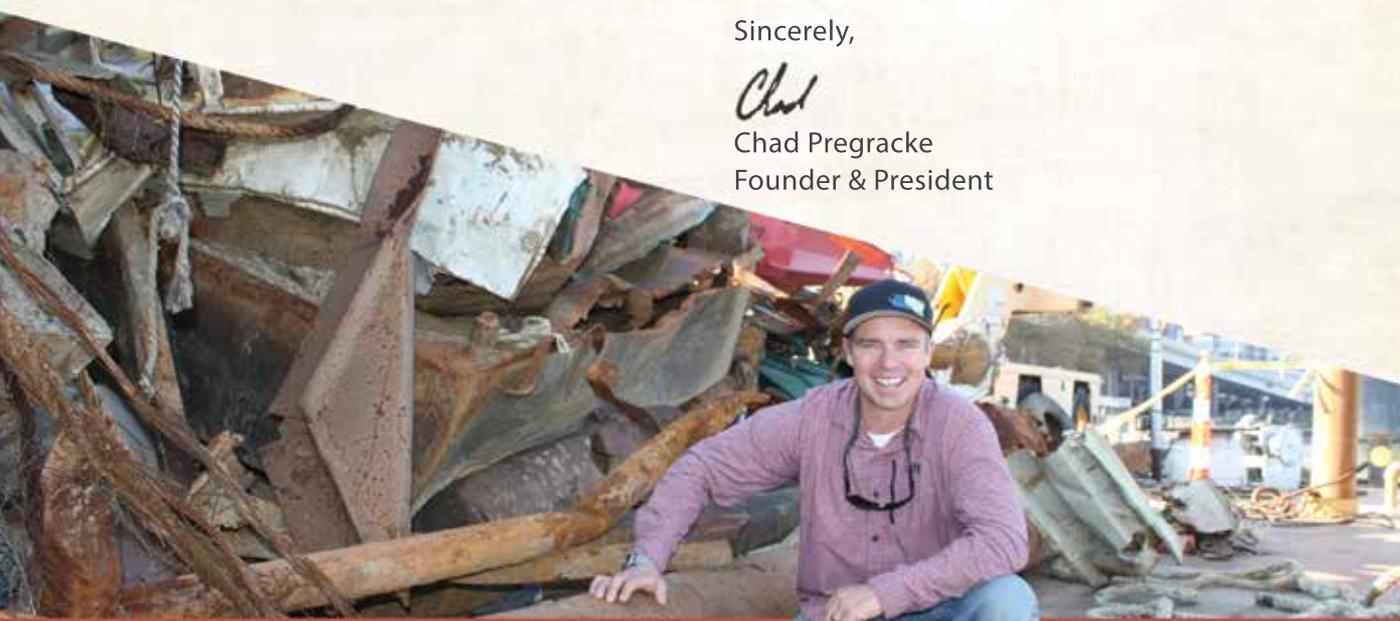
As I looked around the room, I was so pleased with everyone and what each individual brings to the table...what a great group of people I am lucky enough to work and live side by side with!

YOU are part of the team I am fortunate to work side by side with as well. Your support has played a HUGE role in where we are today. As I have said many times before, I feel like we're just getting started. There's still a tremendous amount of work to be done, places to go and people to meet and inspire. THANK YOU for giving us this opportunity to continue making a difference in our world!

Sincerely,



Chad Pregracke  
Founder & President



A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

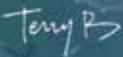
## A WORD FROM THE BENCH

Every November, the LL&W Board of Directors, staff and crew meet to discuss the year's accomplishments, approve the next year's budget and update the strategic plan. To show appreciation and extend thanks to Chad and his team for all of their hard work and commitment, we give standing ovations for each individual's contributions. I may have tweaked a hamstring getting up so many times because, once again, 2017 was a phenomenal year!

On behalf of the board, my fellow bench mates, I'd like to stand up one more time for all who have volunteered and supported LL&W over the years. All 100,000+ of you!!

I don't know about you, but LL&W's cumulative stats never fail to fascinate me. Last year's annual report showed 775 refrigerators, 326 hot water heaters, 303 TVs, 192 stoves and 13 hot tubs. Seriously?! Hot tubs? While nearly 80% of river trash is recycled, can you really recycle prosthetic limbs? There's a clip from Chad's book *From the Bottom Up* where a reporter asked him, "Do any of these televisions work?" Chad's response was, "We're too busy to plug any of them in."

While looking back is fun and rewarding, Chad is always running full steam ahead. As LL&W celebrates its 20th year in 2018, he has big dreams accompanied by big plans to bring those dreams to life. I urge you to continue to participate, invite some friends along and tell this remarkable story to anyone who will hear it!



Terry Becker  
Chair, Board of Directors

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# meet THE TEAM

**CHAD PREGRACKE**  
founder & president



The Mississippi River was literally Chad Pregracke's back yard while growing up near East Moline, IL. Chad's vision, charisma, non-stop work ethic and natural leadership have garnered him an abundance of awards and honors over the years. Most notably, Chad was the recipient of the Jefferson Award for Public Service (America's version of the Nobel Prize) in June 2002. Chad accepted this award in the United States Supreme Court in Washington D.C. with other award recipients: Rudolph Giuliani, Bill and Melinda Gates and Lilly Tartikoff. Chad was also honored to be named the 2013 CNN Hero of the Year. Whenever he can get away from his rigorous work schedule, Chad enjoys fishing, hunting, skateboarding, windsurfing and recycling used and salvaged materials by incorporating them into new projects.

Tammy earned a Bachelor of Social Work degree from Western Illinois University, and has served as an AmeriCorps VISTA and Peace Corps volunteer. A part of the crew since 2002, she's the maternal leader of Living Lands & Waters. Tammy holds key roles in the organization that include: grant writer, coordinator of the many LL&W events, assisting with cleanups and even cooks some bomb meals on the barge for the crew. If all that isn't impressive enough, as Chad's wife she's the Yin to his Yang, the peanut butter to his jelly, the honey in his beehive, the stars in his sky, and the one who reminds him not to forget Pork Chop on a river island. She consistently brings a positive attitude and her loyal companion, Travis (aka mama's boy, who never leaves her side), to work with her every day. When Tammy isn't dedicating life and limb to LL&W, she loves cutting a rug, listening to live music, cooking and hanging with friends and family.

**TAMMY BECKER**



**MICHAEL COYNE-LOGAN**



Mike, a.k.a Nozzy, began as a volunteer in 2005 and was asked to join the crew in 2007. Mike graduated from Northern Illinois University in 2000 with degrees in History and Teaching. Before joining the Living Lands & Waters team, he worked as a teacher in his hometown of Rock Island, IL. Much like the mighty paddlewheels on the majestic steamboats of yesteryear, Nozzy propels the crew to greatness. His knack for motivational speaking and his go-getter attitude have earned him the nickname "The Coach." His words have inspired thousands of volunteers at hundreds of river cleanups. Mike takes his coaching to the classroom as the Education Facilitator, teaching students about the importance of our nation's rivers, clean water and recycling. In his spare time, Nozzy enjoys lifting weights, reading, seeing live music and picking up garbage.

Amber aka ("Ams", "Amborine", "The Miracle Worker", "The River Hygienist", "Ambrosia", "Silence of the Ams") rejoined the LL&W team in March 2015. It was her well-known commitment to success, support of community development and volunteer efforts that connected her to the organization. A former dental assistant, she now is dedicated to finding ways for LL&W to make the most of its resources. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with friends and family, live music and meeting new people.

**AMBER PRIBYL**



**JOHN BOSTROM (J.B.)**



Instead of pursuing a job as an international male model, one of the best looking crew members in the history of LL&W, John (J.B.), travels America's rivers aboard our barge. He's a quick learner and jack of all trades. His duties include spinning tunes in a jon boat on the Mississippi River and keeping LL&W's engines running and props turning. J.B. volunteered with LL&W for several years and participated in an Alternative Spring Break which all led to his employment with LL&W in 2011. He graduated from Black Hawk College in 2009 and attended Western Illinois University. In his spare time, J.B. enjoys doing sound and lights for local QC band favorite The Dawn, sailing and avidly following American Ninja Warrior.

# meet THE TEAM

DAN BREIDENSTEIN



Dan started as an LL&W volunteer in 2010 and, after participating in two Alternative Spring Breaks and completing an internship, he was invited to officially join the staff crew in May of 2013. He's known as a modern day renaissance man with many talents. He's creative and adds innovative ideas to many brainstorming sessions. He's a professional disc golfer, technologically savvy, guru of trash collecting, a soccer goalie, skateboarding whiz, snowboarder, sage photographer, prospective American Ninja Warrior and he plays one mean kazoo. He loves traveling and listening to live music.

Serving as the keeper of the checkbook, Shelly carries the responsibility of payroll, expenses and recordkeeping for the organization. She joined the LL&W office staff in the fall of 2013 and has a fun sense of humor and organizational and business skills that have added checks and balances to the operations. Shelly might be the kindest, sweetest, most giving person on the crew but, if anyone misses turning in their timesheets, Shelly will come a-looking. She and her husband Roger have two children. In her off time, Shelly enjoys watching her kids' sporting events and serving as their full-time taxi driver.

SHELLY HAMM



MEGHAN ELGAN



Meghan was raised by bald eagles until the age of four, when her human parents found her on the banks of the river and brought her into their family. A native to the Fox River Valley in northeastern Illinois, Meghan joined us from the Ozark Plateaus of northwest Arkansas where she spent 2014 working as a Teacher Naturalist at the Ozark Natural Science Center. She received her Bachelor of Science in Wildlife Ecology from the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point. There, she gained an appreciation for good cheese, cold winters and ecological restoration. Meghan spent two summers working for Citizens for Conservation as a restoration intern and helped restore some of the most beautiful prairies in Illinois! An all-around outdoor enthusiast, you'll rarely see Meghan without a smile on her face! She spends her spare time adventuring, crafting or convincing the stiff and sore crew the benefits of yoga.

Accepting a post at LL&W in June of 2015 was a natural next step for David, who hails from the Natural State of Arkansas. David puts the "can" in Arkansas with his can-do attitude and handiness with a wrench. David studied viticulture and enology at Arkansas Tech University and worked in his father and grandfather's vineyard before feeling the tug from the Mississippi. He sometimes brings samples of wine and grape juice from home to the crew, which definitely multiplies David's value as a crew member. Evolving from grapes to oak trees, David tends to our oak tree nursery. When he's not growing saplings of the future, you might find him hunting, canoeing, fishing or gardening. You will never see David without a smile, unless he gets a little "peckish."

DAVID POST



LUKE LIPPINCOTT



Luke Lippincott (a.k.a. "Snow Leopard") and his trusty sidekick, Diesel, joined us in July of 2015! Luke is no stranger to traveling (at least that's what the guys he plays basketball with say). He lived in Nebraska until he was 12, Iowa until he was 14 and, with the exception of another brief stint in Nebraska, Illinois ever since. Luke comes to us from Rock River Arms where he operated the laser etcher on all of their guns and accessories. He is an avid disc golfer and loves snowboarding, camping and live music. Luke has an epic rivalry with fellow crew member and lifelong friend, Dan. It ranks right up there with Bird vs. Magic, Army vs. Navy and the Packers vs. Bears. Oh and ladies, by the way, he bakes some of the best chocolate chip cookies you've ever tasted!

# meet THE TEAM

MONIQUE DYKMAN



Monique grew up boating and playing on the Chesapeake Bay in Annapolis, Maryland. She traveled south to attend college on the St. Mary's River at St. Mary's College of Maryland. When she wasn't working at the school's waterfront, she took up paddle boarding and kayaking, and finished with a degree in Economics and minors in Environmental Studies and Sociology. Monique then worked in Western Massachusetts in Outdoor Education. Since Monique left Maryland to work with the crew, Maryland has been a lot less "merry," so much so that the state has even considered renaming the state just "Land." She does a great job as the Safety Coordinator and goes by the name "Mobo Cop!" When she isn't on the water, you can find her on a backpacking trip, road tripping, at a campfire or playing cribbage!

Leah moved away from Salem Massachusetts to join the LL&W crew after graduating from Salem State University with a degree in business. She attended Alternative Spring Break in Memphis two years in a row where she collected every abandoned hair clip in the Mississippi and earned herself the nickname "Flair." Leah worked at an up-and-coming marketing firm in Boston prior to joining the crew. She's looking forward to learning new unconventional skills, exploring the mysterious Midwest (maybe catching a river monster?) and bringing some new ideas and knowledge to the table. In her spare time, Leah enjoys lifting things up and putting them down, drinking coffee and getting lost. Her 10-year-plan includes obtaining several French bulldogs and living in a tiny home.

LEAH CAFARELLI



DEREK MITCHELL



Derek, a.k.a "Lil Scrap," started with Living Lands & Waters in the fall of 2017. He is the third crew member, along with Dan Breidenstein and Luke Lippincott, from "G-Town" or Geneseo, IL. In fact, they all grew up on the same block. Derek previously worked for Rock River Arms before living the tug life. One of his greatest life accomplishments is founding the Freshwater Mussels Gym (a weight room/secret elite social club in one of our basement barge chambers). When he isn't working he enjoys fishing, hiking, snowboarding and, most of all, watching the Red Sox play. Derek one day aspires to be the next Master Chef, but right now he will stick to just doing dishes and caddying for Luke and Dan on the disc golf course.

Abbi joined LL&W in late fall of 2017. She went from counting cash to tracking Chad, which takes the combined skills of 'Dog The Bounty Hunter' and Angela Lansbury's character Jessica Fletcher from 'Murder She Wrote.' Abbi eats copious amounts of cucumbers until she is cumbersome. She is known as the Kobayashi (world famous professional eater). Abbi has spent most of her time on the river using unique screeching noises to communicate with turtles. She did a lot of work with shy turtles in her youth to help them come out of their shells. She is looking forward to river cleanups and working with the organization. In her free time, Abbi enjoys being out on the river, eating food (mostly cucumbers) and watching unhealthy amounts of 'The Office.'

ABBI VOGELE



CRYSTAL MILBURN



Crystal, an East Moline native, earned a marketing degree from NIU. She spent 16 years in corporate sales and marketing in Chicago and Raleigh before discovering that her love of writing could be a career. She has the unique skill set of being able to sell pet rocks and then be able to write a best selling novel about the experience. She's done neither, but if she did it would ROCK! She excitedly joined the LL&W team in February of 2017 as the master of all things social and web, including spider webs, things with webbed feet and also the ability to recite from start to finish the novel Charlotte's Web. She invites you to join our social conversations on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

# meet THE TEAM

## MATT DUFFY



Matt Duffy, affectionately known as "Bucko" by the crew, graduated in 2013 with a degree in graphic design from Northern Iowa. He loves understanding the process behind things and being hands-on. Matt has the look of a lumberjack and has a beard that would make Grizzly Adams and Blackbeard jealous. He grew up playing soccer, basketball and baseball. Later in life, he took up wrestling bears professionally, but soon got bored with how easy it was and hung up the singlet. He has spent his life doing various labor jobs including roofing, laying concrete foundations, packing glass and picking parts in a mezzanine. Matt also spent two years in promotional marketing. He loves all music, from attending live events to singing loudly in his car (especially songs by Taylor Swift). Having recently discovered his love of nature, Matt is stoked to be a crew member at Living Lands & Waters. Oh and by the way, he loves the movie *The Notebook* and can quote it line-for-line verbatim from start to finish!

After wandering the hills and valleys of Montana for eight months of his lonely puppy-hood, Pork Chop was taken in by the loving embrace of Chad and Tammy. Right away, it was apparent that he was made for life on the river. Never missing a boat or car ride, Pork Chop could be compared to a mix between Scrappy-Doo and Curious George. Pork Chop's hobbies include wrasslin', running full speed ahead (usually into Travis or Diesel) and catching flies in mid-air. The crew is extremely happy to have Pork Chop aboard!

## PORK CHOP



## TRAVIS



If Travis could be summed up in one word it would be loyal...loyal at least to LL&W's maternal leader, Tammy. Travis is smart enough to not stray too far from the gravy train. However, when he hears someone rummaging through the refrigerator, he will be the first to be by their side. Travis was discovered in Southern Illinois with a patty of liquid nail on his head. Travis puts the word "chill" in chiller and his exceptionally laid back personality is great for any campfire. A few of Travis' accomplishments include: four-time champion softest fur coat at the National Fur Convention, fastest hot dog eaten North of the Mason Dixon line and a variety of firsts and seconds at the biannual Alaskan river dog bark off championship. Simply put, Travis is a god among dogs.

Bailey was rescued near the Ozarks in Arkansas. Like a true mountain gal, Bailey loves going hiking with her mom and dad, David and Meghan. She won first place in Red Bull's Parkour competition at Art of Motion 2017. Squirrels must keep a safe distance from this one, as she has proven that she can, in fact, climb trees! When she's not running circles around the other pooches, she likes to snuggle and follow her mom around.

## BAILEY



## DIESEL



Diesel has the prettiest eyes on the whole crew! He loves playing fetch, long walks, belly rubs and making his owner, Luke, happy. Whether it's swimming in the nearest watering hole or chasing birds, Diesel is always on the move! He loves to scare away flying objects, including drones, which is why we have hired him to be our top security dog on the barge. He frequently saves us from vicious attacks from turkey vultures, crows, robins and chickadees. The next time you see Diesel, be sure to give him a good pet and thank him for his service!



# ★ SUPPORTERS ★

Thank you to these major donors for their support and generosity.

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 Waterways Journal

**Additionally, 635 Individual, Business, & Memorial Donations up to \$999 Totaling \$80,782**

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



# 2017 EXPENSES



## PROGRAM SERVICES

Salaries and Benefits	\$780,787
Contract Services	\$31,425
Travel & Lodging	\$99,803
Operating Expense	\$226,826
Repair Expense	\$67,650
Insurance Expense	\$131,558
Educational Programs	\$10,855
MillionTrees Project	\$79,359
Great Mississippi River Cleanup	\$11,998
Other Projects	\$123,580
Depreciation	\$219,729
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,783,570</b>

## SUPPORTING SERVICES

### Management and General

Salaries and Benefits	\$110,322
Office Supplies and Equipment	\$32,784
Professional Fees	\$23,619
Depreciation	\$3,381
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$170,106</b>

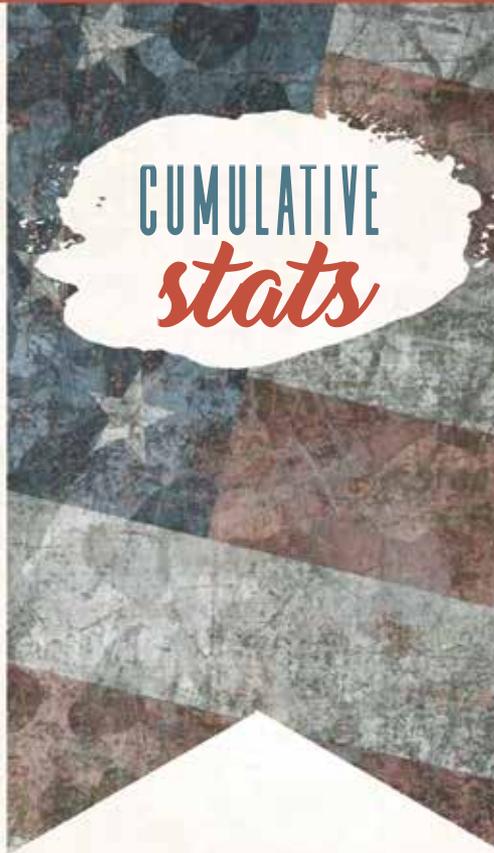
### Public Relations

Website	\$3,906
Promotional Expense	\$1,362
Marketing/Fundraising	\$54,648
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$59,916</b>

**TOTAL EXPENSES \$2,013,592**



Civil War Mortar Shells	1
Navigational Buoys	718
John Deere Combines	1
Prosthetic Limbs	13
Balls	23,893
Coolers	660
Mattresses	110
Boats	98
Freezers	118
Duck Decoys	274
Bags of Police Riot Gear	6
Washing Machines	163
Jet Skis	8
Safes	25
Bowling Balls	110
Clown Shoes	2
Electric Guitars	2
Toilets	122
Big Wheels/Kid Bikes	81
Dishwashers	70
Bicycles	129
Hot Tubs	14
Gas Cans/Tanks	534
Baby Dolls	731
Sunken Barges	3
Portable Toilets	34
5 th Wheel Trailers	1
Pianos	4
Tops of School Buses	1
Bags of Ammunition (lb)	5
Hot Water Heaters	335
Bags of Garbage	121,622



Milk Crates	1,246
Mannequin Parts	17
Tires	84,997
Cars/Trucks/Vans	17.5
Refrigerators	810
BBQ Grills	165
Computer Printers	1
5-Gallon Buckets	5,045
Stoves	192
55-Gallon Barrels	8,170
Messages in Bottles	85
Patio Chairs	192
Air Conditioners	70
Trash Cans	1,009
Shopping Carts	8
Barge Line (ft.)	31,773
Car Engines	18
Computer Monitors	126
Lawn Mowers	58
Televisions	324
Barge Cable (ft)	29,268
Construction Barrels/Cones	361
Bath Tubs	34
Outboard Boat Engines	8
Microwaves	13
Fire Extinguishers	103
Life Jackets/PFDs	264
Couches/Recliners	70
Motorcycles	12
Sinks	145
Styrofoam	16.5 football fields thick





# Education & **OUTREACH**



## **SUMMER CAMPS**

Sunset Marina was busy with 172 summer campers who kept on learning even when school was out! Students picked up trash at a local park (scavenger hunt style), learned about the history and mission of LL&W and took educational boat rides exploring the many facets of the Mississippi River.



## **GUEST SPEAKERS**

When not on the barge, our educators give in-school and community presentations. Last year, we were excited to visit 38 cities in 7 states reaching 6,147 participants!



## **STUDENT EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS**

Our floating classroom has proven to be an unforgettable space where students build an instant connection to the river. Teachers report regularly that their students are still talking about their field trip days, weeks and even YEARS later! In 2017, we hosted 42 student workshops, reaching 1,299 participants from 10 cities and 4 states. With the addition of a river cleanup as one of the 8 class options, students have participated in an amazing service learning opportunity by collecting 24,499 pounds of trash!

## **EDUCATOR WORKSHOPS**

On the banks of the Mississippi, in Rock Island, IL, LL&W hosted 20 teachers from National Agriculture in the Classroom, a program focused on providing information and lesson plans on ag education to teachers and community members. Workshop participants learned about problems (and solutions) facing our river systems in relation to farming. We feel it's important to educate the younger generation on what goes into producing the food on their plates and get people excited about farming...and Ag in the Classroom does just that!

# RIVER Cleanups

## Community Cleanups

To further our ongoing watershed conservation efforts, the LL&W crew hosted a total of 77 community cleanups in 8 states, along 5 rivers. With the help of 1,940 hardworking volunteers, we were able to remove a total 324,034 pounds of garbage. With the addition of 96 crew and excavator cleanups we were able to remove 193,894 pounds, for a total of 517,929 pounds in

2017. Welcomed by amazing people and organizations in these often small-but-mighty river towns, life on the barge doesn't get any better than this! SIDE NOTE: The tour was temporarily put on hold in September as we detoured to help out in Houston - see "Hurricane Harvey" for more on that.



Created in 2010, the Great Mississippi River Cleanup (GMRC) project is a great way for people to bring the LL&W concept to their own turf. Communities host local cleanups on the Mississippi River, with the guidance and supplies provided by LL&W. This year, 448 volunteers hosted 6 events in 5 different states, freeing the river from 30,033 pounds of debris! We are beyond appreciative of the families, individuals, groups and businesses that volunteered, with special recognition for those who took on the site coordinator roles. You are ALL river cleanup rock stars!!





# ADOPT-A-RIVER Mile



Our Adopt-A-River Mile (AARM) program began in 1999 along the Mississippi River, modeling after the successful Adopt-A-Highway program. In 2014, after years of success, we expanded this program to encompass all of our nation's waterways. Getting the rivers clean and keeping them clean are two different challenges we face, and the AARM program is one of the leading forces in sustaining our efforts!

295 MILES HAVE BEEN ADOPTED

ALONG 22 RIVER/CREEKS

BY 122 ADOPTEES



MISSISSIPPI RIVER | BEAVER CREEK | BLUE RIVER | CLEAR CREEK | DELAWARE RIVER | OHIO RIVER | TENNESSEE RIVER | CHICAGO RIVER  
 CONECHUH RIVER | EDWARDS RIVER | FIRST CREEK | FOX RIVER | ILLINOIS RIVER | PILES FORK CREEK | PLUM RIVER | SOUTH SKUNK RIVER  
 ST. CROIX RIVER | ST. LOUIS RIVER | WACCAMAW RIVER | WAPSIPINICON RIVER | WINNEBAGO RIVER | WISCONSIN RIVER



• Spring 2017, Memphis, TN •

# ALTERNATIVE SPRING BREAK

We arrived in Memphis, TN for the 7th consecutive year of cleaning Lake McKellar. The newly installed trash booms should help manage incoming garbage if maintained properly. Along with the LL&W crew, we had 121 students from 12 different colleges across six states. Together we were able to remove a whopping 119,349.5 pounds of garbage, over 30,000 pounds more than the previous year!

## COLLEGES

Scott Community College  
George Williams College  
Virginia Commonwealth University  
Western Illinois University  
Illinois State University  
St. Ambrose University  
Salem State University  
Drury University  
University of Missouri  
University of Central Missouri  
Iowa State University  
University of Wisconsin Stevens Point





# MILLIONTREES • Project •



We are happy to report that we were able to distribute more than 106,000 oak tree saplings in 18 states thanks to approximately 1,300 local volunteers. Several volunteer-driven events were organized to maintain our nursery, plant acorns, harvest trees and package and distribute the saplings. More than half of all MTP volunteers attended our tree wrapping weekend extravaganza, wrapping tens of thousands of trees for distribution!

After giving away our ONE MILLIONTH tree in 2016, we were asked, "What happens now?!" quite frequently. While we did complete the project's namesake, there was never any doubt in our minds that we would forge ahead with our mission to enhance the watershed by planting native trees and removing invasive plants. 2017 was a huge success and we're looking forward to another great year for MTP, the perfect complement to our river cleanup efforts!



·I-80·

# RESTORATION PROJECT



In 2017, Living Lands & Waters began the I-80 Restoration Project with help from local arborists to remove the trees affected by the March 2016 tornado. More than 40,000 motorists see this 28-acre parcel every day as either their first or last impression of the state of Illinois.

After clearing the first 13 acres of downed trees and invasive honeysuckle, oats were planted as a cover crop to add nutrients to the soil to help prepare the ground for the native prairie that will be planted in 2018.

Thank you to our 432 volunteers that aided LL&W in the removal of invasive species at the I-80 Restoration Project, and other project locations, in the state of Illinois this year.

## VOLUNTEER EVENTS

### **\*\*Local Arborists Chainsaw Event\*\***

23 Volunteers

### **April 28: John Deere**

15 Volunteers

### **May 5: John Deere**

33 Volunteers

### **May 5: UTEC iJag Students**

22 Volunteers

### **May 12: Davenport iJag Students**

71 Volunteers

### **May 18: Davenport West Students**

16 Volunteers

### **September 27: Elkay – Savanna**

17 Volunteers





# HURRICANE HARVEY RELIEF



## The People of Houston: UNIFIED. UNSTOPPABLE. UBIQUITOUS.

It's not every day that complete strangers welcome you with open arms into their homes only for you to rip it to shreds. But that's exactly what we experienced in Houston after the torrential flooding of Hurricane Harvey.

People's spirits varied as much as the level of damage to their homes, some easier to console and demolish than others. A few homes weighed as heavy on our hearts as they did on our strength; thousands of people were losing not just things but memories they once held near and dear to their hearts.

"At the end of the day, only studs remained. Fungicide was sprayed. Trash was gone. Fans were on. It was a blank slate to work from. We'd lost everything, but we were grateful. Then, to top it off, one of the LL&W crew members recovered my wedding ring, which had been lost when my wife and I evacuated our home. They were a true blessing!" - Matt Marshall, Homeowner

After helping 11 families over nearly three weeks, we were filled with both good memories and tough ones. People lost many things of personal and sentimental value and these tough moments weighed heaviest. However, having even a small part in helping families recover from disaster left us with sentiments that we wish for everyone; the feeling that we're all brothers and sisters, part of a greater good and in this together.



# INLAND MARINE EXPO

May 23, 2017  
St. Louis, MO

**IMX**

On May 23, 2017 we hosted our 2nd annual river-front reception in St. Louis for more than 350 Inland Marine Expo (IMX) attendees. Our initial plan was to also host the christening of the M/V Chad Pregracke but, due to major flooding, that piece didn't happen. Please stay tuned for more information on that front! Our reception, however, was a hit and we're thankful for all who made it happen and to all of the attendees of the IMX. We look forward to hosting the event again in 2018!



We are proud to print Living Lands & Waters' Annual Report on paper generously donated by Sappi North America. This report is printed on 100lb McCoy Silk Text.

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## OUR MISSION

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

To expand awareness of environmental issues and responsibility encompassing the river.

To create a desire and an opportunity for stewardship and responsibility for a cleaner river environment.

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