



# Channels

**3860  
Stream Teams  
Strong!**

**Information for and about Missouri Stream Teams  
March – April 2009**

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## Missouri River Relief Gears Up For 2009

By Amy Junglaus, Stream Team Biologist

Since 2001, Missouri River Relief (MRR), Stream Team 1875, has proven their dedication to cleaning up the Big Muddy with their steadfast organizational skills, eagerness to work hard and get dirty, and their undying love for Missouri's treasured water resources. MRR is gearing up for their biggest year yet – and you're invited to take part in all the fun!

The group's motivation to keep the organization growing goes deeper than just pulling one or even a hundred more tires out of the mud. "Inspiring others to do something that feels this good, educating people in their communities, and helping our environment" are just some of the reasons Melanie Cheney is committed to their cause. Vicki Richmond, the Kansas City Coordinator for MRR, adds "We have relationships with land managers, levee farmers, the navigation industry, and state agencies – all with a huge stake in the health of our river." As a result, almost 480

tons of trash have been removed from the Big Muddy with the help of over 10,000 volunteers!

MRR has grown into a group concerned with far more than river cleanups alone. For the second year in a row they will be providing safety boats for the Missouri River 340 paddling race (<http://rivermiles.com/mr340/>), an event that Steve Schnarr says "has done more to draw attention

to this amazing river than anything else I've seen." They also have ambitions to continue their big river water quality monitoring efforts, lead river education events, organize tree plantings, and continue exotic species removal.

This fall they will be sponsoring "River Camp," a week-and-a-half long event that will be a hands-on river experience including camping, cleanups, workshops, and networking right

on the sandbar! Details will be posted on their Web site as they develop, so stay tuned to [www.riverrelief.org](http://www.riverrelief.org). While online, check out their blogs, photos, trash tallies from past events, and much more to come from Missouri River Relief in 2009!

### **2009 MRR Spring Schedule**

◆ **March 7: Mari-Osa Dump Cleanup/Part 2.**

Helping friends on the Osage River remove a massive dumpsite near the 54/63 bridge outside Jefferson City.

◆ **March 21: River Otter Day, Kansas City.**

The third annual cleanup of the historic town of Kansas on the riverfront Heritage Trail.

◆ **March 28: Trailnet Cleanup, St. Louis.**

On-the-river support for our friends in St. Louis.

◆ **April 4 - Project Blue River Rescue, Kansas City.**

Back to help out in one of the biggest one-day cleanups in the state.

*Below, A Missouri River Relief boat loaded with trash and volunteers makes its way back to the boat ramp after a hard day's work.*



**Did you know ...?**

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