



Washington River Festival & Cleanup 2013

APRIL 20TH, 2013

1000 ATTENDEES § 200+ STUDENTS § 72 VOLUNTEERS § 5 LAND SITES § 2.7 TONS

Washington, Mo. is one of the most river-centric towns on the Lower Missouri River. The beautiful park overlooking the river is the ideal place to hold, not just a community river clean-up, but also a local river festival highlighting the town's connection to the river.

This time the river rose up to meet us! Massive rains upstream the previous Wednesday and Thursday meant we were watching river projections closely and had to make a rapid decision on how to adjust our plans. The river was in flood stage by Saturday, covering the lower parking lot at Rennick Riverfront Park. This forced us to move the river clean-up to land sites because we could not take volunteers out in boats.

So on Friday our scout crew headed out to make a new plan. With some local knowledge from friends, they came up with a bunch of great land sites. Unfortunately the local paper announced the cleanup was cancelled rather than changed, but we still had a great crew of folks show up to clean up.

70 volunteers helped cleanup the Riverfront Trail, Riverfront Park, Lions Lake along Tiemann Dr., Dundee Rd. and River Access, and along the Augusta Bottoms Rd. scour holes. One thing is for sure, this crew knows how to roll with the punches!

Luckily the River Festival was on higher ground as the river came up to greet us! It was actually quite amazing to watch the rolling river roar by full of massive trees and woody debris with the festival going on all the while. We estimate over a thousand people attended the River Festival, enjoying some great music, art and lots of informative booths by local and regional organizations.

A huge thanks goes out to the local River Festival committee headed by Gloria Attoun Bauermeister who organized an amazing afternoon of music, hands-on art, river education booths and activities for kids. Tasty food and local beer and wine were all on tap for what turned out to be a perfect spring day. Many families came early and stayed for the whole thing - there was tons of fun stuff for the kids to experience and participate in.

**For more about the Washington River Event
and a link to more photos and stories, see:**

<http://www.riverrelief.org/event/washington-river-festival-and-cleanup-2013/>

Event Snapshot

Festival Attendees: 1,000
Trash-to-Art Auction: \$1,000
"Day on the River" Students: 200
Total Volunteers: 72
Miles Cleaned: 5
River Level: 21.5 feet (flood stage)
Landfill: 2.2 tons
Scrap Metal Recycled: .09 tons
Tires Recycled: 24 (.42 tons)
Total Tonnage: 2.7 Tons!



Accomplishing the "impossible" through teamwork is what it's all about. This bobbing eyesore was finally fished out of the Augusta Bottoms scour holes by some local residents and volunteers at the clean-up. Kayaker for a cause, Joe Reidhead was more than happy to take on this refrigerator!



Above: Volunteers clean-up a prairie along the Riverfront Trail

Top Right: Trash-to-Art sculptures created on the spot and auctioned off!

Below: The World Bird Sanctuary proves that if birds can recycle, humans can too!

Bottom: Augusta Bottoms Consort gets the crowd movin'

photos by Mike Smith and Melanie Cheney

Trash Tally!



Partial List of trash collected

103 Bags of Trash • 24 Tires • 1 Screwdriver • 1 – 55 gal. plastic Trash Can • 1 – 5 gal. plastic Bucket • 1 – 5 gal. Water Cooler • 1 – 5 gal. Metal Gas Can • 1 Refrigerator • 1 bag of Scrap Metal • 2 - 30 gallon Plastic Tubs – (1 yellow, 1 green) • 1 Plastic Crate • 3 License Plates • 1 Car Bumper • 1 Honda Side Mirror • 1 Hubcap – Desoto • 1 Carburetor • 4 TV's • 2 - 10' pieces of Rebar • 2 - 20' corrugated Plastic Pipe • 3 unopened bottles Bacardi Raz • 1 Downspout Guttering • 1 iron Fence Post • 1 wooden Fence Post • 1 metal Sheeting • 1 clay Drain Pipe • 1 Refrigerator Coil • 1 "No Trespassing" Sign • 1 Highway Directional Sign • 1 large piece of Carpet • 1 Swimming Pool liner (folded over and over into the mud) • 1 turquoise Oven Door – Hotpoint • 1 Key to a Four Wheeler • 1 pair of Long Underwear • 1 Computer Mother Board • 1 plastic Office Chair Mat • 1 Toilet Pieces • 1 Cabinet • 1 Door • 1 Baby Doll Arm • 1 Shaving Crème – travel size • 1 iron Commemorative Plaque – "Matt Ferguson, 1894 to 1969" • 1 bag of Sudafed wrappers • 1 pile of Roof Shingles



Missouri River Relief Education

HANDS-ON, ON-THE-RIVER

Washington - 2013

This year, Missouri River Relief took its unique vision of combining hands-on river education and service learning to the next level. Directed by River Relief volunteer Gloria Attoun Bauermeister and with the help of a new River Festival committee, this program combined classroom watershed education with an opportunity to come out to the big river itself and learn all about its history, fish, water quality & River Relief's efforts to clean it up!

“What the River Means to Me”

In addition to a “Day on the River”, elementary students in all schools from Kindergarten to 6th grade had the opportunity to submit a poem, artwork or essay with the theme of “What the River Means to Me.” We had 266 beautiful entries which were displayed at the festival. We hope to choose a few of them and have a display in the childrens’ room at the Washington Public Library.

“Day on the River” Service Learning

200 students from St. Francis Borgia, Washington West Elementary School, Labadie Elementary and Our Lady of Lourdes braved some less than ideal Spring weather to learn about the Missouri River, its history, its fish, aquatic macro-invertibrates, water quality, trash, and a presentation with live birds. The presenters included the Missouri Department of Conservation Stream Team Unit, the University of Missouri's Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, The World Bird Sanctuary and Missouri River Relief. The biggest cheer of the field trip goes out to the teachers and students for braving the weather to learn about their Big Muddy!

River Clean-up

A second day of Service Learning stations with 60 middle school students was planned combined with a small scale river clean-up, but due to uncertain weather, the event was canceled. Instead Program Manager for Missouri River Relief, Steve Schnarr stopped by the school to give a powerpoint presentation to 3 classes, and 50 students.



Top: St. Francis Borgia show off a little clean-up enthusiasm in front of a River Relief plate boat. **Middle:** “What the River Means to Me” poems & artwork. **Bottom:** Emily Pherigo with the University Fisheries & Wildlife Research Unit talks about river ecosystems while showing a soft-shelled turtle and live fish.

photos by Melanie Cheney and Gloria Attoun Bauermeister



Sponsors



Missouri Department of Natural Resources

Ecological Services Field Office



WASHINGTON BOAT CLUB



Pat Jones

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Gloria and Michael Bauermeister
Mike and Maria Smith
Washington Rotary Club**

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Washington Parks & Rec. Department
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Partnering Educational Groups & Activities

World Bird Sanctuary
Scrap Metal Artists --

Lou Baczewski
& Ryan Snyder

Washington Historical Society
Greenway Network
Washington Public Library
Hillermann's Nursery & Florist
Earth's Classroom
Missouri Stream Team
Missouri Master Naturalists

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Four Rivers Roots & Shoots
Botanical Walk with Bill Davit
The "Rambling River Quilt"
Washington Schools, Teachers,
Parents & Students
Washington Missourian
University Fish & Wildlife CoOp
Food & Beverage Vendors; Bob
and Pat's BBQ, Joes' Deli and
the Augusta Brewery
Musicians! Thank You.

Volunteer Groups

The 2013 Washington River Festival
Committee
The Missouri River Relief Crew
City of Washington Parks & Rec.
Kohl's Cares

Clean Stream Crusaders
The Mighty Stream Team 211
Wading 4 Mayflies
Fish
Ross Braun Stream Team 4746

St. Peters UCC
Washington Environmental Club
Mizzou Water & Environment
Technologists (WET)



Two Crew Members of Missouri River Relief auction some fabulous trash-to-art made on the spot by metal sculptors.

photo by Melanie Cheney