

ESTABLISHED
★ 1998 ★

LIVING
LANDS &
WATERS

25 YEARS STRONG

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

CUMULATIVE GARBAGE STATS

Dear Friends,

Wow - 2022 has been the most productive year Living Lands & Waters has ever had!

We began the year at Kentucky Lake to respond to the devastating tornado that hit western Kentucky on December 10, 2021. We typically don't host clean-ups from mid-December through mid-February, but this year we worked through that break and into the spring to clean the shorelines in the aftermath of the tornado. This was some of the most rewarding work Living Lands & Waters has ever done - over **1.2 million pounds** of dangerous storm debris was removed from Kentucky Lake and its shoreline!

Meanwhile, as we were helping clean Kentucky Lake, we had another tremendous year with our MillionTrees Project, distributing **146,985 trees** in **25 states**. We are getting so close to the 2 millionth tree milestone for this beloved program - over 1.7 million trees have been planted and given away to date!

We also hosted two new clean-up events which were great successes. First, in May, we partnered with three expert dive and recovery teams from across the Midwest at Kentucky Lake to tag and remove dangerous debris under the water so the lake would be safe for boating and swimming. Together we removed half a barge load of submerged debris. For the second event our crew assisted the Hamilton County police department to recover and remove 12 vehicles from the Ohio River near Cincinnati. This has been a unique project that we are very proud to assist with as some of these vehicles have been in the water for decades. We are excited about continuing our new partnerships with these trained dive teams to support our mission to clean America's rivers!

Our educators this year were excited to get back to holding in-person workshops with students all over the Midwest. To date, we have had over **4,200 students** participate and we still have a few weeks of workshops planned on the Ohio River to finish the year. Looking ahead we are excited to continue to grow our education program. We are in the process of building a new classroom barge that will focus on clean water and river-related careers. This floating classroom is being built from an old, repurposed steam-powered crane from the 1930s.

Over the past two years of Covid, we missed hosting in-person volunteer and education opportunities. But so far in 2022, much in thanks to our amazing partners and volunteers, we set a new LL&W record for the most garbage removed in a clean-up season - **1.5 million pounds removed!**

I hope you have also been following the Bison Bridge project - our team has been hard at work to grow support, meet with key stakeholders, lawmakers, and experts, and we continue to campaign to repurpose the I-80 Bridge at the Quad Cities into a beautiful multi-use facility for pedestrians, bicyclists, families, visitors, and locals to enjoy our treasured stretch of the Mississippi River. You can learn more at www.bisonbridge.org to support this exciting vision for the old bridge!

Our crew hopes we have exceeded your expectations - we have certainly exceeded our own! Your continued support means the world to us and because of it we are able to do what we do. As I always say, "no matter how you choose to contribute, you're always in the boat with us." As we begin to celebrate our 25th year I couldn't be more excited about the direction our organization is heading. Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Chad

Chad Pregracke
Founder & President
Living Lands & Waters

Bags	147,299	Unicycle	1	Dishwashers	71
Tires	95,322	Coolers	1,041	Bicycles	137
Styrofoam (sq ft)	100,723	Mattresses	136	Hot Tubs	19
Barge Line (ft)	62,916	Boats	152	Gas Cans	723
Balls	25,200	Duck Decoys	367	Portable Toilets	43
Milk Crates	1,792	Big Wheels / Kid's Bikes	92	Tractors	20
Mannequin Parts	17	Sunken Barges	4	Aquariums	1
Cars/Trucks/Vans	42	Hot Water Heaters	404	Truck Toppers	3
Refrigerators	935	Washing Machines	173	Oxygen Tanks	8
BBQ Grills	181	Bowling Balls	123	Outboard Boat Engines	9
5-Gallon Buckets	8,659	Clown Shoes	2	Campers	5
Stoves	197	Toilets	142	Sinks	153
55-Gallon Barrels	11,635	Hot Water Heaters	404	Pianos	4
Messages in Bottles	104	Baby Dolls	768	Bath Tubs	38
Patio Chairs	534	Bags of Police Riot Gear	6	Ammunition (lbs)	5
Air Conditioners	74	Computer Printers	2	Guns	3
Trash Cans	1,095	Navigational Buoys	813	Couches	92
Shopping Carts	70	John Deere Combine	1	Motorcycles	12
Car Engines	20	Propane Tanks	1,076	Shower Stalls	2
Computer Monitors	142	5th Wheel Trailers	1	Ping Pong Table	1
Lawn Mowers	61	Tops of School Buses	1	Trampoline	1
Televisions	463	Windmills	1	Typewriter	1
Civil War Mortar Shells	1	Fire Extinguishers	149	20th Century	
Prosthetic Limbs	13	Freezers	144	Steam Boat Boiler	1
Construction Cones	659	Life Jackets	404	Electric Scooters	2
Helmets	74	Jet Skis	13	Helipad	1
Kegs	3	Safes	30	Playstation	1
Waste Oil (Gallons)	527	Electric Guitars	2	Vintage Barbie Doll	
				Collection	1

12,968,156
POUNDS REMOVED!

MEET THE CURRENT CREW



CHAD PREGRACKE
FOUNDER/PRESIDENT

MIKE COYNE-LOGAN
EDUCATION FACILITATOR

DAN BREIDENSTEIN
VICE PRESIDENT

SHELLY HAMM
FINANCE MANAGER

ANDREW LAYER
PROGRAMS MANAGER

RHIANNON RHOGSTAD
DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR

CAPTAIN SCOTT
TOWBOAT CAPTAIN

DEREK MITCHELL
OPERATIONS MANAGER

BRIAN CRESS
FLEET MANAGER

MEGAN SHANAFELT
SOCIAL MEDIA SPECIALIST

LAUREL STELTER
VIDEOGRAPHER

CARSON FULLER
CREW MEMBER

CALLIE SCHASER
COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST

RACHEL DOOLEY
EDUCATION COORDINATOR

BARGE PUP LOUIE

BARGE PUP B.B.

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DONOR



COMMUNITY
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OF WEST KENTUCKY



ANONYMOUS
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JOHN DEERE



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MARQUETTE
TRANSPORTATION
COMPANY



PARKS
FOR ALL
championed by
Hydro Flask



TC Energy
Foundation



BERT & ANN SHEARER
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ERICKSON, CINDY

HARLEY, MARGARET GORDON

MARTIN-FABERT FOUNDATION

SHEILA JUNE HEWITT
CHARITABLE TRUST

Accredited Investors, Inc.
American Honda Motor Co., Inc.
Ann B. Campagna Charitable Fund
Anonymous Donor
CGB Enterprises, Inc.
Crouse Corporation
Culver's Stores
Dewoskin/Roskin Foundation
IH Mississippi Valley Credit Union
Illinois Tool Works Foundation
Mansuy, Bucky & Joan
Regional Development Authority
River Network
Sappi Fine Paper
The Benevity Community Impact Fund
Truettner Family Foundation
Upper Mississippi Fleeting
Upper River Services
Waltz, David & Theresa
Watson, Alexander
West, Alfred & Loralee
William M. Hales Foundation
Wray Family Foundation
Zimmerman, Mark

ACT, Inc.
Alltech, Inc.
Anderson, Blake & Darcy
Anderson, James & Marilyn
Continental Cement Company
Ed Uihlein Family Foundation
Fletcher, Mark A. & Diane
Illinois Audubon Society
Johnston-Hanson Foundation
Mike's Inc.
Moore, Jane
One Step Printing
Quad Cities Community FDTN
- Ontiveros Family Fund
Riverway Foundation
Sarah Bicking
Sergesketter, Randal & Debra
The Four Leaf Clover Foundation
Time Timer LLC
Tri-City Electric Co.
Withrow, Brandon

Aavang, Sarah
Adrian, Darin & Lisa
Anderson, Derek
Angle, Joe & Nicole
Anonymous Donor

Ascentra Credit Union
Becker, Kenneth
Bereskin, Pat
Blistex
Bowman, Bob & Sarah
Brown, Katherine
Cali, Charles
Cardinals Care
Cartwright, William
Caterpillar Foundation Matching Gifts
Charles B. Preacher Foundation
Combined Federal Campaign
Cook, Thomas
Culver's Foundation
Curran, Thomas & Merilee
Dahl Ford
Dalton, Randy & Thomason, Bratten
Dinwiddie, Christopher
East Tennessee Foundation
Enterprise Holdings, Inc.
Equistar Chemicals
Eschbacher, Andrew
Ferencik, Rose
Feuerbach, Julie & Jon
Francis, Richard & Laima
Gary & Cindy Quinby Foundation
GFWC Illinois Federation of
Women's Clubs
Give Lively Foundation, Inc.
Glastetterk, Ken
Golding Foundation
Gottschalk, Matt
Gregg, Kate Kinley
Greiman, Eldon & Judith
Gresh, Phil & Susan
Hairstory
Haller, Kathryn
Hettel, Marty
HNI Charitable Foundation
Holte, James
Illinois American Water
James DiFrancesco & Associates PC
Judd, Damon
Kameros, Dean & Emily
Kersten, Todd & Amy
Kimple, Caroline
King, Stella
Luggen, Jeff & Donna
Lykins Family Foundation
LyondellBasell
Martin Rich Family Charitable FDTN
Mayer, Tom

McDonough Marine Service
Mencacci, Warren
Meyer, Jason & Joann
Midwest River Expeditions
Mildred Crespino-Croegaert Foundation
Mobley, James
Molyneaux, Dan & Jenny
Moore, Milby
Mortenson, Marshall & Susan
Mule Fishing Supplies
Munson, Michelle & Simu, Serban
Network for Good
Nevech, Neil
Newt Marine
Patterson, Dave
Patterson, John & Sara
Patz, Michael
Petty, Carol
Pfaff, Alain & Cathy
Phelan, James & Kathy
Pinsky, Laura
Popsockets, LLC
Pregracke, Gary & Keekee
Purington, Nancy
Rexroat Sound
Rock Island County Federation
of Women's Clubs
Rouleau, Heather
Rugh, Christine
Russell, James & Michelle
Schrier, Jim & Lauren
Shidler, Jacob

Showalter Family Charitable Fund
Silver, Linda
Sleichter, John & Emily
Sleichter, Shirley
Sparacio, Scott & Gabi
SSAB Iowa Inc.
St. Paul Lutheran Church
Stewart, Angela
Sztajer, George & Wertz, Ann
Teig, Holly
The Clorox Company
The Johnson Watkins Family
Foundation
The Raney Family Fund
The Sedona Group
Tillman, Craig & Patty
Treiber Construction
United Systems & Software, Inc.
Von Maur
Wallace's Garden Center
Waste Commission of Scott County
Waterways Journal
Witt, Carolyn
Woody Enterprises
Woychick, Ted & Carrie

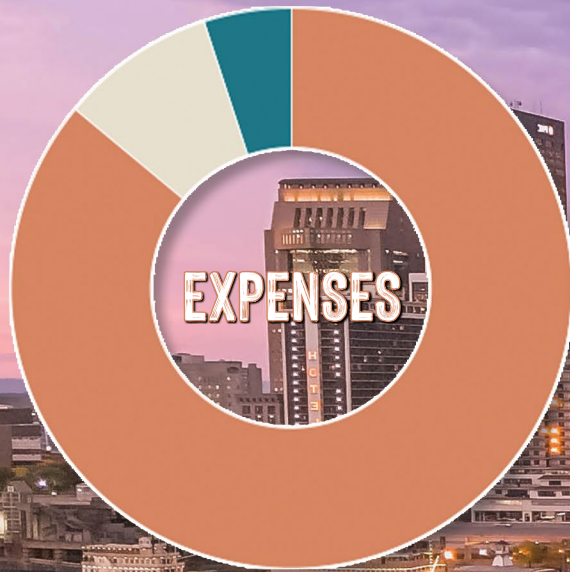
Plus 783 additional donors under
\$1,000.

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



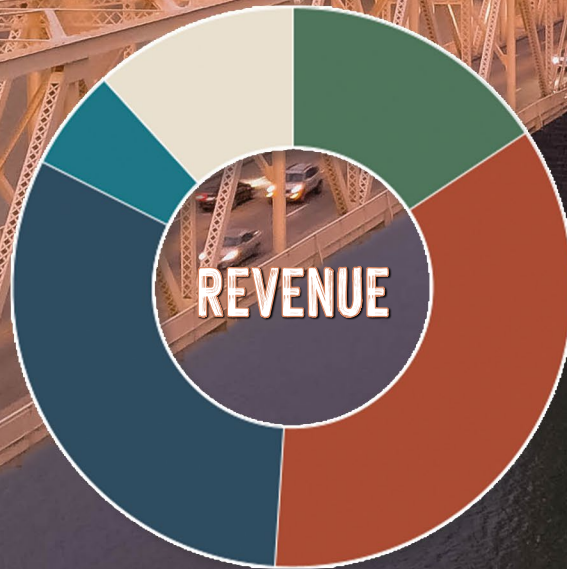
Special thank you to Zurn Elkay for
their 2022 contribution!

EXPENSES & REVENUE



- 86% PROGRAM SERVICES
- 9% MANAGEMENT & GENERAL
- 5% PUBLIC RELATIONS

- CORPORATIONS 36%
- FOUNDATIONS 32%
- INDIVIDUALS 16%
- OTHER 10%
- GOVERNMENT 6%



A WORD FROM THE BENCH

Over my career, I have had the opportunity to serve on a number of boards, chairing a handful. Honestly, post retirement I wasn't looking to take on a new one. But when Chad called and asked me if I would serve, I never hesitated to say yes. Working with Chad and his crew of young men and women has been a great and uplifting experience. His team's passion and enthusiasm are nothing short of inspiring. It has been a true honor to serve this past year.

I am not going to recite a bunch of statistics about how many tons of trash LL&W scooped up this year. Nor how many trees were planted. Or number of students taught in classrooms. You will find that documented in this report. The numbers are amazing and compelling. For decades, this team has done countless cleanups, and has educated busloads of students and teachers and planted enough trees to make a forest.

The staff is small and dedicated. It leverages the generosity and efforts of volunteers to make mountains out of hills. It's a team of people with a great leader who rises to every occasion—whether a hurricane in Louisiana or a tornado in Kentucky. Inspirational, really....

I also want to recognize a great board which has been assembled over the years to help guide this organization. LL&W is blessed with some talented and dedicated volunteer board members. Thanks to each of them for their service.

Finally, thanks to all those who contribute either their time or money to keep moving LL&W down the river. We need both to continue to grow the good work which started a couple of decades ago.

Cheers,

Rick Calhoun
Chair, Board of Directors

2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chad Pregracke
Founder and President

Rick Calhoun - Chair
Cargill, Inc
Retired

Alain Pfaff - Vice Chair
LaFarge
Retired

Mark Werning - Treasurer
Bank Orion
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Bucky Mansuy - Secretary
Lockheed Martin
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Lee Nelson
Upper River Services
President

Jim Wiegand
John Deere
Environmental Engineer Manager

Gary Swick
N. Illinois University - Instructor
Friends of the Fox River - President

George Leavell
Wepfer Marine
Executive VP

Paul Wujek
ARTCo of Archer Daniels
Midland Co. (ADM)
VP of Transportation

Josh Esper
Marquette Transportation
Executive VP - Engineering/
Procurement

Jason Meyer
Cargill Incorporated
VP & Commercial Leader

Oscar Harrell
Ingram Barge
VP - Vessel Operations

RIVER CLEANUPS

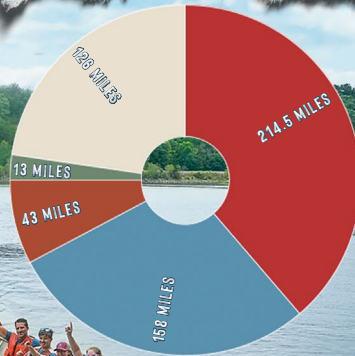
We started our cleanup efforts early this year, starting at the end of December 2021 and working through February 2022 on Kentucky Lake (Tennessee River) to clean up after the tornado that ripped through Marshall County, Kentucky. The crew, along with the help of our John Deere excavator, removed over 1.2 million pounds of debris from the lake.

The rest of the year was business as usual, logging **118 cleanups** on seven different rivers - the Mississippi, Illinois, Ohio, Tennessee, Rock, Des Plaines, and Cuyahoga Rivers. With the help of **1,235 volunteers** and our game-changing excavator, we removed a record-breaking **1,504,653 lbs** of trash!

This brings our cumulative total poundage to **12,968,156 lbs!**

**GREAT MISSISSIPPI RIVER
CLEANUP STATS:
134 VOLUNTEERS
1,037 POUNDS REMOVED**

**CURRENT RIVER
MILES ADOPTED:
554.5 MILES**



- MISSISSIPPI RIVER
- TENNESSEE RIVER
- ILLINOIS RIVER
- OHIO RIVER
- OTHER RIVERS

ALTERNATIVE SPRING BREAK

The crew was so excited to return to Memphis, TN, to kick off our 2022 Alternative Spring Break cleanup season on McKellar Lake with college students from all over the country. If there was a slogan for 2022's spring break program, it would have been "Tiny but Mighty." Coming out of Covid impacted the number of students who were able to join, but that did not hinder their drive and determination to get garbage!

With the help of **78 college students** from **11 different universities**, we removed **58,571 pounds of trash** from McKellar Lake in just three weeks.



RECYCLE LIKE A ROCKSTAR



We were excited to be able to bring the Recycle Like a Rockstar event back to Davenport, IA. Our organization's first goal is to remove the trash and litter from our nation's shorelines, but before sending it all to a landfill, our team tries to recycle as much as possible. Partnering with Quad Cities' own XStream Cleanup was incredibly beneficial. They put out a call for help, and close to 100 people heard that call!

On what had to be the hottest day of the year, volunteers helped sort through a barge load of trash collected from the Mississippi River's banks to **recycle a whopping 2,560 pounds!**



MILLION TREES PROJECT



Getting back into our communities' schools in 2022 to work with 3,047 students felt fantastic! These students, along with 237 local volunteers and an Americorps NCCC team, connected to learn about the importance of native trees, specifically oaks, and individually wrapped a whopping 59,715 bare-root saplings!

To ensure our saplings have the best chance of survival throughout distribution, we work with outstanding individuals to wrap the bare roots in newspaper, dip them in water, and secure them in bags so they stay hydrated until they can be planted in their new homes.

This year LL&W distributed **146,985 trees to 26 different states.** This brings our grand total to **1,780,045 trees** since this project started 15 YEARS AGO!



KENTUCKY LAKE TORNADO RELIEF



In response to the devastating tornado that traveled throughout Tennessee, Kentucky, and Indiana in mid-December 2021, our crew worked to remove debris from the Kentucky Lake (Tennessee River) area.

From mid-December of 2021 to June, we pulled over **1.2 million pounds of tornado debris** from the water's surface and shorelines - which included an underwater dive event! But wait, there's more! In December, we returned to the Cambridge Shores area to distribute 144 trees to community members.

Thank you to the generous supporters who helped make it possible for us to run this disaster relief operation - Western Kentucky Community Foundation, Kentucky Colonels, Marshall County, and The Tennessee Valley Authority.



DIVE & RECOVERY CLEANUPS



This year we excitedly took our cleanup operation below the surface!

In May, we partnered with three different search and recovery dive teams from across the midwest to remove underwater debris in Kentucky Lake after the devastating tornado. Throughout the event, these teams removed **half a barge load** of waste with the help of our John Deere excavator.

Then in October, we teamed up with the Hamilton County Police Association (HCPA) Dive and Recovery Team to remove **12 cars** from the bottom of the Ohio River. The dive team's sonar equipment, paired with our barge and excavator, made for the perfect recipe to kick ass. We're thrilled to continue this partnership with HCPA to help aid our mission of cleaning America's Rivers.





EDUCATION WORKSHOPS

Our educators were excited to get back to hosting in-person student workshops in the “Floating Classroom” this year. The education team hosted **13 workshops** with **275 students** in the following river towns: Alton, Illinois; Louisville, Kentucky; Tell City, Indiana; and Evansville, Indiana. Students participated in hands-on lessons involving water quality testing, benthic macroinvertebrate identification, invasive species, and biomagnification. Student river cleanups resulted in **3,052 lbs** of trash being removed.

In addition, the crew hosted two days of summer camp programs with **33 students** on the Mississippi River!

Lastly, our educators continued to perform educational outreach (in person and virtually) with **1,178 students**, emphasizing the importance of clean water and waste reduction.



180 RESTORATION PROJECT & BISON BRIDGE

2022 was an exciting year for the Bison Bridge Foundation! Community members attended two Illinois Department of Transportation public meetings to voice their support for our proposal to repurpose the I-80 Bridge into a beautiful multi-use park space and animal crossing. The Bison Bridge will be a place for locals and visitors to enjoy the Mississippi River, learn about prairies, view a small bison herd, and get to know the QC.

In June, our team hosted a workshop with landscape architecture students from the University of Illinois and Iowa State University. In October, these students returned to participate in a 36-hour Xtreme LA event hosted by Landscape Forms.

Also, this past year the Illinois House of Representatives unanimously passed House Resolution 0699 in support of the Bison Bridge project. Our proposal to create something truly transformative and impactful has gained significant public interest. With almost **40,000 signatures** of support and counting, the team continues to build momentum to make the Bison Bridge a reality!

NEW M/V RIVER CLEANUP

We are overjoyed to have a new towboat, the M/V "River Cleanup," after receiving a used vessel as a donation from the American River Transportation Company (ARTCO), a wholly-owned subsidiary of ADM.

The 750-horsepower vessel, previously named the "Nancy S.," can safely push 11 loaded barges. This upgrade will allow us to clean up hundreds of more miles of riverfront and remove millions of more pounds of garbage in the coming years.

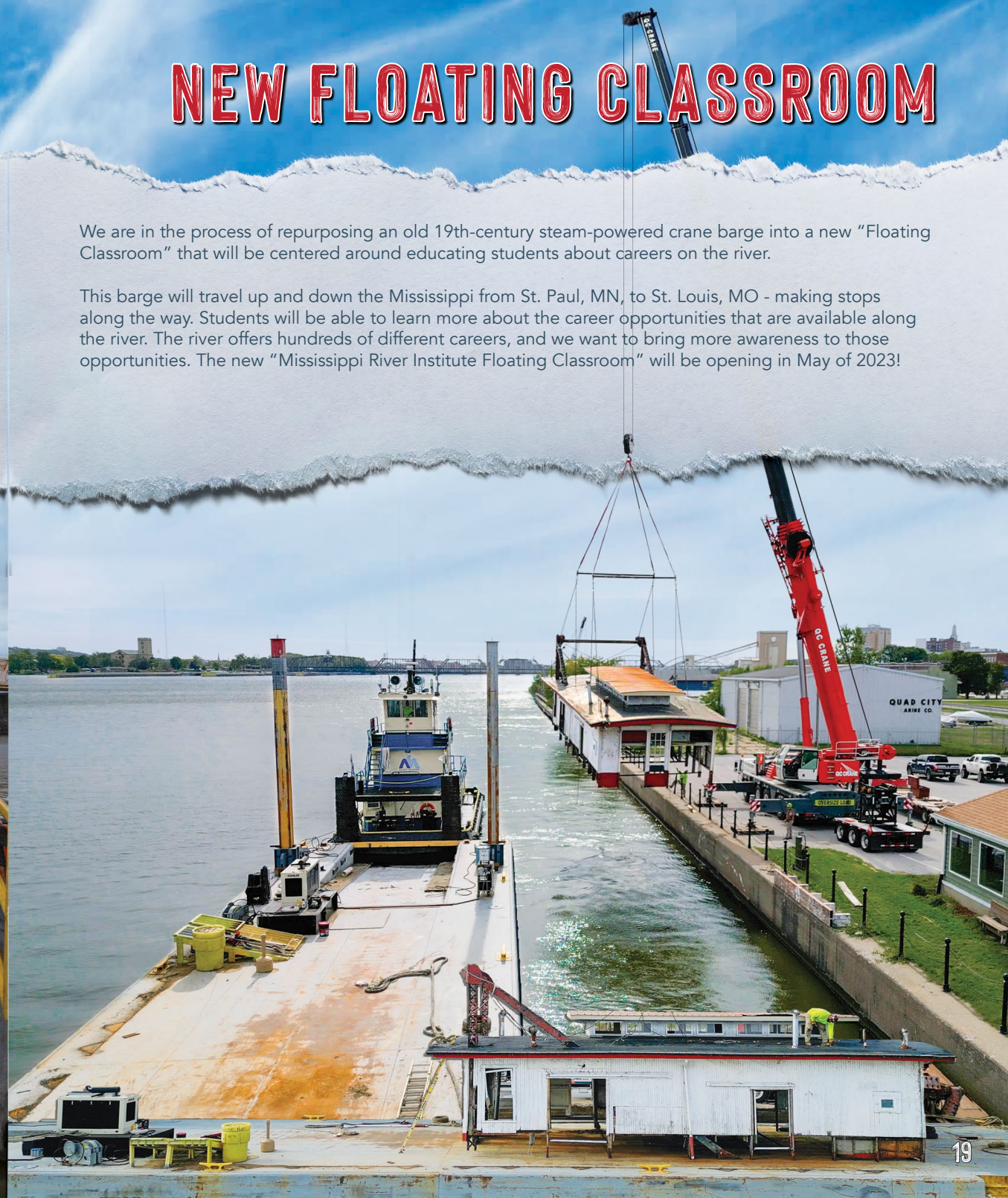
We're so excited to get this thing moving up and down the rivers! Thank you to everyone at ARTCO for making this happen!



NEW FLOATING CLASSROOM

We are in the process of repurposing an old 19th-century steam-powered crane barge into a new "Floating Classroom" that will be centered around educating students about careers on the river.

This barge will travel up and down the Mississippi from St. Paul, MN, to St. Louis, MO - making stops along the way. Students will be able to learn more about the career opportunities that are available along the river. The river offers hundreds of different careers, and we want to bring more awareness to those opportunities. The new "Mississippi River Institute Floating Classroom" will be opening in May of 2023!





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Living Lands & Waters
17624 Route 84 North
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SAVE THE DATE!

2023 BARGE PARTY - JUNE 15, 2023

MORE DETAILS TO COME! SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW & FOLLOW OUR SOCIALS TO STAY UPDATED ON ALL BARGE PARTY ANNOUNCEMENTS.



SCAN HERE TO STAY UPDATED
ON ALL THINGS LL&W!



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.

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