



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. The second event is still being completed as I write this letter. Our crew is assisting the Hamilton County police department to recover and remove 21 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 are well on our way to setting a new LL&W record for the most garbage removed in a clean-up season – we are at **1.5 million pounds** removed so far!

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."

Have a wonderful holiday season and we hope to see you on the river in 2023!

Sincerely,

Chad Pregracke
Founder & President
Living Lands & Waters

SINCE 1998



12,862,513 POUNDS REMOVED | 1,780,045 TREES PLANTED
24,325 STUDENTS EDUCATED | 125,995 VOLUNTEERS ENGAGED



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IMAGES FROM THE KENTUCKY LAKE RELIEF EFFORT