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ANNUAL REPORT 2018

Meeting of the Rivers Foundation

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The Meeting of the Rivers Foundation (the Foundation) is an Illinois non-profit corporation, approved by the Illinois Secretary of State in August 1998. Since its inception, the Foundation has evolved to include a focus on educational and community outreach initiatives that promote public awareness and understanding of river issues and solutions.

These efforts coincide with our original charter to support the acquisition, maintenance and replacement of exhibits at the National Great Rivers Museum. The Foundation's principal role has been to secure funding from private and public sources to support the museum and outreach related responsibilities.

The Foundation works in partnership with numerous other collaborative organizations and the USACE in the many efforts to elevate the impacts of environmental education, outreach and awareness surrounding the Mississippi, Missouri and Illinois waterways and their watersheds.

“Proudly serving as the cooperating association for one of the three congressionally approved USACE regional visitor centers in the entire nation”

Mission

To conduct programs and activities that promote public awareness and understanding of the great rivers, their environments, their place in the natural world, and the dynamic interactions between the river systems and the human wildlife communities that border them.

Vision

The Meeting of the Rivers Foundation - through the National Great Rivers Museum's education and outreach activities and through effective partnerships - provides high quality education and interpretive experiences that advance public awareness and understanding of great river issues, and thereby promote and inspire greater public and private stewardship and active involvement in the protection, preservation and sustainable use of our river environments.

Vision Attributes

1. The Foundation supports the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in its widely recognized role as a leader in the production of high quality interpretive and educational programs that focus on the great rivers.
2. The National Great Rivers Museum is highly regarded as a superior model for educational and interpretive facilities related to the great rivers and their environments.
3. The National Great Rivers Museum attracts large numbers of tourists and visitors from near and far, and in so doing so makes an important contribution to the regional economy.
4. A high level of private and public support attest to the Foundation's reputation for quality and effectiveness and its substantial contributions to the quality of life in the region.
5. The Foundation is widely recognized as a neutral and non-partisan advocate for environmental awareness and regional development, and as such, is particularly effective as a facilitator for cooperation among many diverse organizations that treasure the great rivers.
6. In every aspect of its operations and relationships, the Foundation is seen as an expression of vitality, enthusiasm, inspiration, education, substance, and productivity.

Purposes

1. Through the museum and other resources, provide high quality educational and interpretive experiences for visitors, students, and the general public.
2. Collaborate with other partners in the funding, development and delivery of education and outreach programs that support the Foundation's mission.
3. Serve as a catalyst and facilitator to encourage greater dialogue and collaboration among the many organizations who share the Foundation's vision.



GOALS AND STRATEGIES

1. Increase public awareness and understanding of the great rivers and related issues.
2. Continue to increase museum traffic at the rate of 15 percent per year over the next five years.
3. Consistently achieve very high satisfaction ratings from museum visitors.
4. Increase net income from all sources (excluding endowment fund raising) by 10 percent per year.
5. Work with USACE and others to increase the active participation of individuals and organizations both within Illinois and as multi-state collaborations in programs and activities that support the Foundation's mission.
6. Encourage students and adults to pursue their interest in natural history and the great rivers through educational, research, and career channels.
7. Support tourism and economic development through programs and activities that draw visitors to the museum.



Every Kid in a Park Day

FINANCIALS

2018 Annual Report

Beginning Balance: Jan. 1, 2018.....	\$26,614.23
Revenues	
Donations	\$ 7,187.92
Grants	\$ 0
Program/Event Sponsorships	\$ 2,821.00
Great Rivers Treasures	\$ 616.25
Fundraising	\$ 353.80
Total Revenue	\$11,008.97
Expenses	
Administrative	\$ 4,677.75
Eagle Events	\$ 1,650.00
Bonkers/Finatics	\$ 0
General Program	\$ 2,512.54
Volunteers	\$ 1,810.97
Summer Camps	\$ 172.70
Misc/Other Expenses	\$ 45.25
Total Expenses	\$10,869.21
Ending Balance: Dec. 31, 2018.....	\$ 26,753.99



VIP GROUPS

Jan 3: Cabela's donates raffle items to the Meeting of the Rivers Foundation for the Masters of the Sky event.

Jan 6: The Alton Regional Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Rivers Project along with several area partners hosted the annual Alton Ice Festival.

Jan 26, 27, 28: Clarksville Eagle Days is hosted by the Missouri Department of Conservation.

Feb 2: The Acropolis Tech Business Advisory Group facilitated a teambuilding workshop.

Feb 12: The St. Louis Regional Freightway STL Conference and the US Coast Guard toured the M/V Dredge Potter.

Feb 20: Illinois State Treasurer Michael Frerichs hosted a press conference announcing a \$500 million investment to boost the economy in rural Illinois.

Feb 21: The Bonkers for Birds display was installed at the Missouri Botanical Garden.

Feb 22: The Emergency Management office conducted a flood preparation meeting.

Mar 10: Hosted annual Girl Scouts Building Bridges program.



March 10: Ra Joy, a Lieutenant Gubernatorial candidate for the State of Illinois, and Kathleen Kennedy, niece of President John F. Kennedy and former Lieutenant Governor of Maryland, visited the National Great Rivers Museum and toured the Melvin Price Locks and Dam.

March 22: The American Cancer Society host their monthly meeting.

April 5: The Meeting of the Rivers Foundation partners with Kelly Masinelli, to host Yoga classes.

April 14: The Meeting of the Rivers Foundation volunteer Annette Walsh assisted the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at the Make-A-Wish event

April 19: The Meeting of the Rivers Foundation partners with Lewis and Clark College to host a class called "History of Riverscapes"

April 21 & 22: The Rivers of the Rivers Foundation hosts an education booth at the Forest Park Earth Day Celebration

April 26-28: Hosted over 1,000 4th graders at the Every Kid in a Park field trip and partnership grant funded through the National Parks Association

May 10: The Great Rivers and Routes Visitor Center hosted a German Fam Tour

May 11: Facilitated a Serendipity Day at Silex Elementary School.

June 9: Meeting of the Rivers Foundation volunteers assisted with setup, education stations, and event logistics at the Two Rivers Fishing Fair.

June 9: Staffed an education booth at the Life Outside Festival at Creve Coeur Lake Memorial Park hosted by Great Rivers Greenway and Terrain Magazine.

June 22: Hosted a Journalism Workshop through the Institute for Journalism & Natural Resources with the focus on the UMR Navigation, Flood Risk Reduction, Ecosystem Restoration, Stewardship and Recreation.

June 27: Chief of Prevention from the Sector Upper USCG office toured the National Great Rivers Museum and Mel Price Locks and Dam.

VIP GROUPS (CONT)

July 3: The City of Alton hosted their annual fireworks show. The Meeting of the Rivers Foundation volunteers supported the fireworks show with their annual potluck.

Aug. 2: Hosted the District Flood Fight Training session.

Aug 20: United Congregations of the Metro East and its partners Illinois Clean Jobs Coalition, Sierra Club, and MEGA chose NGRM as the location of a Listen, Lead, Share community forum.

Aug 25: Illinois Humanities presented Illinois Turns 200: A Bicentennial Podcast Series at the National Great Rivers Museum.

Aug. 28: The director of the National Weather Service, Dr. Louis W. Uccellini, presented an award to the staff of Mel Price Lock to commend the lock staff's efforts in providing weather data.

Aug 20: Red Hatters Club tour.

Aug 25: Riverbend Yarn Bombers install textile art at the National Great Rivers Museum.

Aug. 21-29: The National Great Rivers Museum participating in the year of art, music and culture along the Mississippi River through the Kidcation partnership with the Alton Regional Convention Bureau.

Sept 12: St. Louis Area Attractions tour.

Sept 15: Alton Mainstreet and the Sierra Club hosted the 12th Annual Mississippi Earthtones Festival. Rivers Project staff and volunteers hosted a booth about river animals and upcoming events.

Sept 17: Illinois Farm Bureau Tour

Sept 27: US Coast Guard Tour

Oct 30: American Bureau of Shipping, Towing Vessel Inspection Bureau, TVNCOE, American Waterways Operators, USCG Sector Upper, and USACE St. Louis and St. Paul Districts hosts Industry Day.

Nov 2: Congressman Luetkemeyer's office tour.

Nov 3,4: Hosted booth at City of Grafton's Towboat Festival.

Nov 11: Celebrated Veterans Day and the Marine Corps Birthday with a cake for the public.

Nov. 17: River Works Discovery hosts Who Works the Rivers Career Fair.

Nov 2: Soy Transportation Coalition Melvin Price Locks & Dam Tours -Brazil Agribusiness

Dec 11: 2018 Greater St. Louis Federal Executive Board meeting.



GREAT RIVERS TREASURES GIFT STORE

The Year 2018 was the first year of operations for the Volunteer run Great Rivers Treasures Gift Store. It was a successful year:



PURPOSE AND GOALS

- The store is to provide our guests with a selection of items that enhances their experience at the National Great Rivers Museum and the Melvin Price Lock and Dam. The items should include books and educational materials that support the US Army Corps of Engineers and the Museum's mission to educate children and adults on wildlife, environmental, and historical issues. Also, some of the items should be imprinted with the National Great Rivers Museum logo to provide our visitors with souvenirs and mementos of their visit to further their learning experience.
- To provide an income source for the Meeting of the Rivers Foundation, which supports the educational and interpretive programs provided by the US Army Corp of Engineers and the National Great Rivers Museum.



Many thanks to the Volunteers and Staff who have made the Great Rivers Treasures Store such a success.

PARTNERS

Alpine Shop
 Alton Fire Department
 Alton Marina
 Alton Parks and Recreation
 Alton Police Department
 Alton Regional CVB/Great Rivers & Routes
 AVEC - Alton Volunteer Emergency Corps
 America's Central Port District
 Big Muddy Adventures
 Big Shark Bicycle Company
 Calumet Creek Forest Trail
 City of Alton
 City of Clarksville
 City of Grafton
 City of Hartford
 Girls Engaged in Math & Science (GEMS)
 Girl Scouts of Southern Illinois
 GORC - Gateway Off-Road Cyclists
 Great Rivers Land Trust
 Greater Region YMCA
 Hayner Public Library
 Illinois Department of Natural Resources



Lewis and Clark Community College
 Lewis & Clark State Historic Site
 Jacoby Arts Center
 Litzsinger Road Ecology Center
 Living Lands and Waters
 Metro East Parks and Recreation District
 Mississippi River Water Trail Association
 Missouri Department of Conservation
 Missouri Department of Natural Resources
 National Audubon Society
 National Environment Education
 Foundation
 National Great Rivers Research
 & Education Center
 National Park Service
 National Public Lands Day
 Phillips 66
 REACT
 REI, Outdoors Inc.
 River Bend Growth Association
 Rivers Point Fire Department
 Riverworks Discovery
 Riverbend Head Start
 Sierra Club
 St. Charles County Parks & Recreation
 St. Louis Audubon Society
 St. Louis Canoe and Kayak Club
 Treehouse Wildlife Rehabilitation Center
 The Audubon Center at the Riverlands
 The Nature Institute
 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

VOLUNTEERS



Charlie Baird
Deanna Barnes
Kyle Boccaleoni
Lisa Boccaleoni
Jerry Bort*
Sharon Campbell
Becky Close
Terry Close
Bill Curtis

Charlie Dralle+
Dave Douglas
Roni Douglas
Dan Garner
Hunter Gonzalez
Rodney Green
Jack Helmkamp
Joe Lawrence+
Joanne Lenhardt+
Jill Lane
Don Metzler
Jo Metzler*
Ron McMullen
Matt McKay
Randy Moonier*
Wayne Mount
Bob Morris*
Dick Oliver*
Doris Oliver
Debbie Owen
Dave Roller+

Judy Schlafer
John Schlafer+
Norbert Sewing
Peg Stafford+
Brett Stawar
Jay Turner
Nancee Vine#
Annette Walsh*
Brian Wulf



Summary



Number of Volunteers: 39

Hours: 5,915

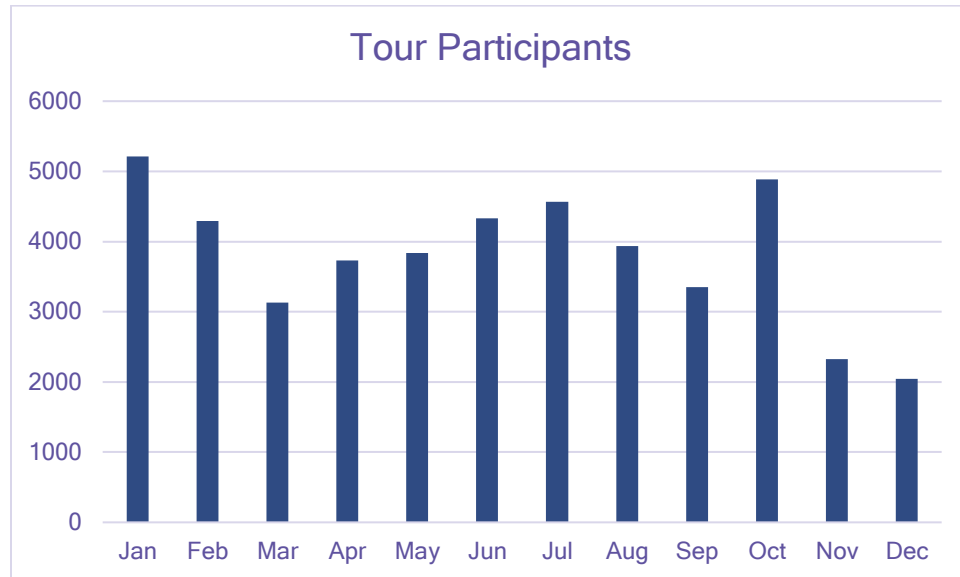
Partnership & Volunteer Value: \$612,525

More than 3,000 Volunteer hours

+ More than 2,000 Volunteer hours

* More than 1,000 Volunteer hours

NATIONAL GREAT RIVERS MUSEUM OPERATIONS: VISITATION



Melvin Price Locks and Dam Tour Groups

Public: 71.1% (10,421)

Schools/Education: 13.9% (2,037)

Coaches: 8.7% (1,271)

Scouts: 1.1% (156)

Family/Civic: .3% (40)

Religious: 3.2 % (468)

Business/International: 1.8% (257)

Tours in 2018: 1,024

Tour Visitation in 2018: 45,627



NATIONAL GREAT RIVERS MUSEUM: EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

Alton Audubon Ice Festival
 Alton Half Marathon
 American Newspaper Camp
 Bonkers for Birds
 Clarksville Eagle Days
 Earth Day in Forest Park
 Every Kid in a Park
 Fish Finatics
 Girl Scout Bridges
 Grafton Towboat Festival
 Greater YMCA Summer Camps

Illinois Federation of Outdoor Resources
 Kayak Camp
 Lewis and Clark Education Day
 Little Creek Day Camp
 Masters of the Sky
 Pere Marquette Fishing Fair
 River Runts
 Riverlands Paddle Festival
 Scout Eagle Day
 Water Festival

202 Programs
59,091 Participants



NATIONAL GREAT RIVERS MUSEUM: SPECIAL PROGRAMS



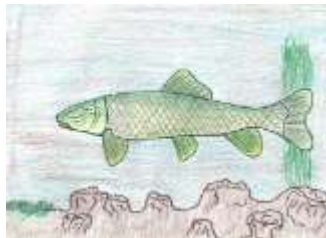
Bonkers for Birds Display at the Missouri Botanical Garden

Bonkers for Birds

2,102 - 4th & 5th grade students in
2017/2018 School Year
22,000 students since 2007

Fish Finatics

815 - 7th & 8th grade students in
2017/2018 School Year
3,400 students since 2016



Fish Finatics Artwork

River Rangers

483 preschoolers - 2,950 students in
2017/2018 School Year
9,965 students since 2010



Fish Finatics Artwork

Presentation of Bonkers for Birds awards to the artists by Capt. Nick Copeland, US Army Corp of Engineers



MEETING OF THE RIVERS FOUNDATION BOARD

Brett Stawar, Chair

President and CEO,
Great Rivers and Routes Tourism Bureau

Bob Morris, Vice Chair

Community Volunteer

Deanna Barnes, Secretary

Deputy Director of Development and Housing City
of Alton Illinois

Norbert Sewing, Treasurer

Community Volunteer

Rodney Green

Executive Vice President
National Maintenance and Repair, Inc

Dr. Jill Lane

Dean, Transfer Programs
Lewis & Clark Community College

Bookstore Committee

Becky Close
Terry Close
Judy Schlafer
Sharon Jones

Website/Marketing

Ken Ray

Facilities Use

Vacant

Ex-Officio

Andy Schimpf

Manager
Army Corps of Engineers

Karen Watwood

Assistant Manager
Army Corps of Engineers

Chris Garcia

Rec/ISOP Manager
Army Corps of Engineers

Janet Meredith

Volunteer Coordinator
Army Corps of Engineers

Advisory

Ben Allen

Trustee
Village of Grafton

Dr. Dale Chapman

President
Lewis & Clark Community College

Jack Helmkamp

Private Investor

William Kruidenier

Associate Director
National Great Rivers
Research and Education Center

Donald Miller

Corridor 67, Inc.



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
St. Louis District