ANNUAL REPORT
2018

Meeting of the Rivers Foundation
Meeting of the Rivers Foundation

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.
FINANCIALS

2018 Annual Report

Beginning Balance: Jan. 1, 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Donations</td>
<td>$7,187.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program/Event Sponsorships</td>
<td>$2,821.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great Rivers Treasures</td>
<td>$616.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>$353.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Revenue</td>
<td>$11,008.97</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Administrative</td>
<td>$4,677.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eagle Events</td>
<td>$1,650.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonkers/Finatics</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Program</td>
<td>$2,512.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteers</td>
<td>$1,810.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer Camps</td>
<td>$172.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Misc/Other Expenses</td>
<td>$45.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Expenses</td>
<td>$10,869.21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ending Balance: Dec. 31, 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$26,753.99</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


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 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 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.

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.
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. 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 hear 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
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
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

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

Presentations 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

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.

Bookstore Committee

Becky Close
Terry Close
Judy Schlafer
Sharon Jones

Website/Marketing

Ken Ray

Facilities Use

Vacant

US Army Corps of Engineers
St. Louis District