



POST-EVENT PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release
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Whopping 8 Net Tons of Trash Removed by Volunteers

LONG GROVE, IA SEPTEMBER 15, 2008 -- The 3rd annual Lower Wapsipinicon River Cleanup Project, a canoeing- and camping-based river cleanup event, took place August 22-24, 2008. Thirty volunteers removed an amazing 8.04 net tons of trash from 18 miles of the Wapsipinicon River. The section of river covered weaves through Clinton and Scott County, from Allen's Grove Park (north of Donahue) to McCausland Landing.

“Folks were jazzed at the chance to get back on the river. Last year the Wapsi was flooded, and our volunteers tackled the backwaters, or watershed, which is usually inaccessible. This year started out looking like we would be on backwaters again, but the Wapsi receded fairly quickly. It really feeds your spirit to see people from all over Iowa come together, get involved, and do something to improve the health and beauty of our local river,” stated coordinator Melisa Jacobsen.

Chuck Jacobsen, co-coordinator of the Lower Wapsi Cleanup stated “It’s so vital to care for our rivers as water quality is a must have and our greatest natural resources next to clean air. The health of our rivers directly affects all of us.”

The program provided free canoes, free camping, and low-cost meals, as well as an evening Mississippi River eco-cruise on the Blue Heron led by a Clinton County Conservation Board Naturalist.

Sponsors for this event included: Clinton County Conservation Board; Friends of the Wapsi Center, Inc., Dixon, IA; Clinton County Pheasants Forever; G. Baker Distributing, Clinton, IA; Allied Waste Services, Clinton, IA; Clinton County Area Solid Waste Agency, BEHR Metal Recycling, Clinton, IA; MidAmerican Energy Company; and Target, Clinton, IA

The Lower Wapsipinicon River Cleanup Project is a grassroots organization with a twofold purpose: To remove trash from the river and dispose of it in an environmentally responsible manner; and to educate the public about the environment and the importance of caring for natural resources. They will be cleaning up a different section of the Lower Wapsipinicon each year in late August. For further information, or to get on a mailing list for next year, please write to LWRCP, 2740 - 160th Avenue, Calamus, IA 52729, email coordinator@lowerwapsicleanup.org or visit the website at <http://www.lowerwapsicleanup.org>

2008 LWRCP Fact Sheets

Trash by the Numbers:

10 pounds aluminum recycled
12 pounds of hazardous waste material
265 pounds glass and plastic recycled
2,040 pounds (1.02 tons) tires recycled
5,100 pounds (2.55 tons) of mixed scrap metal recycled
8,660 pounds (4.33 tons) to the landfill

TOTAL: 16,087 pounds removed (8.04 tons)

7,415 pounds (3.71 tons) recycled, 46%
8,672 pounds (4.33 tons) not recycled, 54%

We had a total of 30 people involved for this cleanup - plus several river neighbors at Mason Creek and Wildwood that were a huge help offering their tractors to haul large items to the dumpsters - that sure saved on muscle exhaustion! Folks participating came from all over Iowa including Clinton, Camanche, Davenport, Winterset, Iowa City, Coralville, Des Moines, Garnavillo, Sabula, Walcott, Dixon, DeWitt, Stanwood, Waukee, North Liberty, LeClaire, Marshalltown, and even East Moline and Coal Valley in Illinois.

Listing of identifiable items removed from river

Household

2 small propane cans
inflatable pool
super soaker
bottle of popcorn oil
patio chairs
inflatable bed
gas oven
insulator
3 plastic chairs
big coffee mug
wood-stove top
garden posts
fire extinguisher
swimming pool float
coal furnace clinkers
washer
fork
small metal car
light-bulb, socket, wiring
record player
office water cooler
wrist brace
3 lawn mowers
bed frame
toaster
2 mattresses
3 metal box springs
12 lawn chairs
ballast
refrigerator tray
blanket
small refrigerator
lawn clippers
vacuum cleaner hose
ceramic tiles
leather shoe
kitchen mixer
knit hat
tank top
metal pot lid

plastic letters H and A
set of ceramic dishes
holiwood bed frame
leather boot
2 sneakers
bathroom plumbing pipes
Christmas tree branches

Farm and Utility

7 fence posts
large oil barrel
pvc pipes
electric cable spool
6 large barbed wire rolls
3x2 metal grate
j-hook
wrench
metal barrel lid
hole punch
5 large metal barrels
scythe
chain saw case
sickle blade
box of nails
pressure tank
large metal rod
hammer handle
small metal barrel
milk machine nipple
drive chain
tractor chain
horse harness hardware
farm chemical bucket
saddle stirrup
large metal pipe
metal roofing
3 5-gallon buckets of small
scrap metal
concrete mixer

Outdoor Fun

duck decoy
boat fuel tank
live box
ice skate
3 coolers
trap chain
clay pigeon
PFD
tarp
bicycle tire inner tube
3 large bicycles
7 old large rolls fencing
antique metal tire ring
dock parts
anchor

Vehicles

car door
car hood
car headlight
truck fuel tank
hubcap
cb radio
2 semi tires with rims
8 semi tires
8 truck tires
22 car tires
25 various tires with rims
3 oil filters
3 car tire inner tubes
car seat w/armrest &
ashtray
trouble light