

If it weren't for our sponsors, Project AWARE would not be possible. Thank You!



Project AWARE 2009
Rescue all hope ye who enter here.

It's fun ... rewarding ... educational ...
hard work ... this river cleanup is
your gateway to voluntourism!

Six years ago, a small but determined cadre of volunteers embarked on a fledgling river cleanup event called Project AWARE (A Watershed Awareness River Expedition). With an ideologic mission – to improve the Maquoketa River by removing unsightly trash – these volunteers on the 1st Annual Project AWARE did more than just clean a river...they started a movement. Since that time, thousands of people have volunteered for Project AWARE, trading in luxurious vacations to far-off destinations for mud, sweat, sand, and adventure right here in Iowa.

Even though it can be dirty, smelly, and exhausting, Project AWARE is one of the most meaningful and rewarding efforts Iowans can ever experience. River cleanup is hard work, but it's not just the kind of work that comes from muscling trash out of the river; it's also the kind that comes from your heart. This was especially true in the summer of 2008 when floodwaters and tornadoes ripped through the Midwest.

Originally scheduled for June, the floods of 2008 forced the postponement of Project AWARE. However, many cleanup volunteers who had already planned to spend a week in June on a volunteer vacation still made the pilgrimage to the flood-impacted areas to help prepare for and clean up after the devastation. And when Project AWARE was rescheduled in August, many returned to the Winnebago, Shell Rock, and Cedar rivers and helped remove a record-breaking 47 tons of debris.

This band of adventurous volunteers embarked on an expedition – they worked hard, got dirty, & helped rescue something that floodwaters could not wash away...hope.

2008 Project AWARE Sponsorship Series

Platinum Paddle Sponsors (\$3,000+) – Black Hawk County Conservation Board, Butler County Conservation Board, Iowa State University Recreation Services, Rockwell Collins, University of Northern Iowa – Leisure, Youth & Human Services Division, United States Geological Survey, University of Iowa Hygienic Lab, Iowa Department of Natural Resources – Financial & Business Assistance, IOWATER, Keepers of the Land, Law Enforcement, Iowa Water Trails.
Golden Yoke Sponsors (\$2,000 - \$2,999) – Iowa Soil and Water Conservation Society. **Silver Stern Sponsors (\$100 - \$1,999)** – 1-800-Got-Junk?, Aero Rental and Party Shoppe, Alter Metal Recycling, B4 Brands, Barker Lemar, Behr, Black Hawk County Soil & Water Conservation District, BMC Aggregates L.C., Bob Claassen, Bob's Guitars, Boone County Landfill, Boy Scout Troop 242, Bremer County Conservation Board, Butler County Soil & Water Conservation District, Butler County Solid Waste Commission, Carol Bodenstener, Casey's General Stores, Inc., Cedar Falls Historical Society-Ice House Museum, Cedar Falls Recycling Center & Cedar Falls Transfer Station, Cedar Falls Tourism & Visitors Bureau, Cedar River Environmental Group, Cedar Valley Paddlers, Central Iowa Paddlers, Cerro Gordo County Conservation Board, Cerro Gordo County Soil & Water Conservation District, Chamness Technology, Inc., City of Cedar Falls, City of Clarksville, City of Greene, City of Marble Rock, City of Mason City, City of Rockford, City of Shell Rock, CL Tel, Clarksville Public Library, Complete Appliance Demanufacturing, CrawDaddy Outdoors, Dana & Liz Christiansen, Darrel Brothersen, Des Moines Area Community College, Diane Ford-Shivvers, Dr. Tom & Char Strub, Eagle City Winery, Eagle Scout Projects – Austin Schaeffer & Jared Schubert, Environmental Advocates, Environmental Professionals of Iowa, Epley Brothers Hybrids Inc., Floyd County Conservation Board, Floyd-Mitchell-Chickasaw Solid Waste Management Agency, Franklin County Conservation Board, George Wyth State Park, Goeke & Rasmussen, Golden Grain Energy, LLC., Hawkeye Community College Natural Resources Program, Hawkeye Fly Fishing Association, Heartland Asphalt, Inc., Holcim (US) Inc., Hy-Vee, Inc., IHR Hydroscience & Engineering-University of Iowa, Integrated DNA Technologies, Iowa Academy of Science, Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, Iowa Project WET, Iowa Recycling Association, Iowa Rivers Revival, Iowa Whitewater Coalition, Izaak Walton League Des Moines Chapter, Jack Link's Beef Jerky, Jendro Sanitation, Jim Dodd, John Washburn, K Cunningham Construction Company Inc., Keep Iowa Beautiful, Kristin Simon, Landfill of North Iowa, Larry and Carolyn Taylor, Lime Creek Nature Center Foundation, Lincoln Savings Bank, Loparex, Mark Bohner, Mason City Recycling Center, Mel Bohner, Mick Gage Plumbing and Heating, Mid-America Recycling, MidAmerican Energy Company, North Shore Boat Club, On-Site Information and Destruction Inc., Prairie Rapids Paddlers, Prairie Winds RC&D, Quaker Oats, Raldo Schneider and Friends, Rick's Grille & Spirits, Rockford Public Golf Course, Rural Iowa Waste Management Association, Ryan Companies US, Inc., Scavenger Backwater Motors, Seatasea Watersports, Snyder & Associates, Inc., Springbrook Conservation Education Center, Standard Golf Company, Stine Seed Company, Stone House Woodworking, Sue Caley, Teresa Kurtz, The Dental Practice, The Nature Conservancy, UNI Outdoors, Union Busy Bees 4-H Club, Waste Management, Wayne Claassen Engineering and Surveying, Inc., Whirlpool Corporation, Winnebago Council Boy Scouts of America, Worth County Conservation Board. **Life Jacket Sponsors (Up to \$100)** – Bliss Warnke, Daryl Anderson, Dave and Patty Hansen, Debra Robin, Floyd Soil & Water Conservation District, Fogdall RV, James and Donna McCabe, Jason McVay, Jean Gordon, Melanie Sadeghpour, Mike DeLong, Miranda Caldwell, Roger Schnittjer.

Photos: Outside cover – Roger Schnittjer (upper right), Iowa DNR (other photos); Inside – David Williamson and Iowa DNR.

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Iowa Watershed Monitoring and Assessment Program Web Site – wqm.igsb.uiowa.edu

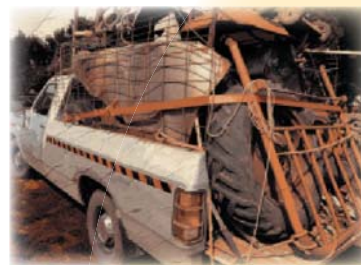
Water Fact Sheet 2009-1
January 2009



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Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Geological and Water Survey
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6th Annual Project AWARE
 Winnebago, Shell Rock & Cedar Rivers
 August 2-9, 2008

- ◆ River Miles – 80.4 miles ◆ Participants – 221 ◆ Sponsors – 141
- ◆ Total Trash Removed: 94,800 lbs. (47.4 tons)
 – 94 ten-wheel dump trucks loads
- ◆ Trash Recycled: 65%
 - ◆ Glass, plastic, metal containers: 3,180 lbs.
 - ◆ Household hazardous materials: 1,400 lbs.
 - ◆ Appliances: 4,520 lbs.
 - ◆ Scrap metal: 23,940 lbs.
 - ◆ Tires (816): 28,740 lbs.

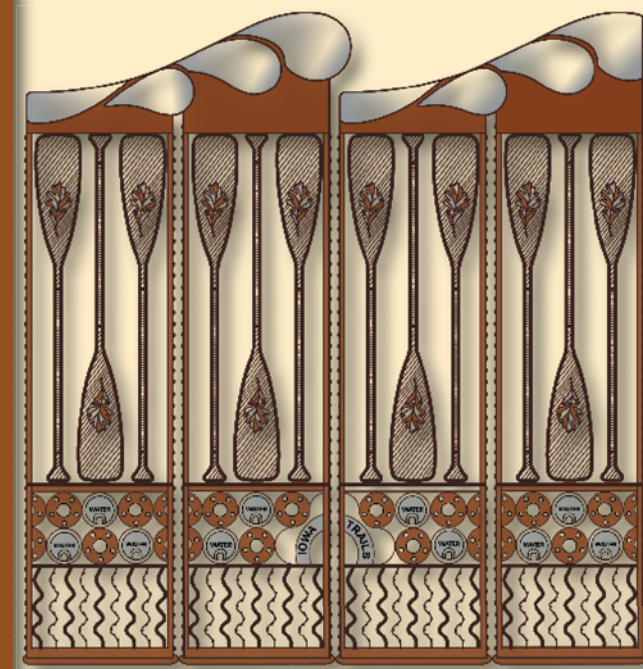


... a journey

providing a

Window to the Past ...

and a Gateway to the Future.



More than meets the eye...

Project AWARE is not simply a river cleanup. It is, as its acronym states, an expedition; a band of volunteers who partake in a journey with a specific purpose. Not only do they help clean Iowa's rivers, but in doing so they learn about them, they learn from them, and ultimately, they help protect them. Project AWARE is more than just a river cleanup – it's an experience.

The gateway shown here is an illustration of a sculpture that is being built to honor the work of Project AWARE volunteers and the rivers they seek to protect. The metal used in the sculpture, however, is not just metal – before volunteers recovered it from the river, it was trash. Once fashioned into sculpture, its symbolism will help reveal the AWARE story. The paddles, for example, which will be made from rebar and aluminum window frames, represent the method by which the trash was removed from the river. The leaves found on the paddles represent Iowa's state tree – much like the mighty oak, our state's rivers help sustain our wildlife, our people, and our way of life.

When complete, this sculpture of former river trash will also function as a security gate on the DNR building at the Iowa State Fair. Through these gates, many will travel. And secured to the wheel rim hubs below the paddles, the water-main valve covers cast in aluminum will serve as a constant reminder of what Project AWARE is all about...**WATER.**

Prospectus

With unexpected intimacy,
 a canoe measures us . . .
 welcomes our human width . . .
 encourages us with applause sustained by the dip of a paddle tip.
 It's easy.
 It's hard . . .
 upon our return
 to the banks of an injured river.
 Muscles amid mussels,
 we are the bug-bitten
 swarm
 of colorful T-shirts
 who, like tadpoles along the shore,
 dream of leapfrogging
 toward
 little miracles:

- ☪ two bare feet visible under 48 inches of freshwater . . .
 clear
- ☪ the orange calligraphy of a mulberry's descent through muddy shale . . .
 current
- ☪ the softshell turtle seeking refuge for her eggs . . .
 bearings

Unfazed by bandits
 whose refuse we refuse,
 we move in confluence . . .
 banks, interest, return, flow.
 Our footprints mint the fresh pieces
 of green currency . . .
 whose economy is a wholly owned subsidiary
 of the natural world.

Return on investment?
 Another year of change . . .
 deposited in bags . . .
 ensuring those who follow
 remain aware . . .
 and prepared to inherit
 a wealth we've come to know
 with unexpected intimacy.

*Collaborative Poem from Riverside
 at the Iowa State Fair
 & Project AWARE, 2007.*

Project AWARE 2009 ◆ Cedar River ◆ June 20-27

In May of 2007, the city of Cedar Rapids and Linn County declared 2008 as "The Year of the River." Barely one year after this declaration, the Cedar River rose to unprecedented heights and devastated nearly everything that stood in its path. In June of 2009, hundreds of volunteers on the 7th Annual Project AWARE will converge on the Cedar River and work to clean it up from Center Point to Muscatine, a distance of nearly 80 miles.

For more information and to register, visit our website:
www.iowaprojectaware.com



Join us!