

Roadside Review

Spring/Summer 2008 Issue 50

A quarterly newsletter of the
Missouri Department of Transportation's
Adopt-A-Highway Program



Missouri Roadsides and Streams Get Spring Cleaning

During the month of April, Missourians took a few hours to help make Missouri beautiful as a part of the annual No MORE Trash! Bash.

Across Missouri, thousands of people picked up more than 84,000 bags of trash from Missouri's roadways and streams, nearly 13,000 more bags than last year. Groups also picked up untold numbers of tires and other items too big to place in trash bags. Those who reported their activity received a No More Trash! lapel pin.

MoDOT districts hosted events or cleanups to help improve the view and spread the word. In the St. Louis, area elected officials helped

MoDOT clean up a section of Interstate 55 and kids who attended the Take our Children to Work Day were presented with eco-friendly messages. In the Northwest District, several employees from the district office participated in a litter pick-up activity along one of the busiest interchanges in St. Joseph. MoDOT managers picked up trash in the Northeast District; employees handed out litter prevention info to motorists at local drive-thrus and they displayed the flower made from recycled signs at the district office.

Cleanup crews included MoDOT crews, Missouri Department of Conservation Stream Team members and other employees, Adopt-A-Highway volunteers, incarcerated crews and countless others.

"Ultimately, we'd like to get people to stop littering altogether," said Stacy Armstrong, MoDOT, roadside management supervisor. "We're working with lots of young people now and they can help change the future to make Missouri litter free."

The more than 3,900 Adopt-A-Highway groups and 3,502 Stream Teams volunteers spend countless hours on litter cleanup, but litter continues to line our roads and streams. With the money spent on litter cleanup, MoDOT could resurface many miles of roads, replace and repair bridges; and the Missouri Department of Conservation could improve habitats for wildlife and people and enhance parks and nature centers.

For more information about the No MORE Trash! Bash or litter prevention, visit our website at www.nomoretrash.org. Imagine a litter-free Missouri...No MORE Trash! ■



ADOPTER SPOTLIGHT

The 24/7 Recovery Group is doing more than just helping the environment by picking up trash, they're also helping each other. The group is devoted to helping recovering drug addicts, alcoholics and the environment all at the same time.

Austin Montague is the founder of the organization 24/7 Recovery Group, a faith-based organization that helps recovering drug and alcohol addicts. In 2000, the organization adopted a two-mile stretch of Highway T in Butler County. The members

of the program take pride in keeping the stretch of road litter-free, as well as keeping themselves "clean".

"It's so neat to see these guys out there cleaning up trash," Montague said. "This is a great way to help keep the area clean. We never knew the impact we were creating when we threw out beer cans, trash etc while driving on Missouri roadways. I believe we all have a better understanding and responsibility of the

importance of distributing out trash in the right places."

They often have a wide variety of things to clean up, from beer cans to abandoned car parts. The group is working especially hard to make sure the area is clean for the upcoming Independence Day holiday.

The group spends between four and six hours cleaning the roadway several times per year. The first time they cleaned the highway, 48 bags of trash were collected.

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Missouri Rest Areas Going to the Birds

Rest areas throughout Missouri have gone to the birds. Thanks to a private donation, each of the 19 rest areas along Missouri interstate highways were provided with purple martin and bluebird houses.

“We’re very excited to get these birdhouses at all our rest areas, especially at no cost to the taxpayers,” said Jim Carney, MoDOT state maintenance engineer. “Besides being graced with the natural beauty of the birds themselves, the more than 24 million travelers who stop at our rest areas will benefit from fewer flying insects at these sites.”

S&K Manufacturing, Inc., a company located in O’Fallon, donated the purple martin and bluebird houses for each Missouri rest area.

“We are happy to donate our products,” said S&K President David McClaskey. “Purple martins depend on humans for housing, and this is one more way to give them homes in our state.”

McClaskey said each purple martin consumes several thousand flying insects each day, including mosquitoes. Purple martins inhabit Missouri from late April until late September each year, before migrating to South America.



“The addition of purple martins and bluebirds at these stops will help showcase what Missouri



has to offer,” Carney said. “Bluebirds are not only our state bird, but beautiful and adults and children love viewing them.”

For locations and other details on Missouri’s interstate rest areas, visit www.modot.org/services/travel/restarea/index.htm. ■

Go-4-It at the Missouri State Fair

What do Air Supply, bull riding and videos from YouTube all have in common? They can all be viewed at this year’s Missouri State Fair. The theme in Sedalia from Aug. 7-17 will be “Go-4-It,” and MoDOT plans to do just that.



The Highway Gardens Transportation Exposition Center will feature new displays and a large video screen featuring MoDOT YouTube videos.

The center will also feature favorite displays and giveaways from years past that highlight road and bridge improvement programs and Adopt-A-Highway. The Kids’ Zone will be set up again with computer games to educate young visitors about road safety. Don’t forget to take time to ride the seat belt convincer and learn for yourself why

buckling up is so important. If you have kids in the family, take time to do the scavenger hunt for a chance to win a brand new bike.

Aug. 8 is No MOre Trash! Day, a celebration of keeping Missouri’s roadways clean. There will be a special scavenger hunt on this day, as well as other exciting games and activities.

“The fair is a great venue to educate more than 300,000 visitors about all the great things MoDOT does,” said Don Hillis, director of System Management.

The fair also features concerts, food, games, rides, competitions, and many other exhibits. Some of the featured artists this year are Air Supply, Charlie Daniels, Josh Turner, Foreigner and Sara Evans.

For more information on the Missouri State Fair, visit www.mostatefair.com. ■

ADOPTER SPOTLIGHT

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2 Montague, a recovering alcoholic, also serves on the state council for the Missouri Recovery Network. The MRN is a statewide organization that advocates for addiction treatment and recovery support throughout Missouri.

Montague hopes that motorists seeing his group cleaning the highway will not only spread the word about keeping the environment clean, but also about recovery from drug and alcohol addictions.

“There is no shame in recovery,” Montague said. “Everyone wants to hide under a table. But there is no shame in coming out and saying you have a problem.” ■



Planting the Seeds for a Cleaner Tomorrow

Thousands of kids, students, teachers and parents converged on the Capitol grounds April 25 to learn about protecting the environment during the annual Earth Day celebration, hosted by the Department of Natural Resources.

“The event is a great way to educate and encourage children and adults alike to take care of the environment and preserve our natural resources,” said Don Hillis, MoDOT director of System Management.

MoDOT workers from Central Office and the Central District teamed up with DNR and several other state agencies to educate visitors about a variety of ways they could help the environment. Besides reminding everyone about the importance of picking up trash, staff went a step further and asked visitors to sign the Litter Pledge, vowing to put trash in its place and to help work toward a litter-free Missouri.

In addition, visitors to the MoDOT tent had the opportunity to learn more about the Adopt-A-Highway and No More Trash! programs. Everyone coming by the booth also received detailed brochures, win-

dow clings, temporary tattoos and other giveaways, not to mention 3,000 of the ever-popular white pine seedlings.

“Besides being a fun way to talk about how to clean up our state, Earth Day is also a great place for MoDOT to educate everyone on

what we do to help keep Missouri clean and to protect our environment,” Hillis said.

MoDOT hopes all visitors will keep their litter pledge and help keep Missouri clean! ■



Five Things You Can Tell Your Neighbors About Mowing

April showers bring May flowers ... and lots of green grass. MoDOT has begun to trim our roadways. Here are five things you can tell your neighbors about mowing:

- 1) MoDOT mows about 350,000 acres of highway roadsides a year.
- 2) In 2007 MoDOT spent more than \$17.3 million and 430,000 staff hours on mowing.
- 3) The majority of mowing is to improve visibility, making driving Missouri highways safer.



- 4) MoDOT uses native plants on highway roadsides to help cut down on mowing and spraying, which saves maintenance costs and time.
- 5) MoDOT continues to explore ways to improve the efficiency of our mowing operations to save taxpayers money. ■



SAFETY TIP

The Adopt-A-Highway safety video is now available to download and watch on your own computer. Just type the address below into your internet browser and learn how to stay safe while you clean up Missouri.

www.modot.org/services/community/adoptahighway.htm



Missouri Schools Win Contest to CAN Litter in Missouri

Congratulations to the winners of the 2008 No MORE Trash! Trashcan Decorating Contest. Representatives from the Missouri departments of Transportation and Conservation presented the prize money to each winning school in April at student assemblies. The grand prize was awarded to Central Elementary School in Union, Missouri.

“This contest was developed to raise awareness about Missouri’s litter problem and discourage littering among elementary and middle school students in a fun and creative way,” said Arleasha Mays, Missouri Department of Conservation’s No MORE Trash! co-coordinator. “All the entries were so unique and original, it was hard to pick the winners.”

The contest encourages kindergarten to eighth-grade students, to decorate a trashcan and display it in a prominent location within their school and include a litter-prevention message along with the No MORE Trash! logo. The goal of the contest is to raise awareness about Missouri’s litter problem and discourage littering.

An overall grand prize winner was awarded and a first place prize to

the winner in each of the three competition categories (K-2, 3-5, 6-8). The grand prize winner received \$500 and each category winner received \$100. Entries were judged based on creativity, adherence to contest rules and appropriate theme and logo use.

The trashcan decorating contest was launched in 2005 through Missouri’s No

MOre Trash! program, a statewide litter-prevention program sponsored by the departments of Conservation and Transportation.

For more information about No MORE Trash!, the contest or to view photos of the winning trashcans, visit www.nomoretrash.org. ■



First Place, 6-8
Osage Jr. High, Lake Ozark



First Place, 3-5
Odessa Upper
Elementary, Odessa



First Place, K-2
Wyman Elementary
School, Rolla



First Place, K-2
Maplewood Richmond Heights
ECC, Maplewood



Grand Prize Winner
Central Elementary,
Union

New Adopters

February 2008 - April 2008

February 2008

Alpha Kappa Psi, Rho Upsilon, M.W.S.U.
Auto Mart Magazine
Crocker Christian Church Student Ministry
First Robotics Team 1764, Liberty High School
Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church
In Loving Memory, Joshua P. Marino
Knob Noster Lions Club
Locust Grove United Baptist Church
Mo Valley College American Humanics
Roaring Lyon 4-H Club
UCM Circle K Club
Wilson's Hot Rod Shop

March 2008

Abate for Missouri, Salt River Chapter
Agape House of Vandalia, MO
Busy Bee 4-H Club
Curves of Richmond
Faith Assembly Christian School Student Council
Horse Creek Inn
In Honor of Leo and Sandra Short and Family
In Loving Memory of David Andrew Bunn
In Loving Memory of Everett and Evelyn Browning
In Loving Memory of James W. Watson, the Watson Family
In Loving Memory of Marcus J. Williams Sr.
In Loving Memory, Toby J. Fancher
In Memory of Guy Barton
In Memory of Luckie Ray Burks, Your Loving Family
In Memory of Norbert Henke Family and Friends
In Memory of R. L. Hannah & Dian
In Memory of Sandi (Hall) Walls
In Memory of Terry Treadway
Lindenwood Neighborhood Green Team
Mark Twain Area Quail Unlimited
Navy Recruiting Station, Gladstone
Noble Mortgage Lenders

Paramount Marketing Group
Queen of Peace Church – Ewing, MO
Republic High School AFJROTC
Rumors Bar and Grill
Shanna Hunter, The Avon Lady, Ind. Sales Rep.
T.E.A.M. Boys Ranch
The Buddemeyer, Lewis, Crane & Cole Clans
The Hess Family
Tuileries Plaza
World Martial Arts Academy

April 2008

American Legion Riders Chapter 131 Warrensburg
Arnold Air Society, Colonel Charles A. Lindbergh Squadron
Aspen Waste Systems
Bear Creek United Methodist Church
Belleville Brewery
Comfort Care Home Health Agency
Creation Station Preschool
Demolay Chapter of Southwest Missouri, Anderson Missouri
Deters Frozen Custard
Evergreen Church
Holden Masonic Lodge #262, Holden, MO
Hwy. P Stor It and Park It
In Loving Memory of Alfred L. Perkins
In Loving Memory of Annita R. Armstrong
In Loving Memory of Don Whited
In Loving Memory of Jon W. Foster
In Loving Memory of Margaret R. Smothers
In Loving Memory of Mark C. Dunlap
In Loving Memory of Wayne Stice
In Memory of Debra Capps, W.E. Sears Youth Center
In Memory of Ersery Families, Royce F. Ersery

In Memory of Mitchell T. and Ken Glasscock
In Memory of Tinsley Rider
In Memory of Tom Figley, the Figley Family
J & K X-TREME Powerwashing
Jim Hoss, Newburg Community Foundation
Kevin's Car Care
Lake Creek Lamplighters 4-H Club
Lambda Chi Alpha
Life Change Church
Members of Berean Baptist Church
Midwest Engineering
Mineral Area College Upward Bound Programs
Missouri Evans Scholars
New Salem Baptist Academy Student Council
Prairie Home School
Probation & Parole Dunklin Co. Courts
Remax of Richmond, Jim, Wayne, Bill, Eric
Renick R-5 School Community
Sigma Tau Gamma Alpha Chapter
St. Charles County, Citizen Corps Council (SC5)
Student Council Union Star High School
Tau Kapp Epsilon Fraternity UCM
The Hoekel Family
Trenton Church of the Nazarene
United Methodist Church, Unionville
Wal-Mart Store 09, Sikeston Associates
Walmart Super Center #5261 Sustainability Project
William Henry Skidmore III
Willow Woods Learning Center

Thank You New Adopters!

Roadside Review is a quarterly newsletter published by the Maintenance unit of the Missouri Department of Transportation. It is mailed to Adopt-A-Highway volunteers and other interested groups. After reading, please share this newsletter with others. Additional copies are available upon request.

If you have any comments or questions, please contact:

System Management

Stacy Armstrong
State Adopt-A-Highway
Coordinator
Melissa Black/Sandy Hentges
Outreach Coordinator

Missouri Department of
Transportation
P.O. Box 270
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Pete Rahn
MoDOT Director

Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission

Duane S. Michie, Chair
James B. Anderson, Vice Chairman
Mike Kehoe
David A. Gach
Rudolph E. Farber
Grace Nichols

Our mission is to provide a world-class transportation experience that delights our customers and promotes a prosperous Missouri.



For more information about the Adopt-A-Highway program:

888 ASK MODOT
aah@modot.mo.gov
www.modot.org

 This newsletter was printed on recycled paper to help preserve our environment.



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Missouri Department of Transportation
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TALKIN' TRASH

MoDOT Introduces Sponsor-A-Highway

MoDOT values our volunteers in the Adopt-A-Highway program and their dedication to cleaning up Missouri. Through their commitment, 5,500 of Missouri's more than 32,000 state highway miles have been adopted for litter cleanup.

To expand these cleanup efforts, MoDOT is pleased to announce Sponsor-A-Highway, a sister program to Adopt-A-Highway. MoDOT has contracted with Adopt-A-Highway Litter Removal Service of America, Inc., one of the country's largest litter-removal companies, to administer Missouri's Sponsor-A-Highway program. Both programs are dedicated to a litter-free Missouri.

Each year, MoDOT spends over \$5 million to clear litter along highways throughout our state. With the money spent on litter cleanup, MoDOT could resurface many miles of roads and replace and repair bridges.

"MoDOT is very excited about implementing Sponsor-A-Highway and the partnership between these two significant programs," said Stacy Arm-



strong, MoDOT, roadside management supervisor.

Starting this summer, sponsors can adopt highway sections in the Kansas City and

St. Louis areas and pay Adopt-A-Highway Litter Removal Service of America, Inc. to do litter cleanup on their behalf. In return, the sponsor gets their name and logo on a Sponsor-A-Highway sign. Sponsored sections are cleaned at least once a month, or more frequently, if needed. All of this is done at no cost to MoDOT, which stretches limited resources even further.

MoDOT sincerely appreciates the adopters' hard work and efforts to keep the roadsides clean. The partnership between Adopt-A-Highway and Sponsor-A-Highway will help Missouri get a little closer to being a litter-free state! ■