

*If it weren't for our sponsors  
Project AWARE would have a ...*



*... and tons of trash  
would stay in Iowa's rivers.*



*Where the Rubber meets  
the River*

*"Recycle the junk,  
Restore the beauty,  
Revitalize the river"*

*Clean up a river  
and enjoy the ride!*



#### 2007 Project AWARE Sponsorship Series

**Platinum Paddle Sponsors (\$3,000+)** – Des Moines Water Works, Hallett Materials, Iowa State University Recreation Services, Metro Waste Authority, United States Environmental Protection Agency, United States Geological Survey, University of Iowa Hygienic Laboratory, Wells Fargo, Iowa Department of Natural Resources – AmeriCorps, Energy & Waste Management Bureau, Watershed Improvement Section, IOWATER, Keepers of the Land. **Golden Yoke Sponsors (\$2,000 - \$2,999)** – Raccoon Valley Bank, Rockwell-Collins. **Silver Stern Sponsors (\$100 - \$1,999)** – 1-800-Got-Junk?, Adel Partners Chamber of Commerce, Aero Rental, B4 Brands, Barker Lemar, Boone County Landfill, Boy Scout Troop 242, Carroll County Conservation Board, Casey's General Stores, Central Iowa Paddlers, City of Adel, City of Perry, Clean Rivers Team, Crawdaddy Outdoors, Culligan Water, Dallas County Conservation Board, Dallas County Soil and Water Conservation District, Dana and Liz Christiansen, Delaney Travel, LLC, Des Moines Izaak Walton League, Environmental Reclamation & Recycling, LLC, Good Connections, Inc., Greene County Community Center, Greene County Conservation Board, Healing Therapies, Home State Bank, Hy-Vee, Inc., Integrated DNA Technologies, Iowa Geological Survey, Iowa Heartland RC&D, Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, Iowa Pond Guy, LLC, Iowa Recycling Association, Iowa Savings Bank, Iowa Waste Exchange, Iowa Water Trails Program, Iowa Whitewater Coalition, Jack Link's Beef Jerky, Jane and Brad Henning, Jann Realty LP, Johnson County Environmental Advocates, Loparex, Martin Marietta Materials, McAtee Tire Service, Inc., Mid America Recycling, MidAmerican Energy Company, Natural Resources Conservation Service, North Dallas Landfill, Inc., Pat Ryan, Perry Chamber of Commerce, Perry Recycling Center, Quaker Oats, R.J. Thomas Mfg. Co., Raccoon River Valley Adventures, Raccoon River Valley Trail Association, RESTOP, Rick's Grille & Spirits, SeataSea Watersports, Seneca, Skunk River Navy, Soil and Water Conservation Society, South Dallas County Landfill, Springbrook Conservation Education Center, Springbrook State Park, Stine Seed Company, Teresa and John Kurtz, The Dental Practice, Walnut Woods State Park, Waste Management, West Central Iowa Solid Waste, West Des Moines Parks & Recreation, Whiterock Conservancy. **Life Jacket Sponsors (Up to \$100)** – Des Moines Parks & Recreation, City of Jefferson, Daryl Adams, Ferrellgas, Iowa DNR Forestry Bureau, Iowa Rivers Revival, Italian Villages, John Deere Credit, Kinnick's Tavern, Luke Wright, National River Cleanup Week, Tri-County Cash Lumber Mart.

Photos are by Sue Caley (carabiners, p.2), Bill Graham (four volunteers and trash in two canoes, p.2), Cindy Watson (volunteer playing guitar, p.2), David Williamson (tires, p.1; sculpture and trucks, pp.2-3; and all photos on p. 4), and by Iowa DNR staff.

#### Funding

Water monitoring activities of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources are funded by Iowa Infrastructure – Environment First Fund appropriations, as well as grants provided by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency from Sections 106 and 319 of the Clean Water Act.

Iowa Watershed Monitoring and Assessment Program Web Site – [wqm.igsb.uiowa.edu](http://wqm.igsb.uiowa.edu)

Water Fact Sheet 2008-I  
January 2008



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**It's out there.** Some of it fiendishly and illegally discarded, some of it placed to protect soil, some of it moved by floods, and some of it simply dumped "out of sight, out of mind." Some is new, and some is quite old, but none of it should be there. "It" is trash...and tons of it can be found in our rivers.

Many Iowans gauge a day's work by the dirt found under their fingernails. For Project AWARE volunteers, add the dirt from ears, toenails, and every crack and crevice in between, and you have one incredibly successful day. Each year, hundreds of AWARE volunteers muscle tons of trash out of Iowa's rivers, and in doing so, they learn that trash is not the only problem...

Rambling down Iowa's liquid highways to adventure doesn't require a car and trash seems to abound around every curve. While some of it can be easily found, removed, and recycled, other types require special attention. Sediment, nutrients, and bacteria threaten the health of our rivers, and careful planning, cooperation, and citizen involvement are needed to protect and improve these resources.

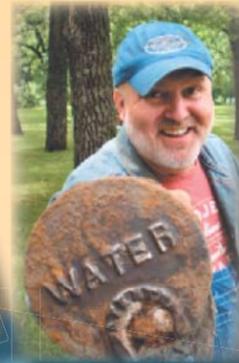
By combining river cleanup, recreation, and education, Project AWARE nurtures in its volunteers a personal interest in Iowa's natural resources and proves that individual actions can lead to remarkable results. As AWARE volunteers interact with one another, the rivers, and their surroundings, the seeds of knowledge begin to bear the fruits of change. Working together – neighbor to neighbor, community to community – as stewards of the environment, all Iowans can help make their state great.

Even though it can be dirty, smelly, and exhausting, Project AWARE is one of the most meaningful and rewarding efforts Iowans can ever experience.

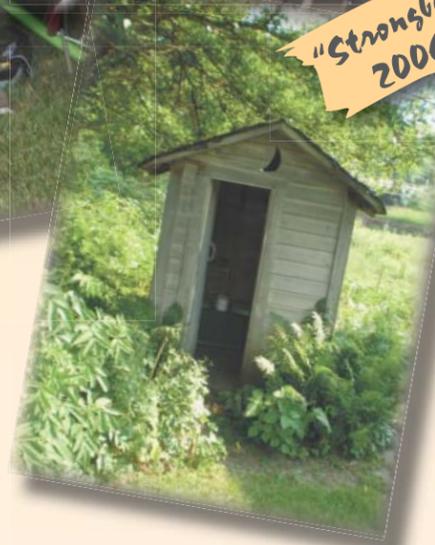
# 5th Annual Project AWARE Middle & North Raccoon Rivers June 16-23, 2007

## 2007 Statistics

- River Miles: 102.5 • Participants: 400
- Trash Removed: over 26 tons (63 10-wheel dump trucks)
- Trash Recycled: 85%



"Strongback"  
2006 Reverse sculpture



## From Form to Function... A Powerful Call to Action

The sculpture shown here was inspired by and built from trash collected on Project AWARE in 2006 by volunteers who muscled over 48,000 pounds of trash out of the Iowa and English rivers. Aptly named *Strongback*, it not only commemorates volunteer river cleanup efforts, but also pays homage to the hundreds of canoes that have been used to haul hundreds of tons of trash from Iowa rivers – a strongback is the form from which canoes are built. Rebar canoes built from strongback forms can be found on the sculpture, with a paddle blade emerging from the center.

Work gloves cast in aluminum depict the index, middle, and ring fingers in the shape of a "W." This design, when first created at the Iowa State Fair, started off as a disappointment when an AWARE volunteer failed to apply enough pressure on his pinky finger when the mold was created, resulting in a three-fingered cast. Jubilation, however, ensued as three deaf onlookers held up their own fingers in a "W" gesture and said, "this is good...this is the sign for water."

From the bicycle-seat catfish to the ascending archways, *Strongback* is designed to engage all who experience it. As the archways increase in size, they symbolize the growth of AWARE and invite others to get involved in Iowa's natural resources. *Strongback* is a powerful call to action, reminding us ...the future is in our hands.

## 2008 Plans

Working together with strong hearts, minds, and backs, AWARE volunteers will clean up the Winnebago, Shell Rock, & Cedar rivers from Mason City to Cedar Falls. Covering nearly 100 miles in seven days, the 6th Annual Project AWARE is your opportunity to join hundreds of others as they pitch in and lend a hand to help revitalize these rivers.

For more information and to register, visit our website:  
[www.iowaprojectaware.com](http://www.iowaprojectaware.com)

**Project AWARE 2008**  
Winnebago, Shell Rock,  
& Cedar Rivers  
June 14 - 21  
**Join us!**