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HISTORIC CLEAN-UP OF POTOMAC, ANACOSTIA RIVERS BEGINS

National Environmental Crusader, Area Groups "Team Up to Clean Up" for Capital River Relief Project

WASHINGTON—April 1, 2004—Congressman Jim Moran joined government officials, local conservation groups, corporations and trade associations to kick off the Capital River Relief project today at the Alexandria City Docks.

Themed, "Team Up to Clean Up," Capital River Relief includes an unprecedented coalition of local and national organizations partnering on a three-week, shore- and barge-based cleanup of 30 miles of the Potomac and Anacostia rivers.

"We all have a stake in improving the health of our rivers and our environment. This project is just one example of how volunteers can contribute in restoring our national treasures to their natural beauty," Congressman Moran said.

Capital River Relief was organized by environmental entrepreneur Chad Pregracke, founder of Living Lands & Waters; Doug Siglin, director of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's Anacostia River Initiative; and founding sponsor, Koch Industries, Inc.

Pregracke and the Capital River Relief crew have anchored a 140-foot barge, provided by members of the American Waterways Operators, on the Potomac River that will serve as a temporary repository and floating recycling center for all the garbage and materials collected from the shallows and banks of the Potomac and Anacostia rivers.

Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, John Paul Woodley, Jr., who heads the Corps of Engineers, also attended the event, which drew attention not only to unsightly garbage alongside the rivers in the capital area, but also to pollution issues affecting the health and beauty of rivers around the nation.

Pregracke's organization has removed more than 900 tons of trash from America's rivers, including the Mississippi, Ohio, Missouri and Illinois. Koch Industries took a lead role in funding the project and bringing Living Lands & Waters to the capital region, building on a great respect for their effectiveness in the Midwest.

"This partnership of environmental groups, community and government organizations, businesses, trade associations and dedicated individuals is a model for communities everywhere, showing that we can join forces to clean America's rivers and waterways," said Pregracke, an Illinois native.

Thousands of volunteers and conservationists are set to take part in Capital River Relief, including stars from CBS's *Survivor All-Stars*; members of local environmental organizations; college students, including crew and sailing team members; church groups; and employees of government agencies and local businesses.

"Chad's 'just do it' attitude about cleaning up the nation's rivers should be an inspiration to all of us," said Doug Siglin, who chairs the Capital River Relief advisory committee. "The trash is a visible, ugly symbol of our collective neglect of our rivers, lakes, bays and oceans. There are less visible problems, too – nutrients, harmful bacteria, chemicals, heavy metals that make the rivers and bays unhealthy. We need to all follow Chad's lead and just do what it takes to make them healthy and beautiful again."

Capital River Relief will join two annual events: the 16th Annual Potomac River Watershed Cleanup, led by the Alice Ferguson Foundation, on Saturday April 3; and the Anacostia River Cleanup, led by the Anacostia Watershed Society, on April 17.

Capital River Relief – “Team Up to Clean Up” welcomes groups and individuals who would like to volunteer. Those interested in volunteering should contact Beth Irving at 202-408-0808 or beth@capitalriverrelief.org.

Partners

Alexandria Seaport Foundation, Alice Ferguson Foundation, American Waterways Operators, Anacostia Watershed Society, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, DC Department of Parks and Recreation, Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin, Earth Conservation Corps, Living Lands & Waters, Potomac Conservancy, and Potomac Riverkeeper.

Sponsors

Koch Industries, Inc. (founding sponsor); Alcoa; American Honda Motor Co., Inc.; American Waterways Operators; Anacostia River Business Coalition; Arnold & Porter LLP; Blank Rome; Cargill; Caterpillar; Grafik Marketing Communications; Hotel Helix; Hunton & Williams; Lafarge North America, Inc.; McDonough Marine Service Corp.; Mimi's American Bistro; Moran Towing Corporation; National Fish and Wildlife Foundation; National Park Service; O'Doul's; Pepco; Potomac Constructors; South Capitol Street Heliport; Spirit Cruises; Steuart Investment; US Army Corps of Engineers; Whole Foods Market and Woodrow Wilson Bridge Project (Virginia and Maryland Departments of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration).

About Chad Pregracke

Chad Pregracke, 29, founder of Living Lands & Waters, lives 10 months of every year on a barge from which he coordinates major environmental cleanup projects. He has been recognized internationally for his pioneering efforts to clean and restore America's waterways. In June 2002, First Lady Laura Bush presented Chad, along with Rudy Giuliani and Bill Gates, with the Jefferson Award for national service. Chad has been profiled widely on television and in numerous newspapers and magazines, including Time, People, Reader's Digest, and Smithsonian. Chad is spearheading this first-of-its-kind cleanup of the Potomac and Anacostia rivers. This effort comes on the heels of major cleanup projects on the Illinois, Mississippi, Missouri and Ohio rivers. During past cleanups, Living Lands & Waters has retrieved thousands of discarded tires, tons of plastic bottles and other common trash, along with items such as a piano, ATM machines, bathtubs, motorcycles, a prosthetic leg and numerous messages in bottles.

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Media Notes: To schedule interviews with Chad Pregracke or Doug Siglin or to arrange an opportunity to interview or photograph volunteers, please contact Burke Olsen at 202-414-0773 or bolsen@susandavis.com. Find more information at www.capitalriverrelief.org.