

“Mother” of Adopt-A-Highway Program Retires

Joanne Orr, a major contributor to the beautification efforts of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation and “mother” of the national Adopt-A-Highway program, retired in December 2006 after 36 years of exemplary service.

Stacy Armstrong, MoDOT Adopt-A-Highway coordinator, presented Orr on behalf of the International Adopt-A-Highway Association with a one-of-a-kind litter pickup stick adorned with a University of Oklahoma theme complete with rhinestones. Orr was presented with a gift, card and lifetime associate membership in the IAAHA.

“Joanne was an inspiration and mentor to her colleagues and everyone will miss her being so active in the programs after her retirement,” Armstrong said.

Orr’s career was full of achievement, through her constant development of innovative solutions and creation of many programs to improve the beautification of Oklahoma. Many of her ideas and programs have laid the foundation for similar programs throughout the nation and the world!

In 1987, Orr established the ODOT Beautification

Office, which oversees Oklahoma’s Adopt-A-Highway program. On a more national level, Orr hosted the first national Adopt-A-Highway Coordinator’s Conference in 1996 and helped many states implement their own AAH programs. On an international level, she was the first president of the International Adopt-A-Highway Association.

In addition to AAH, Orr has contributed to numerous ODOT litter-prevention activities and landscaping programs. The Federal Highway Administration and Keep America Beautiful have recognized Oklahoma’s beautification efforts through several national and state awards. Orr was awarded the 1999 National DOT Excellence in Roadside Management Award and was presented with the first-ever Lifetime Achievement Award from Keep Oklahoma Beautiful. ■

Comments from several states about Orr, which were read at the retirement ceremony.

- Thanks for the inspiration. WA
- You are my hero. Thanks for all of the knowledge you have shared with us. NE
- Thanks for your vision, mentoring and personality. ID
- Congratulations on your retirement! Thanks for being a great role model for the rest of us. SC
- Dear AAH Mom – It won’t be the same without you. Your dedication to the program and association benefited all of us. WV
- We’ll miss you in the fight against litter but always remember you are the one who started the IAAHA. Best wishes on your retirement. TX



Orr trying out her new litter pickup stick, presented to her by MoDOT AAH Coordinator Stacy Armstrong.

SAFETY TIP

The 2007 construction season is in full swing, which means many work zones across the state. Please remember to drive smart in work zones and if your adopted area is in a work zone, wait until construction is complete before scheduling a cleanup.

Bash Brochure Report Card Correction:
Call 1-888 ASK MODOT (275-6636) for
questions/comments or to report your
cleanup.

Spotlight on Adopters Across Missouri

Northwest

Clarksdale Lions Club Dedicated to Community

The Clarksdale Lions Club is very active in their local community, including regular trash pickup on their three-mile adopted stretch of Route 6. The group cleans up at least four times a year, with seven to fourteen people at each pickup. The group promptly reports their cleanups and neatly piles their trash bags so maintenance crews can clear the trash easily and efficiently.

Bob Nelson, club member, initially proposed the club adopt a section of highway to keep litter free. He says he got the idea while driving back from Colorado and saw a bunch of the adopter signs in Kansas.

“Cleaning up the roadways is just another way we can be of service to the community, which is what our organization is all about,” Nelson said. “Picking up trash is something different than our usual service

projects that involve collecting money. The stretch includes part of the highway that runs by where we live, so we are making our community look better.”

The Clarksville Lions club is very active in other areas of their community as well. ■



Several Clarksdale Lions Club members who are active in the Adopt-A-Highway program. (From left to right: Bob Nelson, Chuck Tripp, Ermit Buhman, Berneta Buhman, Cindy Tripp, Bud Buhman.)

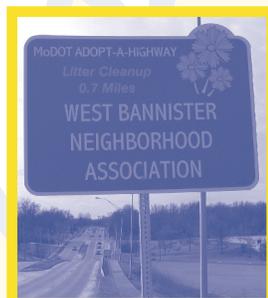
Kansas City

Neighborhood Group Takes Pride in Keeping Roadside Clean

The West Bannister Neighborhood Association in Jackson County cleans their adopted stretch of roadway, Route W between Wornall and State Line Road, at least once a month.

At their annual meeting, the members all sign up for a month to pick up trash. For each pickup, between one and four members are encouraged to clean trash at least once during their month. The association has participated in the Adopt-A-Highway program for the past seven years.

“The stretch of roadway we have adopted goes right through the heart of



Neighborhood Association keeping Missouri litter-free.

our neighborhood and it puts a better light on us if we keep it free of trash,” said Kevin Pose, president of the West Banner Neighborhood Association. “Our stretch is on a heavily traveled thoroughfare that leads into a major shopping area, so many people travel through the area.”

As president, Pose organizes the monthly cleanups. He says that on average the group collects two to three bags of trash a month, in addition to several larger items.

“We haven’t found anything too outrageous during our cleanups that I am aware of,” Pose said. “But I can say that if people wouldn’t smoke and drink so much, and carelessly dispose of their cigarette butts and bottles, we wouldn’t have to clean up as much.”

Visit the association’s Web site for more information about their AAH group, wbna.kcmo.org/adoptahighway.aspx. ■

Central Missouri

Adopters Go Above And Beyond In Trash Collection

“We have so many exemplary Adopt-A-Highway groups across the state,” said Carol Pleus, central Missouri’s AAH coordinator. “Below are a few groups in the central region that have gone above and beyond the requirements, although we have lots more!”

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Willimann Family

The family has been part of the program since 1989 and is dedicated to keeping their section of roadway clean, no matter how often they must pick up trash. Their adopted section stretches from the city limits of Rosebud to the Franklin County line.

Carl Morgan

As a member of the Rocky Mount Fire Department, he picked up trash weekly for their adopter group. He recently moved and now has

adopted a section of highway on his own, in addition to picking up trash for the Morgan County Historical Society’s adopter section.

Homer and Lillian Twenter

The Twenters pick up their section of Route HH in Cooper County regularly.

Dry Fork Baptist Church Youth Group

The youth group has kept their section of Interstate 54 in Callaway County litter free since 1990.

Taos Park and Recreation

Tom Wekenborg of the Taos Park and Recreation adopter group picks up trash by himself whenever needed. The group has been an adopter since 1993. ■

St. Louis

Family Effort In Trash Clean Up Outstanding

You might notice something different about a half-mile stretch of Route 141 in St. Louis County from other major roadways in the area – it’s free of trash! The Parker family are to thank for this litter-free site, due to their monthly and, often weekly, trash cleanups.

“When the weather is nice, we pick up once a week. It’s just become a routine for us and is easier to do a little bit at a time,” said Robyn Parker, the family’s Adopt-A-Highway contact. “I’m a stay-at-home mom,



Parker family during one of their trash pickups.

so the weekly cleanups give me something to do and when the kids are home in the summer, they help out a lot too.”

The Parkers have been members of the AAH program since 2001. They chose the area because a new shopping center was being built along the route and there was a lot of construction trash. Parker says the program helps teach her family the importance of being community-minded.

“Initially we joined the program after 9/11 when President Bush asked people to volunteer for their community and this program seemed like a great way to volunteer,” Parker said. “It’s also important to us that our community looks good because out-of-towners often judge the area based on how well it is kept up.”

Parker has spread the word about the AAH program in her community, encouraging other stay-at-home moms to get together and clean up the roadways. ■

Southeast

Family Preserves Memory of Lost Loved One Through AAH Program

Barb and Rick Keith have adopted a stretch of roadway in Ellington, MO, in honor of their son, Bradley, who died in an automobile crash. The adoption is “In Loving Memory of Bradley Keith, His Family & Friends.”

“I noticed other Adopt-A-Highway signs in our area and contacted the local MoDOT office to see if it was something we could do in memory of my son,” said Barb.

Barb and her daughter, Lacey, pick up trash several times each month and almost weekly in warmer months. Rick and family friends sometimes join them in their pickup efforts. She is also very diligent in her phone calls to alert the department after their cleanups.

“Keeping the roadsides clean is something our family and friends do in memory of Bradley,” Barb said. “The sign and cleanups help keep his memory alive and help others remember him.”

The family has been an adopter since Jan. 24, 2005, and has consistently kept their section of roadway clear since then. ■

MoDOT ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY

Litter Cleanup



5,269 MILES

3,764 ADOPTERS

MoDOT Takes Award-Winning Photos

Ten photographs, submitted by three MoDOT employees, placed in seven out of eight categories in the 2006 Federal Highway Administration's Annual Photo Opportunity contest.

"We did very well again this year and are very proud of all our winners," said State Maintenance Engineer Jim Carney. "This is the eighth consecutive year that a MoDOT

employee has won a first-place prize in the FHWA photo contest."

Ten states submitted a total of 120 photographs for the contest. The results were announced on Nov. 11, 2006. Winning photos will appear in the spring issue of *Greener Roadside*s. Several of the photographs will also appear in the 2007 Earth Day calendar.

Roadside Management Specialist Danny Woods received the first place award in the Public Awareness, Vegetation Management and Invasive Plants category; second place in the Planted Non-natives and Protected Remnants categories; and third place in the Invasive Plants category.

Cathy Morrison, MoDOT senior multime-

dia services specialist, received first place in the Stewardship category, second in the Public Awareness category and third in the Stewardship category.

Roadside Management Supervisor Stacy Armstrong received second place for her photograph in the Close-up category.

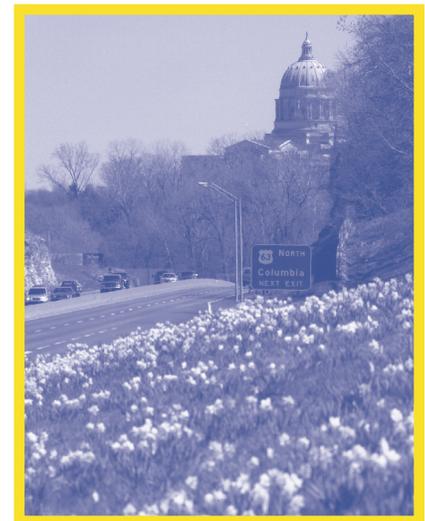
The contest began 13 years ago. ■



2nd Place Winner - Pale Purple Coneflower - Stacy Armstrong



1st Place Winner - Invasive Kudzu - Danny Woods



1st Place Winner - State Capitol Building and Daffodils - Cathy Morrison

April Showers Bring MoDOT Mowers

April showers bring May flowers – and lots of grass to mow! Warm weather and spring rains mean MoDOT maintenance crews are gearing up for the mowing season from April to October. The crews work hard every year to maintain the vegetation on Missouri roadsides, making driving safer for motorists.

Last year, MoDOT employees spent almost 500,000 hours mowing more than 410,000 acres of land. In total, MoDOT spent more than \$18.5 million on mowing, which includes labor, equipment and other expenses – that's almost \$42 to mow an acre of land!

"We save almost a million dollars in mowing costs annually because of our increased focus on weed control and plant growth regulations," said Jim Carney, MoDOT state maintenance engineer.

We spent almost \$4.6 million on weed control, including labor, equipment and other expenses. In addition, we spend about \$5.8 million picking up litter from our roadways.

"Adopters and other volunteers save MoDOT millions of dollars a year because of their trash collection efforts and we really appreciate their contributions," Carney said. ■

New Adopters

January - March, 2007

January

Bible Baptist Church of Vernon County
 Bittersweet Garden Club & Central MO
 Master Gardeners
 Boy Scout Troop 494 – Holt, MO
 In Loving Memory of Jason Dean Ledbetter
 In Loving Memory of John L. Collins
 In Loving Memory of Krystie Ward, Your
 Bunko Girls
 In Loving Memory of Larry K. Polacek
 In Loving Memory of Randy Gardner
 In Loving Memory of Wayne Allen Peck
 In Loving Memory, Hailey Michelle Aversman
 In Memory of Johnny Yakley
 In Memory of Melvin “Buddy” Yates
 Miss Ray County Scholarship Pageant
 Northsider’s Baseball Club
 Parsons Creek Ducks Unlimited
 Possum Corner, Dora, MO
 Southwest Heritage Lodge #681 AF & AM,
 Joplin, MO
 Vision 2020 Community Relations Council

February

American Business Systems
 Church Army of the Leadbelt, Park Hills,
 MO
 Coldwater Missionary Baptist Church
 Elsevier
 Executive Financial Group
 In Loving Memory of James Scott Richardson
 In Loving Memory of Lamar E. Dixon Jr.
 “Wassie”
 In Loving Memory of Matt Martin, Mike
 Bailey
 In Loving Memory of Melisa Marie Boyd
 In Loving Memory of Tylor Scott Tayrien
 In Loving Memory of Vivian L. Duncan,
 Loving Wife & Mother
 In Loving Memory, Mary Beth McLear
 Juracek Family
 Lewis & Clark Garden Club

Local Citizens

Mark Twain JR/SR High School, Student
 Council
 Misses of Ray County Outstanding Teen
 PGT.
 MO Rural Electric Co-op & Hannibal Re-
 gional Hospital
 Mount Gibson Baptist Church
 The McLallen Family
 Theobald Insurance Agency
 Williamsburg Ladies Club

March

ACHS National Honors Society
 Advance Title Co. Inc., Farmington, MO
 Avon Sales Representative Melaney Thompson
 Bias Winery - Gruhike Microbrewery
 Bikers for Christ
 Cooper Co. C.E.A.S.E. Drug Court Program
 Community Service
 Cyte Works
 EHS FCCLA, In Memory of Wesley McIntire
 FBLA and Beta Club
 Festus MNEA National Education
 Association
 Freedom of Road Riders Local 9,
 Hannibal, MO

Green Thumb Garden Club

Hawthorn Chapter, Missouri Native Plant
 Society
 In Loving Memory of Christopher A. Davis,
 Family and Friends
 In Loving Memory of Christopher David
 “Coop” Cooper
 In Loving Memory of Jerry Gladbach
 In Loving Memory of Paula Annette Lee
 Sooter
 In Loving Memory of Trevor Coons-Thomas
 Lone Star JR Beta Club
 Multi-Cultural Greek Council, University
 of MO
 The Knott Family, Honors the Sacrifice of
 Those Who Serve
 Veterans of Foreign Wars and Ladies Aux.
 Post #3118
 Westran FBLA
 Bryan Neal and Carrie Chaney
 BSA Cub Scout Pack 163
 Church on the Rock Outreach Center Youth
 In Loving Memory of Lee Huffman, Bill
 Lee and Ibe Ahmad
 Lamonte United Methodist Church
 Mae Creek Farms
 Pleasant Hill Bank

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:

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James B. Anderson, chairman
Duane S. Michie, vice chairman
Bill McKenna
Mike Kehoe
David A. Gach
Rudy Farber

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



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TALKIN' TRASH

Tell us About Your Trash Pickup!

We want to know about and recognize your involvement in April's No MORE Trash! Bash. Be sure to take a minute to report all your activities by May 15, 2007, using the 2007 report card, which can be found on the 2007 brochure or at www.nomoretrash.org.

"We really appreciate all the efforts of the volunteers who clean up during the month of April and all year round," said Stacy Armstrong, MoDOT statewide Adopt-A-Highway coordinator. "We want to recognize you and your group for your efforts, so it is important to report your activity."



Volunteers who report their activity will be recognized with a 2007 No MORE Trash! lapel pin. Your reported activity may even be featured in an upcoming issue of *Roadside Review*.

What interesting things will you find this year? Past reported items include valuables such as cash, credit cards, cellular phones, a digital camera, a wedding band, computer and two television sets. Larger items reported could be used to furnish a home, including a bed, carpet, an air-conditioner, a hot water heater, a refrigerator, a dryer, a lawnmower, a toilet and patio chairs.

Send completed report cards to:

Missouri Department of Transportation
Adopt-A-Highway Program
P.O. Box 270
Jefferson City, MO 65102-9974.

"Remember, it's never too early to begin planning your summer trash pickup," Armstrong said.

For more information, visit www.nomoretrash.org. ■