

Roadside Review

A quarterly newsletter of the Missouri Department of Transportation's Adopt-A-Highway and Sponsor-A-Highway programs

Fall 2009 Issue 53



MoDOT 'Litter Picker' Makes Picking Quicker

MoDOT has a new method to clean Missouri roadways that is safer, faster and more efficient than traditional hand-removal methods. The Barber Litter Picker is towed behind a tractor and uses a rake system to remove trash from medians and roadsides with flat terrain.

The department now owns six litter pickers and one road rake that are being used to clean up litter in the Central, Northwest, Kansas City, St. Louis, Springfield and Southeast districts. The litter picker can remove retreads, papers, cans, cardboard, cups, wood, roadkill and litter. It can cover up to eight acres per hour and hold 50 bags of trash at one time, while being completely operated by one person from the towing tractor.



MoDOT Maintenance employee Mike Church explains the litter picker operation to Director Pete Rahn.

"It usually takes two to three employees about an hour to cover one mile," says MoDOT St. Louis District Maintenance Engineer, Becky Allmeroth. "The Litter Picker allows that same mile to be cleared by one person in about eight minutes."

The time saved will allow crews to spend more time on roadway maintenance items like pavement repair, signing and drainage. Remember, for safety reasons, most adoptions do not require litter pick up in medians. MoDOT incarcerated crews are responsible for this area.

Richard Shipley, MoDOT's assistant district maintenance engineer in Kansas City says, "In an urban setting, the litter picker has the advantage of being able to handle unsightly trash and debris without exposing our employees to unnecessary traffic and hazards."

MoDOT currently spends about \$5-\$6 million annually to clean up litter. It takes MoDOT maintenance and incarcerated crews 266,000 hours a year to pick up litter, and that doesn't include the efforts of the volunteers in our Adopt-A-Highway program. These new machines will help reduce our litter cleanup costs. RR



Litter pickers like this one are used to quickly pick litter from the roadside.

ADOPTER SPOTLIGHT

Adopter Covers a Lot of Ground

(adapted from A Lifetime of Giving in the Senior Life Times)

Ruth Ann Short has covered a lot of ground in her life, and every step has been in service to others. Over the years, Short has served as a teacher, a dental hygienist, a career missionary in Africa, a Red Cross Disaster Relief volunteer and other church and community programs.

One of her paths these days takes her down state, county and city roads in and

around Marthasville in Warren County. Short lives there and each day she sets out in her orange safety vest, yellow bags in hand, to pick up trash.

She already was involved in the Charette Baptist Church's Adopt-A-Highway project on Route O around Marthasville when she decided she'd just start cleaning up all the roadsides leading into her community.

Ron Freese, the maintenance supervisor for MoDOT's Cappel facility, gave



Continued on page 2

They Weevil and They Wobble

The weevils have a job to do in Missouri, and they're working hard to earn their keep.

Over the last couple of years, MoDOT has teamed up with the Missouri Department of Conservation and the University of Missouri-Extension, working toward the best solution to decrease spotted knapweed along roadsides. In August 2008, spotted knapweed was listed as a noxious weed in Missouri.

Don't let the pretty purple flowers fool you – left unchecked, the knapweed takes over, creating a herbicide that kills plants around it. Overall, it's not the friendliest of neighbors.

Enter the weevil. Used in other parts of the country for decades and known to focus only on knapweed, these little guys have been put to work. Over the summer, they were released in 75 sites around the state, mostly in southern Missouri.

Rand Swanigan, roadside management specialist, finds it a very positive way to go.

"It's not a cure-all, but it allows Mother Nature to help us control this weed in an environmentally friendly way," Swanigan says.

That, and the weevils get a free lunch. RR



A weevil sits atop a flower on a spotted knapweed.



Weevils are released to dine on spotted knapweed.



Purple flowers bloom on spotted knapweed, a noxious weed in Missouri.

Arbor Day Poster Contest

All fifth-grade students can try their hand at designing the winning poster for the 2009 National Arbor Day Poster Contest and win great prizes. Deadline is Feb. 11, 2010. Visit www.arborday.org/kids/postercontest/ for more information.

ADOPTER SPOTLIGHT

Continued from page 1

2 her 250 bags and Short's covering a few miles and filling bags each day. On average, she collects more than 16 bags a month with household trash she finds along the roadsides.

Boone Monument Road, off Route 47, is the dirtiest, she says, and the most common items she finds are disposable diapers. Short keeps count of the numbers of bags she fills each month and reports those totals to MoDOT for their records.

Freese says Short is unique in the high

frequency of her collection. Luckily, Freese lives in Marthasville himself, so as he drives home each night, he looks for Short's bags and picks them up along his way.

For Short, it's just another way to serve. "It's making a difference," she says. "It's good exercise and hopefully, it's an opportunity to serve the community, too."

I-44 Welcome Center Wins American's Transportation Award

The Interstate 44 Conway Welcome Center project recently received the America's Transportation Award for combining modern amenities with environmentally friendly technology to create state-of-the-art rest area facilities both ahead of schedule and under budget.

The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials awards competition judges projects in three categories: On Time, On Budget, and Innovative Management. MoDOT received the award in the On Budget, Small Project category.

The new I-44 Welcome Center near Conway opened to traffic Monday, May 4, one month ahead of schedule and under budget. The transformation from a rest area to a welcome center cost \$10.8 million in federal enhancement funds. The facility has triple the truck parking, better lighting, increased safety with the installation of security cameras, and pet walk areas with waste disposal containers.

The welcome center features considerable green technology as well: automatic, low-volume sinks and toilets with motion sensors in the restrooms to conserve water; ground-source heat pump system for heating, air conditioning and hot water; wind-generated electricity; energy-efficient lighting with occupancy sensors; and sand filter waste water treatment.

The new Route 66 theme also helps provide a regional connection to encourage travelers to visit nearby communities.

It is anticipated that the Conway Welcome Center will have more than one million visitors annually generating hundreds of thousands of dollars for Missouri. RR



Leeton Youth Wins Bike at State Fair

Kennedy Early, a 9-year-old 4th grader from Leeton won a new bicycle and helmet in a raffle she entered during the 2009 Missouri State Fair. Her name was drawn from hundreds of children who entered by completing a scavenger hunt in MoDOT's Highway Gardens during the 11 days of the fair. Mid-Missouri Bicycle Shop in Fulton donated the bike, and MoDOT's Highway Safety Division donated a new bike helmet.

Early had to complete 11 questions about Missouri transportation and MoDOT programs by following clues to answers that were posted throughout the shady haven of the Highway Gardens. Participants also had to fill in the blanks on the No MORE Trash! litter pledge.

2009 marked the sixth year that MoDOT hosted the scavenger hunt at the state fair. The department plans to continue the tradition again next year. RR



Kennedy Early shows off her new bike.

MoDOT ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY

Litter Cleanup



5,853 MILES

4,123 ADOPTERS

SAFETY TIP

We have no control over what gets tossed along our roadways but you have control over what you touch. Don't pick up anything you can't identify or anything potentially dangerous. Things to be on the look out for include two-liter soda bottles with brown and white sludge, pseudoephedrine pill packs, syringes and other drug-related materials. Notify MoDOT to make arrangements for proper disposal.



New Adopters

May 2009 - September 2009

May

Achiever's 4-H Club
 Austin Van Norman, Staley High School
 Benton High School JROTC
 Boy Scout Troop 87, Cameron, MO
 Brittani Miglionico, Kristen Hoss
 Central Christian College of the Bible
 Chariots of the Dead Hearse Club, Joplin, MO
 Delta Delta Delta
 East Central Area Missouri Right to Life
 Enterprise Rent-A-Car
 Everton FFA Chapter
 Fenton Garden Club
 Forever Cherished, In Memory of Charley W. Fox
 Fox Haven Subdivision
 Friends of Osceola, MO
 Frito Lay Inc. SW MO Service Center
 Gene O'Dell Financial Advisor Wachovia Securities
 In Honor of Nick's Hope
 In Loving Memory of Ashley Parks-Greener
 In Loving Memory of Brian "B" Gruender, Family & Friends
 In Loving Memory of Bryan Frump
 In Loving Memory of Joshua Robert Harmon
 In Loving Memory of Kerry Fulks, R. N. - Wife and Mother
 In Loving Memory of Kyle E. Snider - Father, Son, Brother
 In Loving Memory of Larry Moppin
 In Loving Memory of Mark L. Warren Jr.
 In Loving Memory of Robert E. Ford Jr.
 In Loving Memory of Ronald V. Hauther Sr., Love Your Family
 In Loving Memory of the Asher Family
 In Loving Memory, Shawn T. Wlodarski
 In Loving Memory, Troy Logan Wood
 In Memory of Amy Huggins Family & Friends
 In Memory of James "Bud" Jennings
 In Memory of Kenny Kale Mckenzie Jr.

In Memory of Patrick Williams
 In Memory of Timothy Strauss
 Joplin Trails Coalition
 KCP&L IATAN, Generating Station Employees
 Knights of Columbus Holy Trinity and Twelve Apostles
 Meramec Valley RIII, Parents As Teachers
 Mineral Creek 4-H Club
 Moll Farms Inc.
 Neosho High School, A.F.J.R.O.T.C.
 Neosho Wal-Mart Supercenter
 New Providence Baptist Church Youth Group
 Our Angel Amanda Schmidt, Forever Loved
 Peth Bros. Legacy Farms
 Pulaski County Master Gardeners
 Pyro City Fireworks
 Remains, Inc. Recycled Clothing
 Sigma Tau Gamma Fraternity
 St. Clair Jaycees
 St. Gianna Knights of Columbus, Council #14561
 Sunny Lane Farms
 The Hoopes Family, In Honor of George and Sally Hoopes
 The Wiese Family, In Loving Memory of Robert E. Ford Jr.
 The Locklan – Lininger Family
 Timothy Bybee
 Tri River Good Sams
 Wal-Mart Asset Protection Team
 Wal-Mart Store 195 – Wal-Mart Market Team
 West Plains Wal-Mart

June

Bikers United of West Plains, MO
 Boy Scouts of America Troop 69
 Crane Middle School
 Darrell Barber
 David Dugan
 Daviess County Master Gardeners
 Ethical Society Mid Rivers

Greenview Elks Lodge 2857
 In Loving Memory of J.D Ragsdale
 In Loving Memory of Kaylee Lynn Mitchell, Forever Your Family
 In Loving Memory of Zacary Clinton
 In Loving Memory, Jeremy Wayne McCourt, Son, Brother, Friend
 In Memory of Charles Cecil Campbell
 Jacks Fork River, Kikos, Jonestead Institute
 Jackson Coca-Cola
 Laquey Leo Club
 Macaroni Grill Employees
 Mississippi Valley Soaring Association
 Ozark Firefighters, Union Local 3904
 Pleasant Home Freewill Baptist Youth
 Quik Cash
 The Lovell Family
 The Ross Family
 Woodside Masonic Lodge #387 AF & AM, Thomas, MO

July

4-H Youth Council of Washington County
 Adopted by Shannah Schoen
 AG Choice, Rock Port, MO
 Briarcliff Community Alliance Tim Johnston
 Chris Benjamin, Attorney at Law
 Cole County Democratic Party
 Forsyth Welch Funeral Chapel
 Heartland Hunters
 In Loving Memory of Aubrey Rochelle Heath
 In Loving Memory of Betty J. Jung
 In Loving Memory of Brandon Hephner
 In Loving Memory of Bryan W. Curtis – Bubby
 In Loving Memory of Connie Sue Clayton, by Her Children
 In Loving Memory of David R. Lippold Jr.
 In Loving Memory of Kimberly Bell-Gil-yard

New Adopters

May 2009 - September 2009

In Loving Memory of Nathan Scheib
 In Loving Memory of Vicki Lee Williams by
 Kim, Keith, Amy & Sarah
 In Memory of Bobby Dixon
 In Memory of Carl W. Sommers, Your
 Loving Family
 Kamryn Williams
 Lee's Summit Masonic Lodge AF & AM
 Linn FFA Chapter
 Macon UMC Youth Group
 Memory of ILT. Shaun C. Sturgeon USAF
 Military Police Regimental Assoc.
 Navy Recruiting Station Grandview, MO
 North Village Park Care Center, LLC
 Sigma Alpha Chapter NWMSU
 Son and Brother Tyrel Phillips
 The Bridges Family, In Memory of Darlene
 & Melvin Blankenship
 The Oregon United Methodist Church
 Versailles WalMart Supercenter Associates
 Worth County FFA
 XI Gamma Lambda, Local Chapter Albany,
 Beta Sigma Phi
 Zeta Upsilon Chapter of Iota Phi Theta

August

ALF Campers Chapter, Family Campers
 and Rivers
 Always in our hearts, Eddie Midkiff Jr.,
 Mom, Tonya, Sis, Chandu
 First Christian Church of Gainesville
 Fulton Community Supervision Center
 Gravitt Piano
 Hillsboro United Methodist Church
 Developing Disciples
 In Loving Memory of Aaron Scott Dickey
 In Loving Memory of Adam Lloyd Elliott,
 The Elliott Family
 In Loving Memory of Amanda Hazel
 Eskkridge
 In Loving Memory of Jeff Sanderson, Kyle
 Storrs & Jason Gwin
 In Loving Memory of William L. Singleton
 In Loving Memory, Andy Schauer

In Loving Memory, Nicholas McCullough,
 Forever in Our Heart
 In Memory of Arran Ragon, The Ragon
 Family
 In Memory of Clinton "Spankey" Starmer
 In Memory of Hallie Ann Smith - Wilson
 In Memory of Walter & Verdie Trunk
 Knights of Columbus and Ladies Auxiliary,
 Council 876 - Marshall
 Little Bonne Femme Baptist Church
 The Kling Family

September

Buffalo Prairie Dental
 Cameron High School, National Honor
 Society
 Crossroads Baptist Church
 CSI Hardwood Floors, "Put it in a Can"
 "We All Can"
 Davenport Family, Honoring Those Who
 Serve
 DAWGS Disabled Athletes with Grundy
 Support
 Family & Friends of Eddie J. Mitchell
 Homeowners on US 65
 In Loving Memory of Adam James Read,
 Your Loving Family
 In Loving Memory of Brett Christopher
 Scofield
 In Loving Memory of Brooke L. Scalise
 In Loving Memory of Christopher Gruno
 In Loving Memory of Derek Scott Watts, by
 Family & Friends
 In Loving Memory of Don, Barb & Steve
 Hodge
 In Loving Memory of Emily Ann
 Occhipinto
 In Loving Memory of Greg Melton, Carter
 Co. Sheriff
 In Loving Memory of Jeffrey T. Thurman
 In Loving Memory of Kyle A. Barr
 In Loving Memory of Kyle P. Hennier
 In Loving Memory of Mary June Fattig
 Fickle
 In Loving Memory of Richard Lord, by
 Mary Lord & Children
 In Loving Memory of Tim Zumwalt, by
 Mom, Dad, Family
 In Loving Remembrance, Mauro
 Brito-Pacheco, The Luttrell Family
 In Memory of Leland and Lucille Bowyer
 Nichols Career Center FFA
 Putnam County SADD and Smokebusters
 Riders United MO/KAN Chapter
 Root Digg'n Nation Herb CO. St Clair -
 Washington
 Sonic Drive-In, Harrisonville, MO
 Southern Stone County Fire Protection
 District
 The Brooke Scalise Foundation
 The Town of Pattonsburg
 Union High School Football
 Wal-Mart #48, Monett, MO
 XI MU Upsilon

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

David A. Gach, Chair
Rudolph E. Farber, Vice Chairman
Duane Michie
Grace Nichols
Lloyd J. Carmichael
Stephen R. Miller

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.



Roadside Review

Missouri Department of Transportation
P.O. Box 270
105 W. Capitol Avenue
Jefferson City, MO 65102

PRSTD STD

U.S. Postage

PAID

Jefferson City, MO 65101
Permit No. 24

TALKIN' TRASH

Spelunking for Junk

When MoDOT was contacted and asked to assist some spelunkers and the Missouri Department of Conservation this summer in cleaning up a cave, the decision was easy.

"It's not just because MoDOT is a 'greener' organization, it's because it was the right thing to do," says Dave Silvester, assistant district engineer for the Northeast District.

Alan Leary, a senior environmental specialist for MoDOT, was contacted by a group of cavers from the Chouteau Grotto who were familiar with the cave and all of the junk that had accumulated in it. This cave, located under Route 61 in Pike County, not only has beautiful formations of stalactites and stalagmites, but is also home to a rare bat known as the gray bat.

A nearby sinkhole was likely the source for the junk, which included a refrigerator, tires, a washing machine, and old chairs, to name a few.

The cave was cleaned up on a summer weekend in late June and many of the MoDOT employees volunteered their time to help out.

MoDOT's multimedia group and the district's community relations team decided to video some of the clean up to create a sort of "documentary" to show the inside of the cave to the public. The video can be viewed on MoDOT's YouTube site, <http://www.youtube.com/user/modotvideo>. RR



Volunteers head into a cave under Route 61 to begin a cleanup.