



# Rivers Quarterly

Newsletter of Rivers Unlimited, Ohio's Statewide River Protection Organization

## The Answer to Flooding

– and water shortages; – and erosion; – and river damming; – and channelization!



Yes, Virginia there is an answer! The Natural Resources Conservation Service of the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, says *catch the raindrop where it falls*, as in their Public Laws 534 and 566 and elsewhere.

Mr. James Marple, erudite and distinguished consultant and commentator, tells us that the amount of rainfall in our most arid states – like CA and AZ – enormously exceeds their needs. In Ohio, if we have 34 inches a year, over 41,000 square miles, with a population of 11 million, it comes to 840,000 gallons per person per year. If you need 3 to 5 gallons a day for your personal needs, depending on how prissy you are, that's 1100 to 1800 gallons per year. What we use as a state may come to 100 gallons a day per person – for industry, agriculture, commercial, lawn watering, car washing, public bathrooms, etc. That 100 equals 36,500 gallons per year per person or 36,500/ 840,000 or 4% of the rainfall. Sure. But you can't catch and store all the rainfall.

The principle is, all fresh water comes from the sky. It's up to us to catch it when it falls, and store it. We should store it where it won't evaporate. Where possible we should direct it into aquifers. Then we can pump it out when we need it. Since we are water rich it may not matter much to us now except in a few places, but it may become important if we exhaust or contaminate critical aquifers or rivers.

If it's an (uncontaminated) aquifer the rain will have percolated through a natural filter (the earth above the aquifer) so it should be pretty clean. It won't have the fertilizer, pesticides, industrial effluents or runoffs, fecal coliform, highway and parking lot salt and automotive droppings, toxic leachates from landfills, contaminants from sewage treatment systems such as phosphorus and pharmaceuticals and their metabolites – all of which flow into rivers. It won't evaporate.

In an aquifer it's safer from purposeful poisoning or from loss of a dam where you lose the reservoir and maybe lots of folks (terrorism, or once upon a time, sabotage).

Aquifers recharge rivers in dry months.

In the old days of natural systems there was extensive forest cover, cooler rivers, less evaporation of rainfall, millions of beaver ponds and most of the area was pervious (like a sponge, permeable). Then we paved, built structures and removed the beavers. That aggravated flooding, reduced surface and aquifer supplies and increased river flows and erosion. We built countless dams across the country – some say 2.5 million – to reduce flood damages and increase water supplies.

You are aware of the Water Wars that have characterized the western states, what, for 150 years? California now, between cities and irrigation districts, with salmon survival in question; between the U.S. and Mexico. There are some cities that have used the principle to great advantage: Fresno, for 50 years and Phoenix for 15 years, according to Mr. Marple.

But this disclaimer: If the rain doesn't fall, we can't store it. Arizona is in a 3-year drought with 2.8 inches of rainfall a year.

See **FLOODING** on Page 6.

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Join RU's efforts to save Ohio's waterways! Sign up as a member. See page 7 for membership enrollment and page 8 for a listing of RU's 2002 accomplishments.

## EYE ON RIVERS UNLIMITED

### Meet the New Board Members

Rivers Unlimited has gained three new volunteers to add to its Board of Directors. We sincerely appreciate the time, talent and commitment of our existing members and of those joining us.

Wisconsin native, **Maggie O'Malley**, joined the Rivers Unlimited Board this past fall as the new Board secretary. A recent graduate of Xavier University, Maggie works as a high school special education teacher in Cincinnati. She became interested in rivers after leading summer whitewater canoeing and outdoor adventure trips for teens as a camp counselor and administrator. Having grown up and lived most of her life in Milwaukee, Maggie is excited to learn more about Ohio rivers and local river ecology. She sees her work with high school students as a unique forum for educating youth about the current risks to rivers and the long-term benefits of river restoration and protection.



**Damon Green** currently works as a Graphic Designer/Marketing Assistant for Auto-Vehicle Parts Company in Cold Spring, KY, a distributor of automotive and industrial fasteners used primarily for collision repair. Damon designs and maintains the company website; and designs catalogs, packaging, labels, brochures, and most printed materials for the company.

Damon became involved in Rivers Unlimited because he wanted to make a contribution to a worthwhile cause. In his own words, *there is nothing more worthwhile than saving/protecting/restoring our environment.* Working with Rivers Unlimited is an ideal match. He enjoys donating his time and technical abilities with the purpose of communicating the work and message of RU to a larger audience.

**Peter Neirouz** is a newly elected member of the Rivers Unlimited Board. Born and raised in Cincinnati, he is currently working in administration for the Drop Inn Center Shelterhouse and ReSTOC in Over-the-Rhine, as well as for a small family-owned business Medical Management Systems, Inc. With an emphasis in financials, his interests led him to serving the Rivers' Board. This is his first Board position and he is excited to work with this fantastic group of people.

Welcome aboard to our new members! ♦

### Rivers Unlimited

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# The Ohio River Pipeline – a.k.a. Marathon-Ashland

*Meeting the needs of consumers and politicians at nature's (and our own!) expense.*

**M**arathon-Ashland's proposed 14-inch pipeline is to carry up to 80,000 barrels per day of gasoline, jet fuel, kerosene – maybe other petroleum products – from the Catlettsburg, KY refinery to the Columbus market, said to be 149 miles as the flow flies. It will cross 354 streams and 54 wetlands in a cleared swath 50 to 75 feet wide or about 1.5 square miles.

Theoretically it will comply with the numerous and complex protective provisions of the Ohio Revised and Administrative Codes. In fact, it has not and it will not. Controls are *voluntary*; Ohio EPA hasn't the staff to police either the work or the maintenance. Leaks cannot be prevented, they say. A half-million gallon leak in one of Marathon-Ashland's 24-inch lines at Winchester, KY about 3 years ago continues to seep up onto a farm after rains. Cleanup cost is \$7-8 million.

Ohio courts have verified Marathon-Ashland's right-of-way: Ohio EPA has granted a blanket Sec. 401 water quality certification (can you believe it – without looking at the 354 streams?). The Army Corps of Engineers has granted a Sec. 404 blanket Permit. Ohio EPA says no environmental impact statement is required.

Several of us have seen the massive timber harvest from the right-of-way, the piles of chips from shredded slash, the stumps and raw bulldozed earth. We hope the not-so-well-offs get some benefit from the logs; some are old-growth hardwood. It means sedimentation in streams and loss of fish. Of course, not all the streams are designated warm water or exceptional warm water habitat – and of course the less pristine don't count, headwaters or not – in Ohio. And of course, a degraded stream will remain so forever.

This part of Ohio is poor. Its potential lies in its scenic beauty and the fish in the 354 streams and 54 wetlands. If our natural resources are impoverished, our people will be. And do our political leaders care?

*Do Columbus SUV's need all that extra gas since they will soon be hybrids – and maybe even go out of style – and the regular cars go hybrid – the interim design before fuel cell power?*

*Is it for independence from Middle East Oil? Couldn't be – it's not a source of oil, just a refinery. Is it for national defense? Against Al Qaeda, or Syria?*

*Or is it for campaign contributions? Senator Voinovich had a hand in it from a speech in Findlay that elicited \$12,000 in donations from Marathon-Ashland employees, we're told.*

Also, Vice President Cheney made two phone calls to remove regulatory delays for this crucially urgent project (time is money!) to Governor Taft to tell his Ohio EPA Director to bless the pipeline (faith-based?) And to our beloved Army Corps of Engineers, to stand aside!

Our government knows better than those people who care about their local economic health! That's how things get done these days. Big, and often corporate money, buys decision-makers. Sort of focused on oil, aren't we? And oil money. Maybe we should buy M-A stock as their market expands! **To increase your growing cynicism, go to [HYPERLINK http://www.stoppipeline.org](http://www.stoppipeline.org) and [www.stoppipeline.org](http://www.stoppipeline.org) and see what happened.**

*In the Hocking Hills, there's a jewel of a place called Glenlaurel. Here's what Michael Daniels, its proprietor, says:*

*Even though the Marathon-Ashland pipeline crosses the eastern edge of the Glenlaurel property for about a half mile, my concern is far less for its impact here than for the broader consequences of a potential leak.*

With the proposed path passing through Hocking Hills, it must be built to go up and down through rocks and under streams to follow grade. These undulations will require numerous joints and fittings that would mostly be avoided if the line was routed through flat land.

Every joint and fitting is an opportunity for a future break in the line. When that highly likely break happens, the petroleum will unavoidably flow underground through the aquifer into our drinking water sources – critically damaging the lives of those who have chosen the Hocking Hills as their home and as their livelihood.

Tourism in Hocking County is a single economic bright spot in Ohio. Surrounding counties would pay millions for our visitors and their dollars. Yet Governor Taft is allowing this pipeline travesty to take place without an Environmental Impact Study. He has put our chosen way of life at risk for our lifetime and that of our descendants. We should never forget.

Decisions to allow environmentally destructive projects should assure that the work will be in the public interest. That's what an Environmental Impact Study (EIS) is

# Local UP dates



## Experience and Energy Meet in Hocking Hills

by Maggie O'Malley

During a meeting of the minds at Ash Cave Cabins in Hocking Hills, the Rivers Unlimited Board gathered for the weekend of January 31-February 1 to plan for the future of the organization.

In the midst of a Board turnover involving the addition of new board members, Damon Green, Peter Neirouz, and Maggie O'Malley, this was the first face-to-face meeting for many members of the board. Under the facilitation of Patricia Garry, topics discussed at the weekend retreat included how to infuse the energetic yet admittedly inexperienced new Board members with the wealth of knowledge about Ohio rivers and river ecology among the long standing members. In addition, the group made plans for public education initiatives about threats to rivers in Ohio.

One of the foremost topics discussed was the River Resource Economic Study on the Muskingum River. The RU Board is committed to packaging the study, completed at The Ohio State University, for use by Ohio's river communities.

Of course, the weekend in the majestic Hocking Hills area was not all work and no play. On Saturday, Board member Doug Hill led the group hiking through Ash Cave State Park to view the natural ice sculptures created when streams and waterfalls in the park froze. Evenings included shared meals and sitting by the fire playing board games.

Board members left the weekend with concrete tasks for member and board recruitment, fundraising, and public education to keep Rivers Unlimited going strong and growing as a statewide organization. ♦

\* See page 2 for a complete listing of Board members.

## Sierra Club Travels to Delaware to Protest AK Steel With 150 lbs. of Pollution

May 14th, 2002: Wilmington, Delaware, Middletown residents, Sierra Club members and environmental activists attended the AK Steel Shareholders meeting. In an effort to demonstrate the magnitude of the pollution, approximately 150 pounds of air particulates, collected from Middletown gutters and water from Dicks Creek, were taken along. Unfortunately, the heavy metal laden particulate matter set off the metal detectors at the shareholders meeting and security would not allow it to enter.

Nancy Cottle, a Middletown resident for 27 years, and Ray Agee, born in Middletown, testified at the meeting. Nancy brought rags, blackened with soot, that she cleans her house with on a daily basis. "The black stuff gets in the house," she said. "I can't keep the house clean, I can't sit outside and I can't afford to leave." Ray commented, "While you make your money, people are dying."

Richard Wardrop, CEO of AK Steel, responded to Nancy and Ray's testimony, as well as to a question by Rachael Belz, Director of Cincinnati's Ohio Citizen Action, as to whether or not he would be willing to meet with neighbors and environmental groups. He replied, "You have no standing. I do not meet with people who have no standing." Alan McCoy, public relations specialist for AK Steel, confirmed the exchange in a *Cincinnati City Beat* article by Marie Rogers.

Ray said later, "This experience has strengthened my resolve. He [Richard Wardrop] doesn't care what happens to the people of Middletown."

The Sierra Club is working closely with neighbors and environmental groups to get AK Steel, the region's biggest polluter (according to EPA's Total Release Inventory Report for 2000), to comply with EPA regulations and community standards. Releases include but are not limited to PCBs in Dicks Creek, tributary of the Great Miami, arsenic, cyanide, chromium and lead.

The health and development effects of this pollution are of the utmost concern for the Sierra Club. If you wish to get involved with activities surrounding the AK Steel Campaign, please call Susan Knight at 513-761-4003.

The Sierra Club will be sponsoring a Water Monitoring event July 27th. ♦

## Management Change for Areas and Preserves

### The Ohio Department of Natural Resources, DNAP\* has Scenic Rivers under its wing.

Scenic Rivers has been a somewhat neglected section for reasons that hadn't changed under 30 years of the previous management, viz., "don't make any noise about it, the Legislature will kill the whole program"; "we haven't got the budget to add another river because we'd have to put another person on it and we need an extra person for every two river stretches added"; "don't forget, we have to have requests for a Scenic Rivers Study from each township and county the stretch runs through"; "no, I'm sorry, the water quality isn't good enough even though the stretch of river qualifies in other respects".

In 1999 we wrote a special issue of *Rivers Quarterly* on Ohio's rivers, "Outstanding Economic Opportunities with Ohio's Rivers – Those in the State Scenic Rivers System, Our Degraded Rivers – All Our Rivers". We have extra copies available. This was a definitive piece, but it was apparently not something our Scenic Rivers people could deal with, so it went effectively unacknowledged and unrecognized by ODNR. Too bad, because with cooperation by ODNR, our action plan would have,

- profited Ohio economically – been a real stimulus!
- benefited Ohio's river corridors environmentally.
- improved recreation, fishing and quality of life along our rivers.

So we've lost four years of opportunity. But perhaps we

shouldn't expect much from our state, which has ranked nearly last among the states in air and water quality, and where, you know, we're an industrial state and we don't want to hurt industry – they'll leave – (oh, I thought we were an agricultural state and then a tourism one, our first and second biggest businesses) – and where would industry go? To Mexico, then to China? Just because we asked them to keep our waters clean?

Our river communities can improve their economies by improving their river corridors and their waters. There is support in Ohio to restore and protect rivers. If the Scenic Rivers Act needs a change, let's change it. If the Administrative Rules need changes, let's make them. If it would help for Ohio to give its rivers a higher profile, let us so urge. DNAP can lend positive support for our rivers as parks (without being painted as advocates for environmental causes, perish the thought!)

We have six years of river resource economics studies under our belt and we know whereof we speak. The environmental policies of Ohio have been bad for the economy of Ohio.

The dead hand of previous management is no longer at the tiller of Scenic Rivers. ODNR is in a position to do great things for Ohio with our rivers. We hope ODNR Director Sam Speck makes a good choice to run DNAP. Whoever it is, we offer our free-flowing goodwill, help, cooperation and affection. ♦

\* Division of Natural Areas and Preserves.

## EIS Study

(cont. from page 3)

supposed to do. In our somewhat experienced view, an honest EIS would have forced a far less destructive alternative route. One was waiting for them. The economics must have favored the chosen route (for M-A, not the public, not Ohio).

This article is written after the fact as a lesson. This depressed part of Ohio has been exploited to suit corporate growth and to suit political ambitions. Long-term privately funded efforts to stop this devastation failed. The citizens, the public, needed political and government help. Instead, Marathon-Ashland got just that – for money. So much for our elected leaders!

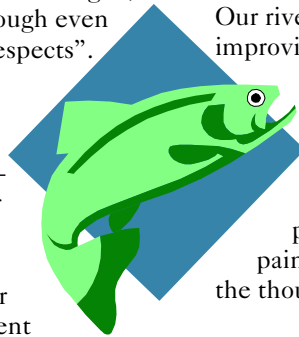
Upon the next threatened offense, it might pay to attack not only the project but the corporation, its board of directors and the less-than noble politicians and government clique they have enlisted. ♦

## Ohio Riverway Paddlefest 2003

Scheduled for June 28th in Cincinnati, the Ohio Riverway Paddlefest features,

- a 6-mile Float Trip on the Ohio, rent or BYO canoe or kayak;
- a 9-mile Amateur Canoe and Kayak Race;
- a 14-mile C-2 Pro Challenge Race (big money! Watch the experts really move canoes!);
- a Survivor Team Rafting Challenge;
- a Finish Line Festival at Serpentine Wall;
- an Ohio River Photo Contest and Raffle;
- and RU Pres. Mike Fremont, Paddlefest Commodore, for second year!

For more information, check the website: [ohioriverpaddlefest.com](http://ohioriverpaddlefest.com), or call 513-588-9535. ♦



# Flooding

(cont. from front page)

And adding population (*development*) drawing from limited water supplies means incrementally less per person.

Adoption of the principle of catching the rainfall and storing it in aquifers would reduce damages and threats to rivers, such as:

## *Flooding.*

It's normal and natural for rivers to flood. However, when we collect urban stormwater and discharge it into rivers, cover the watershed surface with impervious materials – roofs, concrete, blacktop – in the form of houses, parking lots, roads, other buildings, that creates increased runoff with no chance to percolate into the ground and aquifer. We greatly increase flooding for a given rain event.

## *Water Supply and River Water Quality.*

Directing rainwater into aquifers stores high quality water for us. It could make us independent of droughts. Reduced toxic runoff to rivers means cleaner waters. Aquifer storage would further reduce concern about spills, leaks and sewer overflows and their effects on drinking water.

Instead of discharging treated, nutrient-laden sewage to rivers, where possible spread it on land for forests, golf courses, gardens and pipe it to new communities for lawn watering, car washing, etc., thus also saving water and cutting drinking water costs. This is common practice in many places.

We can catch rainfall in cisterns, small ponds with and without dams, furrow dikes, berms and spreading terraces holding surface waters until they can percolate into aquifers. There are pervious paving materials available now. Aquifer-stored water will be cleaner, safer and cost less to treat for drinking.

It would also mean less draft of river water, leaving it for natural and other purposes.

## *River Erosion, Damming and Channelization.*

By reducing runoff to streams and sending it to aquifers, storms cause less frequent and severe flooding than before – thus lower flow velocity in streams and less erosion (good for rivers).

Aquifer storage, replenished by trapping rainfall, may render surface reservoirs unnecessary (good for rivers).

At some cost, increased soil absorption through simple agricultural techniques would put less demand on drainage and its ditches and channelized streams (good for rivers).

Mr. Marple is perhaps the most articulate advocate of this principle and is particularly infuriated at the lies, deceit, greed and stupidity characterizing the *profiteers*, water



control baronies, consultants and bureaucracies wherever they are, who cause our water shortages and raise our costs. We can identify with that. See his frequent, educational diatribes on Water Forum@yahoo.com. His work and logic inspired the following thought:

## *Economics, Anyone?*

We have used Lake Erie, the Ohio River, the Maumee, the Scioto and many others for water supply and of course several aquifers. We have pumped river water to upland reservoirs. But the decision to depend on a river or heavily used aquifer or big reservoir hasn't looked at the economics: what's the best deal for the public? With more population and development, water supplies get stretched. Are there better, alternative ways to increase supply?

Shouldn't we have an Economic Impact Assessment for each project? Should we catch the rainfall and store it in aquifers? Look at some of the factors: in each scenario,

- how much land will be taken out of production?
- the public cost of droughts.
- construction costs of dams, their maintenance and life expectancy versus measures to direct rainfall underground and store it.
- value of reduced flooding.
- value of reduced water treatment costs.
- evaporative losses.
- reduced costs of sewer overflows.
- incremental cost of pollution-caused beach closings because of flooding.
- impacts on local economies.
- effect on fish and fishing.
- dam safety considerations.
- effects on other recreation.
- effects on wildlife and endangered species, etc.
- adequacy of long-term supply, aquifer versus dam, in prolonged drought
- costs of water distribution in each case.

We will look at doing a model study. We don't know that a comprehensive methodological study has been done. If it's cheaper, faster, cleaner, safer, more parklike and natural to catch the rain – it could be in the public interest. It could prevent a dam!

How can honest officials decide in the public interest unless they do a comprehensive analysis of these factors? We'll return to this subject in future issues.

We thank old friend George Cummings, District NRCS Conservationist of Hamilton and Clermont Counties, who helped us understand the agricultural means of augmenting aquifer supplies. ♦

# Our U.S. Senators, Your Representative

*Do they represent your environmental concerns?*

Here's an update from our last year's report on Environmental Standing of your U.S. Senators and Representatives. The League of Conservation Voters goes back to the '70's or before and has chosen several specific house and senate votes of particular environmental concern in each congress over the years. Their latest ratings for the 107th Congress follow. A rating of 100 is best; a rating of 0 is zero.

Average for Senate Republicans is 13; for House R's is 17  
Average for Senate Democrats is 72; for House D's is 79

Average for Senate Republican leadership is 0; for the House, 17  
Average for Senate Democratic leadership is 83; for the House, 72

Senator Voinovich's rating is 0  
Senator DeWine's rating is 12

Ohio's Representatives:

REPRESENTATIVE	PARTY	107TH CONGRESS RATING
Chabot.....	R	18
Kucinich.....	D	95
Portman.....	R	18
Tubbs-Jones.....	D	82
*Hall.....	D	73*

REPRESENTATIVE	PARTY	107TH CONGRESS RATING
Tiberi.....	R	9
Oxley.....	R	0
Brown, S.....	D	95
Gillmor.....	R	14
Sawyer.....	D	95
Strickland.....	D	86
Pryce.....	R	18
Hobson.....	R	9
Regula.....	R	18
Boehner.....	R	0
**Traficant.....	D	10
Kaptur.....	D	77
Ney.....	R	23
LaTourette.....	R	23

\* Gone 9-02  
\*\* Expelled 7 -02

In some cases it would seem there's room for improvement.



EASY MEMBERSHIP! COMPLETE STEPS 1, 2, 3, CLIP AND MAIL.

**Yes**

I do want to help Rivers Unlimited protect the 61,000 miles of rivers and streams in Ohio from pollutants and other forms of degradation. Use my gift to help the nation's oldest statewide river protection organization continue to protect and restore these scenic waterways which are vital to the health, economy and quality of life in our state.

Here is my tax-deductible contribution of:

- 1**  \$35 Basic Membership
- \$50 Family or Group Membership
- \$100 River Sustainer
- \$250 River Steward
- \$\_\_\_ Other

**2** Please make your check payable to *Rivers Unlimited* and mail to:

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

**3** Rivers Unlimited  
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# Rivers Unlimited's Actions in 2002



We've had an exciting year, working hard and achieving much. Let's keep up the effort for 2003!

Over the past year, Rivers Unlimited,

- worked intensively with several river groups – Pike Run, Spring Valley, Rocky Fork, Western Hamilton County, Ohio River, Mill Creek, Great Miami, Little Miami, Hocking, and Muskingum.
- began a comprehensive website, which will become encyclopedic, bearing many of our papers and documents on river issues and including *Rivers Quarterly* journals.
- led a workshop on River Resource Economics at the Ohio River Symposium.
- attended the Washington, D.C. conference on Army Corps of Engineers reform.
- began a Resource Economics study of the Great Miami River, among whose sponsors are the Miami Conservancy District and Friends of the Great Miami. Radha Ayalasomayajula of our staff is the prime researcher, working from Columbus with Dr. Fred Hitzhusen of The Ohio State University.
- prepared a major application for the Little Miami River to become one of American Rivers' Most Endangered Rivers for 2003 because of the imminent threat of another bridge and highway.
- has accepted duties with the Ohio River Corridor Initiative, covering the well-being and development of the 120-mile stretch between Maysville, KY and

Madison, IN. A small part of that was the Symposium (at left) and management of the Ohio River Run, a six-mile canoe/kayak float down the Ohio to the Cincinnati waterfront that drew 500 paddlers.

- wrote the rivers policy for the Hamilton County Planning Commission, covering the Ohio, Great Miami, Mill Creek and Little Miami rivers and their tributaries within the County. The process by which we contributed was known as Community Compass and it's not known whether our policy will survive as written, or, of course, if it will be carried out.
- appeared on three nationally-syndicated TV shows of *Make Peace with Nature*.
- addressed University of Cincinnati Economics Club, Ohio Citizen Action, Concerned Citizens of Western Hamilton County, Pearl Casters, Little Miami Partnership, U.S.Fish & Wildlife Service Reynoldsburg.
- received major publicity with *Cincinnati Magazine* October issue, *Cincinnati Enquirer*, *Post* and Channel 9.
- began Resource Economics methodology study of restoration of channelized streams – costs and benefits of restoration.


RU's own Marilyn Wall was declared an Ohioan of the Year (one of nine) by the *Cleveland Plain Dealer* because of her work on Dicks Creek in Middletown and sewer overflows in Mill Creek.

Whew! What a year! ♦



**RIVERS  
UNLIMITED**

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