

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Chad Pregracke

Chad Pregracke is the President and Founder of Living Lands & Waters (LL&W), the world's only "industrial strength" not-for-profit river cleanup organization. Chad formed LL&W at the youthful age of 23, after spending his life growing up and working on the Mississippi River. Early on, he became appalled by the amount of garbage in the river and decided that if no one else was going to do something about it, he would.

Over the last 16 years, he, his crew, and nearly 70,000 volunteers have removed over 7 million pounds of garbage out of our nation's rivers. He's also broadened his mission to include a MillionTrees and an Adopt-A-River Mile Project, as well as a new floating classroom aboard a barge that he and his crew live on 7 months of the year, teaching students, educators and individual citizens about the value of our rivers and natural resources. Most recently, Chad was named the 2013 CNN Hero of the Year!