



Chad Pregracke is living proof that an average person can make a big difference. He holds the title of 2013 CNN Hero of the Year. He is also the Founder & President of the internationally recognized not-for-profit organization, Living Lands & Waters. In addition, Chad is a professional public speaker, sharing his stories at many of the world's largest corporations and most prestigious universities. His adventures and challenges translates to audiences of all ages and backgrounds, leaving them inspired to take action. Chad exemplifies how one person can make a difference in the world.

Growing up 30 feet away from the Mississippi River, Chad became very familiar with the majestic waterway. Spending up to 10 hours a day in the depths and current of the pitch black water, he worked as a Commercial Shell Diver during his teenage and college years. Over a six year period, he crawled 150 miles of the river bottom. He gained a new perspective on the river, looking at it from the bottom up. Chad was both marveled by the river's beauty and frustrated with its plight due to years of neglect. The river and its shores were littered with thousands of barrels, tires, cars, campers, plastic bottles, appliances, and much more.

At the age of 17, he set out on a mission to do something about the disregarded river. Since 1998, when Living Lands & Waters was established, over 8 million pounds of garbage has been removed by Chad, his crew, and over 70,000 volunteers. Over 730,000 trees have also been planted through the MillionTreesProject, started in 2007. Furthermore, thousands of students have been educated aboard his floating classroom on the barge he and his crew live on up to 9 months of the year. Chad is accomplishing his mission to clean up Americ...

Testimonials

Chad Pregracke will readily tell you that changing the world is a team effort but his individual spark of dedication and commitment ha ignited a flame fueling the efforts of over 70,000 volunteers who now share his vision for cleaner and healthier waterways and public lands. His is the story of how one man, who without mandate, permission or government grants, developed down and dirty work of river cleanup fun and rewarding. With humor and sincerity, he shared his story with our group of state and local government officials, rekindling their dedication to public service and reminding them why they do what they do.

- EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CENTER FOR DIGITAL GOVERNMENT.

“Chad Pregracke is recognized as our “home town hero” in the Quad Cities. Our region’s CEOs, President, and business owners were inspired and moved by Chad’s presentation to our Executives Club. His delivery is passionate. His is a message of innovation, entrepreneurialism, perseverance, motivation, commitment and a strong moral conviction to cleanup America’s rivers, including own Mississippi. Chad’s energy is contagious, he had our Executives laughing and reminded that one person can make a difference.”

- SR. VICE PRESIDENT, QUAD CITIES CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

Chad Pregracke

Speech Topics

- Virtual Keynotes
- Motivation
- Inspiration
- Environment
- Corporate Social Responsibility
- Attitude



