

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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St. Charles County Parks and Recreation Director Bettie Yahn-Kramer (left) gives special recognition to volunteers Sydney Wieberg (middle), Lucille Wiechens (right) and Rita Surgeon (not present) with a special Outstanding Service Award during the celebration.

St. Charles County Parks and Recreation Department Recognizes Dedicated Volunteers

St. Charles County, Missouri –As part of National Volunteer Week, the St. Charles County Parks and Recreation Department recognized exceptional volunteers at a Volunteer Appreciation celebration that was held at the Lodge at Quail Ridge Park near Wentzville, on Thursday, April 10. During the program that began at 6 p.m., it was announced that in 2013, hundreds of volunteers contributed 4,426.6 hours of donated time to the St. Charles County regional parks system.

St. Charles County Parks Director Bettie Yahn-Kramer began the program by expressing her heartfelt gratitude to all the volunteers and recognized all the ways they have assisted the Parks Department over the years. “Our dedicated volunteers come in so many packages, and assist with so many programs and special events throughout the year,” she said. “I can’t thank them enough for all the hard work and time they have donated.”

Among the 65 participants, there were several organizations and individuals who were recognized. The Astronomical Society of Eastern Missouri received the Outstanding Volunteer Educational Outreach Award; the St. Charles County Disc Golf Club received the Outstanding Volunteer Outdoor Recreation Award; Gateway Off -Road Cyclists received the Outstanding Volunteer Trails Award and the Missouri Master Naturalist, Confluence Chapter received the Natural Resources Award. In addition to the group awards, three individuals were recognized for their Outstanding Service; Lucille Wiechens, Sydney Wieberg and Rita Surgeon.

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St. Charles County Council member Dave Hammond, County Executive Steve Ehlmann, Director of Administration Joann Leykam and Assistant Director of Administration Jennifer George were also in attendance at the volunteer appreciation celebration.

Volunteers of all ages and abilities assist the St. Charles County Parks and Recreation Department with a variety of tasks throughout the year. These dedicated volunteers helped to beautify and manage natural resources in the park; maintain and build the regional trails system; assist with educational programs and special events and assist with demonstrations, re-enactments and interpretations at our Towne Park homestead and the County Heritage Museum.

Annually, the number of parks volunteers continues to grow as well as the amount of generous time that is donated to the department. To register to become a volunteer for the St. Charles County Parks and Recreation Department, please contact (636) 949-7535, or visit www.stccparks.org for more information about these opportunities.

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