

## New Park Dedicated At Confluence Point

The day was hot, the sky blue, with cottonwood seed tufts wafting on the breeze as the new 1,118-acre Edward “Ted” and Pat Jones—Confluence Point State Park was dedicated before a crowd of several hundred people on Sunday, May 9. A reenactor from the Lewis and Clark Discovery Expedition of St. Charles, which supplied its red pirogue for the event, noted that it was hot exactly 200 years ago, too, as Clark and his corps at Camp River Dubois on the Illinois shore loaded their boats for the long voyage up the Missouri—so hot that Clark sent a pirogue across to the Missouri River to fetch drinking water, “it being much cooler than the Mississippi.”

After the formalities were over on the lee side of the levee, the crowd was invited to take the new wheelchair-accessible path over the levee and through the woods several hundred yards to the actual confluence. They were greeted by the cool breezes of the Missouri as soon as they topped the levee and headed through the giant cottonwoods and willows along the river. Pat Jones, former MPA president and still an honorary director, was helped by park division director Doug Eiken, DNR director Steve Mahfood and others to cut the ribbon before the crowd surged to the point.

The actual point will vary with water levels in the river, closing to public access in times of flood. But this day the water was especially low, and a thin rocky spit jutted out between the two rivers. Pat Jones, still nimble in her 80s, picked her

(See “Confluence” on Page 5)



People and rivers converge at the dedication of the Edward “Ted” and Pat Jones - Confluence Point State Park.

### Historic St. Charles is Site of 2004 MPA Annual Meeting October 22-24

Plan now to join the Missouri Parks Association in historic St. Charles for the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Missouri Parks Association. We have good reason to meet in St. Charles this year with the downtown riverfront being the scene of much excitement over celebration of the Lewis and Clark Expedition two centuries ago. We also will have a chance to visit one of our newest Missouri state parks, the **Edward “Ted” and Pat Jones –Confluence State Park**, where the mighty Missouri River joins the majestic Mississippi. St. Charles was also the site of the First Missouri Conference on State Parks in June of 1984. Many exciting programs and events are in the works for the meeting, so mark your calendar today and reserve your room.

We have reserved a block of 30 rooms for the meeting at the St. Charles Travel Lodge, 2750 Plaza Way Drive on the south side of I-70. Phone 1-636-949-8700 for reservations. The MPA block of rooms will be held only until September 20, so do not delay in making your room reservation. There will be additional information in the next issue of **Heritage** about the meeting. If you have any questions about the MPA Annual Meeting you can contact MPA board member Karen Haller at 636-227-5693.

## MPA President's Message "The Best of the Best"

by Ron Coleman

A few weeks back I took the opportunity to play in a golf tournament with my son and some friends to benefit a local chamber of commerce. The outing was enjoyable, rewarding and somewhat inspiring in that our team received a nice plaque for finishing first place in the tournament's "B Flight"—the middle of the pack.

Not bad for a casual golfer, but honestly I was wishfully playing to win the "A Flight" to be "the best of the best" among those competing in the tourney. Then, as I reflected on my game that day, I realized the training, skill and state of the art equipment required in order to achieve such status.

One of the roles of the MPA president each year is to honor our state park employees who have been nominated for Masterpiece Awards and then selected by an MPA committee as State Park Employee of the Year. The recognition sponsored by MPA comes with a nicely engraved memorabilia piece and a check for \$250.00.

In ceremonies this past February I was fortunate to present the State Park Employee of the Year awards to four division employees: Merle Rogers, interpretive resource coordinator at Roaring River State Park; Harold Sullins, park maintenance worker at Montauk State Park; Jim Yancey, environmental specialist in the park division operations program; and Kevin Bolling, natural resource manager at Roaring River State Park. These individuals represent some of the best employees among our state park division's many dedicated personnel. MPA is most pleased to honor them.

When Missouri voters went to the polls in 1984, 1988 and 1996 and voted in favor of the parks and soils sales tax, they were voting to protect and enhance the best representations of Missouri natural landscapes and cultural and historical resources. The 1/10<sup>th</sup> of one per cent sales tax is the primary source of funding for our park system—for, among other things, fair compensation for our dedicated park employees and the means to provide them with the training, support and equipment necessary to insure that our beautiful Missouri State Parks remain among the "best of the best" in our nation today.



*On the day before the MPA Annual Meeting several MPA members floated on the upper Current River from Montauk to Cedar Grove. Pictured l-r are: Al Haller, Karen Haller, Susan Flader, Terry Whaley, Rhonda Coleman and MPA President Ron Coleman.*

## Annual Meeting Elects New Directors

MPA members elected three new directors at the association's annual meeting at Montauk State Park in October. They are Scott Hartley of Kansas City, Charlotte Overby of Columbia, and Booker Rucker of Jefferson City. Three other former directors were also returned for new terms: Ron Coleman, Greg Iffrig, and Barbara Lucks. Officers remain much the same as last year: Ron Coleman, President; Carol Grove, Vice President, and Terry Whaley, Secretary. Barbara Lucks will serve as treasurer with Eleanor Hoefle as assistant treasurer.

In other action, following a panel discussion and field trip dealing with the Current River and the Ozark National Scenic Riverways, members approved signing on to a statement of principles drafted by Friends of Ozark Riverways to help address current concerns about river use

and management. MPA is interested in these issues since Montauk is located at the headwaters of the Current River and three other former state parks—Round Spring, Alley Spring, and Big Spring—are now managed by the National Park Service as part of the Scenic Riverways. For more information, see "Back To The Current" in the May, 2003 issue of *Heritage*.



*l-r: Director of State Parks Doug Eiken, MPA Employee Award winners Merle Rogers, Harold Sullins, Jim Yancy, Kevin Bolling and MPA President Ron Coleman.*

## Deb Schnack, Trail Blazer

by Booker Rucker

It was 1973, and the Missouri State Park Board was about to take a momentous step, a first in the fifty-year history of the park system. The board was considering the appointment of a woman to the position of park superintendent. The candidate under consideration: Deb Schnack, assistant superintendent of



Lake Ozarks State Park. There had been other female employees in the park system, working in subordinate positions, but none had ever had sole management authority over a park on an independent basis. The issue with the park board and its then director, Joseph Jaeger, was not so much one of competency but arose from a consideration of personal safety in those days when law enforcement rangers were not routinely a part of park staffs.

Now, Deb had applied to be promoted to the superintendency of Wallace State Park, and she was clearly the best suited candidate. "I never gave much thought to my own safety," Schnack said, "since I often hiked by myself into remote back country areas. I was more concerned about having to operate my own water plant. I had never been responsible for one of those." In May 1973 she proudly assumed her new duties as superintendent of Wallace State Park – admittedly the smallest park in the system, but it was her own dominion.

Deb was ready. Having been raised on a dairy farm in rural Cooper County, she had a University of Missouri degree in zoology, a summer's work as a seasonal naturalist at Montauk State Park, and a year's experience as an assistant superintendent at Lake Ozark State Park. She quickly demonstrated her ability as a park manager at Wallace,

and was early-on considered to be a candidate for a management role in the central office.

Governor Christopher Bond had designated the Missouri State Park Board to become the lead agency in the creation of a recreational trails network for Missouri, and in February 1974 Deb

moved to the central office to become the liaison with planners at the University of Missouri in the development of Missouri's first State Trail Plan. In less than a year, she moved into a regular slot in the Planning and Development Program and, although this brought her more into the realm of general park planning, she continued her status as trail coordinator. During the next 20 years she worked on laying out more miles of trail than can be counted, and took lead roles in planning new system units such as Dillard Mill and Battle of Athens State Historic Sites and St. Joe State Park.

Along the way, in 1977, she found time to marry Don Schulteheinrich, then also a planner in the central office. He had formerly served as assistant superintendent at Babler State Park, but was the park system's land acquisition specialist when they met and developed the joint plan for sharing their lives.

In 1997 she became head of the planning section within the Planning and Development Program. In those decades of planning efforts, was there a project that she felt was an outstanding accomplishment? "I suppose my role in the development of the Katy Trail as a state park was the high point of my career," Deb said. "I believe it has the potential to provide the most recreation benefit to the largest number of people of any unit in the park system." In

November 2000, Deb was asked to become acting head of the Planning and Development Program until a new director was selected. By the following March, it was apparent that the best possible candidate for the job was already in place, and from then until her upcoming retirement this July, she has led that program with skill and dispatch. She leaves a park system that is far better off for her years of dedicated service, and one that now routinely employs female park superintendents and rangers; indeed female employees now occupy jobs at every level in the park system.

Clearly, despite success in all areas of park planning, trails have been Deb's first love. Asked to name the best trail in the system, or her favorite creation, she furrows her brow in thought. She mulls over a number of possibilities, but finally concedes: "There are so many great ones. I guess if I have a favorite, it would have to be the Whispering Pine Trail at Hawn. I think I enjoyed laying out that one the most. It was so beautiful, and the back country was so remote that I even found a loop of Pickle Creek that wasn't shown on the USGS quadrangle. It's a tough decision, but I guess Whispering Pine is my favorite."

Deb leaves the state park system with some wistfulness, but looks forward to spending more time with Don – now also retired – in traveling, hunting and fishing, and finding ever more new trails to hike. They will continue to live on their farmstead near New Bloomfield, and carry on their labor of love: restoring it to pre-settlement condition. Does she have hopes or fears for the future of the park system? "I am concerned about the pressure to overdevelop our park areas. This is a problem that always seems to be with us. Let's hope the park system will always be in the hands of staff that know and understand the mission, and make their decisions on that basis. If so, I think all will be well."

## Missouri's Parks And Soils Tax Needs Your Help

*By Dave Bedan*

In the early 1980s Missouri's state parks were desperately underfunded and the citizens of Missouri stepped forward in 1984 to approve a referendum on the 1/10 of a cent Parks and Soils Sales Tax for a five-year period. After failures by the Missouri General Assembly to place the issue on the ballot citizens collected hundreds of thousands of signatures on initiative petitions for successful votes in 1988 and 1996 to renew the tax. Now the tax will be expiring again in 2008 and a vote will be necessary no later than 2006 to keep the state park system financed.

Originally the sales tax was intended to upgrade the state park system by supplementing funds provided from general revenue. But the legislature subsequently removed general revenue appropriations from the park budget so that the sales tax is now nearly the only funding for Missouri state parks. Once again the state park system is operating on a lean budget. One half of the sales tax supports Missouri's soil and water conservation programs, leading to significant progress in checking soil erosion. Since the tax was first approved, soil erosion has been reduced almost in half, but there is still much soil and water conservation work to do. We also need to maintain the investment that the state has made in the measures already constructed to control erosion.

Unless the legislature places a referendum on the sales tax issue on the ballot it will be necessary for citizens again to undertake the arduous task of collecting signatures for an initiative petition. But conservationists are launching an effort to pass a bill (SJR 49) that would place the issue of the Parks and Soils Sales Tax on the ballot in November of 2006. This bill would also automatically place the issue on the ballot every ten years.

SJR 49 was the subject of a hearing on April 29 in the Senate Agriculture, Conservation, Parks and Tourism Committee. A broad range of supporters including the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, the Missouri Parks Association, Audubon Missouri, the Missouri Coalition for the Environment, the Missouri Parks and Recreation Association, the Conservation Federation, the Ozark Chapter of the Sierra Club and the Missouri Farm Bureau testified in favor of the bill. The bill will probably not pass this session but we should show support for it so that it gets a head start next year. Many of the same organizations that testified in favor of SJR 49 also met that day to begin to plan a strategy to ensure passage of a bill authorizing a referendum on the tax or, failing that, to organize an initiative petition campaign.

The Missouri Parks Association has been a primary initiator of the parks and soils tax. This effort, starting in 1982 under the leadership of the late Charles Callison (former executive vice president of the National the Audubon Society), has built a broad and diverse constituency for the tax. For details, see Susan Flader's history of MPA and the tax, "Building a Constituency for State Parks," in *Heritage*, January 2003, or on the MPA website: <http://parks.missouri.org/parksrev.htm>.

Don't confuse the Parks and Soils Sales Tax with the separate 1/8 of a cent Conservation Sales Tax, which supports the Missouri Department of Conservation. Some confusion may inevitably result from the fact that the same senate committee that heard SJR 49 also voted out SJR 47, which would set a referendum on the Conservation Sales Tax at the same November 2006 election and every ten years thereafter. The conservation tax was approved by voters in 1976 without a sunset clause and hence does not automatically expire. Some conservation organizations are therefore opposing SJR 47 because they regard it as unnecessary and fear that subjecting the conservation tax to a vote, especially at the same election as the parks and soils tax, would be extremely confusing to voters and could jeopardize one or both taxes.

Please contact your state legislator to ask for support for SJR 49 to place the Parks and Soils Sales Tax issue on the 2006 ballot and automatically every ten years thereafter.



*Parks staff and MPA members participated in a field trip to the site of the historic Parker School and Parker Hollow on the upper reaches of the Current River on a beautiful fall afternoon.*

## Visit The Nathan Boone State Historic Site By Bike

By Terry Whaley

With the exception of the Katy Trail State Park, most of Missouri's Parks and Historic Sites require a vehicle to reach and often the use of a vehicle to get around in. In Southwest Missouri we have a secret little mix of a privately owned rail trail (open to the public) and a state historic site that combine to make a great day trip for area cyclists.

With the addition of five miles of *Frisco Highline Trail* last fall between Willard and Springfield, residents and visitors can now start a trip in Springfield and visit ***Nathan Boone Homestead State Historic Site*** near Ash Grove by bike via the Frisco Highline Rail Trail. The 48-mile round trip from the Springfield trailhead offers a great taste of rural Missouri landscapes and area farms. For a shorter trip of 38 miles start your ride in Willard at the Jackson

Street Trailhead. The route combines use of the trail and hard surface county farm roads.

The Frisco Highline Trail is the second longest rail trail project in Missouri and has been developed by Ozark Greenways, Inc., a local trail advocate group. The Springfield Greene County Park Board works in partnership with Ozark Greenways to manage the trail corridor in Greene County.

A visit to the Nathan Boone Homestead is rewarding and educational. Efforts to restore the cabin to its original condition, as it was when occupied by the Boone family from 1837 until Nathan's death in 1856, have been a challenge for park staff, but fantastic progress has been made in the past four years. This historic site offers a relaxing and tranquil respite from today's world and

gives a flavor of what living on a prairie frontier might have been like. The site's interpretation staff knows the Boone story inside and out. They have a great gift for making history relevant and exciting. In addition to the restored one-and-a-half-story log home there is the old family cemetery, which offers an opportunity for additional stories by park staff.

Along the route you will pass through the old Phenix Quarry site, once a thriving community with school, church, general store and many homes. Famous for its "marble" used in the construction of the Greene County Courthouse and many other buildings throughout the state, Phenix is now in private ownership. Views from the road offer a glimpse of a couple of old buildings and the large kilns that were used as part of a limestone operation.

### *("Confluence" from Page 1)*

way across the boulders on to the very end of the spit as the red pirogue maneuvered offshore and a bald eagle soared by in salute.

Eagles nest there at the point, and wetland habitat will be restored on much of the park's 1,118 acres, making it a wildlife wonderland as it was at the time of Lewis and Clark. And a biking/hiking trail will be extended from the eastern terminus of the cross-state Katy Trail—for which Ted and Pat Jones provided the funding and personal impetus—to the point, making the bike trip more pleasant than it was on Sunday for state senator Joan Bray, who biked the several miles of gravelly entrance road in the dust of the cars.

Now that the new park is open, it will be the perfect vantage point for viewing the reenactment of the Lewis and Clark Expedition's passage into the Missouri River on May 14. If you miss that, you can catch them at St. Charles May 15-23. Or, for those in central Missouri, another new state park, the Clark's Hill/Norton State Historic Site, will be dedicated at 10:30 a.m., Saturday May 29, near Osage City east of Jefferson City. For more on the new parks and the various Lewis and Clark events see *Heritage* for September 2003 on MPA's website at <parcs.Missouri.org>, the state park website at <mostateparks.com> or the Lewis and Clark website at <LewisandClark.Missouri.org>.



Pat Jones joins two Lewis & Clark reenactors at dedication ceremonies.

Directions to Nathan Boone Historic Site from the Willard Trailhead: Follow the trail north seven miles to Greene County Farm Road 34, which enters across Highway 123 on the right. Follow FR 34 to the intersection of Farm Road 45. Phenix Quarry is on your left. Ride through the intersection to Farm Road 43 at the top of the hill, turn left and proceed to Farm Road 44. Make a right on FR 44, to State Highway V. This is a very pretty section of the ride. Go south (left) on V to the entrance to the history site at the top of the hill on your left. At last visit the entry road into the site was gravel and a bit tricky on a road bike. Proceed with caution as you approach the visitor center at the bottom of the hill.

For hours of operation and special event information on Boone Historic Site check the state park website at [www.mostateparks.com](http://www.mostateparks.com) or call 573-751-2768. For information on the Frisco Highline Trail visit [www.ozarkgreenways.org](http://www.ozarkgreenways.org).

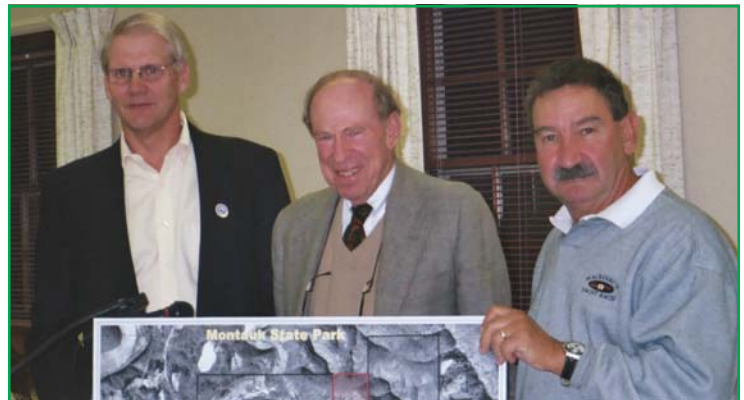
## Urban Population Outreach Project Returns This Summer Across The State

The Missouri Parks Association is again sponsoring the Urban Populations Outreach Project for summer 2004. UPOP, designed to offer opportunities for disadvantaged youths to have culturally enriching visits to our beautiful Missouri State Parks and Historic Sites, was started in 2000. It was the idea of MPA past president Mary Abbott of Kansas City, who recognized that our state parks offer an abundance of resources beyond the urban core of our cities that many children may never experience in their daily lives. By exposing them to new environments in which to enjoy open space, outdoor recreation and history, inner city youngsters gain positive self-enrichment not ordinarily available to them.



Since its inception four years ago, UPOP has served over 2000 kids in Kansas City and St. Louis. This summer a pilot project in partnership with Audubon Missouri, the state office of the National Audubon Society, will be started in Joplin. MPA raises money to fund the cost of all activities, supervision and field trips to our state parks and historic sites. There is no cost to the participants.

If you would like more information about UPOP or would like to help MPA fund the project by making a tax deductible contribution, contact MPA President Ron Coleman by calling 636-733-0088 or by mail at P.O. Box 1478, Ballwin, Missouri 63022.



Director Doug Eiken, Land Donor Leo Drey and MPA President, Ron Coleman.

## Leo Drey Deeds Land at Montauk

Leo Drey, of Pioneer Forest fame and a founder of the Missouri Parks Association, in a generous gesture of commitment to our Missouri state park system turned over the deed for a 40-acre tract of land adjoining Montauk State Park at the 22<sup>nd</sup> annual meeting of the Missouri Parks Association held at Montauk State Park this past fall. The land will serve the park and visiting public well for the future, enlarging the acreage and better aligning the park boundaries.



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