

Conference Program



Nov. 12-13, 2014
White River Conference Center
Springfield

Governor's Welcome to the Conference



Hello and welcome to the Governor's Conference on Natural Resources!

In 1974, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources was created in order to serve the citizens of our state, and to better protect Missouri's great outdoors.

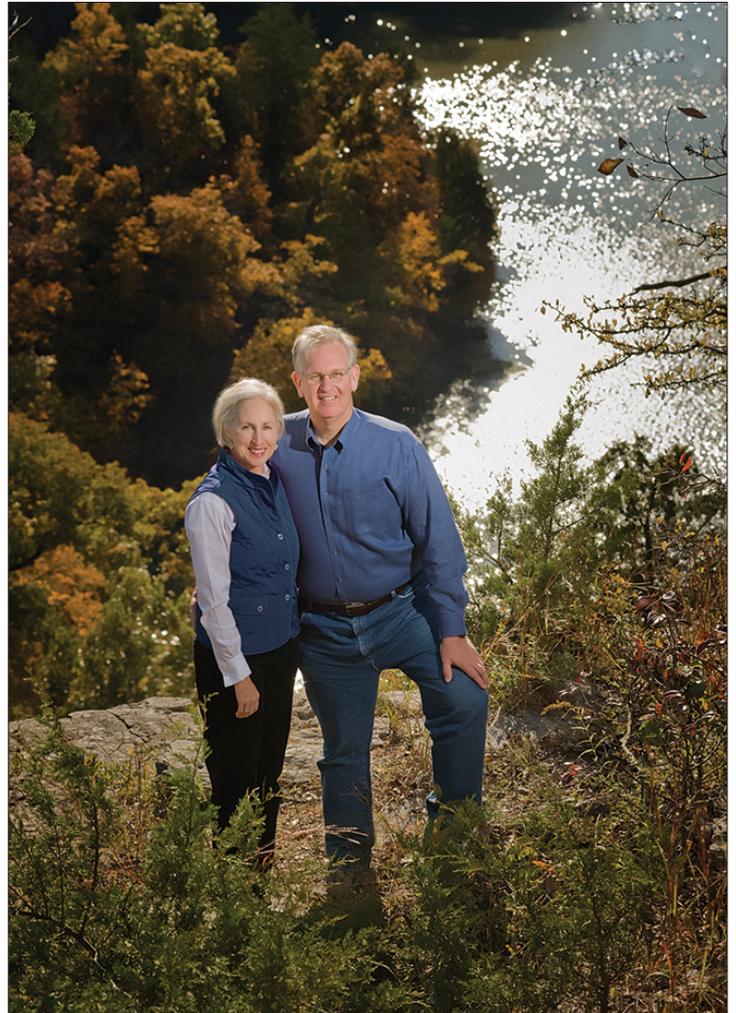
In the four decades that have followed, Missourians have worked hard to protect our state's beloved natural resources. From our award-winning state park system, to the crystal clear waters of Ozark streams, to the diverse geological landscapes of rolling prairie and rugged hills across the state, the people of Missouri are committed to the responsible management of our natural resources, and united in the belief that we have a responsibility to leave this place better than we found it.

I congratulate the Missouri Department of Natural Resources on 40 years of partnering with citizens, communities and businesses to protect the Show Me State's abundant natural resources.

Thank you for your tireless efforts to succeed in this worthy, ongoing mission.

Sincerely,

*Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon
Governor*



Director's Welcome to the Conference

Greetings,

I am delighted you are joining us at the Missouri Department of Natural Resources' first Governor's Conference on Natural Resources in the past 25 years!

In the early 1970s, Missourians recognized the need to protect and preserve the state's natural and cultural resources. As a result, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources was created on July 1 under the Omnibus State Reorganization Act of 1974.

For the past 40 years, the department has been protecting Missouri's air, land and water, preserving the state's unique natural and historic places, and providing recreational and learning opportunities for Missourians and the many visitors who come to enjoy those resources.

I hope you enjoy the conference as we celebrate the accomplishments of the past 40 years, and perhaps more importantly, gain your insights and ideas for meeting the challenges of the next 40 years. Thank you for helping us take care of Missouri's natural resources.

Sincerely,



Sara Parker Pauley

Director, Missouri Department of Natural Resources



Wednesday, Nov. 12, 2014

7:30 a.m.	Registration, Continental Breakfast and Exhibits - Foyer and Pre-Function Area
8:30 a.m.	Welcome and Opening Plenary Session - <i>Sara Parker Pauley</i> - Dogwood Canyon
9 a.m.	A Look Back - A Conversation with Four Former MoDNR Directors - Moderated by Director Pauley - Dogwood Canyon
9:45 a.m.	Conservation from the Show-Me State and Across America - <i>Collin O'Mara</i> Dogwood Canyon
10:15 a.m.	Networking Break and Exhibits - Pre-Function Area
10:30 a.m.	The Vital Role of States in Clean Energy - <i>Bob Perciasepe</i> - Dogwood Canyon
11 a.m.	Environmental Protection and the Great Outdoors - <i>Ramona Trovato</i> - Dogwood Canyon
11:30 a.m.	Demographic and Economic Trends in Missouri: The Next 40 Years - <i>Dr. Larry Brown</i> - Dogwood Canyon
Noon	Lunch, 40th Anniversary Video and Exhibits - Dogwood Canyon/Pre-Function Area
1 p.m.	Four Concurrent Sessions - Resource Management Challenges - Dogwood Canyon The People/Natural Resource Connection - Sportsman's Lodge The Costs and Benefits of Natural Resources' Protection - White River Hall Environmental Impacts of Extreme Events - Cave and Prairie
2:40 p.m.	Networking Break and Exhibits - Pre-Function Area
3:10 p.m.	Concurrent Sessions Repeated
5 p.m.	Reception, Tours of WOLF School and Exhibits - Pre-Function Area
5:30 p.m.	Music by <i>Roots & Fifths</i> - Sportman's Lodge
6:30 p.m.	Evening Keynote Address and Awards Banquet - <i>Gov. Jay Nixon</i> - Dogwood Canyon

Thursday, Nov. 13, 2014

7 a.m.	Breakfast and Exhibits - Pre-Function Area
8 a.m.	Welcome and Discussion Topic Selection - <i>Director Pauley</i> - Dogwood Canyon
8:30 a.m.	Cleaning America's Rivers: From the Bottom Up <i>Chad Pregracke</i> - Dogwood Canyon
9:30 a.m.	Now is the Time: Action to Seize the Incredible Opportunities Offered by Missouri's Great Outdoors - <i>Derrick Crandall</i> - Dogwood Canyon
10 a.m.	Introduction to Facilitated Discussion Groups
10:30 a.m.	Networking Break and Exhibits - Pre-Function Area
10:45 a.m.	Facilitated Discussion Groups – Round 1
11:30 a.m.	Facilitated Discussion Groups – Round 2
12:15 p.m.	Lunch - Pre-Function Area and Dogwood Canyon
1:15 p.m.	Closing Plenary Session - Dogwood Canyon
3 p.m.	Adjourn - Dogwood Canyon

Program Descriptions

Wednesday, Nov. 12, 2014

7:30 a.m. Registration - Foyer and Pre-Function Area

Registration, Continental Breakfast and Exhibits

8:30 a.m. Welcome and Opening Plenary Session - Dogwood Canyon

*Sara Parker Pauley, Director, Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Bob Stephens, Mayor of Springfield*

9 a.m. A Look Back - A Conversation with Four Former MoDNR Directors - Dogwood Canyon

*G. Tracy Mehan, III, David Shorr, Stephen Mahfood and Doyle Childers
Moderated by Director Pauley*

9:45 a.m. Conservation from the Show-Me State and Across America - Dogwood Canyon

Collin O'Mara, President and CEO, National Wildlife Federation
Despite widespread public support for wildlife and natural resource conservation, growing challenges to the public trust doctrine and attempted privatization of public trust resources threaten to undermine more than a century of conservation work across the nation. Drawing upon examples from Missouri and across the United States, O'Mara will discuss how our generation can fulfill our stewardship responsibilities for current and future generations.

10:15 a.m. Networking Break and Exhibits - Pre-Function Area

10:30 a.m. The Vital Role of States in Clean Energy - Dogwood Canyon

Bob Perciasepe, President, Center for Climate and Energy Solutions
In the past, Congress has looked to states to see what works. Today, we see our cities and states inventing new policies and partnerships to encourage investment in clean technologies and promote clean transportation and energy. As we face the climate and energy challenges of the future, how can state successes help lay the foundation for a more comprehensive approach?

11 a.m. Environmental Protection and the Great Outdoors - Dogwood Canyon

Ramona Trovato, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Headquarters
The richness of our nation relies on our natural resources. Through four decades of efforts by the Environmental Protection Agency and the states – the greatest environmental enterprise in the world – we have helped to protect and improve the quality of the waters we swim and play in, the air we breathe, and the lands we enjoy. Highlighting our partnerships and accomplishments, this presentation will provide an overview of the link between natural resources, environmental protection and public health.

11:30 a.m. Demographic and Economic Trends in Missouri: The Next 40 Years - Dogwood Canyon

Dr. Larry G. Brown, Assistant Professor of Geography, Retired, University of Missouri-Columbia
The growth and distribution of human population in Missouri over the next few decades in conjunction with economic trends will change land-use patterns, alter transportation corridors, and shift consumption of resources such that natural resources will experience serious short-term and long-term impacts.

Noon Lunch and Exhibits - Pre-Function Area and Dogwood Canyon

Program Descriptions

Wednesday, Nov. 12, 2014

1 p.m. Concurrent Sessions

These moderated sessions are focused on the future challenges facing Missouri's natural resources. Speakers will offer varied perspectives within each topic area. Short, thought-provoking presentations will be followed by interactive, moderated discussions. Each session will be repeated so participants will be able to attend two of the four.

Resource Management Challenges - Dogwood Canyon

The People/Natural Resource Connection - Sportsman's Lodge

The Costs and Benefits of Natural Resources' Protection - White River Hall

Environmental Impacts of Extreme Events - Cave and Prairie

1 p.m. Concurrent Sessions Descriptions

Resource Management Challenges - Dogwood Canyon

Moderator - Todd Sampsell, Deputy Director, Missouri Department of Natural Resources

There is no question that Missouri faces numerous natural resource management challenges. This session will explore those challenges from both urban and rural perspectives, as well as explore water quantity and quality. How are the challenges facing cities and urban communities similar or different from those faced by agriculture and rural communities? What are the implications for water supply and water quality?

Topics and Speakers:

Advancements in Agriculture: Efficiency is the Name of the Game

Richard Fordyce, Director, Missouri Department of Agriculture

A rapidly growing world population, which research suggests could reach 9 billion by 2050, makes it essential for the agriculture industry to develop the most efficient way to produce safe and nutritious food. Learn about some of the groundbreaking advancements happening in Missouri, and how the use of technology is increasing yields and enhancing animal agriculture, while minimizing environmental impact.

Creating Prosperous, Healthy, Vibrant Communities

David A. Wilson, Senior Manager, East-West Gateway Council of Governments

OneSTL used extensive community engagement to develop a framework for collaboration for the St. Louis metropolitan region. This broad based regional plan considers economic development, effective governmental services, improving neighborhood quality of life along with protecting and restoring local environmental conditions.

Water: Thirst and Balance

Gail Melgren, Executive Director, Tri-State Water Resource Coalition

Are we on the path to a sustainable water future? Key sectors of the Missouri economy, like recreation, power generation, agriculture, fish and wildlife, must have water to thrive. How do we balance the competing needs for water, and in particular, how do we ensure adequate public drinking water supply for the future?

Water Quality and the Future of Streams in Missouri

Steven J. Herrington, Ph.D., Director of Freshwater Conservation, The Nature Conservancy, Missouri Chapter

Numerous factors increasingly degrade the water quality and natural resources of our rivers and streams across Missouri. Despite these challenges, coordinated conservation efforts can improve water quality, reduce habitat degradation, and ensure the long-term viability of riverine resources for people and nature alike.

Program Descriptions

Wednesday, Nov. 12, 2014

1 p.m. Concurrent Sessions Descriptions Continued

The People/Natural Resource Connection - Sportsman's Lodge

Moderator - *Bill Bryan, Director, Missouri State Parks, Missouri Department of Natural Resources*

Outdoor recreation contributes to people's physical, mental and social well-being. A healthy environment is also essential for outdoor recreation as well as for public health and our quality of life. How do we better connect people with the outdoors and ensure a healthy environment in which to live, work and enjoy the great outdoors?

Topics and Speakers:

Connecting People to the Great Outdoors: A High-Stakes Challenge for the Recreation Community

Derrick A. Crandall, President and CEO, American Recreation Coalition

Today's recreation community partners must do a much better job of connecting people to the outdoors, and keeping our outdoor legacy relevant to a population that is more urban and less exposed to the Great Outdoors. We need to work together to first (1) invite all Americans to have fun outdoors – and then (2) work seamlessly as partners to make these initial visits fun. And we need to make sure that what we are doing is sustainable – environmentally and financially. Taking action now will help protect the long-term health of both America's Great Outdoors and the American people.

Why a Healthy Environment is Essential for Our Well-Being and Health

Ramona Trovato, Acting Principal Deputy Assist. Admin., EPA Office of Research and Development

"A nation that destroys its soils destroys itself. Forests are the lungs of our land, purifying the air and giving fresh strength to our people." This Franklin D. Roosevelt quote is as true today as it was in his time. When FDR spoke these words environmental challenges were quite different than they are today and will be tomorrow. And yet, we have learned from studying the environment, ecosystems and public health that we share common ground and that our destinies are intertwined.

Public Health Partners with Neighborhoods to Create Healthier Communities

Heather Parker, Springfield-Greene County Health Department

If you do not feel well, how likely are you to go outdoors? Local neighborhood initiatives are opening dialogues and implementing change to improve health in urban environments. Walkability assessments give a street view of why the neighborhood environment may become a barrier to recreation. Community gardens create a hub for garden education while increasing an overall sense of community and expanding access to fresh produce. Community Health Advocates advance chronic disease prevention efforts by relying on established social networks within their neighborhood.

What's in it for Me?

Dave Murphy, Conservation Commissioner

Who is responsible for the health of our environment? What about the Environmental Protection Agency, department's of Interior, Agriculture, Natural Resources, Conservation, Health and Senior Services, or private organizations like Sierra Club, Coalition for the Environment, or Conservation Federation of Missouri? ALL of these and other agencies and organizations will play their roles of empowerment and encouragement, but NONE can ever do anything without a supportive public. What you and I are willing to invest in time, effort and cold hard cash (through taxes, fees, gifts and membership dues) always have and always will shape our world. Your choices matter! Invest these precious and very limited resources wisely.

Program Descriptions

Wednesday, Nov. 12, 2014

1 p.m. Concurrent Sessions Descriptions Continued

The Costs and Benefits of Natural Resources' Protection - White River Hall

Moderator - *Roger Walker, REGFORM*

There are costs and benefits of natural resources' protection. Clean air, land and water support strong economies. Their beauty draws millions of tourists to the clean water of our many man-made lakes including Table Rock Lake. Our Missouri State Parks attract more than 18 million visitors annually and also provide a positive economic impact on the state and local communities. How can we make smart investments, balance those costs and continue to protect our natural resources?

Topics and Speakers:

Smart Investments for a Better Future

G. Tracy Mehan III, Former MoDNR Director and Assistant Administrator for Water, U.S. EPA

The cost of water, wastewater and stormwater infrastructure is going up as are rates and prices. That said, we have to be smarter in terms of long- and short-term investments and other management practices to ensure the maximum benefit for every dollar invested. Asset management, source water protection, water quality trading, green infrastructure and other approaches must become standard practice going forward.

Is There a Better Way?

Gene Schmittgens, Evans & Dixon

Polls show the general public seems to like a clean environment. Therefore, it seems likely the environmental regulations are here to stay. Studies seem to indicate that "market based" regulations are more efficient and effective than the traditional "command and control" regulatory regimen, which has historically formed the basis of environmental regulations. And so, the question is now - is there a better way?

One City's Approach to Balancing the Environment and Affordability

Greg Burris, Springfield City Manager

In Missouri, our quality natural environment equals economic success. Cities and counties throughout the state, however, are balancing environmental stewardship vs. community affordability. Can cities and counties afford to implement the various environmental mandates on the horizon? If not, how do we get the biggest bang for our citizens' buck? And, if they don't implement the mandates - how will it affect our quality of life and our natural resources?

Missouri State Parks—A Billion Dollar Business—and Much More

Dan Witter, D.J. Case & Associates

Missouri State Parks contribute significantly to Missouri's economy in terms of direct expenditures, as well as sales, jobs and more. In addition, Missouri State Parks provide untold intangible benefits as growing scientific evidence confirms that nature, the outdoors and wildlife are essential to human health, fitness and quality of life.

Soil and Water Conservation Districts Help Preserve the State's Natural Resources

Gary Vandiver, Chair, Soil and Water Districts Commission

Missouri's Soil and Water Districts Commission and the Soil and Water Conservation Program have become a successful tool for addressing soil erosion and water quality through voluntary conservation on agricultural land. It has also proven to be an economic stimulator for agricultural communities. This presentation will explore the benefits of the program to Missouri's natural resources and economy.

Program Descriptions

Wednesday, Nov. 12, 2014

1 p.m. Concurrent Sessions Descriptions Continued

Environmental Impacts of Extreme Events - Cave and Prairie

Moderator - *Ryan Mueller, Director, Water Resources Center, Missouri Department of Natural Resources*

In the past few years, Missouri has experienced extreme drought, floods and an EF-5 tornado. What is the science saying about the future? What are the implications for managing ecosystems, drinking water or waste disposal? What is our role in planning for and protecting natural resources when events occur?

Topics and Speakers:

Climatic Realities and Uncertainties

Pat Guinan, MU Extension/State Climatologist

Historic climate records are an extremely valuable resource for putting recent trends into perspective and it's imperative we continue monitoring and documenting these environmental conditions. Missouri has experienced some interesting climatic trends over the past few decades and it's important to put these changes into context and to look at the climatic realities, and uncertainties, that lie ahead for us in a warming world.

Will Nature Embrace the Change?

Ken McCarty, Natural Resource Management Section Chief, Missouri State Parks, a division of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources

Missouri's natural places and resources are fundamental parts of our lives. How have the past climate and conditions influenced our present-day native ecosystems? What important experiences have we gained during the last 30 years through Missouri's conservation community by restoring our native natural environments? All of this information provides us with insight towards how we might prepare for the latest changes and conservation challenges on the horizon for Missouri's natural ecosystems.

The Role of Science in Preparing for and Responding to Natural Disasters

Joe Gillman, Director and State Geologist, Missouri Geological Survey, a division of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources

The May 2011 Joplin tornado illustrated the challenges facing communities and states in preparing for and responding to natural disasters. In addition to the immediate concerns for life, health, and safety in a natural disaster, science plays an increasingly important role in planning for and mitigating impacts from these events. This discussion will use Missouri case studies to highlight the roles of science in natural hazard preparation and response.

2:40 p.m. Networking Break and Exhibits - Pre-Function Area

3:10 p.m. Concurrent Sessions Repeated

Resource Management
Challenges -
Dogwood Canyon

The People/Natural
Resource Connection -
Sportman's Lodge

The Costs and Benefits
of Natural Resources'
Protection -
White River Hall

Environmental Impacts
of Extreme Events -
Cave and Prairie

5 p.m. Reception - Sportman's Lodge and Pre-Function Area

Music provided by Roots & Fifths; View Exhibits and Tour the WOLF School

6:30 p.m. Awards Banquet - Dogwood Canyon

*Keynote Address and Presentation of the Governor's Natural Resources Awards of Excellence
- Governor Jay Nixon*

Program Descriptions

Thursday, Nov. 13, 2014

7 a.m. Breakfast and Exhibits - Pre-Function Area

8 a.m. Welcome and Discussion Topic Selection - Dogwood Canyon

Director Pauley will recap Wednesday's highlights and discuss Thursday's events.

8:30 a.m. Cleaning America's Rivers: From the Bottom Up - Dogwood Canyon

Chad Pregracke, Living Lands and Waters, 2013 CNN Hero of the Year

As the founder of America's only "industrial strength" river cleanup organization and the 2013 CNN Hero of the Year, Chad Pregracke tells a compelling and funny story about growing up on the river and how his river experiences led to his unique vision to clean up the Mississippi River and start an internationally recognized not-for-profit, Living Lands & Waters. Pregracke's presentation will take the audience on one of the world's greatest rivers – a journey filled with endless challenges and gripping adventures. His delivery is motivating, captivating, genuine and refreshingly spontaneous. From the darkness of underwater shell-diving to the brightness of open-air community cleanups, Chad's tale embodies the importance of setting goals (one river, one piece of garbage at a time) and illustrates how determination, hard work and persistence works!

9:30 a.m. Now is the Time: Action to Seize the Incredible Opportunities Offered by Missouri's Great Outdoors Dogwood Canyon

Derrick Crandall, CEO, American Recreation Coalition

Missouri's Great Outdoors are an incredible asset waiting to be fully tapped to provide significant social and economic benefits tied to improving our health, to increasing awareness of our shared values, to protecting our public lands and waters and to strengthening our economy – helping individuals, families, and communities long into the future. Missouri can build on the vision its leaders have already shown by finding new ways to provide sustainable funding for recreation opportunities, for natural resource conservation and for outreach to all. Now is the time for leaders to take action – to walk the talk about cooperation, partnerships and bipartisanship to make the Great Outdoors an important part of the lives of every Missouri resident and visitors.

10 a.m. Introduction to Facilitated Discussion Groups - Rooms will be Announced at Conference

The challenges facing Missouri's natural resources have been identified. Now it's time to talk about what actions are needed to create the future we want to see for Missouri. Discussion topics will be identified by conference participants.

10:30 a.m. Networking Break and Exhibits - Pre-Function Area

10:45 a.m. Facilitated Discussion Groups – Round 1 - Rooms will be Announced at Conference

11:30 a.m. Facilitated Discussion Groups – Round 2 - Rooms will be Announced at Conference

12:15 p.m. Lunch - Pre-Function Area and Dogwood Canyon

1:15 p.m. Closing Plenary Session - Dogwood Canyon

Outcomes from Discussions; Identify Priorities for Action

3 p.m. Adjourn

Speaker Biographies

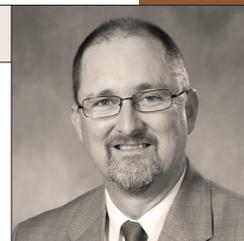
Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon, 55th Governor of Missouri

Missouri Governor Jay Nixon has been a champion of Missouri's natural resources and the outdoors since long before being elected to the state's highest office in 2008. As Attorney General, Nixon created the office's first ever environmental protection division to enforce Missouri's environmental laws. Prior to that, he was recognized by the Conservation Federation of Missouri for his environmental work as a State Senator. He has continued protecting the state's natural resources well into his second term as Missouri Governor. His accomplishments include the creation of the State Parks Youth Corps, a program designed to provide young people with real work experience in an outdoor setting, and the launch of the 100 Missouri Miles Challenge, which encourages Missourians to get outdoors and get moving and supports both physical health and appreciation for the state's incredible outdoor opportunities. More recently, the Governor initiated the development of a comprehensive State Energy Plan to make clean, reliable, affordable and abundant energy a priority for the state.



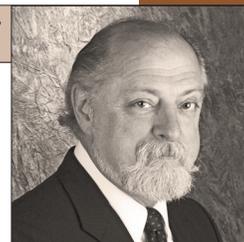
Greg Burris, Springfield City Manager

Under Greg Burris' leadership, Springfield has developed one of the first comprehensive Integrated Management Plans and last month became one of five communities nationally to receive a technical assistance grant from the U.S. EPA. Burris previously served as vice-president for Administrative and Information Services at Missouri State University for six years. He created the University Staff Ambassadors program and coordinated a project that resulted in a \$1.8 million federal Title III grant. In 2008, he was given the O. Franklin Kenworthy Award for Outstanding Leadership from Leadership Springfield. Burris enjoys playing music in his spare time. He resides in Springfield with his wife and daughter.



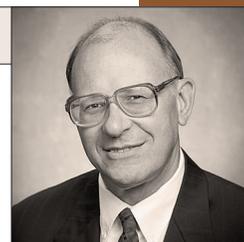
Dr. Larry G. Brown, Assist. Professor of Geography, Retired/Adjunct, University of Missouri

Dr. Larry Brown is an Assistant Professor of Geography (retired/adjunct) at the University of Missouri, Columbia, where he has been teaching since 1990. He holds a Ph.D. in Policy Studies from the University of Missouri, Columbia; Bachelor's in Sociology from the University of Nebraska; the Masters of Divinity from Christian Theological Seminary, Indianapolis; the Masters of Arts in Geography from the University of Missouri, Columbia. Dr. Brown continues research concerning White Nationalism in the Ozarks Region; as well as continuing to teach Regional, Political and Human Geography courses, including the Geography of Missouri, as adjunct faculty.



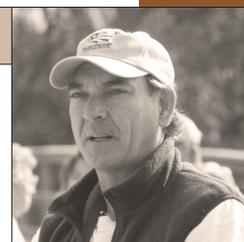
Doyle Childers, Former Director Department of Natural Resources, Flotron & McIntosh LLC

Doyle Childers was born on a farm near Ironton. He began his public service by volunteering for the Peace Corps in Central America. He began his legislative career in 1982 in the Missouri House, where he served for fourteen years before running for the Missouri Senate in 1996. In the Senate, he chaired the Senate Economic Development, Local Government and Tourism Committee which included natural resource issues. He was appointed director of the Department of Natural Resources in 2005 by Governor Matt Blunt. During his tenure, he created an ombudsman program, promoted the need for succession planning and held scores of town meetings across the state. Childers currently serves as director of the Environment and Energy Division for Flotron & McIntosh LLC promoting energy conservation, renewable fuels and sewer and water technologies for government and businesses.



Derrick A. Crandall, President and CEO, American Recreation Coalition

Derrick A. Crandall has served on many national organizations including, the National Park Hospitality Association, a steering group member for the National Park Service Centennial Advisory Committee, co-chair of Great Outdoors Month and the Coalition for Recreational Trails. Crandall was appointed to the President's Commission on Americans Outdoors and was named to the President's Commission on Environmental Quality. Another important area of work for Crandall has been his service to the National Park System's Advisory Board of Health and Recreation Committee where he was an early champion of using the outdoors to fight obesity and related chronic diseases through increased active time outdoors.



Speaker Biographies



Richard Fordyce, Director, Department of Agriculture

Richard Fordyce, a fourth-generation Missouri farmer from Bethany was named director of the Missouri Department of Agriculture in December 2013 by Governor Jay Nixon. Fordyce has held leadership roles in agriculture on the local, state and national levels for more than 20 years. He served as chairman of the Missouri State Soil and Water Districts Commission from 2008 until his appointment as Director of Agriculture. Fordyce received the 2012 Soil Conservationist of the Year award from the Conservation Federation of Missouri. He has held leadership positions and has been involved on various boards and committees of the Missouri Farm Bureau and the American Farm Bureau Federation. Fordyce and his wife, Renee, grow soybeans and corn as well as raise beef cattle on the family farm in Harrison County.



Joe Gillman, Director and State Geologist, Department of Natural Resources

Joe Gillman, RG, holds a B.S. in Geology from Missouri State University and has more than 19 years of experience managing geological investigations in areas of economic geology and natural resource evaluation, environmental geology and waste disposal, and geologic hazards. As state geologist, Gillman represents Missouri interests related to geologic issues and policy development on a state and federal level. He is a member and President-Elect of the Association of American State Geologists and serves as the central states representative on the National Cooperative Geologic Mapping Program and National Geological and Geophysical Data Preservation Program. Gillman is a member of the State Oil and Gas Council, Missouri Mining Commission, Missouri Board of Geologists Registration, Well Installation Board, and Industrial Minerals Advisory Council. Gillman represents the state's interests in the Plains CO2 Reduction Partnership, Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission and Central United States Earthquake Consortium.



Pat Guinan, State Climatologist, Director, Missouri Climate Center

Pat Guinan attended the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign where he received a B.S. in physical geography in 1986 and an M.S. in atmospheric science in 1988. He came to the University of Missouri to continue his education in atmospheric science and serve as a climatologist with the Agricultural Experiment Station. Since 1996, he has been employed by the University of Missouri's Extension Commercial Agriculture Program as a climatologist. Guinan received his Ph.D. in Soil, Environmental and Atmospheric Sciences in 2004 and, in addition to his extension and campus activities as an Associate Professor in Climatology, he operates a statewide network of 31 automated weather stations, serves as the State Climatologist for Missouri, Director of the Missouri Climate Center, and co-coordinator of the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow network in Missouri.



Dr. Steven J. Herrington, Director of Freshwater Conservation, The Nature Conservancy

Dr. Steven Herrington is an aquatic ecologist with more than fifteen years of experience examining fish and stream ecology. Dr. Herrington completed his Bachelor's and Master's degrees at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and Doctoral Degree at Auburn University in Alabama. Dr. Herrington joined the Nature Conservancy in 2004 and currently directs all freshwater conservation actions in Missouri, as well as leads and collaborates on several large-scale freshwater initiatives across the U.S. Successful conservation actions Dr. Herrington has directed include several on-the-ground dam removal and stream and spring restoration projects, advocating science-based ecological flow recommendations for water allocation in the Apalachicola River Basin, and long-term ownership and legal protection of priority freshwater habitats.



Steve Mahfood, Former Director of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources

Steve Mahfood has a 40-year track record as an innovator and leader in the environmental, energy and natural resource fields. Appointed as director of the Department of Natural Resources for eight years by three successive governors, Mahfood added more than 60,000 acres to the state park system and led the development and construction of the first LEED Platinum state office building, which now houses the MoDNR. He also represented Missouri and the U.S. in a number of prominent roles including chairing the NAFTA-US Governmental Environmental Advisory Commission. He received the U.S. Presidential Environmental Achievement Award in 1989. Currently, as principal of Mahfood Associates, he advises the Nature Conservancy and many influential organizations on environmental, energy, natural resource and climate change issues. Mahfood holds a Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Science from Rutgers University and is a graduate of the Yale University Environmental and Management Leadership Program.

Speaker Biographies

Ken McCarty, Missouri State Parks, Missouri Department of Natural Resources

Ken McCarty is chief of the Natural Resource Management section with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources' Division of State Parks. His thirty-three year professional career has focused on studying and managing Missouri's natural environments, particularly tallgrass prairie, savanna, woodland and wetland ecosystems. His work with Missouri State Parks has focused on restoring some of the best modern examples of Missouri's historic natural landscapes. McCarty received an MA in biology from the University of Missouri in 1981. He is the current chair of the Missouri Natural Areas Committee, and authored the Ecosystem Management chapter for their 2005 book, *The Terrestrial Natural Communities of Missouri*. McCarty was named the 1999 Professional Conservationist of the Year by the Missouri Conservation Federation, and received the Missouri Native Plant Society's 1998 Arthur Christ Memorial Research Award "for contributions to the conservation of the natural biodiversity of Missouri."



G. Tracy Mehan, III, Former Director MoDNR and Assist. Admin. U.S. EPA

G. Tracy Mehan, III is national Source Water Protection Coordinator for the U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities and Adjunct Professor at George Mason University School of Law. He was Principal with The Cadmus Group Inc., an environmental consulting firm, from 2004 to 2014, and served as Assistant Administrator for Water at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency from 2001-2003. Mehan also served as director of the Michigan Office of the Great Lakes from 1993-2001 and as Associate Deputy Administrator of EPA in 1992. He was director of the MoDNR from 1989 to 1992. Mehan is a graduate of Saint Louis University and its School of Law. Mehan serves on the Committee on the Mississippi River and the Clean Water Act for the National Research Council of the National Academies.



Gail Melgren, Executive Director, Tri-State Water Resource Coalition

Gail Melgren became the Executive Director for the Tri-State Water Resource Coalition after serving in a volunteer capacity. The coalition's mission is to provide adequate, affordable, long-term water supplies for southwest Missouri and represents municipalities, counties, utilities and private water providers. In 2006 while working for Missouri State University, Melgren developed two leadership development programs for the non-profit and civic sectors. Melgren also served as District Director for Senator Claire McCaskill.



Dave Murphy, Commissioner, Department of Conservation Commission

Dave Murphy developed a love of the outdoors and conservation through hunting, fishing and trapping while growing up on his family's farms in Lewis and Clark counties in northeast Missouri. He has shared that passion throughout his career: as a biologist with the MO Department of Conservation, as assistant science coordinator for Columbia Public Schools, with the National Wild Turkey Federation, and as executive director of the Conservation Federation of Missouri to name a few. He was appointed to the Missouri Department of Conservation Commission in 2014 and serves as vice-chair. Murphy has been recognized with many awards during his career, including the "Conservationist of the Year Award" from corporate Bass Pro Shops in 2012. He believes absolutely in the value of ordinary folks working together to accomplish extraordinary feats, and maintains that of all his roles, he is most proud of his role as citizen.



Collin O'Mara, President and CEO, National Wildlife Federation

Collin O'Mara joined the National Wildlife Federation as President and CEO on July 7, 2014. Prior to his appointment, he served as Secretary of the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, where he led the state's efforts to conserve and restore wildlife and fishery habitat, improve air quality and public health, ensure access to clean water, expand outdoor recreation and environmental education opportunities, and enhance the state's resilience to extreme weather and other climate impacts. His initiatives included Delaware's "No Child Left Inside"/ Children In Nature campaign, the First State Trails and Pathways Plan, and the Delaware Bayshore Initiative. He also led the largest investment in environmental infrastructure in Delaware's history, including more than \$200 million in wastewater and storm-water systems, beach restoration, dam and dike repair, drainage projects, and park and wildlife areas. He and his wife Lindsay are the proud parents of young daughter Riley Elizabeth.



Speaker Biographies



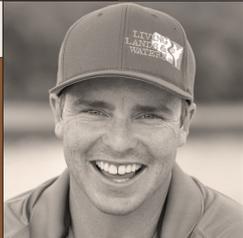
Heather Parker, Community Outreach Coordinator, Springfield-Greene County Health Department

Heather Parker has led efforts to civically engage and empower low-income neighborhoods to improve health while creating Springfield's first Community Health Advocate program. Parker's diverse background includes work experience as an environmental inspector for the Springfield-Greene County Health Department, a field biologist for the Missouri State University-U.S. Army Floristic Inventory Grant, water lab technician for City Utilities, Park Ranger for the Army Corps of Engineers, field biologist for an International consulting company, field biologist for the National Park Service, and management of a local family farm. Parker received her Bachelor of Science in Wildlife Conversation and Management (1997) and Master of Science in Plant Science, Natural and Applied Science (2000), both from Missouri State University.



Bob Perciasepe, President, Center for Climate and Energy Solutions

Bob Perciasepe is a leading, independent voice for practical policy and action to address the twin challenges of energy and climate change. He has been an environmental policy leader in and outside government for more than 30 years, most recently as Deputy Administrator of the U.S. EPA. Previously, he served as chief operating officer of the National Audubon Society, Secretary of the Environment for the state of Maryland and as a senior planning official for the city of Baltimore.



Chad Pregracke, President, Living Lands and Waters - 2013 CNN Hero of the Year

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. Pregracke 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. During the last 16 years, he, his crew, and nearly 70,000 volunteers have removed more than 7 million pounds of garbage out of our nation's rivers. He's also broadened his mission to include a Million-Trees 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, Pregracke was named the 2013 CNN Hero of the Year!



Gene Schmittgens, Evans & Dixon

Gene Schmittgens is a member and Chair of, the Business Law Practice Group at Evans & Dixon, LLC. He represents clients in environmental law issues including compliance, enforcement, administrative litigation, insurance, permitting, transportation requirements and transactional issues arising out of the sale of real estate and businesses. He is a frequent lecturer and author on a wide variety of environmental issues. Schmittgens is a current member and past chair of the Illinois State Bar Association's Environmental Law Section Council, as well as the Secretary of the Association's Business Advice Section Council. He has been active in a number of other environmental law committees of various bar associations and civic groups and also an Assistant Adjunct Professor at Saint Louis University of Law where he teaches a course on Environmental Due Diligence.



David Shorr, Former Director of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Lathrop & Gage

David Shorr serves as Partner in Charge of Lathrop & Gage's Jefferson City and Columbia, Missouri offices. He is the past director of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. Currently, he represents clients in regulatory matters in the environmental, energy, and utilities arenas and handles complex cases involving the scope of legal authority and government public policy. Shorr is a registered Missouri lobbyist and assists clients with legislative strategies.

Speaker Biographies

E. Ramona Trovato, Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Research and Development, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency



E. Ramona Trovato has served in numerous positions in the offices of the Administrator, Water, Enforcement and Compliance Assurance, Air and Radiation, Environmental Information and Solid Waste and Emergency Response, as well as her present leadership position during her 33 year career at EPA. Her work has included protecting and promoting children's health; developing and implementing the Comprehensive State Ground Water Protection Program; working with the private sector and states to make the best and highest use of properties cleaned up under the Superfund program; and, developing and implementing the National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program. She received the President's Meritorious Executive Rank Award for building strong coalitions and partnerships to achieve environmental and public health goals. Trovato has a BS Degree in Zoology from the University of Maryland at College Park.

Gary Vandiver, Chair, Soil and Water Districts Commission



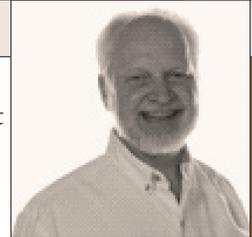
Gary Vandiver is a lifelong resident of Ray County and a graduate of the University of Missouri-Columbia with a degree in Agricultural Economics. Vandiver grew up on a family farm and continues to enjoy spending time on the farm every day. As managing partner of his family's grain and crop nutrient business in Orrick, Vandiver is able to stay involved with all facets of agriculture and promote Missouri agriculture to many people. Vandiver is a graduate of ALOT (Ag Leaders of Tomorrow), Past Chairman of MO-AG and a member of the Soil and Water Conservation Districts Commission, currently serving as Chairman. Vandiver is married to Penny and they have three children.

David A. Wilson, Senior Manager, East-West Gateway Council of Government



David Wilson has worked on regional sustainability, water and air quality and community development since 2002 in the East-West Gateway Council of Government's Environmental and Community Planning. In 2010, Wilson organized eleven major partner organizations to develop strategies for a prosperous, healthy and vibrant St. Louis region. This initiative has resulted in the completion of OneSTL, a regional plan for sustainable development approved by East-West Gateway's board of directors in 2013, and the development of nearly seventy-five supporting plans and studies. Wilson previously worked at Missouri Botanical Garden, the St. Louis Science Center, and spent several years as an education consultant to electric, gas and water utilities. He and his wife live in Webster Groves and are hiking the Ozark Trail one weekend each month.

Daniel J. Witter, Research Director, D.J. Case & Associates



Dan Witter has completed 90 projects during his tenure with D. J. Case & Associates, a natural resources communication firm. From 1978 to 2004, he held positions with the Missouri Department of Conservation as Outreach Programs Chief, Policy Chief, Social Scientist, and for six years, as a member of MDC's Regulations Committee, the group recommending fish and wildlife seasons, methods, and limits to the Conservation Commission. He holds a Ph.D. from the University of Arizona, with a major in Natural Resource Management and minor in Sociology. Witter's central research emphasis is studying the social, economic, and aesthetic values that we attach to nature and the outdoors - and applying these "human dimensions" to natural resource management.

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Celebrating 40 years of taking care of Missouri's natural resources.



“For people to appreciate something, they must understand it. We must help people understand the value of our natural resources. Only then will they be interested in protecting them.” – Paul Nelson, retired Missouri State Parks employee