

April 16, 2014

News Release

For Immediate Release

Twelve organizations to present awards at tomorrow's Choose Environmental Excellence luncheon

The 14th annual Springfield-Greene County Choose Environmental Excellence awards will be presented at a luncheon starting at 11:15 a.m., Thursday, April 17, at the Oasis Convention Center, 2546 N. Glenstone Ave., as a part of Springfield's Earth Month festivities. Twelve organizations will present awards this year.

- **The Watershed Committee of the Ozarks** award will showcase accomplishments that further the protection of Springfield's drinking water resources. Dan Hoy, Board Chair, will present the award. (Contact: Mike Kromrey, 417-866-1127).
- **The Solid Waste Management District "O" Executive Board** members will recognize efforts toward waste reduction and recycling with their Environmental Service Awards. District "O" covers the counties of Christian, Polk, Dallas, Greene and Webster. Tim Smith, chair, will present the awards. (Contact: Robert Hamilton, 417-859-5786).
- **The Springfield/Greene County Environmental Advisory Board** will recognize a business, agency, group or individual that has gone beyond normal practices to promote, improve or support sustainable environmentally conscious activities. Former board chair Melissa Cox will make the presentation. (Contact: Barbara Lucks, 417-864-2005).
- **The Ozarks Clean Air Alliance**, a subcommittee of the Environmental Collaborative of the Community Partnership of the Ozarks, will present two awards to recognize efforts to benefit the health of citizens in the region through air quality protection and improvement. Ashley Fears, Market Development Specialist, Springfield Department of Environmental Services, will present the award. (Contact: Barbara Lucks, 417-864-2005).
- **The Tree City USA Citizens Advisory Committee** will recognize efforts toward protecting and enhancing Springfield's community forest. Chair Jane Earnhart will make the presentation. (Contacts: Casey Kellner, 864-1135, and Benjamin Kellner, 417-864-1178).
- **The Greater Ozarks Audubon Society** will recognize exemplary efforts toward its mission of promoting bird conservation in southwest Missouri. Dr. Ruth Grant, president, will present the award. (Contact: Dave Catlin, 417-889-9940).
- **The Environmental Collaborative of the Community Partnership of the Ozarks** will recognize efforts exemplifying partnering and working together to foster an appreciation of the role of a healthy natural environment in the health and well being of the southwest Missouri region. Trent Sims, director, will present the award. (Contact: Barbara Lucks, 417-864-2005).
- **Ozark Greenways, Inc.** will recognize efforts toward meeting the organization's mission of preserving green space through linear parks (greenways/trails). Terry Whaley, executive director, will present the award. (Contact: Terry Whaley, 417-864-2014).

- **The Springfield Plateau Chapter Missouri Master Naturalists** will recognize the outstanding contributions of an individual toward conservation of the natural environment. Allan Keller, president, will make the presentation. (Contact: Barbara Lucks, 417-864-2005).
- **Missouri State University Sustainability Advisory Committee** will recognize efforts demonstrating a sustained commitment to environmental excellence, programming that makes an impact on environmental excellence and outcomes that indicate that the award winner is making a difference. Co-chairs, Ken McClure, vice president for Administrative and Information Services and Dr. Tamera Jahnke, dean, College of Natural and Applied Sciences, will make the presentation. (Contacts: Ken McClure, 417-836-5233 or Dr. Tamera Jahnke, 417-836-5249).
- **The Partnership for Sustainability** will recognize an organization who has demonstrated leadership through sustainable decision making and the implementation of best practices. Board chair Scott Miller, City Utilities of Springfield, will present the award. (Contact: Ashley Fears, 417-864-2003).
- **The James River Basin Partnership** will recognize outstanding efforts to protect the water quality in the James River Basin. Joe Pitts, executive director, will present the award. (Contact: Melissa Bettes, project manager, 417-836-4847).

Reservations for the luncheon are available by calling or e-mailing Barbara Lucks (see below) or utilizing the Springfield Environmental Summit Web site:

<https://2014environmentalsummit.eventbrite.com>. Choose Environmental Excellence is a voluntary, non-regulatory education program that encourages increased awareness of our impact on our natural environment, presents viable alternatives and recognizes accomplishments that foster environmentally responsible decisions. Visit www.springfieldmo.gov/cee for more information.

For more information, contact: Barbara Lucks, project coordinator, Springfield-Greene County Choose Environmental Excellence, 417-864-2005, blucks@springfieldmo.gov.