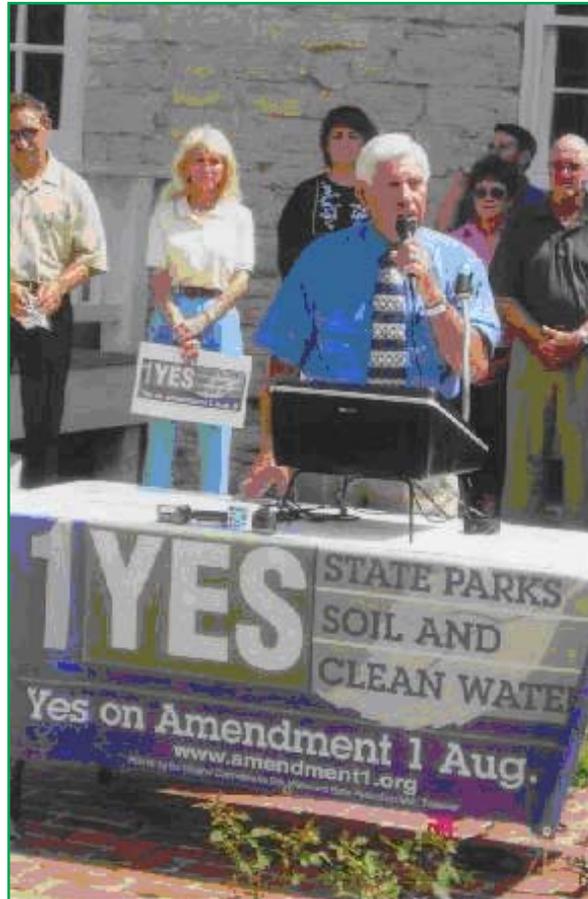


Amendment 1 Down To The Wire August 8

Renewal of the parks and soils sales tax for another ten years appears on the August 8 ballot statewide as Amendment One. Volunteers associated with the Citizens Committee for Soil, Water, and State Parks and other supportive organizations have been speaking to local groups and the media and passing the word in conversation with friends and through bumper stickers and newsletter articles (see Heritage, May 2006).

Amendment 1 has a broad coalition of support, the result of the tax's 22 years of effectiveness and accountability. State park users and supporters, farmers and agricultural groups, outdoor enthusiasts and economists and leaders of both political parties favor the tax for all it brings to Missouri—one of the best managed state park systems in the nation, more than half a billion dollars in park-related economic activity, and a reduction by fully half in the rate of soil erosion with related benefits for our rivers.

But many Missourians enjoy these benefits without realizing that they are supported almost entirely by the 1/10 of one cent parks and soils tax and that the tax must be renewed every ten years.



Don Fischer, co-chair of the Citizens Committee for Soil, Water, and State Parks, addressing a rally June 20 in Jefferson City. Included, l to r, are MPA president Ron Coleman, MPA treasurer Barbara Lucks, Debbie Dickens of Missouri Land Improvement Contractors Association., Roy Hengerson of the Sierra Club, Barbara Yates of River Bluffs Audubon, and Don Wolf, treasurer of the Citizen's Committee.

If you will be out of town or otherwise unable to vote at your local polling place on Aug. 8, you can request an absentee ballot by mail, fax, online or at your nearest county board of election commissioners offices by August 2. Contact information for your local election authority is available at <http://www.sos.mo.gov/elections/countyclerks.asp>. You can also cast an absentee ballot in person at the office of your local election authority until 5:00 p.m. the night before the election.

You may contribute to the 1 YES Campaign to help fund media advertising in the last days before the vote by making a check payable to the Citizens' Committee for Soil, Water and State Parks and sending it to P.O. Box 658, Jefferson City, MO 65102. Please include your name, address, phone and email and indicate your employer. Or you may help MPA defray the expenses of its

"Good for Missouri" educational effort by sending a check payable to MPA (marked "Good for Missouri" educational effort); mail it to Missouri Parks Association, c/o Callaway Bank, P.O. Box 10, Fulton, MO 65251-0010.

The most important thing you can do to help in the final days is to be sure to vote and to pass the word to others to vote.

MPA State Park Employee of the Year Awards

Four employees of the Missouri Division of State Parks have been honored by MPA with its annual Employee of the Year Awards, which include a plaque and a check for \$250. This year's winners:

Sharon Hultberg, senior office support assistant at Washington State Park, is recognized in the field category. She developed data bases and forms to assist in the multiple areas of business—cabin rental, swimming pool, store and watercraft rental—to register and track revenue, and smoothed the transition from the park-operated lodging concession into the centralized reservation system. As

a previous employee in the Festus district office, she assisted with training and maintaining the workload when there were vacancies at the district.

Randy Clay, natural resource manager at Sam A. Baker State Park, is employee of the year in the facility manager category. He has dealt ably with several major issues in the past year, including problems with water lines and service to the park after the park was connected



l-r: MPA President Ron Coleman with awardees Sharon Hultberg and Randy Clay.

to the county water district—including Memorial Day weekend and the week following, when the park lost potable water. During this time, he also supervised several new employees in key positions, and he coordinated three major capital improvement projects in the park.

Dave Reynolds, park maintenance worker at Pomme de Terre State Park, is the awardee in the maintenance and construction category. He was instrumental in the success of a very complex campground electrification project involving the installation of 99 new 50-amp services in both the Pittsburg and Hermitage areas. His technical ability and knowledge saved the division thousands of dollars by completing the project in-house rather than contracting it.

Richard Lachance, an architect with the Planning and Development Program, is the honoree in the central office category. He has designed structures in almost every park and historic site in the system over the past 22 years. His various designs of showerhouses have been built throughout the system, and he has designed the renovations of many Civilian Conservation Corps cabins to retain their historic architectural features while providing the most efficient use of interior space.

Johnson's Shut-Ins Update

More than 5,000 people visited Johnson's Shut-Ins State Park during the three-day Memorial Day weekend when a portion of the park reopened to the public. Since then the park has averaged about 1000 people per day on weekends and 500 per day during the week, with many supportive comments from visitors.

Natural resource manager Kim Burfield has been appointed superintendent of the park, and will lead a tour of the park and discussion of proposed changes during the MPA annual meeting next September. Kim replaces former superintendent Jerry Toops, who has taken a leave of absence from the park division to help his family rebuild their lives after they were swept from their home by the floodwaters last December 14.

Meanwhile, long-term conceptual development planning for Johnson's Shut-ins and other nearby lands, including Taum Sauk Mountain State Park, is proceeding, following a series of public meetings in April. Design concepts are expected to be available by late July on the park division website (www.mostateparks.com/jshutins) and at another series of public meetings in early August. The park division encourages broad public participation in this planning process.

MPA will express its interest in the addition of Ameren's Church Mountain and Taum Sauk Creek property to the parklands in the vicinity, as suggested also by Governor Blunt, and encourage the immediate development of a loop trail on Church Mountain lands currently under lease from Ameren (see *Heritage*, January and May 2006, MPA website <http://parks.missouri.org>). MPA encourages members to express themselves on these issues as well.

MPA ANNUAL MEETING IN PILOT KNOB SEPT 29 – OCT 1

Plan now to attend MPA's 25th annual meeting September 29–October 1 featuring the rebirth of Johnson's Shut-ins. The meeting will also include a picnic lunch at Elephant Rocks, an outdoor barbeque dinner at Fort Davidson with tours of a Civil War reenactors' camp, and an optional hike on Church Mountain. It will headquarter at the Fort Davidson Motel at the junction of Hwy. 21 and V in Pilot Knob. Please phone 573-546-7427 to reserve a room by August 31.

Friday, September 29

Arrive at Fort Davidson Motel. Dinner on your own. Early arrivals have a drink and swap state park stories. (Possible Friday afternoon float or hike)

Saturday, September 30

- 8:00 am** Registration: Fort Davidson Motel Restaurant Meeting Room
8:30 am Welcome to Pilot Knob: Restaurant Meeting Room
9:00 am State of the Parks Address and Discussion (Doug Eiken and Staff)
10:00 am Panel: What Next for Johnson's Shut-ins?
- 11:30 am** Depart for Elephant Rocks State Park (Picnic lunch and informal visit)
1:00 pm Depart for Johnson's Shut-Ins State Park: "Look, Listen & Learn Tour" with Park Administrators, Planners, and Interpretive Naturalists
4:00 pm Depart Johnson's Shut-Ins State Park
- 5:00 pm** Depart motel for Fort Davidson State Historic Site: Tour Fort Davidson, battlefield, and visitor center with site interpretive staff
6:00 pm Outdoor barbeque dinner in the adjacent park pavilion
7:00 pm Tour Civil War reenactors camp, observe authentic camp life activities
8:00 pm Taps, Lights Out

Sunday, October 1

- 8:00 am** MPA Annual Members Meeting: Restaurant Meeting Room
9:00 am Meeting of the Board of Directors (All are welcome to stay)
11:30 am Adjourn Meeting; lunch on your own
1:00 pm Optional hike on Church Mountain

REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____
 Address _____
 Phone _____ Email _____

Registration Fee	___ persons	@ \$20	\$ _____
Box Lunch (Sat.)	___ persons	@ \$ 9	\$ _____
Dinner (Sat.)	___ persons	@ \$11	\$ _____
	Total Enclosed		\$ _____

Make check payable to **Missouri Parks Association** and mail with form by September 15 to Eleanor Hoefle, MPA Assist. Treasurer, 1234 Hoyt Dr., St. Louis, MO 63137. **Please register in advance.** For questions or late registration call Eleanor Hoefle, 314-869-6534.

I support the purposes of The Missouri Parks Association. Please sign me up as a member in the following category. I understand contributions are tax-deductible. My check is enclosed.

Individual, \$25 Family, \$35 Supporting, \$50
 Sustaining, \$100 Patron, \$500

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

(Make checks payable to The Missouri Parks Association and mail to Post Office Box 10, Fulton, MO 65251)

PASS THE WORD:

We need every vote Aug. 8 for our state parks, clean water and soil conservation.

Amendment 1 will renew the efficient, effective work of our statewide parks-and-soils sales tax. Since 1984 this one-tenth-of-one-cent sales tax has produced visible results at every state park and historic site in Missouri, while cutting our soil erosion rate by half.

**Keep a good thing going:
Vote YES on
Amendment 1 Aug. 8**




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For more information, visit www.amendment1.org



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July, 2006

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Vote YES on
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<http://parks.missouri.org>