

LEWIS C. GREEN ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICE AWARDS DINNER HELD ON SEPTEMBER 27, 2007 AT THE TOP OF THE MET

In 2006, the Board of Directors decided to honor the founder of Great Rivers Environmental Law Center, Lewis C. Green, by presenting awards to individuals who have shown long-time commitment to the preservation of the environment. The first Lewis C. Green Environmental Service Awards were presented in 2006, and this year the Board presented the second annual Awards. The 2007 Awardees are:

Kay Drey

Kay Drey has championed a wide range of progressive causes. She has taken on the nuclear power industry, advocating for the protection of the general public, workers, and the environment from the hazards of nuclear energy and radioactive waste. She serves on the board of directors of the Nuclear Policy Research Institute, home of the “Beyond Nuclear” project that works for a future without nuclear power and nuclear weapons. Kay also was a co-founder of the Green Center, which introduces children to the joys of woodland, prairie, and wetland environments on 26 acres in the heart of University City. She has been active with the Missouri Coalition for the Environment for several decades. Kay describes herself as a champion of lost causes, but those who know her also know of her many significant victories. Kay has comforted the afflicted and afflicted the comfortable for practically her whole life – and that doesn’t even count her violin playing.

Leo Drey

Leo Drey began acquiring timberland in the southern Ozark Mountains for reforestation and conservation in 1951. His holdings eventually grew to nearly 160,000 acres, the largest private landholding in the state and larger than Missouri’s entire state park system. The project, known as Pioneer Forest, is sustainably managed through the harvesting of trees selected individually, with no clear-cutting, thus preserving the forest’s ecological integrity. Leo founded the L-A-D Foundation, turning over to it most of his land holdings in 2004. Years before the National Park Service became involved in protecting Ozark streams, Leo was front and center in the fight to protect the watersheds of the Current and Jacks Fork rivers. He was one of the founders of the Open Space Council and the Missouri Coalition for the Environment. He funded the Natural Areas Survey for Missouri and the Natural Streams Act campaign and worked tirelessly to preserve the Show-Me State’s natural treasures for future generations. Greer Spring, Grand Gulf, Dillard Mill are all areas that would have or could have been lost to developers, but for Leo’s generosity and foresight. The late John Wylie, a Conservation Department natural history chief, once said of Leo, “Yes, there is a Santa Claus for natural areas in Missouri. Every now and then, Santa, in the form of Leo Drey, reaches deep into his bag of goodies and pulls out another jewel to present to the people of Missouri.”

Operation Clean Stream

Operation Clean Stream celebrates its 40th birthday this year, and is one of America’s longest and largest ongoing river restoration projects. The annual event attracts nearly 2,000 volunteers from various age groups and backgrounds to the Meramec River and its tributaries including the Big, Bourbeuse, Courtois and Huzzah Rivers. Furthermore, agencies and organizations at the local, state and national levels have recognized this program as a key environmental event in the St. Louis Region. The event also serves as a public campaign for educating Area Citizens on the value of clean water and our responsibility to area rivers and streams. Clean Stream’s publicity and physical activities have galvanized the community into reclaiming the Meramec Watershed as a regional conservation and outdoor recreation resource. Operation Clean Stream is a program of the Open Space Council. Accepting the award will be Robert Rubright, President of the Open Space Council since 1999.