



Great Rivers Newsletter

Great Rivers Environmental Law Center, 705 Olive Street, Suite 614, St. Louis, MO 63101



Letter from the Executive Director

Great Rivers' approaching second anniversary is a good time to reflect on our history and our purpose in this first edition of Great Rivers' Newsletter. As many of you already know, Great Rivers was founded as a non-profit environmental law center by Lewis Green, well-known St. Louis area environmental litigator for over thirty years, in order to carry on his work protecting the environment. I was fortunate to have had the opportunity of working with Lewis for about two months before he unexpectedly passed away in May, 2003.

Our purpose remains true to Lewis' vision which is to provide legal services to individuals and organizations seeking to protect the environment by

preserving open space, forests, floodplains and wetlands, and by promoting public health and environmental justice. Our clients, often nonprofit groups like ourselves, do not have the funds to access the courts in pursuit of their goals. They are not seeking monetary damages. Rather, they are seeking to compel government agencies to comply with legal requirements in order to protect our natural world.

Great Rivers is the only public interest environmental law center in the region which is focused solely on environmental legal services. As such, we have worked to inform environmental groups and individual members of the public that we are available to assist them. We are han-

dling an increasing number of cases and we are also tracking several other issues which could develop into lawsuits in the future.

As Executive Director, I want to thank each of you personally and on behalf of the staff for your interest in Great Rivers. We hope to make the most of Lewis Green's legacy as we face the many environmental challenges that lie ahead. ■

Elsa Steward

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