

## **Doug Eiken-2012**

Doug Eiken retired from the Missouri Division of State Parks in 2009, having served since 1994. Combined with his work in a similar position in North Dakota, his tenure earned him the distinction of being the longest-serving state park director in the nation. Eiken's immense contributions to the stature of Missouri's State park system cannot be overstated, and we are privileged to recognize him as the 2012 inductee into the Missouri Recreation and Parks Hall of Fame. Dr. Douglas K. Eiken was the Director of the Division of State Parks in the Missouri Department of Natural Resources from 1994 to 2009. As Director, he was responsible for 83 parks and historic sites, a budget in excess of 44 million dollars, a staff of 725, and historic preservation programs. In addition, he was responsible for Missouri's Land and Water Conservation Fund Program for outdoor recreation and Recreational Trails Programs grants. He has been a member of MPRA for 15 years. Doug has been involved with numerous projects during his tenure as Missouri State Park Director. Doug is noted for his ability to always look at the large recreation picture of Missouri when considering project that deal with the Missouri State Park System. In 1996, Doug as Alternate State Liaison Officer requested the State Inter Agency Council for Outdoor Recreation (SIACOR) to review the distribution policy for the Land and Water Conservation Fund Program. He recommend to SIACOR that it would be in the best interest of the public to make the LWCF grant monies in Missouri available only to Local Governments and Public Schools. After a short debate, SIACOR approved his recommendation. Many of the members of MPRA and many others benefited from his insight to help support all parks in Missouri. Since 1981, Doug has been instrumental in working to insure the Federal Government always funds the LWCF Program. In 2009, MPRA was looking for funding to help complete a user survey in Missouri. It was Doug who reviewed the information and data that would be received from the survey and told the members of the board this information would be valuable to the Missouri Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) for 2013 - 2018. Without his thoughts, this survey would not have become a reality.