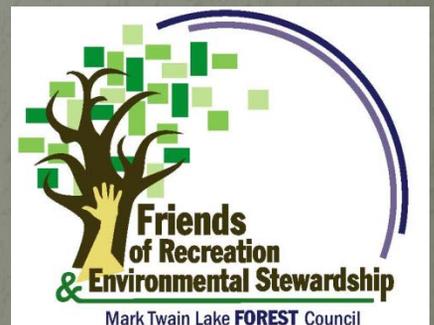




Pictured left to right: Bernie Seyler, Todd Shoemate, Roger Wilson, Von Pilkington, Courtney Wilson, Lou Dell'Orco, Dennis Fenske, Sandra Spence

## Mark Twain Lake FOREST Council Is Our Community “Friends” Group

The analogy of “Provide a playground, and invite all to play” has often been used to describe the Memorandum of Understanding developed in April of 2010. The Mark Twain Lake Friends of Recreation and Environmental Stewardship Council, regionally known as the FOREST Council, encompasses sixteen different community organizations and public land management agencies that share a common value of responsible stewardship and quality outdoor experiences. This group has been an essential component to the recent successes realized at Mark Twain Lake, such as the Northeast Missouri Environmental Stewardship Demonstration Area, the Frank Russell Pond Shelterhouse, and the Joanna Multi-Purpose Trail Waterborne Restrooms, and the Frank Russell Equestrian Campground.



What began as an initiative to demonstrate responsible stewardship practices in a consolidated area has taken the final step to evolve into an organization dedicated to supporting the mission of Mark Twain Lake. On February 26, 2014, this group entered into a Cooperative Association Agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and established itself as an independent organization with a mission to proactively engage regional interests, and to seek opportunities to capitalize on available resources benefitting the Mark Twain Lake community.