

NEWS

Champaign County Forest Preserve District
P.O. Box 1040 • Mahomet, IL 61853
E-Mail: HQ@ccfpd.org
Website: www.ccfpd.org

LAKE OF THE WOODS FOREST PRESERVE • HOMER LAKE FOREST PRESERVE • MIDDLE FORK RIVER FOREST PRESERVE
SANGAMON RIVER FOREST PRESERVE • RIVER BEND FOREST PRESERVE • KICKAPOO RAIL TRAIL

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Contact: Lisa Sprinkle
217-586-3360

Bob Espeseth and Tom Kacich, the Best of the Best

Congratulations to Bob Espeseth and Tom Kacich for being recognized by the Illinois Association of Park Districts as the *Best of the Best*, for their support, advocacy, and enrichment of the Champaign County Forest Preserve District. Bob and Tom will be recognized at the Best of the Best Banquet on October 12 at Wheeling Park District's Chevy Chase Country Club. Nominations were submitted on behalf of both individuals by the Board of Commissioners and the staff at the Champaign County Forest Preserve District.

Bob Espeseth was named the **Outstanding Citizen Volunteer of the Year** by the Illinois Association of Park Districts. This award recognizes citizens' volunteer efforts to enhance a park district, forest preserve, conservation, recreation or special recreation agency program, service, parkland, open space or facility. Bob has volunteered for more than 45 years for the Champaign County Forest Preserve District, first as an elected official and later as a foundation board member. His volunteer work and philanthropic endeavors have played a significant role in establishing and caring for nearly 4,000 acres of preserves, the Museum of the Grand Prairie, and the newly established Kickapoo Rail Trail.

Also recognized by IAPD as Best of the Best is **Tom Kacich**, of the Champaign-Urbana News-Gazette, as **Illinois' Parks Top Journalist**. This award recognizes a print, radio and television medium, or individual reporter or journalist that has provided responsible and comprehensive coverage of Illinois' park districts, forest preserves, conservation, recreation and special recreation agencies at the statewide and/or local level. The submission focused on Tom's tireless coverage of the Kickapoo Rail Trail development project, spanning as far back as the mid-1990s.

The Champaign County Forest Preserve District extends its congratulations to both Bob Espeseth and Tom Kacich and thanks them for their service in support of the Champaign County Forest Preserve District.

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