



# **Missouri Society of American Foresters**

2012 Fall Newsletter

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## **FROM THE CHAIR**

*Joe Alley, 2012 Chair*

It has been a challenging summer for forests and foresters in Missouri as well as much of the US. I hope you all have been coping well with the heat, fires, tree mortality, and myriad other impacts of the drought of 2012. While it is easy to dwell on the negatives, I urge you to look for the lessons we can learn and messages we can share that will show the benefits of managing our forestland and trees in general. Talk to landowners about thinning a forest from the perspective of tree survival - trees in properly stocked forests have more moisture available to them than trees in a typical overstocked forest. Talk to homeowners about right tree-right place. And if there has ever been a time to push the subject of defensible space, this is it.

Other Business – we need to fill a couple of positions. If you read Dave Walter’s piece on page 1, you will see that MOSAF needs to provide a Representative to the SAF District IX Fellows Committee. I would like to see this filled well before January. Similarly, we also need an MNRC Steering Committee Rep as soon as possible. If you are interested in taking on either of these exciting roles, contact me or any of the Executive Committee. It would be great to announce during our meeting in October that these positions have been filled!

Speaking of MNRC – Now is the time to start contacting local businesses to donate items to be given away at our raffle and silent auction (personally, I would like to see our mountain of goodies cast a shadow on TWS booth). The more lead time they have, the more likely we are to score some good swag. Think outside of the forestry box a bit too, in terms of who you contact. One of our hottest sellers last year was CFL light bulbs (thanks Terry Gordon)! Be sure to let businesses know that they will be recognized for their donation and that the proceeds will benefit our organization as well as students through scholarships.

Finally, I urge any of you that are close to Columbia to make an effort to attend a student SAF/forestry club meeting. I went to one last winter and gave a very brief talk about MOSAF and our interest in working with students to get them more involved with professionals across the state. We need to get back in touch with the student chapter and getting them familiar with some of our members is the best way to do this. Contact me or Dave Larsen to find out when the next student SAF meeting is held.

I look forward to seeing you at some of the upcoming meetings.

## **COUNCIL REPORT**

*Dave Walters, District IX Council Representative*

Greetings District IX SAF Leaders,

**Council met June 1-3** and accomplished much. Besides slogging through the business of SAF, we participated in a two- hour session on SAF focus, our “hedgehog process”. My take away from that session was that all SAF leaders need to be constantly thinking and acting on ideas to enhance SAF’s professional

community. If all SAF chapter, state and regional leaders increase their focus from a couple of times a year to weekly, even daily then we'll expand our community and our influence. Another 'light bulb moment' for me was in sharing our fears for SAF's future. **F E A R** was explained as occasionally being **False Expectations Appearing Real**. One item that many Council members identified as a FEAR was, foresters would become less relevant or lose control of our organization if we open up our membership to graduates of Natural Resource Management schools. In discussing that scenario, we came to identify that as a false expectation.

**All District IX Fellows nominees were accepted.** Congratulations to Carrol Guffey of Ouachita Society, Ron Rathfon of Indiana SAF, and Jeff Dawson and John DePuy of Illinois (NOTE THE ABSENCE OF ANY MISSOURI FELLOWS!). Our District Fellows Committee did a great job under the guidance of Phil Perry. *We'll need a new Fellows Committee rep from Missouri beginning in January.* Our charter says we should have a woman if possible. Council also approved the 2012 national award winners submitted by the Committee on Professional Recognition. National SAF Award recipients will be notified of their selection by the SAF National Office within the month of June, and each will be honored at the National Convention.

**Council approved a revised position statement** on Timber Harvesting on Public Lands, and recognized that the position statement on Silviculture expired because it served its purpose and the principles are covered in other position statements. Council also accepted the Task Force Report on Terrestrial Ecosystem Management and recommended that actions be continued toward the adoption of new accreditation standards for a "natural resources" related degree program.

**2013 Heartland Leadership Academy.** It is time to put a team in place to host the Heartland Leadership Academy in 2013. Indiana SAF has expressed an interest in hosting. Positions needed on the team include:

- Academy Dean—Responsible for the whole shindig & evaluation of it
- Arrangements Chair—Responsible for location, food, lodging & equipment needs
- Program Chair—Responsible for agenda & presenters
- Communications Chair—Responsible for keeping folks informed of the event and overseeing nominations/ participants
- Finance Chair—Responsible for managing the funds & hustling money
- State Reps—Responsible for keeping local folks informed of the event

Let me know of your interest. By September I hope to have a date and location identified and a core team in place.

**SAF membership.** Membership continues to decline at roughly two percent per year, but the new tiered dues structure has been very successful. 79% of members have signed up for the gold level, 19% for silver, and 2% for the platinum level. Current paid membership totals 10,500. A number of delinquent members are being contacted and asked to pay the local dues assessment. As of June 1, 2012 SAF has received more in dues payments than for the entire year of 2011.

The new membership incentive and recruitment program implemented this year provides for as much as a \$100 discount on dues (\$20 per year for five years) for new member recruitment, and the new recruit gets a 30% discount if they maintain current membership for at least five years. Interested members can contact Christopher Whited, [whited@safnet.org](mailto:whited@safnet.org), with specific questions about the membership recruitment program, or go to the website: [www.safnet.org](http://www.safnet.org), then click on "join" on the bar at the top of the page for more detail. To date about 100 members have taken advantage of this opportunity.

**Traveling around the District.** I've enjoyed experiencing the power of SAF and am convinced that we are a strong and thriving confederation of state units. From Springfield, Ft. Smith, Columbus and Indianapolis to Lexington, Knoxville and Quincy, SAF members are working to understand the invasion of exotic species and developing strategies and partnerships to maintain healthy forests. Partnering is the way we do business

everywhere and it is impressive. I'm also struck by our member's commitment. SAF folks all across the country are stepping up to plan, organize, present, shuttle, cook and type minutes for the good of all. Occasionally we have outstanding members who even draft campaign statements and bios for their out-of-pocket colleagues! At the national PLT conference, SAF was mentioned as a partner many times and no one there needed to explain what the letters SAF stood for. We are known and we make a difference. I know if you need work done, call a forester. I've witnessed firsthand how Missourians, including Frances Main, our District Field Forester, steps up to make SAF go.

Make plans to participate in the Spokane Convention, you'll be glad you made the trip.

By the way SAF President Bill Rockwell continually tells me how impressed he is with Missouri SAF and the connections with all of the natural resources community.

Thanks for being the heart of our society!

*Dave Walters CF®*

## **NATIONAL SAF NEWS**

*Michael T. Goergen, Jr., Executive Vice President and CEO*

**Strategic Plan.** The June-approved version of the Strategic plan is also on the SAF website and available for download. [http://www.eforester.org/about/strategicplan\\_2013-2017.pdf](http://www.eforester.org/about/strategicplan_2013-2017.pdf)

**SAF Sells Portion of Maryland Headquarters Property.** The Society of American Foresters and the Renewable Natural Resources Foundation have entered into an agreement to sell a portion of the 35.4-acre SAF and RNRFF property to two renowned Bethesda area home developers who have formed a partnership to develop a townhome community of 155 units. The agreement, approved by the SAF Council, calls for SAF to retain its headquarters building on the site. Under the terms of the agreement, the sale price has not been publicly disclosed.

For more information about the sale, see "Potential Sale of Wild Acres Would Secure Financial Health of SAF," The Forestry Source, February 2008, on the Source Extras page at [www.safnet.org/members/archive/source\\_extras.cfm](http://www.safnet.org/members/archive/source_extras.cfm).

The townhome community is consistent with the underlying development regime of SAF's land holdings and will maintain a significant buffer around the building recognizing the historic nature of the site, and a considerable natural area on a separate part of the property. One of RNRFF's buildings will remain on site as well. The building is currently occupied by the Wildlife Society, the American Fisheries Society, the American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing, and the Maryland and Washington DC Chapters of The Nature Conservancy.

The development group is now in the planning process and has provided SAF with a significant deposit. SAF anticipates receiving another deposit in the early summer of 2013 and, provided that governmental approvals are received and other factors are favorable, final payment is anticipated to occur as early as summer 2014, but in no event later than summer 2015. Construction is expected to begin shortly after the final payment is received.

Although this ends the pursuit of the long-planned Renewable Natural Resources Center, it allows SAF to receive a substantial return on its initial investment and continues SAF's occupation of the Gifford Pinchot Forestry Building and our proximity to other natural-resource professional society partners. The funds SAF receives will allow the organization to maintain its offices and invest in programs that benefit SAF members. The plan provides for a mixed-use (office and residential) site located in close proximity to mass transit, a goal

of Montgomery County Maryland, where the property is located. More information and status reports will be available in the coming months. If you have questions or concerns, please contact SAF executive vice-president Michael Goergen.

### AND THE WINNERS ARE...!



**Frances Main – 2012 SAF Presidential Field Forester Award – District IX.** MDC Resource Forester, Frances Main, is this year’s SAF Presidential Field Forester for District IX. A member of SAF since 1986 (and a Certified Forester), Frances began her career with the Department as a Naturalist where she presented information on forests, and natural and cultural history to thousands of people annually. For the past 13 years she has plied her skills on public and private lands in Christian, Greene, and Webster Counties of the Show-Me State, and also assisted the SWMO RC&D Council promoting forest stewardship in 17 SW MO counties. Congratulations on your well-deserved award...Duke would be proud!



**Kaitlyn Bradley – 2012 Ben Meadows Natural Resource Scholarship Award.** MU Forestry-Fisheries & Wildlife Senior, Kaitlyn Bradley, is this year’s recipient of the Leadership Scholarship (worth \$2,500) from Ben Meadows. Past-president of the MU Forestry Club, Kaitlyn has gained international experience in Thailand and Costa Rica. Upon graduation, she will head to the Peace Corps. Congratulations, Kaitlyn!

### MOSAF SPRING/SUMMER HAPPENINGS

**MOSAF Holds Spring Meeting in Joplin and Helps Plant Trees** (submitted by Jon Skinner).



The landscape of Joplin and Duquesne was irrevocably changed on Sunday, May 22, 2011 as an EF-5 tornado churned a six-mile long and up to one-mile wide path through the communities. After the initial emergency ended and the initial shock was over, the real extent of the loss of life, buildings, jobs, memories, and trees became evident. The properties were cleared, and trees damaged beyond hope of keeping in an urban landscape were removed. Drought conditions turned the tornado path into a bare soil desert for several months.

That is when people started stating “we miss our trees.” Individuals and groups started all sorts of tree planting projects on paper. Some organized tree give-aways, others sold trees at discounts, and some thought farther down the road and prepared. Most of the early trees went to properties that were damaged, but not destroyed. Properties in the destroyed zone weren’t ready for trees.

Last fall, Chris Fenske, Advisor for Phi Beta Lambda (PBL), a business society, at Crowder College, Neosho, Missouri dreamed of PBL and Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) in Missouri High Schools to

partner and plant trees on private properties in Joplin in the Spring of 2012. FBLA and PBL leaders across the state agreed this would be a great learning opportunity for the teens and emphasized one of their themes of giving back to community. They named the effort “Rooting for Joplin.” Chris and other FBLA/PBL leaders organized the event and the teens raised \$25,000 for trees and mulch.

Early in the process, Chris asked for advice from Jon Skinner, CF, Urban Forester for the Missouri Department of Conservation on species appropriate for planting in Joplin and Duquesne, how to plant trees, how to mulch trees and why it is important, what tools were appropriate for the job, and more. During their discussions, the idea of requesting the **Missouri Chapter of the Society of American Foresters (MOSAF)** to come and supervise the teens while they plant was proposed. Chris welcomed the idea and a request for help was made to the Chapter’s program committee. Once approved, the Chapter’s Spring 2012 meeting was scheduled to coincide with the tree planting event.

On May 4, Missouri’s SAF members met in Joplin to learn about the tornado, what had occurred and was planned for tree planting, and reviewed how to identify trees that pose risk to people and property.



On Saturday, May 5, 800 high school and college students gathered at Missouri Southern State University to be divided into groups, and sent out to plant trees. MOSAF members were introduced as people that “eat, breathe, and live trees” and where there to help them re-tree Joplin.

The foresters followed school busses to various newly built or repaired homes and taught the teens how to properly plant and mulch the new trees. FBLA-PBL with the help of the MOSAF foresters planted 1,200 trees that day for grateful homeowners.



*Lisa Allen supervises FBLA students. (photo by Bruce Palmer)*



*FBLA students and sponsor from Nixa, Missouri with homeowners next to newly planted eastern redbud . (photo by Jon Skinner)*

## MIZZOU NEWS

**Our Numbers are Up!** After a dip in enrollment the last couple of years, our numbers are on the rebound. As of the start of the fall semester, we have 50 Forestry Majors and an additional 29 undergraduates enrolled in the Forestry – Fisheries & Wildlife dual degree program. Alongside these student, we have 42 graduate students; 34 roaming our hallowed halls and 8 online (Agroforestry).



*Ben Knapp*

**Ben Knapp Joins the MU Forestry Faculty.** Ben Knapp is our new Silviculturalist. Ben and his wife, Betsy, hail from Columbus, IN. He received his B.S.F. from Purdue University, and his M.S. and Ph.D. from Clemson. Between his graduate degrees, Knapp worked for the USDA Southern Research Station on restoring longleaf pine ecosystems. Over the coming months, you might see him in your neck of the woods as he becomes familiar with the Show-Me State. Be sure to say, “Howdy!”

**Hank Stelzer Assumes Chair of the Forestry Department.** Over the summer Rose-Marie Muzika became Associate Director of Undergraduate Studies for the School of Natural Resources. So, that left a ‘hole’ in the leadership role for the Department and the bottle stopped spinning in front of Hank! Hank says the Department’s biggest challenge in the coming years will be filling as many of the open positions as possible in this climate of economic austerity.

### **Prescribed Fire: To Burn, or Not to Burn?**

(from Summer issue of Green Horizons)



That’s a question natural resource managers have asked themselves for years—often coming up with conflicting answers. Joe Marschall, research specialist at the Missouri Tree Ring Laboratory at the University of Missouri’s School of Natural Resources, seeks to bring science to that debate.

Marschall, who is also pursuing a master’s degree in forestry at MU, notes that not all natural resource managers see eye to eye on prescribed burning in areas with merchantable timber. “People all across the country are talking about this; prescribed fire is more and more often used as a management tool,” Marschall said.

*Just how badly does prescribed fire affect wood quality? Marschall’s study attempted to answer that question.*

However, its use is hotly contested. Marschall recently presented a poster summarizing his findings at a natural resources conference. The first two people who looked at it, a forester and a wildlife manager, both from Kentucky, started arguing about fire management.

Marschall has created a tool to systematically assess the value loss in lumber quality of red oak trees due to prescribed fire.

“It’s a tool that will enable a forest manager to go out in the woods and determine what value loss in timber products a particular tree has experienced to date,” he said. “It’s a snapshot and a solid model—anyone can go out and do it.” The equipment for the job: Marschall’s chart and a ruler.

The study was sparked by a request from the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC). Researchers at the Missouri Tree Ring Laboratory did a study a few years ago looking at volume loss from fire damage, not at lumber product value loss.

MDC asked them to expand the study. In the first study, researchers measured the volume injured by fire by taking cross sections from the trees. In Marschall's study, they actually harvested and milled the lowest log (usually the only portion of the tree impacted by fire) of fire-injured trees into dimensional lumber.

## **Making the Cut**

The team harvested trees from three MDC conservation areas in southern Missouri with known prescribed fire histories: Peck Ranch in Carter County, Graves Mountain in Wayne County, and Lead Mine Conservation Area in Dallas County.

About 30 trees were felled and harvested from each site. They partnered with Baker Products of Ellington, Mo., to mill the logs into lumber. Marschall instructed the sawyer to ignore the fire damage and cut for the highest grade possible. A grader trained by the National Hardwood Lumber Association evaluated and scored each of the 1,315 boards for their actual value and determined what their value would be without fire defects, if fire defects were present.



*Marschall instructed the sawyer to ignore the fire damage and cut for the highest grade possible.*



*Joe Marschall (left) and Dr. Mike Stambaugh, MU Research Assistant Professor (right) examined each board for fire damage.*

Marschall noted that the slabbing process—where the sawyer trims and squares the log on the sawmill—often removes much of the area damaged by fire, especially if the damage is less than five years old.

“What we’re after is solid information in an area where there wasn’t solid information,” Marschall said. “With this data, managers might change the way they harvest and not leave the trees with defects in the forest.”

## **Rooted in Science**

Marschall has worked in the Missouri Tree Ring Laboratory for the last eight years. An interest in conservation and maintaining the well-being of natural resources led him to study and work at MU. He’s been able to further his academic research while gaining hands-on experience in the lab and at field sites across the country, including Pennsylvania, Nebraska, Arkansas, Kentucky, Tennessee, California, Oklahoma and Missouri.

He was recently appointed as the consortium coordinator for the Oak Woodlands and Forests Fire Consortium, a network encompassing nearly 1 million hectares in 11 states with a mission to “provide fire science to resource managers, landowners, and the public about the use, application, and effects of fire.”

Missouri forests cover more than 14 million acres—nearly twice that of Iowa, Illinois, Kansas and Nebraska combined. Nearly 30,000 people work in the forestry industry, which generates \$5.7 billion annually.

The effects of prescribed fire on forests will continue to be a burning topic as more research is produced and the team works to extrapolate their findings to the landscape level.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**October 5-6: Missouri Walnut Council Fall Meeting. Polo Vicinity.** We will gather both days at the property of Clay Shaw, on Missouri Hwy 116, about 5 miles east of the intersection of Hwy 116 and Hwy 13. Lodging will be available in Richmond, MO. about 20 miles south of the Hwy 13 / 116 junction. For more information, contact Dennis Potter at [dennisk.potter@yahoo.com](mailto:dennisk.potter@yahoo.com).

**October 9-11: Central States Forest Soils Workshop. Potosi.** The workshop gets underway the evening of October 9<sup>th</sup> with opening presentations and an overview of the field trips on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. Activities conclude at noon on the 11<sup>th</sup>. For more information and to register, go to <http://showmemapss.org/>.

**October 16-17: Prescribed Fire and Timber Quality Workshop. Poplar Bluff.** This workshop is being conducted by the Oak Woodlands & Forests Fire Consortium and will provide opportunities for scientists and land managers to learn and discuss the details of an emerging topic concerning prescribed burning. Speakers and a fieldtrip will address questions related to timber quality such as: How does wood decay following injury? When might fire be appropriately applied to oak stands? What are the varied perspectives on burning in forests? How does fire affect timber products? The workshop is free to all participants, but it does have limited space. So be sure to register as soon as you can at <http://www.oakfirescience.com/registration-workshop-1/>

**October 16: MOSAF Fall Meeting. Poplar Bluff.** Our annual fall business meeting will be in conjunction with the Prescribed Fire Workshop on October 16th at 7:00 pm in the Three Rivers room at the Holiday Inn in Poplar Bluff (the host hotel for the workshop). There is no cost to attend the MOSAF meeting.

## THE LAST WORD

### Submission Guidelines

It's never too early to submit your item for the next MOSAF newsletter. You don't have to worry about typefaces, fonts, and formats (in fact, I prefer that you don't). All I need is the information in a Word file; 12 pt, Times New Roman. I will then format your literary masterpiece and return it for your approval before it appears in the newsletter. You may send your submission to me at [stelzerh@missouri.edu](mailto:stelzerh@missouri.edu). Thanks for your help and look to see ***your*** article soon!

### Submission Deadlines

**Spring Newsletter** *before* **March 1...**

**Fall Newsletter** *before* **September 1.**

Thanks!