

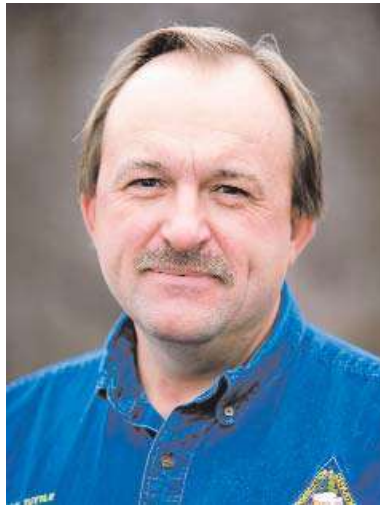


Missouri Society of American Foresters

2014 Spring Newsletter – Vol. 30, No. 1

From the Chair

John Tuttle, MOSAF Chair



I am excited to be the chair of MOSAF. I took over this role at the beginning of the year and look forward to my two year assignment. I feel there are many great opportunities for MOSAF in the future. I intend to continue to spread the word that SAF is the organization for all forestry professionals. Many times I have heard from foresters that feel they don't get anything out of SAF and my answer to them is "... what have you given to SAF?" Any great organization has dedicated people making it what they expect it to be. If you are frustrated with MOSAF, I challenge you to get involved and help it live up to your expectations.

I am happy to report on some activities that have occurred so far this year. In early January we held a meeting at Jefferson City of all committee chairs and the long range planning committee. This meeting was to brain storm what MOSAF should be doing in the future. At the meeting we discussed our strategic plan and our communication plan. Several good ideas came from this meeting. We

decided to update both the strategic and communications plans. We also discussed the idea of hiring a part time event planner to help set up events throughout the state to get members involved.

In February at the Missouri Natural Resource Conference (MNRC) we held MOSAF's business meeting. I was proud to see 49 members in attendance at our meeting. At this meeting we awarded service awards to Joe Alley, John Kabrick, and Hank Stelzer. Jim Rocca, Ralph Allison, and Ross Melick were awarded each a 50 year membership award. Last but not least Greg Hoss (Region 9 Council Representative) announced that MOSAF's new Fellows are Dave Larsen and Mike Hoffmann. Congratulations to Dave and Mike for be selected as fellows! It was also noted that Caleb Blakely was awarded MOSAF's \$1,000 scholarship.

Dave Murphy from CFM presented at the winter meeting about HJR 57 and SJR 42. These resolutions, if passed, will ask Missouri voters to allow all proposed rules and regulations to go before a legislative committee for approval. This action will put politics back into conservation. Since the meeting, MOSAF's policy committee has written and sent a letter in opposition to this legislation (*Editor's note - see article below from Matt Jones, Policy and Legislation Committee Chair*).

Several other items were discussed at the winter meeting. Mike Fiaoni reported on the MNRC steering committee and the fact that MOSAF will be hosting MNRC in 2016. Please forward your ideas about topics and themes for the 2016 MNRC to Mike. We heard from Justine Gartner concerning the Membership and Credentialing Task Force she has been chairing for National SAF. This committee has been looking at ways for SAF to be more inclusive of non-traditional foresters.

Looking to the future, I will be attending the National SAF meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah in October. At this meeting I will attend the House Society of Delegates meeting. This meeting is where all state chapters truly have a voice in SAF.

When you get a chance, please welcome Ben Knapp as our new Science and Technology committee chair. Thanks to John Kabrick for his past leadership of this committee. If you have any topics that this committee needs to consider, feel free to contact Ben or myself.

Joe Alley has agreed to put together the Newsletter. Hank Stelzer previously put together our newsletter and we appreciate his dedication. Newsletters can be difficult to develop. We ask that you offer ideas for the newsletter and we challenge you to write articles for our publication.

Please feel free to suggest any ideas that you have to committee chairs or to me. MOSAF is your organization and I ask you to get involved and speak up.

Policy and Legislation Committee

Matt Jones, Committee Chair



Earlier this winter, the Missouri House and Senate both introduced joint resolutions to amend the state constitution to give the legislature the power to approve all rule and regulation changes proposed by executive branch agencies. If passed by the legislature and approved by a vote of the people, any changes to the Wildlife Code approved by the Conservation Commission, would have to be approved by the legislature before they could go into effect. This would apply to all agencies of state government. As of this writing (*editor's note – mid-March*) neither resolution has been voted on by the full House or Senate.

MOSAF is opposed to these resolutions. The Executive Committee tasked the Policy Committee with preparing a response letter to send to each legislative body. We did that, the Executive Committee approved it and Greg Hoss our National Council Representative signed the letter. Below is a copy of the letter we sent to the Missouri House of Representatives. A similar letter was sent to the Missouri Senate.

February 14, 2014

*House General Laws Committee
Missouri General Assembly
Jefferson City, MO*

Committee Members:

The Missouri Society of American Foresters (Missouri SAF), the organization representing over 200 professional foresters in Missouri, appreciates the opportunity to comment on HJR 57 that proposes changes to the function of the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules.

In 1937 the citizens of Missouri approved an amendment to the state constitution that created the Missouri Conservation Commission to manage the activities and approve all regulations promulgated by the Conservation Department. The goal was to keep politics out of conservation and let public opinion and research help guide the management of forests, fish and wildlife. In the last seventy-seven years Missouri has seen tremendous improvements in its forest, fish, and wildlife resources. Deer and turkey populations have rebounded from critically low numbers to healthy, huntable populations that contribute tremendously to the social and economic well-being of the state. Quality fishing opportunities exist across our state. The numbers of destructive wildfires has been greatly reduced, resulting in improved timber quality and wildlife habitat.

Forests now occupy 15.4 million acres of Missouri's landscape and contribute \$8 billion to our economy, employing over 42,000 people. These accomplishments are attributed to employees applying scientifically sound management principles approved by the Conservation Commission. Throughout its history the Conservation Commission has always based its rules and regulations on scientifically sound principles free of political biases. The Department has an incredible track record of gathering input from citizens through surveys, public meetings, stakeholder meetings, etc. Missouri citizens play an active role in developing appropriate hunting and fishing regulations. As a result of this the Missouri Department of Conservation is widely regarded as one of the leading conservation agencies in the nation. Missouri citizens showed their support for the Conservation Commission's management approach by passing a dedicated conservation sales tax amendment to the state constitution in 1977.

Respectfully, Missouri SAF is opposed to HJR 57. We believe that HJR 57 could inject unreasonable political influences into the management of Missouri's forest, fish, and wildlife resources. This would go against the expressed wishes of Missouri's citizens. Requiring legislative approval of all rules and regulations of every state agency will unduly limit the executive branch's ability to execute state laws in an efficient, effective and timely fashion.

Sincerely,

*Gregory A. Hoss
National Society of American Foresters Council Rep District 9
Missouri Society of American Foresters – Historian*

Treasurer's Report

Frances Main, Treasurer



The bank statement for the end of February says we have:

MOSAF	12,441.63
PLT	15,296.74
6 m. CD	18,338.63
12 m. CD	18,131.55

We spent about \$400 on MNRC and will have about \$600 of income after I send Foresters Fund money to the National office. A \$200 profit. Also, we are now officially "incorporated" in Missouri, and should be receiving our new tax exempt letter any day now.

SAF Council Meeting March 28-30, 2014 – Alexandria, Virginia

Greg Hoss, SAF Council Representative, District 9



As is typical of all Council meetings, various committees met prior to the actual Council meeting. I serve on the Finance Committee and we met for several hours to go over the status and outlook for the 2014 budget. So far this year looks like we are doing fairly well meeting our income and expense goals.

The principle objective of this Council Meeting was to interview and choose a new Executive Vice President for SAF. Michael Goergen left in mid-September 2013 and the search committee and hiring consultant have been busy interviewing and evaluating potential candidates. Thru the initial review process, about 8 individuals were identified and interviewed. This group was narrowed down to 3 candidates. These 3 candidates were then interviewed during this Council meeting. Each of the 3 final candidates gave a 20 minute presentation to the full Council (11 people), Executive Committee (3 people) and 3 or 4 members of the National Office staff. Following the presentations to Council, over the next day and a half, each candidate met with the interview panel of the Executive Committee, acting EVP Louise Murgia and the hiring consultant. From the interviews, the Executive Committee recommended a candidate to the entire Council. Each Council member spoke about their opinions on the various candidates and all agreed with the selection put forth to the Council and a new EVP was unanimously chosen by Council.

The process of offering the job to the candidate is ongoing and no name can yet be put forth to the membership, but the overall belief of all Council members is that an excellent choice has been made to lead SAF, hopefully for many years to come. Once the candidate has been informed, has had the opportunity to inform their current employer, all members of SAF will be introduced to our new EVP.

By the way, under the new bylaws that are being written for SAF, to comply with Washington DC laws governing not for profit organizations, our EVP will be called Chief Operating Officer (CEO). Also, the term Council will cease to exist, as DC law requires that we be referred to as the Board of Directors. Makes us sound rather more important than most of us think we are!! Currently a new SAF Constitution and Bylaws are being written to bring our governing structure in line with DC laws. Both documents will actually be more stream-lined than they currently are as a result of complying with the law.

Sale of SAF Wild Acres: The sale of the property surrounding the SAF National Office is still on track to happen. The city of Bethesda has approved the developers' plan for the property. The buyer and SAF were expecting to close the sale by late May. Now it looks like it will be August before the closing happens. The Finance Committee has been busy interviewing various financial firms and coming up with an investment strategy for investing the

considerable sum that SAF will receive at the time of closing. A firm has been chosen and meetings with them have begun, so that when the payment is received, a plan will already be in place. The goal is to invest all of the proceeds of the property sale and use the income generated to boost our annual budget. The principal will not be spent and will be allowed to grow each year, further increasing SAFs' ability to manage the organization without having to raise membership dues to cover costs.

SAF Webpage: Last fall, a firm was hired to develop a new and much more user friendly webpage. Members will be able to pay dues, access documents and do all they currently do on typical websites, but are not easily done on the SAF website. Staff is working daily with the contractor getting the new site ready to launch.

Budget: The 2013 budget ended up right on target, actually less than 1% of what was projected. Staff worked diligently to make sure that they kept within their assigned budgets. Income for the year exceeded expectations, making for a successful year for SAF financially. The approved 2014 budget is a balanced budget for the first time in 4 or 5 years. Part of the dollars for balancing the budget comes from revenue generated by the sale of the property, but the Finance Committee was conservative in projecting this income, and even with an August closing date on the property sale, SAF budget should be in good shape for 2014.

Other News from Council (*aka, the Board...rather fitting actually – editor*):

For many years SAF sponsored a Leadership Academy on the national level. For a few years it was held at YMCA of the Ozarks, here in Missouri. Then it was held in Nebraska City, Nebraska. But cost and declining revenues caused the end of the academy. There has been a push from State Societies to again offer the Leadership Academy on the national level if funding can be found. For SAF members in District 9 (including Missouri) they can attend the Heartland Leadership Academy to be held this coming August for members in Districts 5 and 9. Each state society in these two districts, 5 slots have been allotted to attend. If any MO-SAF member wants more information about the Heartland Leadership academy, they should contact MO-SAF Chair John Tuttle.

National membership is again holding steady at about 12,000 members, as it has for the last few years. More members are taking advantage of the silver membership category.

This year's national convention will be held in Salt Lake City Utah. Also being held in conjunction with the SAF Convention, is the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) World Congress. This event has not been in the US since 1971. Any SAF member that registers for the SAF Convention will have the option of attending concurrent sessions of SAF or of IUFRO. The expected attendance for both conventions is anticipated to be about 4,000 people.

MU Student SAF Chapter Update

Ben Tiefenbrun, Student SAF Chapter President

We are up and running again with a solid group of students from freshman to senior class. We have started a job shadowing program for our members to get together with professionals and ride along for a day. We are hoping this will give our members an idea of what they will be doing after they graduate and also to make connections with members of MOSAF. Earlier this month we had a pancake breakfast fundraiser and raised money to attend local meetings and to help with other travel. We are also planning a trip to HARC, the Universities Horticulture and Agroforestry Research Center for this spring to learn about what the research happening there. We are planning having a group attend the MOSAF spring meeting and MOSAF meetings in the future.

A "Nutty" Spring Meeting Planned for MOSAF



At the time of this writing, the details are still being worked out for the MOSAF spring technical meeting to be held in May. However, the focus of the meeting will be a tour of Hammons Products Processing Facility (world's largest producer of black walnut nut products – right here in Missouri!) and the Sho-Neff Walnut Plantation, both near Stockton, Missouri. The afternoon and evening before the tour, we will hold a business meeting, requisite TCD update, and a cookout at Stockton Lake State Park. With a little luck, the weather should be good and you'll have some time to fit some fishing and camping into your schedule while we are at the Lake! Look for details to follow in the next few weeks.

2008 Farm Bill - NIPF Forestry Accomplishments

Nate Goodrich, NRCS State Forester (also MOSAF Chair-Elect and Program Committee Chair)

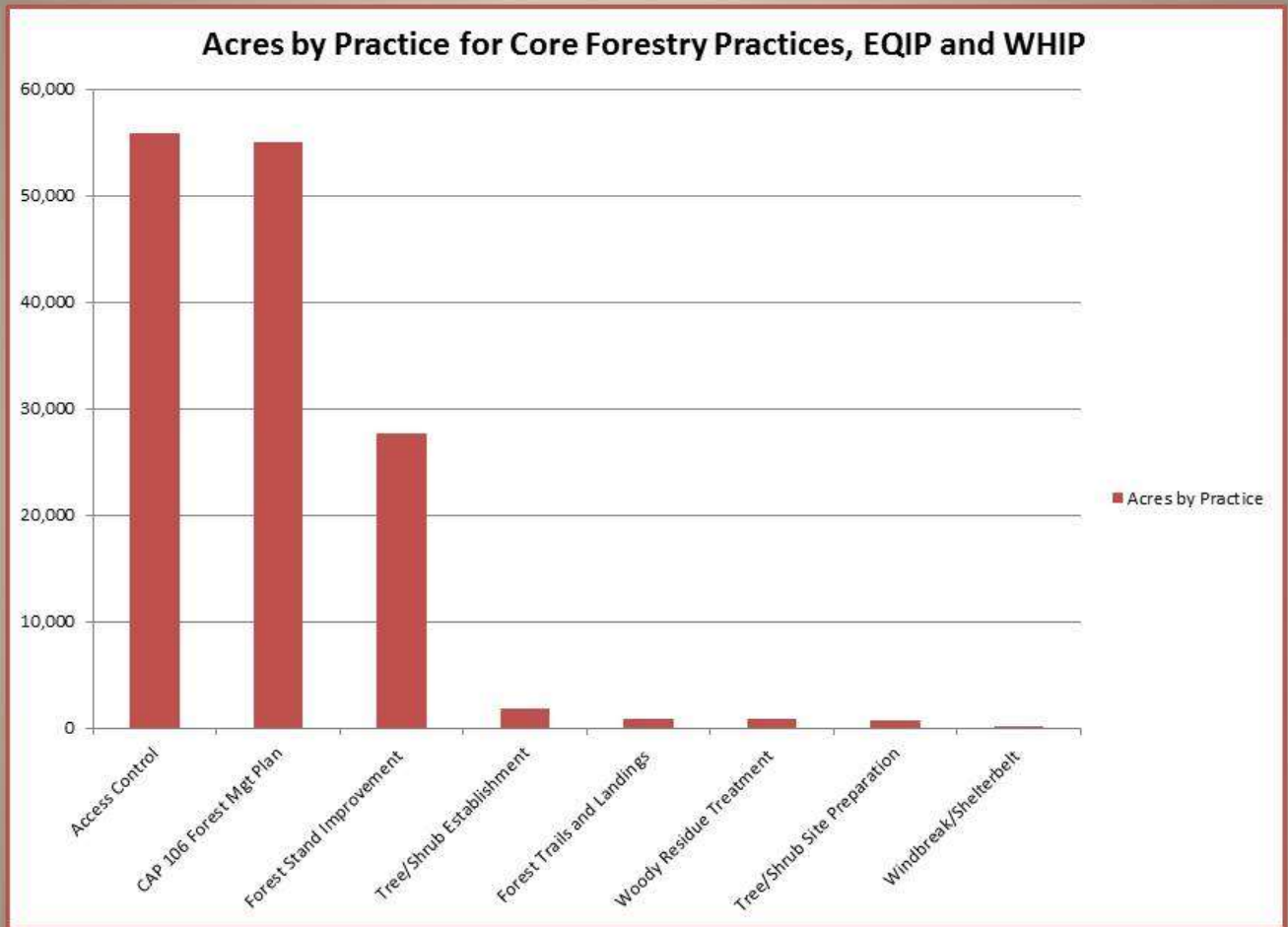
With the recent passing of the 2014 Farm Bill, it is a good time to look back and see what was accomplished through the 2008 Farm bill on non-industrial private forestland (NIPF) in Missouri through the Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) financial assistance programs. The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) provides financial and technical assistance to farmers, ranchers, and forest owners to address natural resource concerns and deliver environmental benefits. The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) was a program for conservation-minded landowners who wanted to develop and improve wildlife habitat on agricultural land, NIPF, and Indian tribal land (this program was combined with EQIP in the 2014 Farm Bill).

Over the last 5 years these two programs have provided over \$6 million in financial assistance to Missouri's forest landowners to install core forestry conservation practices on their property. Forest stand improvement accounted for 46% of these funds, which treated close to 28,000 acres. Incentive payments to participants to exclude livestock from their forestland through the Access Control practice reached close to \$1.7 million. Statewide, 335 landowners received assistance to have Technical Service Providers prepare forest management plans on their combined 55,000 acres. Additionally, although difficult to quantify due to contracting procedures, hundreds of thousands of dollars went to NIPF owners through EQIP and WHIP for practices such as upland wildlife habitat management, construction of fence for livestock exclusion, planting of conservation cover, and prescribed burning.

Through the Conservation Stewardship Program (CStP), a program that helps producers maintain and improve their existing conservation systems and adopt additional activities to address priority resource concerns, NRCS contracted with 684 NIPF owners who enrolled 181,000 acres and received in over \$3 million in payments.

In summary, the 2008 Farm Bill has been very, very good to Missouri's forest landowners. The average annual EQIP allocation for fiscal years 2005-2008 was \$351,000 and this increased to \$1,653,000 for fiscal years 2009-2013 – the years under the '08 Farm Bill. Total obligations to Missouri forest landowners through EQIP, WHIP,

and CStP over the last five years exceeded \$10 million dollars. Hopefully the new 2014 Farm Bill will be equally as generous to Missouri's forest landowners and our great forest resource!



MFPA & Foster Brothers Showcase Expansion Through Education

Laura Tucker, Communications and Membership Manager-MFPA

As part of the Professional Timber Harvester Training Program administered by Missouri Forest Products Association (MFPA), Foster Brothers recently hosted a logging demonstration at their Auxvasse headquarters. The demo showcased the TimberPro 735 harvester and the TimberPro TF830 forwarder, and provided the opportunity for regional loggers to gain first-hand knowledge of the featured machinery and expand their working knowledge of industry technology.

Founded by their Grandfather Wilbur S. Foster in 1934 as a sawdust supplier to A.P. Green Fire Brick Company, Steve and Jay Foster have managed to expand their enterprise while at the same time bringing their family business full circle to the roots of providing a source of energy to another area institution of vital importance located a mere 20 miles west in Columbia.

The acquisition of a six year contract to supply wood fiber to the new, eco-friendly power plant at the University of Missouri in Columbia was a big win for Foster Bros., but also demanded Steve and Jay purchase a harvester, forwarder and chipper. Steve Foster decided on TimberPro machinery, designed by Ken and Lee Crawford of Shawano, Michigan. This decision was made partly because it was made in the USA, but was also designed by active loggers who know what it means to rely on quality machinery capable of keeping up with the demands of today's industry. A Morbark 40/36 was chosen for the on-site chipper.

Steve Fritz, Certification and Education Manager for Missouri Forest Products Association, organizes and leads education classes all over the State. Steve contacted Foster Bros. to see if they would be willing to host a mechanized logging demonstration for the benefit of other regional loggers, foresters, and industry professionals. Foster Brothers were more than happy to host a day of education and discussion in Auxvasse.

The demo, held March 12, 2014, provided an up close and personal look at fully mechanized harvesting operations and biomass wood processors. Steve Foster outlined system applicability, operation and maintenance techniques, low-impact harvesting, system production, and cost analysis. Shelby Jones, Certified Forester, Missouri Consulting Foresters Association., presented Forestry Inventory and Analysis data about private timber in the surrounding counties. Jason Jensen, Certified Forester, Forest Products Supervisor for Missouri Department of Conservation talked about Best Management Practices (BMP) for biomass harvest operations, BMP cost share, and the Best Bid System.

Missouri loggers are required to complete yearly continuing education courses in order to remain certified loggers. MFPA and the Missouri Logging Council have, and will continue to expand their outreach and education programs throughout the State. Events such as the logging demonstration provide a different education opportunity for those in need of certification.

All continuing education and Professional Timber Harvesting class schedules are available on the MFPA website; <http://www.moforest.org>, or for additional information you may also contact MFPA Staff at (573) 634-3252.



MFPA Executive Director Brian Brookshire speaks to group of loggers, foresters and regional industry professionals at Foster Bros. Headquarters in Auxvasse, MO.



Area loggers, foresters and industry professionals get a close look at the TimberPRO 735 Harvester during the mechanized logging demonstration.



The TimberPro TF830 Forwarder was featured at the mechanized logging demonstration along with the TimberPro 735 Harvester.

An Update from the Missouri Consulting Foresters Association

Shelby Jones, Executive Director

For 2014 MCFA has a total membership of 47 consulting foresters. Of that number 38 are actively involved in providing forestry related services and 8 are listed as being retired from active business. In addition, there is 1 candidate member.

The annual meeting was held February 13-14, 2014 in Jefferson City. The major portion of the meeting is devoted to continuation education presentations over a 1.5 day period. The program attracted 10-12 non-members and was highlighted by remote presentations from Vermont and Australia.

The Fall Meeting will be held at the Ozark Underground Laboratory near Pro Tem, Missouri (Taney County) on October 16, 2014. The theme will be Advancing Environmental Forestry. Program details will be available in August. This is a unique opportunity to tour a research cavern and its watershed. There will also be an opportunity to witness the nightly exit of approximately 50,000 bats from the main opening of the cave. Guests will be welcome.

In 2013 MCFA approved a part-time position of Executive Director to organize and administer the regular activities of the association. This action is primarily to relieve the increasing workload of elected officers as the organization experience growth. At the 2013 Fall Meeting in November, Shelby Jones was named Executive Director. Shelby is now actively involved in those duties.

MCFA is in the process of developing a series of workshops on various subjects focused on forest landowners, loggers/timber buyers, and professional foresters. The workshops will be offered in regional locations yet to be determined.

A statewide database of contact information and timber purchasing preferences for loggers and timber buyers has been compiled and is available to MCFA members for improving marketing of timber sales. Out-of-state buyers are also included. This is probably the most comprehensive list of loggers/timber buyers ever compiled for Missouri. It will be a major benefit for private landowners who sell timber with the assistance of a consulting forester.

Editor's Notes

Joe Alley, MOSAF Newsletter Editor



I would like to say thanks to everyone who contributed to this spring newsletter. It sure made my job easy. Yes, it was a little late going out but it was worth the wait to get all of this great content! The newsletter is only as good as the articles I get so keep sending anything that you think is relevant. Besides articles, I also need information on upcoming meetings and conferences.

UPCOMING SAF EVENTS

MOSAF Spring Meeting – May, Stockton, Hammons. Need we say more?

MU Forestry Summer Camp BBQ Meet and Greet – June (more info to come)

SAF National Convention and IUFRO World Congress, October 5-11, Salt Lake City, Utah

MOSAF Fall Meeting – To Be Determined

2014 MOSAF Officers and Committee Chairs

Officers

Chair – *John Tuttle*

Chair-Elect – *Nate Goodrich*

Past-Chair – *Joe Alley*

Secretary – *Susan Troxel-Dewitt*

Treasure – *Frances Main*

Committee Chairs

Audit – *Mark Nelson*

Awards and Nominations – *Mike Hoffman*

Communications & Web – *Jon Skinner*

Education – *Dan Dey*

Special Funds – *George Kipp*

Membership – *Paul Johnson*

Policy and Legislation – *Matt Jones*

Program – *Nate Goodrich*

Teller – *Aaron Moore*

Historian – *Greg Hoss*

Science & Technology – *Ben Knapp*

Newsletter – *Joe Alley*

Long Range Planning – *Lisa Allen, Terry Truttmann, Mike Fiaoni, Gus Raeker, and Joe Alley*