

PRESS RELEASE – MISSOURI SOCIETY OF AMERICAN FORESTERS AWARDS

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The Missouri Society of American Foresters (SAF) recently recognized two of their own at the annual Missouri Natural Resources Conference in Tan-Tar-A on February 1, 2018. John Kabrick, research forester with the United States Forest Service (USFS) Northern Research Station, was presented with the Karkhagne Award, recognizing his career of accomplishments in the forestry profession. Chris Lohmann, private consulting forester and owner of Heartland Forest Consulting, was presented with the Outstanding Forester Award for his advancement of forest management in Missouri during 2017.

Chris Lohmann is the owner of a successful consulting forestry business, Heartland Forest Consulting, LLC, and provides state-of-the-art, science-based services in forest inventory and assessments, management planning, management practices such as harvesting, thinning and prescribed burning, and urban tree services. In addition to working with private landowners across central Missouri, he is active participant in multiple professional organizations including the Missouri Consulting Foresters Association, Conservation Federation of Missouri and Quality Deer Management Association. As a Certified Forester, certified Tree Farm Inspector, Certified Arborist, he provides professional services in urban tree risk assessment, consults with the Natural Resources Conservation Service as a Technical Service Provider and serves the Master Logger Program as a field inspector. He is a strong advocate and mentor of students in natural resources through seasonal employment and as a provider in University student intern programs. Chris's colleagues recognized him for the ongoing commitment to professional forestry by presenting him the Outstanding Forester Award for 2017.

The 33rd Karkhagne Award from the Missouri SAF was presented to Dr. John Kabrick. Dr. Kabrick is a native Missourian who serves as a Research Forester and Principal Silviculturist with the USFS Northern Research Station. Prior to joining the Northern Research Station, he worked for the University of Missouri and Missouri Department of Conservation. Through the diversity of his work experiences and associated collaborations with forest managers, silviculturists, ecologists, biologists, scientists, academics, and students, Dr. Kabrick developed a keen sense of how to structure science and education to address practical, on-the-ground forest management issues. Dr. Kabrick is an accomplished and highly respected silviculturist and soil scientist with more than 125 scientific and technical publications, is a coauthor of the third edition of the Ecology and Silviculture of Oaks, and served as Steering Committee Chair for MDC's Missouri Ozark Forest Ecosystem Project, which is now in its third decade. Despite this admirable list of scientific accomplishments, he is adamant that the best science is that which helps managers do their jobs better and that ultimately makes an impact on the ground by improving the forests of Missouri. In 2017, Dr. Kabrick was recognized as the 2017 USFS Silviculturist of the year. He is a Certified Forester, has been a member of the Society of American Foresters for 30 years and will lead the Missouri SAF in 2020 as its Chair.

The award's namesake – the Karkhagne (pronounced Kar-kag-nee) - is a mythical beast that is reported to roam the forests of Missouri and is the subject of considerable folklore and legend about forestry in Missouri. It is covered by fur, feathers, scales and armor plate, has a diet of limestone section corners, and can quickly escape humans or other carnivorous pursuers by completely engulfing itself within the recesses of its own hip pocket. The Karkhagne is reclusive and ordinarily travels backwards while continually brushing out his tracks with its stiff, bristly whiskers. Thus it is a difficult beast to track, and there are no known photographs of the Karkhagne. Nevertheless there have been numerous reported sightings and some detailed drawings do exist. It is reported that the best way to spot a Karkhagne is

while peering down the neck of an empty bottle of Old Forester bourbon, using it like a telescope. The Karkhagne not only symbolizes the importance of Missouri's forests to all creatures, it also represents the unique and sometimes harsh nature of forestry at the turn of the last century. Thus, the Missouri SAF has selected the name and image of the Karkhagne to represent its highest honor which recognizes outstanding service to the Forestry Profession and to the Missouri SAF.



Dan Dey (right), current Chair of the Missouri Society of American Foresters, presents Chris Lohmann (left) with the Outstanding Forester Award for 2017. © Jon Skinner



Dr. John Kabrick (left) received the Karkhagne Award recognizing his outstanding service to the forestry profession. Dr. Stephen Shifley (right) presented the award. © Jon Skinner