

# MISSOURI SOCIETY OF AMERICAN FORESTERS

2020 SPRING NEWSLETTER

Vol. 36, No. 1



## From the Chair – It's a great day to be in forestry! It's a great day to be a member of MOSAF!

By John Kabrick, MOSAF Chair

As a research forester, I feel fortunate to be able to think about or work in forests and woodlands every day and to study my favorite plants—trees! I can't think of a better profession for me and I venture to say that most people who work in forestry feel this way too. We all share a passion for the woods, and we view our work as a calling rather than as a job.

I have always enjoyed being a MOSAF member because of the fellowship that this organization provides. We are kindred spirits and our gatherings for technical tours and business meetings are occasions to renew old friendships, meet new friends, and to rekindle our passion for Missouri's forests and woodlands. It has been an honor for me to help by serving as Program Chair and Chair-Elect during the past two years under Dan's leadership and I look forward to serving as Chair for the next two years.



There is a lot happening now in MOSAF. We have some new officers and committee chairs for you to welcome and to get to know better during the next few years.

- **Mike Bill** is our new Chair-Elect and Program Chair. Mike is a forester with MDC, and also served as coordinator for the comprehensive *Missouri Forest Management Guidelines*, which are the foundation for promoting sustainable management of Missouri's forests and woodlands. He is always looking for good ideas for the next technical tour or event.
- **Ben Knapp** is our new Secretary. Ben an extraordinary associate professor who has developed a comprehensive teaching and research program in silviculture at Mizzou. If you've graduated from Mizzou during the past few years, chances are that Ben was your professor for at least one class.
- **Lauren Pile** is our Science Coordinator. Lauren recently joined the USDA Forest Service, Northern Research Station and is passionate about the application of novel silvicultural approaches for restoring native plant communities and managing invasive plants.

- **Mike Goerndt** from Missouri State University is our Education and Continuing Forestry Education Credit Coordinator. In addition to running the forestry program at MSU, Mike will be ensuring that you will be receiving your CFEs for attending forestry meetings.

The MOSAF Executive Committee met to discuss the goals that we would like to accomplish during the next two years. Our goals are to increase accessibility to and participation in all MOSAF technical tours and related activities. This includes increasing involvement of current members and by drawing in forestry and natural resources professionals who are not presently members. Some ways that we will try to do this include:

- Increasing accessibility to technical tours by occasionally hosting shorter, one-day technical tours and meetings to reduce the need for overnight travel
- Piggybacking some technical tours and business meetings with other tours
- Reaching out to non-members in forestry or related fields to ask them to attend MOSAF events
- Coordinating with MU and MSU student chapters to host activities near campus
- Actively soliciting members for participation in MOSAF committees

We are always looking for better ways to serve our membership. Please feel free to contact any member of the Executive Team if you have ideas or suggestions.

We had another outstanding Missouri Natural Resources Conference last February. MOSAF was the hosting society this year and our own Jon Skinner did an excellent job running the show as the Conference Chair. Jon was recognized for his outstanding leadership of the MNRC by being awarded the 2020 Outstanding Forester during the Awards Social (see page 5). Other conference highlights are found on page 3.

At the MOSAF Business Meeting, Tim Phelps, SAF District 9 Director, provided an update about the happenings at the SAF Headquarters. Tim says that he would very much like to attend one of our technical tours during the next year. Other highlights from Tim's update are listed in the meeting minutes on page 8.

David Massengale and others did a great job running the MOSAF booth and the fundraising activities. Michael Bill, Chair-Elect and Program Chair, won the coveted Blackjack Award. Lucky Mike Fiaoni, MDC Nursery Manager, won the chainsaw raffle and said that this was his second time to win! Hank Stelzer, Membership Chair, did a great job hosting our MOSAF Social following the Business Meeting. Hank was later recognized by receiving the Karkhagne Award (see page 6)! Jim Barresi, Awards Committee Chair, did a superb job hosting the Awards Social this year.

That's all the news for now. I look forward to seeing you soon!

## MNRC 2020: A Great Learning Experience

By Jon Skinner, MNRC Chair

MNRC 2020 has come and gone. This year's theme was *Exploration, Exploitation, and Conservation: Comparing History and Current Management*.



The logo from this year's MNRC theme.

The Mixer started the conference off with a bang. Exhibitors and Poster presenters had a lot of traffic as people spent time visiting. I hope you took the time to visit with many of them.



Conference attendees visit and view posters at the Mixer, which kicked off the conference Tuesday evening. Photo credit: Jon Skinner.

The Plenary Session, titled *Missouri Forests of the 21st Century – Opportunities & Challenges*, by Dr. Jim Guldin with the US Forest Service, and the discussion panel that followed, set the concept for the conference. The workshops that were hosted the next two days were all well attended with receptive, supportive audiences. Dr. Guldin hosted

a shortleaf pine workshop. There were over 55 hours of education opportunities available to you. A total of 11 SAF CFE's were awarded to those that signed the sheet during the Mixer or later.



*Left: Dr. Jim Guldin speaks during the plenary session. Right: Discussion panel answers questions from the audience. Photo credit: Jon Skinner.*

The conference could not occur without the efforts of the coordinating committee and others that volunteered for various duties during the conference. The Committee has been working on this for over two years. Some for as many as four years as they learn their duties. This is over and above their normal jobs. Some duties continue as we close out the conference. If you haven't, please send one or more of the committee members a note and thank them for their efforts:

Treasurer – Eric Yarnell  
 Arrangements – Kyle Steele  
 Exhibits & Sponsors – Steven Paes  
 Visual Aids – Bob Rives  
 Career Fair – Kyle Francka  
 Publicity - Jeffrey Bakameyer

Registration - Jennifer Behnken  
 Program - Michael Goerndt  
 Social – David Vance  
 Web – Audrey Beres  
 Workshops – Eileen Eck  
 Wellness Event – Russell Hinnah

Even though MOSAF's turn to be the lead society again to organize MNRC is not until 2024, now is the time to start learning how it is run by shadowing this past year's committees. If you are asked to participate on the committee, I encourage you to say yes.

## Missouri Natural Resources Conference





## Jon Skinner and Hank Stelzer Receive Awards at MNRC

*By John Kabrick, MOSAF Chair, and Dan Dey, Past Chair*

At the MNRC Awards Banquet, MOSAF presented the Outstanding Forester of the Year Award to Jon Skinner and the Karkhagne Award to Hank Stelzer.

The MOSAF Outstanding Forester of the Year Award is presented annually to recognize exemplary efforts and significant contributions to advance forestry or forest management in Missouri during a relatively short period of time. This year's award went to Jon Skinner, MDC Urban & Community Forester, in Joplin, MO, for his exemplary service to MOSAF as the MNRC Steering Committee Chair.

The MNRC is the premier gathering of professional foresters, wildlife biologists, fisheries biologists, and soil and water conservationists in the region. Each year, more than 700 professionals from Missouri and neighboring states convene to renew old friendships, exchange technical information, and to learn about new methods and the latest research findings. For most natural resource professionals in Missouri, this meeting is extremely important. It is a unique gathering of dedicated professionals and the fact that Missouri hosts such a conference makes it the envy of other states.

Serving as the MNRC Steering Committee Chair requires making a major four-year commitment on behalf of a professional society. Jon has served on behalf of MOSAF as MNRC Steering Committee member (2016), Secretary (2017), Assistant Chair (2018), and Chair (2019). This year's MNRC was a huge success and ran smoothly thanks to Jon's dedication, leadership, and hard work. In addition to this contribution, Jon serves as the Communications Chair and Web Designer for MOSAF. He is also very active and productive in providing professional trainings and workshops for managers and the public in the Joplin/Springfield region.



*Jon Skinner (left) is presented with the Outstanding Forester of the Year Award by Dan Dey (right).*

When you have a chance, congratulate Jon on his fine achievements in forestry, and for his contributions to advancing good stewardship of Missouri's natural resources.

The Karkhagne Award is presented to a forester for outstanding achievement in forestry and service to the forestry profession. The Karkhagne—a mythical beast reported to roam Missouri's forests in the past century—is the subject of considerable folklore and legends about forestry in Missouri that symbolizes the importance of forests to all creatures.

The 35th Karkhagne Award was presented to Hank Stelzer, who was recognized for being a tireless promoter of the value of forestry and natural resource education for students, landowners, and natural resource professionals. He served as Forestry Department Chair during a critical period of reorganization within the School of Natural Resources and has voluntarily stepped beyond his broad outreach and extension duties to enthusiastically teach essential undergraduate classes including, Dendrology, Forest Utilization, and Forest Management. This year he even introduced a new course titled White Oak, Whiskey, and Wine. Among his many accomplishments, Hank is a leader in the FFA forestry program, a natural resource educator for Scout programs at local and national venues, a developer of landowner training for the Missouri Woodland Steward Program, an advisor for sustainable wood biomass procurement to supply MU's state-of-the-art wood energy power plant, and a 44-year member of the Society of American Foresters with leadership and service in four local chapters.



*Hank Stelzer (right) is presented with the 35th Karkhagne Award by John Kabrick (left).  
Photo credit: Diann Stelzer.*

## Draft Meeting Minutes – February 5, 2020 Business Meeting

**Date:** February 5, 2020, 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm

**Location:** MNRC – Paradise B, Tan-Tar-A Resort, Osage Beach, MO

**Attendees:** MOSAF Members, Guests

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### Purpose

Business meeting to communicate MOSAF priorities and objectives for 2020. 55 members were in attendance.

### Agenda

**1. Welcome:** John Kabrick, MOSAF Chair

- Welcome members, students, and guests
- Introduce invited guests and dignitaries
- Recognize new officers: Chair-Elect (Michael Bill) and Secretary (Ben Knapp)

**2. Minutes from last meeting:** John Kabrick

None to report. Tour with 16 members at wood energy plant at Steelville.

**3. Treasurers Report:** David Vance

See attached report.

**4. Awards:** Jim Barresi

Service: *Danny Christie Gold award (50 years)*

Outgoing MOSAF Chair: *Certificate of recognition presented Dan Dey*

Fellows: *Shibu Jose*

Blackjack: *Michael Bill*

*MOSAF Award Ceremony is tonight at 7:00 in Room Paradise C*

**5. Committee Reports:**

- Audit (Megan Buchanan) – we passed last year's audit.
- Communications (Jon Skinner) – There is always opportunity to post information on website.
- Council, Fellows and Awards (Jim Barresi) – Awards will be given at the banquet.
- Education (Mike Goerndt) – Mike is the new chair. Dan Dey is going to assist Mike with the CFE effort.
- Long Range Planning (Dan Dey) – No report.
- Membership (Hank Stelzer) – There were 161 members last year and 141 this year, but there has been some delay in updating the report.

- Nominating (Gus Raeker) – We had elections this fall that went well with four quality candidates.
- Policy and Legislation (Jason Jensen)
  - Had a legislative tour planned at Shannondale tree farm but no one from legislature showed to the tour.
  - Hearing at Capitol on prescribed fire legislation. We are one of few states that has undefined liability for prescribed fire. Reviewed several states to develop the legislation. The cattleman's association did testify. This will help contractors to get insurance for prescribed burning.
  - Feral hog activities have increase statewide across several partners to systematically remove feral hogs from public land in MO. Legislations is in the works to make it a felony to release feral hogs
- Program (Michael Bill) – Looking to get assistance for upcoming tours.
- Special Funds (David Massengale) – The raffle generated \$618 total. Mike Fiaoni won the chainsaw raffle.
- Tellers (Aaron Moore) – No report.
- Forest Science new (Lauren Pile) – No report.
- Newsletter Editor (Chris Lohmann) – Send Chris information for upcoming spring newsletter.
- Website (Jon Skinner) – Send items to Jon.
- MNRC Steering Committee (Jon Skinner) – Overall, the conference is going well.
- Historian (Dave Larsen) – No report.

#### **6. Reports from National Office:** Tim Phelps, District 9 Director

- Originally from Missouri born in Columbia, father was dept chair at SIU. Plan to meet all chapters in the district and attend technical tours.
- National membership is down just over 10,000 members.
- Last year \$500,000 was estimated from investment dividends, but \$2.5 million was the actual numbers. This has allowed them to add more staff. New membership director and 2 other staff under membership. They have started a contract with a marketing firm to better recruit and retain members and better tell the SAF story.
- They are selling the headquarters building. This money will be used to pay a lease on a building with other partner conservation groups.
- Looking at changes in certified forester process
- There are awards available nationally, take time to nominate members. Award applications are due by March 15.

#### **7. Old Business**

None to report.

#### **8. New Business**

Upcoming Missouri forestry summit, more information will be coming. Encourage field foresters to attend.



## 9. Reports from Agency Representatives

- Mark Twain National Forest (Sheri Schinke)
  - Shared stewardship between state and federal agencies
  - Feral hog activities are occurring
  - Forest product modernization occurring
  - Increase technology (tablets and electronic filing)
  - Bid for a disaster NEPA analysis. This will allow the forest to move more quickly
  - Looking at weight and deck scaling
  - Increasing targets, currently 68 Million Board feet across the forest.
  - Hiring event at the SAF conference. This has been successful.
- FS Northern Research Station
  - Fairly stable retention of staff at the station
  - Welcome to contact the station to get question answered in the field.
- Natural Resources Conservation Services
  - Doing some significant hiring in NRCS
  - Program funding is being finalized
  - FSA has CRP signup through February
  - Worked with USFS to get a Joint chief restoration project in 10 counties should know if that was approved soon
  - New state conservationist coming soon
- University of Missouri
  - Extension has a position for north half of state
  - Approval to interview candidate for Preparing Future Faculty Post-Doctoral position (may lead to faculty position)
  - Must have their accreditation plan in to SAF by July 31
  - Enrollment is stable
  - Both student chapters are active
- Missouri State University
  - Forestry minor has 50 students
  - Looking at getting Tim Stanton book published
  - Putting a together a new Natural resource degree with forestry emphasis.
  - Hosting 2021 mid-west conclave
- Missouri Department of Conservation
  - Lisa Allen retired in January
  - Justine Gartner is the new state forester

- Going through a major reorganization process, organized based on functions and not disciplines. This will be a good thing overall and will give the ability to be more flexible.
  - Lots of activities occurring in MDC: Targeted culling, Hogs, and priority geography work
  - Major issues in hiring foresters
  - Open two new fuels for schools this last year.
- Missouri Consulting Foresters
  - 47 members
  - 23 members in SAF
  - Winter meeting in February
- Missouri Forest Products Association
  - No report.
- L-A-D Foundation/Pioneer Forest
  - More analysis of CFI
  - Need to cut a lot more to get more regeneration
  - Added two new foresters to staff
  - Need more research on their forest system.
- Missouri Student Chapter of SAF
  - No report.
- TNC (Chad Dolen)
  - Changes to Current River position, looking at the landscape statewide
  - Looking at ways to bring carbon credit programs to Missouri.

**Adjourn**

Hank Stelzer motioned to adjourn. Meeting adjourned

## MOSAF Financial Report – 2019

By David Vance, Treasurer

### MOSAF Account

Beginning Balance	\$11,674.49
<i>Income</i>	\$2,118.16
<i>Expenses</i>	(\$2,518.65)
<i>Interest Income</i>	\$19.71
Ending Balance	\$11,293.71**

#### Income:

Dues income	\$1,300.00
MNRC Silent Auction/Raffle	\$512.00
Spring Meeting	\$225.00

#### Expenses:

Spring meeting expenses	\$30.14
Awards	\$413.00
Donations	
<i>MU Scholarship</i>	\$1,000.00
<i>MU Student Chapter memberships</i>	\$280.00
Fees, Dues Registrations	
<i>2019 HSD Assessment Fee</i>	\$151.56
<i>CFM Affiliation Dues</i>	\$189.00
Business Expenses	
<i>Website</i>	\$20.17

### PLT Account

Starting Balance	\$10,635.90
Ending Balance	\$11,575.96

### CDs

6-Month (\$174.03 interest received in 2019)	\$18,873.34
12-Month (\$261.18 interest received in 2019)	\$18,641.72

### MOSAF Shares Account

Starting Balance	\$119.71
Ending Balance	\$120.19

\*\*Balance includes \$439.37 earmarked for sponsorships.

*(This article is for you to share with your local paper. Modify as appropriate for your locality.)*

## Safe Outside Activities with the Kids

The Missouri Society of American Foresters (MOSAF) is a state sponsor of Project Learning Tree (PLT). PLT provides educational materials to individuals trained to teach children of all ages about trees and the environment.

With the COVID-19 situation, PLT has shared multiple activities families can do together to keep the kids active and learning about trees and the environment. PLT's website (<https://www.plt.org/educator-tips/activities-to-do-with-children-at-home>) provides all of the educational leading information needed to do these fun activities.

Some examples of activities are:

**Name That Tree** – with use of free phone apps or tree identification book, get out in the yard, or park and figure out what trees you see.

**What's The Value Of That Tree?** – with the use of a soft measuring tape and a free website, determine what the value of the benefits the tree(s) you measure.

**What Tree Should I Plant?** – with a use of a free website, you select what benefits trees provide and how much room you have for a tree to receive a list of trees that would be appropriate for your area.

**Poet-Tree** – Challenge the kids to observe a tree, sit under it, look at it, smell, touch, and listen to it. They should take notes as they do. Then have them write a short poem about their tree.

**How Big Is Your Tree?** – learn why standard units as so important by measuring a tree. This activity requires some measuring and math.

**Sounds Around** – We hear things all the time. We can determine where they are coming from just by listening. Help kids understand this, make a map of where sounds are coming from, and even identify what is making what sound.

**Birds and Worms** – learn how camouflage is important for many insects and animals.

You do not need to be a kid to do these activities. You just need to be curious. Get outside, enjoy nature, and keep learning!

The Missouri Society of American Foresters (MOSAF) is a State Society of The Society of American Foresters (SAF). MOSAF and SAF is a professional society dedicated to sound forest management and conservation.



*Project Learning Tree provides multiple activities for kids and families to learn about the environment.  
Photo credit: PLT website.*