

# MISSOURI SOCIETY OF AMERICAN FORESTERS

## 2021 SPRING NEWSLETTER

*Vol. 37, No. 1*



### **From the Chair**

*By John Kabrick, MOSAF Chair*

The Society of American Foresters serves forestry and professional foresters by advocating for the profession, by promoting the benefits of managed forests and woodlands, and by advancing policies and partnerships that support the profession. Our State Chapter works locally to help us network to advance our knowledge and expertise and to promote the profession in Missouri.



With today's busy schedules and with agency travel restrictions, it is increasingly more difficult for some of us to participate in our technical sessions and business meetings. Additionally, some who work in forestry or in natural resources management and some recent graduates entering the profession are uncertain about the benefits of MOSAF membership. So, in 2020 the MOSAF Executive Team decided to try some things to make it easier for members to attend MOSAF functions and to increase participation by non-members and potential future members. Our objectives were to:

- Increase accessibility to technical tours by hosting shorter, one-day meetings.
- Combine tours with other groups where opportunities occur.
- Reach out to non-members in forestry or related fields.
- Coordinate student activities (MU and MSU) with MOSAF.
- Reach out to members to involve more in more committee activities.

The Pandemic made meeting some of these objectives challenging. We had to cancel the Spring Technical Tour and Business Meeting last year. However, we made some adjustments and we made progress towards meeting many of our objectives identified in 2020. We increased accessibility to the fall technical tour and business meeting via Zoom thanks to the efforts of Mike Bill. We have been reaching out to non-members in forestry and natural resources management by including several on our email distribution. We continue to invite non-members to help us with or participate in our technical tours. However, working with student groups during the past year has been a challenge because many students were attending school remotely and not on campus.

When the MOSAF Executive Team met in January 2021, we decided to continue working towards these objectives. We also added some new strategies including:

- Seeking to partner at tours with Wildlife Society, Conservation Federation, and other conservation groups.
- Working more closely with student groups at Mizzou, Missouri State, and Three Rivers Community College to engage with MOSAF members.
- Coordinating with student chapters to host activities near campus.

There are good reasons for us to work closely with student groups. When I attended the HSD meeting at the virtual SAF Conventional last fall I learned from Steve Glover, the SAF Membership Director, that SAF loses the most members during the transition from student to professional status. This underscores the importance of engaging with student members so that they see the value of membership in SAF after they graduate. I recently attended a Mizzou SAF Student Chapter meeting and found the students to be enthusiastically supportive of MOSAF member engagement.

We also decided to increase our efforts to enhance diversity and inclusion. The Executive Team recognizes that students studying forestry or natural resources management are generally more diverse in gender, background, and professional interests than our current members. Welcoming diverse perspectives and backgrounds is important in a discipline like forestry because the work that we do—from managing timber to managing natural communities—is so broad. As a way of reaching out to students, our Executive Team discussed holding a virtual student panel to discuss diversity and inclusion issues in the profession.

In other news, we celebrated two of our MOSAF members during MNRC: Justine Gartner was awarded the Karkhagne Award and Mike Goerndt was awarded the Outstanding Forester Award. Read more about them and the awards on page 6. Congratulations Justine and Mike!

At the MOSAF Business Meeting, Jason Jensen introduced new business that included briefing MOSAF members about Missouri's lack of prescribed burning legislation, which leaves the liability for prescribed fire undefined. Defining the limits of liability removes considerably uncertainty, which provides a path for consultants and contractors to obtain liability insurance for this kind of work. Two Missouri bills have been proposed—Senate Bill 103 and House Bill 369—to establish “simple negligence” liability associated with prescribed. A motion was supported by MOSAF members to provide letters of support for Senate Bill 103 and House Bill 369. For more details about this discussion, see the business meeting minutes on page 14.

We also heard from SAF District 9 Director Tim Phelps, who provided an update about membership, discussed SAF budget, and grants available from SAF to help state chapters. More details can be found in Tim's update article on page 9.

As always, 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 that you would like to share. I look forward to seeing you soon! Remember, it's a great day to be in forestry! It's a great day to be a MOSAF member!

## MU Student Chapter Update

*By Elias Gaffney, MU SAF Student Chapter President*

This spring semester the focus of the University of Missouri's SAF Student Chapter has been on strengthening connections between the Mizzou Student SAF Chapter and the MOSAF Chapter. We hope to establish a more interactive and long-lasting relationship between the two Chapters. To this end, we have been working with the current MOSAF Chair, Dr. John Kabrick, to invite professional MOSAF members to sit in on our meetings virtually. Having professional members sit in on our meetings is allowing the student chapter to do light networking and meet professional natural resource stewards "face to face" regularly. It is also allowing our members a certain amount of insight into various positions in natural resource management in Missouri as the guests introduce themselves and explain what their position entails.



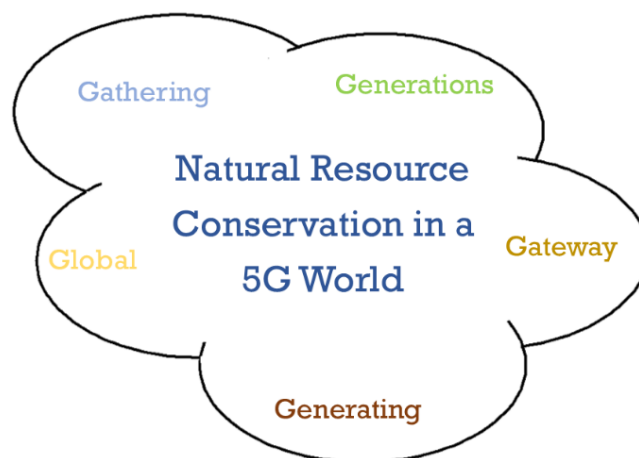
In addition to having MOSAF Chapter members sit in on our meetings, we have also secured a lineup of guest speakers to give short presentations at our meetings. These presentations are often about professional positions and opportunities, allowing student members further occasions to network and learn about the possibilities Missouri natural resource stewardship has to offer. Not only are these two programs allowing for more interaction between the Student and MOSAF Chapters, but we also hope that further engagement between the two will convince current student members to maintain their membership once they graduate. We hope to continue the practice of guest speakers and sit in members well into the future!

All in all, this semester has been a busy and exciting time for the Mizzou Student Chapter as we seek to strengthen the relationship between the Student SAF and MOSAF Chapters.

## MNRC 2021: The Virtual Experience

By Jon Skinner, MNRC Steering Committee, and John Kabrick, MOSAF Chair

The Missouri Natural Resources Conference was different this year. As host, the Soil and Water Conservation Society had the responsibility to determine if a conference would be held. With advice and acceptance from the four affiliated Society Presidents, SWCS moved ahead with the virtual event. While different, the same quality of presentations and posters was available for us to learn from. Even though attendance was greatly reduced and that there were a few connectivity glitches, the workshops and presentations were outstanding.



The Plenary presenter Dr. Pamela Bachman, The Climate Corporation, presented on Digital Agriculture and Natural Resources Management for a Sustainable Future. She took questions on day 2 in a separate session.

MOSAF sponsored one workshop titled *The digital forest: State-of-the-art information technologies for 21st century forest science and management*. Mike Bill and Brad Graham developed the program, which included presentations by Dylan Pursell, Matt Struckhoff, Jason Green, and Jacob Fraser on topics including remote sensing, remotely controlled aircraft systems, digital data collection instruments, and data analysis and modeling methods. Another workshop on Silvopasture moderated by Ashley Conway and Joe Alley that included many insightful presentations about the application of this practice. There were also several other forestry workshops on topics ranging from agroforestry to managing woody debris.

Participants had the ability to view posters at their leisure and at a specified time ask questions of the poster presenter. Social interactions were through an interactive program on the system. Individuals could also visit with exhibitors. Individuals could even move between different concurrent sessions to catch the paper presentations they want to see. The only thing that was different was questions could not be asked of the presenters.

The Career Fair featured presentations on resume development and interview skills. Afterwards, job seekers had the opportunity to interact with several volunteers for resume review, open networking, and interaction with agency booths.

On the last day, leadership from Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Missouri Department of Conservation, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, and USDA Forest Service – Mark Twain National Forest provided updates from their agencies then answered submitted questions.

Currently, The American Fisheries Society is starting the planning process for MNRC 2022. It has the theme of “Contagious Conservation”. While it is still not known if this will be an in-person conference or virtual, expect the same quality presentations and papers as always. Hold your calendar open for February 1 – 3, 2022 to attend.

## **The Virtual Auction**

*By Dave Massengale, Special Funds Committee Chair*

In the weird world that we now live and work in, the 2021 Missouri Natural Resources Conference took on a new look that we will hopefully never have to do again (unless of course there is a zombie apocalypse or something). The virtual conference changed the way we see and do things as participants. One of the things that was sort of untested was how to do the societies’ auctions. Luckily, we were able to work through a separate website to provide a platform to allow folks to donate and bid on items.

While there were only 29 items total in the auction, it did provide a little income to the societies. MOSAF had 6 items donated raising a total of \$71.00. Everything has been paid for and has been delivered or is in the process.

Thanks to Tod Kinerk and Jim Guldin for the birdhouse and the white oak keychains. We were not able to do any type of raffle, so we didn’t have a chainsaw this year. The Blackjack Forester Award was also held over and Mike Bill will keep it for another year.

Hopefully next year will be more normal and we’ll be back to in-person in 2022!



## MOSAF Recognizes Two Members with Awards at MNRC

The *Karkhagne Award* is presented 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. The Karkhagne not only symbolizes the importance of Missouri's forests to all creatures, but it also represents the unique and sometimes harsh nature of forestry during the early days. The Missouri Society of American Foresters has selected the name and image of the Karkhagne to represent its highest honor.

The 2021 Karkhagne Award was presented to Justine Gartner. Justine received her Forestry degree with honors from the University of Missouri in 1989 where she served as the President of the Forestry Club; FFW Student Council and the Xi Sigma Pi Honor Society.



She began her career in 1990 as an Assistant Resource Forester in West Plains and was quickly promoted to Resource Forester in Warrenton in 1991, then to Urban Forester in Springfield where she assisted communities with urban forestry issues in 15 counties from 1992-2000. Justine was then promoted to the statewide Urban Forestry Program Supervisor where she was responsible for the administration, management and delivery of urban forestry programs from 2000-2010. This included administration of \$350-400,000 of TRIM grants to Missouri communities annually, oversight of 8 Community Foresters and support of the Missouri Community Forestry Council. She was promoted to the Forestry

Administrative Program Supervisor in 2010 where she was responsible for oversight of all of Forestry Division's administrative programs including federal aid, accomplishment reporting, budgeting, planning and training, in addition to supervision of the Community Forestry and Forest Health program staff. In 2014, she was promoted to Forest Management Chief for the Missouri River Unit where she was responsible for the supervision of forestry staff and delivery of all forestry programs in the north half of the state. In 2020, Justine was named the Missouri State Forester.

Justine has been an active member of the Society of American Foresters throughout her career, serving on the Communication and Membership Committees and as the MOSAF Planning Chair, Secretary-Treasurer, Vice Chair, Chair and Long Planning

Committee Chair. In addition, she served as the Chair of the National SAF Membership and Credentialing Task Force and served on the National Steering Committee for the SAF Leadership Academy. She has been a SAF Certified Forester since 1991 and was elected as an SAF Fellow in 2014. In addition, Justine has been an active member of the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) and is a Certified Arborist. She served in many leadership positions in the Mid-West ISA including Awards Chair, Certified Arborist Exam Proctor, Website Coordinator, Vice President, President, and on the Board of Directors.

Justine was selected by MDC to attend the National Conservation Leadership Institute in 2011-2012 as a Fellow in Cohort 6.

She has had considerable involvement in the development and implementation of numerous Forestry Division and MDC programs, policies, and procedures over the past decade. These include Biological controls for invasive plants and pests, use of volunteers by MDC, and Division program reviews. She also coordinated a survey of Missouri loggers to provide guidance for the management of our Forest Products Program. Justine planned, implemented, and co-authored papers showcasing the results of two statewide Urban Forestry public opinion surveys and coordinated data collection and co-authored a paper summarizing the results of two 44-city tree inventories. All three were published in the *Journal of Arboriculture*.

Justine is active in any organization she belongs to and is not content in simply being a member but assumes leadership positions and works hard to promote and advance their missions. Justine does this quietly with no fanfare and does not seek recognition but works hard due to her commitment and passion for the forestry profession. She has also stepped up to provide leadership for the Missouri Natural Resources Conference serving as the Program Chair for the 2008 Conference, on the Steering Committee from 2008 to 2012 and as the Conference Chair in 2012. She has served on MDC's Diversity Work Force and has taken the lead in coordinating internships with forestry majors from several colleges. She has served on numerous Department-wide committees and has been a catalyst for the promotion of professionalism in the forestry and arborist communities.

Justine has never shied away from a tough issue and typically steps up to take the lead to address issues in a collaborative manner. She works quickly to tackle any problem but does not take credit or seek recognition. She is a principal-centered, hardworking, dedicated, and passionate professional who represents SAF, the forestry profession and the Department very well.

Congratulations, Justine! We are thankful for your 30 plus years of dedication and service to SAF and Forestry in Missouri.

The *MOSAF Outstanding Forester of the Year Award* is presented annually to recognize significant contributions to advance forestry or forest management in Missouri in a calendar year. Consideration is given to far-reaching impacts or contributions that go above and beyond day-to-day activities. This award recognizes exemplary on-the-ground management efforts, original thinking, innovation, and creativity in solving a problem with forest management implications.

This year's Outstanding Forester of the Year is Dr. Michael Goerndt, Associate Professor of Forestry and Natural Resources at Missouri State University.

Dr. Goerndt received his Ph.D. in Forest Biometrics from Oregon State University in 2010. At MSU, he teaches Introductory Forestry, Dendrology, Silviculture, Forest Ecology, Forest Measurements and Statistics. His research focuses on spatial analysis and estimation of forest attributes using remotely sensed data, including LiDAR, Landsat, and multispectral/hyperspectral imagery. He also manages a 160-acre forest tract for Missouri State University.





## Update from the National Office

*By Tim Phelps, Director, District 9*

Spring is springing, time is leaping, and things continue to be busier than ever for our district. State societies continue to host meetings, balance budgets, and represent our profession in multiple facets. While meetings look different than they did a year ago, one thing is for certain – virtual meetings and online conference calls are no longer a technology reserved for the IT industry or as seen on nighttime CSI TV shows. The tool's early adopters are leading with scheduling meetings, the early and late majority are sharing their screens, and laggards are using their video cameras...and even holding side conversations with the Chat feature. No doubt we'll get back to in-person meetings someday soon, but the efficiency of the tech tool is sure to remain sharpened in our toolbox and ready to go without reservation here on out.



Despite talking to many of you through a screen, it has been a joy to see the state societies persevere and host meetings for your memberships and show resilience for one of SAF's best amenities – connecting and networking with peers. Over the past six months, virtual platforms have allowed me to travel electronically to several state society membership and business meetings, and it has been very rewarding to see all of the great work continue despite this global pandemic. Your energy and dedication to upholding the mission of our professional society is impressive and commendable. CHEERS TO YOU ALL!

We have much to be appreciative of at the national SAF level as well. While membership continues to decline (9,439 members as of Feb. 28 compared to 10,200 same time last year), our healthy financial position, as a result of conservative budgeting over the past few years plus a strong stock market, provides opportunities to support a well-developed marketing campaign to strengthen membership value with current members and our state societies, local chapters, and divisions as well as potential SAF members. We are fortunate to be able to invest in ourselves, and the time is right to move this forward. Additionally, SAF business managers meet quarterly to share ideas, challenges, and solutions; identify local needs where SAF national can assist; provide a direct line of communication between national and local units; and for SAF national to gain insights into local level insights. Furthermore, in May, the House of Society Delegates (HSD) will hold a virtual meeting to discuss current topics of interest to state societies.

Two other key SAF membership amenities are in the works. The 2021 SAF Convention is scheduled for November 3-7 in sunny Sacramento, CA, and will highlight ecosystem services provided by forests by exploring “Forests for All”. Abstract submissions are being accepted for individual presentations, panel presentations, organized sessions, pre-conference workshops, professional development seminars, science flashes, and posters. March 31 is the deadline for presentations, seminars, panels, and workshops; science flashes and posters are due August 31.

Also, SAF launched a new, one-stop-shop resource for local leaders on how to get engaged in advocacy and outreach activities and become champions for the profession. The intent of this guide is to support local leaders at all levels and to provide tips and ideas on how to build, reinforce, and grow your connections and influence. Although designed for local leaders, all members are encouraged to peruse the guide for information and ideas on ways to get more involved in your community and beyond. In addition, through Leadership Central, local leaders have access to a position statement template, a spreadsheet listing known local unit position statements, and a document containing the listed position statements. Check out the guide and other helpful resources under the Advocacy & Outreach tab on [www.eforester.org](http://www.eforester.org).

Our national office, led by CEO Terry Baker and President Gene Kodama, remains active as well.

SAF joined over 50 partners in a letter to recently confirmed Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas. The letter urges Secretary Mayorkas to release all authorized additional H-2B visas for the second half of Fiscal Year 2021 as provided in the FY2021 Omnibus and COVID Relief and Response Act. SAF also joined over 70 partner organizations in urging support for the confirmation of the Honorable Thomas J. Vilsack to serve as Secretary of Agriculture.

In other SAF news:

- The Educational Policy Review Committee (EPRC) is refining its proposed revisions to the accreditation standards based on feedback received in the surveys.
- SAF launched a dynamic advertising campaign to promote our newest book, *America's Family Forest Owners*.
- Staff is researching various mass mail software and community collaboration platforms for future use by staff and volunteer leaders.
- E-Forester (e-newsletter): As part of our recruitment strategy, SAF worked with a vendor, Multiview, to create a message targeted to non-member readers to encourage joining SAF as a member in the weekly e-newsletter.

Key dates to keep in mind:

- SAF is seeking leaders to join the SAF Board and serve in the roles of vice president and board members for Districts 3, 6, and 9 (**THAT'S US!**), with service beginning January 1, 2022. Forms and additional information available [here](#) and are due by June 1. Please alert me of your interest. I am happy to share the job description, what to expect, and my experience; contact info below.
- Candidates for the Young Professional (YP) Board seat for 2022 are due to me by August 15. The role of the YP is to provide a young professional voice based on experiences and be a bridge between the membership and the SAF board. Visit [here](#) for additional information.
- Leadership Development grants up to \$15,000 are accepted one time per year and are due June 15. This is in addition to regular grants (up to \$1,500) and special grants (up to \$5,000). Visit [here](#) for more details.
- 2021 SAF National Convention – Sacramento, CA – November 3 – 7.

Take care, continue to do great things, and keep our mission alive!

*Tim can be reached at (615) 428-5913 or [tim.r.phelps@tn.gov](mailto:tim.r.phelps@tn.gov).*

## Forest Science Spotlight: Missouri's Forestry Graduate Students

*By Lauren Pile, Forest Science Committee Chair*

Welcome to the first addition of the Spotlight on Missouri's Forestry Graduate Students. Each newsletter, we will provide an update on the new and current forestry graduate students across the state highlighting the incredible and diverse work they are doing. This list is not exhaustive, so please send updates to [lauren.pile@usda.gov](mailto:lauren.pile@usda.gov).



### *Gina Beebe (top left)*

Gina is a master's candidate at the University of Missouri. Her thesis research involves examining the effects of targeted goat browsing and prescribed fire on Ozark woodland restoration, specifically woody reproduction and ground flora composition. Her field site is on the Mark Twain National Forest near Rolla, Missouri. She is in the thick of thesis writing and plans to graduate this May. Advisors: Mike Stambaugh and Lauren Pile  
Recent publication: [Can targeted browsing be a useful surrogate for prescribed burning?](#) *Fire Management Today*.

### *Seth Chrisman (top right)*

Seth is a master's student at the University of Missouri. His thesis project is focused on ecosystem functions during establishment of woodland silvopasture in the Ozark Highlands, at Wurdack Research Center near Cook Station, Missouri. Currently he is establishing sampling plots and preparing for the first season of data collection for this project. Advisor: Ashley Conway



*Hope Fillingim (bottom, second from left)*

Hope Fillingim is a PhD student at Mizzou studying shortleaf pine regeneration. Her current projects include shortleaf seedling survival and sprouting following prescribed burning at the Peck Ranch Conservation Area, and shortleaf seed response to heat and smoke. She is currently in her 4<sup>th</sup> semester at Mizzou. Advisor: Ben Knapp

*Trystan Harpold (bottom left)*

Trystan is a graduate of New Mexico State University and a master's student at the University of Missouri. His current research is focused on measuring effects of site characteristics on trends in seedling and sapling abundance in oak-hickory forests of the Missouri Ozarks. His work is being conducted at Pioneer Forest in Southeastern Missouri and utilizes continuous forest inventory data started in 1957. Currently, he has compiled and cleaned all longitudinal data from 450 plots at Pioneer Forest and is working to collect data on site characteristics such as sunlight levels, topographic indices, and soil characteristics, both in the field and through GIS. Advisor: Ben Knapp

*Abby Huffman (top, second from left)*

Abby is currently a first-year graduate student at Mizzou. She is studying oak regeneration at the Baskett Research Center. Her first field season is off to a great start as she is preparing to apply treatments and plant seedlings. Advisor: Ben Knapp

*George Jensen (top, third from left)*

George is a first-year graduate student at the University of Missouri. He will conduct research on the influence of Resistance, Resilience, and Transition treatments on fire behavior and effects in longleaf pine ecosystems at the Jones Center at Ichauway located in Georgia. He is currently in the southern burn season and is in the process of using various tools to capture fire behavior. Advisor: Ben Knapp

*Dacoda Maddox (bottom, third from left)*

Dacoda is graduate student at Mizzou, a forestry research technician with the USDA Forest Service and a graduate of Missouri State University. His current project involves an oak savanna reconstruction in a restored prairie and a woodland restoration in an abandoned wood lot at Prairie Fork Conservation Area in Williamsburg, Missouri. Currently is preparing for his third season of sampling and continuing his thesis writing process. Advisor: Ben Knapp

*Stewart McCollum (bottom right)*

Stewart is in his final semester of graduate school at Missouri State and has been working on monitoring the growth and establishment of two silvopasture systems in the Missouri Ozarks. Also modeling stress of trees within the systems using multispectral imagery obtained from a drone. One year of data collection is complete with many years of research ahead. Advisor: Michael Goerndt



## **MOSAF Winter Business Meeting Minutes (Draft)**

Date: Wednesday, February 3, 2021, 2:30 pm – 4:30 pm

Location: Virtual (Zoom)

Attendees: 44 members (see last page)

### Agenda

2:30

Welcome: John Kabrick, MOSAF Chair

- New members include Sean Zeiger (new faculty member at Lincoln University) and Jim Guldin (retired from Forest Service, Southern Research Station)
- Guest Tim Phelps, District 9 representative

Minutes from last meeting: Ben Knapp

- Minutes available to group prior to meeting.
- No discussion – minutes approved.

Treasurers Report: David Vance

- Report available to group prior to meeting.
- No discussion or concerns

2:40

Announcements

- Congratulations to MNRC award winners
  - Karkhagne – Justine Gartner
  - Outstanding Forester – Michael Goerndt
- SAF Diversity and Inclusion Working Group: Lauren Pile
  - Provided overview of how to access working groups on SAF website
  - Diversity and Inclusion working group charter
  - Diversity Ambassadors Program
  - Comparisons of the working group demographics to our chapter demographics
  - Suggestions for increasing DIE with chapters/membership
- Passing of forestry icons
  - John Dwyer (Jun 26)
  - Scott Brundage (Aug 8)
  - Robert Massengale (Sep 3)
  - Donna Baldwin (Dec 31)

2:55

MOSAF progress on 2020 objectives and objectives for 2021

- MOSAF priorities focus on networking, promoting new technologies to members, promoting profession of forestry, and addressing objectives of SAF national
- Specific objectives in 2020:

- Make technical tours and travel easier by making local tours or combining with other groups
  - Reach out to non-members to increase membership
  - Work with student groups to increase engagement and get more professionals
  - Get more membership involvement in committee activity
- 2020 was challenging with COVID-19
  - Hard to interact with students and hold meetings or gatherings
- Objectives for 2021 - continue to try to address these objectives
  - Pursue partnerships with other professional societies
  - Work closely with student groups on campuses, try to have some fun activities to keep students engaged and reflect diversity challenges
  - Greatest loss of membership is from student to professional membership
  - Addressing diversity and inclusion considerations
  - MU student body is 41% female
- Comments/Discussion
  - Hank Stelzer: Student chapter of SAF is every other Friday, will all be virtual
  - Tim Phelps: National rep of student chapters is Elliot Smith (Ohio State), one initiative is to connecting professionals with students by having a professional member join meetings for QA
  - Elliot Smith - National Student Congress, Chair (smith.elliott.13@gmail.com); 614-446-9056
  - Dacoda Maddox: Link students with professionals in similar areas of interest
  - Sean Zeiger: start chapter at Lincoln University?
  - Hank Stelzer - any links to MANNRS?
  - Task for Hank Stelzer - work with Sean Zeiger and Mike Goerndt about connecting student groups

3:09

#### Committee Reports: Committee Chairs

- Audit (Megan Buchanan)
  - Passed last year (2020) and anticipate same this year
- Communications & Website (Jon Skinner)
  - Website has been locked but no other issues
- Newsletter (Chris Lohman)
  - last fall newsletter is up on the website
  - spring newsletter should be up in March
  - requests for any special topics
  - deadline is February 26
- Council, Fellows and Awards (Jim Barresi)
  - Get pictures of awards to include in newsletter

- Remember that these awards are only possible with nominations - please consider nominating someone (deadline is mid December)
  - March 15 is deadline for application for SAF Fellows
- Education (Mike Goerndt)
  - CFEs - some things disrupted by COVID
  - Screen share example of process for entering CFEs
- Long Range Planning (Dan Dey)
  - Not present - no report
- Membership (Hank Stelzer)
  - Share screen to show membership data
  - Golden members - 50 years+ - do not pay dues
  - Down to 129 members, sharing when folks dues are up
  - 10 current student members
  - Can we make effort to reach out to those close to expiring
- Nominating (Gus Raeker)
  - Not present - no report
- Policy and Legislation (Jason Jensen)
  - Compiled position lists to national SAF
  - Bills introduced related to feral hogs
    - House Bill 508
    - Senate Bill 236
    - Raise penalty for release of swine
    - Definition of feral
  - Confusion in state vs commission authority - these two bills may help clarify that
- Program (Michael Bill)
  - Planning a May/June technical tour - technology advances in forestry - in hopes of being able to do this in person, build on some work with LiDAR and the technology workshop from MNRC
- Special Funds (David Massengale)
  - COVID impacts on special funds this year - more challenging at MNRC but has gone well
  - Thanks to Tod K and Jim G for contributions, as well as others
- Tellers (Aaron Moore)
  - Not present - no report
- Forest Science (Lauren Pile)
  - Planning to put something in the Newsletter highlighting Graduate Students in the newsletter
  - Upcoming events
    - Timber Management and Prescribed Fire webinar (<https://oakfirescience.com/events/fueling-collaboration-panel-discussion-series/>) on February 18

- Fire and Fuels Monitoring workshop  
(<https://oakfirescience.com/events/fire-and-fuels-monitoring-virtual-workshop/>) in June
- Ecological Drought Planning for Resilience  
(<https://southernfireexchange.org/calendar/partner-webinar-ecological-drought-planning-for-resilience/>) on February 17
- Biennial Southern Silvicultural Research Conference  
(<https://www.cfr.msstate.edu/workshops/bssrc/>) will be held virtually March 16 and 17
- MNRC Steering Committee (Jon Skinner)
  - Costs of MNRC this year have exceeded registration by a lot, if we have a virtual meeting in the future the registration cost needs to be higher
  - Looking for folks volunteering to help with MNRC
  - Expecting MNRC to be in person in 2022, with decision likely made in June
- Historian (Dave Larsen)
  - Not present - no report

3:48

#### Old Business

##### MOSAF forestry student scholarship discussion (Jim Barresi)

- Vote to update standards for standards for scholarship
- Deadline on January 31
- Broadened criteria to attract more applications
- Ed Stegner scholarship got one application
- We had zero applications for our scholarship
- Do we extend the application or not award it for this year?
- Mike Hoffmann suggestion: can we use the funds to assist some of the schools with starting up a student organization?
- Motion: Jim Barresi - extend applications until end of February and otherwise explore options for other schools to use money, Dacoda Maddox seconds - motion passes
- Kabrick - Suggest raising amount of scholarship?

4:00

#### New Business

##### Prescribed Fire Liability in Missouri (Jason Jensen)

- Will fall into one of four categories
  - Strict liability - burners liable for damage no matter what action is taken on that burn
  - Simple negligence liability - most common; requires burner to practice reasonable care in applying fire; burner must show negligence in order to be liable

- Gross negligence - burner would have to follow regulations in the state statute - for burner to be liable they would have to fail to follow regulations and fail to do what a reasonable person would have done; this incentivizes certification for protection
  - Undefined in Missouri - there are options for insurance for contractors but restricted
- Given the importance of fire in our ecosystems, lack of liability is impactful
- High percentage of land in private ownership means we need to increase ability of contractors to conduct prescribed burning on private lands
- Insurance companies will not take risk on undefined liability
- Two bills introduced in Missouri to establish simple negligence liability in MO
- Jason Jensen will draft position statement
- Motion to draft position statement - Motion by Chris Lohmann, Second by John Tuttle, passes
- Tim Phelps - suggests need for outreach to educate land owners; examples of products from southern group of state foresters:  
<https://www.southernforests.org/resources/media-toolkit/prescribed-fire-infographic-series>

4:18

#### Reports from National Office

#### News from Tim Phelps, District 9 Director, Society of American Foresters

- Trend is we are losing 600 members per year, a trend that has occurred since the 1980s; high percentage of Golden members
- Nominations for 2021 Awards open Jan 15 and close March 15
- Consider applying for a Foresters Fund grant - can be put towards public outreach, education, etc. (deadline Feb 15)
- Investigate the ForestEd platform - New England SAF is using it for a meeting
- The national SAF staff has gotten bigger so we are seeing some improvements in national-level resources
- Lori Rasor is State Society Relations position
- Review of membership options on the website
- Organizational Transparency - there is a link on the website, including minutes and operating budget
- 2021 operating budget: declining membership dues, investment from selling land a few years ago has provided funds to balance budget
- Membership topic: There are efforts to increase membership
  - We don't have a new member orientation
  - There could be a lot of ways to engage with members to make them feel valued
  - Hiring third party to examine demographics to better understand why membership is changing
- Launching strategic plan soon



- Last year for Tim Phelps in this position - need a new representative next year
  - 10 state district

4:48

#### Reports from Agency Representatives

- Mark Twain National Forest
  - No report
- FS Northern Research Station
  - John Kabrick: Things are humming along
- Natural Resources Conservation Services
  - Joe Alley: Funding for feral hog control through Farm Bill
- University of Missouri
  - Hank Stelzer: Efforts for teaching position with money from Independent Stave and other industry
- Missouri State University
  - Michael Goerndt: Course offerings are stable
- Missouri Department of Conservation
  - No report
- Missouri Consulting Foresters
  - Lynn Barnickol: Meeting will be on February 25th, will be 4 CFEs for attending
- Missouri Forest Products Association
  - No report
- L-A-D Foundation/Pioneer Forest
  - Jim Guldin: Jim is a new member on the LAD Board
- Missouri Student Chapter of SAF
  - No report

4:55

Adjourn – Motion from Lynn Barnickol, second from Mike Hoffman, approved  
Attendees

Joe Alley  
Lynn Barnickol  
Jim Barresi  
Michael Bill  
Megan Buchanan  
Marty Calvert  
Matthew Cruise  
Harold Draper  
Charlie Ducharme  
Mike Fiaoni  
Justine Gartner  
Michael Goerndt  
Kristen Goodrich  
Nate Goodrich

Terry Gordon  
Jim Guldin  
Trystan Harpold  
Sarah Havens  
Glenda Hefty  
Russell Hinnah  
Mike Hoffman  
Jason Jensen  
John Kabrick  
Tod Kinerk  
George Kipp  
Benjamin Knapp  
Chris Lohmann  
Dacoda Maddox

David Massengale  
Mark Nelson  
Bruce Palmer  
KJ Petry  
Tim Phelps  
Lauren Pile  
Brian Schweiss  
Steve Shifley  
Jon Skinner  
Hank Stelzer  
John Tuttle  
David Vance  
Sean Zeiger  
Tony Jaco

## **MOSAF Financial Report**

*By David Vance, Treasurer*

### **MOSAF Account:**

Started 2020 with **\$11,293.71**

### **TOTAL INCOME: \$2,049.78**

Dues Income: \$1,287.00

MNRC Silent Auction/Raffle: \$711.00

### **TOTAL EXPENSES: \$2,412.49**

Awards: \$578.98

Donations Made:

MU Scholarship: \$1,000.00

Fees, Dues, Registrations

CFM Affiliation Dues: \$183

Registration with the Secretary of State: \$11.25

Taxes: \$30.00

Business Expenses:

Website: \$98.95

### **INTEREST: \$11.03**

Ended 2020 with **\$10,942.03**

### **CDs:**

6 Month: \$19,028.14 (Made \$154.80.03 in interest in 2020)

12 Month: \$18,641.72 (Made \$266.76 in interest in 2020)

### **MOSAF Shares Account:**

Started 2020 with \$120.19

Ended 2020 with \$120.55

### **Student Sponsorship Balance: \$719.37**

(Funds part of MOSAF Account, earmarked for Sponsorship.)

### **PLT Account:**

Started 2020 with \$11,575.98

Ended 2020 with \$11,576.31

(Made \$52.13 of interest; transferred to MOSAF Account)

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

## Non-Native Invasive Plants, Is Control Needed?

Missouri's native forests have been around for millennia. During this time, they developed an ecological balance of plants, animals, soils, and insects. When humans came, we started to utilize this environment. When Europeans arrived, the intensity of the utilization increased, sometimes at the detriment of the environment. In the last century, we have endeavored to allow these environments to recover and revert to their earlier states.

The arrival of Europeans also brought the introduction of non-native plants, animals, and insects. While some were intentional, others were unintentional. Some of these non-native, or exotic, species have become invasive and cause all sorts of issues with our environment.

An exotic invasive species is one that is not native to an ecosystem and which causes, or is likely to cause, economic or environmental harm or harm to human health. It is important to note that when we talk about a species being invasive, we are talking about environmental boundaries, not political ones. In addition to the many invasive species from outside the U.S., there are many species from within the U.S. that are invasive in other parts of the country.



*Bush honeysuckle is an exotic invasive species.  
Photo credit: MDC.*

As exotic invasive species grow and expand their distribution and influence on the environment, they often outcompete and replace native plants, animals, and insects, disrupting the balance and function of the ecosystem and reducing the ability of other native species to thrive.

There are many examples of non-native invasive plant species that have changed US Forests. Bush honeysuckle, Japanese honeysuckle, Autumn-olive, and Callery Pear are just a few. There are plenty of other examples. Visit [www.moinvasives.org](http://www.moinvasives.org) for more information.

Foresters are interested in keeping your woodland healthy. Removing exotic invasive species, where possible, will allow your woodland recover from the damage imposed on it. Foresters have the knowledge to help you deal with exotic invasive species. Having

one visit with you will help you start the process of deciding what you need to do to have a healthy woodland.

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.