

# MISSOURI SOCIETY OF AMERICAN FORESTERS

2022 SPRING NEWSLETTER

*Vol. 38, No. 1*



## **From the Chair**

*By Michael Bill, MOSAF Chair*

As a forester early spring is one of my favorite times of the year to be in the field. The snow and ice are gone, and the ticks and chiggers are still at bay for the most part. The forest, although barren, is open and you can see not only the lay of the topography, but the overall stocking and general health of each stand. I really enjoy the period right before green-up when all the sapling and pole white oaks push off their leaves and the woods are as open as they will be at any time during the year. This only happens for a few days depending on how quickly the weather warms.



April arrives with that sunny 70-degree day and everything once again comes alive. As I drive down scenic Highway 19 to work in the morning, a hint of yellow and light green from swelling buds is starting to be visible. By the time I head home in the late afternoon, the forest transforms, and once again it is lush and green. As someone who has had wildfire responsibilities for most of my career it was always a relief to finally see green up, knowing that there was probably only a couple of weeks left to fire season. I could now start to plan river float trips and travel outside the district without wondering if I was missing a call from dispatch repeating those familiar words, “the fire department is requesting a dozer.” I encourage all our members to get out in the field and enjoy this time of year. Soon the weather will turn hot and the ticks will be back. Until then I will enjoy each day thinking about the open woods and will try to get out and experience it as much as I can.

As I begin my time serving as MOSAF Chair, I would like to personally thank John Kabrick for his leadership during the past two years. John was always there if I had any questions and continues to assist the chapter in his Past Chair role.

I would also like to introduce our new officers. Angela George is now the MOSAF secretary. Angela has been a forester with MDC for 10 years. She has a Master of Science degree in Forestry from the University of Missouri and a Bachelor of Science

degree in Biology from Truman State University. Kristen Goodrich is the new MOSAF Chair-elect. Kristen has over 30 years in the forestry profession. Kristen received her Bachelor of Science degree in Forest Management from Iowa State University in 1991. From there she has had the opportunity to work in various forestry jobs with the US Forest Service in multiple states, Wisconsin DNR, and Missouri Soil and Water Conservation Service before landing with MDC in 1999 where she continues to work as a District supervisor. Kristen has a wide range of experience in both public and private land, including forest management, timber sale administration, wildfire and prescribed fire, division budget management, partner agreement coordination, and work team and district supervision. I am excited to have both of them on the team as they continue to help move MOSAF forward.

We will be starting a new campaign to bolster membership in MOSAF. It is called "Find your 5". Nearly every MOSAF member knows a few foresters who should be members but are not currently. Maybe they were members in the past, possibly a student member but now for whatever reason they have let their membership lapse. We are encouraging all members to "Find your 5," look for those 5 fellow foresters who are not currently in MOSAF and personally invite them to join. We will be working on developing specific talking points of why they should be a part of this great organization and how it personally benefits each member. Stay tuned and be thinking about who your 5 will be. I have already started and have identified my 5 that I will be reaching out to soon. We will again be planning technical tours for spring and fall. I look forward to seeing everyone again soon. In the words of John Kabrick, "It's a great day to be in forestry! It's a great day to be a MOSAF member!"

## **MOSAF Spring Technical Tour – Coming Up April 27<sup>th</sup>**

The spring technical tour will be held near Licking and will include a tour of Ozark Shavings and George O. White State Forest Nursery. Cost is \$15 which includes lunch.

Get your registration in to Dave Vance, MOSAF Treasurer, by April 21<sup>st</sup>!



## **MNRC 2022 Review: “Contagious Conservation”**

*By Jon Skinner, MOSAF MNRC Steering Committee Chair*

The theme picked four years ago was intended to inspire the spread of good conservation practices and activity. The plenary presenters Gene Gilliland and Kelly Davis shared how recreation trends related to conservation changed over the last few years and discussed how to keep the interest of those new participants.

Unfortunately, the pandemic and weather played a role in attendance at the conference. The pandemic reduced registrations by 150 or so individuals from average, then the weather caused another 100 to 150 to not come after registering. This resulted in a muted feel at the mixer, and Awards Socials but those in attendance had a great time during these social events. Several workshops and presentations ended up being cancelled due to presenters not being able to attend. This resulted in the unusual condition of cross specialty attendance in some workshops and presentations. Several soil scientists and wildlife biologists attended the Cash for Carbon workshop aimed at foresters. We also saw this in the paper presentation with people learning about research in fields they normally did not participate in much.

Every year, volunteers are needed for MNRC to work. Regardless of who is hosting, people are always needed to moderate sessions, help setup and manage audio/visuals, extra help at registration is always welcome. I am grateful to those that helped this year. I know of foresters that moderated and helped at registration. So, if you are interested in helping regardless of year, there is an opportunity for you to lead through service. MOSAF is the lead group for MNRC 2024. We now have a full complement of committee leads, but there is always more work than the one person can do. If asked, please accept the opportunity to help.

## **Snow Did Not Hamper MOSAF Special Funds Booth**

*By David Massengale, Special Funds Committee*

While the original attendee count for the 2022 MNRC was around 450, the snow reduced that to about 250 total. But even that low number still provided a lot of folks willing to donate to all the raffles and silent auctions in the exhibit hall. Of course, with the lower number that also meant there was more beer and wine available so maybe the attendees don't remember donating so much money!

MOSAF Special Funds gained a little over \$500 thanks to the generous donations of its members and Crader Distributing in Marble Hill. Marty Calvert was able to get a battery-operated Stihl MSA 140 chainsaw from Crader. There was a lot of interest in the saw. Even with several inches of snow on the ground people still made their way to the exhibit hall and bought tickets for this new type of chainsaw. Donations from our members ranged from handmade wooden items to books and apparel all the way to a bottle of Old Forester and two glasses.



## MOSAF Award Winners

Congratulations to Gus Raeker, Jason Green, and Michael Goerndt for receiving the 2022 MOSAF awards!



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 Jason Green, Forest Manager at Pioneer Forest.

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.

This year's Karkhagne Award was presented to Gus Raeker, Regional Resource Management Administrative Manager at MDC.



The Blackjack Award this year went to Michael Goerndt, Associate Professor at Missouri State University.

## MOSAF Hosts Workshop on Forest Carbon at MNRC

By Hank Stelzer

Historically, participation in carbon offset trading was relegated to landowners or organizations controlling land in excess of 3,000 acres. However, today carbon markets are beginning to open up to family forest landowners. To help landowners and foresters alike navigate this new landscape, Hank Stelzer facilitated a forest carbon workshop at this year's MNRC.

Stelzer opened the workshop with an overview of both the compliance and voluntary marketplaces, the three types of carbon projects and their restrictions, the registries upon which accepted projects are traded, and the developers who work with the landowner to get their property placed on a registry. Stelzer then introduced individuals representing three developers—NCX, Forest Carbon Works, and AFF/TNC's Family Forest Carbon Program. Each gave an overview of their respective carbon program. These companies are either currently active in Missouri or will be operating within the next two to three years.

For an in-depth review of this topic, go to Hank's article, *Forest Carbon Markets Déjà vu* in the latest edition of *Green Horizons* at <http://agebb.missouri.edu/agforest/index.php>.

## Member News

Alice Hannon featured in April 2022 edition of *Natural Resources Management Today*

Alice Hannon, MOSAF member and urban forester in the Kansas City, Missouri, is helping the city reach its goal of 35 percent tree canopy cover, which is currently at 31 percent. The biggest obstacle to achieving that goal is the emerald ash borer, a non-native, invasive insect that has decimated ash trees across much of North America. Alice was recently featured in the April 2022 edition of



*Natural Resources Management Today*. Read the full magazine at <https://www.bluetoad.com/publication/?i=743354&pre=1>.

## Agency/Affiliate Group News

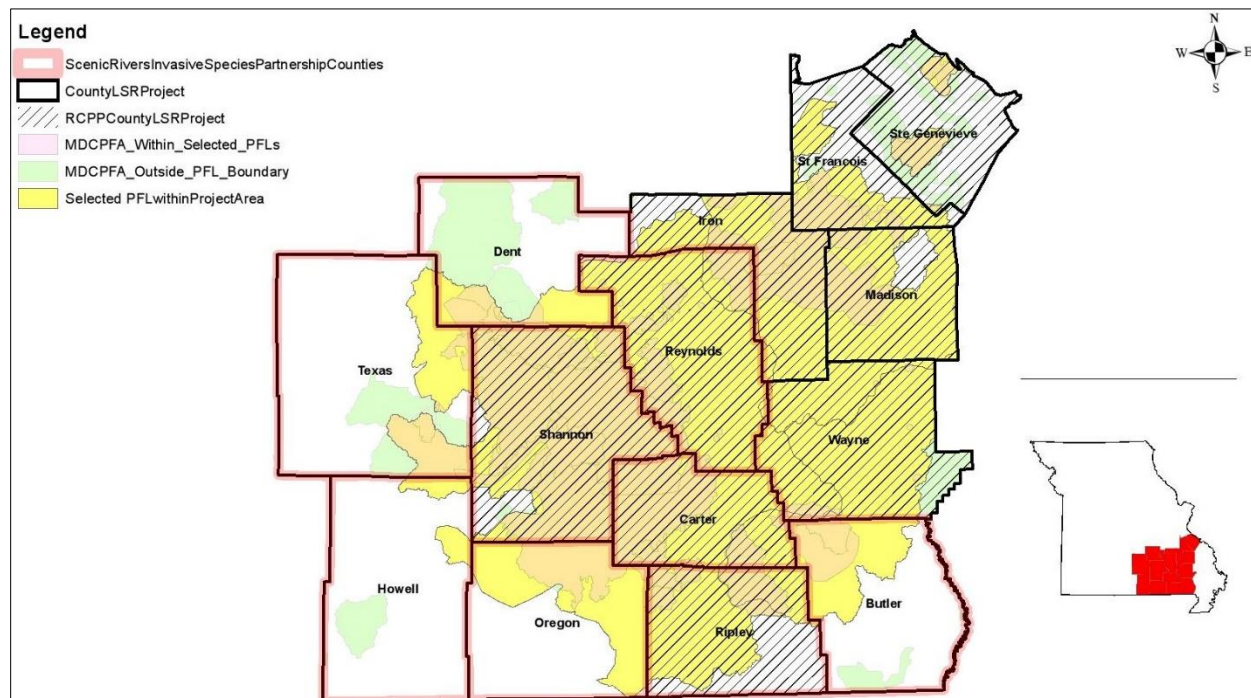
### Missouri Department of Conservation

## Partnership with USFS Restores Glades and Woodlands in Ozarks

By Joe Tousignant, MDC Area Biologist

The Missouri Department of Conservation continues to implement the 2020 Heart of the Ozarks Landscape Scale Restoration grant received from the U.S. Forest Service. The project area targets Priority Forest Landscapes in an area bounded by Texas, Howell, Butler, and Saint Genevieve Counties in the Ozarks of Missouri. This four-part grant funds glades and woodlands planning and restoration work on private land, MDC Conservation Areas, and the Pioneer Forest owned by the L-A-D Foundation.

This project is unique in that it pays conservation contractors directly to do planning and restoration work on private and public lands. Using private contractors is an excellent means to get high priority work done on public land to complement the efforts of MDC staff. On private land, contractors can get work done for landowners who may not have the time or resources to get it done themselves.



*The Heart of the Ozarks Landscape Scale Restoration grant provides funding for glade and woodland planning and restoration work on private land in nine counties in southeast Missouri.*

Approximately half of the \$530,000 grant has been planned and allocated to specific projects, and over \$110,000 has been paid out to date. Private land accomplishments include the completion of Forest Stewardship plans on 941 acres, an important first step



in restorations on private land. Firebreak installation, forest stand improvement, and glade/woodland restoration have been completed on four private landowner's properties affecting over 250 acres of high priority habitats. Other notable accomplishments include the completion of 429 acres of prescribed burning on the Polk Ridge Pinery property owned by the L-A-D Foundation. Contractors have also completed 61 acres of glade thinning on the Buford Mountain Conservation Area.

Approximately \$100,000 of funding will support invasive plant control efforts conducted by the Scenic Rivers Invasive Species Partnership, primarily along transportation corridors in the Current River and Eleven Point River watersheds. The Partnership recently hired a coordinator and will get a crew going Spring 2022. Grant funding will be paid as the Partnership treats areas for invasive species.

There are funds remaining in the project, especially for work on private lands. Interested landowners with property within the grant geography should contact their local Private Land Conservationist or Private Land Forester, or contact Joe Tousignant, the local project coordinator, at [joe.tousignant@mdc.mo.gov](mailto:joe.tousignant@mdc.mo.gov).

### Pioneer Forest

## **Pioneer Forest & LAD Foundation Increase Staff to Implement Ecological Goals & Increase Operational Efficiency**

*By Jason Green, Forest Manager*

2021 brought new employees for Pioneer Forest and the LAD Foundation to help implement new management goals to the Forest and Foundation lands. Roger Still has been hired as the LAD Foundation Manager. He brings extensive conservation experience having worked as State Director for the Nature Conservancy, and Vice President, Mississippi River Programs for the National Audubon Society. In addition, Roger spent a decade consulting for several conservation organizations. Roger has been working on partnership building across the Ozarks and implementing the LAD Foundation's strategic plan, which was adopted in 2020.



*1 Roger Still has been hired as the LAD Foundation Manager.*

Additionally, Rebecca Landewe has returned to the Ozarks as the LAD Foundation Chief Ecologist. Prior to joining the LAD Foundation, she worked as a field inspector for

the Montana Department of Environmental Quality, the Current River Project Manager with the Nature Conservancy, a forestry contractor, and the Missouri Water Quality Standards Coordinator for the Environmental Protection Agency. She is responsible for stewardship and ecological planning for Pioneer Forest. Additionally, she is responsible for the management on other LAD Foundation lands, most of which are jointly managed by the LAD Foundation and the Missouri Department of Conservation. She is based out of the Pioneer Forest headquarters in Salem, MO.



*Rebecca Landewe has returned to the Ozarks to be Pioneer Forest's Chief Ecologist.*

Together Roger and Rebecca are working with the Pioneer Forest staff to develop a comprehensive ecological management plan and implement strategic conservation management for Pioneer Forest. This plan will supplement the Pioneer Forest, Forest Management Plan, which was adopted in 2019. Comprehensive conservation planning will include identifying resource priorities, special resource designations, management planning for forest reserves. The plan will also include natural areas and ecological management areas. Complementary to the forest management

plan, it will highlight ongoing ecological work and expand conservation activities on Pioneer Forest.

In addition to stewardship work, LAD Foundation board member and MOSAF member Jim Guldin, a nationally recognized researcher in sustainable uneven-aged management, masterminded the production of a new video about forest management and timber sales methods used on Pioneer Forest. Directed by Denise Vaughn, it features Forest Manager Jason Green and Chief Forester Brandon Kuhn interacting with Jim on site in our forest, as they explain management efforts in depth for thirty minutes. It was put together on short notice for the Society of American Foresters virtual national conference in November for an intended audience of silviculture instructors. The event was well attended. The video was enthusiastically received, and has already been distributed widely to interested researchers, teachers, and practitioners. For more information, or to see the video, please visit the Pioneer Forest website at [www.pioneerforest.org](http://www.pioneerforest.org).



## MOSAF Business Meeting Minutes – 2/2/2022

Attendance: 28 in person, 19 online

1. **Welcome:** Michael Bill called the meeting to order and gave introductions:
  - Michael Bill, chair
  - John Kabrick, past-chair
  - Kristen Goodrich, chair-elect
  - Angela George, secretary
  - David Vance remains as Treasurer
  - Chapter welcomed special guests Terry Baker, SAF Chief Executive Officer; and Sam Cook, Vice President of SAF Board of Directors
2. **Minutes:** Motion to approve minutes from fall meeting was passed.
3. **Treasurer's report:** We have a flat budget with plenty of money to get work done.
4. **Announcements:** Spring meeting date is not yet set but will potentially be held in the bootheel. Missouri Natural Resources Conference gives 8 Certified Forester CFE credits, and a reminder that any tours our chapter puts on provide CFEs.
5. **Progress report on 2021 MOSAF objectives:** Received good feedback on previous meetings. There were some attempts to reach out to student chapters but Covid made it difficult.
6. **2022 MOSAF objectives:**
  - Actively solicit new members
  - Hold one day and two-day events, possibly piggybacking meetings and tours with Arkansas chapter for networking opportunities and see what issues they are having.
  - Address the missing young professionals demographic in the chapter. Suggestion for monthly short member presentation to each of the colleges, as well as 4-5 person panels.
  - "Find your Five"- Bill calls for all members to reach out to past or potential members with a personal note or discussion about joining MOSAF. The national SAF talking points about member benefits will be refined for Missouri.
  - Engage new members in committee rolls to get them engaged.
7. **Committee reports:**
  - Audit- Megan Buchanan- we passed 2020 audit; 2021 audit will start shortly.
  - Communications and Websites- Jon Skinner- Website needs a little updating.
  - Council, Fellows and Awards- Jim Barresi- Karkhagne and Outstanding Forester awards will be presented later that evening. Recipients of the two \$1,000 scholarships (Ed Stagner and MOSAF chapter) will be awarded shortly.
  - Education- Mike Goerndt- Please send agendas and information about an event you want CFEs provided for at least 4-6 weeks before so it can be approved on the national level. If an event already occurred, requests for CFEs must be submitted by individual attendees.
  - Membership- Hank Stelzer- 138 active members, down from 151. 12 new student members.

- Nominating- Gus Raeker- Expressed appreciation for the suite of candidates who ran for offices, and for John Kabrick and Ben Knapp for helping. He is willing to keep this chair role but is also willing to pass the torch if someone is interested.
- Policy and Legislation- Jason Jensen- RAWA could increase state funding. Current state legislation proposed to double the number of Conservation Commissioners and make them elected positions. Some people testified in favor, their position being that MDC is not conducting good forest management. MDC has tried to do an educational tour for legislators, but no elected officials showed up. This might be an opportunity for MOSAF, as experts for forest management in the state, to hold a similar tour.
- Program- Kristen Goodrich- Chapter brainstormed of ideas for spring and fall tour and meeting location and dates. Suggestions included bootheel swamp forests in spring; Ozark Shavings in Licking for fall; tour of Royal Oak Charcoal in Dent Co to see their \$40M in plant improvements; a workshop on the White Oak Initiative, with focus on issues with recruitment and retention; community forestry; state nursery in the spring.
- Special funds- David Massengale- Received around \$500 for silent auction today. Blackjack Forester Award goes to Mike Goerndt, electric chainsaw winner is Rod Tucker. Crader Distributing has donated a saw to MOSAF for 40 years.
- Forest Science- Lauren Pile- Central Hardwoods conference coming up. National Convention is Sept 20-24 in Baltimore. She will focus on graduate research in the chapter newsletters.
- Newsletter Editor- Chris Lohmann- the fall newsletter is on the website. Requests for articles and photos for spring newsletter will come out soon.
- MNRC Steering Committee- Jon Skinner- MOSAF is the lead host for the 2024 conference. Listed people who have volunteered to help. Jon still needs an exhibits and sponsors person, and a budget person soon so they can shadow for the 2023 planning.

#### 8. Old Business:

- SAF wants all local chapters 5501(c)(3); we have been a nonprofit since March 2014.
- Directors and Officers insurance to protect leaders against legal issues with MOSAF their personal finances are protected. Membership dues would cover this on a per person basis. We could use an external company but the SAF rate is good, and we would be part of an umbrella coverage. We are covered so long as our officer roster is up to date on the website.

#### 9. New Business:

- None that was not discussed elsewhere in the meeting.

#### 10. Reports from National Office:

##### Report from Terry Baker, CEO

- SAF hired a consultant to look at bylaws and documents and will come up with a structure of membership that will make us more successful.
- Membership support: Creating handouts to share with potential members that will connect the dots of how SAF can benefit them.
- Infrastructure bill had a lot of forest management funds, it didn't but pass but created good conversation. He recently discussed the 10-year fire strategy with the USFS chief.
- SAF will be a part of the discussion with the new Farm Bill, as part of a coalition of 15 forestry organizations.

- Position statements- Forest Policy Committee emphasized more concise messages, and proactive position statements rather than reactionary. There are more coming.
- There are updated accreditation standards, including a new community forestry credential.
- SAF is investing in continuing education. For example, Michigan state has many courses on ForestEd.
- Invited all members to join an SAF working group.
- Tradewind is an online collaborative platform where you can share articles and have conversations.
- Invited all members to write an article for Forestry Source.
- The board of directors has a new seat, for a young professional to help SAF engage with young professionals. Member must be under 40 and not in college.

### Report from Sam Cook, Vice President SAF Board of Directors

- Membership recruitment is a big issue. He challenged all of us to get close with the schools and faculty, as well as to engage more minorities. This includes high school and elementary schools since we are losing forestry students.

### 11. Reports from Agency Representatives

- Mark Twain NF
  - Agency-wide positions being advertised, many of which are geared for students and young professionals.
- FS Northern Research Station
  - Brown headed nuthatch introduction and monitoring continues.
  - Looking at compaction and establishing pollinator plantings on log landings.
  - Savanna and woodland restoration project at Prairie Fork CA.
- NRCS
  - Currently hiring a bunch of people.
  - Forest Management Plan process went through a change and is now broken into two pieces. Often both pieces will be recombined through EQIP.
  - Fire training is in process so more staff can write prescribed burn plans.
- MU
  - FFA district contest rules are now in line with national rules. Make sure your local teachers know of the changes. Missouri took national last year.
  - Oak regeneration position that is 70% Extension and 30% teaching will be advertised next week. Funded extensively through private businesses.
  - MU is accredited in forest resource management and terrestrial ecosystem through 2029.
  - Mike Stambaugh moved into a tenured forest ecologist and forest health position. Jeff Wood is tenured as tree physiologist, also runs MoFlux tower. The forest economics position is a weak spot at present.
  - Student enrollment is stable, not high.
- MSU
  - started new degree a couple of years ago - natural resources with forestry emphasis. Forestry minor still exists and remains very popular. College of Ag numbers went down, Natural Resources numbers are increasing.
  - Going to proceed in earnest to get a student SAF chapter.
  - Diversity- at least 2/3 of forestry club are women.



- Midwest conclave- MSU was supposed to host spring 2021, Southern Illinois University was to host in 2020, both were cancelled due to Covid. Now no students left that have ever been to a conclave.
- MDC
  - Continue to be SFI certified, next audit end of August, this one will be the full recertification audit.
  - Staff been focused on increasing forest management on state land, particularly harvesting. Double the amount of wood on the market in the last 12 months. To keep up, they have contracted some of the timber marking and thanks was giving to the FS for contracting assistance.
  - Simplified funding opportunities in community forestry. Prioritization process within community forestry as a part of the Comprehensive Conservation Strategy. Criteria- ethnicity, poverty rates, canopy coverage, distance to nature/public land. Priority areas to be identified by end of FY, with implementation in FY23.
- Missouri Consulting Foresters Association
  - Two training sessions per year. Upcoming virtual meeting Feb 24-25, offering 11 CFEs. Cost is \$20 for members, \$25. Email Lynn for info [actuallywood@gmail.com](mailto:actuallywood@gmail.com).
- LAD foundation
  - 2 new foresters on Pioneer Forest.
  - Will begin on an ecological management plan.
  - Has a virtual silviculture video.
  - Roger Still is the new LAD foundation manager.
- Other reports
  - Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA) will give funds to implement the state Wildlife Action Plan, as well as increasing recreation and education. Missouri's Wildlife Action Plan is contained in the Comprehensive Conservation Strategy, which also includes the Forest Action Plan. Missouri is well-positioned to have good forest management activity if RAWA passes.
  - Independent Stave is getting chain of custody SFI certification. This is a volume credit system, so all their barrels will be getting the SFI mark.

Meeting adjourned.

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

### **Promote Wildlife – Plant an Oak!**

Of all the tree species in the Missouri woods, oaks are super for wildlife. Oak trees support large numbers of wildlife with food, cover, and even housing. The acorns provide food during the winter to many species of animals and birds like whitetail deer, bear, blue jays, turkeys, squirrels, and other rodents. Some species like whitetail deer browse on the buds as well. They provide places for animals to hide and rest, and older trees with cavities provide places for animals and birds to reside.



Even more amazing is the number of birds and insects dependent directly and indirectly on oaks. Dr. Doug Tallamy, University of Delaware, estimates over 950 species of butterflies and moths are dependent on all the various species of oak in North America for their larva (caterpillars) to feed and develop. These caterpillars and adult butterflies and moths also feed a vast number of birds and their young.

So, whether you own a lot in town or acres in the country, you can help wildlife in your area by planting oaks native to your area.

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. To find a forester to help you on your property, contact the Missouri Consulting Foresters Association at [www.missouriforesters.com](http://www.missouriforesters.com) or the Missouri Department of Conservation at 573-522-4115.