

MISSOURI SOCIETY OF AMERICAN FORESTERS

2023 SPRING NEWSLETTER

Vol. 39, No. 1



From the Chair

By Michael Bill, MOSAF Chair

What does the future of the forestry profession look like in Missouri? Who will be the future foresters that will ensure that Missouri's forests are sustainably managed through the 21st century? When I discuss employee recruitment and retention with managers from across a variety of business sectors, I hear a common theme. We are having difficulty filling positions and we cannot retain employees. This is especially true when trying to hire foresters in Missouri.



When I received my BS in Forestry over 20 years ago, I was told you have two options to secure permanent full-time employment. Option 1—work several years of temporary positions to build up your resume and hope that one of the agencies/organizations you work for picks you up in a permanent tech grade position, or Option 2—go to graduate school and hope that you can land a permanent position after school and work your way up through the system. Either way there was no guarantees and I know that some of the students that I graduated with did not find a path towards a permanent forestry/natural resources career. I chose option 2. I had worked a couple of summers in West Virginia with the USFS Northern Research Station and the Research Forest Hydrologist there was able to secure funding for an assistantship for me to continue at SIU and complete research on the Monongahela National Forest. As I was finishing writing my thesis and my assistantship was about to dry up, I received an offer to work at a 2-year technical forestry school back in WV, where I served as a forestry instructor for two years before returning to Missouri as a resource forester with MDC in the Ozarks. Although I would have never predicted this path for my forestry career, it has helped me be a better manager and planner.

What does the future look like for new forestry graduates today? I would have to say very bright. Every agency is hiring, and many NGOs and consultants are also looking for field foresters as well. While I was at the national SAF convention last fall, the USFS had over 800 positions available they wanted to fill, and they were hiring students on the spot. So, if a career path in forestry is currently very promising, why are forestry college enrollments down from the 1990s? There are likely several reasons that are responsible for this trend:

- Reason 1—Awareness. I believe that many high school students are not even aware that a career in forestry is even possible. By the time I was in junior high I knew that I wanted to work in conservation. Why did I know that this field existed, because I often visited my local state park and was very involved in conservation projects in 4H. Many school-aged children are not aware of the opportunities that exist in this field. We need to do our part to promote forestry and conservation careers at a young age. By the time they are in college it is often too late.
- Reason 2—You must be outside in the elements. As someone who grew up before widespread internet access (I did not have email until I went to college), I spent my childhood outside, often riding my bike around my small town. I could be found playing in a local creek, fishing at the state park outside of town, or chasing squirrels on my family's farm. We even spent our free time outside in the winter sledding or playing farm pond hockey with other kids from the area. This is not the experience for most of today's youth. With more organized sports in the summer from a very young age, options to connect with your friends on social media and through gaming, and awareness of potential stranger danger, kids rarely go outside and play with other kids in non-structured play anymore. You do not need to connect with your friends when it is hot and muggy out in the summer, you can do it from your air-conditioned home through some kind of social media. I am not trying to disparage today's youth; it is the environment that they have grown up in. I live in the middle of 20 acres in the Ozarks with a creek in the back yard which is surrounded by 10,000 acres of public land and many times my kids are just as tied to screens as others their age, although we try to get out most weekends to do some floating, hiking, or other outdoor activity. To work in this field, you have to be resilient. You have to be okay with dealing with ticks and poison ivy. You have to be comfortable walking in the woods by yourself in sometimes very remote areas. The days when I was in the field all day conducting inventory in the middle of nowhere by myself were some of the best days of my career. I would come home tired but feel refreshed, much better than if I had spent the whole day in front of a screen writing plans. I am not sure how we convey this to students but there is something special about connecting with nature each day, something that seems essential to the human experience that we do not get from technology. I believe the pandemic has helped to highlight that for us.
- Reason 3—Pay. As I would often joke with my fellow foresters at Eminence, none of us got into this field for the pay. Which is true, I likely could have found a field that would have paid significantly more. I know that my agency (MDC) is really trying to work on employee compensation to help attract and retain staff, but the truth is that no one in the forestry field is likely to be wealthy. However, I do believe that this career contains many fringe benefits. I would often say that the fringe benefits in this job are picking some ripe wild blueberries while you were out doing inventory or seeing a brightly colored neotropical migrant songbird in an area that you are managing. It is hard to put a value on those kinds of intangibles. Also, if you live in some of the rural areas you will likely have housing costs that are significantly less, which makes the lower pay easier.

So how do you make a difference? What can you do to ensure that we have enough professionally trained foresters?

- Get involved! Connect with guidance counselors at local high schools. Get in the classroom and share what you do. As foresters we have a great story to tell, and we can help inspire the youth of today to become the foresters of tomorrow.
- Take on an intern. This is a great way to instill the knowledge that you have learned and may keep a forestry student in the state and in the profession. As a resource forester, I mentored several interns who later became foresters for the Department.
- Assist with FFA forestry contests; here is an opportunity for you to connect with students who are already learning about forestry and may be interested in making it their career. This can be vitally important in rural areas where it is difficult for organizations to fill positions.

So, what does the future of forestry look like in Missouri? The answer to that question could be up to you! I was encouraged at MNRC this year, there were several forestry students there and many of them were engaged and asking questions. It was at the MNRC where I met up with the Mizzou Forestry Club president Billy McCaslin, who was eager to set up a time for me to come and talk to the club in March to discuss forestry careers. As members of SAF, you should make it your mission to ensure that Missouri's forests are managed well. One way to help ensure that this continues well into the future is to invest in the youth of today. Take a local high school student with you on a job shadow day, teach a forestry class at MSU or Mizzou, or be a mentor for an intern. Find some way to connect and you will be glad that you did knowing you were helping to encourage the next generation of managers of Missouri's outstanding forest resource!

MNRC 2023 Review

By Jon Skinner, MNRC Committee Chair

On February 7-9, 2023, the four societies—Missouri Chapter of the American Fisheries Society, the Missouri Chapter of The Wildlife Society, the Show-Me Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society, and the Missouri Society of American Foresters—met for the Missouri Natural Resources Conference. The theme of the conference was “New Frontiers on Old Landscapes.”

The conference kicked off with the Career Fair and Mixer. The Career Fair was well attended by both those looking for employment and those seeking new staff. Many people participated in holding this event with mock interviews, resumé reviews, and sharing career experiences. The Mixer was well attended where people had the opportunity to catch up with friends and make new ones. The vendors provided all sorts of services and products for individuals to learn about. This was the last year an outside food vendor will be allowed at MNRC. Next year, all food service will be provided by the hotel.



The keynote speakers presented how people are not casual observers of nature, but participants and how we receive tangible and intangible benefits from it.

The Wildlife Society hosted students to lunch after the plenary presenters and asked the rest of us to discuss with them different topics related to our careers. This provided students with insight into their possible future. This lunch session was a huge success and is being considered becoming a regular part of MNRC.

There was an abundance of research papers, and workshops for people to attend and learn from. Everyone should have been able to find something important to their interest or career.

All four societies held business meetings during the conference. You may see the draft minutes of the MOSAF business meeting at: <https://www.mosaf.net/meeting-minutes.html>.

MOSAF Members Recognized with Awards

The recipient of this year's Outstanding Forester Award is Mike Keeley. During the past year Mike has provided leadership to the forestry profession that goes beyond his regular job duties as District Supervisor for the Missouri Department of Conservation. The Scenic Rivers District of the Ozark Region includes several of the largest state-owned lands in Missouri, including Peck Ranch, Angeline, Rocky Creek, and Sunklands Conservation Areas. This District includes some of the most important ecological resources in the State. In addition, the economic context of MDC's forest and recreation programs in this area is significant. Mike's steadfast leadership and dedication to managing these important lands during the Department's reorganization and into the future is critical to its success.



MOSAF Chair, Michael Bill (left), presents the Outstanding Forester award to Mike Keeley (right) at MNRC.

Mike is a true dirt forester grounded in traditional forest management values, but is also ecologically minded, believing that data and science are the fundamental principles that guide our work. This past year he participated as the primary silvicultural liaison helping guide the development of the interagency "Community Health Index", a rapid ecological assessment monitoring program being led by the Missouri Department of Conservation, Mark Twain National Forest, and Eastern Region of the U.S. Forest Service. The Community Health Index program seeks to track natural community restoration treatments

and their impact on multiple ecological resources, including ground flora, soil disturbance, invasive species, wildlife, and forest resources. In this role, he actively helped the development team craft a program that effectively documents natural community dynamics to support sustainable forest management decisions.

Like many natural resource professions, forestry programs struggle with employee recruitment and retention, often leaving important work left undone. Mike experienced this issue firsthand and decided to take matters into his own hands. On his own, Mike initiated communications with universities to develop a workforce development program to recruit undergraduate students for summer positions to help students gain on-the-ground work experience and build connections between the Missouri Department of Conservation and students studying in the field of forestry. The goal was to provide hands-on forestry experiences and mentorship during their schooling while providing a path for them to compete for permanent positions following graduation. This past year – the first student going through Mike's program was hired as a permanent team member!

In addition to his dedication to recruiting, training, and mentoring new foresters, Mike accepted several other noteworthy roles in the last year beyond his District. For example, he provides and helps coordinate much-needed on-the-job training for Department foresters not traditionally trained in forestry; is the Forestry Discipline Expert providing quality control of all Forest Management plans in the Ozark Region; and is coordinating the Region's Continuous Forest Inventory effort which is a cornerstone of Department's participation in the Sustainable Forestry Initiative.

Mike provides strong direction and advocacy for the wise use of both prescribed and wildfire in his District, supporting fire in the right place, at the right time, and for the right purpose. His calm demeanor, technical acumen, and mutual respect towards others galvanizes the District's interdisciplinary team toward unified goals. On wildfires, he is quick to make decisions to ensure safe operations which oftentimes requires backing out to utilize existing roads as firebreaks for indirect firefighting operations. He takes a holistic approach, and when a recent wildfire included several glades (none in an established burn unit), he backed out to the ridges to include those glades, which provided a potentially beneficial outcome to a challenging situation. Mike's team also pointed out how much he goes above and beyond in his role during a recent wildfire that just wouldn't die thanks to continuously falling leaves. Mike showed his steadfast dedication checking on the fire several times late into the night. He wasn't just barking orders; but instead grabbing tools and putting in firebreaks (of course, that also meant that dispatch was having a hard time reaching him to see what was needed!). Once the fire was contained, he checked on the site the following Sunday by himself instead of sending his team.

When it comes to prescribed fire, Mike understands the delicate balance between recognizing the benefits of fire in the right place while ensuring we maintain a healthy and thriving forest community. Mike does everything he can to ensure the priority burns get done. He energizes the team to get out and prep lines and sets ambitious goals, supported by the staff, to get high quality and priority burns done. He watches weather windows continuously and ensures good fire days don't slip by. And similar to the wildfire example, a recent situation occurred while checking on an important burn unit on Angeline Conservation Area, which was burned on a Friday. He was the first one there at 7:30am Saturday morning to check the site. He is a considerate leader, caring about his team's work-life balance and clearly views his job as a passion, not just a job.

Overall, in 2022 Mike represented the forestry profession in superb fashion. He is a model professional forester that honors the fundamentals of forestry while representing the changing face of our profession in a positive way. He is a holistic manager who promotes management of all biodiversity within the forest matrix. This kind of natural community-based management ensures a diverse ecosystem across some of the highest priority forested landscapes in the state.

Congratulations Mike!

The recipient of this year's Karkhagne Award is Carl Hauser. Carl received his Bachelor of Science in Forestry from the University of Missouri in 1972. Upon graduation, he began his professional career with the Missouri Department of Conservation as a vegetative management crew leader in Southwest Missouri. He was soon elevated to Farm Forester with additional responsibilities supervising the vegetative management program on Corps of Engineers Lakes ranging from Table Rock to the Mark Twain reservoirs.



The Karkhagne Award was presented to Carl Hauser.

As an Assistant District Forester for the Springfield District, he worked extensively with private landowners evaluating their forests and woodlands, developing management plans, and assisting in implementing those plans. Our recipient provided forest management advice through group presentations, radio and TV interviews, and newspaper and magazine articles.

From there he moved to Jefferson City providing statewide leadership, training, and advice in silviculture and recreation management to field personnel. In that role, he developed forest management and silvicultural workshops for his fellow foresters and technicians.

As a member of the Forestry Division Research Unit, he helped plan, conduct, interpret, and report results of various silvicultural research projects. In this role, our recipient played a key role in the initiation of the Missouri Ozark Forest Ecosystem Project.

The next stop along his storied career was serving as the Department's Forestry Field Program Supervisor training field personnel, coordinating planning and monitoring forest management activities on 590,000 acres under the Department's control. He led the public input effort for the Interagency Coordinated Resource Management of Missouri's Natural Resources involving the Department and several other state and federal agencies. Always willing to learn new things, our recipient led the development of a computerized forest inventory system utilizing electronic data recorders, personal computers, and geographical information systems now commonplace throughout the Department.

Next up was his service as Forest Management Chief supervising the forestry field operations of the Ozark Unit comprised of more than 30 foresters and 70 resource assistants and technicians. He also represented the Forestry Division in the Ozark Unit Coordination Team overseeing all Department field activities on the Unit, and fully participated in the Forestry Division Leadership Team responsible for strategic and operational planning.

Upon retiring from the Department in 2002, he worked as a consulting forester where, in his spare time, he led the upgrade effort of MDC's forest inventory system. In 2006, he returned to public service this time in Indiana where he provided land management services on the Ferdinand and Pike State Forests. Along the way, Carl has served as an adjunct professor to both Missouri State University and Lincoln University.

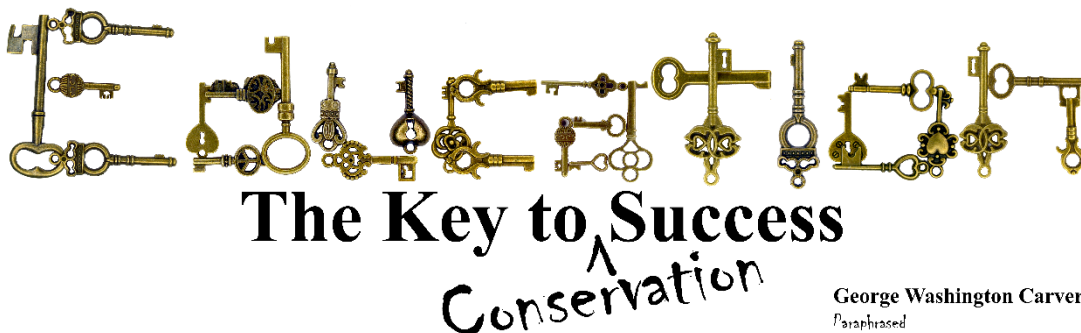
He has been a member of the Society of American Foresters since 1972 and has served as Society Chair as well as numerous committee chairs. He is a charter member of the Missouri Forest Heritage Center and served as treasurer for the Missouri Consulting Foresters Association.

He thought he retired upon his return to Missouri a few years back, but graciously served as a technical advisor for the forestry inventory instructor at the University of Missouri this past year.

Congratulations Carl!

Save the Date for MNRC 2024!

MNRC 2024 is scheduled for February 6-8, 2024. The planning committee is already working towards getting the conference going. The theme is: "Education: The Key to Conservation Success." If you are asked to help with the next conference, please do. MNRC cannot be held without your help.



MNRC Attendance (and Attendees' Wallets) Back in Full Strength

By Dave Massengale, MOSAF Special Funds Committee Chair

While it seems that bad winter weather is a common occurrence during the first week of February, this year we finally had minimal disruptions from Old Man Winter. MNRC attendees were shocked that there was not any kind of weather event during the conference, and it had many wondering if they were at the right conference. This brought out lots of attendees from across Missouri, and several from out of state as well.

The Special Funds Raffle and Silent Auctions did much better than in a few of the previous years. Marty Calvert was able to secure two battery powered Stihl pruning saws from Crader Distributing for our chainsaw raffle. MOSAF members also came up with several Silent Auction items to fill the tables. Overall, we generated about \$700 which was an increase from last year by about \$200.

Probably the most shocking and profound event that took place was the Blackjack Forester Award. Marty Calvert and I were the lucky individuals to be chosen for the competition. While Marty put up a good fight, I finally pulled it off with a whopping \$3.00 and some change to Marty's \$2.00 and some change. We almost made \$6.00. Astounding!!!! Maybe that is a good sign that neither of us really fit the description. At least I am going to keep telling myself that.

Keep in mind that next year is MOSAF's turn at leading the conference, so start planning now to bring more auction items to really fill up the booth and make a good showing.



Dave Massengale proudly displays his Blackjack Award.

MU Student SAF Chapter Update

By Kyle Rolfes, SAF Student Chapter Chair

We will be hosting a Chainsaw Basics and Safety course this April for students to get some hands-on experience with using chainsaws and other forestry-related tools. We have been combining efforts with SAFE (Student Association for Fire Ecology) to help with some glade restoration efforts as a way for some students to get more experience with doing conservation and getting experience using chainsaws.



Several members competed in the Forester's Conclave held at SIU-Carbondale on October 29th, 2022. We also have plans for doing a small Conclave competition for just Mizzou students this upcoming April as well. The weekend is still to be scheduled.

We have been able to get some people in as guest speakers at some of our meetings. We had someone from Wisconsin DNR in their forestry division come and talk to us on Tuesday, March 7th.

We are starting to look at how to raise some funds for sending students out to Sacramento this October for the SAF national conference.



Members competed in the Forester's Conclave at SIU-Carbondale in October 2022. Front row, from left: Helena Fairchild, Liz Schrader, Rylee Alden, Lyndsey Ernat. Back row: Dr. Hank Stelzer, Owen Steins, Michael Dybowski, Josh Yantis, Kyle Rolfes, David Meusch, Johnnie Swizdor, Billy McCaslin, Cole Palumbo.

CFM Resolution Encourages Ozark Chinquapin Restoration

The Conservation Federation of Missouri held its annual conference February 24-26, 2023. In addition to award presentations, raffles, silent auctions, and fellowship, one of the primary items of business during the conference is the debate and passing of resolutions to influence conservation in Missouri. One of the resolutions passed this year came from the Forest Resources committee and encourages many organizations to support restoration efforts for the Ozark Chinquapin, a species once more common across the Ozarks but affected by Chestnut Blight. The full resolution is below. All resolutions can be found on CFM's website.

Encourage Ozark Chinquapin Restoration

WHEREAS, the Ozark chinquapin (*Castanea ozarkensis*) was once an important species in the Missouri Ozarks; and

WHEREAS, the Ozark chinquapin was once used for many products including barns, furniture, railroad ties, and fence posts; and

WHEREAS, chestnut blight (*Cryphonectria parasitica*) is a fungal pathogen from Asia that removed the Ozark chinquapin from much of its native range; and

WHEREAS, only a handful of large trees remain in the wild with the majority surviving as root collar sprouts that do not produce fruits; and

WHEREAS, non-blight resistant Ozark chinquapins produce few fruits for wildlife and regeneration; and

WHEREAS, successful reintroduction of blight-resistant chinquapins will result in more resilient and diverse ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, the Ozark chinquapin can provide ample amounts of mast for wildlife; and

WHEREAS, wildlife such as bear, turkey, elk, and deer prefer the chinquapin nut due to its higher nutrient density; and

WHEREAS, forest and woodland restoration practices provide conditions to replant Ozark chinquapin; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Conservation Federation of Missouri assembled in Osage Beach, Missouri, this 25th day of February, 2023, urges the Missouri Department of Conservation, Missouri Department of Natural Resources Division of State Parks, U.S. Forest Service, L-A-D Foundation, and The Nature Conservancy to support the further development of blight-resistant Ozark chinquapin planting stock and work with the Ozark Chinquapin Foundation to establish test plantings on their lands where appropriate.

MOSAF Winter Business Meeting Minutes (Draft)

Date: Wednesday Feb 8, 2023, 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm

Location: MNRC Margaritaville; Osage Beach, MO

Attendees: MOSAF Members, Guests

Purpose

To inform attending members about upcoming events and resolve business items that need to be addressed

Objectives

- Provide verbal committee reports
- Provide updates from agencies/consulting firms/NGOs/universities
- Discuss Spring technical tour

Agenda

1. Welcome: Michael Bill, MOSAF Chair

Great student turnout.

2. Minutes from last meeting: Angela George

Approved.

3. Treasurers Report: David Vance

Support students to go to the national convention.

Plug for the Ed Stegner and MOSAF scholarships to the students.

Checking Account \$9,863.67

Savings Account \$121.27

6 Month CD \$19,173.78

12 Month CD \$19,358.86

PLT Money Market Account \$11,524.18

Report approved

4. Announcements

- Any forestry related upcoming events

--Monday in Joplin- gloom and doom report Tree Health update. Contact Jon Skinner to register, there are CFEs available.

--MCFA annual winter meeting Feb 24-25 in Jeff City reach out to Lynn Barnickol to register. CFEs are available.

--Lincoln University forest farming workshops March 31-April 1. Food and hotels covered. CFEs will be worked on to be available.

5. Committee Reports: Committee Chairs

- Audit (Megan Buchanan)
- Communications
 - Website (Jon Skinner) – 241 unique visitors to our website
 - Asked students what social media they would follow, the consensus was Instagram.
 - Want to do spotlights of good management

- National SAF is working with social media, we may be able to piggyback some of their posts
 - Our chapter would need a member in charge of maintaining and updating the page
 - Newsletter (Chris Lohman) – sent out twice a year.
 - Encouraged students to share their email address with their professor so we can send them the newsletters.
 - Chris requested content.
- Council, Fellows and Awards (Jim Barresi)- we have the Karkhagne and Outstanding Forester awards to give tonight
- Education (Mike Goerndt)- National prefers that CFEs are approved before the event. Send requests with an agenda to Mike as far an advance as possible, and specify if you want CFEs by day, by session, or by the entire event.
- Long Range Planning (John Kabrick)- we will need to update the bylaws to align with National; they will send a template.
- Membership (Hank Stelzer)- provided the snapshot of this year's and last year's demographics of our chapter and of National. MOSAF is at 140 members. Our chapter pays the first year of a student's membership.
- Nominating (Gus Raeker)- every 2 years in the fall we take nominations for secretary and chair elect. Gus has asked to step down from the nominating committee, and there was a call for his replacement. To serve in this capacity, you would be reaching out for nominations.
- Policy and Legislation (Jason Jensen)- committee hasn't met which is good that means there hasn't been a lot of hot issues.
 - Legislators are not as interested in talking about feral hogs, likely due to the success at eradication.
 - Black vultures are becoming an issue, since they don't just eat dead animals like turkey vultures; they prey on livestock. They are expanding north into the state. MDC has an agreement with APHIS to have hog trappers to also work with the vultures to deter them. Black vultures are federally protected, so you cannot just shoot them.
 - Positive news: Representative Bruce Sassman is now chair of Conservation and Natural Resources Committee. He is working with the Invasive Species Council to introduce a cease the sale bill. MOSAF may choose to give our support for that bill if/when it gets introduced.
 - There has been an emphasis on strengthening the requirements to amending the state constitution. There are several bills to this effect, many changing the need of at least 60% approval rather than a simple majority.
 - There is a bill in progress that would state no more than 20% of the county can be collectively owned by various government entities. This will likely prove unconstitutional since it circumvents the Conservation Commission's authority.
- Program (Kristen Goodrich)
 - Spring program will be April 24-25. An email will go out with details soon
 - Requested fall tour ideas, which will probably be Sept or early Oct, and will either be a 1 day or a 2 half days (The national SAF Convention is late October so we will avoid those dates)

- There was a suggestion to partner with FWAM at the Tree Farm conference at the Lake of the Ozarks/Morgan Co. The date is not yet set, but historically the same time of year as ours. A new urban wood sawmill that could be visited.
- A suggestion to tour the 100-acre Lovett Pinetum near Stratford, where an array of pine species are planted. This could be something to offer besides our official Fall tour.
- Special Funds (David Massengale)- The booth at MNRC brought in \$595 total.
 - The raffle for 2 donated pruning saws brought in \$280
 - 10 t-shirts brought \$100.
 - silent auction items brought \$214.
 - Blackjack forestry award raised a whopping \$5.04
 - Our table display is quite old, and some funds could be used to update it
- Tellers (Aaron Moore)
- Forest Science (Lauren Pile)
- MNRC Steering Committee (Jon Skinner)
 - Thanks to those who are on deck to plan the 2024 conference. These folks are the committee chair, so they may ask any of us for help from other chapter members.
- Historian (Dave Larsen)

6. Old Business

- Update on progress related to MOSAF Nonprofit status.
 - Need to update our bylaws
- Discussion of Fall Technical tour/Bottomlands Hardwood training
 - Everyone enjoyed this tour, and the consensus was it was worth the drive down there. This was put on by MDC and MOSAF.

7. New Business

- Planning for Spring and Fall Technical meeting
 - Reported above
- Discussion of 2023 objectives
 - Will continue to do technical tours
 - Work with ways to partner with other entities and other SAF chapters.
 - Tie more directly with students. We would love to come talk about MOSAF and their forestry career. We will work with the professors to make that happen.
 - Outreach/social media. Michael will talk to national to see if there are templates, and he encouraged anyone interested in running this page to step up.
 - We will be reaching out to early career members to have them join a committee or take on a leadership role as a way to get involved with an organization.

8. Agency/consulting firm/NGO/university news

- Mark Twain National Forest
 - New forest supervisor Dawn Langbowlt.

- On pace to sell 82 MMBF, which is more than usual due to the derecho salvage sales
 - Lots of hiring needed.
 - NTNF is working with the Ozark Trail Association, who are concerned with management along the trail.
- FS Northern Research Station
 - Dan Dey is acting assistant director
 - John Kabrick is acting project leader
 - Several retirements announced, which means there is a hiring period, with a couple positions currently listed or about to be listed.
- Natural Resources Conservation Services
 - The Inflation Reduction Act passed this summer, which will bring a lot of money to NRCS that must be spent with the same amount of staff. Many practices are going to need to be geared to climate smart forestry; TSI and tree planting are about the only practices that fit.
- University of Missouri
 - Terrestrial Ecosystems major has 50 students enrolled.
 - The internship program will be changing. New Internship Coordinator is Ben Knapp; please send internship opportunities to him.
 - The director of the Horticulture and Agroforestry Research Center retired; the interim director is Ben Knapp. The position will be refilled later this year. The Center has some big grants to address climate smart science and is looking to hire 4 new technicians.
 - The Nut Tree conference in partnership with the Northern Nut growers and the Walnut council will be held in the last week of July.
 - Brian Schweiss is working on the sustainable forestry initiative drive, as well as teaching forest measurements, forest management, field studies, and responsible harvesting.
 - Forestry Extension positions have been filled and more will be filled soon.
 - MU has maintained their SAF curriculum accreditation. Forest economics will be covered by an agronomist.
 - Expecting to see a dip in enrollment around 2025.
 - MU students won Conclave.
- Missouri State University
 - Enrollment is increasing after a long dip. Natural Resources with a Forestry option became available 18 months ago, and there are 25 students in that major. Several students are double majoring, and Mike Goerndt is pushing many of them to also get a GIS certificate.
 - Preparations to start a student SAF chapter are complete, but to have the best effect with a decent number of students, it would be good to have current MOSAF members come talk to them.
 - Several staff updates.
- Missouri Department of Conservation
 - In 2022, 6,289 feral hogs were removed in Missouri. In 2021 it was 10,000, and 2020 it was 12,000. Removing fewer each year because there are fewer on the landscape.

- Community Conservation is one of the top 6 agency priorities. Each region is using a prioritization model to determine the best communities to work in. Each community is put into one of three tiers. Tier 1 gets higher cost-share rates and upfront funding.
- MDC will apply for Inflation Reduction Act funds for a program called “Tree-Silence.” Since communities are losing canopy coverage; this fund will replace 2 trees for every 1 that dies/is removed. It will also pay for the removal of invasive species. MDC will also apply for IRA funds for the “Green Schoolyard Program” to build green infrastructure and pollinator plantings, with corresponding education curriculum.
- Waiting to hear back on Supreme Court Ruling on a bill that challenged MDC’s ability to purchase land (spending authority). MO Dept of Transportation is also suing the state for the same reason.
- MDC struggles to hire foresters. There are 4 positions that are advertised “open until filled”
- MDC was recertified for the Sustainable Forestry Initiative.
- MDC sold 18 MMBF of timber last year, and has already sold 12MMBF for this year with more on deck.
- Missouri Consulting Foresters
 - Currently composed of 47 members, 36 of which are actively working.
 - Lynn Barnickol shared their upcoming meeting details, with a wide variety of topics and industry areas.
 - MCFA will be developing a short course on how to set up a consulting business.
- Missouri Forest Products Association
- L-A-D Foundation/Pioneer Forest
- Missouri Student Chapter of SAF
 - MU took first in Conclave at Southern Illinois University. The chapter is trying to figure out conclave for the upcoming semester; MU may host.
 - Half of the chapter is seniors so they are trying to get some of the younger students involved.
 - A group of students will be attending the National SAF conference in Sacramento this fall.
- Utility Forestry
 - Electric cooperative is not for profit. Desperate for employees to fill vacancies as well.

9. Adjourn

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

Save a Life: Plant Your Tree Correctly!

You are probably asking what life would I save by planting my tree correctly? The answer is your tree! Trees need their root systems placed at the proper depth in the soil. The roots of trees are accustomed to a certain amount of oxygen and moisture in the soil at specific depths. When planted incorrectly, trees will have the additional stress of trying to get their roots to the place they need to be in the soil to get adequate oxygen and water.

Often trees come deep in the container or root ball. The root system has been buried either by planting too deep or maintenance work piling soil on top of the root ball. Then many people will plant the tree in a hole deeper than the height of the root ball or at the height of the root ball. Both scenarios place the root system too deep in the ground.

How do you deal with this issue? The first thing you should do, prior to digging a hole, is to find where the roots come off the trunk. A little digging in the root ball will allow you to find the root crown. All the soil in the root ball above the root crown is not needed and should be pulled off of the root ball down to the first roots.

Now you can dig your hole only as deep or slightly less than the height of the remaining soil ball. This reduces labor for you and will place the tree at the correct depth.

If you see roots that appear to grow in a circle around the root ball, these roots should be cut off right behind where the root bends to make the circle. These circling roots will slowly enlarge as the trunk does also and compete for space. At some point in the future, the root and trunk will push against each other. The root or roots will slowly girdle the trunk and choke off flow of water, eventually killing the tree. This can take decades to occur but results in the early loss of your tree. A little work now will allow your tree to live longer.

After dealing with girdling roots and the hole depth to match the remaining root ball, place your tree and fill the hole with the soil removed. Water well immediately, and for a few years to give your tree the best chances of becoming what you hope it to be.



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 or the Missouri Department of Conservation at 573-522-4115.