



The Missouri Forestkeepers Network
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MISSOURI
FORESTKEEPERS
 NETWORK



LOOKING AHEAD IN 2013

The coming year will see some exciting new options and programs for **Forestkeepers**. We are planning a suite of training options for members. If you are interested in controlling invasives on your land, growing shiitake mushrooms or learning more on forest health to share with your neighbors, stay tuned for these and more educational opportunities. A smart phone app is under construction to help engage the next techno-savvy gadget generation. This will allow folks to look at the health, timber sale and wildlife potential of their woods. Look for it this fall! We will also offer more ways to engage in Facebook and other social media. We will not abandon traditional projects for those that like to work on paper. After all, it is a great wood product!

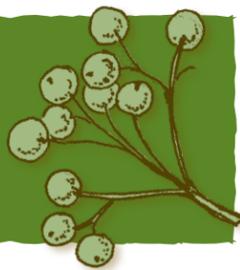


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LITTLE SPROUTS PHOTO CONTEST 2013 WINNER — SUBMITTED BY LORRAINE HILLS

The Missouri Forestkeepers Network is a program designed to develop a network of informed citizens working to conserve, sustain and enhance Missouri's urban and rural forest resources through volunteerism, advocacy, and management.



WE WANT MISSOURIANS WHO:

- Are aware of the benefits of trees and forests to the state of Missouri
- Understand forest and woodland communities
- Support and participate in the management of forest and woodland communities on public and private land
- Serve as informed advocates concerning current forestry issues

TO ACHIEVE THESE GOALS, WE ARE:

- Expanding recruitment efforts to increase membership of small acreage forest landowners in select counties
- Providing technical training across the state and materials to members to improve their level of expertise
- Exploring partnerships with other programs and organizations with a similar purpose
- Enhancing communication and networking among members to promote statewide volunteer opportunities

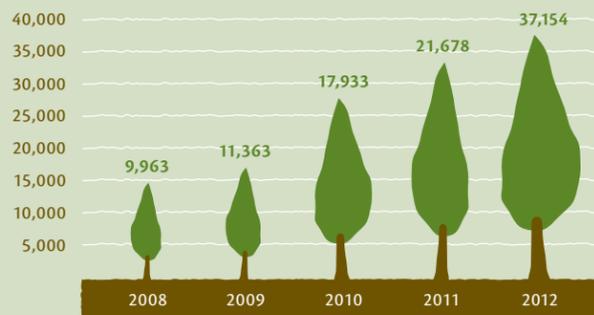
IMPACT ON MISSOURI'S FORESTS

- We welcomed 64 new members in 2012, bringing total membership to 2,653. Most of these new members reside in the St. Louis and Southeast regions.
- Spring and fall reporting periods resulted in 137 reports documenting 492 activities and 390 observation projects by members. Additionally, 120 mast surveys were submitted for a grand total of 257 reports completed in 2012. Members spent significant amounts of time on their activities. For example:
 - 1,794 hours were spent building or enhancing an outdoor classroom.
 - 1,735 hours were spent picking up trash or maintaining a public area.
 - 1,649 hours were spent representing Forestkeepers at an event.
 - 1,432 hours were spent conducting a tree project with a youth group.
 - 1,167 hours were spent attending environmental conferences or lectures.

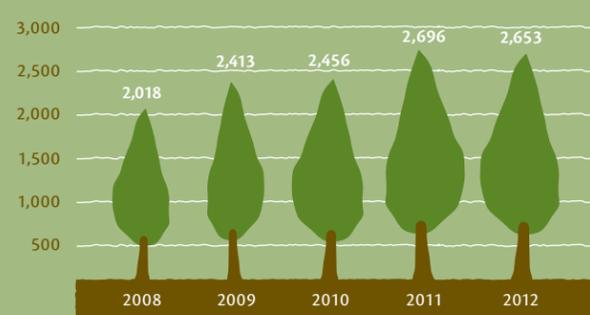
- Members and those who worked with them on their projects contributed a grand total 37,154 hours improving Missouri's forests through Forestkeepers activities. The total dollar value of the time Forestkeepers contributed in 2010 was an outstanding \$67,730. Notable projects were:
 - 345 members spent 10,785 hours caring for trees.
 - 75 members spent 1433 hours installing or maintaining food plots.
 - 64 members spent 1768 hours participating in a TSI program.
 - 273 members spent 9,099 hours planting trees.
 - 165 members spent 3,757 hours treating unwanted vegetation.



Number of Volunteer Hours



Total Members



FORESTKEEPER SPOTLIGHT



"To see what you do is making a difference is very rewarding," says Kay LaBanca, a member of the Missouri Forestkeepers Network since 2010. Kay has dedicated countless hours caring for trees and partaking in other Forestkeeper activities at both her home in St. Charles, Missouri and as a regular volunteer at Forest ReLeaf of Missouri's community-assisted nursery, CommuniTree Gardens.

"The most rewarding part about volunteering is knowing that all of the trees being cared for and grown at the nursery are going to make a difference in the places they will be planted." Kay works alongside twenty-five other regular volunteers, led by Forest ReLeaf forestry programs manager Mike Walsh, to care for 20,000 some-odd trees being grown at the nursery.

"Kay is a model volunteer and a very important part of our workforce at the nursery," says Mike. "She is an extremely outgoing person and worker who will happily do whatever needs to be accomplished."

Kay recalls when she first began volunteering at CommuniTree Gardens, which in turn led her to join the Missouri Forestkeepers Network. "I had come to the nursery to pick up a small tree order to be used at the Lewis & Clark Boathouse in St. Charles where I also volunteer as a member of the Missouri Master Naturalists. That day there was another volunteer, Valerie, that I knew from the Master Naturalists and she suggested I consider volunteering there. It sounded and looked like fun, and I love anything involving nature, so I started coming to the nursery weekly. I really like the experiences that I have and the people that are there."

Due to her late brother having his degree in forestry, Kay has developed a special interest and connection with nature. "I feel a closeness to him when I do things involving trees," she says. "With all of the issues with global warming and the environment, the health of our forests and increasing the amount of trees that we have in our communities is HUGE!"

Kay urges fellow tree enthusiasts to get involved with Forestkeepers and other similar organizations. "To anyone considering joining the Missouri Forestkeepers Network, volunteering with Forest ReLeaf or looking into other environmental organizations, I would encourage them to just give it a try; it's very rewarding and there are so many things that one can learn about trees and their care. I think I learn something new about trees every time I volunteer!"

FORESTKEEPERS AWARDS 2012

Ralph Heck (Crawford)

EXCELLENCE IN MAST SURVEYING

Submitted several reports documenting his survey of 4,200 trees as well as over 270 hours of various Forestkeeper activities

Duane Martin's Cub Scout Pack 202 (Pulaski)

YOUTH OUTREACH

Surveyed 105 trees, involved numerous others in picking up trash and planting trees and used Forestkeepers materials in the classroom

Bob & Barb Kipfer (Greene)

FOREST ADVOCATES

Involved with media including a television interview and submitting news articles, contacted legislators regarding environmental issues, attended environmental conferences and spent over 100 hours treating unwanted vegetation

Lawrence Buchheit (Perry)

FANTASTIC FORESTKEEPERS AWARD

Submitted level 1 forest stand data, surveyed for wildlife use and population numbers, used accepted harvesting practices, participated in a TSI program, planted and cared for trees, treated unwanted vegetation, installed and maintained a water source and food plots for wildlife and mast surveyed 117 trees