

LOOKING AHEAD IN 2011

In 2011 we will complete a new three-year Strategic Plan for the **Forestkeepers Network**. Key areas of focus include:

- ♣ Finding new ways to engage Forestkeepers with family oriented activities that provide valuable information about the status of Missouri's forests.
- ♣ Providing opportunities for Forestkeepers to participate in projects that bring several groups together around a common goal.
- ♣ Expanding the **Missouri Heritage Woods** program to ensure widespread landowner involvement in the **Forestkeepers Network**.

Our ongoing effort to enhance communications with members remains an important goal for the **Missouri Forestkeepers Network**. In the next several months the Forestkeepers website will get a new look with improved outreach components. Members are encouraged to join the new *Forestkeepers Facebook* page, where they will find a wealth of timely conservation and forestry information. In addition, the content and format for *The Missouri Forestkeepers Monitor* newsletter will undergo a review. Through the use of new technology we will offer multiple opportunities for you to provide input and offer suggestions.

Thank you for your commitment to Missouri's trees and forests!



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LITTLE SPROUTS PHOTO CONTEST — NICKI (6) IN HER NEST — SUBMITTED BY JIM & NORMA HORN, ST. LOUIS

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 forest 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:

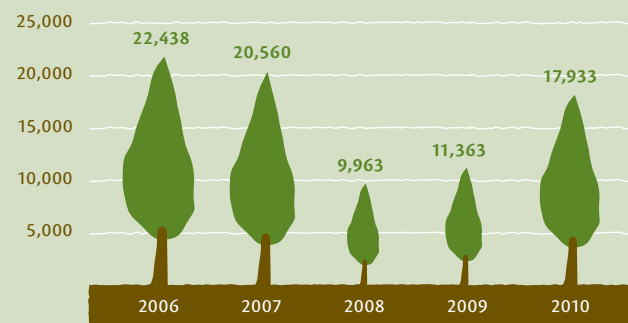
- ♣ Expanding recruitment efforts to increase membership of small acreage forest landowners in select counties
- ♣ Providing technical training across the state and materials to members to improve their level of expertise
- ♣ Exploring partnerships with other programs and organizations with a similar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

IMPACT ON MISSOURI'S FORESTS

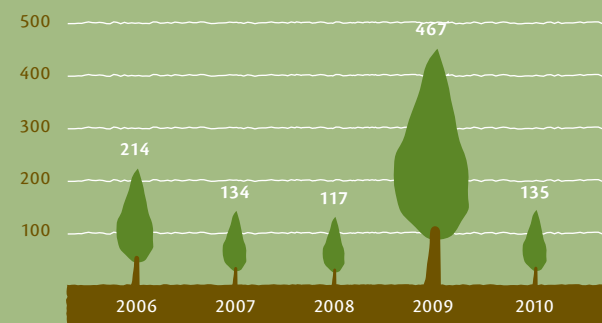
Forestkeepers are the eyes on Missouri's forests. Threats to our forests include thousand canker disease of walnut, emerald ash bore and gypsy moth. We know the first detection of these threats will likely come from a concerned citizen. Efforts by our Forestkeeper volunteers have a huge impact on Missouri's forests. Highlights from last year include:

- ♣ We welcomed 135 new members in 2010. This brought the total membership to 2,456! The membership increase of over 5% resulted from a mailing to landowners. Most of these members came from southeast Missouri and the St. Louis area.
- ♣ Spring and fall reporting periods resulted in 144 reports documenting 604 activities. Forty-one members submitted observation information. Additionally, 102 mast surveys were received. Members spent significantly more time on many activities. For example:
 - **1,001 hours** were spent by members installing food plots.
 - **1,343 hours** were spent planting trees.
 - **864 hours** were spent picking up trash or otherwise maintaining an outdoor area.
 - **1,365 hours** were spent in helping to build or enhance an outdoor classroom.
- ♣ Members and those who worked with them on their projects contributed a grand total of 17,933 hours improving Missouri's forests. The total dollar value of the time Forestkeepers contributed in 2010 was an outstanding \$373,903.05. Several projects that demonstrated great commitment are listed below:
 - **Cared for trees:** 191 members contributed 3,328 hours of service.
 - **Planted trees:** 187 members contributed 1,347 hours.
 - **Conducted timber stand improvement:** 28 members provided 1,629 hours.
 - **Treated unwanted vegetation:** 2,665 hours were provided by 114 volunteers.

Number of Volunteer Hours



Number of New Members



HERITAGE WOODS LANDOWNER SPOTLIGHT

Tim and Rita French value their 120 acre Cole County farm. It is not a farm in the traditional sense of corn and soybeans, but a farm growing trees. In fact, it is a certified Tree Farm through the American Tree Farm System and has recently become the first Heritage Woods.



The Missouri Heritage Woods program recognizes landowners who take care of this valuable resource. These landowners may care for their woods as a residence and woodland retreat, for its wildlife benefits, or for wood products. For the French family, these are all objectives for their woodland management practices.

The many benefits of sustainable forest management can be seen in the French woods and in their home. Tim facilitates the growth of high quality white oak through the removal of poor quality trees competing for growing space—a practice commonly refers to as timber stand improvement. Tim anticipates a harvest of mature red oaks on the farm to generate some revenue.

In the French home, flooring and cabinets were made from trees grown on the farm. They heat with wood selectively harvested from storm damaged trees and mature timber.

Wood products are really a side benefit. Great

enjoyment is had on the property throughout

the year. The benefits of this good management include numerous deer and turkey for viewing and hunting. The ability to kick back and enjoy the natural surroundings, seeing bobcats and other wildlife adds greatly to the quality of life and the satisfaction of taking care of the land.

Some of the south and southwest slopes are dry rocky woodlands. Through the careful use of fire, Tim hopes to encourage native grasses and wildflowers into these areas. The fires helps control unwanted trees and certain native plants will grow and remain more dominant under these conditions. This will create a unique natural community of trees, grass and wildflowers.

For more information on the new Heritage Woods program, contact us at 1-888-9-FOREST or information@forestkeepers.org.



OUTSTANDING FORESTKEEPER VOLUNTEERS WERE RECOGNIZED AT THE 2010 ANNUAL CONFERENCE HELD IN LICKING, MO. AWARDEES INCLUDE:

Leslie Limberg

FANTASTIC FORESTKEEPER
Dedicated 790 hours in 2009 and cared for 50 trees, maintained six water sources and served as an advocate for Missouri's forests

Janet & David Schwaller

LANDOWNERS OF THE YEAR
Planted 20 trees and logged 546 hours installing food plots and a water source while using accepted harvesting practices on 20 acres

Bob & Pat Perry

YOUTH OUTREACH

William Ward
EXCELLENCE IN MAST SURVEYING

Sharon (Petie) Briggs Bullock

ARBOR DAY EVENT/
COMMUNITY OUTREACH