



The Missouri Forestkeepers Network  
 c/o Forest ReLeaf of Missouri  
 4207 Lindell Blvd., Suite 301  
 St. Louis, MO 63108

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit  
 Organization  
 U.S. Postage  
 PAID  
 St. Louis, MO  
 Permit No. 3900



MISSOURI  
**FORESTKEEPERS**  
 NETWORK



LITTLE SPROUTS PHOTO CONTEST — CHARLOTTE (12), JERALD (10), ROBERT (7)  
 CLIMBING A BEAUTIFUL RED OAK — VICKI ADAMS; STODDARD

Toll free 1-888-9-FOREST  
 (1-888-936-7378)  
 information@forestkeepers.org  
 www.forestkeepers.org



LOOKING AHEAD IN 2012

In 2012 we will provide more opportunities to engage **Forestkeepers** in reporting and educational opportunities. Our five year strategic plan lays out a roadmap for meeting many hazards and dangers facing healthy forests.

♦ New programs will be developed for Forestkeepers to become **Heritage Woods Advisors**. Individuals who complete a series of courses will have the tools needed to promote and discuss benefits of and practices that will maintain healthy forests. The Forestkeepers website will allow greater access to monitoring forms. These can be printed for those wanting paper copies or be accessible by smart phone to fill out online and go totally digital.

♦ An emphasis on awareness and control of exotics will be a critical focus over the next year and years. This will include monitoring for invasive insects like emerald ash borer and thousand canker disease of walnut and control of bush honeysuckle that overtakes are forests and woodlands.

Communication efforts will continue to be a focal point. The Network administrators will enhance outreach through e-mail, Facebook and Twitter, but will not leave behind traditional methods like the *Monitor* newsletter and mailings of field day fliers. The Network relies on informed members to communicate to friends and neighbors in order to deliver key messages of healthy forests for Missourians and their many benefits.

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 140 new members in 2011. This brought the total membership to 2,696. The membership increase resulted from a mailing to landowners. Most of these members came from the St. Louis area and the Central Region.
- Spring and fall reporting periods resulted in 120 reports documenting 683 activities and 67 observation projects by members. Additionally, 86 mast surveys were received for a grand total of 273 reports. Members spent significant amounts of time on their activities. For example:
  - 4792 hours were spent attending an environmental conference or lecture
  - 1611 hours were spent installing or maintaining food plots
  - Picked up trash or maintained a public area: 222 members contributed 1,234 hours
  - 570 hours were spent installing or maintaining a water source for wildlife
- Members and those who worked with them on their projects contributed a grand total of 21,678 hours improving Missouri's forests. The total dollar value of the time Forestkeepers contributed in 2010 was an outstanding \$470,204.80. Several projects that demonstrated great commitment are listed below:
  - Attended lectures and voiced concerns regarding environmental issues: 578 members contributed nearly 6,000 hours
  - Cared for trees: 288 members contributed 3,835 hours
  - Planted trees: 266 members contributed 2,629 hours
  - Treated unwanted vegetation: 100 members contributed 1,293 hours



## FORESTKEEPER SPOTLIGHT

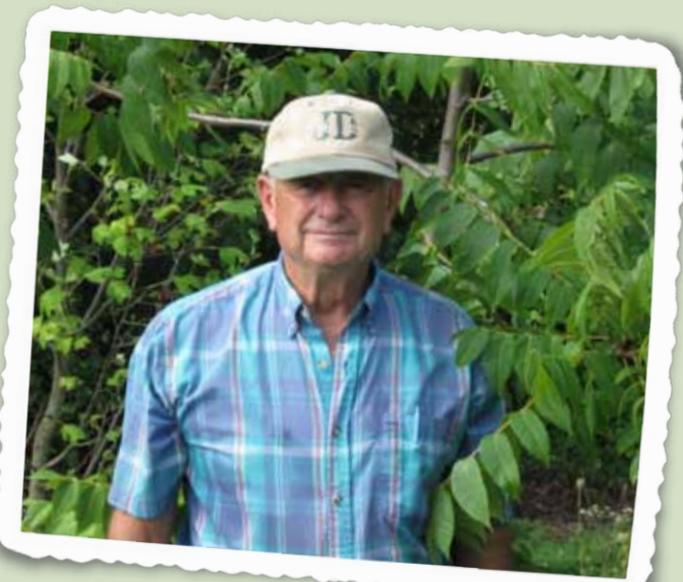
A short conversation with Lawrence Buchheit and you will quickly see his passion for trees and forests. "The more I see it the more I believe in it" is the comment he made while talking about timber stand improvement. Lawrence spends many hours thinning trees to remove undesirable ones and allow better trees to grow. He goes on to say "people manage their corn and soybeans and should do the same for their trees." Thinning is like weed control; too many plants or weeds in the fields will make for poor crop yields in the same manner that too many trees will make for slow growth. Giving your "crop trees" enough growing space will keep them healthier and allow them to grow faster.

Lawrence owns 282 acres and manages forests on about 95 acres. In addition to thinning, he harvests trees on a regular basis. He uses a forester to help with the decisions of what trees to cut, then works with a logger to harvest the trees. This is done in a manner and scale that will allow him to move through his property over a ten year time period and then once completed he will harvest again where he started. This is accomplished by only harvesting the trees that are mature or need to be removed and leaving the rest to grow.

His management benefits a lot of wildlife that he enjoys seeing and hunting. Raccoon, opossum and skunk are high on his list of desirable wildlife. Large den trees are maintained to provide homes for these furbearers that he enjoys hunting. Deer and turkey are also important. The harvesting and thinning he conducts will provide food and cover for them.

The property is a diverse farm of crop fields, pasture, and woods. Along the edges of fields, rows of crop will be left to provide food for quail and other wildlife. He admits quail are a challenge to maintain. Big fields, fewer weeds, and less diversity have made it difficult for them, but he wants to do what he can to help the quail out.

It is clear to see after a short conversation with Lawrence why he is spotlighted.



## OUTSTANDING FORESTKEEPER VOLUNTEERS WERE RECOGNIZED AT THE 2011 ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN CUBA, MO. AWARDEES INCLUDE:

**William & Susan Schuler**  
FANTASTIC FORESTKEEPER  
Conducted numerous practices and turned in several reports including three level one forest stand data reports, used accepted harvesting practices, treated for insect and disease, planted trees, picked up trash, and treated unwanted vegetation

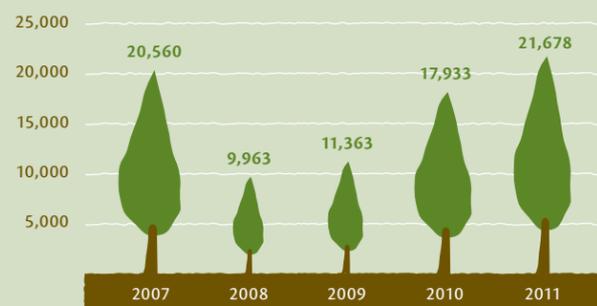
**Robert Dugger**  
LANDOWNERS OF THE YEAR  
Planted trees, cared for trees, chemically treated for insects and disease, surveyed for wildlife use and/or populations, installed or maintained a water source for wildlife, used accepted harvesting practices, and submitted level one forest stand data

**Richard Hashagen**  
YOUTH OUTREACH  
Conducted tree project with youth group planting 16 trees, helped build and enhance an outdoor classroom, and used Forestkeeper or related educational materials with youth

**Ron Powell**  
EXCELLENCE IN MAST SURVEYING  
Surveyed 178 trees — a minimum of 50 trees is requested

**Robert Kipfer**  
COMMUNITY OUTREACH  
Partook in several practices to benefit trees and forests, voiced environmental concerns at a meeting, attended an environmental conference or lecture, took part in a newspaper interview, submitted news article to media, contacted legislators regarding conservation, and conducted a tree project with a youth group

### Number of Volunteer Hours



### Number of New Members

