



MISSOURI ForestKeepers MONITOR

SPRING 2006

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Backyard Woods

Bring Your Vision to Life

WOODED LAND DOES NOT HAVE TO COVER hundreds or thousands of acres to provide a richness and diversity of life. Smaller acreages can have big impacts, too! If you are one of the many landowners in Missouri who own one to ten acres, then the *Backyard Woods* program may be for you.

This new project is a cooperative effort between The National Arbor Day Foundation, the USDA Forest Service, Northeastern Area, and the National Association of Conservation Districts. *Backyard Woods* is designed to inspire owners of small acreage to better care for their wooded land. By following the guidelines and instructions provided through the program, property owners can improve their land, as well as find innovative ways to include nature in everyday family activities.

"The Arbor Day Foundation is excited to help small landowners make the most of their land," says John Rosenow, president of The National Arbor Day Foundation. "Through its informative guide book and tip sheets, *Backyard Woods* helps them turn their land into a place of great personal satisfaction, and a real benefit to the environment."

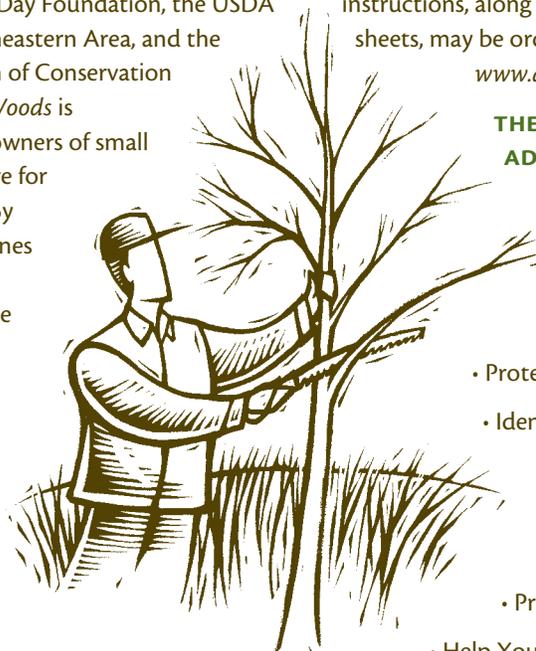
Kathryn Maloney, USDA Forest Service Northeastern Area director, says, "The USDA Forest Service and our State Forestry partners have a long history of providing technical assistance to forest landowners. *Backyard Woods* is an innovative and cost-efficient way to extend our expertise to an important and growing audience."

The full-color booklet with guidelines and instructions, along with the in-depth tip sheets, may be ordered or downloaded at www.arborday.org/backyardwoods.

THE 12-POINT TIP SHEET ADDRESSES THE FOLLOWING HOW-TO TOPICS:

- Make a Master Plan
- Work Safely with a Chain Saw
- Protect Your Property from Wildfire
- Identify and Manage Hazardous Defects in Your Trees
- Keep Your Woods Healthy
- Attract Wildlife
- Protect Clean Water
- Help Your Preferred Trees Grow
- Prune Your Trees
- Plant Trees
- Grow and Collect Special Forest Products
- Generate Wood Products

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**FORESTKEEPERS
NETWORK**



MISSION:

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.

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Courtesy of the Missouri Department of Conservation

The Missouri Forestkeepers Network is a statewide volunteer program administered by Forest ReLeaf of Missouri in partnership with the Missouri Department of Conservation. Membership is free.

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Congratulations!

By Nancy von Brecht, Executive Director, Forest ReLeaf of Missouri



Justine Gartner, Forestry Field Programs Supervisor, Missouri Department of Conservation, and Nancy von Brecht, Executive Director of Forest ReLeaf of Missouri (center), with Richard Hashagen, 2005 Land Steward and Environmental Educator of the Year. (MDC photo)

RICHARD HASHAGEN, a resident of Phelps County, was recently honored as "Land Steward of the Year" and "Environmental Educator of the Year" by the Missouri Forestkeepers Network. The combined award

was presented to Hashagen at the Missouri Community Forestry Council Awards Banquet in St. Louis in March.

Hashagen was selected from among the active members for his exceptional volunteer activities in 2005. He worked with two scout troops to plant 125 trees at Camp Brim Shire, and pruned and cared for another 75 trees with the help of scouts,

university students, and members of the Meramec Hills Chapter of the Missouri Master Naturalists.

Hashagen was also recognized for improving the accessibility and habitat around the lake at the camp, and for working with volunteers to clean up the litter on the County road fronting the Brim Shire property. In addition, he was commended for his contributions to the curriculum for the Missouri Master Naturalist classes for the local chapter.

Hashagen is a lifelong outdoorsman. He and his wife Sherry provide Camp Brim Shire resources, facilities and programs to hundreds of special needs children, seniors and veterans, as well as scouts, schools, churches, and other youth groups, at their unique facility north of St. James.

In accepting the award, Hashagen said, "Emphasis on the outdoors, conservation, and wildlife education and values for our youth are the key to our future. It is so important that we enrich and protect the natural resources in Missouri and throughout the nation."

Congratulations, Rich!



SPRING ACTIVITY

A seasonal project to enjoy with the whole family

It's Time for Spring Showers: Build a Rain Gauge!

THE AMOUNT OF RAIN OR SNOW AVAILABLE to trees each year varies by the local climate, but in areas where trees grow naturally, they need at least 20 inches annually. Find out how much water your trees are getting by making a rain gauge.

You will need:

- Ruler
- Scissors
- Clear packing tape
- Wide-mouth glass jar with a wide bottom
- Notebook or journal

To make the gauge, use a 6-inch ruler or cut a 12-inch ruler in half. Place the ruler inside the jar and stand it up vertically; then tape it into place so that the numbers can be read from the outside of the jar. Place your rain gauge outside on the lawn or in a garden where it can collect rain. Shortly

after a rain, record the precipitation to the nearest 1/10 or 1/8 inch. Keep the results in a journal, and invite family members to add other weather-related observations.

During dry months, both newly planted trees and older trees in your yard will need enough water to survive. Here are some helpful watering hints:

- Water using a sprinkler until your rain gauge shows that 3 to 4 inches of water have fallen.
- During hot, dry periods, deep water your tree(s) twice a month by moistening the soil to about 12 inches deep.
- Reduce evaporation loss by watering early in the morning.

Adapted from the Backyard Woods program of The National Arbor Day Foundation and the USDA Forest Service, Northeastern Area

FEATURED SPECIES:
FLOWERING DOGWOOD

Cornus florida L.



Illustration courtesy of the Missouri Department of Conservation

THE FLOWERING DOGWOOD IS

Missouri's beloved state tree and has been called the "aristocrat" of native flowering trees. Excellent as a specimen tree or when planted in groupings, it generally reaches up to 40 feet in height with a crown spread equal to or greater than the height. Flowering dogwood prefers well-drained, acid-based soils and partial shade. The dried bark of the root was once used to treat malaria, chills, and fevers. Native Americans made a scarlet dye from the roots and the hard wood was used to make skewers for cooking.

LEAVES: Simple, opposite; 3 to 5 inches long and 1½ to 2½ inches wide; generally oval-shaped; prominently veined; shiny green and hairy on both sides.

BARK: Dark brown to gray; broken into small "squamish" blocks; provides winter interest.

FLOWERS: Spring-flowering, usually in mid-April to May, sometimes in tandem with redbud; the four white bracts are often mistaken for the flowers, which are located in clusters centered above the bracts; light green to light yellow petals about ⅛-inch wide; buds are developed the previous year. The flowers open before the leaves and sometimes remain as the leaves develop.

FRUIT: Shiny, bright red drupe; generally in clusters of two to six; ¼- to ½-inch long; each drupe contains one to two cream-colored seeds; attractive to many bird species.

HABITAT & RANGE: In the wild, flowering dogwood is usually found along bluffs and wooded slopes. It can be found throughout much of the southern two-thirds of the state, as well as in some northeastern counties.

Treevia

FUN FOREST FACTS TO KNOW AND TELL!

- At the turn of the last century, Missouri was a leading timber-producing state. The peak of Missouri's timber production was in 1909. By 1910, nearly all of the pine was cut.
- By 1920 the boom was over — there were no more desirable trees left to cut in the Ozarks. That's when work began in earnest to help regenerate Missouri's forests!

& QA

Q: When is the best time to conduct my tree observations?

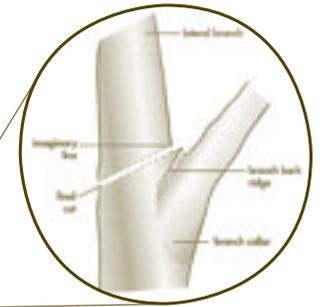
A: *You can observe the trees on your plot any time of the year. However, it is easier to identify the trees after they leaf out. In addition, tree stressors might be more apparent during the spring and summer months. The spring reporting deadline is June 15 and the fall deadline is November 1.*

Have a question about Forestkeepers, trees, or what you read in this issue? Contact us at information@forestkeepers.org or by mail to: Q&A, c/o Forest ReLeaf of Missouri, 4207 Lindell Blvd., Suite 301, St. Louis, MO 63108. We will try to answer your questions in the next issue.

We Didn't Mean to Mislead You!

A SAVVY READER CALLED THE FORESTKEEPERS HOTLINE after he received the last issue of this newsletter. He was concerned that the graphic that ran on page one with the "Tree Pruning 101" article was misleading. The graphic illustrated a branch reduction cut, but could be interpreted as instructing readers to cut off the main leader of a tree. We certainly wouldn't want that to happen!

Please see the revised graphic and caption at right.



To shorten branches, make reduction cuts only where there is a lateral branch at least 1/3 the diameter of the part you are removing. Cuts should bisect the angle between the branch bark ridge and a straight line drawn across the parent stem.

Welcome New Members

We would like to welcome the following new members to the Missouri Forestkeepers Network:

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Bakersfield Elementary | LaLonnie Groves | David McClain | Mrs. Turney's 4th Grade Class, |
| Boy Scouts Den 4, Festus | Randy Hamm | Thomas C. McConnell | St. John the Baptist |
| Brandt Family | Levi Harmon | Jamie Miller | Tim Wahl |
| Braymer FFA | Shawn Hawkins | Thomas Mott | Wattles Family |
| Marty Brockmann | Hazelwood West Middle School | Lori Munhollon | Jerry Wilson |
| CBC Science | Douglas J. Heffner, Sr. | New Urban Landscaping | Ken Wood |
| Scott Deken | Bob Hehnke | Richard O'Dell | |
| John Demarco | Mark Hensley | Kay Olberding | |
| Mrs. Nicky DeVoto | Innsbrook Resort | Ortega Family | |
| Janice Dickmeyer | Micah Janzow | Matt Phillips | |
| Jude Duffell | Sean G. Lee | Chris Powers | |
| Edgar Family | Leslie Limberg | Kari Pratt | |
| Elizabeth J. Faherty | Don Mackey | Schunk Family | |
| Jeff Farris | Carol Mahan | Mary F. Sears | |
| Fourtner Family | Celeste Mazzacano | Melba Smith | |
| Tanner Fuson | | Becki Triplett | |

Do you know someone who might be interested in becoming a Forestkeeper? Call 1-888-9-Forest or visit www.forestkeepers.org for details on joining our network of more than 1,700 citizens who are working to conserve, sustain, and enhance Missouri's urban and rural forest resources.

Backyard Woods

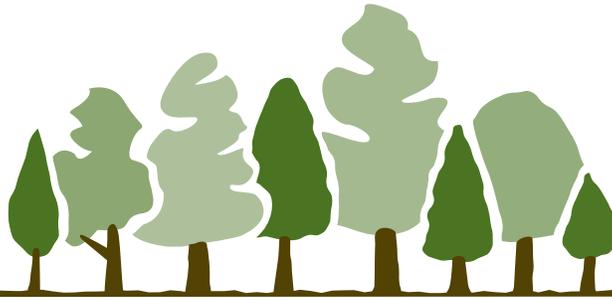
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Whether you want to enhance the scenery in your backyard woods, provide superb habitat for wildlife, or even utilize your land as an extra source of income, the *Backyard Woods* program can assist in bringing your vision to life.

For more information, contact The National Arbor Day Foundation at 1-888-448-7337 or via e-mail at member.services@arborday.org.

Adapted from information provided by The National Arbor Day Foundation and the USDA Forest Service, Northeastern Area





FORESTKEEPERS BULLETIN

Specialty Forest Products

MISSOURI'S FORESTS PRODUCE MANY

products each year. The forest products industry contributes about four billion dollars annually to Missouri's economy. When forest products are mentioned, people usually think of dimensional lumber and furniture. However, other wood products are also produced from Missouri's forests, including railroad cross-ties, hardwood flooring, pallet lumber, mulch, wood chips, and paper.

Nontraditional or "specialty forest products" should not be overlooked as a way to earn extra money from your woodlands. Some of these items are wood florals, handicrafts and other wood products, medicinals and botanicals, and food products. As a forest owner, you can enjoy supplemental income by capitalizing on some of these nontraditional items.



Black walnuts and morel mushrooms are popular products harvested from Missouri's forests.

WOOD FLORALS

Have you ever been in a gift shop and noticed a flower arrangement with grape vines or pinecones? If so, you saw a forest product that could have come from a Missouri woodlot.

Wild grape vines are harvested and sold to florists to make flower arrangements. Pinecones that have opened are sold to craft markets for various floral, wreath, and potpourri products. Other plant species also have colorful or unusually shaped stems, flowers, fruit, or leaves which are desirable for floral arrangements.

HANDICRAFTS AND OTHER WOOD PRODUCTS

There are many different items made out of wood products that are not commonly found in stores. Walking canes can be made out of sassafras or willow. Baskets are usually made out of reeds. Rustic furniture can be made out of lumber from most any tree species.

Odd portions of a tree are often cherished by woodworkers. Wood burls have unique grain patterns when sawed into lumber. The grain in the crotch wood of a forked tree can be beautiful. Some of the products I have seen made out of uniquely-grained wood are gun stocks, tables, cigar boxes, and jewelry boxes.

Trees that seem worthless to some people may be a treasure to others. The wood of an Osage-orange tree can be used to make traditional archery equipment, wildlife calls, and fence posts. Some maple trees have wood grain patterns, such as bird's eye and curly grain, which are used in the construction of musical instruments. Sassafras wood is used for boat paddles and carvings.

continued on next page >

By John Tuttle, Forestry
Field Program Supervisor,
Missouri Department
of Conservation



**PREVIOUS
TECHNICAL BULLETINS:**

- #1 Our Upland Oak-Hickory Forests
- #2 Bottomland Forests
- #3 Missouri's Coniferous Forests
- #4 Urban Forests and Plantations
- #5 The Gypsy Moth
- #6 Dogwood Anthracnose
- #7 The Japanese Beetle in Missouri
- #8 Butternut Canker and Its Dwindling Host
- #9 Asian Longhorned Beetle
- #10 Chip Mills in Missouri
- #11 Community Forestry
- #12 Proper Pruning
- #13 How to Hire an Arborist
- #14 Can These Trees Be Saved?
- #15 Maintenance of Backyard Trees
- #16 Selecting Professional Tree Care
- #17 Tree Protection During Construction
- #18 Poison Ivy
- #19 Tick-Borne Diseases
- #20 Chiggers
- #21 Snakes of Missouri
- #22 Managing Your Forest
- #23 Are You Protecting Missouri's Water?
- #24 Selling Timber the Smart Way
- #25 Timber Stand Improvement
- #26 Benefits of Livestock Fencing
- #27 Edge Feathering
- #28 Managing for White-Tailed Deer
- #29 Turkeys & Woodlands
- #30 Underutilized Trees for Missouri Landscapes
- #31 Managing Your Yard for Trees and Grass
- #32 Windbreaks: Protection That Grows
- #33 Evergreens: Selections for Your Landscape

You can access these bulletins online at www.forestkeepers.org by clicking on "Newsletters" on the homepage.

Specialty Forest Products

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MEDICINALS AND BOTANICALS

Many kinds of medicinals and botanicals are made from nearly all parts of trees, shrubs, or herbaceous plants, including wood, bark, leaves, roots, flowers, nuts, sap, and pollen. Some dyes, cosmetics, fungicides, and insecticides are derived from relatively common plants. There are several botanical companies with headquarters in Missouri that purchase and market botanical plant material throughout the world.

Ginseng is a highly treasured plant in Asian cultures for its healing properties. The roots of goldenseal purportedly ease digestive problems. Wild ginger is used as a spice in cooking. These three plants are native to Missouri and could already be growing in your forest, but you are advised to become familiar with harvesting regulations that might be applicable if you plan to market these plants.

FOOD PRODUCTS

Many foods are made from the fruit of trees, shrubs, and woody vines. Blueberries, gooseberries, huckleberries, wild strawberries, wild grapes, wild plums and mulberries all grow under the forest canopy in Missouri and are great for making pies and jellies.

Landowners might allow people to pick these berries for a fee, or they pick them themselves and sell the fruit. My aunt sold countless gallons of blackberries to the folks in town. A little local promotion telling people that you have some extra fruit or berries could lead to some additional income.

Black walnuts have been the major nut crop in Missouri for many years. In an average year, Missourians deliver more than 20 million pounds of nuts to local hullers. Most of this volume comes from wild trees and is delivered to market by landowners. Black walnuts and pecans are wonderful in cookies, pies, and ice cream. Don't forget about other edible nuts and fruits, such as the fruit of the pawpaw tree or hazelnuts.

Each year, people spend countless hours searching for mushrooms. The morel mushroom is prized by many and can be sold for a good price. Of course, there is more to mushroom hunting than just finding the mushrooms — lots of people find this to be a good excuse just to be out in the woods!

FOR MORE INFORMATION

As you can see, many valuable products come from Missouri's forests. For the innovative landowner or entrepreneur, these brief descriptions will help to guide you to specific products and markets.

The *AgriMissouri™ Buyer's Guide*, a publication of the Missouri Department of Agriculture, lists many processors, canners and markets for a wide variety of wild-crafted products. This publication is an excellent reference for landowners attempting to find existing markets for many specialty forest products. Visit www.mda.mo.gov/Market/aboutbguide.htm for more information.

Remember to always ask for permission before entering someone else's property to harvest any type of forest product. Also be sure to check the state regulations/wildlife code before harvesting plants anywhere in Missouri.

Storm Damage and Trees

By Justine Gartner, Forestry Field Programs Supervisor, Missouri Department of Conservation

SNOW, ICE, TORNADOES, HAIL, AND HIGH VELOCITY WINDS ARE JUST A FEW OF THE NATURAL PERILS THAT FACE MISSOURI'S TREES. WHEN SEVERE WEATHER DAMAGES TREES, CLEANUP AND RECOVERY CAN BE BEWILDERING. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT DAMAGED TREES ARE TREATED AND REPAIRED TO MAINTAIN THEIR HEALTH. HERE ARE SOME POINTS TO CONSIDER AS YOU MAKE SOME HARD CHOICES AFTER A STORM.

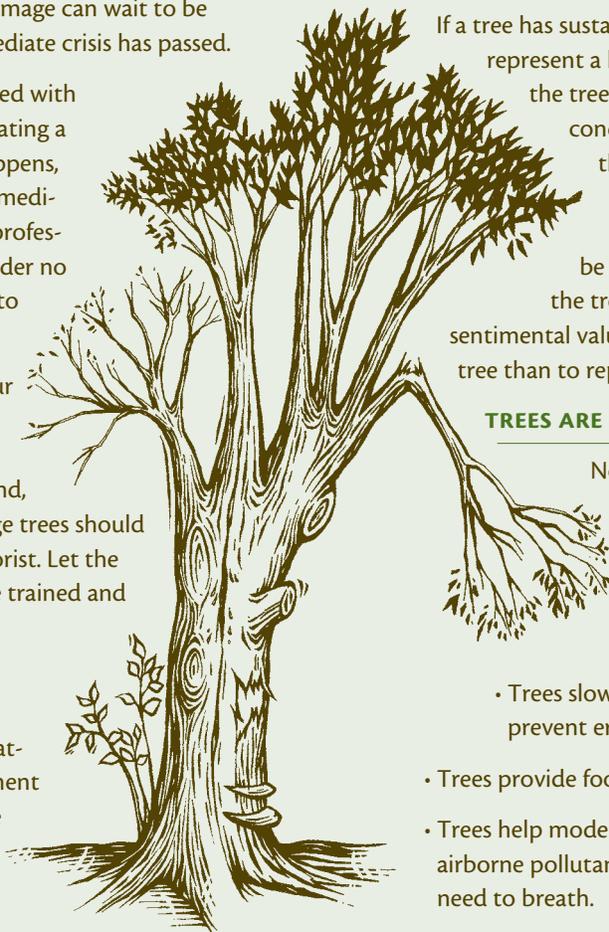
SAFETY FIRST

Secure your family and your property first. As soon as possible, remove the trees or limbs which have fallen on your home or are blocking access. Be sure to look up and remove any hanging limbs which could potentially drop on you. Any remaining tree damage can wait to be addressed until after the immediate crisis has passed.

Damaged trees are often tangled with overhead or downed lines, creating a dangerous situation. If this happens, alert your electric provider immediately and allow these trained professionals to handle the crisis. Under no circumstances should you try to handle the problem yourself.

Don't "bite off" more than your skill level allows. Chainsaw work, other heavy work that needs to be done off the ground, and essentially all work on large trees should be done by a professional arborist. Let the professionals do what they are trained and equipped to do.

If you elect to do some of the cleanup yourself, be sure you are familiar with the safe operating procedures for any equipment you use. Wear the appropriate personal protective gear, including eye protection, ear protection, a hard hat, leather gloves, and chainsaw chaps (if using a chainsaw). Also be sure of your footing, especially after ice and snow storms.



CAN THESE TREES BE SAVED?

Minor damage, with only smaller branches injured, usually results in little or no permanent damage to the tree.

Cleaning up the broken twigs and perhaps lightly pruning the branches can restore a pleasing shape.

If a tree has sustained more serious damage, but does not represent a hazard, take the time necessary to be sure the tree gets proper care. Ask yourself, "Given the condition, is it worth saving the tree?" Invest the time and effort to save a tree only if more than 50% of the tree remains intact and if, when repairs are made, the tree will be attractive and of value. Carefully consider the tree's condition, age, species, location, and sentimental value. It may be more desirable to replace the tree than to repair it.

TREES ARE A VALUABLE RESOURCE

Not sure if you'll replant?

Consider these facts:

- Trees reduce heating and cooling costs.
- Trees can increase property values by 10-20%.
- Trees slow stormwater runoff and help prevent erosion.
- Trees provide food and shelter for a myriad of wildlife.
- Trees help moderate air pollution by absorbing airborne pollutants. They also produce the oxygen we need to breath.
- Trees are aesthetically appealing.
- Trees block out noise and can screen undesirable views.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact the Missouri Department of Conservation, P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, MO, 65102 or visit www.missouriconservation.org. Additional information may also be found at www.arborday.org/media/stormrecovery.

Mark Your Calendar

Summer 2006 Workshops & Events

Forestkeepers Annual Conference

Blue Springs – June 3

Spring Reporting Deadline

June 15 – When you submit your report, you can select your choice of thank-you gift, including the new logo T-shirt! Visit www.forestkeepers.org to download activity report and observation forms, or call us and we'll send them to you.

Call 1-888-9-FOREST or check the website.

Member Alert! New Monitoring Opportunity

Oak wilt is an aggressive and deadly disease that first exhibits symptoms in late spring to early summer. This is the best time of year to look for the disease as the symptoms are easier to identify than they are later in the season.

Your help is needed to locate pockets of infected trees! Please use the *Oak Wilt Tree Observations* form recently mailed to all members, or download it from the website.



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