

# Welcome New Members

A warm welcome is extended to the following individuals and groups who recently joined the Missouri Forestkeepers Network:

David Anderson Sr.	Laura Murphy
Ava FFA	Melissa Murphy
Richard Bossch	Jason Pratte
Justin Heath	Liz Slimane
Danny Loughridge	Melinda Wessler
Steven Marshall	Michael Whitney
Priscilla McKinley	Kenneth Williams
Missouri Department of Agriculture, Division of Information & Outreach	

Membership is free and just a phone call or a click away!  
Call 1-888-9-Forest (1-888-936-7378) or visit the website  
at [www.forestkeepers.org](http://www.forestkeepers.org).

# Kudos!

Congratulations and a big thank you go out to member Charles Laun for organizing a booth promoting the Missouri Forestkeepers Network at the 2004 Columbia Earth Day Festival. The booth won second prize in the educational display contest sponsored by the Columbia Earth Day Coalition. Thanks also goes to members Clayton Lee and Ann Marie Long, who helped staff the booth during the event. ☐

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The Missouri  
Forestkeepers  
Network



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The Monitor

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A newsletter for all participants in the Missouri Forestkeepers Network

# The Monitor

Summer 04

## No MOre Trash! Campaign Aims to Reduce Litter

By Ginny Wallace, Mo Master Naturalist Coordinator

We've all seen it — Styrofoam containers, plastic bags, cans, and other unsightly trash littering our favorite parks, trails, streams, and roadsides. As a Forestkeeper, you are undoubtedly concerned about the environment and want it to be as clean and natural as possible.

This issue is being addressed in Missouri through No MOre Trash!, an anti-litter public awareness campaign coordinated by the Missouri Departments of Conservation (MDC) and Transportation (MoDOT). The slogan captures what the campaign is all about — no more trash in Missouri! Governor Holden launched the effort on April 19, 2002 at the capitol's Earth Day event and the campaign is still going strong.

Why No MOre Trash!? MoDOT spends about \$5 million dollars annually to clear litter from roadsides. Adopt-A-Highway groups around the state contribute an additional \$1.5 million dollars worth of labor to the effort.

### Litter's Legacy

Object	Decomposition Time
Styrofoam container	> 1 million years
Plastic jug	1 million years
Disposable diaper	550 years
Aluminum can	200-500 years
Tinned can	90 years
Leather shoe	45 years

For more information, visit [www.nomoretrash.org](http://www.nomoretrash.org).

At conservation areas, trash is a big problem and difficult for MDC to continually address. Litter creates health and safety problems for visitors, and can kill fish and wildlife when they get caught in cans and tangled in fishing line.

No MOre Trash! is directed at getting Missourians to imagine a litter-free Missouri, and to take personal responsibility for making that dream a reality. The campaign includes a video ad contest for Missourians (ages 16-22), radio and television public service announcements, highway signs stressing the fines for littering, and an informative website.

We encourage all members to visit the No MOre Trash! website at [www.nomoretrash.org](http://www.nomoretrash.org) to get tips on how to combat litter, cut down on waste, and promote No MOre Trash! in your community. ☐

# No MOre Trash!

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Mark Your  
Calendar!

The next reporting  
deadline is November 1.  
Watch for your kit in  
the mail this summer!

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**Forestkeepers Network is a project coordinated by Forest ReLeaf of Missouri and the Missouri Department of Conservation. Its goal is to help people maintain the health of our state's trees and forests.**

**For questions on forest health:**

Contact your nearest forest district office or Forest ReLeaf of Missouri:  
4207 Lindell Blvd.  
Suite 120, St. Louis, Missouri 63108  
toll-free:  
1-888-9-FOREST (1-888-936-7378)



# Award-Winning Forestkeepers

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

Each year, Forestkeepers volunteer thousands of hours in Missouri observing forest health and educating others about the value of trees. Two annual awards are presented to recognize outstanding volunteers in the categories of “Land Steward of the Year” and “Environmental Educator of the Year.” Judges from the Missouri Department of Conservation and Forest ReLeaf of Missouri select the winners after a careful review of the members’ reports from the previous year.

The 2003 awards were presented in March at the annual Missouri Community Forestry Council Conference in Columbia. Ted Fry was named “2003 Land Steward of the Year.” A resident of Eldon, Missouri, Ted became a charter member of the Missouri Forestkeepers Network in 1996. He is a regional agronomy specialist for the University of Missouri’s outreach & extension office, the Master Gardener coordinator for Miller and Camden counties, and a member of the Miller and Pulaski County Soil and Water Conservation District boards. He also serves as the merit badge counselor for environmental science and soil & water conservation for several scout troops in his community.

In 2003, Ted directed a trail refurbishment project at the outdoor classroom at Eldon Middle School, managed the “Adopt-A-Highway” program for the scouts and a local Lion’s Club, planted trees at the USDA office in Eldon, and actively collected samples from trees for diagnosis. He also consulted with individuals and area developers about proper tree care and maintenance, and applied timber stand improvement practices on his own land.

For the second year in a row, Janice Schnake Greene was named “Environmental Educator of the Year.” Janice lives in Springfield, Missouri and joined the program in 2000. She is a



Ted Fry accepts the award for “2003 Land Steward of the Year” from Justine Gartner of the Missouri Department of Conservation.

professor of biology at Southwest Missouri State University, director of the SMSU Bull Shoals Field Station, and state coordinator for the Leopold Education Project, an outdoor ethics-based program.

In 2003, Janice used Forestkeepers activities in three different classes at SMSU, including in-service and pre-service classes for future middle and high school teachers. In 2002, she helped to write a successful grant for funding from the Missouri Department of Conservation to develop an outdoor classroom at a local elementary school. She continues to be active in the development of that resource for the students, currently serving as the chair of the outdoor classroom committee. Janice has also conducted teacher training at the school and helped to further develop the outdoor classroom, where 13 trees were planted in 2003.

As a commissioner on the state’s Clean Water Commission, Janice is an advocate for many conservation issues and regularly contacts state and national legislators to voice her concerns. In addition to all these activities, Janice finds time for ongoing professional development and keeps up with her tree observations.

Each winner received a commemorative plaque, a copy of the new book, *Trees of Missouri*, by Don Kurz, and complimentary registration to the conference and awards luncheon. Congratulations to Ted and Janice! 🌲

# Tree-Mendous 2003! Forestkeepers Annual Report

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

Activity in the Missouri Forestkeepers Network was tremendous in 2003. Members were busy taking advantage of new opportunities and activities, while staff worked behind-the-scenes to improve the program.

## Planning for the Future

The Network is now guided by a new strategic plan completed early this year. Some of the Network’s most active members met in December to offer their opinions and suggestions to improve the program. These comments, as well as those from the fall 2003 Member Survey and input from partnering organizations, all contributed to the development of the plan. It charts a fresh course for the program.

Look for greater collaboration with other programs like Stream Team and Project Learning Tree. New monitoring opportunities will be developed, including hunting for butternut trees and mapping oak wilt infection sites. Access to tree observation data will be provided via the website. Another planned activity is the development of a mentor program where active Forestkeepers will work with newly enrolled members to provide encouragement and training.

## Training

In 2003, the Network offered four opportunities for individuals to broaden their skills. Basic training workshops were offered in Springfield and Sedalia. Advanced training in forest management techniques was offered in St. Charles, and participants learned how to conduct a timber sale in St. Joseph.

## First Annual Meeting

The first Forestkeepers annual meeting was held in June at the August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area in St. Charles, with almost 30 people in attendance. Participants took home door prizes, better tree identification skills, and more knowledge on tree pests.

## Member Activity

The Network boasted 1,532 members at the end of 2003 with 108 new enrollments for the year.

The addition of a new spring reporting period helped to greatly increase the overall number of members who returned activity reports and tree observations. There was also an increase in the number of activities reported. Member activities included caring for and planting trees on private and public property, attending various conservation-related training events, monitoring trees, writing to state officials and the media regarding conservation issues, and developing nature trails and outdoor classrooms.

The hundreds of activities completed during 2003 totaled 12,989 hours of volunteer time valued at \$214,838. This is a 100% increase over the previous year!

## Fun Forestkeepers Facts

- 🌲 Newton County, in the southwest corner of the state, had the greatest increase in the number of members and it also had the highest increase in the number of projects for the year.
- 🌲 Forestkeepers reside in every county in Missouri except for Atchison, Holt and Mercer.
- 🌲 St. Louis County boasts the highest number of members and the most monitoring projects.
- 🌲 A total of 34 different types of trees were identified on 97 tree observation forms in 2003.
- 🌲 The most common trees found on the observation forms were:

White oak	30%
Red oak	13%
Hickory/Pecan	9%
Maple/Boxelder	8%
Pine	6%
Juniper/Red cedar	6%

- 🌲 Of the trees observed, the average tree size was 13 inches in DBH.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Network in 2003. Continue to monitor your trees and send in your observations and activity reports. Also be sure to keep up on upcoming training and volunteer opportunities at [www.forestkeepers.org](http://www.forestkeepers.org). If you have any comments or suggestions, please call us toll-free at 1-888-9-FOREST, or e-mail us at [moreleaf@anet-stl.com](mailto:moreleaf@anet-stl.com).

Keep up the great work! 🌲

# Edge Feathering

Forestkeepers Bulletin #27

By Jennifer Battson,  
Private Land Conservationist,  
Missouri Department of  
Conservation

Perhaps you enjoy hunting, or take pleasure in the call of a quail on a spring morning or the hooting of barred owls under the harvest moon. Managing property to maintain a rich mix of wildlife is popular among Missouri landowners. However, attracting and retaining wildlife may present some challenges.

Wildlife needs food, cover and water in order to survive. Some animals, like quail and songbirds, can be encouraged by creating or enhancing “edge.” Edge is the transition zone between habitat types. High-quality edge is a wide band of plants that *gradually* change from one type of vegetation to another. A transition zone that moves from grasses to shrubs and vines, to small trees, and then to large trees provides many benefits for wildlife. These benefits include cover for nesting, protection from weather and predators, and food, such as berries, seeds, browse, and insects.

Creating or maintaining the gradual transition or “feathered” effect desired by many types of wildlife requires deliberate action. You should maintain a 30- to 150-foot-wide belt of edge habitat, with 150-foot being ideal. That belt should be divided into at least three zones comprised of vegetation of different thickness and height. An example would be crop field to shrubs and small trees, then large trees.

Each zone should be one-third of the total desired width of edge. For instance, if a 150-foot feathered edge is desired, then each zone would be 50-feet wide.

*An ideal edge has crops, brush, small trees, and large trees.*

If your property lacks a good transition zone from open ground to closed forest, you should consider establishing one. You can use a combination of the following feathering techniques. Keep in mind that the goal is to produce a gradual transition from one habitat type to another.

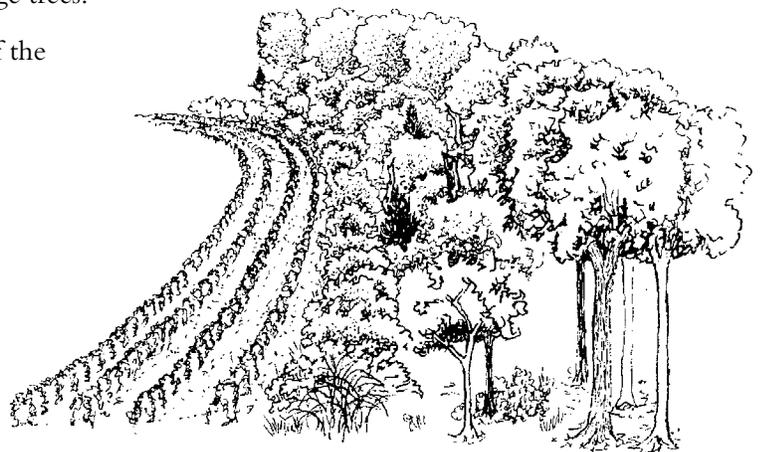
## Thinning

An abrupt edge of woodland can be feathered by thinning the large canopy trees in your edge belt. This approach is desirable if the land adjoining the forest, such as cropland or pasture, is being rigorously managed. Trees are thinned with progressively less intensity from the field edge into the forest.

Divide your edge belt into three zones. Thin the first zone, adjacent to the field, the heaviest by cutting at least 75 percent of the canopy trees. Then remove approximately 50 percent of the canopy trees in the second zone and 25 percent in the last zone.

Cut unhealthy trees or those of limited value to wildlife to concentrate growth on healthy trees, which will produce nuts and berries. Thinning of this nature encourages growth of forbs, briars, vines, and young trees and shrubs.

*continued on back*



## Natural Regeneration

Allowing the area immediately adjacent to the woods to naturally grow up into shrubs, vines and small trees is another method of producing a feathered edge. To accomplish this, simply do not mow a portion of a field within a determined distance from the woods. The unmowed areas will quickly return to shrubs and small trees.

It may be necessary to eliminate thick fescue, sod or other invasive plants that will hinder the establishment of desirable vegetation. Eliminate such vegetation by conventionally tilling the soil or by spraying the problem vegetation with an appropriate herbicide.

## Tree/Shrub Planting

Planting small deciduous trees in the area closest to the woods can create edge. Trees like flowering dogwood, hawthorn, or persimmon are desirable as they produce fruit or seeds. In the next zone, plant shrubby species such as wild plum, silky dogwood, southern arrowwood (*viburnum dentatum*), or hazelnut. Native warm season grasses can then be established next to the shrubs

Trees and shrubs can be planted in a close spacing to produce thick cover. Consider planting trees 8 feet apart and shrubs 6 feet apart. Or, you can use a wider spacing, which will allow natural regrowth of woody plants to fill in the gaps.

Over time it may be necessary to cut large trees out of the tree and shrub plantings. Native warm season grasses must be maintained through prescribed burning, mowing, or strip disking.

## Forest Openings

Large woodland tracts can lack the variety of plants necessary to support diverse wildlife populations. A one-acre opening in a forest often provides as much as ten times the number of plants used by wildlife as one acre of mature timber.

To create openings, cut canopy trees to create three different zones. Thin each zone with decreasing intensity from the center of the opening into the surrounding forest.

Cut at least 75 percent of the canopy trees in the most central zone and 50 percent in the second zone. In the last zone, which will be closest to the forest, remove only 25 percent of the canopy trees. Maintenance of this practice will involve thinning or creating new openings periodically.

Five to ten acres of small openings per 100 acres of forest are desirable. Tree tops and other cuttings produced during the creation of a forest opening should be gathered into brush piles to create more cover for wildlife. You can also increase edge by expanding glades, the widths of roads, and utility rights-of-way in the forest.

Essentially, all of the edge treatments described above involve managing different zones to produce a gradual transition from smaller vegetation to large trees. For this reason, it is possible to combine different aspects from each of these techniques to achieve the same effect.

For more information, please call 1-888-9-FOREST to request your copy of the Missouri Department of Conservation's publication, *Wildlife Management for Missouri Landowners*, or send an e-mail to: [moreleaf@anet-stl.com](mailto:moreleaf@anet-stl.com). 

