



# MISSOURI ForestKeepers MONITOR

WINTER 2010

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## Master Logger Certificate

From the Missouri Department of Conservation

**IN OCTOBER, THE MISSOURI FOREST** Products Association (MFPA) recognized Greg Brinkley from Piedmont and Shannon Jarvis from Potosi as Missouri's first two *Master Loggers*. The *Master Logger* program is designed to help the state's best loggers showcase their high standards for safety, forest sustainability and ethical business practices, and help them gain a competitive edge.

Together with the Missouri Department of Conservation, the MFPA developed the voluntary *Master Logger Certification* program to bridge the gap between loggers' knowledge of best management practices and the application of those practices.

"Missouri has had professional timber harvester training for years," said Brandon O'Neal, the project administrator for MFPA. "We have a lot of timber harvesters with the knowledge necessary to do the job right. The majority of them are implementing what they learned. However, landowners contracting with loggers had no way of knowing how careful the logger would be about preventing damage to the land or the forest, whether they made the best use of trees they cut, and whether they had a record of ethical business dealings. *Master Logger* certification takes the guesswork out of choosing a logger."

The *Master Logger* certification process is detailed and rigorous. First, applicants must complete the

five-day Professional Timber Harvester Education course. Next, the applicant provides a list of five past and current harvest sites, along with three professional references. The MFPA's *Master Logger* administrator checks references to ensure the applicant's compliance with business and natural resource laws. At least two field verifiers – carefully selected to avoid bias – visit the applicant's logging sites to ensure compliance with the best management practices taught in the course.

If their work passes these tests, applicants sign a code of ethics, and their applications go to the nine-member *Master Logger* certifying board. These members represent various forest stakeholders and areas of expertise. To maintain confidentiality and impartiality, application forms show only applicant identification numbers. Certification requires a unanimous vote of all nine members. *Master Loggers* must be recertified every two years. Failure to follow specified safety, environmental, forest management, or business practices can result in decertification.

"In the past, many landowners assumed loggers were harvesting without regard to the environment or the landowners' best interests," said Conservation Department Forestry Field Program Supervisor John Tuttle. "This program will take away a logger's certification if he does not live up





**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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# Evergreen Tree Problems

**THE EVERGREEN TREE IS A BEAUTY YEAR**

round. It is a symbol of strength, as the tree retains its color and needles even through the harsh winter months. People have fallen in love with the durability, yet simple grace of the evergreen tree. Unfortunately, there are several common problems that affect these trees in Missouri.

Evergreen trees can be killed or harmed by pathogens, which are disease-causing organisms. The most common diseases are caused by fungi. Other tree diseases are caused by viruses and bacteria. An evergreen tree can become affected by a pathogen, viruses or bacteria in a number of different ways. Each of these problems can be prevented or controlled.

**Needlecast** disease is one of the most common diseases affecting spruce trees. This is a disease that causes the tree to shed its needles. The symptoms of needlecast will first appear as yellow spots on the needles, which eventually turn red to brown. The growth of a certain species of fungi will form spots on the evergreen's needles. When this disease is left untreated, the needles fall off. Before the needles are shed, tiny black fruiting bodies will form on the needle's surface. Long-term infection by this fungus will cause disfigurement of the tree and ultimately death.

**Needle blight** is a common disease affecting pine trees. Needle blight diseases include *Dothistroma*, *Sphaeropsis* and brown spot. These diseases attack trees at the twig tips or the needles. The infected needle will fall from the tree, causing a denuded look. If the evergreen tree is plagued by repeated cycles of infection, this can result in the loss of the tree.

A third common disease that affects the evergreen tree is **canker**. This is a type of disease where a canker either kills, or causes blistering in, the tree bark or the trunk of the diseased evergreen tree. There are dozens of known types of fungi that can cause this disease. Spruce and redcedar are susceptible to canker.

Another disease that can affect the evergreen tree is known as **root disease**. This is a wood decay disease. The fungi get in through the lower part of the trunk, or directly penetrate the root system. This fungus is able to travel from one tree to another on soil borne and airborne spores. If this disease is left untreated, the evergreen tree will sadly rot from the roots upward.

Evergreen trees in Missouri also suffer from several environmental problems, including **winterkill**, **animal injury**, and **winter desiccation**. In addition, **ice damage** has been pervasive in Missouri following our numerous winter storms.

Evergreen trees are particularly susceptible to this damage as they retain their leaves in the winter. The potential for damage from ice is increased by the sheer weight of these leaves. The surface area is also increased by the leaves, providing more places for ice to adhere.

This long list of potential problems may seem insurmountable, but with careful site selection, wise species selection, and attention to maintenance, an evergreen tree in Missouri can be an asset to your landscape. For more information on these common problems, please refer to your set of Forestkeepers Tree Stressor Identification Cards. These cards are free to members and may be requested by calling 1-888-936-7378 or sending an email to [information@forestkeepers.org](mailto:information@forestkeepers.org).



FEATURED SPECIES:

# REDCEDAR

*Juniperus virginiana* L.

## Treevia

FUN FOREST FACTS  
TO KNOW AND TELL!

In folk medicine, a tea was made from the fruit of the redcedar for colds, worms, rheumatism, and coughs.

## Q&A

**Q:** When is the next deadline to turn in my tree observations and other activities?

**A:** You may send us your activity report or submit it online by June 15.

If you are mailing in your report, you can use photocopies of your forms or download new forms from the website. We will then send you your choice of one of our great incentives as a thank-you for your efforts to protect and care for Missouri's forest resources!

Have a question about Forestkeepers, trees, or what you read in this issue? Contact us at [information@forestkeepers.org](mailto:information@forestkeepers.org) or by mail to: Q&A, c/o Forest ReLeaf of Missouri, 4207 Lindell Blvd., Suite 301, St. Louis, MO 63108.



Illustrations courtesy of the Missouri Department of Conservation

**ALTHOUGH IT INVADES GLADES AND** prairies that have not been burned for some time, redcedar has great value for wildlife. Its fruit is eaten by at least 20 species of birds and various mammals. Its thick crown also provides cover and nesting habitat for many bird species.

Cultivated in Missouri for well over three centuries, redcedar's aromatic wood is used for many purposes, including furniture, framing and novelties. The resin can be refined to produce an oil used in ointments, soaps and shoe polish.

Redcedar is a small to medium-sized tree, which grows up to 50 feet tall. Its crown is typically pyramid-shaped and it usually has a single trunk, which tapers and spreads at the base. The tree is very useful as a screening plant and in windbreaks, and it prefers sunny, open areas. It is tolerant of poor conditions and soils in urban areas.

**LEAVES:** Very small, dark green, scale-like, and opposite from each other; from 1/16 to 1/8 inches long and flatly pressed against the twigs; turn bronze after early cold spells.

**BARK:** Light reddish-brown, exfoliating in long, flat shreds off the trunk and branches.

**FLOWERS:** Redcedar blooms in the spring, with small male and female cones usually appearing on separate trees. The male cones are brown and the female cones are a purplish color and smaller.

**FRUIT:** Ripens in August to September; dark blue, berry-like cone which is very fleshy and has a white, waxy coating. When crushed, the fruit has an odor like gin.

**HABITAT & RANGE:** Found throughout most of the state in glades and on bluffs, in open, rocky woods, pastures, old fields, fencerows, and along roadsides.

**NOTE:** The tree is host to cedar-apple rust and it is not advisable to plant it in the vicinity of any apple, hawthorn, or crabapple trees.

Compiled from *Manual of Woody Landscape Plants* by Michael A. Dirr and *Trees of Missouri* by Don Kurz.

## Master Logger Certificate *continued from page 1*

to the standards. Landowners can be assured they are working with the best of the best.”

Tuttle said a *Master Logger Certificate* also is a valuable marketing tool for loggers. “Demand for ‘green-certified’ products is growing fast, especially in the housing industry,” he said. “Builders get credit under the LEED (Leadership in Energy and

Environmental Design) green building rating system if they buy wood products from sources that follow forestry best management practices. This program is extremely important to keep Missouri forest products competitive in the world market.”

For more information about the certification program, call 1-573-634-3252 or visit [www.moforest.org/education/masterlogger.html](http://www.moforest.org/education/masterlogger.html).

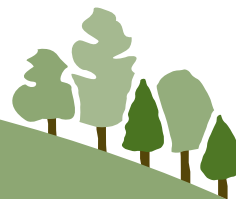
## Welcome New Members

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

Robert E. & Susan E. Abernathy	Dennis Canote	Tom & Nancy Franklin	Keith Howond	Randy G. Marquardt	Dale Rover
Laura Agapeau-Bischof	Francis H. Carrow	Jane Fulhage	Tim House	Victoria Matheus	Royce Schreiber
Domenic Bach	Mickey & Betty Caughron	Ruth Gardocki	John Hughes	Sharen McBride	The Schroer Family
Dale Baechle	Chance Garden	Jerry Garland	Rose & John Hughes	Gail McHardy	The Shinault Family
Scott Bain	Brenda Charles	Charles Geno	Richard Inman	Tim McKee	Dennis T. Smith
Jesse Barker	Randy & Sue Chiles	H.C. Gerhardt	Susan James and the Acorn Academy	Ralph Mincemeyer	Robert E. Smith
Joe & Dianne Bates	Larry Christian	John Glass	Carl D. Johnson	Paula Mohan	Cheryl Ann Steffan
Bob Beller	Ken Cinciripini	Gomel Family	Robert Jones	Mark Moser	Ernie Stephens
Wade H. Bennett	Tom Coriell	John & Joy Griffith	Chris & Diane Kainz	Donald D. Nicholson	Randy Stires
David Bennish	James Crane	Marc Grooms	Nancy Kelby	John & Karin Oliver	John Van Stone
Cindy Benson	Tom Crouch	Sarah Gross	Karen & Reed Klearman	Joe Parato	Marianne Stone
Don Bohler	Fred Deveydt	Stacy Hager	Steve Kottemann	Jim & Anne Partridge	Lisa Stortzum
Mark & Stephanie Boyer	Dann Dixon	Raymond E. Hahn	Ivan Koudouirov	Terry Paull	Dave & Pat Strong
Herman Brinkmann	Robert Dodd	Russell E. Hardy	Kathy Kramer	Fred Plough	Robert Taft
Barbara Brooks	Leo R. Dougherty	Tom Hayes	Kress Farm Garden Preserve	Gardell Powell	Kent and Beverly Taylor
Dan Burg	Jeff Douglass	Larry Hempel	Bob Leiweke	Price Family	Paul Taylor
D.J. Burnett	Don & Jeanne Dzurick	Shannon Henson	James Lovelace	Anthony, Maureen, Ryan & Kyle Propst	Linda Tucker
Thomas M. Bursken	Dean Felton	Cussin Curley Crew c/o Curley Hetzler	R.A. Lueke	Wm. T. Rhoads, Sr.	Paul Urzi
Campbell Acres Farm	Bob Fererro	Rick Herbst	Mary Lytton	Jerry D. Rich	Paul & Betty Usher
Lori Campbell	Allison Fichtelman	William J. Herring	Pat Maksimovich	Jacquelyn Roberts	Dennis Vietmeier
Renee Canavan	David & Jeanne Fletcher	Mr. & Mrs. Bob Hill	Max and Sally Marble	James Roberts	James Walker
	Shannon Follwell	Joe Hobbs		Michael Roberts	Sallie Waugh
		Dennis Holdmeier		Jolene Rodgers	David L. Weber

## WINTER ACTIVITY

*A seasonal project to enjoy with the whole family*



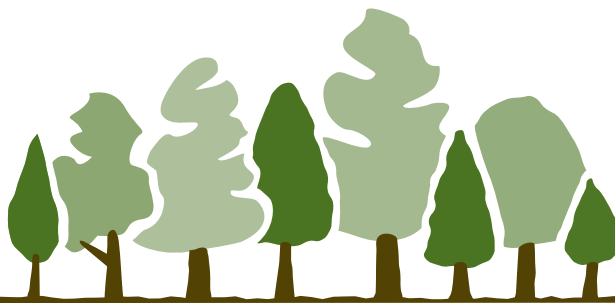
## Growing Buds

**WHEN YOU LOOK AT BUDS ON TREES** in late winter and early spring, do you wonder what's inside? Here's a chance to find out before everyone else does!

For this activity, you will need garden shears, twigs with buds on them, and a jar with water. In February, when buds are still

tightly closed, cut off a 12-inch long twig from several different kinds of trees. Use garden shears for a sharp, clean cut, and make the cuts at an angle. Then put the twigs in the jar with water. Place it on a sunny windowsill in a warm room, and change the water every few days.

Check the twigs daily, and notice how the buds begin to swell. If you have any twigs with flower buds, they will burst open before the leaf buds, which take a little more time. Enjoy the “early spring” indoors!



# FORESTKEEPERS BULLETIN

## What Happens to the Family Forest When You Are Gone?

**APPROXIMATELY 85 PERCENT OF MISSOURI'S** forestlands are in private ownership. Mostly, these are family-owned forests. The objectives of family forest owners vary widely. Some families are focused on timber production. Some have hunting and recreation interests. Some simply enjoy caring for these diverse natural habitats. Whatever their purpose, these families have a large stake in assuring the health and sustainability of Missouri's woods.

Family forests often evoke strong emotional ties to the land. Land ownership often goes well beyond the economic gains associated with other types of real estate. Its owners frequently see the land as an integral part of their lives. It is natural, at some point, for family forestland owners to begin contemplating how to perpetuate both the timberland and their values for future generations of their family.

Today's families who own forestland are often faced with a wide array of financial and personal challenges as they contemplate how to preserve this most-precious asset for future generations:

- ✦ Family members may not live close to each other
- ✦ Not all children have the same interests in the family forestland
- ✦ Children's spouses may not share the same values as the present generation of owners
- ✦ The current owners may have income needs relating to retirement and healthcare
- ✦ Heirs may face their own financial challenges, such as raising their children, debts, college costs, divorce, lost jobs, etc.

- ✦ Estate taxes may force a sale of the property (at death) to generate the funds necessary to pay those taxes

- ✦ Future offers from developers to subdivide and clear the property may tempt even the most devoted heirs to sell

The reality is that a vast majority of these privately-owned family forests will change hands over the next several decades. Often the intent is to keep these important assets in the family for future generations. However, today's pressures and realities are likely to prevent this from happening, unless steps are taken to prepare for the transfer. Thoughtfully planning how your family forest will succeed to the next generation is critical to assuring that your family legacy and dreams continue into the future.

Though families must make their own choices about the future of their land, there are several common options to get what they want. In some cases, owners and families combine and customize these options to fit their unique goals and situation.

### DO NOTHING

Few advisors, if any, support the "do nothing" option when it comes to estate planning. While doing nothing spares one's time, expense, and worry in the short term, the long-term implications can be complex for the surviving spouse or create tensions among heirs. This option is the choice that leaves the estate and forest most at risk.

### WILL

A last will and testament is the simplest and least expensive method of active estate planning. While

Adapted from *Agroforestry In Action*, University of Missouri Center for Agroforestry, *Succession Planning for Woodland Owners*, by Dave Watson and Larry Godsey and from *Choices. Choices!* by Robert Fitzhenry, U.S. Forest Service Northeastern Area

*continued on next page >*



**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
- #34 Specialty Products
- #35 Heating with Wood
- #36 Utilizing Eastern Red Cedar
- #37 Black Walnut: Missouri's Most Valuable Tree
- #38 Those Pesky Insects
- #39 Diseases and Healthy Forests
- #40 I Hurt My Tree?
- #41 Exotic Forest Pests Are Becoming A Common Threat
- #42 Trees Pay Us Back
- #43 How Is Your Habitat?
- #44 Who Owns Missouri's Forests?
- #45 Managing Invasive Plants
- #46 Understanding Missouri Streams
- #47 Simple Trail Construction for Landowners
- #48 Wildlife—A Nuisance?

You can access these bulletins online at [www.forestkeepers.org](http://www.forestkeepers.org) by clicking on "Newsletters" on the homepage.

# What Happens to the Family Forest When You Are Gone?

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traditional wills divide assets such as stocks and bonds equally among heirs, a forest is a somewhat nontraditional part of an estate. The forest holds an economic function, but also provides environmental benefits. A subdivided forest loses its value as a functioning ecosystem if the use of smaller, separately owned parcels changes over time. Balancing fairness to heirs with other goals may require a serious discussion.

## **SELL OR GIVE THE FOREST TO HEIRS BEFORE DEATH**

Some family forest landowners prefer to sell or give portions of their estate to heirs before death to mitigate estate taxes. A basic principle here is to first develop a shared understanding of how the land will be used.

## **FAMILY PARTNERSHIPS**

Some families choose to put their forests in family partnerships or qualifying conservation trusts. This helps keep the forest together as a functioning ecosystem. How the family land and the partnership are managed can be set by the owner when establishing the partnership, or the decisions can be shared among the owner and heirs.

## **LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY**

Family members can join together to form a Limited Liability Company (LLC) around the family forest. All the members of the LLC become 'shareholders' in the forest, similar to owning stock in a family corporation. Unlike stocks, however, the shares can't move out of the family.

## **CONSERVATION EASEMENT**

A conservation easement lets landowners maintain ownership of the land, and allows them to live on it and manage it according to the easement. Typically, the landowner must promise to keep the land intact by giving up subdivision or development rights. Easements can be permanent or for a specified period of time, such as 15 years.

## **LAND TRUST**

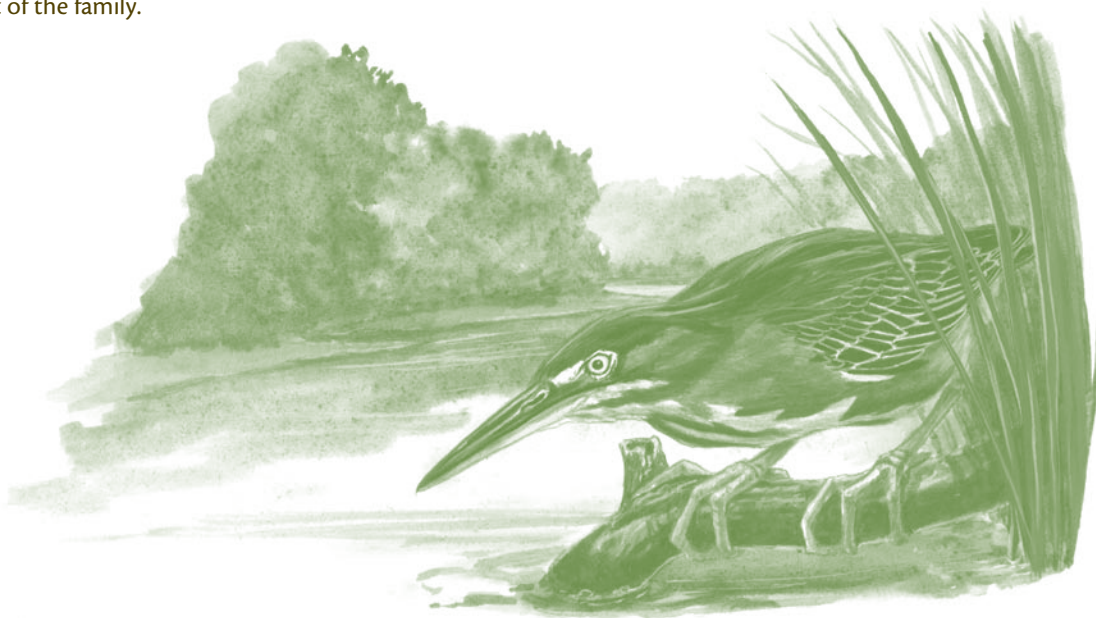
Land trust organizations exist across the county. Land trusts often purchase conservation easements on family forests, purchase forests outright, or have forests donated to them from an estate.

## **PUBLIC LANDHOLDERS**

A curious fact is that land adjacent to or within the proximity of conserved land is more at risk for development than other rural land. Forest owners abutting or near national forests or other conserved land can consider donating their land, donating with stipulations, or selling their land to the public land holder. This choice keeps large, contiguous forests and their environmental benefits intact.

It is important to remember that the future of family forests are charted by today's owners or co-owners. The decisions are theirs to make to secure the vision they hold for their land and family legacy.

For more detailed explanations of the options listed above, visit [www.na.fs.fed.us/stewardship/estate/estate.shtml](http://www.na.fs.fed.us/stewardship/estate/estate.shtml).



# Snapshot!

Highlights of Forestkeepers activities around the state in 2009:

## CENTRAL REGION



**Jim Meili** of Cole County planted 180 trees, participated in a TSI program, treated unwanted vegetation and installed/maintained food plots.

**Brett Twenter** of Cooper County planted 125 trees, in addition to many other Forestkeeper activities.

**Vincent Hannon** of Morgan County planted 46 trees, recruited new Forestkeepers, maintained a public area, and submitted tree observations.

**Janet and David Schwaller** of Cole County used accepted harvesting practices on 200 acres of land and maintained public areas in five separate projects.

**Jim Low** of Cole County planted 60 trees and treated four acres of unwanted vegetation through a prescribed burn.

**Arne Johnson** of Camden County planted 100 trees, contacted legislators regarding conservation issues six times, and used accepted harvesting practices.

## KANSAS CITY REGION



**Sarah Hanson** of Benton County cared for over 40 trees, used Forestkeepers materials in the classroom, and recruited four new Forestkeepers.

**Ethan Hirsh** of Jackson County sowed walnuts for about 200 yards, mapped 230 acres, developed a forest management plan, and began restoration of an oak savannah.

**Steven Singleton** of St. Clair County planted and cared for trees, installed/maintained three food plots, and observed Arbor Day by planting a new tree at a school dedication ceremony.

**Norval Netsch** was among the many Forestkeepers who completed a Mast Survey.

## NORTHEAST REGION



**Paul Allgood** of Monroe County, along with several students and volunteers, planted 26 trees at New London Elementary School's new environmental study area.

**Yvette Amerman** of Adair County planted and cared for trees, attended two environmental conferences, treated unwanted vegetation and conducted an Arbor Day/Earth Day observance.

## NORTHWEST REGION



**John Bishop** of Nodaway County planted 50 trees, cared for over 30 trees, and submitted the Mast Survey.

**James W. Brown** of Gentry County planted 245 trees and cared for 345 trees throughout the year.

**Ron Lumb** of Buchanan County planted and cared for 3 trees and participated in a TSI program.

## OZARK REGION



**Jessica Borton** of Texas County used accepted harvesting practices, maintained public areas, and surveyed for wildlife use and population numbers.

**James Hyland** of Texas County cared for approximately 1,100 trees, participated in a TSI program, and treated 34 acres of unwanted vegetation.

## ST. LOUIS REGION



**Sam Hodge** of St. Louis County planted 100 trees and attended a forestry conference.

**Jennifer Freund** of St. Louis County planted 345 trees.

**Dan Porter** of St. Charles County cared for over 200 trees, attended two environmental classes, and treated over 40 trees for insects and diseases.

**Jody Vogler** of St. Louis County planted and cared for trees, attended a Forestkeepers training, recruited two new Forestkeepers, and submitted six tree observation forms with her students.

**Leslie Limberg** of St. Charles County cared for over 50 trees, helped build/enhance an outdoor classroom and contacted over 250 legislators regarding conservation issues through online activism.

**Stephen Gyore** of St. Louis County constructed a half-mile trail, treated unwanted vegetation, installed/maintained food plots and a water source for wildlife, and submitted the Mast Survey.

**Bob Bader** of Franklin County planted 250 trees and cared for 300 trees, helped build and/or enhance an outdoor classroom, participated in a TSI program, and treated unwanted vegetation.

## SOUTHEAST REGION



**Kim Hindman** of Cape Girardeau County planted 795 trees, collected and submitted tree samples, treated unwanted vegetation and installed/maintained food plots and water sources for wildlife.

**Bill Wagner** of Butler County cared for over 30 trees, helped build and/or enhance an outdoor classroom, conducted tree projects with a youth group ten times during the year, treated unwanted vegetation on 80 acres of land and submitted two news articles.

## SOUTHWEST REGION



**Joe Wolven** of Stone County conducted a tree project with a youth group, used accepted harvesting practices, picked up trash/maintained a public area, and completed a Mast Survey.

**Georgia Norman** of Christian County planted and cared for 19 trees.

# Mark Your Calendar!

## Spring 2010 Workshops & Events

### Tree Identification Workshops

May dates and locations around the state to be announced.

### Introductory Workshop

Blue Springs – May 22

Watch your mailbox, check the website at [www.forestkeepers.org](http://www.forestkeepers.org), or call 1-888-9-FOREST for more information on these free events.



# Tree Hunt Update

Thanks to everyone who submitted photos for *The Fifth Annual Hunt for Strange & Extraordinary Trees!*

The strangest and most extraordinary images from the hunt will be available for your viewing pleasure on the Forestkeepers website beginning in late February. Winners of the random drawing for all participants will be notified on February 26.



Return Service Requested

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