AWARDS and HONORS

The National Wildlife Federation recognized David Calandro from Joplin, Missouri who serves on the board of the Missouri Conservation Federation, as its National Conservation Youth Leader of the Year. "Some folks have a knack for squeezing every hour out of every day - and David Calandro is definitely one," said Collin O'Mara, president and CEO of the National Wildlife Federation. "David double-majoried in forestry and wildlife management, while serving our country as a helicopter mechanic in the Army National Guard. Yet somehow, he still managed to find the time to found the Missouri Collegiate Conservation Alliance, a program that engages college students in conservation efforts across Missouri. His work ethic and conservation ethic are unrivaled and I look forward to big things from David for years to come." The National Conservation Youth Leader award recognizes the special conservation achievements of youth leaders within the National Wildlife Federation affiliate ranks. The award ceremony took place at the National Wildlife Federation’s annual meeting held at Skamania Lodge, in Stevenson, Washington. "David is a special young man. He is passionate about the outdoors and wildlife conservation, and embodies the qualities we are looking for in leaders of tomorrow," said Brandon Butler, Executive Director of the Conservation Federation of Missouri. "We are very proud to have David on our Board of Directors and appreciate his efforts to inspire the next generation of wildlife leaders." (The article and photo is reprinted with the permission of the NWF.org; the full story, including more about David Calandro, can be found at the link) http://www.nwf.org/News-and-Magazines/Media-Center/News-by-Topic/General-NWF/2017/6-12-17-David-Calandro-of-Joplin-MO-National-Conservation-Youth-Leader.aspx (Photo above: NWF board chair Bruce Wallace, Award Winner and CFM board member David Calandro, and NWF and CFM board member Nicole Wood)
EVENTS/MEETINGS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Prairie Fork Conservation Area update: As the spring field trips have stopped our summer groups are out once a week. We have had a Day Care with kids ranging from 5-12 years old come out to explore. We have also had Sturgeon summer school out for exploration of aquatic habitats. As we have slowed down in programing we are working on area improvements and investments. We have had AMERICORPS help us out with spraying Sericea lespedeza, sanding and staining picnic tables, in addition to helping us get the area ready for a large event in July. Pat Jones purchased a new John Deere Gator that will allow educational and research opportunities to happen simultaneously in different areas of the property. (Submitted by and photo by Amber Edwards: Pat Jones, Gunner (dog) & Jamie Coe take the new John Deere Gator for a spin)

PRESENTATIONS/PUBLICATIONS/RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS


Nguyen “Zephyr” Dang, an intern from Van Hall Larenstein University sponsored by the Center for Agroforestry, successfully defended her thesis upon her return to the Netherlands. She presented her work titled ‘Quantifying light under tree canopies in an alley-cropping practice and its effect on chemical composition and cultivar performance of switchgrass as a biofuel feedstock’ at MU in late May and at VHLU last week. In her project, she extensively used the architectural software called Google Sketchup to map the shadows cast by the trees during the day at monthly intervals to obtain estimates of average daily photosynthetically active radiation (PAR) for each plant within different sized north-south oriented alleys during the growing season. Substantial differences were found among fifteen switchgrass cultivars in response to both light and root competition. (Submitted by Jerry Van Sambeek)
Joe Marschall gave an invited presentation on fire effects and timber quality at the Kentucky-Tennessee Society of American Foresters Summer Meeting, held in Gatlinburg, TN on behalf of the Oak Woodlands & Forests Fire Consortium. Meeting attendees toured different areas in Gatlinburg’s wildland-urban interface (pictured left; note the burned areas just outside the downtown area; photo provided by the Oak Woodlands & Forests Fire Consortium) affected by the Chimney Tops 2 fire, which burned more than 17,000 acres and 2,400 structures in late-November 2017. The Oak Woodlands & Forests Fire Consortium hosted a field tour on oak woodland restoration at Marais des Cygnes and La Cygne State Wildlife Areas in eastern Kansas. The field tour included presentations by Mike Stambaugh (MU, Associate Research Professor, School of Natural Resources), Mary Short (MU, Graduate Student, School of Natural Resources), and Dan Dey (USFS, Northern Research Station). Mike gave an invited presentation on fire-science issues in oak woodlands at the Southern Group of State Foresters Annual Meeting in Rogers, AR. (Photo above right provided by Dan Dey)

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