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PRESENTATIONS/PUBLICATIONS/RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Oak Woodlands & Forests Fire Consortium
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Our Mission:
To provide fire science to resource managers, land-owners, and the public about the use, application and effects of fire within the region

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**THE SOUTHEASTERN GRASSLANDS INITIATIVE:
CHARTING A NEW COURSE FOR CONSERVATION
IN THE 21ST CENTURY**

By Dr. Dwayne Estes, Executive Director,
Southeastern Grasslands Initiative

Most people have heard the tale of vast primeval forests that once blanketed eastern North America. According to legend, they were so dense that a squirrel could travel through the treetops from the Atlantic Ocean to the Mississippi River without touching the ground. For me, I first heard the story from my sixth grade Tennessee history teacher, Mr. Tommy Johns.

The impact of this "squirrely" thinking has been arguably just as adverse to conservation as has Smokey Bear's anti-fire campaign. Together, these two furry critters have helped fuel unfortunate misconceptions and bias about the eastern landscape for many decades. While a successful counter-messaging campaign - backed by decades of fire ecology research - has been waged in recent decades to combat the Smokey Bear dogma, the same has not yet happened to extinguish the myth of the squirrel.

Incontrovertible evidence proves that the eastern U.S. was riddled with many millions of acres of naturally open grasslands at the time of European settlement, but somehow we have failed to communicate this on a broad scale such that it has escaped the attention of much of the public and even much of the conservation community.

Broadly defined, these eastern grasslands include several distinct types of ecosystems, which encompass traditional concepts of grasslands such as tallgrass prairies, barrens, and savannas, but which also include balds, canebrakes, glades, and a variety of open wetlands such as bogs, fens, and meadows. Most of our grasslands have declined by greater than 90 percent of their original pre-settlement distribution. ...Cont'd on Page 4

Author Dwayne Estes discussing interactions between fire and native plant communities at May Prairie Natural Area in Coffee County, Tennessee, during an August 2015 field tour.

Moving fire forward...

The Oak Woodlands & Forests Fire Consortium (Mike Stambaugh, Chair; Joe Marschall, Coordinator) released the July 2018 edition of their quarterly newsletter, *IGNIS*. [CLICK HERE](#) to learn about current fire science happenings across the Midwest oak woodlands. This edition has a special focus on native plant communities and fire interactions featuring: the Southeastern Grasslands Initiative, the Consortium's upcoming 2018 Fall Webinar Series and fire science workshops in Tennessee and Kentucky, a research brief on prescribed fire effects on native and invasive ground cover, fire frequency effects at Chilton Creek Research and Demonstration Area, and more! (Submitted by Joe Marschall.)

Tony Lupo was appointed by the president of Sigma Xi, the Scientific Research Honor Society, to a national ad hoc committee to make recommendations for the professional development of emerging and mid-career scientists. There are six people on the committee, and they represent R1s, government scientists, and R2s.

Bonnot, T. W., Cox, W. A., Thompson, F. R., & Millsbaugh, J. J. (2018). Threat of climate change on a songbird population through its impacts on breeding. *Nature Climate Change*. doi:10.1038/s41558-018-0232-8

Hemmelgarn H., Ball A., Gold M. and Stelzer H. 2018. Agroforestry Education for High School Agriculture Science: An Evaluation of Novel Content Adoption following Educator Professional Development Programs. *Agroforestry Systems*. DOI: 10.1007/s10457-018-0278-7

Serra-Cluselas A, De Angelis L, **Lin C-H, Vo P**, Bayati M, Sumner L, Lei Z, Braga N, Bertini L, Mazza J, Pizzio LR, Stripeikis JD, Rengifo-Herrera JA, Fidalgo de Cortalezzi MM. 2018. Abatement of 2,4-D by H₂O₂ Solar Photolysis and Solar Photo-Fenton-like Process with Minute Fe(III) Concentrations. *Water Research* 144: 572-580.

THIS WEEK IN SNR FROM DIRECTOR JOSE

Met with Darcy Wells, Senior Director for Advancement, CAFNR, University Advancement Staff, and Bruce Loewenberg about the Loewenberg Endowment

Met with CAFNR Division Directors about Big Ideas for the CAFNR Strategic Plan

Met with the H.E. Garrett Endowed Chair Professor and Director of the Center for Agroforestry Search and Screen Committee to talk with them about their charge

This *Weekly Reader* will be distributed electronically every Friday (except during breaks). Please send announcements to Cindy Greenwood, Editor (greenwoodci@missouri.edu) by Thursday @ 5 p.m. If you'd like to unsubscribe from the *Weekly Reader*, please email Cindy. Thanks to Laura Hertel for the *Weekly Reader* Tiger logo.