The annual maple syrup project at Baskett Wildlife Research and Education Center began with tapping sugar maples on February 1. Weather has been conducive to good sap flow so far this year, with a couple boils completed and more to come! This project occurs annually and brings students, faculty, staff, and friends together in the woods to learn about maple trees and syrup production. (Submitted by Ben Knapp; Photos (additional photos on p. 8) by Greg Rotert.)
HONORS and AWARDS

The USDA Forest Service has awarded Dr. Lauren Pile with the National Early Career Scientist award. Lauren is being recognized for her outstanding research contributions and her potential to shape future research and education in furthering the US Forest Service mission. Lauren is a Research Ecologist with the Northern Research Station located here at MU. She received a Ph.D. in Forest Resources with a minor in Statistics from Clemson University in 2015. Prior to joining the Northern Research Station in May, 2018, she was a Presidential Management Fellow working as an Ecologist with the Sierra National Forest in Prather, California. Lauren has established a nationally recognized research program focused on developing and improving control tactics and strategies for non-native invasive plant infestations. This includes applying silvicultural and other management methods for promoting resilience or desired conditions in native plant communities and forest ecosystems that have been degraded by invasive species or altered disturbance regimes. (Submitted by John Kabrick.)

The Karkhagne is a mythical beast that was reported to roam the forests of Missouri in the past century. It is covered by fur, feathers, scales and armor plate, has a diet of limestone section corners, and can quickly escape humans or other carnivorous pursuers by completely engulfing itself within the recesses of its own hip pocket. It is the subject of considerable folklore and legends about forestry in Missouri in the early twentieth century. The Karkhagne not only symbolizes the importance of Missouri’s forests to all creatures, it also represents the unique and sometimes harsh nature of forestry at the turn of the last century. The Missouri Society of American Foresters has selected the name and image of the Karkhagne to represent its highest honor in recognizing a forester for his (her) contribution to forestry in Missouri. The Karkhagne Award is presented to a forester for outstanding achievement in forestry and service to the forestry profession. This year’s winner was Hank Stelzer (pictured right with John Kabrick.)
During the Missouri Natural Resources Conference (MNRC), Joe Dillard (pictured top left) was honored with the Stephen Weithman, Jr. Leadership Award from the Missouri Chapter American Fisheries Society (MOAFS) in recognition and appreciation of outstanding leadership in protecting Missouri’s aquatic resources. Joe was unable to attend MNRC so Emily Tracy-Smith (pictured top right) with MOAFS President, Andy Turner) accepted for him. Below is a gathering of SNR students, alumni and friends at MNRC. (Submitted and photos by Emily Tracy-Smith and Amber Edwards.)
Currently, when the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) wants to keep track of the waterfowl population in the state or monitor wetlands for invasive plant species, they send a natural resource manager into the field to do a manual count, which is very labor intensive and not very accurate. Other methods to monitor bird populations and wetland health include satellites and fixed-wing aircraft, but both are expensive and present logistical problems: the noise from planes can scatter flocks of birds and satellite image resolution is not high enough to count individual birds. So, the conservation department is turning to an engineering professor for a potential solution, with Lisa Webb as the co-PI on this grant. For the rest of the story, go to the link: https://engineering.missouri.edu/2020/02/aerial-reconnaissance/

SNR faculty members have received the following recent grants (listed by Principal Investigator):

**Alba Argerich**, Lakes of Missouri volunteer program, Missouri Department of Natural Resources

**David Diamond**, Improving the Texas ecological mapping system (EMS) geodatabase for central and southern Texas coastal counties, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

**Samniqueka Halsey**, Zoonotic Diseases and Animal Welfare, Open Philanthropy Project


**Chung-Ho Lin**, Explore the economic opportunities and health benefits of the pawpaw in Missouri, Missouri Department of Agriculture

**Rebecca North**, Statewide lakes assessment project, Missouri Department of Natural Resources

**EVENTS/MEETINGS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

CAFNR Vice Chancellor and Dean Chris Daubert has named **Samniqueka Halsey** the first CAFNR Faculty Fellow for Inclusivity, Diversity and Equity. Dr. Halsey is an assistant professor in the School of Natural Resources with research interests in computational ecology, long-term data sets, geographic information systems and remote sensing, biodiversity conservation, and emerging wildlife diseases. Dr. Halsey joined CAFNR in 2019 from the Illinois Natural History Survey/Prairie Research Institute, where she served as a postdoctoral associate. She earned her bachelor’s degree from Northeastern Illinois University; her master’s degree from Chicago State University; and her PhD from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. See more at the link: https://cafnr.missouri.edu/2020/02/becoming-a-more-inclusive-college/
Natural Resources Alumni Association Presents

The 10th Annual

Trivia In The Wild

$20
Each Player

$160
Per Team

Friday April 3, 2020 - Doors open at 6 PM

Single Players or Teams (8 People Per Team)

For reservations call Laura Hertel: (573) 882-1730 Email: hertell@missouri.edu

Knights of Columbus Hall, Columbia, MO

Benefits go to the MU Natural Resources Alumni Scholarship Fund
Hometown Habitat is a call-to-action environmental documentary focused on how and why native plants are critical to the survival and vitality of local ecosystems. Renowned entomologist Douglas Tallamy narrates inspiring stories of community commitment to conservation landscaping, showing how humans and nature can co-exist — with mutual benefits! The film screening will be followed by a panel discussion moderated by Catherine Zimmerman, producer and director of the film. Admission is free and free parking is located in MU’s Virginia Avenue visitor parking lot. In addition to the film screening, the Missouri Prairie Foundation and Grow Native! will be hosting a pre-event meet and greet reception for the film director from 5:30 to 7 p.m.
Seminar

Friday March 20th, 2020
2:30-4:00 pm
171 Bond Life Sciences Center

More Than Just a Tradition: Tribal Treaty Rights & Fisheries Management in the Columbia River Basin

Zach L. Penney, Ph.D.
Fishery Science Department Manager
Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission
Portland, Oregon

Dr. Penney oversees research efforts for the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, which coordinates management policy and provides fisheries technical services for the Yakama, Warm Springs, Umatilla, and Nez Perce tribes. Dr. Penney will discuss the importance of salmon fishing to local tribes, the history of treaty rights and conflicts, and the current co-management and status of the Columbia River fishery.

Sponsored by the Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences Graduate Student Organization and the Missouri Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit.
The **SNR Monthly Reader** will be distributed electronically the last working day of the month (except during breaks). Please send announcements to Cindy Greenwood, Editor (greenwoodci@missouri.edu). If you would like to unsubscribe from the **SNR Monthly Reader**, please email Cindy.