Daffodils fighting for spring at the Horticulture and Agroforestry Research Center (HARC) in New Franklin. (Photo by Cheryl Recker.)  https://moaes.missouri.edu/central-missouri-research-extension-and-education-center/horticulture-and-agroforestry-research-farm/
DIRECTOR MARKET – SNR ACTIONS

- Continuing work on the AI Climate Smart NSF Proposal
- Attended the State of the University 2022 Address by President Mun Choi
- Met to discuss the collaboration of the Missouri Hydrology Information Center (MOHIC) with the Missouri Climate Center
- Met with Matt Fleming, the new CAFNR Facilities and Operations Coordinator
- Attended CAFNR Faculty and Staff Meeting
- Attended Newly Promoted and Tenured Faculty Reception
- Conducting faculty annual reviews

HONORS AND AWARDS

Chung-Ho Lin and his team (Mohamed Bayati, Hsinyeh Hsieh, Shu Yu Hsu, Chenhui Li, Lindsi Wilfing, Elizabeth Rogers) are recipients of the 2021 Governor’s Award for Quality and Productivity (GAQP) Pinnacle Award for their project: Coronavirus Sewershed Surveillance Project (CSSP). The CSSP helped provide Missouri state and local public health agencies with a source of epidemiological data by quickly collecting and testing wastewater for SARS-CoV-2. The project also analyzed, interpreted and distributed wastewater data to municipalities and state-owned facilities to help mitigate potential disease outbreaks. By improving and exploring these testing factors, wastewater surveillance has proven to be a cost-effective, proactive means to inform public health strategy while helping mitigate disease spread. What began as a pilot project has expanded to include testing more than 130 weekly samples. This project is the largest of its kind in the United States and continues to receive requests from communities and institutions wanting to be included. The team will be recognized at a ceremony in June.
Parks, Recreation and Sport faculty member Jason Young (left; pictured with Dr. Jennifer Wentz) was presented the Missouri Park and Recreation Association 2022 Associate Fellow Award at the annual MPRA Conference in Springfield, Missouri. The Missouri Park and Recreation Associate Fellow Award is given to up to two members of the association each year. The recipient must have at least three years of experience as a leader, instructor, supervisor, or a combination of same in the field of parks and recreation. The recipient must also contribute to the association and display leadership. Dr. Wentz and Jason were also the recipients of a CAFNR Alumni Association 150 Grant which will be allocated to Parks, Recreation and Sport for a Career Symposium Event.

PRESENTATIONS/PUBLICATIONS/RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS


EVENTS/MEETINGS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Explore Australia! Summer 2022 (April 8 Application Deadline): Soak up the culture, history and sun of Australia! Encounter koalas, platypuses, Tasmanian devils, lorikeets, and wallabies while visiting wildlife rescue/restoration centers, a world-renowned zoo, and native habitats. Learn how Australian animal species interact with their environments and explore all the natural wonders Australia has to offer. Contact Shanon Dickerson or visit our website for more information.
2022 Albrecht Lecture (in-person; 123 Anheuser-Busch Natural Resources Building on Monday, April 25 @ 4 p.m.) — Dr. Ken Moore, Charles F. Curtiss Distinguished Professor in Agriculture and Life Sciences and Pioneer Hi-Bred Agronomy Professor in Agronomy, at Iowa State University: “Greening the Agricultural Landscape: Using Perennial Groundcover to Enhance Ecosystem Services”.

SNR Research Day (in-person) – Friday, May 6 – more details to follow.

The Missouri Prairie Foundation (MPF) will hold a native plant sale on Saturday, April 9 at the MU Bradford Research Center, 4968 S Rangeline Rd, Columbia, MO 65201 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Native plants beautify landscapes and help support songbirds and other cherished wildlife. Buy native wildflowers, grasses, shrubs, trees, vines, sedges, and native seed from Grow Native! professional members. Some vendors accept cash, check, or credit cards; some only cash or checks. [https://moprairie.org/event/columbia-native-plant-sale-bradford-research-center/](https://moprairie.org/event/columbia-native-plant-sale-bradford-research-center/) Photo: David Middleton

The Conservation Federation of Missouri (CFM) and the Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation (MCHF) are pleased to announce the month of April as Missouri Outdoors Month. April is traditionally when warm weather brings out nature’s best and this partnership encourages and challenges individuals and families to Explore More and enjoy the outdoors.
Wildlife Research and Education at Baskett
Contributed by Michael Byrne (byrne.missouri.edu), Assistant Professor, Wildlife Ecology

Baskett Forest is well known for forestry education and research, and of course the annual maple syrup harvest. However, Baskett Forest has also long served as a ready laboratory for wildlife research and education as well. As an example of current research, SNR graduate student Hannah Phelps has been maintaining a grid of 30 game cameras at Baskett Forest, as part of a larger study on the distribution of spotted skunks and gray fox in Missouri. The results of the study will also inform mesocarnivore monitoring protocols using game cameras. Hannah has been assisted in maintaining this camera grid by SNR undergraduates in the Mizzou Chapter of The Wildlife Society.

Baskett serves as the classroom for two labs in Wildlife Research Methods (FW4700/7700), both of which start on Friday and run through the weekend. One lab is focused on capture and chemical immobilization (tranquilization) of raccoons. This provides SNR students a hands-on opportunity to learn about how to administer drugs, and properly and safely handle and monitor tranquilized wildlife. We are often joined by Dr. Kelley Varner from the MU vet school for this activity. Students in Wildlife Research Methods (FW4700) gain valuable hands-on experience in the safe capture and handling of wildlife during field labs at Baskett Forest. Pictured are a deer mouse (above) and monitoring a tranquilized raccoon (right).

The other lab is focused on the capture of small mammals such as mice and voles. In this lab, students set out traps and compare the abundance and diversity of small mammals in two different habitat types. In addition to setting and checking traps, students also practice taking vegetation measures that are commonly used in wildlife studies, such as canopy cover, ground cover composition and the density of ground-level vegetation.

For more information about activities at Baskett Forest, contact Ben Knapp (knappb@missouri.edu)
SPOTLIGHT ON SNR FACULTY, STAFF AND STUDENTS

Fisheries Research from Stephens Hall to Stephens Building in 5 moves! Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) research on fishes and other things aquatic was originally housed in the E. Sydney Stephens Hall on the MU Campus and after five moves are now located just south of Columbia in the E. Sydney Stephens Building.

From 1939-1948, all MDC regional biologists and special subject biologists, both fisheries and wildlife, as well as university professors, were housed on the University of Missouri campus in Stephens Hall (named after E. Sydney Stephens, a founder of the Department). (This building was originally named the Conservation Laboratory and later renamed Stephens Hall honoring E. Sydney Stephens.)

Because of increasing staff for both the University and MDC, fisheries research moved to 201a 8th Street in 1948 where they were headquartered on the second floor above the Kelly Press business supply store. They remained there until 1956.

Then, after another increase in staff in the early 50's, the Fisheries Research Section moved to 903 Elm Street in 1956 into an old three-story brick building that began as the Columbia Club; a place for townspeople and University faculty to relax and have parties. Later, it housed a dance studio and radio station. The third story of this building was condemned as being uninhabitable and was used as a storage area when I started to work there in 1965.
The next move came in 1969 when the Fisheries Research staff moved to the basement of Parkade Plaza Shopping Mall while a new building to house both fish and wildlife research was under construction on the south edge of the University Campus. (There was considerable discussion at that time about moving both fish and wildlife research to the Central Office in Jefferson City, but the Conservation Commissioners decided that it would be far better for them to remain in Columbia due to their excellent relationship with the University.) [No Photo Available]

The new “Conservation Research Center” located at 1110 S. College Avenue on the southeast edge of the University Campus was first occupied in October 1970 and was originally named the Fish and Game Research Center. (At that time MDC had a Fisheries Division and a Game Division.) In 1974, the name was changed to the Fish and Wildlife Research Center. (The Game Division was changed to the Wildlife Division in 1974 to reflect an increased emphasis on non-game species management.) Then in 2000, it was changed to the Resource Science Center (same location) where all MDC fishery, forestry and wildlife research efforts were housed together.

After more expansion in staff and the need for a new regional office, all research staff were on the move again, and in March 2012, the Resource Science Center staff joined the regional office staff and moved to a new building, the Central Regional Office and Conservation Research Center, on Gans Road just south of Columbia. The building was later named the E. Sydney Stephens Building.

Where to next you say? Stay tuned. (Submitted by Joe Dillard.)

The SNR Monthly Reader will be distributed electronically the last working day of the month (except during breaks). Please send announcements (or if you’d like to unsubscribe) to Cindy Greenwood, Editor (greenwoodci@missouri.edu).