MU Forestry Club
Annual Christmas Tree Sales 2022

December 3-4: 8:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

We have changed locations!
* South Farm, 3600 East New Haven Road

- Nova Scotia Balsams to be sold at $12/ft
- Hot cider available!
- Contact information
  - Owen Steins: (636) 515-5220
  - All proceeds go to the University of Missouri Forestry Club to fund our Timbersports team and various club activities!
DIRECTOR MARKET – SNR ACTIONS

- Attended the Agricultural Leadership of Tomorrow (ALOT) Annual Meeting
- Attended the SNR Awards and Recognition Program
- Attended lunch with Colonel Travis Rayfield, Commander and District Engineer U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Kansas City District, as part of a discussion about potential collaboration in workforce development and economic analysis and other academic research to improve water management
- Continued discussion about the Aquatic Institute
- Continued work on the SNR 5-Year Assessment Report
- Attended CAFNR’s Novemberfest Meeting
- Continuing professional development generated by the Food Systems Leadership Institute (FSLI)

HONORS AND AWARDS

SNR brought back its awards program in-person this year after taking a hiatus last year:
Outstanding Undergraduate Student
Rachel McMullen
Outstanding Graduate Student
Hadley Boehm
Outstanding Faculty (Teaching)
Robin Rotman
Outstanding Faculty (Service)
Eric Aldrich
Black and Gold Alumni Award
Mike Kruse
The TIGER Staff Award
Deseri Perkins
Outstanding Citizen Award
Stephen Anderson

A new award was introduced this year – The Director’s Service Award (Robert DiStefano) – which is designed to identify individuals in each emphasis area who demonstrate exceptional service to the School (Fisheries & Wildlife was this year’s emphasis area).

Photo L-R: Stephen Anderson, Robin Rotman, Rachel McMullen, Deseri Perkins, Eric Aldrich, Hadley Boehm, Robert DiStefano. (Mike Kruse was not available when the picture was taken.)
Mike Griggs was honored as a recipient of the 2022 CAFNR Column Award for Distinguished Alumni. This is the only award specifically for alumni presented by the college. One graduate from each of CAFNR’s six divisions was chosen. More about the award ceremony can be found at this link: https://cafnr.missouri.edu/2022/11/an-exceptional-evening/

Mike was also invited to talk to students in the Sustainable Tourism class (PRST 4260/7260) taught by Assistant Professor Shuangyu Xu (pictured above right). In his guest lecture, Griggs shared his insights and previous experience working as Columbia’s parks and recreation director. He also shared with the class the city’s latest efforts in implementing sustainable practices while providing inclusive recreation opportunities for the public.
MU’s Forestry Club was able to send twelve undergraduate students to the Touch of Nature Center south of Carbondale, IL, for a timber sports competition known as a conclave. Southern Illinois University-Carbondale hosted the competition for this fall. Dr. Hank Stelzer, one of our forestry club advisors, came with us and was instrumental in guiding our club, as none of us had been to a conclave event before. In addition, Truman Kinsey, a graduate of the natural resources program here at Mizzou, came to practices held at South Farm several times a week for over a month. He coached us on proper technique, know-how, and logistical knowledge that we had lost with the knowledge gap created by the pandemic. He was instrumental in getting us motivated and ready for conclave, and without him I do not think our club would have won first place at the competition. We competed in double and single buck using a crosscut saw, pulp toss, ax throw, wood ID, dendrology, DBH estimation, and a special event, which composed of a race to obtain water, start a fire, and boil the water. Schools represented included Missouri State, Iowa State, and Southern Illinois University. Throughout the event, we met and connected with members of other clubs. It was an excellent networking opportunity, and the social aspect was enjoyed thoroughly by our club. We are planning to attend conclave as a different university in the spring, and it is an excellent opportunity for any natural resource students wanting to get involved. It is a great way to meet other students, network, and have fun in a low-pressure environment. The bottom row from left to right is as follows - Helena Fairchild, Liz Schrader, Rylee Alden, Lyndsey Ernat. The top row from left to right - Dr. Hank Stelzer, Owen Steins (president), Michael Dybowsk, Josh Yantis (the one with the white shirt), Kyle Rolfes (blue suspenders), David Meusch, Johnnie Swizdor, Billy McCaslin, and Cole Palumbo. (Submitted by Billy McCaslin; Photo by Steve Fairchild.)
The MU Limnology Lab was recently profiled in the North Central Region Water Network Newsletter regarding their work on cyanobacterial blooms in inland waters: https://northcentralwater.org/uncovering-the-mysteries-of-cyanobacteria-in-inland-lakes/

SPOTLIGHT ON SNR FACULTY, STAFF AND STUDENTS

Welcome two new additions to SNR: Brandon Gerig is an ecologist with the National Park Service. His responsibilities include coordinating the Great Rivers Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit headquartered in the School of Natural Resources. In addition, Gerig serves as a science advisor to parks throughout the Midwest region on a diversity of aquatic and fisheries related management issues. Previously, he served as an associate professor at Northern Michigan University where he taught and conducted research related to aquatic ecology and fisheries in the Upper Great Lakes. He received a BS in Fish and Wildlife Management from Lake Superior State University, an MS in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation from the University of Florida, and a PhD in Biological Sciences from the University of Notre Dame.

Brian Schweiss has taken on the role as the Sustainable Forestry Specialist. He will serve as an Extension Specialist promoting private land management of upland oaks as part of the White Oak Initiative. Landowners hold the key to ensuring this iconic species is sustained on the landscape for generations to come. Brian has 30 years of experience working with the Missouri Department of Conservation with much of it providing landowner assistance. He is excited to expand this role through MU Extension. He will also teach several courses including forest measurements and forest management and will use his experience to give students the skills to put their education into action. Brian received his BS in Forestry from SNR. His interest in private land management led him back to MU where he received a Master’s degree focused on forest landowner motivations and attitudes towards land management. Landowner engagement and sharing the knowledge of forestry are two ardent interests, and Brian is excited to share them at MU.
30 Years of Missouri Lake Water Monitoring: Community scientists, and representatives from the University of Missouri, Missouri Department of Natural Resources, and the Missouri Conservation Department met to celebrate 30 years of volunteer lake water quality monitoring in Missouri. The Lakes of Missouri Volunteer Program (LMVP) began in 1992. Participants have since collected and processed over 18,000 water samples, all analyzed in the MU Limnology Lab at the University of Missouri. The LMVP now monitors 120 lake sites across the state up to 8 times each year for several water quality indicators including water clarity and algal toxins. “What we have in Missouri is an impressive 30-year record of community-driven lake data that stands proudly alongside the best in the country,” said project manager Tony Thorpe. Pat Market, Director of the School of Natural Resources, gave opening remarks at the event. After dinner, attendees heard about the origins of LMVP from Jack Jones, Curators’ Professor Emeritus at MU’s School of Natural Resources and one of the LMVP’s founders. Robert Voss of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources spoke about the value of LMVP’s water quality data to the state of Missouri. Maryam Salehi, assistant professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering at MU, spoke about the pervasiveness of plastics in the environment. Following the presentations, volunteers and professionals had the opportunity to mingle and chat, connecting those who collect the water samples with those who use the data.