

# MISSOURI FORESTRY NEWSLETTER



Missouri Society of American Foresters

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## Spring freeze affects oak mast production

David Gwaze

Missouri Department of Conservation personnel have surveyed oak mast in the forested portions of the state since 1960. The oak mast survey is conducted annually by Forestry Division staff to provide an index to the availability of oak mast, giving resource managers and the public an indication of what is in store for mast dependent forest wildlife during fall and winter.

In 2007, a total of 3,847 oak trees were sampled: 2047 from the red oak group and 1800 from the white oak group. Combining the two oak groups, mast production was poor with decline of 49% from the 48-year average and 81% from last year's mast production.

This year's mast production was the 4<sup>th</sup> lowest index recorded since 1960. The white oak production (index of 26) was the lowest recorded since 1960 (Figure 1). It was a decline of 388% from the 48-year long-term average and 535% from last year's mast production. Red oak index (145) was good and well above the red oak long-term average (138). Compared to last year, the red oak index was slightly lower (8%).

There are many factors that could contribute to this poor mast crop in white oaks; however, we attribute this decline to the late-spring freeze. In Missouri, spring of 2007 was marked by unseasonably warmer weather followed by colder than normal weather in March/April 2007.

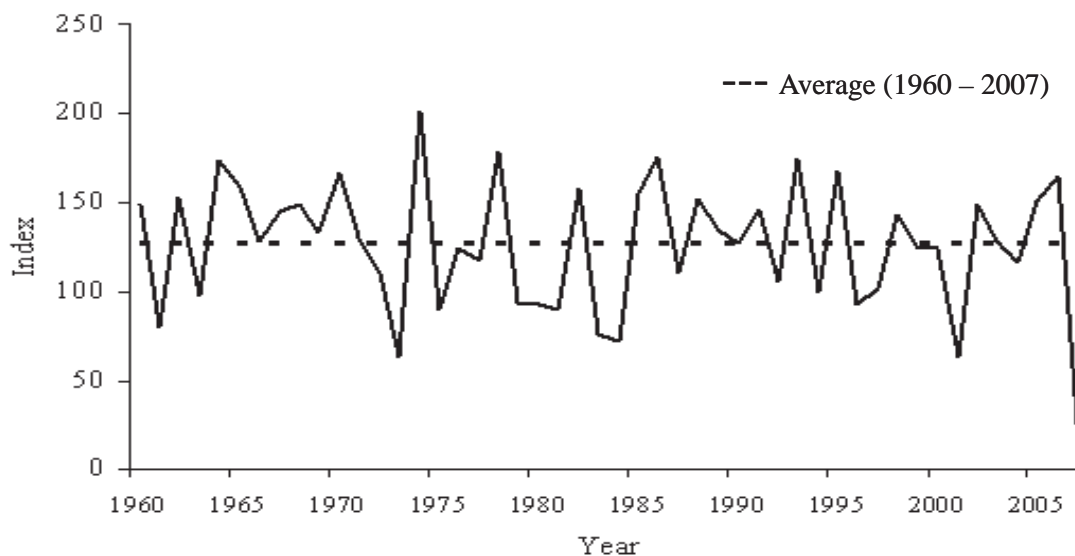


Figure 1. Statewide mast index for white oaks, 1960-2007.

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Due to the early warm weather flowering was underway by as much as four weeks ahead of schedule in southern Missouri and in mid-Missouri they were roughly two weeks ahead in response to warm spring temperatures. These trees that flowered early were vulnerable to this spring freeze.

In white oaks, production of acorns takes place in the same season in which the flowers are fertilized. The late-spring freeze damaged the flowers and, thus, reduced the mast production. On the other hand, mast production in red oaks was good because acorn production takes place over two growing seasons. Red oaks fertilized last year produced this year's mast crop, escaping the freeze. We expect next year's red oak acorn crop to decline significantly because most of this year's flowers were damaged by the freeze.

The management implication of our observation is that it is important to maintain mixed stands of red oaks and white oaks in order to avoid complete mast failures. The 2007 mast survey results clearly indicate that if stands were composed of only white oaks a complete mast failure would have occurred.

Preliminary results from MOFEP show that overstory species composition is shifting towards white oak dominated stands in no harvest management and uneven-aged management, while even-aged management appear to maintain the current species composition. No harvest management and uneven-aged management are likely to increase the frequency of years of complete mast failures while even-aged management is likely to avoid them. Thus, forest management such as even-aged management that encourages regeneration of both red and white oaks is likely to sustain mast production since the effect of crop failures in one is dampened by the other.

**The MOSAF website has a  
new address:  
<http://oak.snr.missouri.edu/mosaf/>**

## **HSD update**

**Craig Vollmer, HSD Chair**

Through the convener system we have been discussing the creation of an HSD national recognition award, in which one of our grassroots units (state, division or chapter) would be recognized for outstanding effort in SAF. We have hashed through some procedures as a group and developed a draft for the award. This will be an agenda item at our meeting and will be something for us to discuss and decide on as a group.

One of Mike Goergen's goals is to provide better support to state societies. His objective is to create a position that will work more closely to improve the working relationship with the state societies, to be more proactive and provide a greater degree of coaching. In 2005 and 2006 HSD spent time developing a list of areas in which we felt national could better support state societies. This goal may present an opportunity for us to readdress this list and re-engage Council and national staff.

For some time now, SAF has had a strong voice in the development in the 2007 farm bill. At the last council meeting it was reported that the elements we asked to be included will be there and the authorization for the bill will be there, but the availability of money is still in question.

SAF has created a task force to develop group forester certification through SAF - Certified Forest Management System. The concept is to develop a template of forest management criteria that satisfies tree farm, SFI, and FSC with the goal of having land managed by foresters participating in the program recognized as certified by these and other systems. The task force has been working on a report.

National has been developing a system for electronic voting that will be available for use by state societies and local chapters. There is a fee for its use, but it has been determined that it will be cheaper than bulk mailing. To facilitate its use, we need to encourage our members to provide their email address if they have one. Paper ballots will be made available to those that do not provide an email address. Also in order for local elections to be managed through this system, state societies will have to develop consistent timelines with the national

schedule – nominations for candidates would need to be submitted by September 1st each year to be posted on the electronic voting system.

Be aware that there are some issues being raised at the national level regarding state societies' income. Currently, state societies do not need to file with the IRS - everything is handled through the national organization. However, in order for SAF to maintain its 501(c)3 status individual state societies are limited to annual gross income (not profit) of \$25,000 or less. The national auditor has expressed some concerns about several state societies that are exceeding this threshold. SAF has been able to avoid the issue, but will not be able to continue to. Since the 9/11 attacks the government has been watching this more closely because organizations like ours are possible places for money to be laundered and funneled to terrorists. If your state society is bringing in more than \$25,000 annually, be prepared that you will likely have to file separately with the IRS.

Some information has been brought to our attention regarding insurance coverage for SAF events. Based on the information that has been presented to us, it is more likely than not that we have been holding SAF events where certain elements or activities would not be covered by National's blanket policy. In particular, field trips must be covered under a separate policy; athletic events are not covered (except golf and tennis); liquor sales are excluded (recommendation is for the hotel to provide and serve it); anything involving boats, ATVs, etc., is not covered; events involving firearms are not included; and so on. Some of these things can be covered for an extra charge, but do not automatically assume that your event is covered under the national policy.

It was proposed earlier this year that we simplify the membership categories on the membership application to make it easier for new applicants and make it easier for national staff to manage. Some suggestions were made to Council; the result was unanticipated as it opened the debate about our membership, membership categories, voting privileges, etc. This lasted over the course of two council meetings. After much (and often heated) discussion we came full circle to a minimal amount of change. In the end the membership categories that were settled on were: Professional Member, Conditional Professional Member, Technician Member, Associate Member, Student Member and Subscriber. The largest change was actually from

Corresponding Member to Subscriber. Prior to this change Corresponding Members were "members." It was reported that in some instances this was being abused by some individuals who were using SAF membership as a credential to gain business. As a Subscriber one is not a member and only eligible to receive publications, but has no voting rights. All others were given full voting rights within the organization. It seemed as if little came as a result, but the discussions were very productive in the end as Council members came closer to answering the question of who we are as an organization.

I am able to report that there has been no recent discussion about a name change for SAF. This has obviously sparked much comment and is an important issue for our organization. I do not believe that this has been considered a high priority by Council, which leads me to believe that the idea is unpopular. I will say, however, that based on the discussions surrounding membership categories and voting rights that there were many strong opinions that this is an organization for "Foresters." It may warrant further discussion within HSD, to either ask for further review on the part of Council or to recommend that Council put the issue to bed and leave things as is. At this point I will leave it to any one of you that would like to see this included as an agenda item.

Bob Daniels is the District XI Council Rep. At the last Council meeting, he submitted a Strategy Concept for SAF Funding and Development. His bottom line message was that SAF needed to be more assertive in raising funds and that we need to be more aggressive and proactive in addressing attacks from environmentalists; that we need to get off the sidelines, but money will always be an issue that is not easy to address. He feels we need to ratchet up our vision regarding the advancement of the practice of forestry. His goal is for us to become better funded by: explore ways to accept grants and donations from foundations; demonstrate that we are a friend of natural resource companies by aiding with science based information and people in defending sound stewardship from attack; and organizing a meeting of forest industry and forestry foundations at the convention to explore interest and cooperation.

## Experience wins out!

Terry Gordon

As an unbiased spectator I must say that, minus a certain Forestry Professor (David Larsen), the experienced foresters did us proud at the first ever Forestry Summer Camp Quiz Bowl.

What the student body lacked in field knowledge they made up for with “strategy”—namely ringing in BEFORE the question was fully asked in a desperate (and highly UNSUCCESSFUL) attempt to throw the “yoda-like” knowledge base that is Mark Pelton and the ever surprising “Tater” (Russell Hinah).



This was a highly entertaining and slightly educational function that successfully brought together several generations of foresters. The event was the brain child of Membership Chair Josh Stevens, who continues to show a passion towards the goal of gaining and keeping professionals in our field. For me it felt good to be around UMC’s Forestry Summer Camp again...14 years after I was there as a student. The volleyball and horseshoe areas were the same, same cabins, even the same cook! The clear-cut we toured as students was now a young



pole stand that had been manipulated sometime between my days as a student and now.

The reminiscing was comforting and sparked a moment of reflection in me. I reflected on my professional career. The growth of my career, like others, is comparable to that of that clear cut...all things equal and fairly undeveloped and unremarkable at the start than, as time passes, it grows, modifications are subtle on a daily basis...then a decade later you look around and you are in a very different place than when you started—hardly noticing the changes along the way.

My point of this is, while the students who participated in this Quiz Bowl enjoyed themselves that day I doubt they felt much overall change within them. But change did happen, no matter how small. The more we positively interact with the subsequent generations of foresters the greater the chance we have at ensuring some of these unremarkable starts will result in remarkable happenings for forestry in America.

## Special Funds Committee

David Massengale

The year is quickly slipping away and the Missouri Natural Resources Conference is right around the corner. It’s time to start thinking of items to be donated to the Special Funds/Forester Fund. We have the same booth space as last year with two tables so we should have room for lots of items. I know we have talented folks who make wooden items but we will take any kind of donation which has been purchased also.

We’re working on the traditional chainsaw donation and we need some nominations for the coveted Blackjack Forester Award.

You can bring the items to the booth the day of the Conference so there’s no hurry to get them to me right now. We can always use a little extra help at the booth to give some of the folks a break so be sure to stop by and lend a hand.

Personally, I’m bringing an autographed picture of myself wearing a black leather thong and a Viking helmet. I think this will really bring in the money and make the other societies jealous!!! Whether donating an item or time at the booth, we would really appreciate the help.

## Membership Committee report

Josh Stevens

We have gained several new members this year including students and lost several. We currently have 204 members and on December 31, 2005 we had 220.

New members thus far for this year include: Michael Kyd, Columbia; Randy Guettersloh (former MU student chapter president), Columbia; Eric Yarnell, Florissant; Robert Orf, Troy; Christian Schmidt, Piedmont; Francisco Aguilar, Columbia; Adam Magee, Blue Springs; Harold Draper, Kansas City; and Jacob Gray, Saint James. If you know or meet any of this year's new members please welcome them to MOSAF.

We lost a total of 27 members through transfers out of state, leaving SAF altogether or in death. Member Ralph Musbach passed away this year.

Our goal for the end of 2007 is to have 221 members. We are short 17 members of our goal. There are many professional foresters in the state that are not members of SAF. Your MOSAF is working to make membership worthwhile. If you know of any professional foresters that are not a member of SAF, invite them to our next meeting and tell them who we are.

In the last meeting we mentioned that we would hold activities at the MU Forestry Summer Camp. We held a Quiz Bowl that was met with great success. A great time was enjoyed by all in attendance. Terry Gordon's report can be found in this newsletter.

We are now taking names of students that would like to mentor a professional this semester. I have already had strong interest in this program as soon as the semester started. It is well received by the students and they look forward to visiting with the professionals for a day to see what a forester really does. I try to connect the students with a member that has a career similar to the student's desire. We have had interest in agroforestry, Forest Service forester, urban forester and MDC resource forester and MDC wildlife biologist thus far. Looking at the students' wide interests reminds me how broad the profession of forestry is in Missouri. I will call you if a student is interested in mentoring your job in your location of the state.

## MCFA fall meeting

Fred Crouse

The fall meeting of the Missouri Consulting Foresters Association was held September 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. Eleven members were present for the event. Terry Cunningham hosted the Thursday event at the new Pioneer Forest facility north of Salem.

The new building is tied in with the old building where Charlie Kirk and Ed Woods set up operations for the newly purchased Pioneer Forest in the early 50's. The plans for the old office include a complete renovation and restoration and when that is completed, a museum featuring Pioneer Forest will be developed.

After the office visit and a power point presentation on Pioneer Forest it was off to the woods. The first stop was at a one person sawmill operated by Mr. Spencer. It was more than a sawmill. Firewood, mulch, ties, special blocking, pallet stock, pallet lumber and chips were produced at the mill basically operated by the owner. He had created little items to assist him in his one man show.

Leaving the sawmill we headed deeper into the woods to look at a recent logging operation conducted by Ron Tuttle, Logger of the Year, on a tract Pioneer owns near Cedar Grove. Skid trails, logging damage or lack of it, residual stands and BMP's were observed and discussed.

On Friday, the group drove to Cuba to tour McGinnis' stave mills and barrel plant. Brian Brookshire joined the group at the point. Mr. McGinnis had graciously agreed to provide a tour of the complex for our group. He had also provided a tour for the MOSAF recently so everyone who attended that meeting knows about the operation. If this was the first stave/barrel plant a person visited it was impressive. If it were the 100<sup>th</sup> mill visited it was still impressive.

It was a very interesting and worthwhile two days.





## Rocca receives international award

James Rocca was presented the Award of Merit from the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) in August. The award was presented “in appreciation for meritorious service in advancing the principles, ideals, and practices of arboriculture.” Members of the Society include arborists in commercial, municipal, urban and utility arboricultural professions and those in arboricultural research. He has been a member of the Society of American Foresters since 1964, and maintains membership in the Missouri Society and the Urban Forestry Working Group.

Rocca received a B.S. in Forestry from Iowa State University in 1963. He served five years as a District Forester for the Iowa Conservation Commission. During 27 years with the Missouri Department of Conservation, he held positions as Farm Forester, Urban Forester, Urban Forestry Coordinator and Special Programs Supervisor. Currently he is the owner of 4S-Tree Consulting and provides urban forestry management consultation to a diverse client base in the St. Louis, Missouri area.

He served in many roles with ISA, including President of the seven-state Midwestern Chapter in 1983, and on the International Board of Directors for fifteen years. His time and effort for the Midwestern Chapter included service as Secretary, Treasurer and Executive Director spanning 24

years. He provided key support and guidance to the Chapter on annual conferences, annual tree climbing championships, student scholarships and newsletter, while maintaining extensive and accurate financial records.

In addition to the Award of Merit, he has received many previous awards and recognitions including the ISA Author’s Citation, the National Arbor Day Foundation Joyce Kilmer Award, the American Forests Urban Forester Medal and the Society of Municipal Arborists Urban Forester of the Year.





## Roles receives Golden Membership Mountain View Standard News

Jim Roles was recently presented a plaque for 50 years of membership in the Society of American Foresters. President of the Society of American Foresters, John P. McMahon, stated to Roles in a letter, "Yours is the ultimate commitment to both the Society and the forestry profession. Your dedication serves also as a model to your fellow foresters who deal daily with the complexities of a changing world."

Roles began his forestry career in 1956 as a student at the University of Minnesota. In 1957 he joined the Forest Service in Minnesota. In 1983 he became Chairman-elect of the Ozark Section of SAF and in 1984 he became the first Chairman of the newly organized Missouri Society of American Foresters. He was the first Chairman of the Missouri Forest Heritage Center. Currently Roles serves as Chairman for the Mountain View Parks, Recreation and Tree Board.

Presenting the plaque to Roles were Missouri SAF members Bob Cunningham and Tom Draper.

## Upcoming Events

**November 28-29.** Missouri SAF Fall Meeting and Shortleaf Pine Demonstration Tour, Wayne County, Mo. For more information, contact Mike Fiaoni, 573/729-3182 or [Mike.Fiaoni@mdc.mo.gov](mailto:Mike.Fiaoni@mdc.mo.gov).

**Jan. 30-Feb. 1, 2008.** Missouri Natural Resources Conference, Osage Beach, Mo. For more information, visit [www.mnrc.org](http://www.mnrc.org).

**May 20-22, 2008.** 3<sup>rd</sup> Fire in Eastern Oak Forests Conference. Carbondale, Ill. For more information, contact Charles Ruffner, 618/453-7469, [ruffner@siu.edu](mailto:ruffner@siu.edu) or John Groninger, 618/453-7462, [groninge@siu.edu](mailto:groninge@siu.edu).

**June 3-8, 2008.** Summer Fire School and Midwest Wildfire Training Academy, Jefferson City, Mo. On-line schedule and registration form available later this spring at [www.mufrti.org](http://www.mufrti.org).

**November 5-9, 2008.** Society of American Foresters National Convention, Reno, Nev. For more information, visit [www.safconvention.org](http://www.safconvention.org).

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