

Summer 2023

Cityscape

Promoting Stewardship for Missouri's Community Forests



Fun At The 2022-23 MCFC Arbor Day Poster Contest Award Presentation.

April 12, 2023 was a wonderfully sunny, and delightfully fun day of celebration in Silex MO. It was here that MDC Community Foresters, Mark Grueber, Jon Skinner and Forest Relief's forestry Manager Billy Haag, went to Silex Elementary School, Silex, MO to present the awards for the State Winning Poster in the 2022-23 MCFC Arbor Day Poster Contest.

The entire Fifth grade, 38 students, came out to honor Kayleigh Fernau for her skillful work of art highlighting the theme of "Trees Work for Clean Water".

Jon Skinner presented the history of Arbor Day followed by Billy Haag leading the planting of a swamp chestnut oak (*Quercus michauxii*). Kayleigh had the honor of placing the first handful of soil back in the hole.

Afterwards, Jon presented Kayleigh with various awards along with her Art Teacher Heather Miller. Mom and Dad were also present to enjoy the moment with Kayleigh.



Image above: Kayleigh (black shirt) prepares to place the first handful of soil into the planting hole while classmates get ready for their turn.



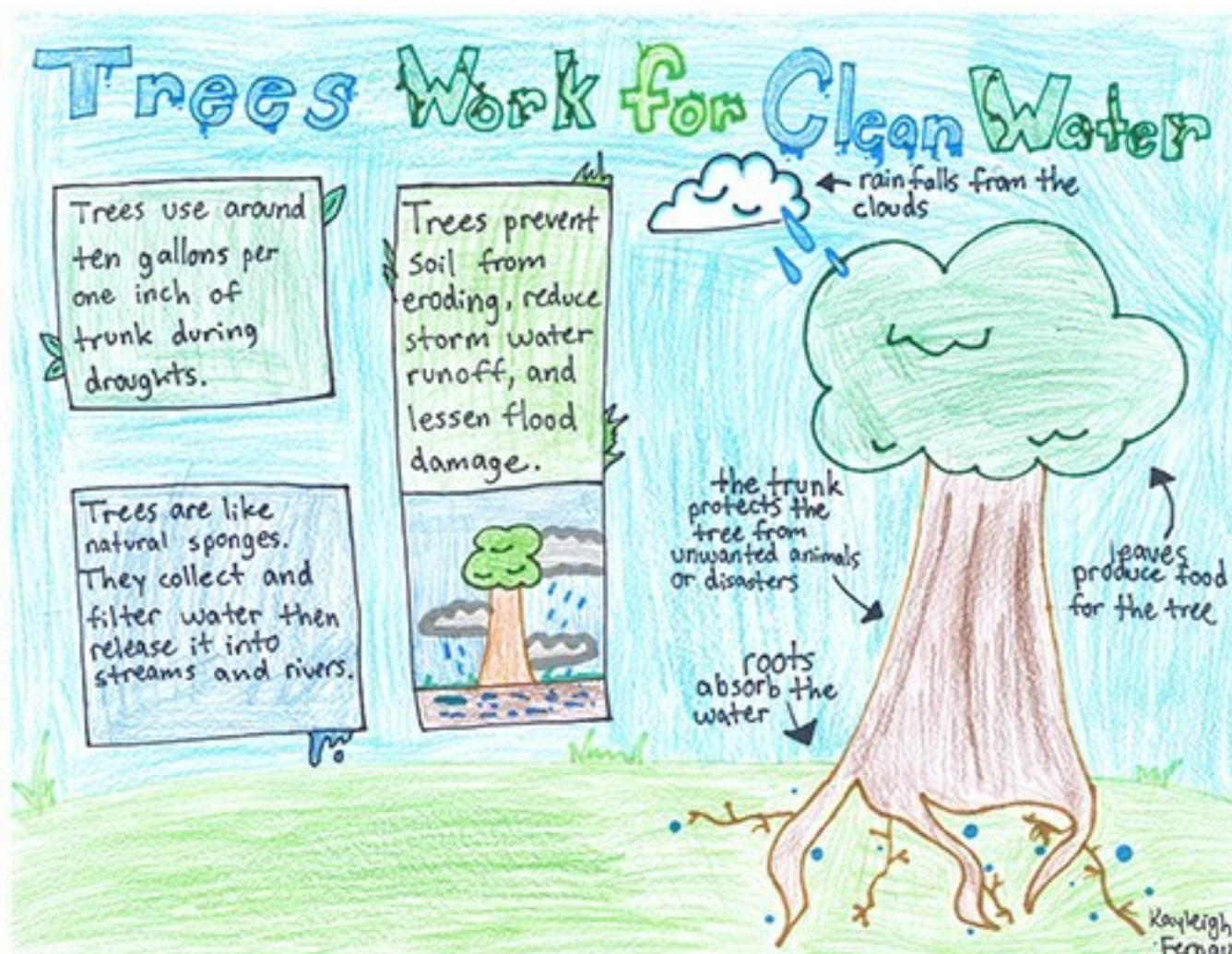
To the right, Mark Grueber, Jon Skinner, Kayleigh Fernau and Billy Haag stand with certificate and framed winning poster.

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MCFC Arbor Day Poster Contest Presentation (continued)

Kayleigh Fernau holds her framed poster as Art Teacher Heather Miller holds the Certificate of Kayleigh's achievement.

Students placing soil into the planting hole . Image below is Kayleigh's winning poster.



Missouri Arbor Award of Excellence:

NOMINATIONS ARE NOW OPEN!



The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) and the Missouri Community Forestry Council (MCFC) are accepting nominations for the 2023 Missouri Arbor Award of Excellence. The annual award recognizes communities, institutions, businesses, organizations, and individuals that make significant and long-lasting efforts to care for trees in their communities. **Nominations are due by Monday, August 7, 2023.**

“Trees bring so much value to our communities, but their overall health depends on people practicing good tree stewardship on both public and private property,” said MDC Community Forestry Program Supervisor Russell Hinnah. “The more we work to take care of our trees, the more trees work for us by increasing property values, improving our air, saving energy, protecting our watersheds, and more.”

The Arbor Award of Excellence shines the spotlight on anyone who has improved trees in their community. Any significant program, project, or event that contributes to the care or maintenance of trees could potentially qualify for an award.

“This award recognizes projects that demonstrate a sustained overall effort to care for trees,” said Hinnah. “I encourage everyone to consider the wonderful tree work in their communities and to nominate those who made it possible.”

Winners receive a framed award, a full registration scholarship to the MCFC conference in September, an extra ticket to the award banquet during the conference, a community forestry reference book, and a \$50 gift card.

For more information and nomination forms, visit mdc.mo.gov and search Missouri Arbor Award of Excellence

If you have any questions regarding nominations, please contact Russell Hinnah at :Russell.Hinnah@mdc.mo.gov.



Annual MCFC Conference is coming to St. Joseph Mo on September 20th - 22nd 2023

Conference focus will be “Branching Out: Equitable and Creative Thinking for a more Sustainable Community Canopy”

Noted speakers include:

- Dr. Christine Carmichael from [Fair Forests Consulting](#)
- Dr. Geoffrey Donovan from [Pacific Northwest Research Station](#)

Full agenda and registration details can be found here- [Registration - MISSOURI COMMUNITY FORESTRY COUNCIL \(mocommunitytrees.org\)](#)



Accommodations:

Stoney Creek with room block for \$120/night. [Book your room now](#) and use code 0923FOREST. Block discount deadline August 22, 2023

Silent Auction Donation:

Email Sarah Crowder at sarah.crowder@bridgingthegap.org to donate or contribute an item.

Sponsor or Vendor Information:

Email Dean Alberty at lalberty@deeprootsmicrobiome.com for more information on sponsorships and vendor opportunities.

Special offer – In conjunction with the Missouri Community Forestry Council conference, [Grow Native!](#) is offering an opportunity to become a [Grow Native! Certified Pro!](#)

The [Grow Native! Professional Certification Program \(GNPCP\)](#), launched in 2022, provides a consistent credential in the use of native plants for landscaping in developed areas of the Lower Midwest. For the convenience of those attending the MCFC conference this year, Grow Native! is offering the opportunity to sit for the certification exam before the conference sessions begin. The GNPCP exam will be offered the morning of Wednesday, September 20, 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM, at Missouri Western State University (about 10 minutes from the conference center) in St. Joseph, Missouri. The testing fee for the St. Joseph test will be \$60 per section or \$240 for all four sections.

If you are interested in testing in St. Joseph on September 20, please email erika@moprairie.org to register, or phone (573) 567-0259, by August 15.



MCFC Members Collaborate With Military Veterans for Maintenance Work Along The Trail of Honor in Springfield

On May 16, the SW regional MCFC group teamed up for a project with military veterans from the MD-Kinney Company, a firm specializing in M-D Pneumatics blowers and Kinney vacuum pumps and boosters. The SWMCFC members led and assisted the veterans in doing planting bed maintenance along the Trail of Honor on the north perimeter of the Springfield Veterans Cemetery. They also spent time mulching and light pruning of trees planted in the main cemetery boundaries. Photos on this and the following page show the volunteers hard at work at these important tasks.



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Maintenance Work along The Trail of Honor, (continued)



**Thank you SWMCFC and MD-Kinney volunteers,
your efforts spent on this notable project is greatly appreciated!**



Announcements

Need CEU's? Try Tree Fund Webinars!

TREE Fund's 1-hour webinars are free and offer 1.0 CEU credit for live broadcasts from the International Society of Arboriculture and the Society of American Foresters. Registration and information will become available on our website approximately two weeks before each webinar date. Webinars are also archived for future viewing, and can be found on the Tree Fund website [TREE Fund – Tree Research & Education Endowment Fund](#) . Next scheduled presentation-**Tuesday, August 8. Noon CDT. Presenter:** Dr. Brian Kane, University of Massachusetts. Comparing the efficacy of pull tests versus expert opinion when assessing decay and likelihood of tree failure.

MWISA Schedules a TRAQ Class in Addition To a Online TRAQ Renewal

The TRAQ “full course” class will be held October 11-13, 2023 in Gering NE. The online renewal will be held August 2, 2023, 8:00am –3:00 pm Eastern. The virtual renewal option is only available for those that already have the TRAQ credential.

For either the full class or renewal, Please read the [“ISA TRAQ Application Guide”](#) to be clear about the course prerequisites and renewal requirements and details about the qualification and the course. Applicants for the course must register 30 days prior to the session they plan to attend. Contact MWISA at [MW-ISA \(mwisa.org\)](#) for more information

Podcasts: Communication Format That Offers Exciting New Possibilities For MCFC!

Blossoming in popularity since first introduced nearly 20 years ago, a podcast is a basically a program made available in digital format for download over the Internet. Primarily an audio medium, it can be conveniently downloaded to a users personal device to be listen to at a time of their choosing. Similar to a radio program but much more affordable to produce and disseminate, it has become a popular medium to share stories and information worldwide.

A Recent Society of Municipal Arborists (SMA) article in their online magazine, *City Trees*, illustrates the potential benefits and general availability of the podcast format for any person or organization involved at some level in community forestry . Written by *City Trees* Editor, Michelle Sutton, “All Ears: Four Noteworthy Podcasts from SMA Members and Friends” highlights four different podcasts with the lessons and insights each of the creators discovered as they developed their podcast project. Certainly inspiring, you can find the story at [City Trees - May/June 2023 \(dmtmag.com\)](#) As a reminder, SMA now allows free access to current and archived *City Trees* on the SMA website. Visit [Society of Municipal Arborists | City Trees \(urban-forestry.com\)](#)

MDC invites the public to community conservation funding workshop in Columbia July 18

The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) invites community leaders, volunteers, and staff who have an interest in community forestry and other conservation practices in their town to a workshop on funding conservation projects in communities. This workshop will be held July 18 from 1-3 p.m. at the Activity and Recreation Center (ARC) in Columbia. This workshop will be limited to 30 people, and registration is required. To register, email MDC Community Forester, Ann Koenig at ann.koenig@mdc.mo.gov.

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Announcements (Continued)

Forest ReLeaf accepting CommuniTree orders

Forest ReLeaf [CommuniTree](#) orders will open July 5. All partners planting on public and/or nonprofit land (parks, schools, churches, tree lawns, community gardens, etc.) across Missouri are eligible for free, 3-gallon trees through this program. Pick ups can be scheduled starting in late September at the Forest ReLeaf Nursery and Arboretum in Creve Coeur Park, located in St. Louis County. This year, Forest ReLeaf will be delivering to 5 regional distribution locations in KC, Joplin, Cape Girardeau, Columbia, and St. Louis City. Check the website for dates and details. [Forest ReLeaf – Planting trees & enriching communities. \(moreleaf.org\)](#)

2nd World Forum on Urban Forests Coming Soon

the 2nd World Forum on Urban Forests is going to take place October 15-20, 2023 in Washington DC. The annual Partners in Community Forestry Conference is also being held as part of this global event. For more information please visit-

[Conference Agenda - Partners in Community Forestry Conference \(arborday.org\)](#)

Missouri Drought information

Nearly 80% of Missouri is currently under a drought advisory with approximately 25% classified as severe. To learn more about current conditions and available drought resources visit [Missouri | Drought.gov](#)

Droughts are particularly challenging for community foresters. See following link to find how one Missouri community is managing this crisis. [Ongoing drought adding to city tree management difficulties | Local | columbiamissourian.com](#)

