



Missouri Natural Resources Conference

The Missouri Natural Resources Conference (MNRC) is an annual meeting organized and sponsored by the Missouri Chapter of the American Fisheries Society, the Missouri Chapter of the Society of American Foresters, the Missouri Chapter of The Wildlife Society and the Show-Me Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society. This unique blend of disciplines, represented by the four societies, promotes wise use and management of Missouri's natural resources.

Each year the conference hosts about 800 people working in the natural resources field who meet to exchange information and ideas and encourage continued cooperation among resource professionals, agencies, and other natural resource stakeholders. Cooperating agencies are the Missouri Department of Conservation, University of Missouri, School of Natural Resources, the Missouri Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Forest Service and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Picking a starting date for the MNRC is difficult since it evolved over time starting with some early meetings to first establish the Missouri Chapter of The Wildlife Society and a couple of years later the Missouri Chapter of the American Fisheries Society.

These two entities met separately for a while, but jointly sponsored a meeting in 1969 labeled as the **Missouri Fishery and Game Conference**. Then in 1972 the name was changed to the **Fish and Wildlife Conference**."

The meeting became the **Missouri Forest, Fish and Wildlife Conference** in 1988 when the Missouri Chapter of the Society of American Foresters came on board.

In 1994 the Missouri Show-Me Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society became the fourth co-sponsor of the conference and in 1997 Quad-Society President's Council voted to rename the conference as the **Missouri Natural Resources Conference** beginning with the 1998 meeting.

You can find a more detailed account of these events below*

Meeting Dates, Themes and Locations of the Missouri Natural Resources Conference

<u>Year</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Theme</u>
1961	11/06	Stephens Hall Conference Room	None
1962	02/02	Stephens Hall Conference Room	None

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1963	02/21	University of Missouri Student Union	None
1964	02/28	University of Missouri Student Union	None
1965	02/18-19	University of Missouri Student Union	None
1966	02/03-04	University of Missouri Student Union	None
1967	02/09-10	University of Missouri Student Union	None
1968	002/08-09	University of Missouri Student Union	None
1969	02/13-14	University of Missouri Student Union	None
1970	02/12-13	University of Missouri Student Union	None
1971	02/11-12	University of Missouri Student Union	None
1972	01/27-28	University of Missouri Student Union	Land and Water Use Planning for Natural Resources Management
1973	02/01-02	University of Missouri Student Union	The Face of Conservation - A Current Assessment
1974	02/07-08	University of Missouri Student Union	Environmental Values - Today and Tomorrow
1975	02/12-14	University of Missouri Student Union	Future Direction of Wildlife and Natural Resource Management
1976	02/19-20	University of Missouri Student Union	Resource Management and the Public
1977	02/17-18	University of Missouri Student Union	None
1978	02/09-10	University of Missouri Student Union	Professional Communication/Current Habitat Issues - Where are we?

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1979	02/22-23	University of Missouri Student Union	Missouri's Design for Conservation - An Update/Conservation Programs in other States
1980	02/14-15	University of Missouri Student Union	Natural History Efforts in Missouri/Environmental Ethics
1981	02/19-20	University of Missouri Student Union	Resource Challenges of the Eighties
1982	02/11-12	Hearnes Multipurpose Building	Water Needs and the Allocation in the Missouri River Basin
1983	02/24-25	Hearnes Multipurpose Building	Soil Conservation: Challenges and Responses
1984	02/09-10	Hearnes Multipurpose Building	Fish and Wildlife Management - Assessing Public Benefits
1985	02/07-08	Ramada Inn, Columbia	Missouri's Riverine Resources
1986	02/20-21	Ramada Inn, Columbia	Future Directions of Missouri's Land and Water Resources - Resource Perspective from new Leaders / Wildlife's Relationship with Agriculture
1987	02/19-20	Ramada Inn, Columbia	Fifty Years of Conservation in Missouri
1988	01/20-22	Holiday Inn Executive Center, Columbia	Integrated Forest Resource Management in Missouri
1989	01/18-20	Lodge of the Four Seasons	Natural Resource Management on the Family Farm

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1990	01/24-26	Lodge of the Four Seasons	Conservation of Urban Natural Resources
1991	01/23-25	Tan Tar A	Conservation of Riparian Corridors
1992	01/29-31	Tan Tar A	Public Activism in Natural Resource Management
1993	01/27-29	Tan Tar A	Biodiversity Through Integrated Resource Management
1994	02/2-4	Tan Tar A	Changing Values in Natural Resources
1995	02/1-3	Tan Tar A	Ecosystem Management
1996	01-31/02-02	Tan Tar A	A Focus on Missouri's Long Term Research and Monitoring Projects
1997	02/5-7	Tan Tar A	Conservation and the Landowner, The Future of Missouri's Resources
1998	02/18-20	Tan Tar A	Building Conservation Partnerships
1999	02/1-3	Tan Tar A	Modern Resource Management: Myth, Mystery...Prophecy
2000	02/2-4	Tan Tar A	Reflecting on the Past to Shape Our Future
2001	01/31-02/02	Tan Tar A	Private Land - The Foundation for Conservation
2002	01/30-02/01	Tan Tar A	Streams – Uniting and Dividing the Landscape

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2003	01/29-31	Tan Tar A	Facing Resource Issues in the Midwest: From Research to the Field
2004	01/28-30	Tan Tar A	Voyages of Discovery for the Next Millennium
2005	02/02-04	Tan Tar A	Missouri's Resources: Shaping the Future with Leadership
2006	02/01-03	Tan Tar A	Managing the Public's Trust Amid Competing Voices
2007	01/31-02/02	Tan Tar A	Conserving All Natural Resources: Implementing the Comprehensive Wildlife Strategy
2008	01/30-02/01	Tan Tar A	Get Ready for Change: Ensuring Resource Sustainability in an iPod® World
2009	02/04-06/09	Tan Tar A	Global Trends, Missouri Impacts: Adapting to Climate Change
2010	02/03-05/10	Tan Tar A	Purposeful Risk Taking: Making Decisions in Dynamic Times
2011	02/02-04/11	Tan-Tar A	The Human Element: People, Politics, and Conservation
2012	02/01-03/12	Tan-Tar A	Public Initiative – 75 Years of Conservation in Missouri
2013	01/30-02/01	Tan-Tar A	Conservation Pays: Exploring the Social and Economic Impacts

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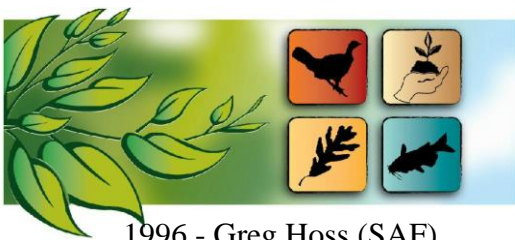


2014	02/05-07	Tan-Tar A	Battles in Conservation: Politics, Science, and Stewardship
2015	02/04-06	Tan-Tar A	Values of Conservation: Fostering Natural Resources Appreciation through Research, Management and Outreach
2016	02/03-05	Tan-Tar A	Balancing Economics, Conservation and Adaptive Management in a Changing World
2017	02/01-03	Tan-Tar A	Soil Health: Foundation of Conservation
2018	01/31-02/01	Tan-Tar A	Resources Managers – Resource Users
2019	01/05-07	Tan-Tar A	United We Conserve
2020	02/04-06	Tan-Tar A	Exploration, Exploitation and Conservation: Comparing History and Current Management
2021	02/02-04	Virtual Conference	Natural Resource Conservation in a 5-G World
2022	02/01-03	Margaritaville Lake Resort	“Contagious Conservation”
2023	02/07-09	Margaritaville Lake Resort	New Frontiers on Old Landscapes

MNRC Steering Committee Chairs:

- 1990 - Bruce Palmer (SAF)
- 1991 - Joe Hunn (AFS)
- 1992 - Eric Kurzejeski (TWS)
- 1993 - Gary Christoff (SAF)
- 1994 - Ron Dent (AFS)
- 1995 - Russ Titus (TWS)

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1996 - Greg Hoss (SAF)
1997 - Reggie Bennet (SWCS)
1998 - Kevin Richards (AFS)
1999 - Edd Brown (TWS)
2000 - Dennis Rhoades (SAF)
2001 - Alan Johnson (SWCS)
2002 - Brian Canaday (AFS)
2003 - Robert Miller (TWS)
2004 - Mike Huffman (SAF)
2005 - De De Vest (SWCS)
2006 - Andrew Austin (AFS)
2007 - Gene Gardner (TWS)
2008 - Justine Gartner (SAF)
2009 - Diana Sheridan (SWCS)
2010 - Mike Smith (AFS)
2011- Ted Seiler (TWS)
2012- Gary Smith (SAF)
2013 - Kim Worth (SWCS)
2014 - Clint Hale (AFS)
2015 - Alan Leary (TWS)
2016 - Mike Fiaoni (SAF)
2017 - Steve Wilson (SWCS)
2018 - John Ackerson (AFS)
2019 - Shane Kampeter (TWS)
2020 - Jon Skinner (SAF)
2021 - Steve Wilson (SWCS)
2022 - Blake Stephens (AFS)
2023 - Josh Wisdom (TWS)

* A business meeting of the Missouri membership of the Wildlife Society met in Stephens Hall, University of Missouri – Columbia in late 1961, with a steering committee of Thomas Baskett (State Representative), Allen Brohn (State Membership Chair), Bill Crawford (Regional Representative) and Jim Salyer (Student Representative). The 30 people attending agreed unanimously as to the desirability of a State Chapter and planned a follow up meeting in early 1962 to develop a constitution, bylaws and a permanent set of officers (Temporary officers were Bill Crawford, Chair and Ken Sadler, Secretary). The group met again in the Stephens Hall Conference Room on February 2, 1962 in a meeting chaired by Larry Gale. They adopted a set of bylaws and petitioned for a Charter to become the Missouri Chapter of the Wildlife Society. The Charter from The Wildlife Society was granted, and is dated March 11, 1962.

Then in 1963 a separate meeting, entitled the **Missouri Fisheries Conference**, was attended by Missouri Department of Conservation fisheries employees, University of Missouri professors

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and students, and fish farmers. A year later the participants decided to apply for a Charter to become the Missouri Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (the Charter is dated March 10, 1964, thus 1965 was the first official meeting of the Missouri Chapter of the American Fisheries Society).

The two groups met separately each year. Then in 1965, the Fisheries and Wildlife Societies had separate meetings on consecutive days with a joint banquet the evening between. The names of the two “conferences” were Missouri Fisheries (changed to Fishery in 1967) Conference and Missouri Game Conference (joint mailings of meeting announcements began in 1967). In 1969 the jointly sponsored meeting was labeled the **Missouri Fishery and Game Conference**. The first jointly sponsored Plenary Session (see Theme above) and the first “official” Soiree were held in 1972. The 1972 meeting was billed as the Tenth Annual meeting of the Missouri Chapters of the American Fisheries Society and The Wildlife Society. The name of the meeting was then changed to the **Fish and Wildlife Conference**.

The meeting became the **Missouri Forest, Fish and Wildlife Conference** in 1988 when the Missouri Chapter of the Society of American Foresters came on board. The Missouri Society of American Foresters was initiated on January 1, 1983. From 1935 until 1964, there was no state chapter; the foresters in Missouri were just part of the Ozark Section of the Society of American Foresters. The Missouri Chapter (of the Ozark Section) was formed in October 1963 and held their first meeting in January 1964.

In 1994 the Missouri Show-Me Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society became the fourth co-sponsor of the conference. The first organized Soil Conservation Society of America (later to become the SWCS) activity in Missouri was to form the Alfalfa-Brome Chapter which encompassed all counties north of the Missouri River and all counties west of Chillicothe. The chapter officially was established by SCSA on March 24, 1950. The Show-Me Chapter was formed on January 18, 1955. The Soil Conservation Society of America name was changed to the Soil and Water Conservation Society by a membership vote in spring 1987. The Show-Me Chapter was changed to the Show-Me Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society by a membership vote to change the chapter by-laws in December 1987.

The Missouri chapters of The Wildlife Society, the Soil and Water Conservation Society, and the American Fisheries Society each passed a resolution (the Missouri Chapter of the Society of American Foresters expressed concerns about renaming the conference and preferred to keep the current one) during the 1997 meeting to consider renaming the annual event to better reflect its enlarged focus. The FFW Steering Committee proposed three possible names; Missouri Natural Resources Managers Conference, Missouri Natural Resources Conference and Missouri Fish, Forest and Wildlife Conference (no change). Those present at a July 25, 1997 meeting of the Quad-Society President’s Council on July 25, 1997 discussed this proposal and voted to rename the conference from the Forest, Fish and Wildlife Conference to the **Missouri Natural Resources Conference** beginning with the 1998 meeting.

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By 2011, some inconsistencies in handling the financial aspects of the conference were such that, Ted Seiler, (conference steering chairman for that year) proposed that the conference become an independent 501(c)3, not-for-profit organization. The other societies agreed to the terms of a draft MOU. Travis Moore, incoming MOAFS President for the year, agreed to take the lead in finalizing the MOU including setting certain boundaries, developing an executive board that included the presidents of the four societies, and an annual conference audit to be conducted by the executive board. (These procedures needed to be in place for the conference to take the next step to becoming a not-for-profit entity.)

The effort to move to a not-for-profit entity stalled in 2013, but an attorney was hired to finish that process for the societies and it was completed in 2014.

After the MNRC became a 501(c)3 organization, the fiscal year was changed to April 1st – March 31st to ensure the audit was completed before the next host society took over operation.

On February 6, 2015, the Quad Society Presidents and Quad MNRC Steering Committee chairs agreed that a bid submission for host hotel/resort complexes be completed. This was primarily due to increasing room rates by Tan-Tar-A with Federal agency per diem restrictions. After a review of several locations by Steve Wilson of SWCS, very few viable options (room nights and meeting space) could host our conference. On June 22, 2015, the Quad Society Presidents voted to keep Tan-Tar-A as the MNRC location through 2018 at a minimum