

Ozark Regional Land Trust
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Volunteers collect native plant seeds at Woods Prairie

Every year, ORLT volunteers meet to collect native plant seeds from ORLT's Woods Prairie Preserve near Mount Vernon, MO. This year, on August 9 and 17, they hunted for and picked seeds from wildflower species such as purple prairie clover (*Dalea purpurea*), cinquefoil (*Potentilla* spp.), and lead plant (*Amorpha canescens*).

The seeds are sold to private landowners and native plant retailers, which not only promotes growing native

plants but also generates income for the management activities needed to preserve the ecosystem at Woods Prairie. Plenty of seed is left to promote new growth in the years to come and to share with wildlife.



Left: A common species at Woods Prairie, ashy sunflower (*Helianthus mollis*), bloomed in mid-August. Right: Volunteer JoAnn Carnagey collects seed pods from a lead plant, a Missouri native species that occurs in open woodlands, glades, and prairies. The prescribed fire that charred Woods Prairie this spring has contributed to lush growth of these wildflowers and other native species this summer. Photos: Nic Rogers

THE OZARK HOLLER

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Family manages land to connect with wildlife

Long-time ORLT members Yale and Alicia Muhm are actively managing their land for the benefit of deer, turkeys, quail, pollinators, and other wildlife. Their property, which is protected by an ORLT conservation easement, is located in a belt of forest land north of the Missouri River in a conservation high priority area.



"We feel joy seeing the wildlife. The biggest reward is seeing an abundance of turkey and deer."

— Alicia Muhm

Deer and turkey benefit from the Muhm's participation in wildlife conservation programs, through which they have received assistance to plant native grasses in forest openings.

To help pollinators, Yale and Alicia grow flowering plants on 22 acres, and their son, Harvard, who is a

new ORLT board member (see story page 2), is applying for a grant to The Monarch Conservation Stewardship Program. This year, two of their fields were spectacular, with one full of blazing star and the other with rattlesnake master. Both attracted a profusion of bees and butterflies.

Alicia said establishing plantings for wildlife is a big job. Providing grassy forest openings

requires removing thatch, burning, spraying, and then mowing annually. "Starting a field of perennial wildflowers to attract pollinators is a three-year project," she said. They initially intermixed perennial and annual seeds. The first year, the field was filled with the vibrant yellow blooms of yellow coreopsis, an annual. Coreopsis reseeded and bloomed the second year, although not as striking. The third year, perennials

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Above: In July, pollinators flocked to the Muhm's field of blooming blazing star (*Liatris* spp.). Here, spicebush swallowtail butterflies feed on one. Left: A bee pollinates false dragonhead, also known as obedient plant (*Physostegia virginiana*). Photos: Alicia Muhm

Donations from members like you help ORLT to work with landowners who protect wildlife.

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**OZARK REGIONAL
LAND TRUST**

MISSION

To help people protect and conserve the natural resources and beauty of the Ozarks and to advocate for land conservation.

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Meet two new ORLT board members Harvard Muhm ...

New ORLT board member Harvard Muhm has a bachelor's degree in political science from Trinity University, a master's of laws in taxation from Washington University School of Law, a J.D. from the University of Missouri School of Law, and is licensed to practice in the U.S. Tax Court. Harvard is currently shareholder and chair of the Trusts and Estates Group at Capes Sokol in St. Louis.

Harvard's family has a long history of being "tied to our land." Conservation has been a core value in his family and remains an important mission in their everyday lives (see front page story). Under Harvard's legal counsel, his family contributed a substantial

conservation easement to ORLT. "Thus, I am fully invested" in ORLT's success, Harvard said.

As a tax attorney who focuses on trust and estate planning, Harvard has worked with farmers and other land owners as well as having been involved in conservation efforts on his own land. He has also been an entrepreneur and has served on charitable boards in the past. He has a good understanding of the challenges of a small company and of a nonprofit organization.

Welcome, Harvard!



... and Lois Boettcher Wyman



Lois Boettcher Wyman grew up on a farm in the Ozarks in a family that was devoted to the land and determined to conserve it for future

generations.

Lois received her bachelor of science degree in nursing from the University of Michigan. In 1984, she earned her real estate license. Lois sold real estate in three different states, including over 20 years in St.

Charles County, Missouri, where she also served as a board member on a land trust. Lois always kept her RN license current working in different positions as a nurse and continuing her education. She is now a hospice volunteer.

Lois has a love for the land and a strong conviction that we need to preserve open spaces for us all to enjoy and to preserve agriculture as well. Her goal is to see that ORLT becomes accredited and is a force for conservation easements in the Ozark region.

Welcome, Lois!

Black Friday, Cyber Monday . . . we know about . . . now we have

Giving Tuesday – November 28th !

By joining this national day of giving on-line you can protect our scenic views and nature in the Arkansas and Missouri Ozarks.

A gift of \$60.00 = 2 acres protected

A gift of \$75.00 = 50 feet of stream bank erosion halted

A gift of \$100 = 1 acre seeded with native grasses

Thank you for considering a Giving Tuesday gift to ORLT, at www.ortl.org or through Facebook: www.facebook.com/OzarkRegionalLandTrust/

Muhms are connecting with wildlife, continued



Continued from front cover

matured and covered the field, she said.

The Muhm's love for the land is shared by their children and grandchildren. Quail will soon benefit from this affection, because two grandchildren, ages 14 and 16, are planning to plant wildflowers and warm season grasses, both of which improve quail habitat.

Alicia said the connections they've made by managing for wildlife have been very meaningful. "If you're involved and show interest, then others will go out of their way to help you benefit wildlife," she said.



Top left: Prescribed fire in April on this field helped create quail habitat.

Top right: Fresh water from a seasonal stream on the Muhm property benefits wildlife.



Center: The Muhm's granddaughter caught

this large-mouth bass in a lake on their property.

Bottom left: Yale Muhm with grandson Ben "drive" in a field being cleared of brush and noxious weeds. Photos: Alicia Muhm





**Native Plants
Bring Nature Home!**

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