



Conservation Federation of Missouri
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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Natural Resource & Conservation Scholarships Awarded

Jefferson City, MO (March 28, 2014) - Several Missouri students were awarded scholarships at the Conservation Federation of Missouri's Annual Convention on Friday, March 21, 2014.



Zayne Mitchell Aldrich (center) was presented his scholarship by CFM Executive Director, Brandon Butler (left) and David Smith (right) with Bass Pro Shops.

Ed Stegner Natural Resource Scholarships were established to provide major financial aid to encourage and assist students in five areas of natural resource management: fisheries, forestry, wildlife, parks and recreation and soil and water conservation. Funding for this scholarship program was provided to the Foundation by Ed Stegner of Pilot Grove, Missouri. A Master Conservationist, Stegner was the former executive director of the Conservation Federation of Missouri, and is especially known for his leadership role in the passage of the 1/8th of 1% conservation sales tax to fund the Conservation Department's expanded program, Design for Conservation.

The Foundation's Ed Stegner Natural Resource Scholarships are a joint venture with the professional societies in the five different resource areas - i.e., the Missouri chapters of the Wildlife Society, American Fisheries Society and

the Society of American Foresters, Missouri Parks and Recreation Association and the Show-Me Chapter, Soil and Water Conservation Society. These groups provide selection committees that pick the recipients in the respective categories. Once selected, the scholarship recipients are notified and each is presented a check in the amount of \$1,000.00.

Carl Morrow Graduate Scholarships in Natural Resources provides major financial aid to encourage and assist Missouri graduate students in five areas of natural resource management: Fisheries, Forestry, Wildlife, Parks and Recreation and Soil and Water Conservation.

Carl Morrow, Vice-President of Missouri Power and Light in Jefferson City, Missouri, was a dedicated and long-time citizen conservationist who served in many volunteer positions with the Conservation Federation of Missouri and as the first Chairman of the Conservation Foundation of Missouri Charitable Trust. Through his efforts the Foundation became a firmly established and financially viable public trust. The Foundation honors his memory with this graduate scholarship program.

The Foundation's Carl Morrow Graduate Scholarships are a joint venture with the professional societies that relate to five different resource areas, the Missouri chapters of the Wildlife Society, American Fisheries Society, Society of American Foresters, Missouri Parks and Recreation Association and the Show-Me Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society. These groups provide committees that select the recipients in their respective categories. Once selected, the scholarship recipients are notified and each is presented a check in the amount of \$1,000.00.

Charles P. Bell Conservation Scholarships are sponsored by the Conservation Foundation of Missouri Charitable Trust and the Conservation Federation of Missouri. The scholarships are named for Charles P. Bell, a past president of the CFM, whose family provided major funding for this program.

Eight scholarships are awarded each year. There is one graduate level scholarship in the amount of \$600, one undergraduate scholarship in the amount of \$500, and six scholarships for elementary, high school or youth group projects each in the amount of \$250.

The graduate and undergraduate applicants must be enrolled in a field of study related to management of natural resources, specifically fish, wildlife, forest, soil, and water. Applicants must be Missouri residents, and those applicants enrolled in Missouri schools will be given preference. Undergraduate applicants must have earned at least 60 hours of college credit.

Elementary, High School, Youth Group scholarships will be awarded to Missouri elementary or high school classes or youth groups who have ongoing or proposed projects related to natural resource conservation, especially those which entail education and physical involvement in the protection of the natural environment.

Minority Natural Resource Scholarship has been established to provide financial aid to encourage and assist minority students who are interested in a career in natural resource management, especially in the fields of Fisheries, Wildlife, Forestry, Parks and Recreation and Soil or Water Conservation. The Foundation's goal is ultimately to increase cultural diversity in Missouri's state and federal natural resource agencies.

Applicants for this \$1,000 scholarship must have been accepted and enrolled as an undergraduate in a Missouri college or university and should have already selected a major in a natural resource field.

Ed Stegner Natural Resource Scholarship for Wildlife
Recipient: Zayne Mitchell Aldrich, Neosho

Zayne is currently a senior at Neosho High School with plans to attend Crowder College and Missouri State University. He wants to pursue a degree in Fish & Wildlife to be able to protect the outdoor activities he enjoys (namely hunting and fishing). Zayne is an outstanding student and peer leader - belonging to the National Honor Society, participating in the Conservation Careers Academy, and state and national FFA forestry and agronomy events. He is hunter safety certified and assists with certification classes. He is also the past president of the Ozark 4-H Club and is the current president of the Neosho FFA Chapter.

Ed Stegner Natural Resource Scholarship for Fisheries**Recipient: Valerie Jeanine Jones, Springfield**

Valerie is currently attending Missouri State University where she is a senior majoring in Evolution and Environmental Science. She says that observing the damage humans have unleashed on our environment has caused her to want to devote her career to protecting our precious earth, especially aquatic resources. Her educational internships have taken her to a Marine Biology Camp in Big Pine Key, Florida and to the University of Wisconsin's Trout Lake Station. She has held fishery research technician positions with Missouri State University, the US Geological Survey and the Missouri Department of Conservation. She currently volunteers for MDC caring for amphibians and reptiles that are used for educational programs.

Carl Morrow Graduate Scholarship in Fisheries**Recipient: Emily Kate Pherigo, Columbia**

Emily is currently seeking her Master in Fisheries & Wildlife Science at the University of Missouri, Columbia. Her career aspiration is to get a position investigating interactions between aquatic communities and anthropogenic influences with the goal of maintaining the natural integrity of Missouri's aquatic resources. She is a 4.0 student with an extremely impressive experiential resume, serving as graduate research assistant, technician and biologist for the University of Missouri, USGS, Fish & Wildlife Refuge, National Park Service and US Forest Service. She is president of the Fisheries & Wildlife Sciences Graduate Student Organization. One of her focus species has been Pallid Sturgeon.

Ed Stegner Natural Resource Scholarship for Soil & Water**Charles P. Bell Conservation Scholarship (Undergraduate)****Recipient: Emily Elizabeth Wilbers, Wardsville**

Emily is currently a senior at Missouri State University pursuing a degree in Wildlife and Conservation Management with a minor in Agronomy. She started hunting and fishing at a very young age. She says she has known since she was a little kid that conservation and wildlife were the career path she wanted to take. Emily has been a Conservation Leadership Corps participant since 2011 and is currently the vice president. She was the Conservation Federation of Missouri's summer intern, job shadowing our professional staff and assisting with event planning. She has held internships with MDC, Dickerson Park Zoo and the Coastal Marine Education & Research Academy.

Ed Stegner Natural Resource Scholarship for Parks and Recreation**Recipient: BreAnna Danyelle Legan, Phillipsburg**

BreAnna is currently a senior at Conway High School with plans to attend Drury University in Springfield. She believes that it was her upbringing that is the foundation for her interest in the natural world and for her decision to seek a double major in Environmental Science and Engineering. She is an honor society member and chapter president of the Future Business Leaders of America. BreAnna has a 4.0 grade point average. She is an aspiring writer and artist - receiving the Alexander Hamilton Citizen Achievement Award. She also helps with her Dad's trucking and excavating business.

Carl Morrow Graduate Scholarship in Parks and Recreation**Recipient: Lisa C. Groshong, Columbia**

Lisa received her undergraduate degree in Journalism from the University of Missouri, Columbia in 1992 and in Creative Writing from the University of Alabama in 2002. She is currently in her second year toward her masters in Parks, Recreation and Tourism at the University of Missouri. In between her educational pursuits she has authored many articles, served as adjunct instructor of English and Journalism at Columbia College and Central Texas College, as artist in residence at Central Methodist University and as a teaching assistant at the Universities of Missouri and Alabama. Lisa is now blending her writing and communication skills with her career goals in Parks and Recreation. She says she is especially interested in pursuing safe, empowering and affordable recreation opportunities for low income and otherwise marginalized people who may feel left out of or cut off from mainstream options.

**Conservation Foundation Minority Natural Resource Scholarship
Recipient: Tremaine Buggs, Florissant**

Tremaine is currently a sophomore at Lincoln University majoring in Environmental Science. He says he loves the outdoors and hopes to gain a position after graduation where he can help offset the impact of our planet's decreasing biodiversity. In addition to his course work Tremaine is a research lab assistant to Dr. John Yang, working with graduate students on sample presentations and data collection. His work experiences include being administrative assistant for Florissant Valley Community College, research assistant intern at Washington University School of Medicine. In 2012 he received the Urban League Award for Outstanding Performance.

**Ed Stegner Natural Resource Scholarship for Forestry
Recipient: Brittni Lynn Cambron, Maryland Heights**

Brittini is currently a sophomore at the University of Missouri, Columbia pursuing degrees in Forestry and Fisheries & Wildlife. Her career goal is to work in forestry at either the state or national level. She is an outstanding student and a member of the National Honor Society. She was also a Mizzou Curators Scholarship winner. She was awarded the Semper Fidelis Award for musical excellence. Brittini is the treasurer of S.A.F.E., the Student Association for Forest Ecology. In that capacity she writes grants, budget requests and handles the day to day financial activities.

About the Conservation Federation of Missouri

The CFM, formed in 1935, is Missouri's largest and most representative citizen conservation group. It represents more than 80 organizations with over 1 million members. The CFM is primarily a volunteer organization - including all officers and board members - but does maintain an office with a full time professional staff in Jefferson City. Visit our website at <http://www.confedmo.org>



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