

committed themselves to the arboreal, only state-level initiatives were fully successful. Besley's successors at the Departments of Forests and Parks (whose expanding emphases are reflected in the agency's new name) secured funding to increase Maryland's recreational space. In Baltimore, efforts to beautify Charm City met with an astonishing pushback. "My father didn't like trees," one interviewee told *The Baltimore Sun*, "my grandfather didn't like trees, so I don't like trees." This resistance helps explain the city's current, minimal tree canopy.

Still, Buckley ends his century-long assessment of for-

estry's fluctuating fortunes in Maryland with cautious optimism. "It is imperative that we recognize the impact of our resource management decisions, land-use practices, and lifestyle choices have on our forest resources," he concludes. "Only then can we begin to plan wisely for the future" (p. 188). A future, it should be noted, that the first generation of the state's foresters could not have imagined.

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■ CARING FOR YOUNG FORESTS

Sustaining Young Forest Communities: Ecology and Management of Early Successional Habitats in the Central Hardwood Region, USA. Series: Managing Forest Ecosystems, Vol. 21. Cathryn H. Greenberg, Beverly S. Collins, & Frank R. Thompson III (eds.). 310 p. \$189.00. Hardcover. Springer, New York. 2011. ISBN: 978-9-40071-619-3.

In the mid-1990s, there was a conference in Asheville, North Carolina, dealing with early successional or "recently disturbed" forest habitats, their management, and their importance, particularly for wildlife populations. The speakers confirmed that these young forests were critical components of many different ecosystems and their loss was accelerating at an alarming rate. About that same time, a book entitled, *Ecology and Management of Neotropical Migratory Birds*, came out with a chapter entitled, "Impacts of Silviculture: Overview and Management Recommendations" (Thompson III et al. 1995) that was a good summary of the impacts of forest management on nongame bird species for forestry professionals at the time and highlighted the importance of early successional habitats.

The authors of *Sustaining Young Forest Communities*, and others (including researchers of old-growth forest ecosystems), would point out that we as a nation have a lot of middle-aged forests. The Midwest and Northeastern US regions are especially pronounced in this regard (Pan et al. 2011). Using US Forest Service Forest Inventory Analysis data for Missouri, one can find that the median acre for 2005 was 60 years old, and the median acre for 2010 was 64 years old (Miles 2012). Forests younger than 25 years or older than 90 years are not prominent components in this central hardwood landscape, with 90+-year-old stands constituting 10.3% of forestland in 2005 and 11.4% in 2010. Forests 25 years of age or younger constituted 9.4% of Missouri forestland in 2005 and 8.0% of forestland in 2010. This is not an uncommon situation in most of the states of the central hardwoods region and it is within this context that the authors wrote *Sustaining Young Forest Communities*.

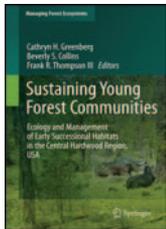
Consisting of 16 chapters, this book assembles considerable scholarship in the form of some of the most prominent researchers in the field and a compendium of relevant research that can serve as a reference for managers and scientists seeking to further investigate some subtopic.

The chapters cover almost every conceivable subject pertaining to early successional central hardwood forests, presented in a manner that a reader can either read in sequence or pick out particular chapters of interest. These chapters include an introduction, regional overview, natural disturbances and habitats, fire, structure and species composition after harvest, spatial and temporal patterns and biodiversity, herbaceous response to disturbance, young forests as food sources, population trends of scrub-shrub birds, bats, and gaps, reptile and amphibian response, managing early successional habitat for wildlife, a manager's perspective on young forest conservation, water resources, carbon dynamics, and forecasting forest type and age classes. Especially interesting to this reviewer was the highlighting of the importance this ecosystem has for many wildlife communities.

Earlier in my career, I worked as a silviculturist for the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC). In a sign of this volume's comprehensive nature, I was struck while reading it by how many of the topics were either directly germane to my job at MDC or that I observed others investigating in the Missouri Ozark Forest Ecosystem Project, a long-term study in the South Central part of the state. Highlights include the chapter (Chapter 5) on structure and composition after harvests, which provided a good summary of the constraints and opportunities influencing the creation of early successional forest structures. Besides the authors' own numerous publications, each chapter's bibliography provides other important references, including the second edition of Johnson et al.'s *The Ecology and Silviculture of Oaks* (Johnson et al. 2009) an earlier version of which was reviewed for *Forest Science* (Moser 2003).

Chapter 13 presents a manager's perspective for conserving early successional habitats. Although not the final chapter, to this reader it acted as a capstone summarizing management implications related to the principles raised earlier. The authors point out the challenge of matching state-level plans with sometimes imprecise goals, continuous forest inventories that are not conducted at the scale best suited to planning action on the ground, and the impact of still-evolving understanding of spatially explicit management parameters.

All projects have to be tied off at some point or another, and no doubt the authors were forced to leave some



things unsaid. Some chapters do present a “next steps” or future research section, which serves as a helpful stepping off point for theirs and others’ research, but also a useful measure to look back on some time in the future to see if scientists actually followed that path. I would have liked to see that section in all the chapters, because no subject is a “closed book” at this time. Naturally enough, given the majority of the scientists involved, the book highlights knowledge generated in the southern Appalachians. If one digs into the references, one can find citations from work in others parts of the central hardwood region.

Sustaining Young Forest Communities is a good compilation of knowledge about an important forest ecosystem and belongs on the bookshelf of every natural resource practitioner tasked with managing this important resource. One of the principal benefits for anyone who reads this book is that it provides both a broad overview and a reference source for the various disciplines, particularly for those with which the reader is not familiar, allowing one to gain understanding of the opportunities and issues.

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