

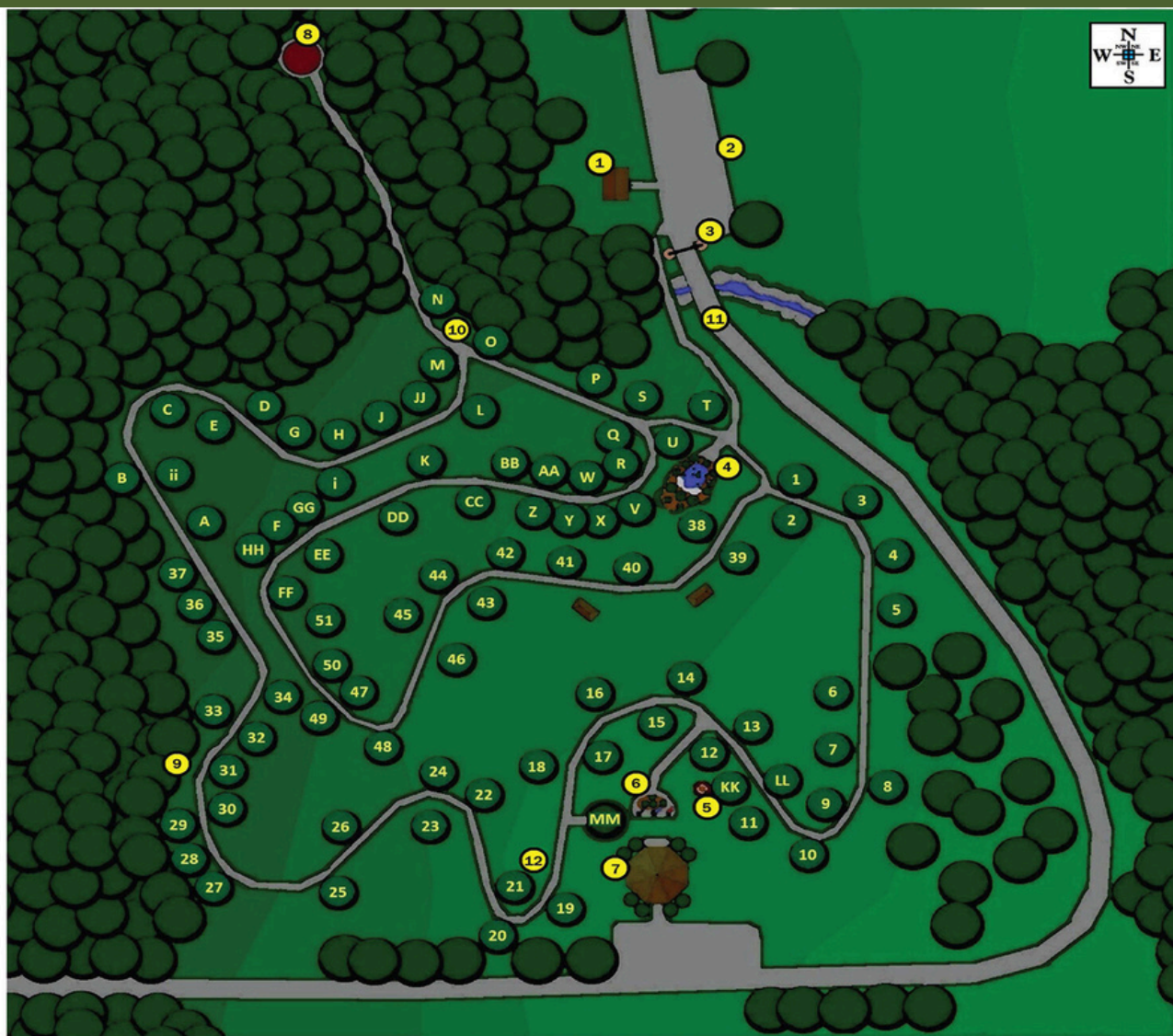
INTERNATIONAL
FOREST
OF FRIENDSHIP
2025 ISSUE



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|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| A. Flowering Peach (Israel) | U. European Linden (Germany) | 1. Northern Red Oak (New Jersey) | 18. Red Pine (Minnesota) | 35. Loblolly Pine (Alabama) |
| B. Norway Spruce (Norway) | V. Ginkgo (China) | 2. White Oak (Illinois) | 19. Colorado Blue Spruce (Colorado) | 36. Pecan (Texas) |
| C. Sweetgum (Bahamas) | W. Golden Raintree (Egypt) | 3. Pin Oak (Iowa) | 20. Sugar Maple (Wisconsin) | 37. Mimosa (Hawaii) |
| D. Tree Wisteria (Morocco) | X. Sawtooth Oak (Poland) | 4. Black Hill Spruce (South Dakota) | 21. Southern Magnolia (Mississippi) | 38. Spruce (Alaska) |
| E. Apple (France) | Y. Klinki Pine (Papua New Guinea) | 5. Douglas Fir (Oregon) | 22. Sugar Maple (West Virginia) | 39. Cottonwood (Nebraska) |
| F. Cottonwood (Mexico) | Z. Sourwood (Siberia) | 6. Eastern Hemlock (Pennsylvania) | 23. Coffeetree (Kentucky) | 40. Cottonwood (Kansas) |
| G. Amur Cork Tree (Korea) | AA. Red Maple (Jordan) | 7. Shortleaf Pine (Arkansas) | 24. Paper Birch (New Hampshire) | 41. Redbud (Oklahoma) |
| H. Black Gum (Portugal) | BB. White Ash (Pakistan) | 8. Sugar Maple (New York) | 25. Tuliptree (Indiana) | 42. Blue Spruce (Utah) |
| I. Sugar Maple (Canada) | CC. Star Magnolia (Surinam) | 9. White Oak (Maryland) | 26. Tuliptree (Tennessee) | 43. Red Maple (Rhode Island) |
| J. Pistachio (India) | DD. Hawthorn (Ireland) | 10. Ponderosa Pine (Montana) | 27. Cottonwood (Wyoming) | 44. Western Hemlock (Washington) |
| K. Finnish Pine (Finland) | EE. Ginkgo (Singapore) | 11. White Oak (Maryland) | 28. Baldcypress (Louisiana) | 45. American Elm (Massachusetts) |
| L. Lombardy Poplar (Italy) | FF. Globe Locust (Australia) | 12. American Elm (North Dakota) | 29. Baldcypress (Florida) | 46. American Holly (Delaware) |
| M. Smoke Tree (Puerto Rico) | GG. Silver Bell (Spain) | 13. Scarlet Oak (District of Columbia) | 30. Shingle Oak (Georgia) | 47. White Pine (Michigan) |
| N. Mountain Ash (New Zealand) | HH. Concolor Fir (Switzerland) | 14. Sugar Maple (Vermont) | 31. Flowering Dogwood (Missouri) | 48. Ohio Buckeye (Ohio) |
| O. Persimmon (South Africa) | II. Sweetgum (Turkey) | 15. Pinyon Pine (New Mexico) | 32. Flowering Dogwood (Virginia) | 49. Eastern White Pine (Maine) |
| P. European Birch (Belgium) | | 16. Arizona Cypress (Arizona) | 33. Redwood (California) | 50. White Pine (Idaho) |
| Q. Linden (Netherlands) | JJ. Children's Tree of Life | 17. Southern Magnolia (South Carolina) | 34. White Pine (North Carolina) | 51. Pinon Pine (Nevada) |
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Event Schedule

Friday, September 12, 2025

- 5:30 P.M. • Check-in at the Cocktail Party
- Friday Evening Cocktail Party
Amelia Earhart Hangar Museum
16701 286th Road, Atchison KS 66002
-

Saturday, September 13, 2025

- 10:00 A.M. • Parade of Flags / Induction Ceremony
International Forest of Friendship
1 Allingham Drive, Atchison, KS 66002
- 12:00 A.M. • Luncheon with Keynote Speaker
Angela Tanton
Elizabeth's
121 North Fifth Street
Atchison, Kansas 66002
- 2:30 P.M. • Amelia Earhart Birthplace Museum Tour and
wine slushies on the lawn
- 6:00 P.M. • Social Time
Esther's at Pineview Country Club
5882 Ottawa Road
Atchison, Kansas 66002
(Dinner will be on your own with menu ordering)



Flying and Forests

Within the International Forest of Friendship's overall theme of "World Friendship through Flying," the emphasis in 2025 is on "Flying and Forests," linking aviation and aerospace with the Earth's green spaces.

The Scope of "Flying and Forests"

Smokejumpers, wildland fire aviation, remote sensing and analysis of forests and other ecosystems, forest and habitat management, precision agriculture, are exceptionally rich and diverse categories.



Smokejumpers

The smokejumper program is managed at the National Interagency Fire Center (www.nifc.gov) in Boise, ID, the nation's support center for wildland firefighting. Decisions are made using the interagency cooperation concept because the NIFC has no single director or manager.

Smokejumpers are firefighters who are transported to fires by airplane and parachute. They can get to remote fires safely and quickly and work to keep high-risk fires small.

The US has a total of more than 400 smokejumpers. Some 20 are women. Smoke jumping in the US dates from 1939, with Rufus Robinson and Earl Cooley making the first fire jump on July 12, 1940, into the Nez Perce National Forest in Montana. Deanne Shulman became the first female smokejumper in 1979. There are nine jump bases in the US: two under the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), in Boise and Fairbanks, Alaska, and seven under the US Forest Service (Winthrop, Redmond, Redding, McCall, Grangeville, Missoula, and West Yellowstone).

Smokejumpers require special training and a high level of physical fitness. Once they have completed their fire mission, smokejumpers pack out their gear, which can weigh 110 pounds or more. A load of smokejumpers takes about eight minutes to get suited up and into the air after being dispatched.

Since 1939 more than 5,000 men and women have served America as smokejumpers. More than 30 have been killed in the line of duty. Read their stories at:

<http://smokejumpers.com/index.php/killedinthelineofduty/get>

The National Smokejumper Association (smokejumpers.com/index.php) is dedicated to preserving the history and lore of smokejumping, maintaining and restoring America's forest and grassland resources, responding to the special needs of smokejumpers and their families and advocating for the program's evolution.

Wildland Fire Aviation

Wildland fire aviation includes a variety of aircraft and operations. Helicopters are used to drop water, transport crews, provide reconnaissance (including with infrared sensors), and deliver resources to the fireline. Fixed-wing aircraft include smokejumper aircraft, air tactical platforms, Single Engine Airtankers (SEATs), large airtankers, and large transport aircraft. These aircraft play a critical role in supporting firefighters on the ground.

The National Interagency Coordination Center (NICC) is the sole dispatch center for heavy airtankers, lead planes, smokejumpers, hotshot crews, Type 1 Incident Management Teams, area command teams, medium and heavy helicopters, infrared aircraft, military resources, telecom equipment for fires, Remote Automated Weather Stations (RAWS), and large transport aircraft.

Interagency Airspace Coordination procedures are used so land management agencies can safely use the National Airspace System. Participants include the Air National Guard, National Park Service, BLM, US Forest Service (USFS), Departments of Interior & Homeland Security, Customs and Border Protection and various States.

Federal Aviation Administration ([FAA regulations for Unmanned Aircraft \(or Aerial\) Systems](https://www.faa.gov/uas)) (UAS) have evolved as the number of drones has proliferated.

Airtankers are classified by water capacity. In 2014, there were 11 tankers on contract, including two very large DC-10s. The year before, the NICC website listed over 35 lead plane pilots. In 2015 there were 18 smokejumper aircraft. Some firefighting aircraft can skim the surface of large bodies of water to refill their tanks in flight. This is particularly useful in rural areas. Helicopters can also be used with internal tanks or carrying buckets



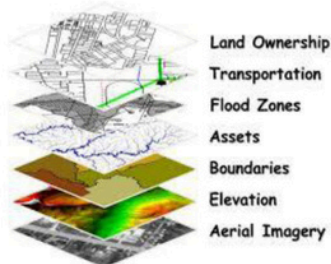
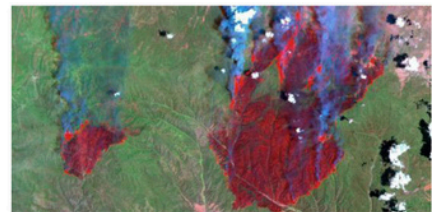
The Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System (MAFFS) is a self-contained aerial firefighting unit that can be loaded onto a military C-130 cargo transport, allowing it to be used as an airtanker. This allows the USFS to utilize Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve aircraft as an emergency backup resource for the civilian airtanker fleet. The system has been actively used in 2025. Members of the crew of MAFFS 7, who were killed fighting fires in South Dakota, were honored at the Forest in 2013.

Of the various aerial firefighting organizations. CAL FIRE (technically California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF)) (<http://calfire.ca.gov>) has the largest emergency response aviation program in the world. It is considered very effective and is a model for firefighting agencies around the world. The air program supports CAL FIRE's ground forces and includes 23 Grumman S-2T 1,200 gallon airtankers, 2 4000 gal C130H Hercules with 5 additional in the process of being converted for airtanker operations, 14 Sikorsky S-70i helicopters with 2 additional on the way, 11 UH-1H Super Huey helicopters which are being phased out except for helitorch operations, and 16 OV-10A Broncos used as both air tactical aircraft and aerial supervision modules (ASM). A few of the aircraft are kept as maintenance relief. From 13 air attack and nine helitack bases located statewide, aircraft can reach any fire in the state within 20 minutes. The airtactical planes fly overhead (1000' above the air tankers) as the command and control of air operations. They are flown by a pilot in the front seat, and the Air Tanker Group Supervisor or (ATGS) sits in the back seat coordinating with the incident commander on the ground, the emergency command center and all aircraft in the Fire Traffic Area (FTA). The retardant used to slow or retard the spread of a fire is a non-toxic slurry mix consisting of a chemical salt compound (ammonium phosphate), water, clay or a gum-thickening agent, and a coloring agent. Water is dropped directly on the fire to extinguish it or to cool it down so ground forces can move closer and fight it more directly. Fire retardant is dropped on the unburned vegetation at the fire's edge to coat fuels and slow down the progression of the fire

Remote Sensing and Analysis of Forests and Other Ecosystems

Geospatial tools fall into three broad categories: **Remote** Sensing, Geographic (or Geospatial) Information Systems (GIS) and Position, Navigation and Timing (PNT) systems

- Remote Sensing provides a view of the world. For example, forest canopy changes can be mapped using remotely sensed images, which could come from aircraft (manned or unmanned) or satellites.
- GIS store and manage information about the world, such as boundaries and attributes for a project area.
- PNT systems determine location and provide time and can be used to navigate and collect site-specific information. The Global Positioning System (GPS) is a widely used PNT system that uses satellites to determine latitude, longitude and elevation.



GIS Information Layers



PNT (GPS) Receiver

Practitioners

Many public and private organizations, and individuals, around the world are involved in the remote sensing and analysis of forests and other ecosystems. These include the U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the U.S. National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the European Space Agency (ESA) and the U.S. Forest Service's Remote Sensing Applications Center (RSAC).



NASA's Earth Science Division (<http://science.nasa.gov/earth-science/>) maintains a coordinated series of satellite and airborne missions for long-term global observations of the land surface, biosphere, solid Earth, atmosphere, and oceans.

NOAA (<http://www.noaa.gov/>) "is a scientific agency within the US Department of Commerce focused on the conditions of the oceans

and the atmosphere. NOAA warns of dangerous weather, charts seas and skies, guides the use and protection of ocean and coastal resources, and conducts research to improve understanding and stewardship of the environment. It maintains the National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS) to operate and manage the United States environmental satellite programs, and manage the data gathered by the National Weather Service and other government agencies and departments. "

The Forest Service's Remote Sensing Applications Center (RSAC) (<http://www.fs.fed.us/eng/rsac/>) is located in Salt Lake City, Utah, and co-located with the agency's Geospatial Service and Technology Center (GSTC). Guided by national steering committees and field sponsors, RSAC provides national assistance to agency field units in applying the most advanced geospatial technology toward improved monitoring and mapping of natural resources.

In addition to governments, there are some outstanding private sector efforts, such as the Global Airborne Observatory of the Asner Lab <https://asnerlab.org/projects/global-airborne-observatory/> (formerly Carnegie Airborne Observatory), led by Greg Asner, who was our principal speaker in 2015. The Asner Lab's mission is: "Combining science, technology, and community engagement, we drive positive conservation outcomes on a rapidly changing planet." Greg's TED Talk "Ecology from the Air" is fascinating. (http://www.ted.com/talks/greg_asner_ecology_from_the_air)

Forest and Habitat Management

Demand for forest wood products, conversion of forest land to other uses, and concerns about climate change have increased the focus on the world's forests. In addition, programs such as the United Nations' Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) have been developed, which potentially allow for the exchange of money or credits for preserving forests within developing nations. This creates a need to monitor, report, and verify a country's efforts to preserve and potentially increase its forest land. See

<http://www.fs.fed.us/eng/rsac/programs/monitoring.html>

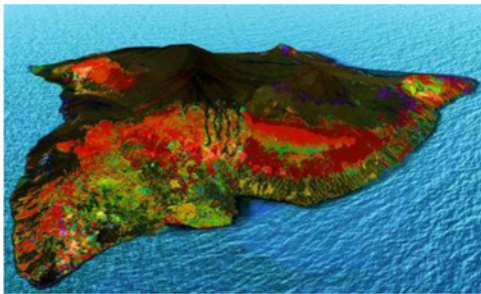
Reforestation

The Green Belt Movement (GBM), <http://www.greenbeltmovement.org/>, is an environmental organization that empowers communities, particularly women, to conserve the environment and enhance their livelihoods. Professor Wangari Maathai founded GBM in 1977 in Kenya to respond to the needs of rural Kenyan women who reported that their

streams were drying up, their food supply was less secure, and they had to walk further to get firewood for fuel and fencing. In 2004, Professor Maathai became the first African woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize. A graduate of Benedictine College in Atchison, she was inducted into the IFOF in 2012.

Aerial reforestation has been used in the United States since at least the 1930s. Several designs now exist that encase seedlings in sturdy, yet biodegradable, cone-shaped containers. The containers are strong enough to protect the seedlings when they hit the ground yet still disintegrate to let the trees' roots emerge. They're also packed with everything the seed or seedling needs for survival. Placement is also essential—seeds or seedlings must reach fertile ground, so hospitable locations must be identified and the payloads delivered accurately.

In Mexico, officials at Izta-Popo National Park near Mexico City have conducted several airdrops of seed spheroids (the name for their design of seed canister) to reforest the area. The containers were then strategically dropped out of a helicopter along the state's southern coast.



Proponents of large-scale aerial reforestation think it contributes to reducing atmospheric carbon dioxide by helping to replace some of the 50,000 acres of trees that are reportedly lost worldwide each day. A related concept called “afforestation” refers to the planting of forests or stands of trees where forests didn’t previously exist.

Precision Agriculture

Precision agriculture (PA) or site-specific crop management (SSCM) is a farming management concept based on observing, measuring and responding to variability in crops within and between fields. It is very data intensive. Crop variability typically has both spatial and temporal components which complicate data gathering and analysis. Among the many approaches is one which ties multi-year crop growth stability and characteristics to the shape of the terrain (it’s called phytogeomorphology). Multi-year datasets are now becoming available that show this stability and its effects, but much work remains to create an actual DSS system that could universally help farmers.

Modern high resolution, multi-spectral, precisely targeted imaging, enabled by GPS and GIS can provide information of great value to agriculture, for example by identifying plants that are under varying degrees of stress, measuring soil moisture, and assessing the need for fertilizer.

Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS), which combine Unmanned Aircraft Vehicles (UAVs) with their payloads and support systems, are important new instruments for precision agriculture. They can operate as low as 100 feet above ground level (AGL), while small, manned aircraft usually operate above 1,000 feet. Clearly, lower altitudes offer significant resolution advantages and some UAS images can discriminate less than an inch, with the camera quality and altitude being the critical variables. Also, UAS images may be collected under cloud cover, and one UAV can cover approximately 1,000 acres in an hour. UAS images often can be accessed more quickly and at lower cost than those from traditional aircraft used to survey fields. Moreover, data from a UAS payload often can be downloaded quickly to a tablet or smartphone, allowing researchers to evaluate information quickly and effectively.

As noted above, the rules for operating UASs have evolved rapidly in recent years. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) publishes detailed guidance on Drone Registration, tests and airspace authorizations for Recreational Flyers, regulations for Certificated Remote Pilots including Commercial Operators, and rules for Public Safety operations. There also is guidance for Educational Users, Advanced Operations such as urban flying and package delivery by drone, and Research, Development, Demonstration and Testing programs.

Next Steps

We hope that the 2025 Flying and Forests theme will spur the development of partnerships between the Forest and many other organizations. In addition to activities around Atchison, this could be an excellent chance to forge ties with agriculture-based businesses, as well as other aviation and aerospace organizations in Kansas. We’d like to strengthen ties with Wangari Maathai’s Green Belt Movement going forward, as well as work with the Explorers Club in their explorations of the biosphere and leverage the explosion of opportunities in open-source GIS development. The use of aviation, remote sensing and related data analysis in precision agriculture could be a collaborative area. Another potential set of ties would be to sponsor educational projects, particularly in STEM areas, in conjunction with organizations like Rotary International, Young Eagles, Challenger Center, Girls Fly, etc.

We welcome discussions with any organization interested in going forward, for example:

- (1) Building interest with partner organizations in the “Flying and Forests” events.
- (2) Encourage participation in ongoing Forest activities.
- (3) Develop an understanding of how we might work with organizations on future Forest activities.

Flying and Forests

Welcome to Our 2025 Distinguished Speaker and Honoree



Angela Tanton is an airline transport-rated pilot with over 8500 very diverse hours. She began flying lessons in 1992, driven by a passion for adventure and exploration, and now holds both Canadian and American licenses. Angela's flight career all started with a career exploration day at her high school when she was 16. A flight school handed her a rack card that said, "You can be a pilot." The decision in her heart was made, and she has been flying for over 30 years.

Throughout her career, Angela has flown in her home country, Canada, as well as to the Arctic, Myanmar, South Sudan, Saudi Arabia, the Maldives, Chile, Australia, and the USA. Her aviation pursuits are as varied as the countries she's flown in and consist of Canadian bush flying, airline ownership, aerial marine surveillance and pollution patrol, humanitarian flying, tourism, VIP transport, and aerial firefighting.

In 2015, she tried a different brand of humanitarian flying with the International Red Cross. In 2016, in the young country of South Sudan, Angie flew a Twin Otter, evacuating Red Cross employees who were in danger due to political tensions between different factions in South Sudan. She faced significant challenges and an attack, her plane getting hit with shrapnel. It was this incident that led to the tattoo her tattoo of a lady stabbing the Grim Reaper in the back. She considers herself a survivor. Angela has been active in mentoring and supporting other women in aviation. This includes several speaking engagements and advocating for the rights of women pilots. In 2003, while flying in the Maldives, she advocated for a change in the regulations to allow women to fly while pregnant and became the first to do so while carrying the first of her two sons.

Angela is a lifelong bush pilot. During her career, she has established a connection between "flying and forests" and all living ecosystems. Angela is grateful for the opportunity to share her love of flying in wild places.

Angela Tanton is a 2025 Honoree in the International Forest of Friendship.



Shannon Osborne Chan



Mary Wunder and Eva Thierny are proud to nominate Shannon Ruth Osborne as an International Forest of Friendship Honoree.

Shannon Osborne of New York City, New York, is a Private Pilot with high-performance and complex ratings. Shannon grew up on a private airport, and her first job was at an FBO. That position greatly stimulated her interest and convinced her to pursue a pilot's license. Shannon flew her first solo in a plane before she had her driver's license. Although life took her in another direction, Shannon returned to flight training and earned her Private Pilot certificate in 2020. She retired in 2013 from her career as the Director of Commercial Sales at General Instruments/Motorola.

After retirement, Shannon began using the tools she developed during her career to work with various 501(c)(3) organizations to this day. She served as her 99's Chapter Treasurer, Chapter Chair, Section Secretary, Section Governor, and now Section Treasurer. She has focused on organizing both Chapter and Section 501 (c) (3) compliance. Shannon also benefited from

Girl Scout events and learned from the New Jersey Chapter and the New York-New Jersey Section, where they won the Brewers Award from the Civil Air Patrol.

Shannon has branched out to the Air Race Classic, where she served as director, and at the International Forest of Friendship, where she served as Treasurer. Additionally, she worked for Patient Airlift Services. Her professional experiences enhanced her role in a newer aviation non-profit, helping to preserve and grow these organizations, which she considers her aviation family. Shannon was recently elected to the Ninety-Nines to serve as a trustee of the Amelia Earhart Birthplace Museum (AEBM). She will always be grateful for the many friendships, support, and opportunities that aviation has provided her. Atchison will always hold a warm place in her heart, as her father was inducted into the IFOF in 2019, and a plaque commemorating the two of them is displayed at AEBM.

Robin Gartman



The Palomar Chapter of the 99s is proud to nominate a longtime member, Robin Gartman, as an International Forest of Friendship honoree.

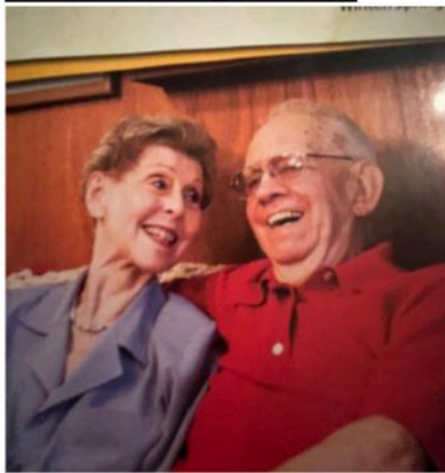
Robin has been involved in aviation since 1975 and has been a member of the Ninety-Nines for 39 years, joining shortly before leaving to work in the Antarctic in 1986 where she met up with the Chilean 99s (AKA Women Pilots of the Andes) on her way back home. Her journey has been about camaraderie, inclusivity, and paying it forward from the start.

As a member of the Palomar Chapter of the 99s, Robin has worked to keep the group together for 30 years, orchestrating fundraisers, two scholarships, the website, and in 2025, introducing local high school youth to aviation.

Robin has served the 99s in various roles at the Chapter level, including Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Newsletter Editor, Scholarship Chair, and Fundraising Director. She participated in co-hosting the 2015 Section

Meeting, volunteered at the 2000 International Conference, and has participated in past Air Race Classic events. Robin was elected to the SW Section Nominating Committee from 2002 to 2004 and served as Director from 2022 to 2024. In 2004, Robin helped create the Palomar Airport Association (PAA) and has continued to serve as its secretary and part-time treasurer. As a member of PAA, Robin assists in hosting an annual "Youth Day," where children aged 10-18 are given the opportunity to experience aviation firsthand. PAA also assists the local airport administration in keeping the community informed about how pilots and planes operate at the airport. In addition to the 99s and PAA, Robin also volunteers for the Vintage Aircraft Association, a sub-chapter of the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA), with whom she has been associated since 1993. At these events, she greets pilots arriving at Oshkosh for the annual AirVenture Fly-in and assists in finding parking and other ground assistance.

Ora Delle Hightower



The Houston Chapter of Ninety-Nines is proud to nominate Ora Delle Hightower as an International Forest of Friendship Honoree.

Ora Delle Hightower, the youngest child and sixth daughter of Elizabeth and Henry Huffsuttler was born in Arkansas. In 1947, she graduated as valedictorian and attended Harding University until she married her high school sweetheart. Her husband, Loye Gene, would ride his bicycle to Searcy Airport, taking on odd jobs and earning hours or money for flying lessons. He obtained his pilot's license before his driver's license. He would sometimes fly over Delle's house and wag the airplane wings, but Delle wasn't interested in flying at that time. However, in the future, she would sprout her own wings and fly.

Delle and Gene relocated to Houston, Texas, for better job opportunities. Delle worked for Rotan Mosle, later known as Paine Webber. In 1963, at Houston Hooks Airport, Gene was shopping for an additional airplane. The owner asked Delle to join him in the left seat of the Cessna aircraft. Much to her surprise, he started rolling down the taxiway to the runway and took off! Once airborne, he let Delle take control and showed her how to use the yoke and rudder pedals to control the airplane. Although Delle was tricked into flying, she fell in love with it. Within a year, she had her pilot's license and joined the Houston 99s, serving as an officer for many years.

Both Delle and Gene flew together, rotating between pilot, navigator, and radio. They flew blood supplies and patients to Shriner's Hospital for Children. They attended many 99s conventions and events. Over the years, they owned 11 airplanes; the last one was a Mooney. Delle flew until the age of 82, passing away in 2021 at the age of 92. Delle was a Life Member of the International 99s Women Pilots.

Katherine Sharp Landdeck



Janet Patton, on behalf of the Ambassador Virtual Chapter of the Ninety-Nines, is proud to nominate Katherine Sharp Landdeck, PhD, as an International Forest of Friendship Honoree.

Katherine Sharp Landdeck is being honored by the Ambassador Virtual Chapter of the Ninety-Nines for her many years of dedicated service as WASP historian. She is the author of "The Women with Silver Wings: The Inspiring True Story of the Women Airforce Service Pilots of World War II." Katherine is a Professor of History at Texas Woman's University, the home of the WASP archives. A Guggenheim Fellow at the Smithsonian

National Air and Space Museum, a Normandy Scholar, and a graduate of the University of Tennessee, where she earned her PhD. Katherine has studied the WASP for over two decades.

Katherine received a Silver Telly Award for her documentary Silver Wings, Flying Dreams: The Complete Story of the Women Airforce Service Pilots of World War II in 2016. She has appeared as an expert on NPR's "Morning Edition," PBS, the History Channel, and the television series "Mysteries of the Abandoned." Her work has been published in the Washington Post, The Atlantic, and Time, as well as in numerous academic and aviation publications. Katherine was a featured historian on the A&E/History Channel two-hour documentary on Pearl Harbor and the History Channel film on unknown stories of World War II. She taught for C-Span's American History Television's "Lectures in History" series with her lecture on American women in World War II.

As a professor of History and the Director of the Pioneers Oral History Project at Texas Woman's University, Dr. Landdeck focuses on public history and leads a robust history internship program, encouraging all History and Political Science students.

Katherine is a licensed pilot who flies whenever she can. She currently serves as a valued member of the Board of Directors for the International Forest of Friendship.

Robin Laws



Janet Patton, on behalf of the Ambassador Virtual Chapter of the Ninety-Nines, is proud to nominate Robin Laws as an International Forest of Friendship Honoree.

Robin has always loved the sky, so it was natural that she would feel most at home flying. From the Air Capital city of Wichita, Kansas, Robin has flown since 2004. She learned to fly in Salina, Kansas, and earned her bachelor's degree as a Professional Pilot from Kansas State University's flight program. While in college, she competed in the All-Women's Air Race Classic, where she became involved in cross-country air racing and met many members of the Ninety-Nines, lifelong friends worldwide. She has competed in five Air Race Classic races and enjoys mentoring new racers each year. Robin shares her love of flying with everyone she meets along the race route, especially young people who have never seen an event like the Air Race Classic, especially one with all-female flyers!

Robin's love of flying also enabled her to find her husband, Chris. Both are first-generation pilots and are now raising their three children, Theo, Alice, and Walter, alongside their passion for aviation.

Robin holds CFI, CFII, MEI, and ATP ratings. She has over 1500 hours of flight instruction time and enjoys watching her students' perfect landings as well as mentoring and assisting them in achieving their goals. She particularly enjoys encouraging students who have had struggles in their training. She candidly shares that she fell ill on her first flight and was unsure if she could become a pilot. She was able to overcome sickness as well as many other things to get to where she is today.

She pursues many passions, including writing about her experiences in flying, motherhood and life. She is a published author; her most recent book, "Yucky Weather," is written under her pen name, BG Barnstormer.

Mandi Neumann



The Wisconsin Chapter Ninety-Nines and Kylie's Cub Air Flight are proud to nominate Mandi Neumann as an International Forest of Friendship Honoree.

Mandi's aviation path was not "traditional." Initially, she attended college for paralegal studies. After a few years, she decided to become a regional flight attendant. While there, her coworkers encouraged her to consider flying. She agreed it would be more fun and challenging to fly the "bus" rather than support passengers. She began flight lessons in 2020, caught the "aviation bug" and flew regularly, all while working three and four jobs to pay for her training. Determined to pursue this path, she sought scholarships to cover the cost of flight training. On the recommendation of her Certified Flight Instructor, Mandi became involved in Young Eagle Flights, introducing potential flight students and youth to aviation.

Mandi has volunteered with Girls in Aviation Day through her Women in Aviation Chapter, as well as Girls on the Fly with the Wisconsin 99s, to

pay it forward and help support young women pursuing their aviation dreams. Serving in leadership roles and assisting with fundraisers, Mandi has formed friendships, gained lifelong mentors, and was awarded local and international-level scholarships. The Ninety-Nines Professional Pilot Leadership Initiative Program helped her build valuable professional and personal skills. This has also included guest speaking as a role model for girls. In addition to flight instructing, Mandi has flown as SIC in the State of Wisconsin's Pilatus, and continues to pursue new professional goals. Currently, she is enjoying island flying in San Juan, Puerto Rico, for a 135-cargo operator, with aspirations to fly international routes for a legacy airline. Even though she may be climbing a career ladder, she hasn't forgotten those who helped her along the way and continues to find ways to give back.

Lesley Page



The First Canadian Chapter of the Ninety-Nines is proud to nominate Lesley Pag as an International Forest of Friendship Honoree.

It was love at first sight when Lesley's husband took her up on her first flight 20 years ago. By 2007, she had obtained her private pilot's license and became a member of the First Canadian Chapter of the Ninety-Nines, holding both executive and section positions within the Chapter. She has mentored several Chapter AE Scholarship winners through completion of their pilot licenses. By 2010, Lesley began organizing events at her home airport, Oshawa Municipal Airport, introducing young women and girls to the world of aviation. An initiative created by Canadian pilot Mireille Goyer, to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the first woman worldwide to obtain a pilot license, Frenchwoman Raymonde

Dela Roche, on March 8, 2010. To encourage participation, Mireille created fun contests, such as the "most female-friendly pilot worldwide" and the "most dedicated female pilot worldwide". To help those with a fear of flying, Lesley and other dedicated pilots made their home airport worthy of the award. This centennial event has now become an annual spring event.

Lesley created her own "girls take flight" event, offering free flights to women and girls. Over the past 15 years, thousands have participated. Over 500 have been up for the free discovery flights provided by volunteers.

Lesley has been the recipient of many awards, including the award of excellence from the 99's in 2007, the award of merit from the Canadian Owners and Pilots Association in 2011, and the volunteer of the year award from Brilliant Minded Women in 2017. Her proudest accomplishment was receiving recognition from the Ontario Minister for the Status of Women for her exceptional community leadership in improving the lives of girls and women in Ontario, Canada.



Eleanore Reichenbach



The Florida Goldcoast Chapter of the Ninety-Nines is proud to nominate Eleanor Reichenbach as an International Forest of Friendship Honoree.

Hardships came early to Eleanor. Her mother died when she was just six months of age, and then her husband died early, leaving her with three young children to raise by herself. But challenges never detoured Eleanor.

Known to light up a room, she brought positive energy wherever she went. She was devoted to her family and relished her modeling experiences, her career with AT&T, crocheting, gardening, and her beloved cat. Committed to wholesome foods and natural supplements, she eagerly shared her knowledge to help keep family and friends healthy.

She was instrumental in forming the Florida Gulfstream 99s Chapter and served as its Vice-chair. She planned interesting events, hosted many activities at her home, and volunteered for events with the Florida Goldcoast Chapter of 99s. Her house was opened to 99s from around the world, including Fay Gillis Wells. Known for her Air Races, she directed the International All Women's Air Race, also known as the Angel Derby. Always generous, Ellie offered empty seats in her Ercoupe, Mooney or Piper Turbo Aero. Not without any mishap, she recalled once when she was flying, she looked out the left side of her window and saw the ribs of the wing. Fabric was ripping off as she soared through the air! She slowed down and landed safely. Since she was eight months pregnant at the time, she decided to take a break from flying.

From November 30, 1931, to February 17, 2025, Ellie touched many lives, as evidenced by the overflowing number of guests at her celebration of life. She was kind, positive and spunky. Although 93 years of age, she was never an old lady.

Barbara H. Schultz



The Antelope Valley Chapter of the Ninety-Nines is proud to nominate Barbara Schultz as an International Forest of Friendship Honoree.

Barbara has been a part of our Chapter for many years, serving in many roles, including Chair of the Chapter. She earned her private pilot's license in the late 1970s. Her husband and two sons are also aviation enthusiasts. Barbara has served on several aviation boards, including the International Ninety-Nines Museum as Trustee from 2016 to 2019. Additionally, she has served on the boards of the Golden Age Flight Museum and the Antelope Valley Rural Museum, and is currently a director of the Mojave Transportation Museum. As a Board Member, she has assisted with school tours, created visual displays, provided docent training, and performed numerous other tasks. Barbara earned a grant through the Amelia Earhart Memorial

Research Scholarship to add to the world's knowledge of women in aviation and aerospace. Research remains a passion for her. This passion has led her to publish eight aviation history books, as well as ten articles for the American Aviation Historical Society Journal, most of which focus on women's involvement in aviation history. She has served as a consultant and participated in three documentaries on women pilots, including "The Kathryn Cheung Story," "The Happy Bottom Riding Club," and "Breaking Through the Clouds." She has interviewed aviation greats such as Max Stanley, Elinore Smith, Bobby Trout, and Wally Funk, many of whom she has become good friends with. Barbara shares her research with presentations to a variety of audiences and is considered a respected aviation historian.

The Antelope Valley Chapter of the Ninety-Nines is honored that Barbara is part of our chapter, and we believe she is very deserving of recognition for her achievements by the Forest of Friendship.

Cheryl Thompson



The Northeast Kansas Chapter of the 99s is proud to nominate our longtime member, Cheryl (Cheri) Thompson, as an International Forest of Friendship honoree.

Cheri always knew she wanted to fly. She grew up with stories from her father, George Vorovka, who flew PB2Y airplanes for the Navy in World War II, patrolling off the shores of Florida, whom she honored in the International Forest of Friendship in 2017. When her husband's sons, Tony and Tim, were grown, Cheri obtained her Private Pilot's license at Hetrick Air Services at the Lawrence, Kansas City airport (KLWC) in 2010. Cheri is currently the co-owner of a Piper Cherokee, hangared at KLWC. She's checked out in a Cessna 172S and Cessna 182RG.

Cheri is a retired nurse anesthetist, and her drive to care for others fueled her service to her profession and is an integral part of her being; she gives herself tirelessly to the Aviation community. For example, she served as a member of the Amelia Earhart Birthplace Museum Board in Atchison,

Kansas, serving from 2014 to 2020. She also has participated in many of our NE KS 99s chapter's STEM programs for Girl Scouts troops. Cheri participates in the annual Aviation Youth Camp at KLWC, a program for kids aged 12-16 that includes short modules on flight, culminating in a ride in an airplane and a pizza lunch. She teaches weather and communication modules, as well as contributing to the Discovery of Flight certificates presented to the most involved kid at camp. She has hosted our 99s Chapter post-holiday potluck at her home for years and delights us with her famous brownies at Chapter events.



Erin Bliss Thompson has been passionate about aviation for as long as she can remember. Her interest was ignited by her father, Alan Davis, a pilot himself. Erin earned her Private Pilot License in 1990 at Southern Illinois University, where she also completed her Instrument Rating, Commercial License, an AAS in Aviation Flight, and a BS in Aviation Management by 1993.

In 1996, Erin began a Master of Science degree in Airline Management and Aviation Safety at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. She started her career with an internship at America West Airlines in 1997, followed by two years as an Aircraft Router. After earning her Aircraft Dispatch License, Erin worked as an Aircraft Dispatcher for Mesa Airlines from 1999 to 2003.

Erin's deep commitment to aviation education and mentorship led her to join The Ninety-Nines in 2012. She quickly became an active leader, serving as Co-Chair and Chapter Chair

(2014-2020) of the Kentucky Bluegrass Chapter. Erin was elected to the International Nominating Committee (2018-2020) and served on the North Central Section Hospitality Committee for the 2019 International Meeting. During the pandemic, she hosted two virtual section meetings, earning the affectionate nickname "IT Gremlin." Erin mentors an Amelia Earhart First Wings Scholarship winner and has volunteered at events like Girl Scout Aviation Days and Women in Aviation's Girls in Aviation Day.

In addition to joining Women in Aviation International in 2018, Erin has been active with the Society of Aviation and Flight Educators (SAFE) since 2012, volunteering at AirVenture and Sun 'n Fun. She also managed the Countrywide Flyers flight club at Bowman Field from 2013 to 2015.

Since 2016, she has worked at *Blessings in a Backpack*, applying her IT and project management skills to support the organization's mission of helping children succeed in and out of the classroom.



Hope to see you at our future events.

Upcoming Annual Themes for the International Forest of Friendship:

2026: "World Friendship through Flight"—Focused on international activities and the Forest's 50th anniversary.

2027: "Flying, Forests, and the Future" -- Emphasizing contributions by people under 35.

2028: "Security and Solace through Flight" – Especially military aviators, flying medical staff, Angel Flight, etc.

2029: "Discovery through Flight" – Honoring those who have "pushed the envelope" in all aspects of aviation and aerospace

Discover What's New at the Amelia Earhart Hangar Museum



The Atchison Amelia Earhart Foundation and Hangar Museum are thrilled to welcome back to Atchison the International Forest of Friendship and its esteemed group of 2025 inductees! Amelia Earhart's love of her hometown of Atchison was unrivaled, and the Hangar Museum is your gateway to dive into her extraordinary journey as a legendary pilot, entrepreneur, author, and public figure who advanced aviation like none other in the 1930s.

We're excited to announce our latest project, the release of a new course: Flying Into History – The Legacy of Amelia Earhart, created in proud partnership with American Cornerstone Institute's Little Patriots. This captivating course for students grades K-5 invites their exploration of Amelia's life as one of America's most remarkable aviators. Amelia Earhart broke barriers and redefined what was possible for women to achieve. Her legacy goes far beyond aviation—her life was marked by perseverance, strong character, and purpose. Students are introduced to Amelia through a delightful cartoon and a series of lessons to discover how her unwavering determination and courage not only made her a pioneer in the skies, but also a brilliant example of what it means to chase one's dreams.

We're also eager to welcome back pilots for fly-in visits to the Hangar Museum. After nearly two years, the runway expansion project at the Amelia Earhart Memorial Airport (K59) will be complete by Thanksgiving, and we can't wait to welcome back pilots to Atchison!

In addition, the Hangar Museum is gearing up for two monumental celebrations in 2026 -- the 50th Anniversary of the International Forest of Friendship and the 250th Anniversary of the United States' founding. These milestones are significant, and our team is busy planning a captivating new exhibition for all our visitors to enjoy.

While in Atchison, we invite everyone to explore the Hangar Museum to see Muriel, our crown jewel, the world's last remaining Lockheed Electra IO-E. This iconic artifact is identical to the one Amelia was flying when she disappeared in 1937 during her ambitious around-the-world flight attempt. Our compelling exhibits blend STEM concepts with historical storytelling, immersing visitors into Amelia's experiences growing up in Atchison and her tenacious attitude and dogged perseverance to change the face of aviation and advance the cause of women.

For learn more about all these initiatives, visit the Museum's newly designed website www.AmeliaEarhartHangarMuseum.org.



The Amelia Earhart Birthplace Museum Staff has made many new and exciting updates to exhibits this past year. Since January of this year, we have worked on a whole refresh of the museum's exhibits and displays—we have changed the path visitors follow through the museum, added interactive exhibits, and rotated collection items! All of these changes have helped to transform the AEBM into a place that both new and returning visitors can learn and participate in the legacy of Amelia Earhart.

The new exhibits include lesser known stories of Amelia Earhart's childhood, more pictures and information about her family that inspired and supported her endeavors, and a deeper exploration to the multi-faceted woman. Amelia's flight career is an important part of her legacy and the tour of the AEBM, but we now also turn to her other passions. Throughout your visit to the museum, you will see how her aviation career supported her life and how her life supported her aviation career.

****spoiler alert!**** Our last room on the tour shows just a small example of the thousands of art pieces of all types of media that have been inspired by Amelia. From teddy bears to musical pieces, there are artists and non-artists everywhere inspired by AE. You too, can share how she has inspired you by adding to our interactive "How Has Amelia Earhart Inspired You?" wall.

Congratulations to all the Honorees this year, we look forward to seeing you when you visit the AEBM!

If you would like to support the museum, visit

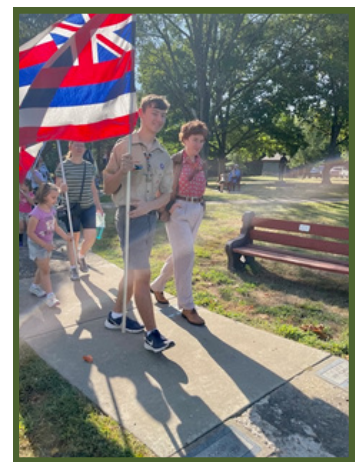
<https://aebm.square.site/shop/donations-and-fundraisers/67>.

You can also support by volunteering or becoming a member! For more information, email director@ameliaearhartmuseum.org.



Amelia Earhart Birthplace Museum
223 N. Terrace St., Atchison, KS 66002
(913) 367-4217 | www.ameliaearhartmuseum.org

Paving the way for the 50th Anniversary of the Forest!



The International Forest of Friendship received notice of approval for a second phase of a trail replacement grant from the Kansas Recreational Trails Program. Phase 1 has been discussed since last fall, but determining how to replace the sidewalk trail and take care of the 1600 honoree stones posed some challenges. With temporary solutions for the stones in mind, Phase 1 and Phase 2 are now ready for the bidding process to begin. The project includes removing and replacing 16,000 square feet of deteriorated concrete walkways and creating a new walkway from the restrooms to the gazebo. The grant of \$270,000 requires a match from the International Forest of Friendship of \$64,000. Donations may be made by clicking on the “Donate Now” button at www.ifof.org.



Ways to Honor Aviation/Space Accomplishments



More than 1500 names are embedded into the walkways in the Forest. Each name represents contributions to aviation and space in some small or large way! To honor someone, visit www.ifof.org and click the “Sponsor an Honoree” link. Your nominee will be honored at the annual ceremony in September and an engraved stone with their name will be added to the walkways winding through the Forest.

The Forest is currently looking for donors to replace deteriorating benches with a commercial-grade, engraved or personalized; "In Memory of", "Donated By", or create your own message. On the website, click “downloads” for the bench form.

Thank You, Volunteers

The International Forest of Friendship is always a work in progress. The needs for lawncare, pruning, edging, mulching, weeding, and mowing are never-ending. Special thanks to our two part-time employees, Ben Woolston and Debbie Simpson, for their efforts in keeping. Up with the day-to-day needs at the Forest. There are, however, tasks that require more than one or two pairs of hands. When there is a need for lots of volunteers for the big tasks, a quick call to the Benedictine College athletic department in the summer yields a parade of trucks and cars driving up to the Gazebo with strong football players ready to lend a hand! Benedictine Ravens show up prepared to lend their strength, their pride in working hard, and their smiles to mulch, weed, and water trees. Thank you, Benedictine Ravens, for showing pride in the Atchison community by offering your hands in service!



The Forest Celebrates 50 Years in 2026!

The International Forest of Friendship, established in 1976 as our country celebrated its 200th birthday, has stood the test of time. The Board of Directors of the Forest invites all of you to return to Atchison on September 11-12, 2026, for the 50th Anniversary celebration of the Forest. Chaired by Cindy Carrigan Apple, granddaughter of Joe Carrigan, co-founder, the 50th Celebration Committee has been working hard to plan a spectacular weekend! You will find special surprises at the Friday evening Cocktail party at the Amelia Earhart Hangar Museum. On Saturday, get ready for the patriotic music at the Forest for the morning Parade of Flags, induction of new honorees, and lunchtime food trucks. Saturday afternoon will include numerous special events and guests, including the Kansas Forest Service and the planting of a Liberty Tree. Linton Wells, son of co-founder Fay Wells, will host the Saturday evening banquet with special guest speakers. In addition, from July 2 - September 30, 2026, a special exhibit showcasing The Story of the Forest will be on display in Atchison's Cultural Center.

Mark your calendar, spread the word, and share the joy of this remarkable arboretum of trees celebrating aviation and Flight. Thank you to the Ninety-Nines and the City of Atchison for giving the United States of America such a special gift in 1976!

Meet the Board of Directors

Cindy Apple, Co-Chair, was born into the Forest! Her grandfather, Joe Carrigan, was co-founder in 1976 and her father, Pat Carrigan, carried on as co-chair and conservator of the Forest for many years. Her mother, Kathy Carrigan, also served on the Board and as treasurer. Cindy is a school administrator in Louisburg, KS where she lives with her husband, Nathan, and children: Nate, Erin, and Caroline.

Linton Wells II, Co-Chair, is a retired naval officer and senior government official. He now works on community resilience at George Mason University. Lin's mother, Fay Gillis Wells, was the founding Co-Chair of the Forest (with Joe Carrigan), and a Charter member of the 99s. Lin has been Co-Chair since 2002. He and his wife Linda live in Fairfax, VA, and look forward to the Forest's 50th anniversary in 2026.

Cynthia Putnam, Secretary, is a retired teacher living in Florida. The daughter of George P. Putnam, she happily continues his great love and support of the Forest.

Cindy Copeland-DeVan is a Ninety-Nine who lives in nearby Leavenworth, Kansas. She is new to the board and having fun learning more about the Forest of Friendship. She is looking forward to all the developments.

Kristen Carrigan, granddaughter of Joe Carrigan, is the newest member of the Board. She grew up with the Forest, helping her aunts in framing honoree certificates every year in her family's lumberyard. Kristen looks forward to serving the Forest beyond her many hours of volunteer work, including landscaping and caring for the flags.

Katherine Sharp Landdeck, Ph.D., is a Ninety-Nine, a professor of history, an aviation historian and author of the book, *The Women With Silver Wings: The Inspiring True Story of the Women Airforce Service Pilots of World War II*. She is thrilled to help carry on the legacy of those who began the IFOF.

Diane Liebsch, Atchison, Kansas, is a retired educator who has served the Forest as a volunteer and now a Board member for over 30 years. Her favorite contribution to the Forest is providing STEM activities for children who visit.

Susan Myers, Ph.D., is a retired school administrator from Atchison. As a new board member, Susan is thrilled to be learning about the forest's exciting past, present and future.

Janet Patton is a resident of Denton, TX, a Ninety-Nines International Director and a member since 1988. Having met the co-founder Fay at a young age, Janet is happy to help carry on the legacy of the Forest as a board member.

Karen Seaberg is Chairman of the Board of MGP Ingredients Inc., a publicly traded company on NASDAQ. She is president and founder of the Atchison Amelia Earhart Foundation and Chair of the Amelia Earhart Festival. Karen lives in Atchison, Kansas and enjoys working on everything related to Amelia Earhart.

Linda Wells married Lin Wells in 1976 and so has been part of the Forest from the very start. Fay Gillis Wells got a daughter and the Forest the same year! She is looking forward to the 50th anniversary in 2026 and to introducing her grandchildren to the Forest!

Thank You to Our Sponsors



Benedictine College is proud to be a part of the Atchison community and the Forest of Friendship Family.

Congratulations honorees!

Benedictine.edu



It's a great day in our hometown!

Congratulations, Honorees!



Welcome International 99s

We're proud to call Atchison our Hometown

Welcome International 99s!
Celebrate at the
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Welcome to Atchison, 99s!
Congratulations to all the Honorees!

Welcome, Honorees and 99's!
 We join Smokey the Bear and YOU in celebrating
 World Friendship Through Flying!
Carrigan Lumber Company
 913 Main Street

The Ninety-Nines Prayer

Oh, Lord, it is good to be able to fly,
 to share with your winged creatures the joy of our
 freedom of flight.

We thank you for your wondrous natural laws that
 lift our wings skyward and we thank you for the
 courageous pioneers who first mastered those laws
 so that all of us could fly through your friendly skies.

But as we soar high above this beautifully jeweled
 island home we call Earth and survey its glory as few
 others can, heighten, Oh Lord, our appreciation for
 the beauty of your creation, and increase our
 dedication to care for it.

And we beseech your presence with each of us
 whenever we are airborne. Keep us steady when we
 find ourselves suddenly "on top" and our human
 balances begin to play tricks on us.

Keep us alert when our throttles are at cruise, but
 our minds become lulled into Idle, and keep us safe
 as we gently return to the earth from which we
 came.

We believe you are with us, Lord, but help our
 disbelief. Stay close by us and show the way, for it is
 so good to be able to fly.

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 students for creating our annual magazine!
 Your hard work, creativity, and dedication truly
 shine through every page. Well done!



Thank You for Joining Us!

Thank you for being part of the International Forest of Friendship Annual Induction Ceremony. We hope you enjoyed a meaningful and memorable weekend.

Your registration was more than just a sign-up—it was a commitment to protecting and sustaining the Forest. Proceeds from the event help fund vital maintenance and special projects that ensure the Forest remains healthy and vibrant for generations to come.

Together, we're preserving a living legacy of friendship and nature.

Follow Us



Notes



Come Back Soon!

