

The Sunset Hills Conservation
Foundation Proudly Presents



2026 FALL SPEAKER SERIES

FREE!

One of the missions of the SHCF is to provide information to our citizens about various subjects of interest. The 2026 series will be held at the **Sunset Hills Community Center** from **6:30 to 8:00 p.m.** and as always **FREE** for any and all attendees. You do not have to live in Sunset Hills to appreciate these topics, so spread with neighbors, friends and family across the metropolitan area!

SEPT. 17:

“Black Bears in Missouri and the STL Area” with Dan Zarlenga

Dan Zarlenga is originally from the St. Louis area but began his career with the Department of Conservation in 1996 at its central headquarters in Jefferson City. He served as the audio production specialist and worked with the video crew. In 2008 he was promoted to St. Louis regional media specialist and moved back to his hometown. Dan currently oversees communications, PR and marketing, and media relations for MDC's St. Louis region, which includes St. Louis City and County, and 8 surrounding counties. He also enjoys being out in nature outside of work hiking, camping, and doing nature and landscape photography.

Featured guest expert on the 550 AM - KTRS - McGraw Morning Show.

OCT. 8:

“New Tree Plantings and How to Avoid Future Problems” with Ben Barnett

St. John Vianney HS and University of Missouri graduate with a degree in plant science, with an MBA from Webster U. I've been an ISA certified arborist for over 25 years, and a Board-Certified Master Arborist for the last 12 years, holding a Tree Risk Assessment Qualification.

I started Timberline Professional Tree Care in 2001 as a side hustle, but it grew over the years to more than a full-time job. We now employ 17 local employees, including 7 other ISA certified Arborists, all working in unison to provide the highest-quality tree care in the area.

Featured guest expert on the 550 AM - KTRS - McGraw Morning Show.

DEC. 8:

“John Frémont's 100 Days” with Gregory Wolk

This talk focuses on John Frémont's 100 days in charge of the Western Department of the Union Army (July 25, 1861 to November 2, 1861) from headquarters he established in St. Louis, but with special emphasis on the legal and political developments on questions of slavery in the West that predated Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation in 1863. St. Louis was center stage for evolving concepts of freedom, due to its pre-eminence as a transportation hub and thanks in part to the legacy of Missouri Senator Thomas Hart Benton.

Gregory Wolk is a retired civil trial lawyer and the author of two books about the Civil War in Missouri. His newest book, *John Frémont's 100 Days: Clashes and Convictions in Civil War Missouri*, published by the Missouri Historical Society Press, was released in October 2025. It has to date received two national awards, including Finalist in the category of War and Military History issued by Foreword INDIES magazine. It is one of seven books in the nation so honored in this category. More recently, Greg's work has received a Bronze medal from Independent Publishers Book Awards. Greg and his wife Debra live in Kirkwood, and this year celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary.

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