Missouri Forest Organisms throughout the Year

Forests are the most common plant community in the southern part of the state, especially in the Ozarks, but also places that are hilly and/or near streams and rivers. One of the most important tree species is white oak, and flowering dogwood is our state tree. Fungi like lobster mushrooms live off decaying plant matter. Fox squirrels den in trees and eat acorns. The Indiana bat raises its young under the loose bark of trees. British soldier lichens are symbioses of fungi and algae.