



The Voice for Illinois Forests

To act on issues that impact rural and community forests and to promote forestry in Illinois

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and more....

It's here on the World Wide Web...

IFA Web site
www.ilforestry.org

President's Message

J. B. Gates, IFA President

Southern Illinois is now recovering from the ice/snow storm of February. A group of individuals, representing several organizations in Southern Illinois, have met to form a partnership that will develop a program to increase awareness and preparedness for the next fury of 'mother nature'. From this core group, workshops will be offered as well as other methods of dissemination of valuable information. You will see more on this initiative in coming months.

The new Legislative session is in full force. Please go to <http://wwwb.illinois.gov> and check on bills being introduced. There is a wealth of information located on this site and if you have not been in the habit of looking here, take a peak soon and often.

As I write this, the new committee announcements and appointments have not yet been posted. But search for your legislators and give them a call or stop in their office for a visit and let them know your feelings concerning Forestry and other vital issues in the state. We cannot fuss if we do not do something positive. Remember you can make a difference. You can fuss and gripe and nothing gets done; or, you can be active and talk with others about concerns of the day and see progress. Remember to say "Thank You" for their time and past efforts. A little praise gets a lot done.

We now have a new governor who we hope will take the time to correct some of the errors of past years. General revenue appropriations have been reduced by millions and remaining personnel are asked to do more with less. Again, talking with YOUR legislators to improve and correct these deficiencies is the only way to make these changes occur. Plan a visit to Springfield and make an appointment with your legislator if possible. IFA will be having a "Meet the Legislators" day sometime in March. While in Springfield, take a tour of the Lincoln Library and Museum.

Your regional directors are busy completing plans for several workshops in your region. Please watch your email for details as they become available. Also, a super place to gather information is the IFA web site. Our technical advisors are doing a great job of keeping it up-to-date. If you have not visited the web site at: <http://www.ilforestry.org>, take a little time today. If you have not renewed your membership for 2009, a form is available on the site to help with the process. Your membership and support is invaluable.

IFA is a member driven organization. The officers look forward to your suggestions and support. Many eyes and ears throughout the State are better than just a couple. So please email or call your regional directors or state officers and let them know what you are seeing and hearing. If you would like to serve on a committee or as an officer for the Illinois Forestry Association, please give the secretary a call or an email.

Calendar of Events 2009

IFA Region 2 Spring Meeting

May 9, 2009
William Totten
Alexis, Illinois
217/562-2634

Forest Leaders Institute

May 28, 2009 10am-4:30pm
Dixon Springs Agricultural
Center
Pope County, Illinois
sbrown63@shawneelink.net

Annual Meeting

August 15, 2009
Oregon Country Club
250 S. Daysville Rd
Oregon, IL 61061
(815) 732-2717

Secretary's Report

Dave Gillespie, IFA Secretary

Membership dues for 2009 have steadily been arriving since the beginning of the year. However, lately the number of envelopes I pick up at the Post Office has slowed to only one or two per day. For all intents and purposes, we reached our goal of reaching 800 members by the end of 2008. Now we must keep those who have joined, plus add new members for 2009. Reaching a membership of 1200, or more, by the end of 2009 is certainly possible.

Membership in the IFA is more important now than ever before. I know that in difficult economic times we all tighten our budgets and seriously contemplate our financial decisions. I hope when you are making these decisions you choose to continue your membership in the IFA.

Your membership gives you access to:

- o Networking with other individuals, groups, organizations, and companies that share your interest in forestry in Illinois.
- o Information about developments in forestry and upcoming events.
- o Regional forestry workshops.
- o Access to forestry information through the IFA web site.
- o A voice to the State Legislature and other public officials.
- o A dedicated Board of Directors, Officers, and Technical Advisors.

It is very important that we work together to get through these tough times. By doing so, we keep the momentum we have gained this last year and secure IFA's place in speaking for forestry issues in Illinois. I had the opportunity to hear both our new Governor and new Department of Natural Resources Director speak the other day. Both are committed to rebuilding the DNR. That can only have good results for forestry.

Also, we would like to hear from you. What issues are affecting you? What programs, resources, or services can we provide? Please let us know.

If you have already paid your dues for 2009, thanks for your support. If you have not paid your dues for this year, please do so. Your support is needed. Visit the IFA web site at www.ilforestry.org to download the membership form, or use the one provided in this newsletter. Together we can make a difference. Dave Gillespie, Secretary, Illinois Forestry Association, P.O. Box 224, Chatham, IL 62629.

IFA to Sponsor Forestry Award

The Illinois Forestry Association (IFA) will be this year's sponsor of the Outstanding Forestry Contribution Award from the Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts (AISWCD).

The purpose of this award is to recognize outstanding contributions in the field of forestry. Individuals, companies, associations, etc., are eligible to be nominated for this award. To be considered for this award, the nominee should have an approved Forestry Plan and an ongoing record of forestry practices or contributions.

Award nominations come through the local Soil & Water Conservation District. Only Districts in good standing can submit a nomination. The District should notify the nominee that the nomination has been made; contact the local DNR District Forester to confirm that a Forestry Plan is in place; and present in narrative form of no more than 500 words (12 point font) an explanation of what the nominee has accomplished or contributed to forestry. This should include any organizations, associations or boards on which the nominee has served. In addition, no more than ten (10) pictures to highlight the forestry practices, public appearances, etc., of the nominee should be submitted.

The recipient of this award will be given two (2) complementary meal tickets for the meal at the annual meeting of the AISWCD at which the award will be presented, a plaque of recognition, and gifts from the IFA.

If any of you know of a person, company, association, etc., that is deserving of this award, please contact your local SWCD.

Legislative Report

Paula Purdue and Jenni Purdue

Many changes have occurred in Illinois over the past few weeks. In the first month of 2009, we have a new President of the United States from Illinois, we have a new Governor, and a new Illinois State Senate President and Senate Minority Leader. It is definitely an interesting time to be an Illinoisan.

Our new Governor Pat Quinn, took office January 29, 2009 after former Governor Rod Blagojevich was removed from his office by the Illinois State Senate with an impeachment vote of 59-0. The Senate also voted to ban Blagojevich from holding public office in the State of Illinois. Impeachment is a political trial, so these votes have no effect on the federal indictment pending for Blagojevich which has been extended to April 7th. The US Attorney has until that date to bring an official indictment against Blagojevich to set the criminal trial in motion. At that time, there may be other indictments presented if the US Attorney feels they have enough information to convict others of wrongdoing. This could result in even more changes in Illinois representation.

Governor Quinn faces a state that is massively in debt and an unclear political climate. He has made many announcements since taking office about making bold steps during his time as governor. There are rumors of a tax increase, a capital bill, and Governor Quinn has said that he wants to move the primary election date back to September. The other legislative leaders, Speaker Michael Madigan and President John Cullerton, have both met with Governor Quinn to discuss moving forward in 2009. We are not sure what the outcomes of these meetings will be, but it seems optimistic that the three leaders are meeting with each other (this did not occur during the last years of the Blagojevich administration).

We have been moving forward on issues for IFA in the legislature. We have two bills about to be introduced that will reinstate the Forestry Development Council. The bills are mirror images of each other with one starting in the House and the other starting in the Senate. Our House sponsor is Rep. Reitz, and our Senate sponsor is Sen. Sullivan. Our Senate bill number is SB 1413, and we are waiting on the House bill number. Once we have both bill numbers, we will put together a fact sheet that we can post online, and you can call your legislator to ask them for their support. We have also put in legislation for IAA, a speciality license plate, that will start in the Senate with Sen. Dillard as sponsor. We will keep you posted on what the bill number will be for that legislation as well.

Our legislative year has had an exciting start, and it will be an interesting and hopefully a very productive session. A special thanks to the legislative committee. We are currently reading bills and your legislative committee members are working with us to make a list of good and bad bills. We will continue to work hard for Illinois Foresters and hope that you will work hard with us to get positive legislation passed and keep negative legislation from getting through!

Unique Training Opportunity Focuses on Understanding People

Stephanie Brown, Director, Region 4

Why can't we all just get along? That's a question that will be explored at an upcoming workshop sponsored by the Illinois Forestry Association. The Forest Leaders Institute will be held on Thursday, May 28th from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Dixon Springs Agricultural Center (DSAC) in Pope County.

The theme of the workshop is getting along and working together! The training is designed to bring IFA members closer and strengthen their capacity for working together to face the many challenges and opportunities that lie ahead for both rural and urban forestry in Illinois.

Participants will find that this training has many applications in everyday life, including valuable insight into personality styles and how to communicate and work more effectively with different types of people. The Meyers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI), a thoroughly researched and commonly used tool for exploring personality styles and preferences, will form the basis for the course.

Attendees will take the MBTI on-line assessment in advance of the workshop so results can be interpreted during the day's program. For that reason, it is important to PRE-REGISTER so that you will have time to receive instructions and take the assessment in advance. The deadline for pre-registration is Friday, May 8th. Space will be limited to 35 participants.

Modest and reasonably priced overnight accommodations are available at DSAC for those coming from a distance. To reserve a room, contact the DSAC directly at 618/695-2441 and indicate you are attending the IFA Workshop on May 28. All other inquiries

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**Do you have
a passion
for trees and
forestry?**

**Are you
interested in
serving on
a regional
committee?**

**Contact an IFA
officer today to
find out how
you can help!**

A grove of giant
redwoods or
sequoias should
be kept just as
we keep a great
or beautiful
cathedral.

- Theodore Roosevelt

Region 1 Report

Bob Sloan and Mark Duntemann,
Region 1 Directors

No Report

Region 2 Report

Lee Rife and Susan Romano, Region 2 Directors

Mark your calendars for May 9th. Region 2 will have its Spring meeting at William Totten's facility in Alexis, IL., where we will be doing a grafting workshop; then hopefully, going to Sam Erickson's Windsor Woods Sawmill in Windsor, IL. There will be further instructions sent out to Region 2 members at a later time as we firm up the schedule.

If members want to cut their own graftwood (pecan, walnut, hickory and chestnut), they should do it soon. It needs to be collected after 48 consecutive days of non-freezing weather; no bud break or swelling buds can be used. Cut terminals from last years growth, between 1/4 and 1/2 inch in diameter, on south or west side of the tree. Sticks should be placed in a one qt. or larger zip lock bag along with a kitchen paper towel (one section). Add one ounce of water, seal bag very tight and place in refrigerator. DO NOT FREEZE.

Potted trees for root stock will be available for \$9.00.

Bring a sharp knife.

Region 3 Report

Roy Bailey and Mike Medley, Region 3 Directors

No Report

It is not so much for its beauty
that the forest makes a claim
upon men's hearts, as for
that subtle something, that
quality of air that emanation
from old trees, that so
wonderfully changes and
renews a weary spirit.

- Robert Louis Stevenson

Region 4 Report

Joe Newcomb and Stephanie Brown,
Region 4 Directors

Forestry Workshop in Pinckneyville

The Perry County Soil & Water Conservation District and the Illinois Forestry Association partnered to hold a forestry workshop on January 15, 2009, at the United Methodist Church in Pinckneyville, Illinois. The workshop, "Money Doe\$ Grow on Trees", was well attended with about 53 landowners and other interested parties. Thanks to Martha Morgenstern, Resource Conservationist with the Perry County Soil & Water Conservation District, for all her hard work in setting up this meeting.

After sandwiches and drinks were served at 6 pm, the program started at 7 with a



Stephanie Brown, IFA

welcome by Stephanie Brown, Region 4 Director of IFA, Golconda, who lead the meeting by introducing each speaker and monitoring the time. Wade Conn, Forest Stewardship Program Manager, Springfield, presented an informative PowerPoint program about the cost-share opportunities the State of Illinois has as incentives for landowners who want to manage their wooded acres. He stressed the importance of having a forest stewardship plan.

Robert L. Spencer, District Conservationist, NRCS, followed up with a report of all the changes in the EQIP program for calendar year 2009 and briefed the group on other Farm Bill programs which are available to landowners.



Robert Spencer, NRCS

A panel of four people answered questions from the group about their experience with forest stewardship plans and timber sales. Landowners Matt Davison and Mike Bial of Patton Legacy Woods, Inc. from Sesser and Mulkeytown, shared their experiences of obtaining a forest stewardship plan and two subsequent timber sales on their property. Consulting forester, Joe Newcomb, Norris City, informed the group about the services a consulting



R-L: Matt Davison, Mike Bial, Joe Newcomb (IFA), and Leon Kuhl

forester can provide to landowners wanting a forest stewardship plan and the help he can provide marketing their timber. Sawmill owner Leon Kuhl, of Kuhl Lumber & Pallets, Inc., Okawville, talked about what a timber buyer is looking for when purchasing standing timber from a landowner. The audience had several questions of each member of the panel.

A sawmill owner in the audience expressed concern about hunters putting climbing spikes in trees. He urged landowners to not allow hunters to use them. Any nails, or metal spikes nailed into trees are a real danger when the trees are harvested. The spikes are a danger to the logger when cutting the tree and can do expensive damage to the large saws in the mill when logs are converted to boards. Sawmill workers are also in danger when the saw hits pieces of metal in the log. Pieces of metal will easily fly like bullets. Mr. Kuhl told of an incident in his mill when a large saw exploded after hitting metal in a log, scattering metal from the saw in every direction. He was grateful no one was injured.

The final speaker for the evening was John Gunter, Ph.D. Forest Management & Economics, Marion. Dr. Gunter's topic "Minimizing Taxes on Income from Timber Sale Revenue" stressed the importance of establishing a timber cost basis in the property to reduce the landowner's income tax liability. Federal Tax form "T" is used to report income from sales. He cited examples of timber land purchased, inherited or gifted, and whether the sale should be treated as capital gain or ordinary income.

Several handouts were made available on tables at each end of the church fellowship hall including publications about the land tax situation, the Backyard Woods brochure, Emerald ash borer posters, carbon credits information, and newsletters from Illinois Forestry Association and Perry County RC&D.

Meet Your Board of Directors!

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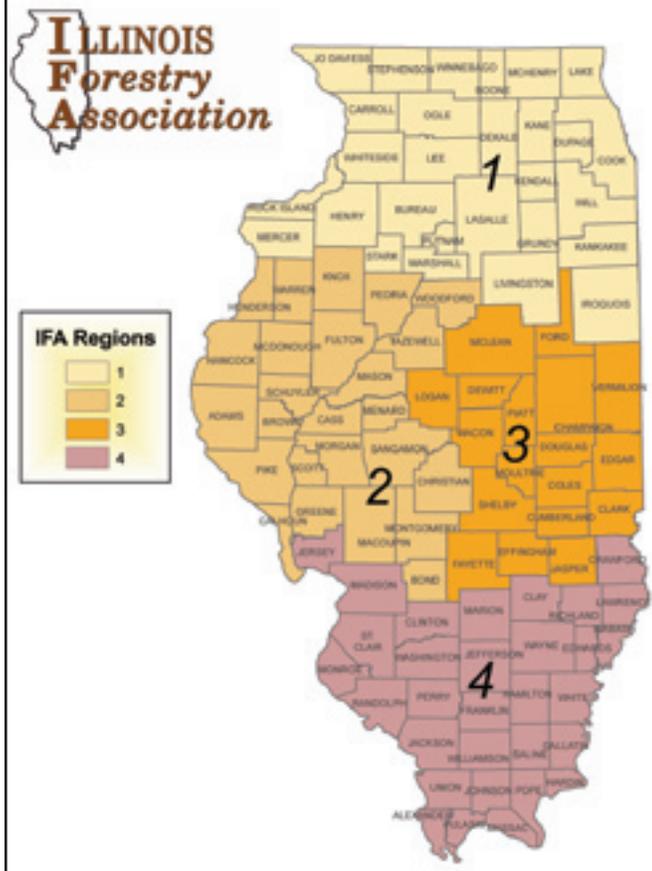
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Unique Training Opportunity

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should be directed to Stephanie Brown at 618/949-3698 or via e-mail: sbrown63@shawneelink.net.

The program will consist of fun activities designed to reveal personality style differences – how to recognize them, overcome them, and leverage them for success. Each participant will take home an interpretive report about their particular style and how they can excel as a member and leader in any given organization. The program is designed for every style and personality preference – no one will be put on the spot or made uncomfortable by these activities. Your own unique style will be validated and you'll be better positioned to deal with any "difficult" people in your life.

IFA members who are current, emerging and/or potential future leaders are encouraged to participate. Those who have an interest in getting more involved will find this to be an excellent way to learn more about the organization and get acquainted with its leaders and fellow members. Plans are to offer this workshop in the northern end of the state later this year, but the date and location has yet to be determined.

The Illinois Forestry Development Council provided a grant to underwrite many of the expenses for this workshop, making this a GREAT DEAL for the members who take advantage of the training. A nominal fee of \$10 per person will be charged to cover costs for lunch

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Illinois Forestry Association

A non-profit, tax-exempt organization under IRS 501(c)3

Timber Basis, Capital Gains, and Casualty Losses

By Deborah A. Gaddis and John E. Gunter



Timber basis is one of the most important tax records for private forest landowners. Basis is the book value of the investment in a capital asset such as timber. Basis is used to determine net profit on a timber sale and the value of a deduction in case of a loss. Many forest landowners do not know their basis and as a result pay more in income tax than is necessary.

Establishing Basis

Timber basis of a mature forest has two components—merchantable volume and value. A consulting forester can determine the volume and may assist in determining value, if necessary records are available. Basis should be established when a capital asset is acquired. When one acquires a capital asset such as timber, it carries with it an initial basis. The value of an initial basis varies according to how the property is acquired—whether by inheritance, purchase, gift, or investment.

For property acquired by inheritance, the basis is the fair market value of the asset at the death of the decedent. This is called a “stepped-up” basis, as the basis is stepped-up to fair market value. If the property is part of an estate that is large enough to require filing with the IRS, the value is listed on the estate tax form.

Property acquired by purchase has a “cost” basis. The total acquisition cost is determined by adding all the costs of acquiring the property—purchase price, attorney’s fees, filing fees, realtor fees, assessment fees, travel costs, etc. The total acquisition cost is then divided between the various assets which make up the total property—for example land, timber, and improvements—according to the proportion that each asset contributes to total fair market value of the property. Each individual asset retains that value as its cost basis.

Some individuals receive property as a gift—for example a relative may deed over a piece of property. Gifts valued at greater than the annual gift exclusion amount (currently \$13,000 per individual or \$26,000

per married couple) require that the donor file a gift tax form, if gifts are over the annual exclusion; and pay gift tax, if total gifts are greater than \$1,000,000 per individual. Gifts retain a “carryover” basis, in that the donor’s basis carries over to the new owner. If gift tax is paid by the donor, that increases the value of the basis. Of course, establishment of a gift’s basis requires the transmission of relevant basis records from donor to recipient.

Investment in a new forest can result in a basis, if the landowner capitalizes expenses. Landowners should, if at all possible, deduct current expenses rather than capitalize them, because of the time value of money. Even reforestation cost, a capital expense, may be deducted if the special rules are followed. When such expenses are capitalized, they are recovered far in the future, and reduce long term capital gains income rather than ordinary income. Since long term capital gains rates are lower than ordinary tax rates, the value of the deduction is less.

Not all timber has a basis. Timber which has grown naturally after the property was acquired, and where all expenses were deducted, has no basis. Planted timber, where all costs were recovered by the special reforestation provisions and where all expenses were deducted, has no basis. If the timber has been previously harvested and basis unused, then the basis is extinguished—the rule is use it or lose it.

It is important to remember that land basis is always separate from the timber basis. Land basis is recovered when all or part of the land is sold or property rights are disposed of—for example with the sale of a utility easement or the donation of a conservation easement. One cannot use land basis to offset timber sales proceeds or to claim loss deductions.

For small landowners, basis is updated or “adjusted” only when there is a taxable event. For example, an investor who claims the standard deduction rather than itemizes may capitalize forest management

expenses into the timber basis account annually. Timber basis volumes should be updated prior to a timber sale. When basis is used to offset timber income or take a casualty loss, the basis is depleted.

Retroactive Basis Determination

Landowners who have a basis in timber, but who have failed to establish the basis at time of acquisition may be able to establish it retroactively. Doing so requires the reconstruction of volume and value at the time of acquisition. Let’s look at an example to see how this works.

Betula White inherited 50 acres of timberland 10 years ago. Since she inherited the property, the initial basis would have been stepped up to fair market value at the time of inheritance. Betula deducted her only expense in owning the forestland, the property tax, each year, so her current basis value would be the same as the initial basis value. Her current basis volume is the initial volume plus the growth that has occurred since Betula acquired the property.

Betula hires a consulting forester for a reconstructive appraisal at a cost of \$500. The forester determines the current volume is 5,000 tons of sawtimber and that the timber has been growing at the rate of 2 tons/acre/year. Research shows a reasonable price for sawtimber in the area 10 years ago was \$25/ton and that similar land 10 years ago was valued at \$600/acre.

Using this information, the consulting forester figures Ms. White’s reconstructed timber basis as shown in Table 1. Her reconstructed land and timber basis is illustrated in Table 2. The consulting forester’s fee is not deductible as a management expense, but must be capitalized into the basis account. The initial Fair Market Value (FMV) is used to allocate the consultant’s appraisal fee between the land and timber accounts according to the percentage each asset contributes to total fair market value.

Table 1. Reconstructed Timber Basis

Account	Present Sawtimber Volume	Sawtimber Volume Growth	Original Sawtimber Volume	Sawtimber Basis
Timber	5,000 tons	2 tons x 50 acres x 10 years = 1,000 tons	5,000 – 1,000 = 4,000 tons	4,000 tons @ \$25/ton = \$100,000

Table 2. Reconstructed Land and Timber Basis

Account	Initial FMV (\$)	Initial FMV (%)	Appraisal Fee Allocation (\$)	Basis	
				Tons/Acres	(\$)
Timber	100,000	77	385	5,000 tons	100,385
Land	30,000	23	115	50 acres	30,115
Total Land & Timber Basis	130,000	100	500		130,500

Basis and Timber Sales

The value of knowing the timber basis is clear, once it is understood how it is used. Basis determines net profit on a timber sale by the following formula: Net taxable gain is equal to gross sales proceeds less basis depletion and less sales expenses.

When using the basis for a partial harvest, such as a selection harvest or marked sale, only the part of the basis attributable to that sale is used for the basis depletion. This requires that the basis be updated to

reflect total volumes before the sale. Once the total current volumes are determined, the total basis value is divided by the current volumes to determine a per-unit value called a depletion unit. This depletion unit is multiplied by the volumes removed to determine the amount of basis used to offset the current timber sale. This basis amount is called the depletion allowance. If a consulting forester is used to set up a timber sale, he may include basis determination as part of the timber sale services, if it is negotiated in advance. When basis determination is made as part of a timber sale operation, the basis

determination is included in the sales expenses rather than capitalized into the basis account.

Continuing with the Betula White example, we will assume that Ms White has decided to sell one-third of her sawtimber in a marked sale and that she has agreed to pay her forestry consultant 10 percent of sale proceeds to mark and administer the sale. Sealed bidding by the consultant results in a price of \$35/ton for the 1,650 tons in the sale. Calculations for the depletion allowance, gain on the sale, and capital gains tax payable are shown in Table 3.

Table 3. Timber Account of Betula White

Item	\$
Figuring the Depletion Allowance:	
Depletion Unit ($\$100,385 \div 5,000$ tons) = \$20.08/ton	
Depletion Allowance on 1,650 tons of timber sold ($\$20.08 \times 1,650$)	<u>\$33,132</u>
Proceeds from sale (1,650 tons @ \$35/ton)	\$57,750
Less:	
Depletion Allowance \$33,132	
Expenses 5,775	<u>-\$38,907</u>
Gain on Sale	\$18,843
Capital Gains Tax @ 15%	\$2,826
Adjusted Basis Carried Forward:	
5,000 tons less 1,650 tons removed = 3,350 tons	
\$100,385 less \$33,132 depletion = \$67,253	

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Timber Basis, Capital Gains, and Casualty Losses

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If Betula had not had her timber basis reconstructed and, thus, had not been able to claim a depletion allowance, her capital gains taxes would have been $.15(\$57,750 - \$5,775) = \$7,796$. Establishing a basis in her timber saved her \$4,970 in capital gains taxes on this sale alone. Similar tax savings will be available to her in subsequent sales, with the result that her \$500 investment in reconstructing her timber basis will continue to pay large dividends in taxes saved.

It is important to report timber sales income as a capital gain or loss. If the timber has been owned long enough (at least a year and a day) it is treated as a long term capital gain and is eligible for the lowest possible tax rates. Landowners should be sure to use IRS Form T: Forest Activities Schedule to claim depletion and calculate gain or loss on a timber sale. This form is available from the IRS web site at www.irs.gov.

Casualty Loss and Basis

Basis is also used to determine the amount claimed for a casualty loss, such as we experienced in Southern Illinois this winter with the ice storm. The amount of a casualty loss deduction is determined to be the lesser of the loss in fair market value or the basis in the timber. For landowners without a basis, this means there is no casualty loss deduction, regardless of physical loss. For landowners with a basis, this means their potential casualty loss deduction is limited by the total amount of basis. When determining casualty loss, there is no need

to determine a depletion unit or allowance. One simply compares the basis to the loss in fair market value and claims the lesser of the two.

Knowing and using one's basis can make a great deal of difference in the profit on a timber sale or the deductibility of losses. It can also be important in estate planning. A landowner who owns land as a family asset, may also want to make sure their heirs inherit property rather than receive it as a gift, in order to achieve a step-up in basis. This may not apply to landowners with large estates subject to the estate tax. This advice may also change, as the estate tax laws are expected to be revised in the next few years. Regardless of the size of one's estate, however, if there is a basis in the timber, a landowner would be wise to determine its value and use it to offset timber income and claim deductible losses.

Additional Information

Additional information on Timber Taxation is available from a variety of sources and run the gamut from the most basic to the highly sophisticated. For more information on timber basis, consult *The Basics of Basis*, available at www.msucares.com. Basic timber tax overviews are available from Mississippi State at www.msucares.com and from North Carolina State University at http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/nreos/forest/pdf/TaxRevision_06.pdf. The most comprehensive source of information on the subject is the National Timber Tax Web site: <http://www.timbertax.org/>.

Got Woodland?

Sign up for EQIP now! Is your application in order?

Kathy McTighe, NRCS State Agroforester

The Food Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Farm Bill) has been signed. Administrative rules for Farm Bill Programs are being finalized. USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) county Field Offices are taking applications for Farm Bill Programs – Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP), just a couple of the programs. We are anticipating a green light soon.

The 2008 Farm Bill allows USDA-NRCS to offer a payment for forest management plans through EQIP. A forest management plan is the first step in taking care of your woodland. USDA-NRCS will continue to offer a payment for Forest Management Implementation through EQIP.

Woodland owners who are interested in getting a forest management plan written or are ready to implement their forest management plan should contact their local USDA-NRCS Field Office for more information on eligibility criteria and how to apply.

RTA's Outreach to Hardwood Sawmills

Carol Sue Ray, Railway Tie Association

The year 2009 marks the Railway Tie Association's 90th year in business. More importantly, this year RTA is reaching out to all hardwood crosstie sawmills to make sure that these businesses, vital to our nation's transportation network, know just how hard RTA is working to maintain the health of railroad markets for ties. So, if you are not already an RTA member, and you're a sawmill that currently manufactures crossties (or even if you are simply interested in what railroad markets could mean to your business) please consider doing these three things:

1. Visit our new web site www.rta.org for a host of resources, statistics, market information, and other information about the wood crosstie market.
2. Call us at 770.460.5553, or write us at ties@rta.org, and let us tell you more about what RTA is doing in the marketplace. (When you call or write we'll send you a free gift and important industry literature.)
3. Let us help facilitate enrolling your company as a member so you can receive our bi-monthly magazine, **Crossties**, plus regular updates about our annual events such as the member-only Field Trip, the Tie Grading Seminar, and the Annual Conference to be held in Baltimore, MD in 2009 and Branson, MO in 2010. We can even show you how our current members may be able to sponsor your company at no cost to you for that membership for the remainder of 2009.

We look forward to hearing from you!!

The cultivation of trees
is the cultivation of the
good, the beautiful and
the ennobling in man.

- J. Sterling Morton

Unique Training Opportunity

Continued from page 5

and breaks, while the Council has covered the expenses for testing, materials, and meeting room fees.

An added bonus is that the Shawnee RC&D Forestry Committee's Annual Steak Fry will be held later in the evening on the 28th, for those who would like to stick around to take part in this 40+ year tradition. See the registration form for cost and more details.

Whether you want to be a better leader, parent, partner, employee, volunteer, church member, mentor, or student – knowing yourself and why other people “are the way they are” can unlock the potential to read, lead, serve, tolerate, and influence people

more effectively. This institute will create a cadre of members in IFA who will be able to use the dialog and framework of this workshop to plan activities and programs that appeal to and motivate IFA members from all walks of life. The main goal of the Institute program is to help our members have fun getting to know one another better and to build stronger bonds and working relationships among our diverse membership. If you can see your way clear to participate in the Dixon Springs program on May 28th, please take a few moments to pre-register for this valuable learning experience.

For more information, contact Stephanie Brown at sbrown63@shawneelink.net. Send fee and completed registration form to Stephanie at R.R. 2, Box 129A, Golconda, IL 62938, on or before May 8th. Forms can be submitted electronically, but fees should be mailed at least two weeks in advance, with checks made payable to Stephanie Brown, so that lunch can be arranged prior to the workshop. If you do not have an e-mail address, you will need to complete the assessment at a library or on another computer with internet access. Further instructions will be emailed to you upon receipt of the completed form.

Pre-Registration Form Illinois Forest Leaders Institute

May 28, 2009 – 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
University of Illinois Dixon Springs Agricultural Center

Name: _____ E-mail address: _____

Spouse/Partner/Guest: _____

Daytime phone: _____ Evening phone: _____

Mailing Address: _____

IFA member? yes no If no, you will receive materials to join prior to or during the course.

Have you received similar training in the past? yes no If yes, you are still encouraged to attend this course as a refresher and as a way to connect/contribute your knowledge to IFA.

Are you in need of DSAC lodging on May 27 or 28? yes no

Lodging can be paid on-site at DSAC, but make your reservation in advance at 618/695-2441

Workshop Registration Fee: \$10 per person X _____ persons = _____

Includes lunch and break

Steak Fry Registration*: Additional \$10 per person X _____ persons = _____

Total enclosed: _____

*Open to Institute participants and affiliates of the Shawnee RC&D program. Steak Fry includes cook-it-yourself 16 oz. T-bone steak and all of the trimmings. Steaks go on the grill at 6 p.m. Meal followed by short business meeting and guest speaker; program normally over by 8:45 p.m. Please mail fee(s) and completed form to Stephanie Brown, R.R. 2, Box 129A, Golconda, IL 62938.

Form can be emailed to sbrown63@shawneelink.net by May 8 deadline and check, made payable to Stephanie Brown, sent at least two weeks in advance to secure lunch and dinner for those staying for the Steak Fry. Questions? Call 618/949-3698.

Illinois Forestry Association
P.O. 224
Chatham, IL 62629-0224



IFA - To act on issues that impact rural and community forests and to promote forestry in Illinois
