



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

There's not much humor in the world today. It seems like we have too much rain, heat, government and too little time and money. However, on the lighter side, the purple EAB traps have been creating quite a stir. The Wayne County Press ran an article stating the traps were for catching rattlesnakes. The Fairfield radio station had more good theories as to their use. They are good for a laugh but EAB is a real serious threat to the industry and the landscape. Remember when EAB was confined to the northern areas? We need to work to help educate the community in regard to this pest.

I read an article on a study in Oregon concerning death of old timber growth. "While not noticeable to someone walking through the forest, the death rate is doubling every 17 to 20 years, according to a 52 year study. The trend was apparent in trees of all ages, species and locations. Scientists conclude the increasing rate is due to longer & hotter summers from a changing climate." The article went ahead and stated that temperature across the West of about 1 degree over the study period was the culprit. The USGS paid for the study, which examined data from 1955 to 2007 in 76 research plots in 5 western states and British Columbia. An Oregon State University professor stated it would "be wrong to definitively conclude that the rising tree mortality was caused by warmer temperatures." Global warming? Here is a government survey stating a 1 degree increase in temperature in 52 years. We should be concerned about our planet's health but, I do not think it is the doomsday issue many have propounded. Better and wiser use of the resources would definitely be a more important issue.

Speaking of warming, watch the climate in Washington as the group out there gets on the "Cap & Trade" bandwagon. I would suggest a call to the Federal legislators would be in order. Let them know your feelings and then hope for the best. A letter is also a time proven way to let them know of your interests.

I have attended several meeting in Springfield regarding carbon and carbon credits. These meetings have been planning sessions as to future legislation.

Mark your calendar today for the **Annual Meeting** to be held on **August 15th**. Look on page 7 in the newsletter for more information. If you would be interested in being a director, or officer, please give Kurt Bobsin [217 935 6860] or the David Gillespie a call.

If you have not paid your dues for 2009 yet – please consider doing so. Mail your payment to David Gillespie, 82 Cottonwood, Chatham, IL 62929. Also if you would like to make a donation to the association it would be very helpful. We are a 501(C)3 organization.

We have accomplished many things this year. Our Lobbying efforts have had a marked effect on legislation passed this year. The state legislature is not in session right now – so this would be a great time to stop into their office and talk with your representative and senator. Remember they are your voice in state government. You can't complain if you do not give some direction.

Continued on page 2

Calendar of Events 2009

Annual Meeting

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

October 2, 2009

Know & Manage Your
Woodlands - Chain-O-Lakes
State Park, Spring Grove, IL
60081 @ 8:30AM - \$20.00

President's Message, continued

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will see a schedule of meetings. You are encouraged to attend and support your association. We need your input as to what you would like to hear about. In June, Ms. Stephanie Brown conducted a wonderful conference on "Leadership" at Dixon Springs Agriculture Center. This is a facility of the University of Illinois and is a very important part of a strong university complex. When you talk with your legislators [in this bad budget environment] ask them to include DSAC as a line item in the State budget process to help keep this important and extremely valuable resource operating.

This same conference or workshop will be presented in upstate Illinois at a future time.

Our past president Mr. Ray Herman was very interested in IFA organizing on a local level. I concur with him and would like to hear from you as to your thoughts on IFA being more of a county to tri-county association. You may send me your thoughts, concerns, etc. at gates@gates-farms.com. Your input into your association is important. See you at the Annual meeting. We do have a lot of work to do and each one of us has a part in accomplishing the task. We can do it!

Ultimate field Guide for Outdoor Enthusiasts *Forest Trees of Illinois*

The *Forest Trees of Illinois* is a 340-page book resource for naturalists, landowners, weekend campers, hunters, students and natural resources professionals. It is a field guide for 150 native and introduced tree species found in Illinois.



The book contains detailed descriptions of each species, including information on growth form, bark, leaves, flowers, fruit, uses, habitat, and more. Each description is illustrated with photos and drawings of bark, leaves, twigs and fruit. *Forest Trees of Illinois* cost only \$10.00 and can be ordered online at: pubsplus.illinois.edu or call 1-800-345-6087.

Secretary's Report

Dave Gillespie, IFA Secretary

As of this date (June 30) the Illinois Forestry Association's paid membership for 2009 is 535 members. This is down from the almost 800 members we had at the end of 2008. However, the IFA Board of Directors is working hard to contact the delinquent 2008 members to encourage them to up-date their membership for 2009. We will also, once again, help the IDNR Division of Forest Resources contact their Illinois Forestry Development Act (FDA) cooperators in recertifying the FDA plans. That always brings new members.

I want to say a big thanks to those of you who responded to the e-mails I sent out asking you to contact your State Senator and Representative regarding the impending budget shortfall for the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), and in particular the Division of Forest Resources. Many of you replied back to me saying you had contacted your Legislators. I also received word that some Legislators contacted the IDNR to see what was needed to keep programs and activities going. As I said in the e-mails, our Legislators do react to contacts by their constituents. The more contacts that are made, the greater they perceive the problem or issue. So, keep up the contacts, both now regarding the budget for next fiscal, and after the legislative mess is finally over to let your Legislators know you are concerned about forestry in Illinois.

Please don't forget the upcoming IFA Annual Meeting. Mark it on your calendar – Saturday August 15. Our Region 1 people are hosting the meeting this year in Oregon, IL. I know they are working on a fine program for your information and enjoyment.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me.

Have you given consideration to what will happen to your timberlands when you die? A new technical publication from the USDA Forest Service entitled "Estate Planning for Forest Landowners: What Will Become of Your Timberland?" [General Technical Report SRS-12] is available.

Illinois Forestry Association

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

Legislative Report

Paula Purdue and Jenni Purdue

The legislature left Springfield without a budget for Illinois for 2010-2011. The House came passed a pension bonding bill that frees up 2.2 billion dollars to be used for human services. This bill was supported by Democrats and Republicans in the House. The House allowed the Capitol Bill and other budget bills to go to the Governor's desk. The House Black Caucus had a press conference asking the Speaker to allow a vote on the Senate approved tax increase bill. The House approved some clean-up bills to the budget. The Senate approved those clean up bills but did not pass the pension bonding bill in the late afternoon.

There was a second vote on the pension bonding bill at the end of Senate session and the bill got less votes. The Senate Republicans put on 4 votes on the first vote. The second vote had more Republican votes but more Senate Democrats removed their support. The Democrats who voted against the bill were not opposed to the bill but want a whole budget and were concerned that if this bill passed an adequate budget would not occur. Some of the Republicans voted for the bill so that they would not have to vote for a tax increase.

The Governor spoke to the House and Senate and stated that if he only got a partial budget, he would veto those bills and was prepared to work all summer to get a budget.

We expect the Governor will veto the budget bills that he has and we will be back in Springfield to continue to work on this year's budget.

Budget Cuts – Forestry Impacts

Kurt Bobsin, IFA Technical Advisor

As the state draws near the end of another fiscal year, things continue to look grim. The outlook, at the time of this writing, is dismal for the upcoming year. The projected budget shortfall and impact on general revenue funds (GRF) has the potential for dire consequences for the IL Department of Natural Resources and the Division of Forestry. The largest part of Forestry's budget goes towards salaries. This is typical for the agency. However, Forestry has historically been funded heavily out of GRF.

Reductions in appropriations and funding in GRF have greater direct consequences for Forestry than the other natural resource Divisions. Last month at the IL Outdoor Writers and Broadcasters meeting at Rend Lake, IDNR Director, Marc Miller, stated that the proposed 25% reduction in general revenue

support would have dire consequences. One of those could be the "shut down of the state Forestry Division and the tree nurseries".

The other fund Forestry relies on is the Forestry Development Fund (FDF). In addition to the 4% harvest fees that are deposited into the FDF, there are other revenue streams. The US Forest Service matches state expenditures to provide for forestry program development and delivery. Reductions and fund sweeps impair the Division of Forestry's ability to qualify for federal funding. IFA, in one of its original position statements <http://www.ilforestry.org/position/>, addressed the concerns relating to the transfer of funds from the FDF into general revenue for purposes other than what the fund is intended for. These kinds of actions continue to put the Division into a precarious situation as they are forced to support headcount from the FDF which is then subject to "sweeps".

What can you do? What have you done so far?

The effectiveness of this Association in things of this nature are truly dependent on the involvement of the membership.

Do your local legislators know who you are? Do they know you are a part of the IFA?

At the annual meeting last year, Rep. Chapin Rose [Mahomet] told us about the importance and impact your contact has with legislators. He indicated that if he hears from three people about an issue, he recognizes there is smoke. If he hears from ten people, there is a fire! Become informed on matters of the Association through website visits, reading the newsletter and contacting your Regional Directors.

http://www.ilforestry.org/pdfs/illinois_forestry_association_9_08.pdf

The plight of our state's foresters is going beyond the original issue of filling vacancies, another IFA issue and position statement. It is now becoming a matter of survival. Do your part, get involved. Make calls, write letters, visit your legislators when they are home and send emails. Let's make some fire over the coming months about the services you deserve as forest landowners!

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!

"If a tree falls in a forest and lands on a politician, even if you can't hear the tree or the screams, I'll bet you'd at least hear the applause"

Paul Tindale

Region 3 Report

Roy Bailey and Mike Medley, Region 3 Directors

The sagging economy is no news to anyone, so the slow wood market is not a surprise. Visits with several forestry professionals in Region 3 have yielded a common story. Prices and sales of raw wood and wood products are down big time. District Forester Shane McDearmon says prices for pallet species, and a few select species, are not as depressed as the overall market. Shane reports, "Most mills in the area are running really slow. One mill (a bigger one) has shut down for a couple of months." Shane added that mills with their own cutting crews are typically not buying logs from independent cutters. Shane and independent forester Tony Wagoner both say that they are discouraging woodland owners from sales. Excessive rainfall all spring has also hampered logging or left the woods full of skidder ruts.

The silver lining is the trees are growing well with the good moisture while we all sit and moan. Anyone able to get a seedling job planted decently early this spring has

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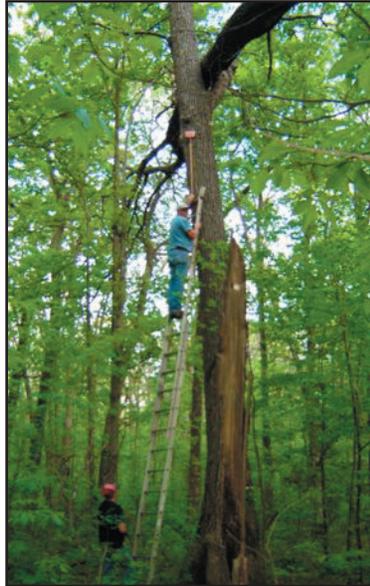
Red Oak Rocket

Woodland owner Bill Kreke, in southeastern Fayette Co. near Edgewood, has a tree story that is not likely to be topped. In May 2008, Bill went to the woods to look around after a thunderstorm.

"The only damage I found was to a pair of red oaks" Bill reports. The handsome 20 and 22 inch oaks had stood as a pair. The lower hollow trunk of the upwind tree split

during the storm. Bill found the fallen tree suspended horizontally over 25 feet above ground in a fork of the downwind red oak. Except for the split trunk, both trees were not broken or twisted.

Bill and neighboring woodland owner Ed York have shown this tree trick to lots of visitors. This spectacular lodge of oaks remains intact over a year after the storm.



Bill Kreke sizes up the red oaks from the ladder, steadied by son Bernie

Submitted by Bob Sloan

From Tall Timber Topics June/ July/ August 2007; Oregon State University Extension A newsletter for those interested in Forestry and Christmas Trees in Northwest Oregon

When You're So Old

by Robert Mealey

My friends quite often ask of me, why does an old man plant a tree? It grows so slow it will not pay, a profit for you anyway. Then why in storm and winter cold do you plant when you're so old?

The answer seems hard to define, when muscles ache and they are mine. But I just cannot stand to see, a space where there should be a tree. So that in part as years unfold, is why I plant when I'm so old.

I know that animals, bugs and things, love trees and so do such as go on wings. So creatures wild that benefit is one more reason I can't quit. From planting trees while I can hold, my planting hoe, though I'm so old.

They say that those retired from labor, should fish and play and talk to neighbor. They say also that folks in leisure, should do the things that give them pleasure. And so the thought on which I'm sold, I'll plant some trees though I'm so old.

As time goes on my trees will grow, so tall and clean and row on row. The furry fold will have a home, the birds can nest and kids can roam. And all of this as I have told, I planted trees though I'm so old.

And then there is my family, young folks who will follow me. I'd like to leave them with some land, stocked with trees and looking grand. These gifts I value more than gold, so I plant some trees though I'm so old.

And taxes too for schools and roads, with jobs and lumber for abodes, I won't see these things, I won't be here, but in my mind it's very clear. The words of some who could be polled, might think a man who is so old.

Man should be proud of what's his own, and how he's managed what he's grown. But management must be begun, by planting seedlings one by one. And so my pride I will uphold, I'll plant some trees though I'm so old.

So when my friends ask of me, why does an old man plant a tree? Perhaps the lines above explain, how aching back and limbs in pain, maybe commitment be controlled, to plant my trees though I'm so old.



Editor's Note: Robert Mealey passed away in April 2007 at the age of 94. Robert Mealey was the Oregon Small Woodlands President 1982-85.

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JUNE 5, 2009**

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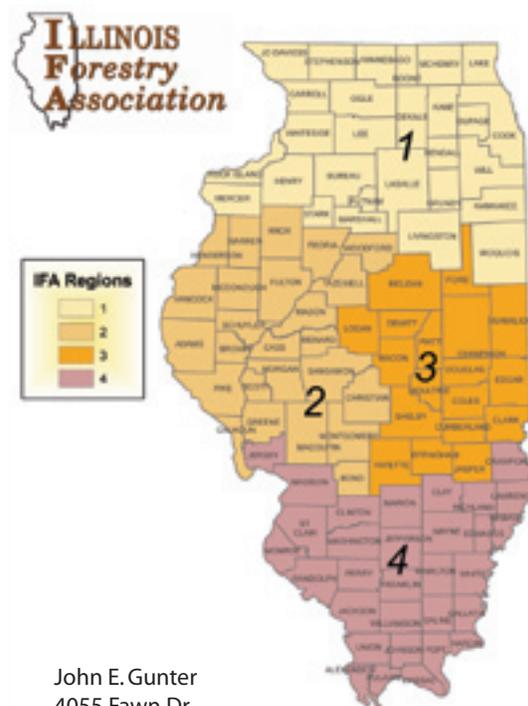
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Honeysuckle War

by Roy Bailey, Region 3 Director

So you have an ID on the invader and have declared war on shrub honeysuckle. As with most exotics, sooner is better than later to wage the battles. Most varieties of shrub honeysuckle are very aggressive, reproducing like proverbial rabbits. If you tend to procrastinate, the reproductive rate of honeysuckle will overwhelm your control methods. Japanese honeysuckle can also be a pesky exotic, but that's another subject.

A likely short term goal is to first attack the more mature shrubs that are producing an abundance of seed. These seed producers are the bigger dominant honeysuckle with stem diameters $\frac{3}{4}$ inch and up and heights of 3 ft. plus. These big critters are beyond foliar treatment, unless preferred tree seedlings are dormant. Foliar treatment alone is not very effective in any case with larger shrub honeysuckle. Cut and stump treatment is the most sure and safe control method for these big dudes. Basal bark can work for scattered plants, but you risk soil sterilization when honeysuckle is really thick and dominate. Follow stump treatment promptly with a foliar to get the smaller honeysuckle within the stand. The foliar can hit re-growth on the stumps you missed treating.

Honeysuckle less than 3 ft. tall can be controlled safely with foliar growth regulating herbicides like Crossbow with a surfactant. A backpack sprayer with a small even, flat fan spray nozzle works well to hit the target without wiping out the surrounding area. The success of foliar applications diminishes as we get into summer with slower growing conditions and thicker leaf skins. Foliar control works best before plants get into the reproductive growth stage. Honeysuckle will still be green and susceptible in the fall after frost puts preferred species into dormancy.

Fire can be helpful toward controlling honeysuckle if you have enough leaf and other fuel to carry a fire with decent heat. Fire can also help beat back other pests, like multiflora rose, which restrict access to honeysuckle.

Attacking multiple exotics jointly often works well. You can also combine some standard timber stand improvement, but with some limitations. Too many trees and

shrubs down at once can hinder follow-up work. Make notes of culling and thinning that must come later.

A brushcutter (circle saw on a weed whip) is preferred, but a small chainsaw will do for cutting honeysuckle. A larger, professional grade brushcutter is most practical, and will be kinder to your back than a chainsaw. Be a brave soul to start and a crusader to finish this exotic war.

Honeysuckle Extinction Tips

- Conduct a detailed inventory and set a strategy before starting the war.
- Give priority to wiping out the bigger seed producing shrubs.
- Consider stump cutting and treating of bigger shrubs in dense stands.
- Avoid stump treatment during heavy sap flow.
- A foliar herbicide follow-up 2.4 weeks after stump work can hit on re-growth of missed stumps and plants too small for cutting.
- Cut and treat other exotics and TSI weed trees as well.
- Dropping too many trees and shrubs at one time can complicate access for further work in the area.
- Count on fire to help control smaller honeysuckle plants. A controlled burn should be conducted early and with safety.
- Use basal bark herbicide treatments for thinner stands of large shrubs...
- Be careful to not damage preferred seedling species, especially when applying foliar herbicides.
- Foliar materials work well when preferred species are dormant and the target species is growing well. Many exotics start spring growth early and have fall growth later than oaks and other crop species.
- Consider a pro series larger circle saw on a stick for cutting a wide range of medium to small shrubs.
- Do not delay your work or the continuing growth will exceed your progress.

Illinois Forest Resource Center Dixon Springs Agricultural Center

Position Statement excerpts

The Illinois Forestry Association (IFA) strongly recommends that the University of Illinois provide permanent full-time staff and funding for the operation of the Illinois Forest Resource Center (IFRC).

Contemporaneously, the Dixon Springs Agricultural Center Advisory Committee should also appoint a task group to develop a work plan for the IFRC. This plan should evaluate existing and historical programs; assess the regional and statewide needs for Extension forestry education, outreach and applied research; set objectives and prioritize initiatives to meet specified goals.

In order to continue and enhance the mission of the Illinois Forest Resource Center, the Illinois Forestry Association strongly encourages the University of Illinois to begin this effort by hiring a permanent director and an extension forestry specialist (with PhD credentials strongly encouraged) at IFRC along with essential support staff.

For the full text, go to: <http://www.ifa.org>

Region 3 continued

seen their crop get off to a super start. Woodlands with TSI completed in the last few years are gaining lots of volume this spring.

Woodland owners, who are grain farmers, have not been in the mood to talk IFA membership or anything beyond weather woes for the past few months. With crop planting completed, or fields abandoned for the year (particularly in the south part of the Region), it is a good time to be encouraging IFA membership and participation.

Take the time to contact your legislators about State budgeting, especially regarding funding for the IL Dept of Natural Resources and Soil and Water Conservation Districts. These conservation programs have already been severely cut many times.

Agenda
Illinois Forestry Association - 4th Annual Meeting
August 15, 2009

Oregon Country Club
Oregon, IL

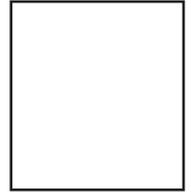
Moderator: Dan Schmoker, Vice President

8:30 am	Registration - Coffee & Donuts	
9:00 am	Welcome and Remarks * Introduction of Partners * Awards	J.B. Gates, President (IDNR; IAA)
9:30 am	Business Meeting * 2008 annual meeting minutes * Financial report - 2010 budget * Lobbyist report * Director election results * Regional highlights	Dave Gillespie Bob Sloan Paula & Jenni Purdue Kurt Bobsin Region Directors
11:15 am	Hazard Trees/Storm Damage	Mark Duntemann Natural Path Forestry Consultants
Noon	Lunch	
1:00 pm	Legislator introductions/comments	Rep. Jerry Mitchell Sen. Tim Bivens
1:30 pm	Keep the Forest in the Family	Lisa Haderlein, Exec. Director Land Conservancy of McHenry Co
2:15 pm	Selling & Marketing Illinois	TimberLeroy Poignant, Owner IL Timber & Export Co.
2:45 pm	Closing Remarks	Door Prizes Adjourn

"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

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