



The Voice for Illinois Forests

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

IFA Officers

President

J. B. Gates
rjbgate@hamiltoncom.net

Vice President

Dan Schmoker
schmoker3@aol.com

Secretary

Dave Gillespie
dandgisp@aol.com

Treasurer

Dick Little
dlittle@mwii.net

Immediate Past President

Ray Herman
brherman154@gmail.com

Inside this Issue

President's Remarks	1
Secretary's Report	1
Calendar of Events	2
IFA Loses a Leader	2
Bob Sloan Memorial Fund	3
Past President Perspective	3
Region Reports	4
Annual Meeting Update	4
Meet your new Board	5
What is my Timber Worth?	6
Chain Saw Courses	7
GRIT's Selections	7

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 will be no President's Message in this issue of the IFA Newsletter. President J. B. Gates is recovering from recent surgery. While he is doing well in his recovery, he is not up to sitting in front of his computer just yet.

He does express his thanks to all those who have sent cards, made calls of inquiry, and said prayers for the successful surgery and his recovery. Of course we will continue to express our concern and thanks for J. B.'s speedy recovery and continue to keep him in our prayers.

Secretary's Report

Dave Gillespie, IFA Secretary

Membership in the Illinois Forestry Association (IFA) has grown steadily this year to 685 members. One of the main reasons for this steady growth is our project to assist the Division of Forest Resources (DFR) of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) with their responsibility to contact forest landowners with Illinois Forestry Development Act (IFDA) management plans to certify they are following those plans.

In recent years, the IDNR has taken heavy budget cuts. The DFR has suffered greatly as a result of those budget cuts, plus the retirement of many employees within that Division. For example, in the year 2000, the Springfield office of the State Forester consisted of the State Forester, three Section Managers, five staff foresters, one bookkeeper, and four secretaries. Today, the State Forester's office consists of the State Forester, three staff foresters, and one secretary.

A provision in the IFDA requires the DFR contact every forest landowner with an approved forest management plan every 2 years to certify they are following their management plan. In the year 2000, it was relatively easy with the staff that worked in the State Forester's office, to contact these forest landowners with the certification notice. However, with the limited staff today, that job is next to impossible.

That is why the IFA offered to assist the DFR by stuffing the 10,000 – 12,000 envelopes to IFDA forest landowners with their certification form to be returned to the DFR District Forester. Along with the certification form, the IFA is able to put into every envelope a letter from J. B. Gates, our IFA President, discussing the purpose and mission of the IFA, its accomplishments, and its goals for the future. On the back of the IFA letter is an IFA membership form.

So far, with the help of the Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts and IFA volunteers, we have stuffed approximately 2,000 envelopes to IFDA landowners. I wish I could say we have 2,000 new members, but sadly I cannot. However, the ratio of letters sent to new members to IFA received is very good, and justifies the time spent stuffing the envelopes.

It's now time to renew your dues for 2010. Much has been accomplished in 2009. Next year promises to be even better. Be a part of that success and fill out your renewal form, write your check, and send it now. Thanks for "being the voice of forestry in Illinois."

Calendar of Events 2009-10

December 30

Board Meeting
Springfield

January 15-16

Board Retreat -
Long Range Planning
Location TBA

March 12-13

Chain Saw Course
Crawford County
Ray Herman 217-377-7568

March 30-31

Chain Saw Course
Crawford County
Ray Herman 217-377-7568

March 9-10

Chain Saw Course
Mercer or Knox County
John Torbert 309-377-0879

April 2-3

Chain Saw Course
Mercer or Knox County
John Torbert 309-377-0879

Legislative Report

by Paula Purdue and Jenni Purdue

Veto Override Session is completed for this year. We have no new revenues and there were no changes made in the lobbyist fees - we are still working on this change. The Secretary of State had agreed to changes in requirements of lobbyists for reporting – those changes were also not made. We thought there was an agreement of the leaders to make the changes before the veto session occurred but that agreement did not hold true. You need to be prepared to spend \$1,000 instead of \$350.00 to register as an entity to lobby next year. The next scheduled session days are Jan. 12-15, 2010, after that week they are not in session until after the primary election which is Feb. 2, 2010. The schedules for House and Senate session are posted on the Illinois General Assembly web site at <http://www.ilga.gov>.

We have four legislators who are interested to serve on the Forestry Development Council: Sen. Deanna Demuzio (D), Sen. Dale Righter (R), Rep. Naomi Jakobsson (D) and Rep. Jerry Mitchell (R). The IFA Legislative Committee has collected names of landowners who would also like to serve. The letter with these names will be given to the Governor's office.

Dave Gillespie and I have met several times with Mike Mason at IDNR to build a stronger relationship as we move forward through the next session.

Our thanks to your legislative committee who has worked to increase the political clout of IFA members and a special thank-you to Dave Gillespie, legislative chair, who is only a phone call away to assist us at any time.

Few lobbyists believe that we will have an income tax increase before the general election in 2010. If that is true, next year's budget will be worse than this year's. I hope that we are all wrong and an income tax increase is passed. If and when an income tax increase is passed, there will still need to be cuts because we are currently over 12 billion dollars in the hole. Normally, when a tax increase occurs, the legislature is able to give more dollars to all of the agencies which makes the pain of voting for a tax increase by a legislator easier to bare. I don't know how the budget can handle that change this time.

There are many folks running for Governor and other statewide offices. As mentioned above, the primary election is on Tuesday, Feb. 2nd. IFA members who want to share their concerns and interest in trees should have those conversations before the 2nd.

IFA LOSES A LEADER

Bob Sloan was taken from us on August 17, 2009. His death came rather quickly after a fall just before the IFA annual meeting in mid-August.

Bob was well known around the state for his total commitment to promoting forestry throughout Illinois. He was a major promoter and spokesperson for the Illinois Forestry Association since it's beginning. Many of you are members because of his direct or indirect involvement. He was not just an activist for forestry. He was an ardent promoter and exuded his love for trees. He was an IFA charter member, our first treasurer, and lastly, a director in IFA's Region One. He was a "stand up – take action" man. He continues to be greatly missed, but will not be forgotten. IFA's board hopes to establish a memorial in his honor.

The following are excerpts of Bob from his obituary.....

Robert (Bob) Sloan passed away last August leaving many friends in the IFA family. He was retired from the Komatsu America Corp (30+ years) and farmed for 42 years. Sloan served in the U.S. Army Air Corps in Alaska during World War II and wore many hats during his life. Up until his death, Sloan was active on boards of various organizations including the Marshall-Putnam Soil and Water Conservation District, the American Tree Farm System, the Illinois Walnut Council, Iowa Trees Forever, the Sun Foundation and the Illinois Forestry Association. He was acknowledged as "a caring and giving person who went out of his way to help others."



Illinois Forestry Association

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

IFA Legislative Committee Report

by Kurt Bobsin

Following the successful passage of SB1413, the Committee, in concert with the

IL Arborist Association, has been working to develop a list of recommended candidates to fill vacant positions on the IL Forestry Development Council [IFDC]. This includes four representatives from the General Assembly, four landowner positions and one individual to represent the interests of urban forestry. The recommendations have been sent to Governor Quinn's office for consideration and confirmation. IFA now has a seat on the Council and is excited about the prospects of a renewed energy and commitment in meeting the mission of the IFDC.

In other Committee action, efforts are underway to develop a campaign to contact key legislators for the purpose of advancing the issues of the Illinois Forestry Association. Personal contact with your local legislators is essential in developing relationships with them, creating awareness of the problems that exist in the forestry community and prompting these legislators in to action. Fact sheets and talking points will soon be completed that can be used to make these contacts and open a dialogue with your legislators. Watch your email, check the legislative issues page of the website and talk to your Regional Directors for more information. **YOU** can make a difference!

Bob Sloan Memorial Fund

We were all deeply saddened with the recent death of Bob Sloan, our friend, IFA Treasurer and Region 1 Director, and tireless worker for forestry in Illinois.

At the last Board of Directors meeting, the Board voted to establish a scholarship fund in Bob's name for scholarships to be given at our State's forestry schools.

Donations to the Bob Sloan Memorial Scholarship Fund can be made by sending your check, made payable to IFA and "Bob Sloan Memorial Fund" written on the memo line of the check, to:

Illinois Forestry Association
P.O. Box 224
Chatham, IL 62629

You will also have an opportunity to donate to Bob's Scholarship Fund on your IFA dues renewal form for 2010.

The IFA is a 501 (c) (3) organization. Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.

PAST PRESIDENT'S Perspective

by Ray Herman

There is an old adage that I often subscribe to in times like we are now experiencing. It goes something like this..."When the going gets tough, the tough get going!" Well, times are tough --- economics poor, the weather has been a disaster for months, and our political leaders cannot pull together to work on a viable budget solution again! The current verbage in Springfield suggests a 50 percent across the board cut in the budget to help reduce the estimated \$12 billion deficit that currently exists. It is a bleak statement for the IDNR Forestry Division, which has already experienced nearly a 50 percent decrease in field staff in the last several years. Such a cut would practically eliminate the Forestry Division. IFA members need to take actions to retain the few district foresters that we now have! If you have not already called your representative, your senator, the governor, and the IDNR Director, now is the time to voice your personal concerns and views. Be firm, be tough, or be sorry you weren't!

On a separate note, I was invited to participate in the Chicago Nature Museum's "Festival of Trees" event on June 13th. I took a cross-section of tree seeds and recently sprouted seedlings to hand out as families came by. My wife and grandson helped me at the booth, and also demonstrated the "Bag-A-Nut" machine that I use to collect seeds. The Nature Museum is located just north of the Lincoln Park Zoo, and would be a great stop for you and children from ages 4 to 12, if you are in that area of Chicago.

Another item that needs your immediate attention is payment of dues. IFA membership has slipped by nearly 300! Please send Dave Gillespie your \$25.00 dues if you have not received your 2009 membership card.

A few other requests I wish to emphasize.

Folks, we as IFA members are not going to improve the plight of the forestry resource by staying quiet any longer. You have just got to let our Springfield leaders in government and IDNR know how you feel. Do it, please! NOW!!

In addition, I have recently been approached by Mayor Daley's staff to help them get 13,000 seedlings as part of Chicago's public school education and environmental "Adopt A Tree" program. This might be something you could promote in your area school system this year around Arbor Day.

Please remember to get next year's dues paid. Hopefully, you will catch up or catch back on, as the case may be.

**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!**

There is always Music amongst the trees in the Garden, but our hearts must be very quiet to hear it.

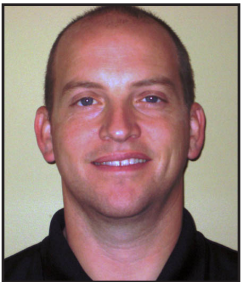
~Minnie Aumonier

Region 2 Report

Susan Romano and Lee Rife, IFA Region 2 Directors

IFA Region 2 members met at the western edge of the region in historic Nauvoo, Illinois. Our speaker, Mark Duntemann, is the owner of Natural Path Forestry, implementing progressive urban forestry programs for a variety of community sizes. His company provides services that promote the proactive management of urban vegetation. Duntemann graciously hosted our meeting discussing topics in Urban Forestry. Approximately 20 members and guests attended the meeting, including a group of students from Western Illinois University-Quad Cities. Topics covered were Tree Risk Management & The Applied Use of a Tree Inventory.

New NRCS Agroforester



Wade Conn, formerly the Illinois Forest Stewardship Program Manager for the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, has joined USDA Natural Resources Conservation

Service as the State Agroforester beginning November 22. Wade replaces Kathy McTlighe, who left recently to take a USFS position in Minnesota. Prior to IL DNR, Wade was employed as a Resource Forester with the Missouri Department of Conservation from 1999 to 2006 where he worked primarily out of Hannibal, Missouri.

Wade is an Illinois native who earned his Forestry Technology Degree from Southeastern Illinois College in Harrisburg, and his BS in Forestry from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale. Wade has been a long time resident of Le Roy, Illinois where he now resides along with his wife, Erin who is also from Le Roy. They have two boys, Noah and Porter. Wade hopes to bring a high level of forestry technical expertise to NRCS programs and help strengthen the cooperation between NRCS and the IDNR through his experience and relationship with each. Welcome aboard Wade!

IFA's Annual Meeting

President J. B. Gates opened the 4th IFA Annual Meeting held in Oregon, IL on August 15, 2009. J. B. welcomed everyone and expressed his appreciation to those present for attending the meeting. Approximately 55 IFA members attended.

- Vice-President Dan Schmoker introduced Jerry Misek from the Northwest Illinois Forestry Association who welcomed the IFA to Northwest Illinois.

- The IFA Business Meeting followed, with J. B. announcing the results of the election. Lee Rife, Mike Medley, and John Gunter

Region 4 Report

John Gunter and Joe Newcomb, IFA Region 4 Directors

Shade Tree and Timber Casualty Loss Workshop

Two workshops were offered to help landowners, their consultants and tax preparers sort out the IRS rules and documentation needed to claim tax deductions on possible casualty losses for tree damages.

Participants attended the Shade Tree Loss Workshop and/or the Timber Loss Workshop offered at two locations that were among the hardest hit areas by major storms. The program was split into two separate 1.5 hour sessions so people could choose to attend one or both, depending on whether losses were primarily shade trees around a house, or damaged trees in the woods.

The workshops were free and open to the public and sponsored by the IDNR Division of Forest Resources, the Shawnee Resource Conservation and Development Area, Inc., the Illinois Forestry Association, John A. Logan College, and the Baymont Inn & Suites in Metropolis.

!!!NEW DIRECTOR NEEDED!!!

Mark Dunteman, Region 1 Director, and Paul Deizman, Director at Large for Regions 1 & 2, need your help. There is a director vacancy in northern Illinois. Bob Sloan's passing left large shoes to fill, but someone is out there who needs to keep the footprints going. Please call Mark and/or Paul to express your interest. Please become active for your organization. Telephone numbers for Mark and Paul are elsewhere in the newsletter.

were elected Regional Directors and will serve 2 years on the IFA Board of Directors. Dick Little agreed to serve as Treasurer for the remainder of the year. The Board approved his appointment.

- Paula Purdue, IFA lobbyist, reported on the status of the state's budget, which continues to suffer. She highlighted the passage and signing of SB 1413 by the Governor. This is the bill sponsored by the IFA that reauthorized the Illinois Forestry Development Council and made important changes to the Illinois Forestry Development Act.

- State Representative Frank Mautino spoke to the group regarding the State's budget. He too said the budget is in bad shape. The National economy drives the State's economy. He said the State took in 25% less revenue than expected. He went on to explain what had occurred in the relationship between the House, the Senate, and the Governor as it related to the passage of the budget. Many IFA members commented after the meeting that Representative Mautino's explanation of the budget, and the relationship between our branches of government and the budget was very informative and easy to understand.

- State Representative Jerry Mitchell spoke to the group about his efforts to reestablish good forest management on IDNR lands, particularly State Forests. In the past, the IDNR intensively managed the State Forests as examples of good forest management. This included the sale of forest products from these sites. He said that not only is a timber harvest needed on these forests to improve the health of the forest, the sale of the trees will help supplement declining revenues to the IDNR.

- Lisa Haderlein, Executive Director of the Land Conservancy of McHenry County, discussed the advantages of working with local land conservancy agencies to help protect privately held forest land by the use of conservation easements.

- Leroy Poignant, a local logger and sawmill owner discussed the marketing of Illinois forest products in today's economy.
- A wonderful lunch was served. Some IFA members stayed overnight in Oregon and enjoyed a dinner cruise on the Rock River that evening.

A good time was had by all. The meeting was quite informative and we look forward to next year's Annual Meeting which will be held in the central part of Illinois.

ILLINOIS FORESTRY ASSOCIATION OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

President

J. B. Gates
P.O. Box 289
Enfield, IL 62835
618-963-2306 – Home
618-384-9888 – Cell
rjbgate@hamiltoncom.net

Vice President

Dan Schmoker
#5 Greencastle Circle
Springfield, IL 62712
217-529-0061 – Home
217-416-1587 – Cell
scmoker3@aol.com

Secretary

David Gillespie
82 Cottonwood
Chatham, IL 62629
217-483-2711 – Home
217-494-6982 – Cell
dandgisp@aol.com

Treasurer

Dick Little
5408 Deer View Ln.
Pleasant Plains, IL 62677
217-546-1847 – Home
217-341-9946 – Cell
dlittle@mwii.net

Immediate Past President

Ray Herman
154 Lake Road
Seymour, IL 61875
217-687-2712 – Home
217-377-7568 – Cell
brherman154@gmail.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Region 1

Dick Little (1 year)
5408 Deer View Ln.
Pleasant Plains, IL 62677
217-546-1847 – Home
217-341-9946 – cell
dlittle@mwii.net

Region 2

Lee Rife (1 year)
124 Basswood Road
Springfield, IL 62712
217-529-9498 – Home
217-562-2634 – Cell
rife@springnet1.com

Region 3

Mike Medley (1 year)
R.R. 3, Box 133C
Pana, IL 62557
217-539-4266 – Home
217-823-1995 – Cell
trappermm54@hotmail.com

Region 4

John Gunter (2 year)
4055 Fawn Dr.
Marion, IL 62959
618-964-1892 – Home
618-751-0541 – Cell
jegunter40@verizon.net

Mark Duntemann (2 year)
5455 S. Ingleside Ave. # 1E
Chicago, IL 60615
773-699-7284 – Home
natpath@earthlink.net

Susan Romano (2 year)
22760 N. 1300 Rd.
Macomb, IL 61455
309-769-5475 – Home
309-333-1568 – Cell
s-romano2@wiu.edu

Roy Bailey (2 year)
8479 E. 250th Ave.
Mason, IL 62443
618-238-4863 – Home
217-343-3574 – Cell
baileytrees@frontiernet.net

Joe Newcomb (2 year)
585 County Rd. 1050E
Norris City, IL 62869
618-265-3286 – Home
618-599-5067 – Cell
newcomb.joe@gmail.com

Director at Large

Paul Deizman
10410 Shabbona Grove Rd.
Waterman, IL 60556
815-264-9051 – Home
815-509-8367 – Cell
christmastreeforest@yahoo.com

Director at Large

Stan Sipp
211 E. Illinois, Box 111
Mansfield, IL 61854
217-489-9003 – Home
217-714-1855 – Cell
sklipp@uiuc.edu

STAFF

Stacy Stremsterfer and/or Sherry Finn
IL Assoc. of SWCD's
4285 N. Walnut Street Rd
Springfield, IL 62707
217-744-3414 – Office
stacy.stremsterfer@aiswcd.org
sherry.finn@aiswcd.org

Paula Purdue and Jenni Purdue
Legislative and Political Consultant
217 E. Monroe Street, Suite 204
Springfield, IL 62701
217-525-8434 - Office
217-299-1981 - Cell
paula@youradvocates.net
jenni@youradvocates.net

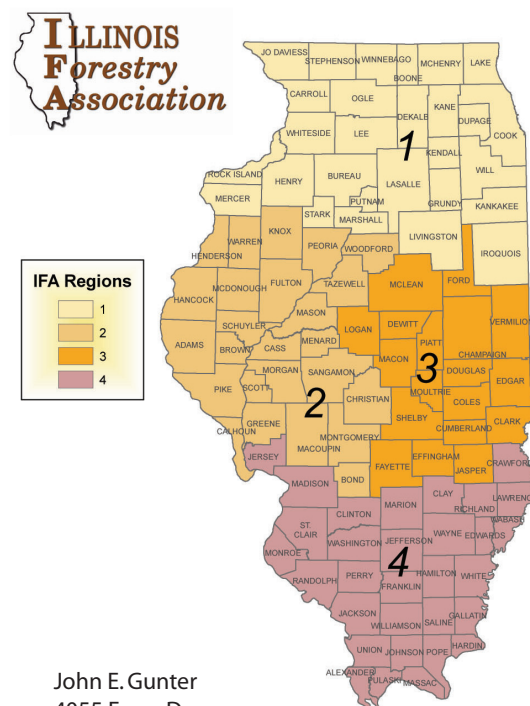
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Kurt Bobsin, Regional Forester
IDNR – Forestry Regions III-IV
1556 State Route 54
Clinton, IL 61727
217-935-6860 – Office
217-840-1527 – Cell
kurt.bobsin@illinois.gov

Jay Hayek
W521 Turner Hall (MC-047)
1102 S. Goodwin Ave.
Urbana, IL 61801
217-244-0534 – Office
jhayek@uiuc.edu

Wade Conn
USDA-NRCS
State Agroforester
2118 W. Park Court
Champaign, IL 61821
217-353-6647 – Office
217-353-6678 – Fax
Wade.Conn@il.usda.gov

John E. Gunter
4055 Fawn Dr.
Marion, IL 62959
618-694-1892 - Home
jegunter40@verizon.net



Excerpts from “What is My Timber Worth? It Depends”

Authors: Dr. Deborah A. Gaddis, Associate Extension Forester, Mississippi State University; Dr. John E. Gunter, Professor & Dean Emeritus, Mississippi State University and Director Region 4, Illinois Forestry Association; and Dr. James E. Henderson, Assistant Extension Forester, Mississippi State University

Determining a value for standing timber is a difficult task. Timber values vary according to many factors. Some factors are biological—the tree species, size, form, health, or quality. Some factors relate to quantity—the total volume, volume in each product class, and range of sizes. Some factors are logistical—access to public roads, road conditions, weight restrictions, the distribution of timber on the total area and logging conditions. Some factors are legal—quality of title in the timber and logging contract provisions. Finally, and most importantly, there are economic factors—general market conditions, wood supply at local mills, and demand for an individual mill’s products.

Biological Factors

Different trees have different economic values. Species is one factor that influences the value of timber. Different species of trees have different uses. Pine timber is used to make certain kinds of paper and pulp, lumber, fence posts, poles and pilings. Most poor quality hardwood, e.g. Pin Oak, is used to make pallets and mine timbers. Some hardwood is used to make railroad ties or boards for temporary oil field roads. Larger hardwood trees with good straight boles (trunks) may be used for lumber, furniture, and flooring. The best white oak, red oak and walnut trees often yield highly valued veneer. Certain species are used for special products, such as ash for baseball bats or dogwood for weaving loom shuttles.

Quantitative Factors

The total volume of timber available for sale affects its per unit value as well as total value. Very small concentrations of timber have higher logging costs so the buyer will assign less value to the timber. If there is only a small amount of sawtimber on a tract, then the timber buyer may decide to value all the timber as pulpwood or pallet stock, since it would be economically unfeasible to separate it and haul it to an appropriate mill. Size ranges affect price as well. If most of the timber is very small, it may be difficult to find a buyer. If there is a range of

sizes, sometimes smaller timber can be sold with the larger timber, depending on mill specifications and the ability of the logger to merchandize or separate the timber and sell different loads to different mills.

Logistical Factors

A timber tract’s attractiveness to buyers is heavily influenced by logistical factors. Access to public roads, road conditions, and weight restrictions all influence the price a timber buyer is willing to pay. If the timber does not have access to a public road, the buyer may have to pay a neighboring landowner for access or even be unable to obtain a way out of the tract. Some counties restrict logging on certain roads or require the logger to post a bond to use the road. Fully loaded trucks may be prohibited from using certain bridges and may incur additional hauling costs due to road restrictions. Of course, the hauling costs to the various mills which take the products vary according to the distance from the mill. A tract two miles from the mill may be very attractive to the timber buyer while an identical tract 100 miles from the mill may not even rate consideration due to the high hauling costs.



Legal Factors

A very important consideration is the quality of the title of the timber. If the title to the property is clouded, a reputable timber buyer will be very reluctant to purchase the timber and take the chance that the timber purchase will end up in court. A tract owned by multiple owners may also be less salable if it will be difficult and/or expensive to get all the owners to agree to sell and sign contracts.

Economic Factors

Timber supply and demand in the marketplace are the primary factors responsible for timber prices. This is true for the general economic conditions as well as the individual economic condition of each mill. When the housing market is good, pine sawtimber prices tend to be higher to meet the demand for building materials to construct homes. High quality hardwood sawtimber tends to also be in demand in the same market, as homeowners are

purchasing wood flooring and furniture for the new home. When the housing market declines, timber prices fall for both pine and hardwood sawtimber.

Competition

Competition between timber buyers is certainly one of the most important factors in determining timber values. This is one reason that landowners are advised not to take the first offer for their timber. Often, an unsolicited timber bid is less than the price than can be obtained by having several timber buyers compete for the timber. Occasionally a timber tract is so poor that it is difficult to obtain even one buyer and impossible to obtain more than one. This is a rare situation, however, and a landowner should obtain professional advice from a forester before accepting an unsolicited offer. The forester should be a neutral third party with no vested interest in acquiring the timber.

The Last Word

Timber, especially high grade hardwood, may be a very valuable asset. The value of that asset can vary widely as we have explained. Landowners need to be careful in selling timber in order to obtain the best return possible. A wise landowner will work with a consulting forester to get the best price as well as to maintain a vigorous, healthy forest for current and future conditions.

News of Note

by Ray Herman

Two key resource promotions being discussed that may promote the forest resource of Illinois, if enacted, are: a statewide CREP program and a component of the National Climate bill.

According to a column in the August 19 USA TODAY, an EPA analysis of a climate bill passed by the House of Representatives showed about 18M acres of trees would be planted in the U.S. by 2020. The Corn Belt is mentioned as one of three key areas.

CREP has been an opportunity only throughout the Illinois River Valley in the past. This program combines dollars from both state and federal programs to provide landowners additional incentives to plant trees.

Keep your eyes and ears open to these potentially important tree planting program opportunities.

Announcing Chain Saw Course

by Ray Herman

Two chain saw courses are set for next spring co-sponsored by Walnut Council and IFA. These courses are taught by professional logger Joe Glenn at two locations. The courses will cover all aspects of safe and proper use of chainsaws as well as maintenance. Several members have participated in this course and tout its benefit to them as "the most practical, well taught, eye-opening course available." You will perform and be graded. Enrollment will be held for the first 12 persons to send \$100.00 to hold a spot.

One course is slated to be held in Crawford County on March 12/13 and March 30/31. Contact Ray Herman at (217)377-7568 if interested in it. The other course will be held in either Mercer or Knox County. The dates for this course are **March _____ and April _____**. Contact John Torbert at (309) 337-0879 to reserve a spot at this training location.

If you use a saw at all, you should invest the time and dollars to learn the safest techniques and experience first hand the "how-to's". The classes consist of four full days of hands-on training. Each day has 2-4 hours of classroom teaching with the rest of the day spent in the woods.

GRIT's Selections

Three IFA board members selected to be on Illinois Farm Bureau's Grass Roots Issue Teams, or known as GRITs. John Gunter was chosen for the Conservation and Natural Resources team. Stan Sipp and Ray Herman were selected to the Specialty Crops and Labor team.




GRITs help in the policy development process within Illinois Farm Bureau. Gunter, Herman and Sipp's work will begin December 18. Team members are expected to identify emerging policy issues and business or educational opportunities/ programs to help increase members' farm income, to determine how issues discussed fit into current policy, to draft policy submittals to change or create new policy, to refer policy submittals to the IFB Resolutions Committee for consideration, and to refer any opportunity/program recommendations to the IFB Board for consideration.

Conservation Congress

By Ray Herman

The Conservation Congress of 2009 completed discussions in Springfield on October 24 and 25. These sessions climaxed months of public meetings and email opportunities and set the stage for, hopefully, significant changes within IDNR. I hope some of you took an opportunity to "voice" your thoughts or were there.

IDNR's administration leaders, Mark Miller, Director, and John Rogner, Deputy Director, appealed to the group to be pro-active and interactive while addressing the three key areas facing IDNR:

-  Natural Resources Funding
-  Public Access
-  Youth Retention

Small group break-outs were held for open discussions to identify recommendations. Priorities were set by approximately 200 persons participating in the voting.

For "Funding", the two main recommendations were:

- (1) Develop a master plan that outlines needs and how to pay for them.
- (2) Pass SB-1846 to increase certain hunting, fishing and other fees, with guarantees that fees are used only for purposes intended.

For "Public Access", the two highest priorities were:

- (1) Legislation to restore liability protection for all recreational land uses allowed by private landowners.
- (2) Develop a new program through establishment of a dedicated funding source to explore new methods of accessing private land, including incentives.

For "Youth Retention", the two top priorities were:

- (1) Adopt the Environmental Literacy Plan.
- (2) Develop with partnering organization's mentoring programs for youth.

Much more on the Congress can be reviewed by accessing the IDNR's website at <http://dnr.state.il.us/>

IDNR promised that partnering and internal openness would be priorities for the whole staff on a continuing basis. The director expressed a genuine willingness to listen to any and all comments.

I had a chance to personally visit about IFA's major issues and efforts. At one point, the director pointedly said, "We intend to hire some foresters." The door is open for IFA members to call, write or email IDNR staff. I urge you to do this!

Information Reporting for Lump-Sum Timber Sales

Jay Hayek, IFA Technical Advisor

The IRS will now require collection of lump-sum timber sale transaction information. In its newly released regulation (Treasury Decision or T.D.9450) in the federal register, May 29, 2009, lump-sum sales or exchanges of standing timber must be reported on Form 1099-S, Proceeds from Real Estate Transactions, effective for sales after May 28, 2009. A timber seller must also be furnished a copy of the form or a substitute statement.

Prior to this new regulation, only pay-as-cut type of timber sales were subject to Form 1099 reporting (Sec. 6050N). This new regulation ends the practice of not filing 1099 for lump-sum timber sale transaction.

Officials recommend timber owners, buyers, foresters, mills, CPAs, attorneys, and other parties involved in administering timber sales learn and comply with this new tax law requirement.

The IRS cited two reasons for such mandatory reporting in the proposed regulation (on November 29, 2007, (REG-155669-04): First, the IRS noted it has found some taxpayers under-reporting income from lump-sum or outright sales of timber. Second, the IRS said the disparate treatment of lump-sum and pay-as-cut timber transactions for information reporting purposes is not sound tax administration.

Technically, it is the responsibility of the timber buyer to issue the completed IRS 1099-S form to the landowners.

National Timber Tax Web site:

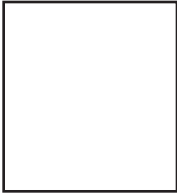
www.timbertax.org

Tax Tips for Forest Landowners for the 2009 Tax Year: <http://www.timbertax.org/developments/TaxTip09-Final.pdf>

Information in article taken from IRS and Timber Tax Web site: http://www.irs.gov/irb/2009-24_IRB/ar06.html

<http://www.timbertax.org/developments/timber-sale-transaction-reporting.asp>

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
