



The Voice for Illinois Forests

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

Message from the President

J.B.Gates (Sawdust)

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The legislature is back in session and I wish I could send you good news. But it is still the same old game. I again urge each member to secure the phone numbers of their legislative leaders [some have changed]. Then call them and voice your opinions [pro and con]. Collectively we can make a difference. Mark your calendars to participate in IFA Lobby Day on March 30, this is a good time to meet your governmental leaders, enjoy the fellowship of others interested in forestry, and have an all around good day.

Keep up on legislative issues by going to the IFA website and seeing what bills are being introduced that affect forestry. Illinois legislation is important, but do not forget federal forest legislation. Some of the federal items of interest are concerning the environment [Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act], estate taxes, and clean energy are but a few. The 1099 reporting provision in the healthcare debacle is very alarming and needs to be repealed. This will only happen if you get involved other than on election days. Also on December 17, 2010, some changes were made to the federal tax code; keep this in mind when you talk with your tax and legal advisors.

A reminder -- keep your Forestry Management Plan up to date. While the snow is on, take a look at your plan and determine if it covers invasive species and other issues that have developed in the years that have lapsed since your plan was implemented. A current plan can help in securing funding for some needed projects.

Not much in good news, but I did receive my new tree and forestry catalog the other day so we will have another season. Enjoy each day and remember from whence it comes and that better days are coming.

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IFA Web site
www.ilforestry.org

Calendar of Events		
	<i>November,</i>	
	<i>December,</i>	
	<i>January</i>	

March 11-12

Chain Saw Safety
 Contact: Tom Beyers
 618-267-8900

March 12

Tri-State Forest Stewardship
 Conference
 Sinsinawa, WI
 For more information: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/forestry>

March 25

IFA Board meeting
 Location - TBA

March 30

IFA Lobby Day
 Springfield, IL

April 22

Open House at Forest
 Products Lab
 Madison, WI

May 21

Managing for the Understory
 DuPage County
 Contact: Dick Pouzar

Message from the Secretary

Dave Gillespie

As I dig out of the blizzard of 2011, I am thankful I have my computer with its IFA membership database. This is always a good time of the year for me as dues checks are arriving in our post office box, and I can begin a membership database for a new year. While I personally do not know the majority of our members, I do recognize many of the names as I move their membership data from the 2010 database to the 2011 database, especially those who have been members since 2006.

As of this date we have 519 paid members for 2011, and more checks are arriving every day. However, there are still about 250 members from 2010 who have not paid their dues yet for 2011.

The IFA has done many great things since we started in 2006. It takes the support from our members to continue our mission. If you have not paid your dues for 2011 yet, please do so. Encourage your neighbors and friends to join. Go to the IFA web site at www.ilforestry.org to get the proper membership form.

Thanks again for your support.
 Questions? – contact me.

Are You Delinquent in RENEWING Your IFA Membership?

By Ray Herman

The IFA board voted to send this newsletter issue to all of our 2010 members, even though more than 200 of you have not paid 2011 dues. A second notice has recently been sent to you (if delinquent). We want to keep sending you our newsletter! Please retain your membership.

Provide US Your EMAIL Address

By Ray Herman

About 375 of our members have not provided us with an email address. It costs us about \$2.50 per issue to send out a copy of the newsletter in the mail. Next year, we will need to increase membership fees for those not providing emails.

So, to update, please send your email address to: IFA, P.O. Box 224, Chatham, IL. 62629 (or) call: (217) 494-6982.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM - EQIP

By Ray Herman

EQIP can help you improve your forestland! Cost-share incentives have recently increased for a variety of forestland planning and management practices. YOU MAY QUALIFY. Simply call or visit your county SWCD-NRCS staff for details. The first move is yours! Do it today!!

IFA Update

by Kurt Bobsin

IFA Technical Advisor

As IFA goes into a new year, many challenges, new and old, continue for forestry. Diminished technical forestry assistance continues, state dollars available to forest landowners are problematic and the demand for forestry program participation increases. IFA continues to support the delivery of information to landowners through workshops, field days, their newsletter and web site www.ilforestry.org.

New - Membership Benefit

- IFA will soon be offering timber land and recreational use liability insurance to its members. This may also be useful in supplementing the property liability insurance you already have in place. Talk to your Regional director and watch the web site for additional information.

Legislation

- IFA lobby day will be March 30th. Plan on coming to Springfield for the day to meet, greet and let your legislators know about the issues that concern you.

- HB 0025 has been introduced that would eliminate the 4% harvest fee. These funds are important to assist landowners in carrying out forestry practices in their management plans. Hundreds of thousands of dollars have been used over the years to improve our forests by controlling undesirable species and improving growth rates. IFA is working to stop this legislation from going forward.

- Protecting the Forestry Development Fund from legislative sweeps and other misuses is critical for preserving current and future revenues that flow into this Fund. The Fund supports the delivery of programs and technical assistance to forest landowners and communities. IFA is introducing legislation to protect and direct the use of this Fund for the intended purposes.

- Landowners throughout the state have trouble with unwanted and uninvited “visitors” coming on to their property. IFA is moving to have legislation introduced [similar to Missouri’s purple paint law] that will help landowners protect their properties from trespassing.

- The IL Forestry Development Council has yet to be reactivated as per the Forestry Development Act amendment that IFA was successful in getting passed last legislative session. IFA continues to pressure the Governor’s office for making the recommended appointments and for IDNR to move forward on facilitating the convening of this Council.

Newsletter

- Continues to be a major source for communication with IFA. Discussions continue with the Board on how to continue to deliver the newsletter [hard copies or electronically]. Let your Directors know if you have some suggestions.

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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!**

IFA Endorses The DAVIS-GARVIN INSURANCE AGENCY

By John Gunter, Vice President

At our January 28 meeting, the IFA board voted to endorse the Davis-Garvin Insurance Agency to write liability insurance policies for members who want and request them. The Davis-Garvin endorsement is another part of IFA's effort to increase value-added benefits to its members. Through the endorsement, IFA members will have access to affordable and comprehensive insurance coverage from a premiere insurer in the forestry sector.

“Davis-Garvin's insurance solutions for hunters and landowners were endorsed by IFA because of its reliability, affordability, and unique application for its membership. We believe these insurance programs will serve as a membership benefit and recruitment tool. The Davis-Garvin Insurance Agency has demonstrated since 1981 its ability to understand the unique needs of the forestry community and we are excited to have them as a partner,” said J.B. Gates, IFA President.

“With Davis-Garvin's forestry underwriting experience, financial strength, and claims handling services, I anticipate seeing this program grow into a highly utilized and valuable service for our members,” said Gates.

The partnership will take effect beginning the summer of 2011. At that time, members will be able to acquire hunting, timberland, and recreational use liability insurance at preferred pricing through the Illinois Forestry Association. More information will be made available later this spring to members via direct mail and at www.ilforestry.org.

HAVE YOU SEEN THIS PLANT?

By Ray Herman

If you say “yes” and it's in your woods or fence rows or even across the fence on your neighbor, start eradication NOW!! Oriental or Asian Bittersweet is pretty to look at in fall decorations, but it is an ugly threat to desirable trees and shrubs.

Vines grow from the seeds of the clusters of red-orange fruits. The vines entwine and disfigure small diameter trees and scale to heights of large trees. Small vines grow quickly to 1-3 inches in diameter. Birds like the berries as winter food and scatter them quickly.

I've started eradication on our farm with other family members. We are cutting the larger ones with chainsaws or loppers and treating cuts with Tordon RTU. Smaller ones, we cut with a weed whip or saw blade and spray with 5 to 10 % Roundup. Next spring, and probably several additional times, if needed, we will spray problem areas with Crossbow from a backpack sprayer. We started too late!

For more information, go to: <http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/fact/ceor1.htm>



Oriental Bittersweet

IFA Update

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Events and Meetings

- There are numerous activities already scheduled and posted on the web site. Check to see what is happening in your area. IFA will be partnering with Tree Farm this year to bring one day chainsaw safety and use workshops throughout the state. These are oriented to homeowners and landowners who do not feel they can commit to the more intense and rigorous Game of Logging chainsaw workshops. Stay tuned to the web site for updates and listings.

- On this web site page you will also find the meeting minutes from all IFA Board meetings. This is an excellent way to keep abreast of what is going on and what is being discussed with the IFA Board

It is time to renew your membership for 2011. If you have not done this, please take time right now to do so. Thank you for your continued support and interest in IFA!!

Rest is not idleness, and to lie sometimes on the grass under trees on a summer's day, listening to the murmur of the water, or watching the clouds float across the sky, is by no means a waste of time.

~J. Lubbock

Regional News

Region 1

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Contact us anytime with questions, suggestions and assistance needs.

Let's keep Communicating!

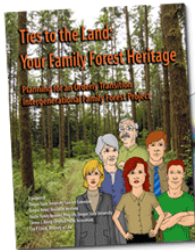
We have been trying to get forestry education to our members in three ways - through emails, by announcing available web-based seminars (webinars), and by listing forestry-related events on our web site (regardless of sponsoring organization). If there is some other way that we can help you, please ask.

Ties to the Land

A couple of members have asked for advice on passing their land on to their heirs. While not estate planners or financial counselors, we will be introducing a program entitled "Ties to the Land" in Region 1 soon.

This program coaches landowners on ways to discuss this sensitive subject with their children. Rather than deal only with the legal aspects of such a transfer, "Ties to the Land" addresses transferring to your heirs the commitment to your forestland. This commitment has proven to be more important than the legal transaction in sustaining forest management on your land after you are gone.

Developed by Oregon State University, "Ties to the Land" is being used successfully to coach landowners in several other states. Watch for an email announcement or contact Dick Pouzar if you are interested in attending this half-day session.



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Contact us anytime with questions, suggestions and assistance needs.

No Report

Spring Break 40 Hours-Red Card

**Obtain training for national certification to fight wildland fires (a good summer job).
Learn to do prescribed burns for habitat and conservation management.**

The University of Illinois Fire Service Institute (IFSI) is offering a special class over the spring break, March 21-25, 2011 at IFSI's Champaign campus to help participants prepare for "Red Card" certification – the credential they need to work for all federal and many state and private wildland fire organizations.

The cost of the course is \$600 and is limited to the first 24 enrollments. Participants must be at least 18 years old and in good physical condition.

If interested, register at the IFSI web site www.fsi.illinois.edu. Type "wildland" under courses: Search and Register. Questions can also be directed to Tom Richter at 815-757-9362 or trichter@fsi.illinois.edu.

IFA Legislative Report

Paula & Jenni Purdue

Governor Pat Quinn gave his 2011 Budget Address on Wed., Feb. 16. The Budget Address was short for Governor Quinn, but confusing to the House and Senate members of both parties. We would bet that many changes will happen through the legislative process between now and May 31st. Both parties are deciding what they need for reelection in a new legislative map in 2012. We would assume there will be more cuts in the next few months.

The Governor's office has all but two names approved for the new Forestry Development Council. IFA'S Legislative Chair Dave Gillespie is working with April Toney from IAA to finalize those two names. Jenni and I are calling the Governor's office on a weekly basis to get this Council up and running.

We are saving the best news for last. IFA members are wonderful! About a month ago, Rep. Sacia put in a bill (HB 25) to eliminate the 4 percent tax on timber harvests because one of his constituents asked him to do so.

I called Rep. Sacia and told him that IFA would oppose HB 25 and asked him why he put it in. He shared with me the name of the constituent that had asked him to write the bill. IFA'S Legislative Committee contacted our northwestern IFA members in Rep. Sacia's legislative district to let the Rep. know that IFA members were opposed and why. IFA members also contacted the forester who had asked for the bill. The constituent was not convinced to change his mind. BUT IFA members continued to contact Rep. Sacia.

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Region 3

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Contact us anytime with questions, suggestions and assistance needs.

Roy Bailey and Ray Herman met February 11 with Kent Adams, Regional Biologist for National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTf) to discuss holding workshops in the upper Kaskaskia watershed counties. We hope to begin planning the first one in Shelby County for late May-early June. We may hold one in Douglas-Coles counties about the same time. Watch for news releases locally or via the spring newsletter.

Roy Bailey and Ray Herman spent several hours with members of the Illinois Consulting Forester's Association at their quarterly meeting and participated in their discussions while updating them on IFA activities. Several consulting foresters are IFA members and they and others stand ready to assist you with many of your forestland needs. All county

SWCD's have lists of consultants who can help you in your woods. Or, call Bill Calvert, the Illinois Consulting Forester's Assoc. secretary-treasurer at 618-526-4251 for names.

The Lincoln Heritage RC&D is developing a six county booklet to identify forest resource service providers. Extension Forester and member, Jay Hayek, and IDNR District Forester and member, Bob Wagoner, will provide inputs and oversight toward this effort.

By next fall, IFA leadership plans to complete this county by county listing throughout the state. This booklet, once complete statewide, should give woodland landowners and others a complete listing of who and where assistance is available for all woodland needs.

DON'T TAX TIMBER TWICE

Tim Burr, Forest Landowner

Members.....”Consider contacting your representative to prevent future sweeps”. - *Ray Herman*

Illinois, on 12 percent of its land, grows some of the finest hardwoods in the nation - Black Walnut, Red Oak, White Oak, Yellow Poplar, Ash, Maple, and Hickory. Many of the owners of this forestland manage it for production of this valuable product, as well as for wildlife, scenery, and recreation.

When these tree farmers harvest and sell their trees to feed the furniture and cabinet industries, they pay federal and state capital gains taxes. That's only fair, since these trees are a long term investment with a crop rotation of 40 to 80 years. It is the other tax that is the problem.

In 1983, Illinois passed the Forestry Development Act (FDA), which established a cost-share program to assist forest landowners in paying for practices that improve their timber. To qualify, landowners were required to be following an IDNR-approved management plan and to have timber production as a goal. This was an excellent way for Illinois to support development of this valuable resource. What was even smarter was that the FDA enacted a 4 percent Timber Harvest Fee that funded this cost-share program entirely, with money left over to pay for other programs.

Tree farmers were satisfied with the Forestry Development Act. They knew that if they continued growing trees long term, they would

eventually benefit from this harvest fee. Unfortunately, the politicians in Springfield have turned this self-funding economic development program into a sales tax. They have taken the funds from the Timber Harvest Fee and used them to pay for government operations. They are essentially taxing timber twice, with not only a capital gains tax, but also a sales tax. They have also left no funds to assist forest landowners to improve their timber resource. This is short-sighted thinking at its worst. Our representatives need to pass strong legislation that prohibits future theft from this self-funding, beneficial Forestry Development Act Program.

Region 4

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Contact us anytime with questions, suggestions and assistance needs.

SIU Foresters in Afghanistan

Forestry... In Afghanistan??? Yes, they have trees there; a lot of them in some places. Come to think of it, I used that same line when explaining to some friends from Pennsylvania why I was moving to southern Illinois to teach forestry. So for my SIU forestry colleague Charles Ruffner and I, working in Afghanistan is a natural. Well, sort of...almost all the trees are unfamiliar and Kevlar-plated clothes aren't especially comfortable for walking around on wooded hillsides. On the other hand, Army Blackhawk helicopters are a much more exciting way to get to work than a pickup truck and, as an added bonus, I have yet to meet my first Afghan tick.



Since Charles and I started working with members of the U.S. military, Afghan foresters, agriculture specialists, Afghan villagers, and various other interesting folks, we have collected some interesting stories and photographs. You probably won't see or hear about this sort of thing in the news. So stay tuned and we'll provide updates and observations about forestry in the most unlikely of places in future editions of the IFA newsletter.

SIU Foresters Charles Ruffner (L) and John Groninger (R) stand with SSG Tim Vermillion, a forest nursery specialist with the Oklahoma National Guard on a Combat Outpost in eastern Afghanistan.

Plant Maps: Interactive Google Maps™ Gardening/Planting, Native Tree Distribution, and Plant Hardiness Zones

*By Jay C. Hayek, Extension Forester
University of Illinois*

What's with our fascination of maps – either the paper kind or the electronic, web-based versions? I love maps, and I know many of the forest landowners I work with love fancy maps of their property.

Well, these interactive Google Maps™ might not create fancy maps for your property, but they are a first-rate resource for home gardeners, horticulturists, foresters, and other natural resource specialists.

Check out these wonderful, interactive Google Maps™ -- they are truly awesome and extremely useful for selecting plant species adapted to your plant hardiness zone!

Website:

[http://www.plantmaps.com/
interactive-illinois-usda-plant-zone-
hardiness-map.php](http://www.plantmaps.com/interactive-illinois-usda-plant-zone-hardiness-map.php)

IFA Legislative Report

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Yesterday, Rep. Sacia's assistant told me that he had decided not to call HB 25. Now IFA members need to call and thank Rep. Sacia. IFA members have proven that they have political clout and took the time to express that clout! **Thank you IFA members** for a job well done. Pat yourselves on the back! !!

Illinois Forestry Association

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

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