



The Voice for Illinois Forests

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

****IFA Officers****

President

John E. Gunter
jegunter40@frontier.net

Vice President

Stephanie Brown
sbrown63@shawneelink.net

Secretary Dave

Gillespie
dandgisp@aol.com

Treasurer

Mike McMahan
banberry@htc.net

Immediate Past

President J. B. Gates
rjbgate@hamiltoncom.net

****Inside this Issue****

President Message	1
Sawdust	2
Legislative News	2
Sustainable Living EXPO	3
Goods From Your Woods	3
<i>Emergency Tree Alert!</i>	4
Region News	5
Membership Changes	7

...and more

IFA Web site
www.ilforestry.org

Message from the President

John Gunter

As your incoming President, let me hasten to thank – and I’m sure you will want to join me -- outgoing President J.B. Gates and outgoing Directors Lee Rife (Region 2) and Ray Herman (Region 3) for their exemplary past service on the Board of Directors of our association. J.B. will continue to serve on the Board as Past President. Likewise, let’s welcome our incoming Vice President, Stephanie Brown, and incoming Directors Tony Zimmerman (Region 1), Carol Bryant and Jim Hynes (Region 2), and James Lewis and Roger Smith (Region 4). They and the continuing Board members will be working hard this next year to make “The Voice for Illinois Forests” even stronger.

Perhaps you have heard that the Illinois Supreme Court has made it legal for politicians to steal money from a special fund and spend those monies on something else other than their designated purpose. Quoting from the Thursday, November 3, 2011, issue of The News-Gazette, “By a 6-1 margin, the high court found that Gov. Pat Quinn and legislators have the authority to transfer money designated for special state programs (it’s called a “fund sweep”) into the state’s general operating budget and spend it. Public money, the court ruled, is public money – no matter what promises were made about how that money was to be used.” While it may be legal in Illinois for politicians to say one thing and do another, such hypocrisy is unethical and further erodes public confidence in our political system – which is in the pits to begin with.

Past legislative fund sweeps have hit forestry where it hurts. In state fiscal years 2004 through 2011, more than \$2.1 million was swept from the Illinois Forestry Development Fund. This special fund was established to receive revenue from the four percent tax on harvested timber (THT) and from those monies in turn make cost-share payments to timber growers for sustainable forest management practices. As a consequence of these fund sweeps, significantly fewer dollars have been available to fund cost-share practices.

To make matters worse, upper administration of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources has taken a cue from the Governor and legislature and engaged in “administrative sweeps” for at least the last three fiscal years. Acting under the guise that Section 7 of the Illinois Forestry Development Act (IFDA) allows THT monies to be used for administration of the cost-share program, the IDNR director and his lieutenants have stopped district foresters from accepting any new applications for cost-share practices. They are then using these savings to “administer” the program. Thus, the program is being starved to death.

In FY 2011, THT fees totaled \$773,052 and cost-share payments were \$137,443. The difference of \$630,990 was used to administer the program. In other words, 82 percent of the THT fees collected were used to administer the IFDA program. With no new applications being accepted, in short order – this year or next – 100 percent of THT funds will be used to administer a program that IDNR administrators have killed! Please know that your association is now and will continue to be working hard in Springfield to right this wrong.

On a much brighter note, I hope you are enjoying Fall as much as I am. Here in Southern Illinois the weather has been almost perfect – mild and sunny with needed interspersed showers – and the leaf colors have been fantastic!! Once again I’m reminded why this is my favorite time of year and why I chose forestry as my profession.

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

November 29

Goods from Your Woods
Dunn-Richmond Economic
Development Center
Carbondale IL
Contact: University of Illinois
Extension office, Murphysboro
618/687-1727

December 1

M2UTiH2LzR Training
Rantoul Recreation Building,
Rantoul, IL
Online:
<https://webs.extension.uiuc.edu/registration/?RegistrationID=5960>
Reg. closes November 25
Contact: Carrie Tauscher, Illinois
EAB Wood Utilization Team
Administrator ctauscher@
mortonarb.org, 630-719-5646
or visit: www.illinoisurbanwood.org

January 12

Quarterly Board meeting
Location: TBD

January 13

NIFA meeting
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Location
Stockton Public Library
Stockton, IL
Contact Tom Arnold at
815-858-2407

For more information on events
and meetings go to:
<http://www.ilforestry.org/meetings>

SAWDUST

by J.B. Gates



I would like to thank all the members and my team of officers and directors for their support the past years. I wish the current officers and directors a successful tenure. They deserve our support and encouragement. Let us stand with and behind them as they work for our interests.

A lot is happening in state government and with programs that affect forestry. DO NOT forget about the goings-on in Federal government. Let us be pro-active rather than re-active. We have a great team elected to serve and make our interests and thoughts known in Illinois.

Which brings to mind, I have been asking people to serve on committees of late and been having dismal success. The reasons I receive most often are:

1. IFA doesn't need help.
2. I don't have anything of value to offer IFA.
3. There are other people in IFA more qualified to serve.
4. Serving will require time or skills I don't possess.

These are false assumptions. We need to start thinking in the positive and share our talents with others. Many working together lightens the load for everyone and it is fun.

We, members and leaders, need to take an inventory of our talents. We have things to offer others. Our life experiences are different and that gives each of us a perspective from a unique view of today. It takes each one to make an organization strong. Together we can make *The Illinois Forestry Association* the strong viable entity we each desire it to be. IFA needs helpers, volunteers, and people with ideas. When you have an idea, tell one of the officers or directors. Their email and telephone numbers are listed in the newsletter and on the web site.

One way to possibly make IFA stronger is to have small county groups. This has been a suggestion from Ray Herman and I think it is a wonderful suggestion. Maybe you would be interested in

continued on page 6

Legislative Report

by Paula Purdue

The Veto Override Session is two days from being over. At this time no big changes to the budget have been made. The next two days could make some additions or subtractions to the current budget.

Essentially, the House of Representatives set a lower limit for the budget than the Senate or the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability (COGFA). The House Budget was the one adopted. All areas have been cut, and there have been many shortfalls. The gap between the real dollars that the state takes in (which are more in line with the Senate or COGFA budgets) and the House budget are supposed to be used to pay down debt.

Next session, IFA is working to put in legislation that will clarify where the 4 percent forest tax dollars are spent. We are working to get sponsors and get the bill drafted. We are working with the Dept. of Agriculture to get a pre-emptive quarantine provision to deal with harmful bugs/fungus etc., in a proactive manner.

In 2012, every legislator needs to run for office in a 'new' legislative district. This election, after a remap, is the most difficult election year of the decade.

There will be more incumbents running against each other in primary and general elections. This is the best year to get rid of folks not good to IFA and keep the folks who have been good to IFA. Check out what is going on in your legislative district. You may want to get involved.

Illinois Forestry Association

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

Sustainable Living Expo Returns to Southern Illinois

by Stephanie Brown, IFA VP

Good Choices. Smart Living. Help Yourself. That was the theme of the 2011 Sustainable Living Expo held on October 22nd at the Dixon Springs Agricultural Center (DSAC). The Expo attracted twice as many participants in its second year, with over 1200 attending from 28 Illinois counties and seven states.

The program included sessions and demonstrations in tents and outdoor learning stations scattered across the DSAC grounds. The Main Tent featured 30 organizations and local businesses providing products, services and programs related to sustainability. A popular addition to this year's Expo was the Artisan Tent with 20 different locals demonstrating talents in pottery, basket weaving, wood lathing, wool spinning, gourd art, jewelry making, landscape painting and more.

Major sponsors of the Expo included the Shawnee RC&D Area, Connect SI Foundation, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, U of I ACES Office of Research, Shawnee Communications, US Forest Service, WSIU Public Broadcasting, John A. Logan College, Southeastern Illinois College, and the USDA's Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education program.

The Illinois Forestry Association sponsored the Expo at the Bronze level (\$500), as did the Illinois Tree Farm Committee. James Lewis, IFA's Region 4 Board Director, and Gae Morris, assistant at the Illinois Forest Resource Center (located at DSAC), staffed the IFA booth in the Main Tent and spoke with more than 100 people about forestry, our association, and the new purple paint law.

Conservation topics covered included tree identification; shade tree care; invasive weed control; chainsaw maintenance and safety; call before you cut; tree insect pests; forestry incentive

continued on page 7

Goods from Your Woods

*Tuesday, November 29, 2011
5:30 to 8:30 p.m.*

If you are wondering how to obtain more money, wildlife, and beauty from your woodland, then Goods from Your Woods, a workshop created especially for Illinois woodland owners is for you. This workshop, hosted by SIUC's Forestry Marketing Class and the University of Illinois Extension Service, will be held on Tuesday, November 29, at the Dunn-Richmond Economic Development Center in Carbondale. This special one-time program features Illinois experts who will discuss ways to improve management of your woodland for more financial, recreational, and environmental satisfaction.

Registration begins at 5:30 with a free supper and the program will begin at six p.m. Invasive species specialist Chris Evans will discuss how to identify and control invasive species. Forest management plans and federal cost-share programs will be the topic of discussion by Natural Resource Conservation Service Forester Ryan Pankau. Agricultural marketing expert John Pike of the University of Illinois Extension Service will discuss wildlife enterprises and Paul Diezman, a forest management expert from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources will present a program on valuing, marketing, and selling timber. A packet of information will be provided to each participant for future reference. Preregistration is requested but not required.

To preregister, please call the University of Illinois Extension office in Murphysboro at 618/687-1727.

Sponsors of this workshop include SIUC Department of Forestry, U of I Extension Service, US Bank, the Illinois Forestry Association, and River to River Cooperative Weed Management.

For more information, please contact Dr. Debbie Gunter at 618.964.1892 or at dgunter@siu.edu.

IFA Technical Advisors

Kurt Bobsin

IDNR -Forestry Regions III-IV
217-935-6860 (office)
kurt.bobsin@illinois.gov

Jay Hayek

University of Illinois
217-244-0534 (office)
jhayek@uiuc.edu

Wade Conn

State Forester, USDA-NRCS
217-353-6647 (office)
wade.conn@il.usda.gov

Paul Deizman

IDNR
217-782-3376 (office)
paul.deizman@illinois.gov

IFA Staff

Sherry Finn

AISWCD
217-744-3414 (office)
sherry.finn@aiswcd.org

Paula Purdue Jenni

Purdue Legislative & Political Consultant
(office) 217-525-8434
(Paula cell) 217-299-1981
paula@youradvocates.net
jenni@youradvocates.net

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!

EMERGENCY TREE ALERT!

by Guy Sternberg, Starhill Forest Arboretum of Illinois College

You may have heard about the Thousand Cankers Disease (TCD) of Black Walnut. This pathogen requires both the western walnut twig beetle *Pityophthorus juglandis* and the fungus *Geosmithia morbida* in order to occur – and wherever one is found, the other is always present. TCD originated in the western states and is killing all black walnut trees planted there, and brings certain death for every black walnut in Illinois once it arrives here. No cure is known. It was discovered in Tennessee in 2010 and in Virginia and Pennsylvania in 2011, almost certainly spread there by people carrying walnut wood from infected trees out west. Symptoms of TCD include:

- Premature yellowing of leaves or twig dieback, especially in the top of the tree;
- Canopy thinning, where sections of the leafy canopy are thin or missing;
- Tiny exit holes (the size of sugar grains) on branches – usually hundreds within a few square inches;
- Coin-sized dark spots of decaying tissue under the bark of branches (seen only if peeled);
- Suckering or epicormic branching in the lower part of the tree.

YOU CAN DO THREE THINGS NOW TO HELP SAVE THE ILLINOIS WALNUT INDUSTRY, THOUSANDS OF VALUABLE SHADE TREES, AND THE BIODIVERSITY AND WILDLIFE ASSOCIATED WITH OUR NATIVE WALNUT FORESTS:

1. Persuade our Illinois Legislature and Department of Agriculture to establish an immediate external quarantine to ban the import into Illinois of all walnut nursery stock and raw wood. Due to regulatory inaction, Illinois has become the default conduit for all potentially infected wood moving east and west through the upper Midwest. Indiana has a quarantine already; Missouri is also closed; the entire northern tier of states above us is closed, several other Midwest states are closed; but the Kentucky-Illinois-Iowa shipping corridor between the West and the infected states of Tennessee, Virginia, and Pennsylvania inexplicably has no quarantine. We must close it now, with severe penalties for violation, and worry about tweaking the quarantine later if necessary (e.g., adding an internal quarantine for any infested counties found in Illinois). We also need a major public information blitz. This is extremely important and time-critical!
2. Illinois Cooperative Agriculture Pest Survey Pest Survey program staff, along with the Illinois Department of Agriculture, are conducting a survey to take samples for this disease in Illinois. Contact Ms. Kelly Estes, State Survey Coordinator, Illinois Cooperative Agriculture Pest Survey, Illinois Natural History Survey at kcook8@illinois.edu or 217-333-1005, if you are interested in learning more about this effort or need other information, and we will put you in touch with the appropriate people.
3. If you notice any black walnut trees that appear weak or dying, without an obvious cause such as construction damage, immediately notify the Illinois Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey, 1816 S. Oak Street, Champaign, IL 61820.

TCD is likely to take at least a half century to reach Illinois if no one transports infected wood or nursery stock. In that time, it is possible that a treatment might be found, and many existing walnut plantations also can reach harvestable maturity. But if we bring the disease to Illinois ahead of its natural advancement, as we did with emerald ash borer, it will quickly begin to kill every walnut tree it encounters. **PLEASE ACT TODAY!** Impress upon our legislators how time-critical this situation is, and urge them to move quickly to address it.

For more information visit <http://www.thousandcankers.com/>

How Important is Black Walnut in Illinois?

by Jay Hayek, Extension

- Average annual growth of Black Walnut in Illinois = 12,000,000 CF of wood (*Forests of Illinois 2005 RB-NRS-29*)
- Standing Volume of Black Walnut Sawtimber Trees in Forests = >70,000,000 CF (Only including trees 11 inches diameter or larger) (*Forests of Illinois 2010 -- research Note*)
- 120,000 Black Walnut Trees are harvested per year in Illinois (*Estimated by IDNR – based upon Doyle Log Scale using 20" diameter trees w/saw – log of 16" per tree*)
- Average price per CF for sawlog standing trees (stumpage) is \$7.20-\$12; Average price per CF for veneer is \$24-\$84 (~\$36) (*Dan Schmoker, Illinois DNR retired forester, based upon 2011 prices*)
- Annual Value of Black Walnut harvested in Illinois without added value of veneer: \$13,104,000 paid as standing stumpage price to owner or \$18,252,000 paid as logs at mill price to loggers, Not including added value of manufacturing, re-selling, export or retail products. (*Illinois Timber Prices, June 01, 2011*)
- A baseball-sized piece of average, unprocessed veneer walnut is worth \$1.00!

Timber Manager Training Municipal Managers Urban Timber Harvesting for Hardwood Lumber Utilization and Recovery (M2UTiH2LzR) is a one-day workshop teaching municipal forest managers how to obtain the highest possible use for the wood from their urban and suburban trees.

The Illinois Emerald Ash Borer Wood Utilization Team, Purdue University, USDA APHIS PPQ, IDA, IDNR, University Of Illinois Extension, Illinois Arborist Association, along with the City of St. Charles and the Village of Rantoul have teamed up to offer this program in the greater Chicago metropolitan area. 6.75 CEUs Available.

See calendar on page 2 for registration information.

Regional News

Contact your Regional Directors anytime with questions, suggestions and assistance needs.

Region 1

Directors

Anthony Zimmerman Oregon, IL 815-732-4700 loggertony@yahoo.com	Dick Pouzar Galena, IL 815-777-8157 pouzar@yahoo.com
---	---

Since August, there were five forestry-related events in northwestern Illinois.



Cory Ritterbusch explains invasive treatments

First, the Northwest Illinois Forestry Association (NIFA) arranged for Ecologist Cory Ritterbusch to lead a tour of a multi-year project

near Hanover to restore twenty-some acres to an pre-settlement flora with herbicides, manually clearing, burning, and re-planting.

Second, the IFA and NIFA held a meeting in Stockton to discuss forestry issues and to establish a working relationship with

the state representative and senator from NW Illinois; IFA Lobbyist Paula Purdue also spoke with them.

Third, NIFA sponsored a tour of IDNR Wildlife Biologist Scott Schaeffer's 60 acre Savanna farm in which Scott discussed his woodlands, grasslands, food plots, and dealing with deer around seedlings.

Fourth, NIFA sponsored a tour of Bill Hawes' forty-some acres near Woodbine entitled "A Novice's Guide to Forest Management" in which Bill led the tour and talked of his successes and failures over the last 20 years.

Last, former IDNR district forester Ralph Eads led a Stephenson County SWCD tour of the 26-acre Donald Lee Miller Woods near Freeport that covered landowner objectives, forest practices, wildlife recommendations, recreational activities, cost share assistance, and projected costs.

We are starting to consider events for next year. If members have any preferences or suggestions, please email us or drop us a note by mail.

Purple Paint In Action

by Dick Pouzar

Shortly after the Purple Paint (No Trespassing) Law went into effect, IFA members Jerry and Marge Misek of Jo Daviess County were out painting their boundary trees. The unusual aspect to this afternoon project was that they were being followed by Chicago Tribune reporter Ted Gregory and photo-journalist Stacy Wescott.

The Tribune was interested in this strange-sounding new law and published a lengthy story with pictures



(Top) Jerry Misek paints purple paint on tree.

(Right) Jerry and Marge Misek stand next to their Purple Paint Warning sign.



in their print edition as well as a story on their website with accompanying video that included an interview with Jerry. It was good publicity both for the law and for Illinois forestry, explaining trespassing concerns to urban residents.

Face-to-face: Several member contacts. On September 21st, 10 Botany students from SIUE visited Bryant Timber Farm with their professor Kurt Schulz. They were studying dendrology and were especially interested in the variety of oak and hickory trees present. They identified spicebush for the landowner.

PUBLIC Relations:

Sign of the times! -- One director took the news release, the purple paint flyer and the sign to the South County News (Gillespie) only to discover that the newspaper had left and the building was for sale. The unused copies of the news release and the purple paint flyer were left with a local professional (non-member) who had previously mentioned his timber management plan.

Region 2

Directors

Carol Bryant Mt. Olive, IL 618-444-3864 cabryant2@gmail.com	Dan Schmoker Springfield, IL 62443 217-529-0061 – Home schmoker3@aol.com	Jim Hynes Pleasant Plains, IL 217-502-4528 hynesfarm@gmail.com
---	--	--

Events:

No events scheduled. The Directors will meet at 10:30 A.M. on Tuesday, November 7, at the Captain's Table Restaurant at the Magnuson Grand Hotel and Conference Center at the northwest corner of the Carlinville (exit IL-108 from 1-55: 19067 W. Frontage Road, Raymond, IL) to discuss possible events and choose tentative dates. The following possibilities will be discussed:

- 1) A Pruning Field Day
- 2) Host - train FFA Forestry Teams
- 3) Tax Workshops
- 4) Forest Wildlife
- 5) Chainsaw Use & Safety
- 6) Tree Planting - Site Preparation
- 7) Senior Projects - Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (SIUE)
- 8) Shade Tree Care

Contacts:

Email: 57 member emails were sent announcing the availability of the purple paint sign and detailing the process for ordering from the website. The purple paint flyer was attached.

Fifteen of those 57 emails bounced back. The Directors will download the website email addresses. The Directors will make phone contact with snail mail members to encourage them to update to email on the website. They will be advised that the single year Individual/ Family membership with email costs \$25, while the regular mail membership costs \$35. Members can save more money by paying for multiple years. The rates are listed on the website www.ilforestry.org.

Region 3

Directors

Roy Bailey	Stan Sipp
Mason, IL	Mansfield, IL
618-238-4863	217-489-9003
baileytrees@frontiernet.net	sklipp@uiuc.edu

Forestry-Wildlife Workshop

by Roy Bailey

Sam Parr State Park in Jasper County was a great place to visit on September 17 for a wildlife-woodland workshop. Former IFA Director Ray Herman coordinated the event.

National Wild Turkey Federation Biologist Kent Adams reviewed various important habitats for turkeys and other wildlife. IDNR Forester Shane McDearmon and park Superintendent Jim Gillespie led participants through the woods showing the effects of woodland management and controlled burning. Dennis Clancy from the Natural Resources Conservation Service Newton office explained USDA programs that could assist landowners with planning and applying conservation practices.

Contractor Blake Lilly demonstrated his skidsteer mounted forestry mulcher. The machine ground large invasive shrubs to splinters very quickly. Visitors from four counties enjoyed lunch, compliments of the Turkey Foundation.

A Sunny Afternoon

by Roy Bailey

The Pagel tree Farm in southern Effingham County was the site of a 4-wheeler Sunday afternoon tree trip on October 23. Tree Farm and IFA members along with neighbors joined Floyd and Janet Pagel to tour several hundred acres of quality trees and wildlife habitat. The Pagel's still practice the same intensive management that was the basis for them to be named Illinois Outstanding Tree farmer of the Year in 2000. Floyd has marked a selective harvest of cottonwoods that is underway. The harvest will make way for large grove of good looking walnuts. IDNR specialist Mary Grapperhaus coordinated the tour and a wiener roast with soup feast.

Region 4

Directors

John Groninger	Carbondale, IL	618-453-7462	groninge@siu.edu
Jim Kirkland	Stonefort, IL	618-695-3383	1984kirk@gmail.com
James Lewis	Brookport, IL	618-564-3238	pope42@live.com
Wes Beyers	Odin, IL	618-775-6521	wesbeyers@yahoo.com
Roger Smith			

No Report

Green Glamour?

Roy Bailey, Region 3

November could be labeled "glamour month" for exotic woody plants. Trees, as well as understory woody plants in our woodlands, have provided a color show that is settling towards yellow and brown. These woody exotics, our non-native invading shrubs, remain at work. The exotics become the only green plants in the woods for a period of weeks ahead of the hard freeze. The deep green exotics provide a sharp contrast with the brown-yellow native plants that are already into dormancy. This green-brown show can be spotted at a glance from a long distance. It is shocking to drive by a long, familiar woodland in November and discover exotics have choked out the next generation of white oaks. This color show is quite attractive until we realize that the condition of the woods has gone downhill.

Controlling exotics can be expensive and exhausting. Step one is to recognize the problem. Now is the time to at least take inventory of any exotics that are invading your woodland. November is typically the best month for control projects. These pests are naturally vulnerable, as well as easy to spot, in the fall season. Exotics and many other plants are sending nutrients to their root zones late during growing seasons. Most herbicides used for controls will not affect tree seedlings and other plants that are already dormant.

Stump herbicide treatments, as well as foliar applications, can control exotics. Controlled burning can be very effective and economical to wipe out or restrain smaller exotics. Legal and safety issues require a burn plan and permit. Plans include steps to prevent damage to preferred tree species.

Sawdust

continued from page 2

forming a 2 or 3 county focus group to meet on occasion and discuss forestry issues and how we can help each other.

The Southern Illinois Prescribed Burn Association comes to mind. I help my neighbor with a project and they in turn come and help me. We join together for a project and fellowship. Think about it, and with a neighbor or two, mull over the advantages and start a group. I believe it is time to start doing this. Let your directors know of your interest and let's get going.

"Each of us has cause to think with deep gratitude of those who have lighted the flame within us."

—Albert Schweitzer

Extension Forestry Releases and Forestry Assistance Directories

by Jay C. Hayek, Extension

University of Illinois Extension Forestry is proud to announce the release of two new technical forestry bulletins. These two new bulletins are excellent resources for woodland owners, homeowners, and municipalities requiring technical forestry assistance here in Illinois.

- Illinois Technical Forestry Assistance: Forest Management & Urban Forestry (TFB-NRES-201)
- 2011 Illinois Directory of Professional Consulting Foresters (TFB-NRES-202)

These two publications are available for download from the University of Illinois Extension Forestry website:

http://web.extension.illinois.edu/forestry/technical_assistance.html

Due to the dynamic nature of technical service directories, please remember to check for periodic updates to these two publications via the Extension Forestry website. The following links will take you directly to the PDF files.

<http://web.extension.illinois.edu/forestry/pdf/tfb-nres-201.pdf>

<http://web.extension.illinois.edu/forestry/pdf/tfb-nres-202.pdf>

Changes to Membership

by Dick Pouzar

The IFA Officers and Directors appreciate the support of each and every member. That support has been crucial in our legislative successes this year.

Recognizing the importance of your support, we've made some changes for your convenience and economy. You may have read about these changes in the most recent newsletters; this message summarizes these enhancements.

Online Renewal

Last month, we brought up our new website with convenient online renewal and online payment using PayPal. Or, if you choose, you can start the renewal online, request an emailed invoice, and mail in a check. And, of course, you can still renew strictly by mail and check.

Multi-Year Reduced Dues

In addition, you now have an option to renew for multiple years with reduced annual rates. By renewing for two or three years, you eliminate our administrative burden with reminders and accounting; we are merely passing on the savings to you. The new membership rates are listed in the chart below.

Newsletter Delivery

Another change, regards providing printed newsletters. The cost to print and mail newsletters is always a significant expense for non-profit organizations. To cover this expense, rather than increase our dues across the board, we opted to increase membership fees for those members who have not supplied us an email address, and provide the newsletter electronically to those for whom we have an email address.

This table exhibits our new membership fee structure:

Level	Code	1-year	2-year	3-year
Individual/Family with Email	IFE	\$25	\$45	\$60
Individual/Family without Email	IFM	\$35	\$60	\$90
Individual/Family Supporting	IFS	\$50	\$90	\$125
Individual/Family Sustaining	IFX	\$100	\$180	\$250
Business	BUS	\$100	\$180	\$250
Student	STU	\$10	\$20	\$30

Membership Structure

We have also re-structured our membership levels. In recognizing that most private forestland is owned by families, we have combined the Family Membership into our new "Individual or Family" designation, with:

- Individual or Family Member (codes IFE with Email, IFM without Email),
- Individual or Family Supporting Member (code IFS), and
- Individual or Family Sustaining Member (code IFX)

Each level with one-, two-, and three-year membership periods. The Business and Student Memberships also have multi-year rates.

We have temporarily converted all previous Family Members into Supporting Members, until your next renewal when you can decide which level is appropriate for you.

The Not-for-Profit Membership was eliminated and we moved all Not-for-Profit Members to the Supporting level to match the dues which they last paid. We ask that all Not-for-Profit members choose either the Supporting or Individual/Family level at their next renewal, at whichever level they feel comfortable.

These rates are now in effect. With the exception of the Student Level, all of the above levels have associated Lifetime Memberships - those rates can be found on our website or by contacting the IFA Secretary Dave Gillespie at 217-483-2711.

12-month Membership

In the past, every member's renewal date was January 1. This caused a bit of an administrative annual burden, and penalized those who had joined in mid-

year. So, we have changed to a 12-month membership that sets your renewal date based on when you last paid your dues. When your renewal comes due, you will receive a reminder.

Associate Members

Lastly, we are now offering Supporting and Sustaining members the ability to add Associates to their membership at no charge. An Associate will receive all IFA communications and has all the benefits of membership except for voting rights. This allows Supporting and Sustaining members to involve the entire family - spouses, adult children, and other heirs - in forestry news and activities. Associates must have an email address; their renewal will be automatic with the renewal of their sponsoring Supporting or Sustaining member, who will receive an email explanation of how to add an Associate.

Sustainable EXPO

continued from page 3

programs; prescribed burning; hunting leases; Christmas trees; wildlife food plots; emerald ash borer; landscaping with natives; best species for firewood; the basics of freshly planted trees; and a bird house display based on the IDNR publication – Wood Projects for Wildlife.

Other major program tracks included Local Foods, Energy, and Survival. For a complete listing of sessions, speakers, and descriptions visit the Expo's official website: www.SLEexpo.org and download the 2011 program. The date for the 2012 Sustainable Living Expo will be announced soon - many features and sessions from 2011 will be offered again by popular demand.

Stephanie Brown is Ag, Energy, and Natural Resources Liaison with the Connect SI Foundation, and Interim Executive Director for the Shawnee Resource Conservation & Development Area. Through the support of these organizations, she served as chair of the steering committee and lead planner for the 2011 Sustainable Living Expo. She was recently elected Vice-President of the Illinois Forestry Association.

Secretary's Report

by Dave Gillespie

The Illinois Forestry Association continues to move forward in offering better service to our members. With our new member services through the enhanced IFA website I consider this the very best such website in the country. A great deal of thanks goes to Dick Pouzar, one of the IFA Region 1 Directors, for constructing and maintaining the new website.

I encourage each and every IFA member to visit and use the website. I also encourage members who have not given us their e-mail address to do so. Many notices and other member services are provided automatically by the website. While those for whom we do not have e-mail addresses will receive these member notices through the mail, it is much more efficient and economical to use e-mail. That economy will allow us to devote more of our resources to programs, publicity, and legislative effort.

Go to www.ilforestry.org and start looking around the website. While you are there, you can let us know how we are doing. At the bottom of any page, you can click on "Feedback" and leave a comment or suggestion.