



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

IFA Web site

www.ilforestry.org

Message from the President

John E. Gunter

I certainly hope that you are enjoying the weather and season, as am I. The mild winter we enjoyed here in Southern Illinois had morphed into a pleasant, but cooler than normal spring, although it has started to warm up again. Maple syrup season has come and gone as have the red bud and dogwood blossoms. The turkey season that just passed was a successful one. While I didn't bag a bird myself, I had the pleasure of calling up Thanksgiving dinner for a young cousin. We have six to eight deer parade through our wooded back yard daily making it impossible to have a garden sans deer-proof fencing. This year we are going to try growing tomatoes in an upside down planter hoisted above the deer browse line. Previous attempts at container planting below the browse line have been spectacularly unsuccessful, with the deer consuming all the tomatoes and 75 to 80 percent of the stem of the tomato plants.

The seemingly interminable, political silly season is upon us. I'll sure be glad when the November election is history. While I do plan to exercise my right to vote, I have low expectations of significant improvement in the governing process regardless of who goes to Washington or Springfield.

My colossal cynicism concerning politicians (of every stripe) was even further deepened this legislative session, when we tried to find a sponsor for our proposed amendment to the Illinois Forestry Development Act (IFDA). The Illinois Forestry Association's (IFA's) amendment would have gone a long way toward solving the problem of Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) administration's continuing refusal to accept applications for cost-share payments for forest management practices as legally directed under the IFDA. Instead, the IDNR is using these funds to "administer" a program they have virtually killed. Unfortunately, no legislator contacted – including our past champions – was willing to sponsor the amendment; and not necessarily because they didn't agree with the merits of our case. They just didn't want to stick out their necks in an election year on a bill that would limit agency discretion on the expenditure of special fund monies (Four percent timber harvest tax funds in this case). After all, the Illinois Supreme Court has decided it is legal for state government to use these designated special funds as it sees fit. Seemingly, the bait-and-switch ethical questions raised by their decision didn't concern the Court. Hopefully, some measure of sanity will return next legislative session and we can find a sponsor for our much-needed amendment. At any rate, we will continue at every opportunity to push our case for the restoration of this vital cost-share program.

There is good news about the proposed \$50 annual fee for Forestry Management Plans. As you may recall from my message in the January newsletter, Rep. Frank J. Mautino (D-Spring Valley, Deputy Majority Leader) has proposed increased fees called "Illinois DNR Sustainability Concepts" to address the agency's budgetary woes. Among the several proposed fees, the one most impacting forest landowners would "... collect an annual fee from all timber growers participating in IDNR's Forestry Development Act programs." On behalf of the IFA Board, I wrote Rep. Mautino voicing IFA's opposition to this onerous fee. Thankfully, our opposition had the desired effect – the Forest Management Plan fee has been dropped from the list.

Calendar of Events		
	May,	
	June,	
	July	

May 17

Emerald Ash Borer

Location: Stockton Public Library
 Contact: U of I Extension,
 (815) 858-2273

May 17

“Good Bug vs. Bad Bug”

Location: Nicholaus Conservatory,
 Rockford
 Contact: U of I Extension
 (815) 858-2273

May 19

Starhill Forest Arboretum

Location: Petersburg, IL
 Contact: Carol Bryant , 618/444-3864

May 19

Invasive Plants/Pests Demo

Locations: Morton’s Arboretum,
 Crystal Lake, IL
 Contact: Dick Pouzar @ pouzar@ yahoo

May 19

Women in Outdoors & Habitat Field Day

National Wild Turkey Federation
 Location: Pecatonica, IL
 Contact: See advertisement on page 7.

June 9

Ties to the Land

Location: Jo Daviess County
 Contact: Register on IFA web site

June 16

Ties to the Land

Stockton Public Library
 Location: Stockton, IL
 Contact: Dick Pouzar at pouzar@ yahoo.com

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

Secretary Report

by Dave Gillespie

Once again our Membership Committee has been working to secure new IFA members and contacting IFA members who have not paid their dues for 2012. Since the last “IFA Newsletter”, 105 members have renewed their dues.

Soon we will again help the IDNR Forest Resources Division to send out the Illinois Forestry Development Act renewal letters. Every two years each Illinois landowner that has an approved Forest Stewardship Plan will receive an instructional letter and a form to complete to send to their local District Forester. The IFA will have a letter from John Gunter, IFA President, encouraging those not already IFA members to join our association. There will be an IFA Membership Form for them to complete and return to us to enroll. We did this about two years ago and gained many good members.

If you have any questions, please contact me. My email address is on the first page of this newsletter. My cell number is 217-494-6982.

Legislative Report

by Jenni and Paula Purdue & Jennifer Ross

The elections are the most important event occurring this year. New legislative maps drawn by the Democrats placed many Republicans in the same district. The Primary election was very important to determine many races. There were also many Democratic primaries particularly in Democratic areas. The Primary is over with a couple of very close elections in which a few votes would have made a difference. Another reason why every vote counts.

We have had a number of legislators retire and leave for other jobs before the Primary and General election. Next year there will be a large number of new legislators. It will be interesting to see how that impacts legislation.

The budget is the main issue in this legislative session. The costs of pensions and Medicaid are growing at a faster rate than are manageable. There are discussions going on in each area. Whether there can be an agreement on either or both issues is up for grabs. Maintaining resources in the budget is very difficult for education and anything else.

We wrote a bill and asked legislators to sponsor the bill. The bill would have required DNR to use at least 70% of the 4% tax dollars for assisting landowners. Our legislators were told by DNR that the bill was impossible to manage at this time in the budget; BUT we did get an accounting of the 4% tax dollars from DNR.

We have been meeting with other agriculture and downstate interests to attempt to strengthen downstate causes in the legislature. As the number of constituents drop, there are fewer legislators interested in our issues. We need to broaden our political base. Dave Gillespie, Jennifer and Paula have been attending these meetings and working with other groups including Ill. Farm Bureau, 4-H, Soil and Water Conversation Districts and other associations to develop a large coalition of groups to educate downstate, suburban and city legislators the importance of these groups and for the state of Illinois.

The coalition is developing a book of our interests and contact information as well as inviting legislators to our events and take pictures for local newspapers. Dave Gillespie got great information from IFA for this book. This is a politically astute move to strengthen the support for our issues and others that are based in downstate like IFA.

To date we have no bills that we are fighting for or against. But we are monitoring amendments on a daily basis.

Morels vs. Honeysuckle

By Roy Bailey, Region 3 Co-Director

So you headed out to your woods in March (when we were having April weather) to harvest your wonderful prized mushrooms. But you found no morels.....just a disgusting population of bush honeysuckle and autumn olive. Surprises happen in a woods when you don't get back there but once a year or less. These invasive woody shrubs have been bird-seeded from that mess across the road. Exotic invaders spread like shingles in a tornado.

By the way, you should tell your mushroom hunting guests that honeysuckle is very competitive with morels, and they are welcome to pull all the little honeysuckles. (Don't tell them this is stretching the truth a bit.) You deserve the help, and honeysuckles pull easy when the soil is wet.

This March you should have forgotten about hunting anything except your backpack sprayer and some approved translocating herbicide. Those nasty invaders are easy to spot and spray early in the season when their leaves are the only green in the woods. During this early green stage you can broadcast a foliar herbicide with no damage to dormant preferred species like oaks.

You found nothing but problems earlier this spring, and now there are more troubles. The whole floor of the woods is loaded with green plants, woody and otherwise. The war can still be waged, but you must practice recognizing both preferred and invader species in a variety of growth stages. A foliar application of herbicide can be used carefully, but it can not be applied broadcast style. Foliar spot spray can work, but as you gain success you will wipe out a few good seedlings.

Foliar spot spraying side-effect damage can be limited by following these guidelines.

- Follow the herbicide label, particularly with respect to drift.
- Hit on smaller plants. Cut and stump treat the bigger ones.
- Pick you battles. Consider a later application or other controls where you have high value species mixed with the pests.

- Do some limited application and evaluate after 1 or 2 weeks
- Keep notes on variations of herbicide rates, weather and techniques.
- Do not spend half your time trying to find the last 10% of the target species. It is easier to follow up on the 10% later.
- Early season applications are usually most successful.

If you can't face fighting exotics in mid-season, be ready for another battle in the mid to late fall. Most exotics go dormant after a couple of hard freezes, considerably later than native preferred species. November is often an excellent time to conquer exotics, and you won't be distracted by active growing oaks or morels.

If you are gun-shy about foliar work, stump treatments work well, except during heavy spring sap flow.

Forrest Keeling Nursery Tour

by Lee Rife, IFA member

Saturday, January 28, saw some 16 IFA members traveling to Elsberry, Missouri to visit the Forrest Keeling Nursery. Wayne Lovelace, President and CEO of FK took us on a tour of the facilities as well as a couple of seed orchards. Afterwards, our group journeyed to Annada, Missouri for lunch and on to Clarksville, MO where some visited a chair manufacture and others went eagle watching.

Forrest Keeling uses, what it referred to as, the Root Production Method of growing primarily oak and hickory trees. He also uses RPM to produce a variety of other trees and shrubs, which are sold all over the world for reforestation and aforestation purposes.

Those in attendance gained valuable insights in how nursery trees were produced and how these trees would grow into rather large seed producing trees in just a few short years. The trip proved to be very rewarding to members and guests. The next event for Region 2 will be at Starhill Arboretum, Salisbury, IL. This should be an interesting meeting. We hope to see you there.

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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!

Walnuts & Acorns

By Lee M. Rife



In the last newsletter, I talked about my Union County farm and the some 35 acres of timber which is on it. Unfortunately, a timber harvest roughly 10 years ago brought about some unexpected and unwanted results. Unwanted exotic species (Autumn Olive, Bush Honeysuckle, Multiflora Rose and a few other non-native plants) all found newly opened places to grow.

I have learned that most of these exotics were brought to Illinois by the State of Illinois to be planted along highways and other public lands for various purposes. Unfortunately, while the initial purposes were good and well intended, the results are somewhat of a nightmare. My problem is trying to rid my woodlots of them so that desirable native oaks, hickories, black cherry, and other marketable species can take root and grow.

A recent ruling by NRCS makes the preferred option of prescription burns difficult, if even possible. This leaves two options: we can either mechanical rout the exotics or spray them with glyphosphate, hopefully killing the plant. There is too much coverage to rout, but I am afraid that merely killing the plant by spray will leave seed to be picked up by birds and deposited elsewhere, so that a new round of spraying will be necessary. In other words, prescription burning would have neutralized any seed as well as killed most of the exotic plants.

After discussing the issue with the local NRCS office and my consulting forester, I decided to use the spray option. Doing nothing is not an option, as (1) this timber is in the American Tree Farm system and (2) I can't stand a messy woodlot. Nuff said!

Kay Shipman wrote an excellent article in the April 16, 2012 issue of FarmWeek, quoting Jay Hayek on the importance of employing a consulting forester to advise and help in the management of your timber. I urge all IFA members to read this piece. It contains references to some publications

available through the internet which will prove useful in marketing your timber. If you do not have access to the internet, you may be able to find FarmWeek at your county Farm Bureau office, or your public library.

We Deserve a Little Respect

Message from a member

It's time that Illinois woodland owners got some credit. In the recent past, many county assessors have been quick to label our forests as unproductive and raise our taxes. By cutting back on their forestry staff, DNR management evidently feels that we don't need much assistance. Most everyone else ignores our sheltering and feeding the wildlife that they enjoy. We need to do better at claiming some credit.

With that in mind, I want to thank Illinois woodland owners for the benefits you provide to all of us. Your forests create soil while cleaning our air and water. They store over one billion metric tons of CO₂, helping to mitigate the effects of global climate change. Your forests benefit yourself, your neighbors, hunters, photographers, hikers, and tourists. Our website lists the hundreds of products that your forests provide. According to Forest Service surveys, you do all of this because you enjoy your forests and your trees. While economic gain is not your primary motive, you contribute to the global economy as well, providing some of the finest hardwoods for the world's construction and furniture industries. From a 1996 study by the University of Illinois, you are 125,000 families - just over 2% of all households - who own, manage, and improve woodlands in our state.

If you receive this newsletter as an IFA member, you are one of the 2,500 families - just 2% of all woodland-owning families - who comprise the membership of the Illinois Forestry Association (IFA), the Illinois Walnut Council (IWC), the Illinois Tree Farm (ITF) organization, and the Northwest Illinois Forestry Association (NIFA). You support these

groups in informing and educating your fellow members, other woodland owners, and the public in good forest management and the benefits from forests.

These four groups were formerly joined in this education mission by governmental institutions, but tightening in Springfield and Washington has led to:

- the gutting of the IDNR Division of Forestry
- the elimination of the USDA support of RC&Ds
- the underfunding of local SWCDs
- the under-emphasis of forestry programs by the University of Illinois.

This has resulted in the IFA, IWC, ITF, and NIFA remaining the educational mainstays for forest management information through their newsletters, field days, websites, meetings, seminars, and publications. And you, through your IFA membership, are helping to keep this information flowing. Thank you.

Of these 2,500 members, just 2% - 50 people - run these four groups. They are all volunteers, who contribute their time and resources to travel, meet, plan, schedule, find rooms and sites and speakers, write articles, and advertise. Many have been doing this volunteer work for ten and twenty years. They do it because they cannot stand to see the incredible resource of Illinois forests go to waste.

Thanks to these 50, and their 2,500 supporters, and the 125,000 woodland owners for all that you provide us. Thanks to all of you for your investment in Illinois' forest resource, wildlife shelter, air and water filter, autumn color, wind breaks, biofuel source, mushroom store, native plant sanctuary, and hardwood treasure.

Illinois Forestry Association

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IRS 501(c)3

Regional News

Region 1

Directors

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Happenings

For those of you unable to attend Dr. Frederic Miller's excellent discussion of forest pests and diseases threatening northern Illinois on March 27th in Mount Carroll, there are three more upcoming opportunities to learn about invasive threats - part of May's Invasive Species Awareness Month.

On May 17, the U of I Extension is presenting a 6:30 pm program on the Emerald Ash Borer at the Stockton Public Library. To register (costs \$5) call (815) 858-2273.

Also on May 17, the U of I Extension is presenting a free evening lecture on "Good Bug vs. Bad Bug: Beneficial and Invasive Insects that Affect Our Native Landscape". Extension Entomologist Dr. Phil Nixon will speak from 7 to 8:30 pm at the Nicholaus Conservatory in Rockford.

On May 19, the IFA and several others are hosting a 2-hour workshop on invasive plants and pests of northern Illinois forests featuring speakers from the Morton's Arboretum and Lake County Forest Preserve District. It will be held at the Prairieview Education Center, 2112 Behan Rd, Crystal Lake, IL from 10 am until noon. It is free and open to all, but we ask that you pre-register on our website - click on "Events". Alternatively, send an email to pouzar@yahoo.com to indicate you are attending. The listing on our Events page contains more on this workshop.

On other topics, there are several events in the next few months with further detail and registration contacts on our website's Event listings.

There will be a pruning and thinning demonstration in Jo Daviess County on May 19th starting at 1 pm near Scales Mound.

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

Region 2

Directors

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Upcoming Event:

MAY 19, 2012 - Tour of Starhill Forest Arboretum, Petersburg, Illinois

The Illinois Forestry Association invites you to attend a program entitled "Think Like A Tree" given by host Guy Sternberg at the Starhill Forest Arboretum, Petersburg, Illinois on Saturday, May 19, 2012 at 10 am, followed by a tour of the grounds. Guy is an arborist, tree consultant, lecturer and author of the book "Native Trees for North American Landscapes". Guy and his wife Edie have owned the Arboretum since 1976. Starhill is noted for its living collection of North American oak species. Attendance will be limited to the first 30 individuals who preregister on the www.ilforestry.org website, so make your plans and preregister.

No fee is required, but we would like to ask you to donate 2-3 hours of work at the arboretum immediately following the program (Pulling weeds around trees, spreading mulch, and/or picking up sticks on trails). An alternative could be to make a modest donation to Starhill Arboretum. For more details, you can visit the website at www.starhillforest.com or call Jim Hynes, Carol Bryant, or Dan Schmoker.

Also, on Saturday, May 19, the National Wild Turkey Federation is hosting simultaneously a "Women in the Outdoors" Event and a Habitat Field Day in Pecatonica. Registration and fees apply; multiple activities and courses are offered for both events.

You can learn about how best to discuss with your children and heirs the responsibility for your land and forests after you are gone, at a "Ties to the Land" half-day seminar in Jo Daviess County on

Past Events:

In January, 11 IFA members and four spouses and/or friends visited the Forrest Keeling Nursery in Elsberry, MO. All three Regional Directors were present. Dan Schmoker greeted the group, introduced our host Wayne Lovelace, presented Mrs. Lovelace with a turned bowl and conducted the drawing for door prizes. Three purple paint signs were sold.

In March, Carol Bryant attended a public meeting at Elsay, IL about Forest Stewardship Council Certification pending for 2000 acres owned by Principia Corporation.

In April, Jim, Dan and Carol visited the Starhill Forest Arboretum and met Guy Sternberg. We assisted Arboretum Manager Alana McKean in moving part of the collection of exotic and hybrid potted oaks from the greenhouse to the outdoors.

If members have any suggestions for events or if they would like to host a field day at their woodlot, please email us or drop us a note by mail.

June 9th. The \$25 registration fee covers the cost of a workbook and DVD; register and pay on our website.

The Game of Logging, Days One and Two, will be taught by certified instructor Ken Lallemond on August 11 and 12 at a location in Jo Daviess County. As soon as the location is fixed, this chain-saw-safety event will be posted on our website with registration information.

Region 3

Directors

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By Roy Bailey & Ray Herman

IFA joined hands with several member groups to hold Prescribed Burn Awareness Workshops in Champaign and Newton on February 29 and March 8, respectively. The Lincoln Heritage RC&D Council, the Champaign County SWCD and the Jasper County NRCS and SWCD staffs helped work out all the details that resulted in well attended and informative awareness workshops. NWTF and Illinois Tree Farm helped develop the program and build attendance.

About 25 were at the Champaign session and 28 at Newton. A five chapter take-home binder that covered essential prescribed burn topics was provided to all participants. Field demonstration burns were planned, but high winds and wet conditions prevented this from happening.



Participants in Newton, IL watch demonstration.



Sample of a what a burn class might experience.

Photo by NRCS Gene Barickman

Kenton Macy, biologist with NRCS in Charleston, was the primary presenter at both sessions. Jay Hayek, Extension Forestry Specialist, was the other major presenter at the Champaign session. Kent Adams, NWTF biologist, was the second major presenter at the Newton session.

While actual field fires were impossible, the "power point" presentations gave very vivid overviews of both prairie grass and woodland burns. Tools and techniques were the emphasis, but principles, permits, burn plans, programs and cost share opportunities were also discussed.

Some workshop participants have been burning for years. Both experienced and beginning burners contributed to fruitful discussions. At least two more similar sessions are planned for this fall. One will be held in Coles County in late September or early October; the other in Edgar or Clark County in October.

Region 4

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No Report

SAVE THE DATE

The *IFA Annual Meeting* is set for Oct 5-6 in Effingham. Friday activities will begin with a tour of John Boos and Co. Ballard Nature Center will be headquarters on Saturday.

May is Invasive Species Awareness Month

You can help stop invasive species --how? Attend workshops, field trips and lectures where possible.



Autumn Olive



Garlic Mustard

NWTF Field Day
Tortenson Family Conservation Education Center
Winnebago County
May 19, 2012

The National Wild Turkey Federation will host this two simultaneous all-day events - one event for women in the outdoors and one event for land managers - ideal for couples to attend.

The Women in the Outdoors event includes expert instruction in eleven activities:

- archery
- jewelry making
- basic handgun
- quilting
- shot gun / air rifle
- backyard habitat
- self defense
- container gardening
- soap making
- feather painting
- pressed flowers

The \$50 registration fee includes your choice of four activities with equipment usage, light breakfast, lunch and beverages, *Women in the Outdoors* membership, subscription to *Turkey Country* magazine, door prizes, raffles, and winetasting.

For more information on this event, contact Marcia Polhamus at mpolhms@aol.com or 815-222-5010.

The Habitat Field Day for land managers includes expert instruction in these areas:

- forest management
- native warm season grass management
- several other topics
- food plots
- wetlands

The \$10 registration fee includes lunch. Attendees should dress for mild field hiking.

For more information and to register for this event, contact Kent Adams at kadamsrb@nwtf.net or 217-690-4950.