

Tour Options...

MASON STATE TREE NURSERY →

Thursday Optional Tree Planting Tour - Begins at Mason State Tree Nursery @ 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Includes lunch and afternoon refreshments in the field. Be sure to pre-register for all events so we will have enough food and drinks available for everyone. Directions to the nursery will be provided upon registering. Participants will carpool to the field tour stop(s) after lunch.

The Thursday optional field tour begins at the [Mason State Tree Nursery](#) near Havana, IL. Attendees will enjoy a guided tour of nursery operations and a catered lunch, then carpool to one or more privately owned sites where trees from the nursery have been planted. If you've got an area where you'd like to establish or reestablish a forest, or have experience to share that would help others - this is the tour for you!

Saturday Optional Tour -- Starhill Forest Arboretum -- Begins at 9 a.m., ends at 11:45 a.m.

Includes coffee & doughnuts upon arrival, plus late morning snack and drink break. Driveway space limits us to about 20 cars, so register early to secure your spot. Carpooling is suggested. Directions provided at the meeting.

The mission at [Starhill Arboretum](#) is "to promote an understanding and appreciation of trees and nature through programs that integrate science and the liberal arts, focusing upon native landscapes and well-documented plant collections arranged aesthetically and ecologically in a naturalistic design for professional and public study and quiet enjoyment."



Guy and Edie Sternberg

Located on 50 acres in southern Menard County, IL, Starhill Forest is a private arboretum owned and operated by the Sternberg family since 1976. The land has been farmed and grazed since the mid-19th century, when Abraham Lincoln traveled on the same road during his New Salem days.

Old trees in the forested areas date to about 1850, and the oldest planted trees were started from seed in 1964 and transplanted from another location. The primary scientific collection is a quercetum (oak) comprising the living reference collection recognized by the North American Plant Preservation Council. Another 150 genera of woody plants are available for study, as well as herb and perennial landscapes, a native prairie garden, and a conifer plantation.

Our host still has some short planks and cookies taken from limbs of the famous Gudgel Oak (*Quercus alba*) SW of Athens. Featured in the 2016 Trees Forever national calendar, this tree was core dated to the 1750s (pre-Revolution) and died from the after-effects of the 2012 drought. The Sternberg's are selling this wood to raise funds for historic tree care on public lands throughout the county. Attendees will have an opportunity to purchase some wood from this tree for their own projects at a one-time-only conference discount of \$10 (cash-only, no credit cards), buyer's choice, at the end of the tour. Then, if you're interested, pay your respects to the 20ft trunk on your way home.



Gudgel Oak