

THE TRI-STATE FOREST STEWARDSHIP CONFERENCE IS PRESENTED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:

Cooperative Extension Service at:
Iowa State University
University of Illinois

Illinois Forestry Development Council

Illinois and Iowa Department of Natural Resources

Department of Natural Resource Ecology and Management,
Iowa State University

Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences,
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign



CONFERENCE LOCATION:

The Sinsinawa Mound Center, in Sinsinawa, WI, is located just a few miles east of Dubuque, IA, within convenient driving distance for participants from the Tri-State area. Sinsinawa Mound has formed partnerships with several hotels in the area, which provide discounted rates for Sinsinawa guests. In Dubuque there is the Best Western (563) 557-8000, the Hampton Inn (563) 690-2005, and the Hilton Garden Inn (563) 585-5200, and in Galena there is Stoney Creek Inn (815) 777-2223. Dubuque, Iowa is less than 10 miles from the Conference Center and Galena, Illinois is about 15 miles from the Center.

**TRI-STATE FOREST STEWARDSHIP CONFERENCE
SATURDAY, MARCH 10, 2018 – SINSINAWA, WI.**

Online Registration: <http://extension.illinois.edu/go/forestconference>

Check-in & Continental Breakfast **8:00 – 8:55 am**

Welcome & Door Prizes **9:05 – 9:25 am**

Session 1 **9:35 – 10:30 am**

- A. Winter Tree Identification** by Nate Beccue, University of Illinois Natural Areas Manager
This presentation will discuss the basic characteristics used in the winter identification of deciduous trees, we will look and the specific characteristics of a wide variety of native tree species and focus on the winter identification of native hickories.
- B. The Timber Sale Process & Current Market Conditions** by Gretchen Cline and Bob Petrzela, Geode Forestry, Inc.
This session will provide guidance on selling your trees, what to expect during the harvest process, and provide updates on current timber markets.
- C. A Primer on Forest Soils & USDA's Web Soil Survey** by Jay Hayek, University of Illinois Extension Forester
I will discuss forest soils in a basic and practical way with respect to forest management and to the benefit of woodland owners and land managers. I will also discuss USDA's online Web Soil Survey tool and its uses for woodland management and related conservation efforts.

D. Managing Invasive Shrubs By Chris Evans, University of Illinois Extension Forester

Invasive plants threaten natural lands in the Midwest. Invasive shrubs are particularly damaging to forests. These exotic plants can displace native species, limit growth of trees, inhibit tree seedling establishment, and reduce wildlife habitat. This presentation will cover the common invasive shrubs invading our forests and discuss techniques, tools, and timing for safe and effective management.

Session 2 10:45 – 11:40 am

A. Introducing Fire Management for Small Landowners by Ryan Harr, IDNR Private Lands Biologist

Fire is an important part of ecosystem management – whether it be woodland, grassland, or wetlands. In today's novel ecosystems (those altered by human activities on local and landscape scale) fire may represent an even more important tool for managing habitats. Still, many landowners are new to fire and though interested, may be reluctant to incorporate fire into their management toolbox. In this discussion we will look at the basics of planning and implementing prescribed fire, considerations for planning, and appropriate timing and application of fire to achieve landowner goals.

B. Forest Health Threats to Hickory, Walnut and Oak by Linda Haugen, USFS Forest Pathologist,

The talk will consider major insect and disease problems that are commonly observed affecting these important upland hard mast species. Information covered will include how to recognize serious problems, and actions you can take to minimize losses.

C. Smartphone/Tablet Apps for Land Management by Chris Evans, University of Illinois Extension Forester

Technological advancements have provided a new set of tools to aid landowners in managing their forests and other natural lands. Apps for plant and animal identification, record keeping, mapping, navigating, treatment recommendations, smoke management during prescribed fires, and connecting landowners to natural resource experts are all available and easy to acquire. This presentation will cover some of popular apps available for smartphones and tablets and discuss how these can help with land management.

D. Allerton Park Deer Population Management and Oak/Hickory Regeneration by Nate Beccue and Alex Lourash, University of Illinois

Allerton Park began monitoring white-tailed deer populations in 1980 and began harvesting deer in 2004. Since 2004 the Allerton Deer Population has been reduced by 80%. This presentation will discuss our deer management program and how the deer reduction has improved forest health. We will share data on oak/hickory regeneration, spring flower abundance, deer vehicle accidents and more.

Break 11:40 am – 12:05 pm

Session 3 12:05 – 1:00 pm

A. How to Raise Christmas Trees: the new grower perspective By Dr. Jesse Randall, ISU Extension Forester

This talk will focus on how a new grower can start out raising Christmas trees for fun and profit on a small to medium scale. It will highlight some of the trials and tribulations that new growers go thru. We will discuss species selection, planting and care of trees, annual herbicide and shearing needs as well as where and when to order seedlings and what to look for in good quality planting stock.

- B. Enemies Old, Enemies New: Forest Insect Update** by Dr. Laura Jesse Iles, ISU Plant Disease Clinic
Invasive insect pests continue to arrive in the tri-state area with alarming speed. It is more important than ever to be aware of what insect pests are already harming our trees and what pests are just over the horizon.
- C. Realizing your conservation ethic: programs and policy options for reaching your management goals**
by Ryan Harr, IDNR Private Lands Biologist
Many landowners possess a deeply rooted conservation ethic and personal ties to their land, yet may not be aware of the many tools available to help them reach their land management objectives. From timber planning to prescribed fires to wildlife habitat and pollinator conservation, a myriad array of federal, state, and local programs and opportunities exist to support conservation goals. Our goal for this session is to introduce landowners to the programs, professionals and processes that are available to them to assist with planning, preparing and paying for conservation practices on their land. Topics will include state and federal cost-share programs and what they can do, navigating options between agencies, and leaving/protecting a legacy for future generations of land stewards.
- D. What Story is Your Land Telling You** by Dr. Adam Janke, ISU Wildlife Extension
The stories of land are told in a variety of ways. Local history books, General Land Office surveys, and historic aerial photographs reveal many details. Stories of past hunts and or family memories in old fields and forests are passed down through generations. All these methods reflect a critical transfer of information through shared stories or archival records where available. However, astute observers have no need to visit the local library or call up a family to know many stories of the land because they often hide in plain sight. This session will explore some of the secrets to reading the stories your land is telling you and discuss how to interpret those stories to inform management, improve land stewardship, and enrich our experiences on the land.

Buffet Lunch 1:00 – 2:15 pm

Session 4 2:20 - 3:15 pm

- A. Crop Tree Management** by Paul Bane, IL District Forester
How to help your forest grow high quality timber by giving your trees ample room to grow. We will talk about desired species, form, and how to complete a successful crop tree release.
- B. Pollinator / Monarch Habitat Establishment and Management** by Seth Applegate, ISU monarch Group, NREM
Presentation will cover native habitat establishment best practices with a focus on pollinator style establishments. Content targets those establishing habitat at a field scale, not garden scale, although general concepts will be applicable to both environments. Those considering or in current CRP contracts such as CP42, CP38, or CP25 would benefit from attending. Topics covered will include seed mix selection and purchase, selecting a site, site preparation, planting, management, and a hard sell for why you should plant diverse native habitat.
- C. Solar for Rural Applications** by Dr. Greg Brenneman, ISU Extension Ag. Engineer
There has been a lot of interest in wind and solar photovoltaic (PV) arrays over the past several years in Iowa. Factors for this include price reductions for erecting a photovoltaic (PV) array, tax incentives by both state and federal government, and the desire to reduce future electric bills. This session will focus on the potential for “small” wind and solar energy production in the mid-west along with what the economics look like. We will include a look at the practical aspects of purchasing, installing and using a 20 KW solar PV system for the for the past several years.

D. All About Antlers by Dr. Julie Blanchong, by ISU Associate Professor, NREM

This talk will be focused on white-tailed deer antlers. The biology and purpose of antlers will be discussed. In addition, the talk will describe factors including age, genetics, and nutrition that influence a deer's antler characteristics. Information will be also presented about the outcomes of studies that have attempted to manage deer populations to increase antler size.

Session 5 3:30 - 4:25 pm

A. Pruning Timber Trees for Form and Function by Jay Hayek, University of Illinois Extension Forester

This session will provide an overview on pruning timber trees for form and function. We will discuss corrective pruning techniques and lateral pruning in order to promote high-quality sawlog and veneer log potential.

B. Forest Herbicides & Application Techniques by Paul Bane, IL District Forester

Want to get rid of unwanted vegetation in your woods? Learn about common herbicides that are useful in woodlands and their application methods.

C. Protecting Your Land with Conservation Easements by Brian Fankhauser, Blufflands Director, Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation

Many conservation-oriented landowners are concerned about what will happen to their land after they are gone, or can no longer care for it. Some of these landowners have spent several years and considerable resources managing their woodlands, prairies and other natural areas. They have seen the results of their efforts in higher quality woodlands, increased wildlife habitat, sustainable agricultural land and additional scenic beauty. Often, they want to ensure this land which they have a strong connection to, is protected into the future. Conservation easements are an excellent tool for permanently protecting private land during, and beyond one's lifetime. During this session, attendees will learn what a conservation easement is, how they can be used to protect land and what financial incentives they may be eligible for by placing a conservation easement on their property.

D. What Midwestern forest landowners are doing for bats and why it matters by Dr. Adam Janke, ISU Wildlife Extension

Even to those of us lucky enough to spend our days in the woods, bats seem remarkably forgettable. They go about their lives in caves and forests only sharing daylight with us in the waning hours of summer evenings. But, anyone with an ecological understanding of bats knows they are critically important pieces of our forest ecosystems. And they're in trouble. This session will explore the threats posed by changes to forest habitats, new emerging pressures associated with energy development and an exotic disease-causing fungus called White Nose Syndrome that's been wreaking unprecedented havoc on eastern populations in the last decade and discuss why sound forest stewardship is the key to helping bats continue to thrive in Midwestern forests.