

Illinois Forests



"The Voice for Illinois Forests"

Inside this Issue...

Updates from Extension, Tree Farm, and IDNR
Program seeking Northern Illinois landowners
Sustaining oak forests - problems and implications
Building trails on your property
Tree health and herbicide drift - Again in 2018
Do-it-yourself ATV modifications
Give the gift of IFA membership

Photo by Chris Evans

2018-19 Illinois Forestry Association Board of Directors

Executive Committee

PRESIDENT

Joe FitzSimmons (Region 4)
Vienna, IL
773/852-7120
fitzsimmonsawoffice@gmail.com

VICE-PRESIDENT

Landon Satterfield (Region 4)
Boaz, KY (Benton, IL)
270/704-2687
lsatter@siu.edu

SECRETARY

Dave Gillespie (Region 2)
Chatham, IL
217/494-6982
dandgisp@aol.com

TREASURER

Mike McMahan (Region 4)
Vienna, IL
618/977-3415
mcmahan3465@hotmail.com

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

John Edgington (Region 3)
Flat Rock, IL
217/840-5162
johnedg@illinois.edu

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR *

Stephanie Brown
Golconda, IL
618/949-3699
618/638-6954 cell
sbrown63@shawneelink.net

Regional Directors

Region 1

Bill Fern
Chicago, IL
773/551-5561
bill@billfern.com

Fredric Miller
Joliet, IL
815/280-2740
fmiller@jcc.edu

Lydia Scott
Lisle, IL
630/719-2425
lscott@mortonarb.org

Tom Walsh
Durand, IL
815/248-2234
wash10@stateline-isp.com

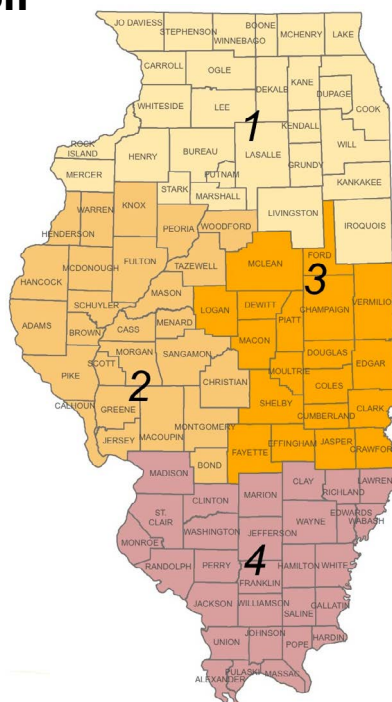
Michael Woolery
Winnebago, IL
815/222-0009
mikewoolery@mchsi.com

Region 2

Carol Bryant
Mt. Olive, IL
618/444-3864
cabryant2@gmail.com

John Lovseth
Jerseyville, IL
618/374.5291
John.Lovseth@principia.edu

Lee Rife
Springfield, IL
217/652-2634
Lee.Rife@comcast.net



Region 3

Stan Sipp
Mansfield, IL
217/714-1855
skipp@illinois.edu

Region 4

Annette McMichael
Ozark, IL
217/ 273-1000
am33.mcmichael@gmail.com

Roger Smith
Benton, IL
618/927-2057
smithtreefarmllc@hotmail.com

IFA Technical Advisors

Chris Evans (Chair)
University of Illinois
Extension Forester
618/695-3383 (office)
cwevans@illinois.edu

Kurt Bobsin
Forester - Retired IDNR
217/469-3174 (home)
kwbobsin@gmail.com

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

Paul Deizman
IDNR Forest Resources
217/782-3376 (office)
paul.deizman@illinois.gov

John Edgington
University of Illinois (retired)
217/840-5162
johnedg@illinois.edu

Jay Hayek
University of Illinois
Extension Forester
217/244-0534 (office)
jhayek@illinois.edu

Kyle Burkwald
Nelson Land Management
630/632-6593
kburkwald91@gmail.com

Stan Sipp
Forester
217/489-9003
skipp@illinois.edu

Gary Stratton
Forester - Retired IDNR
618/736-2854
stratton@hamiltoncom.net

Chris Whittom
IDNR Forest Resources
217/785-8264 (office)
217/280-3659 (cell)
chris.whittom@illinois.gov

Our Mission...

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

Our Goals...

- Promote forest management and help landowners manage their forests
- Educate members and the general public about rural and community forestry
- Advocate for favorable legislation and policies to benefit/protect landowners managing their forests
- Understand and engage our members, and increase IFA membership
- Govern the IFA efficiently and effectively to better serve our charitable mission

** until 12/31/18, after which IFA program coordination will shift to Chris Evans' office (see above for contact information).*

2018 Annual Meeting & Fall Conference Recap

The Illinois Forestry Association held its 13th Annual Meeting and Fall Conference at the Northfield Center in Springfield in late September. Although participation was down from recent years, the program was outstanding. The conference opened with a tree planting tour that featured an up close look at Mason State Tree Nursery operations. It closed with a guided tour of the impressive Starhill Arboretum. In between, we had a fine line up of speakers covering a theme that spanned from the basics of tree planting to extending your legacy of stewardship. We had a few displays, a silent auction with some great deals, and a lot of quality social time together that everyone seemed to enjoy.

During the business meeting, Joe FitzSimmons' term as President was extended for one year. Landon Satterfield was elected Vice-President. John Edgington will continue on the Executive Committee as Immediate Past President. John Lovseth, Lee Rife, and Lydia Scott were elected to two-year terms as Regional Directors.

We spent some time discussing the day-to-day management transition that has been underway behind the scenes. Beginning January 1, the University of Illinois Extension Forestry program will be coordinating many of the activities previously carried out by our Executive Director. We hope this arrangement will be a win-win for the IFA and Extension.

Jim Hynes and Joe Newcomb couldn't be with us, but they were both recognized as outgoing members of the board.

Stephanie Brown received the Special Achievement Award for Exceptional Service and Dedication. She thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve these past 7 years, and said that the time has come for her to move on to other professional interests. She expressed optimism for the continued growth and success of the organization and pledged to continue her Sustaining membership.

A committee is exploring Pere Marquette Lodge - Principia College as locations for the 2019 meeting - earlier in September to allow for federal agency participation.

Available slide presentations...

[Illinois Forests by the Numbers](#)

[Latest on Invasive Species Challenges in Illinois](#)

[Growing a New Forest from Scratch](#)

[Managing Forests for Wildlife](#)

[Forest Management for the Birds](#)

[Options for Extending your Legacy of Stewardship](#)

Extra, Extra!

[Follow-up information from Starhill Arboretum about the Gudge Oak](#)



How to Order Planting Stock from Mason Nursery...

[Instructions for Ordering](#)

[2019 Seedling Price List/Order Form](#)

[2019 Pollinator Seed Packet Order Form](#)



<https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/conservation/forestry/pages/tree-nurseries.aspx>

Extension Forestry Update

by Chris Evans, University of Illinois Extension Forester



Earlier this fall, Extension Forestry partnered with IDNR and the Morton Arboretum to host a series of three Forest Health Workshops. These events updated attendees on topics such as spotted lanternfly, oak wilt, rapid white oak mortality, herbicide damage to trees, spruce and maple decline, biocontrol for emerald ash borer and new invasive plants to Illinois. Over 70 foresters, natural resource managers, and landowners attended these workshops.

This fall, Extension Forestry represented Illinois through giving presentations at national and international meetings, including the North American Invasive Species Management Association Conference and Natural Areas Association Conference. In addition, presentations will be given at the National Innovations in Invasive Species Management Conference and the Illinois Association of Conservation Districts meeting.

A new state champion shagbark hickory has been crowned! Coming in at a towering 132 feet tall with a diameter of over 39 inches, this stand-grown shagbark hickory is located on the Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge in Union County, further cementing Union County at the top county in the state for champion trees! With all of the newly crowned champion trees, we are excited to be nearing the release of the updated Big Tree Register.

Extension Forestry has officially been recognized as a partner in the Wild Spotter program. This national program is spearheaded by Wildlife Forever, the US Forest Service, and the University of Georgia's Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health. It focuses on mapping invasive species on public lands, with an emphasis on federal wilderness areas. On Dec 4, we are partnering with the Shawnee National Forest and the River to River CWMA to host a hike and mapping volunteer day



Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge Biologist Karen Mangan standing beside the newly crowned state champion shagbark hickory.

in the Burden Falls Wilderness on the Shawnee National Forest.

Upcoming Extension Forestry programs include a timber harvest and taxes workshop on January 26th in Carterville, IL and the 4th annual Backyard Maple Syrup Production Workshop at Dixon Springs Ag Center on February 2nd. The 25th annual Tri-State Forest Stewardship Conference is being held on March 9th, 2019 in Sinsinawa, WI. This is our largest forestry event with around 500 attendees annually.

We continue to develop new programs. This winter, Extension Forestry team member Kevin Rohling will be leading workshops at the Dixon Springs Agricultural Center on Tools for Invasive Plant Management and Timber Stand Improvement/Chainsaw Safety. To find information on all of our event offerings, keep an eye on the Extension Forestry Facebook Page (<https://www.facebook.com/IllinoisExtensionForestry/>) or email Extension Forester Chris Evans (cwevans@illinois.edu) to get on our events mailing list.



Dr. Fredric Miller discusses sycamore anthracnose during the field tour at the Springfield Forest Health Workshop.



Tree Farm News

by Ed Anderson

Scenes from the 2018 Tree Farm Field Day



State Forester Update



The DNR Forestry Division has several staff retiring this Fall before or on December 31, 2018. Two District Forester offices have retirements and we are additionally losing our Urban & Community Forestry program leader, Fire program leader, licensed timber buyers office coordinator, and the State Forester to retirements. At this time we anticipate hiring most all positions back.

The State Forest Nursery at Mason County, Illinois remains open and very busy due to operating with low staff numbers and expanding the native seed program. The native seed offered for sale by the nursery remains one of the best values to Illinois landowners because the seed is 100% pure-live seed, competitively priced and is of native Illinois genomes. Please use the State Nursery as your source for native trees, forbs and pollinator plants.

Active management of seven State Forests continues since 2012 and remains an important priority for demonstration to landowners and the public, for managing and sustaining plant & habitat diversity as well to regenerate healthy forests into the future.

All divisions of the IDNR are anticipating changes in State Administration due to the election of a new Governor, including possible changes of agency Directors. The Division of Forest Resources is not expecting any changes or challenges to that end as we head into 2019.

Happy winter season to all.



Help is Available

IDNR District Foresters

Click [HERE](#) for the latest map that provides contact info for the District Forester serving your county. If you don't have access to a computer, call 217/785-8264 to get it by mail.

Illinois Consulting Foresters

Click [HERE](#) for the latest directory prepared by U of I Extension Forestry, or visit the Illinois Consulting Foresters Association [website](#) for an interactive map to find a forester near you.

Illinois Forestry Association

Need a quick and handy way to find a forester any time of the year? Check the home page of our website: <https://ilforestry.org> under *Find a Forester*.

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

A great general resource for one-on-one assistance with conservation planning is found at your local USDA Service Center. Click [HERE](#) for an interactive map, or find your local office in the phone book.

amazonsmile

You shop. Amazon gives.

If you shop on Amazon, consider entering the site through this link:

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/27-0134781>

Even without the specifics, it's easy to search for the Illinois Forestry Association as your preferred charitable organization. Just remember to enter "smile dot" before amazon dot com. At no cost to you, Amazon will donate 0.5% of eligible purchase totals to the IFA.

Every little bit helps.
Thanks for your support!



Seeking Landowners in Northern Illinois Interested in Assistance To Manage their Oak Woodlands

The Morton Arboretum and dozens of organizations across Northern Illinois are working together on a region-wide oak woodland recovery initiative. Given that 70% of the region's remaining remnant oak ecosystems are privately held, you the woodland landowner are essential to the success of this endeavor. You are instrumental in ensuring that these beautiful and majestic (and ecologically critical!) natural systems survive for generations to come.

In the coming months, several of the oak recovery partners, including The Morton Arboretum and the American Bird Conservancy, plan to submit a proposal to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) seeking Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) funding for oak recovery in Northern Illinois and Southeastern Wisconsin. If successful, the RCPP would utilize existing NRCS programs, such as the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), to support voluntary oak management on private lands. An existing RCPP administered by the Illinois Forestry Development Council and focused on oak-hickory stand improvement in select counties in the west-central and southern portions of the state provides a good model of how this could work in Northern Illinois.

As part of the proposal, we will need to identify private landowners who would potentially be willing to participate in the program should it be supported. This will be an important part of the application that demonstrates there is a viable need and interest among landowners.

If you are a Northern Illinois landowner who would consider seeking oak recovery assistance through an RCPP, please contact Lydia Scott at The Morton Arboretum (lscott@mortonarb.org or 630-719-2425). For purposes of this proposal, we are defining Northern Illinois as anything north of Interstate 80. Please note that indicating your interest at this stage does not obligate you to the program in any way.

We urge potential participating landowners to reach out to us as soon as possible. As of late November, the deadline for 2019 RCPP proposals has yet to be released by the USDA, but we anticipate news at anytime.





Problems in sustaining oak forests in Illinois and the Eastern US: Implications for restoration

by Daniel C. Dey, Research Forester, USDA Forest Service, Northern Research Station

A history of oak dominance

Oak species have been dominant on the Illinois landscape for 8,000 years. Oak forests and woodlands (see insert) occurred over 40% (>14 million acres) of the state in the 1820s and were located primarily in southern Illinois and along major river systems. A history of frequent fire, for example every 4-12 years on average, favored the development and persistence of oak as the dominant trees. Prairies occurred where fires were annual to biennial on level terrain. Oak savannas formed on the edges of prairies. Oak woodlands developed where the topography was rougher. True oak forests were located in "fire shadows" on the leeward side of large streams. The landscape was a mosaic of natural communities including prairies, oak savannas, woodlands and forests.

With the arrival of European settlers, prairies and oak savannas were converted to agriculture land uses. Woodlands and forests were used for timber and cattle grazing. In 1924, only about 3 million acres of forests remained in Illinois. Initially, settlers increased the use of fire on the landscape, which in combination with their persistent use of the forests created conditions that favored oak regeneration. With the beginning of fire suppression and the abandonment of marginal agricultural lands, oak forests arose to become the mature forests of today. Currently, oak-hickory is the dominant (68%) forest type on Illinois' 5 million acres of forest lands. Illinois forests are largely (>74%) mature, sawtimber (>11" diameter breast height).

The beginning of the end of oak's reign

Illinois oak forests are fairly typical of the status of oak forests throughout the eastern US and Canada, where oak regeneration problems are widely reported, and oak forests are succeeding to other forest types (maple-beech, aspen-birch, mesic cove hardwoods, northern hardwoods). The loss of oak forests is of great concern for conservation, economic and social reasons. Oak trees are capable of producing high quality and valuable veneer, lumber, furniture and flooring. Oak products are traditionally highly desired by homeowners. One-third of Illinois' timber volume is oak, which is a major contributor to the \$30 billion in annual sales from the forest industry to the Illinois economy. In addition, forests provide other benefits including recreational hunting, hiking, camping, clean water and air, birding, and wildlife habitat. Oak forests are often superior to other forest types in providing high quality habitat for threatened and endangered wildlife such as bats and migratory songbirds. There are 20 oak species in Illinois and white oak (*Quercus alba*) is the state tree. There are many reasons to be alarmed about the trend in oak forest loss. People love oak trees! To understand why oak is losing the battle of dominance, we need to know something about oak ecology, how a change in disturbances is favoring oak's competitors and how other factors such as white-tailed deer and invasive species are working against sustaining oak forests.



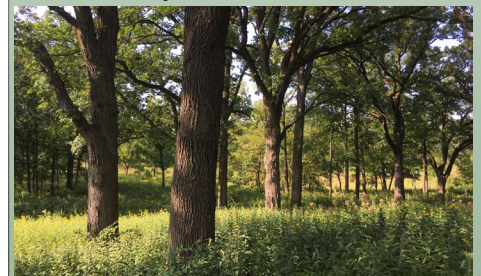
Prairie



Oak Savanna



Open Woodland



Closed Woodland



Oak Forest

Continued on the next page -

Oak restoration, continued -

The fundamental driver of oak loss is the onset of the modern disturbance regime beginning in the early 20th century. It is characterized by fire suppression and individual tree gap formation resulting from natural tree mortality or selective cutting of individual trees or small groups of trees. Without frequent fire, oak savannas and woodlands have become dense forests with an understory of shade tolerant tree saplings and seedlings, and shrubs. Although oak are dominant in the overstory, oak seedlings do not persist or grow into saplings in the low light of the modern forest. Oak species are generally intolerant to shade and most require moderate to high levels of sunlight (30 to 50% of full sunlight) to grow and be competitive. Species such as maples, ashes, elms, and hackberry are more tolerant of shade than oaks and they dominate the seedling and sapling layers in the forest understory. When a gap forms in the oak forest canopy from wind, insects, disease or timber harvesting, the understory of non-oak species are poised to capture the new growing space and advance into the overstory. Timber harvesting that creates larger openings without other efforts to control competing vegetation promotes the dominance of fast growing species such as yellow-poplar, aspen, silver maple and birch over small oak seedlings.

White-tailed deer populations are currently high in many places in the eastern US and are causing problems in forest regeneration. In much of southern Illinois deer densities range from 15 to 30 deer per square mile, and some counties

have higher populations. Deer densities above 12 deer per square mile are often associated with increasing forest regeneration problems in landscapes dominated by mature forests. Where the landscape is a mix of agriculture and forests, then >35 deer per square mile can cause forest regeneration failure. Oak is especially vulnerable because deer love eating acorns and browsing on oak seedlings. Short of reducing herd size by hunting, protecting individual oak trees by caging or fencing larger areas to be regenerated is required to protect trees from deer.

Invasive species such as autumn olive, buckthorn and bush honeysuckle are rapidly causing forest regeneration problems as they move into rural forests from urban areas. These shrubs can tolerate shade and invade the forest understory, forming a monoculture and causing extreme low light levels that inhibit the development of other vegetation in the understory. Monitoring for early detection of invasive species and their eradication is important to prevent an invasion. Many of these species are adapted to disturbances such as harvesting and prescribed burning and therefore an established population has to be controlled before implementing other practices to promote oak regeneration. There are many other troublesome invasive species and it is important to know what is in your area, how to identify them, and what is needed to control them.

Oak regeneration ecology

The sources of oak regeneration include

acorns, seedlings, seedling sprouts and stump sprouts (see below). Many wildlife, insects, and other organisms consume acorns and much of every year's crop is destroyed. Acorns must maintain relatively high moisture content to remain viable, and many seeds die over winter due to desiccation. It is mainly in years of bumper acorn crops that oak seedlings establish. Acorns that are buried in the soil by small mammals and birds are more likely to germinate into a seedling. Initially, seedling growth is driven by the energy reserves stored in the cotyledons, which for buried seed remains underground where it is protected from seed predators, desiccation, and surface fires. At the location of the acorn, where shoot and root emerge, a union known as the root collar forms where there are numerous dormant buds that are capable of forming new shoots if the original shoot is lost. There are many agents that can cause the loss of a seedling's shoot, but oaks are known for their sprouting ability, even in the face of repeated shoot loss provided there is sufficient light and time for seedling recovery between episodes of shoot dieback. New seedlings that have suffered shoot loss but have sprouted are known as seedling sprouts, and when they occur beneath a mature forest canopy, they are referred to as advance reproduction. After the first year when acorn reserves are spent, oak seedlings require sufficient light to produce new growth through photosynthesis. Most mature forests in the eastern US do not have sufficient light for oak advance reproduction to develop, except on the more xeric sites.



ACORNS

NEW OAK SEEDLINGS

This is the crux of the oak regeneration problem, the inability to develop sufficient numbers of competitive oak advance reproduction with large, well-developed root systems prior to release from a disturbance or harvest that initiates stand regeneration.

The management emphasis on developing competitive oak advance reproduction derives from several physiological and ecological traits in oak. First, oak seedlings preferentially allocate growth to their roots, even at the expense of shoot growth, and being suppressed by other vegetation. This is a conservative ecological strategy that works well in environments that experience moderately frequent and severe disturbances, not unlike the historic fire regime before European settlement. Oaks benefit from a large root system capable of supporting rapid sprout growth after a disturbance that creates open growing space by reducing stand density and setting back competing vegetation. Shade tolerant species that can dominate forest understories are promoted in frequent but low severity disturbance regimes (single tree gap dynamics in a forest). Species that are prolific seeders and seedbank species, capable of rapid shoot growth in open environments, can out-compete small oak advance reproduction under infrequent but high-severity regimes. Secondly, oak stump sprouts from large saplings to sawtimber-sized trees are highly competitive after a thinning or a harvest. However, not all oak stumps produce sprouts.

Sprouting in oaks varies by species and, in general, increases with increasing stem diameter >2" to a maximum size, beyond which it declines with increasing tree size and age. As modern oak forests continue growing and aging, their potential to stump sprout will continue to decline. Thus, the future stocking of oak in regenerating forests depends increasingly on the competitiveness of oak advance reproduction. If that potential is low, as it is in so many forests today, then oak forests succeed to other forest types when regenerated.

Implications for restoration

Whether you are restoring an oak forest that is in the process of succession to another forest type, or an oak savanna or woodland that has become an oak forest, there are some common objectives and principles that guide management approaches and practices. Either situation requires the reduction in stand density to increase light at the ground for promoting development of the native ground flora or oak regeneration. There should be oak seedlings in the understory before reducing stand density, just as there should be some signs that desired ground flora are there to respond to increased light. Without established oak regeneration or ground flora present, a thinning/harvest only releases the competing vegetation and increases the difficulty of restoration.

An incremental approach to restoration is common. For example, herbicide/mechanical/prescribed fire treatments can be used to control invasive species

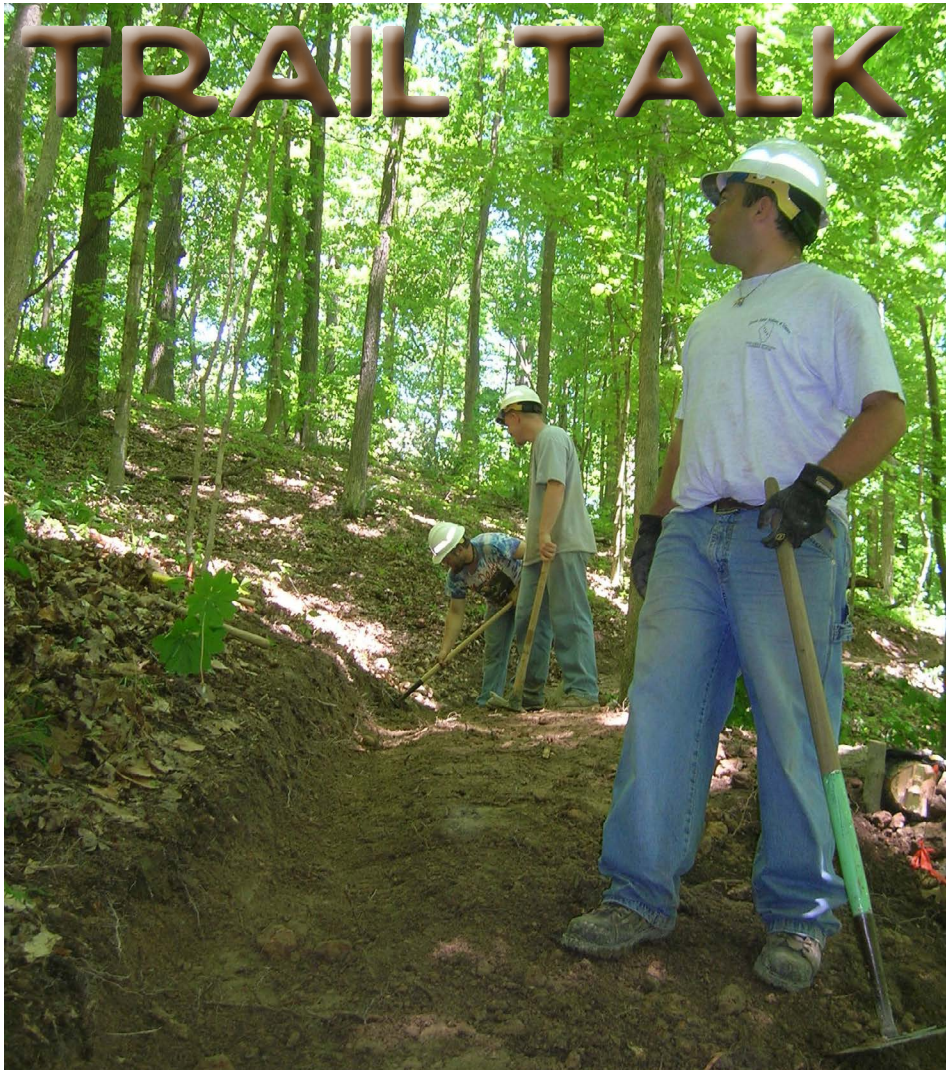
and other unwanted vegetation in the understory in closed-canopied forests. Prescribed fire can reduce deep leaf litter that stimulates ground flora, and reduces barriers to acorn germination and seedling establishment. Artificial regeneration by planting seedlings or sowing seed after site preparation can ensure the presence of desired species. Removal of the midstory canopy by prescribed fire or herbicide treatment helps to increase light at the forest floor. Reducing the density of the overstory canopy is needed to reach light levels for good oak seedling growth and to promote sun-loving ground flora. Follow-up treatments with prescribed fire are part of the maintenance of oak savannas and woodlands, and can be used to maintain the competitiveness of oak regeneration. If the goal is to develop an oak forest, at some point prescribed burning must cease to allow oak seedling sprouts to grow up into the overstory. Thinning around individual oak trees at canopy closure in young sapling stands is a good way to increase their chances of becoming dominant trees at maturity. It takes monitoring, planning and the ability to invest in periodic treatments to restore oak natural communities and sustain oak forests.

Dan Dey is a Research Forester with the USDA Forest Service's Northern Research Station and Project Leader for Sustainable Management of Central Hardwood Ecosystems and Landscapes based at the University of Missouri-Columbia. U.S. Forest Service, Northern Research Station, 202 Anheuser Busch Natural Resources Bldg., Columbia, MO 65211; 573/875-5341 ext 225; ddey@fs.fed.us



**SEEDLING SPROUTS -
ADVANCE REPRODUCTION IN A MATURE FOREST**

STUMP SPROUTS AFTER A HARVEST



by Kelly Pearson, US Forest Service

Full bench trail under construction

Fall and winter are the perfect times of year to spend an afternoon hiking or riding on your favorite trail in the nearest park or even on your own property!

If you are considering developing a trail or a whole system of trails on your property here are few basic ideas to help you get started.

Who/What will be using your trail?

Different methods of travelling on trails will determine the amount of planning and effort required to create a sustainable trail. For instance a hiker only trail can be more narrow and steeper and require less maintenance. A trail constructed for horses will need to be able to withstand the pounds per square inch exerted each time a hoof meets the trail as well as higher trail corridor clearance and could mean more maintenance more often. Finally trails

for motorized access will need to be constructed to meet the dimensions and weight of the vehicle.

Do you know your soil type?

In southern Illinois heavy clay soils dominate the landscape which can be challenging to control water on and off the trail. Checking in with your NRCS or U of I Extension office should help you determine the soil type in your area.

What is the terrain like where you are considering a new trail construction project?

Understanding the terrain and applicable grades to traverse the slope (side of the ridge) are key to creating sustainable trails. Trails constructed on steep slopes that climb straight up or "follow the fall line" will fail. Once water finds the least path of resistance and gravity takes hold

your trail will erode and the valuable trail tread will follow closely behind. Remember: Control the water-control the trail. Additionally, as the trail either gains or loses elevation additional feet of trail will be needed to accommodate holding your trail at the appropriate grade as it traverses the slope. So, make sure you have enough landscape available to create your trail.

Trails constructed in areas that are flat and where there are no opportunities to pull water off the trail can become swamps in no time. If possible move the trail to a higher location. If it is not possible to relocate the trail then structures will need to be constructed and installed to raise the trail tread higher than the existing elevation.

Spending time in the area you are considering with a topographic map will help you determine if the landscape will accommodate the type of trail you desire to build. Time spent on the ground actually laying out the trail in advance of construction will save valuable time by alerting you to areas that are not suitable for trail construction.

How much time and ability do you have to commit to building and maintaining a trail?

Constructing one mile of trail using hand tools can take up to 10 weeks for a crew of 5 to complete. This estimate includes considerations for terrain and travel to and from the trailhead to the trail. But you can see it is a considerable investment of time.

Trail construction with hand tools is a very physically demanding task. When deciding whether or not to actually construct a trail consider your own physical abilities and those who might be working with you.

Financially there will be an investment in hand tools that will make trail construction easier. The Forest Service relies on these basic tools to construct trail by hand: Pulaski, McLeod, loppers and shovel. The Forest Service also recommends trail crews to have the proper personal protective equipment while constructing trail which includes hard hat, leather gloves and safety glasses.

How will you maintain your trail once it is constructed?

Brand new trail tread is a beautiful sight! Over time through seasonal changes that affect the trail, weather events that drop trees on the trail, over use or under use and perhaps the ever popular “tweaking” after construction will mean your trail will need to be maintained on a regular basis. The best practice is to visit the trail often to prevent small issues from becoming larger issues.

Good Luck and Happy Trails.

Kelly Pearson is Wilderness Technician and Volunteer Coordinator on the Shawnee National Forest.

Here are a few free resources as you consider new trail construction or are interested in the fundamentals of trails maintenance:

Trail Construction and Maintenance Notebook; USDA-FS, Missoula Technology and Development Center, Building 1, Fort Missoula, Missoula, MT 59804; (406) 329-3900

Trail Maintenance Video

You Tube (just type in Forest Service Basic Trail Maintenance video)

Photos by Kelly Pearson



Completed construction of one section of full bench trail

UPCOMING EVENTS

SAVE THE DATES...

March 9, 2019

**25th Annual
Tri-State Forest
Stewardship
Conference
Sinsinawa, WI**

March 30, 2019

**Southern Illinois
Timber Harvest and
Forest Management
Field Tour 1-4 pm**

<https://ilforestry.org/events>

TREE HEALTH AND HERBICIDE DRIFT - AGAIN IN 2018



by Martin Kemper

Tree health and herbicide drift has continued to be topic in Illinois in 2018. This year, IDNR initiated a monitoring project for its own and partner lands (that are permanently protected) to begin to characterize the extent and severity of herbicide drift related damage. In addition, the NGO Prairie Rivers Network began a parallel monitoring project that would allow reporting of tree symptoms consistent with herbicide drift on the remaining lands of Illinois (the other 95%+).

Those efforts are planned to continue in 2019. Prairie Rivers Network is also working with the UofI Extension Service to include opportunities for Master Naturalists to participate as volunteer forest health monitors as well. Other volunteers with natural resource interests and backgrounds are welcome to participate also.

Prairie Rivers has deployed a form for reporting suspected cases of herbicide drift damage on their website. The site also hosts instructions for completing the form and volunteer guidelines for interested individuals. All documents are available for download as pdfs.

Look under the “Resources” tab on the PRN main page and then click on the “Tree Monitoring” tab. The Prairie River’s project is modeled in general on the information requested by IDNR in its own monitoring effort. Of course, filing a complaint using the IDOA complaint process is the number one recommended response to suspected herbicide drift injury. However, more is needed as IDOA does not make this data public (without cumbersome FOIA procedures), nor does it collect the level of scientific data requested on the PRN form.

My own observations this summer suggest 2018 was similar to 2017 in terms of overall occurrences of damage and severity, with some differences being perhaps less damage northward and more damage southward in the state. Once again, a second mid-summer “bout” of damage was observed, similar to 2017. This generally was not the case in 2015-2016, when most observed foliage injury appeared to have occurred rather early in the growing season. We now seem to be experiencing something of a “1-2 punch.” This may be consistent with known changes in the use of agricultural chemicals over the same time period

Other observations: With help from local landowners, professional resource managers and others, I recorded reports of damage in 17 Illinois counties in 2018. This is quite similar to 2017. My contacts are primarily in south-central Illinois (residence is Washington County), I have fewer contacts as the distance from home increases. I am not privy (obviously) to the IDNR or IDOA results.

We all know this phenomenon has a decade’s long presence in Illinois. However, something new seems to have emerged approximately around 2015 – an increase in scale. Starting even then, there was the thought that increased monitoring was needed because at some point in the future, this might begin to have a substantial impact on tree health at the same scale. I personally did not dream that that future might arrive so quickly. While it has taken 4 growing seasons to get an incipient monitoring program on the ground, it has only taken three growing seasons to see, rather clearly, that tree health can and is being affected – especially among oaks. If there was any doubt about this in 2017, it was erased in my experience this year. We are seeing crown thinning, dieback, and even mortality in some stands that have had documented symptoms for from 2-4 years locally.

Above: Cupped leaves on pin oak in Clinton County



Shoot suppression and deformation on boxelder in St. Clair County



Thinned canopy and dieback of post oak in Jackson Slough (St. Clair County)

Efforts are underway in Illinois and elsewhere, to bring more science to bear on this phenomenon. In addition, some contacts with IDNR, IDOA, state and federal elected officials, natural resource constituent organizations, farm organizations, news media and others entities have

occurred or are being planned. If you wish to be part of the conversation, you can contact me at mlkemper@sbcglobal.net. I will be happy to try to get you in touch with those who are helping lead efforts on this issue.

Martin Kemper is a retired IDNR biologist and IFA member.

History of Conservation in Illinois

Contributed by Dave Gillespie, IFA Secretary

(Installment # 27)

This account of the history of conservation in Illinois was written by Joseph P. Schavilje in 1941. This installment begins where installment # 26 ended.

The early geologists under the hand of agriculture reported upon timber in some of the counties in addition to soils, building stone, limestone and clays. Dr. A. H. Worthen, the first Director of Geology, reported in 1866 some very detailed observations about trees in their relation to geology and soils as observed in St. Clair, Madison, Hancock, Hardin, Pulaski, Massac, Pope, Randolph and Johnson counties. (Miller, 1925)

Harry H. Patterson in 1874 published a list of ferns and flowering plants growing near Oquawka and in 1876 published a catalog of the plants of Illinois. In this 709 species were enumerated, of which 654 were found growing within three miles of Oquawka, Henderson County. (Miller, 1925)

(To be continued in the next issue of "The IFA Newsletter")

<https://ilforestry.org>

Do-it-yourself ATV Modifications

by Ed Anderson

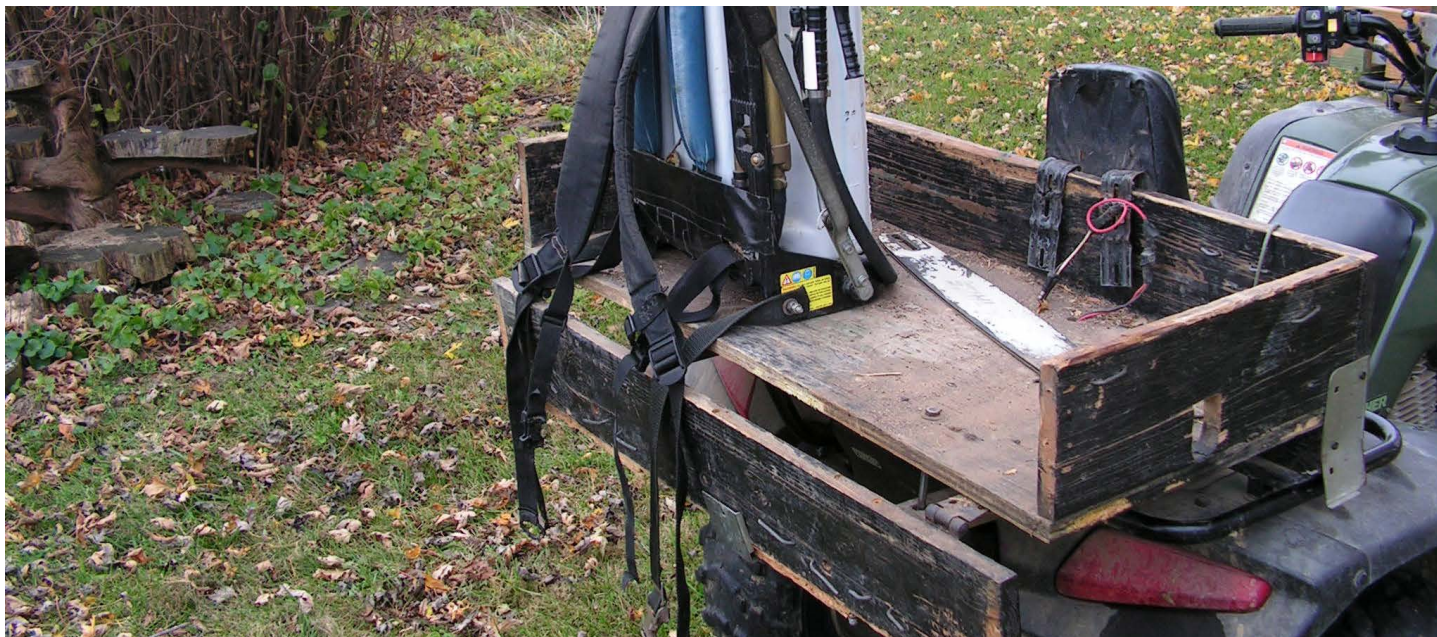
The front of the ATV has three boxes added. The outside boxes have a slot that allows a chainsaw bar to extend. The middle box has compartments that house various items such as tape, gloves and a tool assortment with a hinged cover to protect the contents.

The rear box is designed to carry a 15 gal tank sprayer or backpack sprayers. When the tank sprayer is used, a plastic pipe holds the wand when not in use and is attached under the left front box. A hole on the side allows for easy draining of the tank using a short hose.

The tailgate drops down making backpack sprayers easier to strap on and carry.

The added boxes allow plenty of options when working in the woods. Each box is attached with two bolts that run from the box, between the metal rack and through a wood strip that sandwiches the box to the rack.

If you have an invention or modification for woods work, please share the idea with others.





You shop. Amazon gives.

If you shop on Amazon, consider entering the site through this link:

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/27-0134781>

Even without the specifics, it's easy to search for the Illinois Forestry Association as your preferred charitable organization. Just remember to enter "smile dot" before amazon dot com. At no cost to you, Amazon will donate 0.5% of eligible purchase totals to the IFA.

Every little bit helps.
Thanks for your support!



Now that OMW (short for Old Man Winter) is upon us and the holidays have passed, many of us are either looking at spring seed catalogs trying to determine the plants which we will start for either our flower beds or garden and perhaps looking at a tree or two to put in the yard. A recent article in our local paper, named six species of trees which we should think twice before planting. Included were Buckthorn, Cottonwood, Black Walnut, Flowering Pear, Ginkgo, and Silver Maple. I happen to have a Silver Maple in my backyard and I know all the problems it can cause, but I wouldn't trade it for a number of other trees which are touted for an urban landscape.

However, there are two trees that I never plant, either in my yard or in my woodlot. First is Mulberry. Someone near us has a mulberry tree and birds have eaten the berries and dropped seeds next to the fence, the eaves of the house, the mailbox, and under bushes. I have pulled, cut, sprayed with Roundup and done everything short of using an army flamethrower to rid ourselves of this pest. Like the old Timex watch commercial, they just keep ticking and growing. A mulberry tree can weave itself through a hurricane fence to where you can cut it, but never pull it out. If you don't dig out the root, I don't care how much glyphosate that you use, it still will send up a new shoot.

Another tree which can be a major pain is the Sweet gum. We had one, which was removed several years ago so that we could enlarge our deck. That tree, while having beautiful foliage in the fall, also always produced hundreds, if not thousands of gum balls. I spent countless hours raking and disposing of these seed pods. The silver maple is bad enough, dropping its helicopter seeds on the roof and into the gutters, but at least they rot and disintegrate in a short time. Also, those which do fall into flower beds or other places which a tree is undesirable and start a tree make something which can easily be pulled.



Give the Gift of IFA Membership

by Dave Gillespie, IFA Secretary

The IFA is now offering [Gift Memberships](#). There is a [form](#) and a process in which we send the recipient a greeting card to welcome them and also let them know who is sponsoring their introductory basic membership. After their "free" year is up they can evaluate and renew on their own, assuming they find IFA membership rewarding.

Perhaps you have children or siblings who stand to inherit and/or share responsibility for managing land passed down in the family. An IFA membership can be a good way to build a mutual awareness and understanding of the forest, as well as introduce them to the programs and people here to serve.

A gift membership would also be a good way to thank a neighbor who has been especially helpful or who has shown an interest in managing their land like you do.

You can access the Gift Membership Form at the following link:

<https://ilforestry.org:443/resources/Documents/Forms/IFA%20GIFT%20membership%20form.01-18-18.pdf>

Short of purchasing a membership for someone else, it is also possible to download/share the IFA Brochure, which includes a regular application on page 3:

<https://ilforestry.org:443/resources/Documents/Publications/Final%20IFA%20Brochure%20with%20Member%20App%20for%20on-line%20viewing.pdf>



Are you on Facebook?

So is Illinois Forestry...

Illinois Extension Forestry

www.facebook.com/IllinoisExtensionForestry

[IllinoisExtensionForestry](http://www.facebook.com/IllinoisExtensionForestry)

Illinois Forestry Association

www.facebook.com/ILForestry

Illinois Tree Farm

www.facebook.com/IllinoisTreeFarm

Illinois Walnut Council

www.facebook.com/IllinoisWalnutCouncil

[IllinoisWalnutCouncil](http://www.facebook.com/IllinoisWalnutCouncil)

Find us.

"Like" our pages.

Share your favorite posts.

Join us in promoting Forestry in Illinois!

Alternative Tools Used in Woody Invasive Control

Date: 1/12/19

Time: 1-4 PM

Location:

Dixon Springs Agricultural Center,
354 State Highway 145N Simpson, IL



Join representatives of U of I Extension Forestry and partners in this hands-on demonstration event. Come check out alternative tools used in the control of woody invasive species, such as clearing saws, sawzalls with brush blades, and "tree pullers". See a demonstration of each of the tools and an opportunity to practice at the Dixon Springs Agricultural Center demonstration forest. Event will be outdoors, so please dress appropriately for the weather. Pre-registration required, contact Kevin Rohling at 618-695-3383 or krohling@illinois.edu to register.

University of Illinois College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences—United States Department of Agriculture—Local Extension Councils Cooperating provides equal opportunities in programming and employment.
If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in this program, contact the University at 618-695-3383



ILLINOIS
Extension
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL, CONSUMER
& ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES



WARNING

PURPLE PAINT

means

NO TRESPASSING !

It's the Law

Illinois Forestry Association - The Voice for Illinois Forests

Purple Paint Sign Order Form

Name _____

Street Address _____

City/State/Zip Code _____

E-Mail Address _____

of Signs ____ x \$12 (Member Price) _____

of Signs ____ x \$18 (Non-Members) _____

Shipping & Handling _____

TOTAL _____

Shipping: 1 sign - \$8.00 | 2 signs - \$9.00 | 3 signs - \$9.00 | 4 signs - \$10.00 | 5 signs - \$11.00

Orders in excess of 5 signs must be shipped in two mailers

Mail Order Form to: (Check or Money Order made payable to *Illinois Forestry Association*)

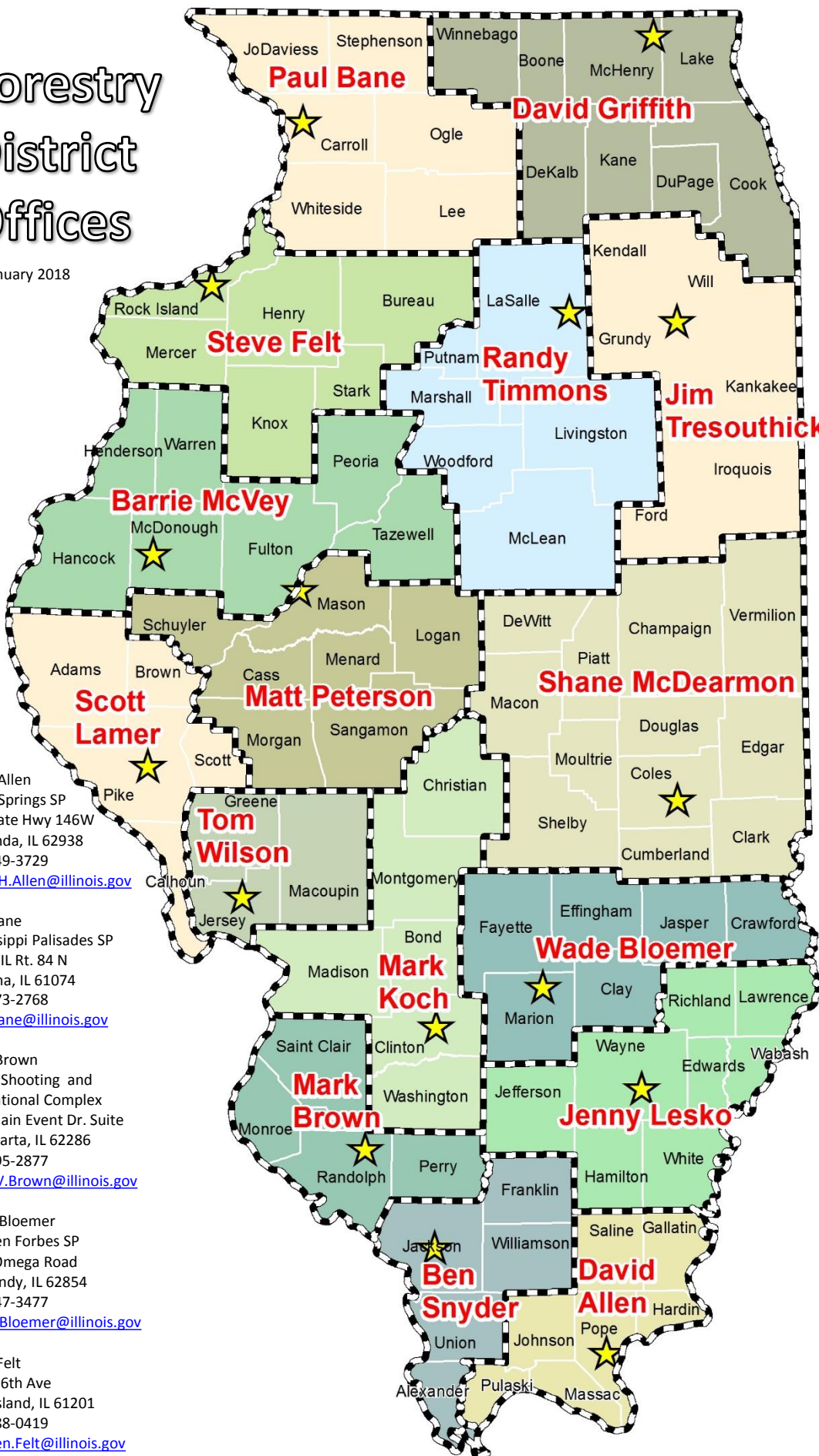
Stan Sipp
Director, Region 3
P.O. Box 111
Mansfield, IL 61854

Signs are shipped via U.S. Postal Service
Invoice will be included with signs

Questions? Contact
Stan by email at
sklipp@illinois.edu

Forestry District Offices

January 2018



David Griffith
Chain O Lakes SP
8916 Wilmot Rd
Spring Grove, IL 60081
815-675-2386
Dave.Griffith@illinois.gov

Mark Koch
Eldon Hazlet SP
20100 Hazlet Park Rd
Carlyle, IL 62231
618-594-4475
Mark.Koch@illinois.gov

Scott Lamer
1252 W Washington
Pittsfield, IL 62363
217-285-2221
Scott.Lamer@illinois.gov

Jenny Lesko
106 Andrews Dr.
Fairfield, IL 62837
618-847-3781
Jennifer.Lesko@illinois.gov

Shane McDearmon
1660 West Polk Ave
Charleston, IL 61920
217-348-0174
Shane.mcdearmon@illinois.gov

Barrie McVey
Argyle Lake SP
640 Argyle Park Rd
Colchester, IL 62326
309-776-5271
Barrie.Mcvey@illinois.gov

Matt Peterson
700 South 10th
Havana, IL 62644
309-543-3401
Matt.Peterson@illinois.gov

Benjamin Snyder
Lake Murphysboro SP
52 Cinder Hill Drive
Murphysboro, IL 62966
618-565-2828
Benjamin.snyder@illinois.gov

Randy Timmons
P.O. Box 860
124 W. William St
Seneca, IL 61360
815-357-8846
Randy.Timmons@illinois.gov

Jim Tresouthick
30550 Boathouse Rd
Wilmington, IL 60481
815-476-0256
Jim.Tresouthick@illinois.gov

Tom Wilson
604 E. Franklin
Jerseyville, IL 62052
618-498-1627
Tom.Wilson@illinois.gov

David Allen
Dixon Springs SP
945 State Hwy 146W
Golconda, IL 62938
618-949-3729
David.H.Allen@illinois.gov

Paul Bane
Mississippi Palisades SP
16327 IL Rt. 84 N
Savanna, IL 61074
815-273-2768
Paul.Bane@illinois.gov

Mark Brown
World Shooting and
Recreational Complex
One Main Event Dr. Suite
140 Sparta, IL 62286
618-295-2877
Mark.V.Brown@illinois.gov

Wade Bloemer
Stephen Forbes SP
6924 Omega Road
Kinmundy, IL 62854
618-547-3477
Wade.Bloemer@illinois.gov

Steve Felt
1510 46th Ave
Rock Island, IL 61201
309-788-0419
Stephen.Felt@illinois.gov



What Has Wandered Into Your Woods? Workshop

Friday, February 1, 2019

Registration starts at 8:30 a.m.
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

**EB Lyons Interpretative Center
Mines of Spain**

(8991 Bellevue Heights Rd. Dubuque)

Native plants provide more benefits for the environment than non-native plants, including better food and habitat for animals and pollinators. Help us protect our native ecosystem by removing invasive species and implementing sound land management practices.

\$10 registration fee covers lunch and handouts.

Register by January 29 at:

[www.TreesForever.org /WanderedIntoYourWoods](http://www.TreesForever.org/WanderedIntoYourWoods)

Questions? Contact: Emily Swihart

eswihart@treesforever.org, 563-260-1000



- **Hear from experts** on how the state park cares for native trees and plants, including how they are dealing with invasive plants such as Oriental bittersweet which chokes out native trees.



- **Learn** how to identify, treat and remove invasives species.



- **Discover** the importance of native plants

I ILLINOIS EXTENSION

Timber Sales & Timber Tax Workshop



Illinois woodland owners have sold over \$280 million worth of timber over the last decade. However, that financial figure should be much, much higher!

The bad news: Illinois woodland owners are “underselling” their timber by millions of dollars every year!

U of I Extension forester, Jay Hayek, will specifically discuss how to market your standing timber; how to properly conduct a timber sale; how to involve a professional forester; and how to guarantee woodland owners more income and more timber sales over their land ownership tenure!

Fact: Timber is an investment and it must be treated as part of your financial portfolio! If you’re a woodland owner, then you need to attend this workshop!

- **Date:** January 26, 2019
- **Time:** 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM
- **Location:** John A. Logan College
- **Address:** 700 Logan College Dr.,
Carterville, Illinois 62918-2500
- **Room:** H 127
- Registration is required and seating is limited! Cost is \$10/person
- **Registration Deadline:** Jan. 23, 2019
- **Online Registration:**
https://web.extension.illinois.edu/state/calendar_event.cfm?ID=80162
- For more information, please contact Mr. Jay Hayek (217-244-0534) or jhayek@illinois.edu



Gift Membership Registration Form

Privacy matters to us. We will not sell or share this information.



Sponsor Name(s): _____ Date: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Recipient's Name: _____ (Information for new member contact record):

E-mail Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Please return this form with \$30 payment to:

Illinois Forestry Association
P. O. Box 224
Chatham, IL 62629

Upon receipt of this form and payment, we will mail the Recipient a note card and brochure welcoming them to the IFA and letting them know that you've sponsored their first year of membership. If you'd rather hand them the card and brochure yourself, check here: _____

When it's time to renew, the recipient will be contacted directly and have the opportunity to continue as an IFA member at their own expense. We certainly hope they do! Thank you for giving the gift of knowledge and community so that this special someone can *connect, grow, and stand* with fellow landowners in the IFA.

For IFA Administrative Use (01/2018):

ID # _____ Region _____ Gift Membership _____

Clip and Save This Portion for Your Records...

Date: _____ Check # _____

Total Paid: \$30.00 (includes note card for recipient)

Given to: _____

Basic 1-Year Membership – Quarterly Newsletter by Email

Questions? Call Dave Gillespie at 217/494-6982
Visit <https://ilforestry.org> to learn more about the IFA

IFA is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization. Dues may be tax deductible as a business expense, and/or donations considered charitable contributions. We encourage our members to explore the tax benefits of IFA membership with their CPAs.

Thanks for your support!



Membership Registration Form

Privacy matters to us. We will not sell or share this information.



Name(s): _____ Date: _____

Representative, if business or group: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home County: _____ Land County: _____

Membership Category: _____ Term: _____ Amount Due: _____

See below for categories and term options

Would you be interested in a volunteer role of any kind? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Maybe

(We are always on the lookout for potential committee or board members, and occasionally need help with events, mailings and other tasks. If you have special skills or interests that might fit – forestry, clerical, legal, real estate, marketing, IT, etc., please let us know!)

Please return this form and your payment to: (or join and pay online at <https://ilforestry.org/join>)

Illinois Forestry Association
P. O. Box 224
Chatham, IL 62629

For IFA Administrative Use (01/2018)

ID # _____ Region _____

Clip and Save This Portion for Your Records...

Questions? Call Dave Gillespie at 217/494-6982

Membership Category

IFE - Basic Membership – with email address	\$25
IFE3 - Advantage Basic – 3-year member w/ email	\$70
IFM - Basic Membership – newsletter via US Mail	\$35
IFS - Supporting Membership	\$50
IFX - Sustaining Membership	\$100
IFL - Life Membership *	\$500
BUS - Business Membership	\$50
STU - Student (non-voting, email only)	\$10

IFA is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization. Dues may be tax deductible as a business expense, and/or donations considered charitable contributions. We encourage our members to explore the tax benefits of IFA membership with their CPAs.

Thanks for your support!

* Lifetime membership dues can be paid in two installments, up to 6 months apart

Date: _____ Membership Category Selected: _____

Amount Due: _____ Total Paid: _____ Check # _____