

“Healthy Forests on the Edge”

2017 Fall Conference and 12th Annual IFA Meeting

Thursday, September 28th – Welcome to The Morton Arboretum!

- 1:00 p.m. **Registration Opens** - Thornhill Education Center Lobby (West Side, Parking Lot 21)
- 2 – 5 p.m. Exhibit and Silent Auction Set-up in the Founder’s Room inside Thornhill Education Center
- 2:00 p.m. **Widespread Tree Damage Forum** in Arbor Room with Marty Kemper - Learn about one area of the state where an alarming number of trees, primarily oak, appear to be sick or dying. We’ll discuss possible causes, the complexity of the situation, and next steps.
- 3:00 p.m. **Break** or begin **Overview Tram Tour** - An hour-long guided Tram ride exploring the grounds (1700 acres) of The Morton Arboretum. Tram departs at 3 p.m. sharp!
- 3:30 p.m. **Field Diagnostics (Walking) Tour** - Tree Diseases & Insect Pests with Fredric Miller
- 4:00 p.m. **Overview Tram Tour (repeated)** - An hour-long guided Tram ride exploring the grounds (1700 acres) of The Morton Arboretum.
- 5:00 p.m. **President’s Reception** – Silent Auction Opens (hors d’oeuvres, cash bar)
- 6:30 p.m. **Adjourn for the day** - find your hotel and check in - see you in the morning!

Friday, September 29th

- 7:30 a.m. Registration Open - Thornhill Education Center - Continental Breakfast
- 8:30 a.m. **Welcome/Brief Opening Remarks** – Arbor Room, Thornhill Education Center
- 8:45 *sharp* **Trams Depart Thornhill Center**
- 9:00 – 10:30 **Forest and Woodlands Management at The Morton Arboretum** – Outdoor session with Kurt Dreisilker, Head of Natural Resources, The Morton Arboretum
- 10:30 a.m. **Break** – Founder’s Room
- 11:00 a.m. **The Fourth Wave - Shaping a Common Conservation Future** - Ed Collins, Director of Land Preservation & Natural Resources, McHenry County Conservation District
- 12 noon **Lunch** – Founder’s Room
- 1:00 – 1:30 **Concurrent Session 1** – Choose one of two...
- Climate Change Implications for IL Forest Management** – Dr. Leslie Brandt
Changes in climate can create challenges and opportunities for the management of forests in Illinois. This presentation will discuss which species and forest types are vulnerable and which are more adaptable to likely changes in climate across the state. Potential strategies to adapt forest management to current and projected changes will also be discussed. (Arbor Room)
- Thousand Canker Disease and Bur Oak Blight Updates** – Dr. Fredric Miller
Learn about the latest developments with Thousand Cankers Disease (TCD) and Bur Oak Blight (BOB), two potentially devastating problems looming over Illinois trees and forests. (Godshalk Hall)
- 1:40 – 2:10 **Concurrent Session 2** – Choose one of two...
- Latest Trends in Invasive Plant Species** – Chris Evans, Extension Forester
Managing invasive plants is a crucial component of any forest stewardship plan. This presentation will cover emerging invasive plants in Illinois, resource available to landowners, and new findings and research on invasive plants. (Arbor Room)

Concurrent Session 2 - continued

Options for managing small parcels of forestland – Mike Woolery, Consultant
Traditional forestry options can be limited on smaller parcels of land. Learn what you can do to protect, manage, and enhance your little corner of the world, even if it's just a few acres. (Godshalk Hall)

2:10 – 2:30 **Break**

2:30 – 3 p.m. **Concurrent Session 3** – Choose one of two...

Urban Wood Utilization in Riverside – Michael Collins, Village Forester
Faced with the loss of a treasured 160-year-old oak tree, the Village of Riverside made sure it would live on forever by cutting it down. Find out how they turned a dying tree into a living legacy that will continue to serve the Village for many years to come. (Arbor Room)

To our Children's Children, Ad Infinitum – Kevin O'Rourke/Joe FitzSimmons
A concise and practical discussion of long term estate planning, explaining what a woodland owner can do to protect his/her relationship with the wooded property and his/her descendants for the future. Wills, trusts, and the famous "Rule against Perpetuities" (Godshalk Hall)

3:10 – 3:40 **Concurrent Session 4** – Choose one of two...

Agroforestry: Forestry on the Edge of Agriculture – Chris Evans
While most farms keep the forests and the agricultural fields separate, a new trend is arising to use agroforestry principles to enhance agricultural production, reduce erosion and run-off, diversify crops, and create a sustainable productive system using perennial plants. Agroforestry ranges from simple acts such as collecting maple syrup and growing/harvest medicinal herbs in the forest understory to fully integrating tree crops into traditional agriculture. This presentation will serve as a primer to introduce these concepts and their potential application for the forest landowner. (Arbor Room)

Illinois Forest Pest and Disease Update – Tricia Bethke, Forest Pest Outreach Coordinator

Learn more about current and potential forest pests and diseases that may threaten our woodlands. (Godshalk Hall)

3:40 p.m. **Break**

4:00 p.m. **A Look behind the Scenes at the IFA: 12th Annual Business Meeting**

Call to Order – Roll Call

Opening Remarks

Approval of Agenda

Minutes from the 2015 Annual Business Meeting

Treasurer' Report

Executive Director Report

Election of IFA Officers and Board Directors

Awards

Announcements & Closing Remarks

Adjourn

5:30 p.m. **Social Hour** followed by **Silent Auction closing at 6:45 p.m. sharp!**

7:00 p.m. **Fireside Forestry BBQ Dinner at nearby Thornhill Shelter**

Saturday, September 30th – Field Tour at Waterfall Glen

- 9:45 a.m. **Meet at Waterfall Glen** off I-55 in DuPage County (Directions will be provided to registrants during the conference)
- 10:00 a.m. **Tour Old Glen Woods Ecosystem with Tom Velat**
We'll join Tom Velat, Ecology Coordinator, Natural Resources Department, Forest Preserve District of DuPage County, for an ecological site tour at the Old Glen Woods Ecosystem at Waterfall Glen Forest Preserve from 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon. We will tour the oak savannas and woodlands and learn more about the restoration and management practices at this historic site. A box lunch will be provided at the end of the tour. Please be prepared for walking on paved and unpaved trails.
- 12 noon **Lunch** from Jimmy John's
Happy Trails... Enjoy the rest of your weekend!

About Waterfall Glen...

The 2,492-acre Waterfall Glen Forest Preserve is one of the most ecologically impressive parcels of open space within the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County, if not northern Illinois. The ridges and scattered potholes that make up the topography of Waterfall Glen — and most of the county — are the result of one geological event, the Wisconsin Glacier. In fact, the entire Des Plaines River Valley was formed by glacial meltwaters and drainage from a postglacial lake that covered most of the Chicagoland area.

Today, Waterfall Glen's prairies, savannas, and oak-maple woodlands contain 740 native plant species, 75 percent of all the plants known to grow naturally in DuPage County. As a result of this rich variety, over 300 species of mammals, birds, fish, amphibians, and reptiles and another 300 of invertebrates use the forest preserve either year-round or during their migrations. The District has removed considerable amounts of buckthorn, honeysuckle and other invasive trees and shrubs from Kettle Woods since winter 2014.

Long-term habitat-improvement projects have helped restore and maintain Waterfall Glen's 773-acre Bluff Savanna, which roughly covers the southern part of the preserve between Argonne National Laboratory and the Des Plaines River. One of the highest ranked conservation areas in the county, the savanna contains 422 native plant species, including one state threatened and 36 of special concern. Individual black and white oaks, shagbark and bitternut hickories, and black walnuts range from 180- to 215-years-old and are some of the oldest in the county.