

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 11, 2017 – SINSINAWA, WI.

#### Registration:

Early Bird Rate: \$45 now until Feb. 15, 2017

Regular Rate: \$55 after Feb. 15, 2017

**Online Registration Deadline is March 3, 2017**

**Paper Registration Deadline is Feb. 27, 2017**

#### Online Registration:

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

Iowa State University – Forestry Extension  
Jesse Randall  
339 Science Bldg. II  
Ames, IA 50011

# Tri-State Forest Stewardship Conference 2017

Saturday, March 11, 2017

Sinsinawa Mound Center

585 County Road Z, Sinsinawa, WI 53824

23rd Annual

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**

**Keynote Address 9:30 – 10:30 am**

**Farm Bill Programs and Cost Sharing EQIP and CSP**

by Andy Hart, Wisconsin NRCS State Forester

This presentation will highlight how to effectively utilize cost share programs (EQIP) to maintain a healthy forest. Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) reinvention and new enhancements for forestry will be discussed as they related to Wisconsin and the surrounding states. This review will give insights to the most common programs and options available to landowners in the tri-state region to cost effectively manage their own woodlands.

**Session 1 10:45 – 11:45 am**

**A. Morton Arboretum's Forest Composition Analysis**

by Lydia Scott, Morton Arboretum

We have collected one of the largest data sets in the country for the urban forest. This includes all land uses in 7 counties in Northeastern Illinois. We have census data (Urban Trees and Forests of the Chicago Region, 2013, Nowak, et al.); LiDAR analysis for 7 land classes (University of Vermont); public property inventories (50+ communities); 500 private property inventories; and oak ecosystem mapping for 18 counties - presettlement, 1939 aerial and 2010 aerial analysis. We have successfully layered this data with U.S. Census data and other demographic information to create maps and summaries for landowners across the region. This information is being used to inform decisions, provide opportunities for connectivity of ecosystem services and improve management strategies.

**B. Managing Your Forest for Wildlife**

by Rick Horton, Regional Biologist NWFT.

Everything you do in your forest impacts wildlife populations, including doing nothing at all. In this talk you will learn how different forest management techniques can improve habitat for ruffed grouse, wild turkeys and deer, and other animals that prefer the same habitats. We will discuss home ranges, limiting factors, managing expectations, and how to get animals to spend more time on your property! These techniques will improve not only your hunting, but that of your children and grandchildren. It's time to move beyond food plots!

**C. Tree Planting – A-Z**

by Mike Long, Long Forestry Consulting

With the absence of fire and the introduction of invasive plants across the landscape, tree planting is becoming a critical component of long term forest management. There is a lot of work and resources that go into conducting a successful tree planting, and small mistakes can have significant influence on the success or failure of a tree planting. Tree planting requires careful planning, appropriate site preparation, proper seedling storage, correct planting techniques, and post planting management to be successful.

**D. Agroforestry: Is it right for your forest?**

by Chris Evans, Illinois Extension Forester

Agroforestry is a broad and growing discipline that includes a diverse set of practices including maple syrup production, log-grown mushrooms, alley cropping, silvopasture, and forest-grown medicinal herbs. This presentation will cover some of the basics of agroforestry and discuss how it can supplement traditional agriculture and forestry practices.

**E. Introductory Maple Syrup Making**

by Joe Polak, Maple Hollow

Do you have some maple trees in your yard or back forty? If so, you might want to consider attending this session where you can learn from a third generation maple producer how maple syrup is made. The presentation will cover all aspects of tree selection, tapping, boiling the sap down into syrup, filtering the finished product as well as canning and storing. This talk is geared towards the entry level and expanding producers!

## **Break & Visit with Exhibitors 11:45 am – 12:15 pm**

### **Session 2 12:15 – 1:15 pm**

#### **A. Forest Management Systems- Let the Sunshine In!**

by Greg Heidebrink, IA DNR

Sunlight, shade tolerance and succession are a few of the things you have to consider when managing your forest. Decisions you make today will dictate what your forest looks like in 100 years. This program will cover the difference between even age management (Clearcuts) and uneven age management (Selective Harvesting) and what you should expect to see with each system.

#### **B. Characteristics of Some Native Woodland Plants and Their Importance to Pollinators**

by John Marlin

The presentation will include insights on how woodland wildflowers grow in natural settings and how this can influence decisions regarding their use in restoration and suitability in urban settings. The importance of the native understory, especially to pollinators, will be covered. Slides of several species at various stages of development and in natural and urban settings will be included. It will not contain a detailed taxonomic discussion.

#### **C. Management of Forest Edges for Wildlife**

by Dr. Adam Janke, ISU Wildlife Extension Specialist & Assistant Professor, NREM

Wildlife and timber management operations tend to think of whole fields or forests in their management strategies, planting or managing for productive timber stands or nesting places in large grass fields. However, in our dissected Midwestern landscapes, forest edges adjacent to fields, homesteads, or even roadsides provide an often untapped opportunity area for creating unique wildlife habitats without negative impacts on the adjacent timber stand or fields. This presentation will discuss how special treatment of woodlot edges can create early successional habitat to improve habitat quality for some of our favorite farmland-wildlife like bobwhite quail, grouse, migratory birds, and white-tailed deer.

#### **D. Managing your Farm Pond Fish, Plants, & Algae**

by Allen Pattillo

Most of Iowa's 85,000 ponds are found in the hilly regions of southern Iowa, however there are many scattered throughout the state. Most are private farm ponds intended for recreational fishing. Managing a pond to produce a quality fishery requires careful planning and active manipulation of the pond ecosystem. A combination of watershed, water quality, aquatic vegetation, and fish population assessment and management will help build a healthy, sustainable fishery.

Watershed ponds collect their water from the drainage area uphill of the dam. Contaminants, excessive nutrients, and sedimentation from agricultural, industrial, or urban development all directly affect the water quality and health of the pond ecosystem. Because Iowa soils are naturally nutrient rich, aquatic plants can grow to extremely high densities and cause major problems for the fish and can be an eyesore. Aquatic vegetation, however, is essential in a healthy ecosystem because it provides the base food inputs for the food web. The fish population directly reflects the condition of the pond ecosystem; thus plants, fish, and other organisms should be considered equally. The best management practices in this presentation will ensure an excellent fishery and a healthy pond ecosystem.

#### **E. Tree Pruning 101**

by Jesse Randall, ISU Extension Forester

During this session, attendees will learn how and when to prune trees, as well as the various pruning equipment on the market. Jesse will show examples of good and bad pruning practices and show the long term effects of bad pruning. From the single tree in your backyard to the plantation of oak and walnut on the back 40, this session will highlight tips and tricks to make you better at pruning and the trees healthier and more productive!

## **Buffet Lunch & Visit with Exhibitors 1:15 – 2:15 pm**

### **Session 3 2:30 - 3:30 pm**

#### **A. The ABC's of Marketing Your Timber**

by Greg Heidebrink, IA DNR

"I would like to sell some of my trees but I don't want to get taken." This program will cover 3 different options for marketing your timber and their pros and cons. We will also cover some of the steps you should follow to ensure you get a fair price and have a successful sale. Finally we will discuss what you should do after the sale has been completed.

#### **B. Releasing your Crop Trees from Competition**

by Jeff Harris, Illinois DNR Forester

Intermediate stand treatments, such as crop tree release, are forest management activities that take place in young, middle-aged, and mature woodlands, and often incorporate the selective cutting or removal of trees, shrubs, brush, and woody vines in order to enhance current stand conditions and future desired outcomes. Intermediate treatments are commonly prescribed by professional foresters to improve species composition and wildlife habitat; regulate stand density; increase mast production; enhance timber quality and forest health; and promote and establish desirable advance regeneration. Crop tree release will be the focus of this presentation, but other intermediate stand treatments like improvement cutting, thinning, and vine cutting will also be discussed.

### **Session 3 2:30 - 3:30 pm (continued)**

#### **C. Selecting and hiring an invasive plant control contractor**

by Chris Evans, Illinois Extension Forester

Invasive plant control can be grueling work that requires expertise. Often landowners will hire contractors to help with these efforts. This presentation will give recommendations and tips for finding, selecting, and hiring a contractor, including developing the language with that all important contract.

#### **D. Establishing Monarch Butterfly Habitat in Iowa**

by Dr. Sue Blodgett, Chair- NREM Department, ISU

Declines in monarch butterfly populations over the past decade in North America have been documented in the scientific literature and popular press. Declines have been attributed to loss of overwintering forest habitat in Mexico and loss of milkweed and monarch habitat in the summer breeding range of the northern Midwest. With the 20-year trend of overwintering levels at or near record lows, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) was petitioned in the summer of 2014 to list the monarch as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act; that petition is currently under consideration. The Iowa State University team is considering key habitat issues include selection of appropriate milkweed species and companion plants for high quality monarch habitat, determining spatial arrangements of milkweed patches, developing habitat establishment guidelines, and post-planting management of monarch habitat. Companion plantings of nectar-producing flowers and roosting sites used by monarch adults are also included in monarch habitat consideration. In addition, monarch habitat benefits other wildlife habitat including pollinators. Research and extension efforts with the agricultural community and landowners throughout the region can support a proactive, science-based conservation program that would significantly enhance North American recovery of the monarch.

#### **E. Drone Mapping Basics**

by Daniel Murphy, senseFly

Accurate and up to date aerial maps enable effective property management. During this session attendees will learn introductory information on drone mapping, and how to get a drone involved in their current operation with no previous experience. Specific examples showing the utility of aerial data in forest management will be provided.

### **Session 4 3:45 - 4:45 pm**

#### **A. Propagating Woodland Wildflowers for Fun and Profit**

by John Marlin

The discussion will focus on propagating woodland wildflowers from seeds and cuttings for marketing or reestablishing them in woodlots. It will provide insights on the timing of collecting and transplanting, as well as, growing plants from seedlings to maturity. An example of a successful multi-year small scale local marketing project will be provided.

#### **B. Successfully Crafting Wood Bows**

by Tom Boehm, Rick Kalvelage, Nick Van Driel

Making bows is in our DNA. Humans have used bows for at least the last 10,000 years. Our fascination with the bow and arrow starts early in life and as children many of us made our own little bows. A slide presentation will illustrate the process from selecting a stave in the woods or lumber yard, through seasoning to shaping and finishing. Displays will show the stages of work and the best tools for each step. This presentation will provide you with the fundamental information you need to build a bow that is safe, beautiful, and a joy to shoot.

#### **C. Diseases of White-tailed Deer**

by Dr. Adam Janke, ISU Wildlife Extension Specialist & Assistant Professor, NREM

Predation, human-related causes like hunting and vehicles, and disease are the primary causes of death and thus fluctuations in deer populations in the Midwest. Among these factors, arguably the least understood is the extent and nature of impacts of diseases in white-tailed deer herds. This presentation will focus on what landowners need to know about the science white-tailed deer diseases and how everyone can help monitor and reduce the potential impacts of the diseases like Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease and Chronic Wasting Disease.

#### **D. Understanding and Following the pesticide labels most commonly used in forestry practices**

by Chris Charbonneaux, Certified applicator/ forester

Labels are legal documents providing directions on how to mix, apply, store, and dispose of a pesticide product. Labels of commonly used forestry pesticides will be explored from the beginning to the end with each section explained and what it means to the user of the pesticide.

#### **E. Invasive Forestry Pests That Should Be On Your Radar**

by Kelly Estes, Illinois Cooperative Ag Pest Survey Program Coordinator

Nonnative forest pests and pathogens can drastically impact the health, productivity, and longevity of Midwestern forests. While some have been around for a while, other species are new threats to the tristate area. This presentation will cover imminent forest species such as thousand cankers disease, gypsy moth, and others that every forest landowner should know about.