



The Voice for Illinois Forests

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

****Interim Officers****

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President's Message

Ray Herman, IFA President

IFA is rapidly moving to the close of the first year as an organization. We have made some great strides during this year with help from a variety of sources. There were many volunteer hours from the initial steering committee that set up our framework and helped us elect our first board at the summer business meeting. Several entities, particularly the Illinois Forestry Development Council, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service were instrumental in the startup process. Their help was in the form of financial assistance, professional services, and persistent guidance.

Although we have accomplished a lot in getting established, we have done little to be "The Voice for Illinois Forests", as our mission states. I believe your board is ready to move into that mode.

With this newsletter, we have issued three IFA Position Papers on lack of appropriate IDNR forestry staff, the four-percent timber tax, and the woodland assessment issue. We, as a board, and you, as individuals, need to carry these messages to our elected officials and to other support groups. The board will act as liaison with a wide variety of groups, organizations, institutions, and agencies that will support us on at least one of these issues. Our hope is to develop a "Partnership Tree" that strengthens our voice as we grow by joining with others.

The Directors in each of the four regions plan to hold workshops that will give each of you a chance to be active in IFA. These workshops will be geared to information delivery and will address a range of current topics. Be sure your voice is heard! That's how we will grow as a viable organization. Don't just be a member---be an active member.

Notes from the Secretary

Dave Gillespie, IFA Secretary

As I write this, we have reached 296 members. Our membership has grown by over 50 members since the end of September. Most of these new members are from Region 1. Thanks go to Region 1 Directors Mary Duff and Debbie Jones and the Director at Large in that area, Mike Kiefer, for their hard work in making contact with potential members.

If you need copies of our membership list, minutes of IFA Board of Directors and Executive Committee meetings, or copies of IFA Position Statements, please contact me at 82 Cottonwood, Chatham, IL 62629; 217-483-2711 (Home); 217-494-6982 (Cell); or dandgisp@aol.com.

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and more....

IFA has a "Wiki"...

<http://illinoisforestry.pbwiki.com>

Coming soon to the World Wide Web...

IFA web site
www.ilforestry.org

Calendar of Events 2007

January 17 & May 16

IL Forestry Development Council meetings
217- 493-6736 or
dlittle4@uiuc.edu

January 19

IL Woodland Task Force meeting
Dept. of Revenue
Springfield, IL
217-782-3627

January 26

Tax Incentives for Private Land Protection
Benedictine University
Lisle, IL
www.lta.org/training/lct_mw.htm

February (Date TBD)

IFA Board Meeting
Springfield, IL
dandgisp@aol.com

February 6

Managing Land with Agroforestry
Starved Rock Lodge
Utica, IL
217= 241-4644 or
dcray@uiuc.edu

February 8

Managing Land with Agroforestry
University of Illinois Extension
Mt. Vernon, IL
217- 241-4644 or
dcray@uiuc.edu

February 16

Forestry Herbicide Workshop
Morrison, IL
309-246-8391

March 10

Tri-State Forestry Conference
Sinsinawa, WI
608-342-1633

March 13

Trees Forever Riparian Buffer Workshop
Springfield, IL
217-498-8411

March 21

IL Forestry Development Council
Springfield, IL
217-493-6736

March 27

NIFA Annual Meeting
Mt. Carroll, IL
815-947-2941

April 27-28

IL Walnut Council State meeting
Washington, IA
319-653-4959

August 28-30

IL Farm Progress Show
Decatur, IL
319-622-6090 or
866-264-7469

From the Membership Committee

Wanted: Membership Committee assistance--no meetings required. Please help! The Membership Committee--Debbie Jones, Bob Sloan, Lee Rife, Rollie Spaniol, and Joe Newcomb-- is striving to help us reach the 400 member goal we set early in the year. We are currently at 296 members, and we recently sent out nearly 1,000 applications to Tree Farm members. Next we will send applications to about 10,000 FDA recipients. With IDNR's help, we hope to send out 2,500 mailings a quarter. Each of you can also help by inviting a friend to join. You will find a membership application as part of the newsletter.

Please forward names and addresses of people who might be interested in joining IFA to Debbie Jones at 23715 S. Schoolhouse Rd., Manhattan, IL 60442-9521; 815/478-4201; woodsywoman1@yahoo.com.

She will see that they receive the IFA brochure and membership application. If you attend a meeting where you can distribute IFA literature, Debbie can mail multiple copies to you. Also, this is a favorite time of year for giving. Please consider bestowing an IFA gift membership on someone who has a special appreciation for trees. Debbie is also accepting suggestions, questions, and offers of help.

National Ash Tree Seed Collection Initiative



In the event that the emerald ash borer cannot be contained, the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service Plant Materials Center (PMC) in Rose Lake, Michigan, is taking steps to assure that the ash tree doesn't vanish forever.

The PMC has initiated the National Ash Tree Seed Collection Initiative with an agreement to store ash tree seed at the National Center for Genetic Resources Preservation in Fort Collins, CO. USDA's Forest Service will x-ray the collected ash seed to determine sound seed for storage. If ash tree populations are completely decimated by the borer, stored seeds can be used as the genetic base for reestablishing ash trees for future generations.

The PMC is seeking volunteers to collect seed from ash trees throughout the U.S. For additional information about the initiative and how to get involved, log on to:

www.ashseed.org.

Get the Word Out

As of August 2006, the U of I Extension Forestry Web site features an "events calendar" to promote forestry related field days, workshops, tours, conferences, etc. Readers may view the events on Extension Forestry's Web site: <http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/forestry/events.cfm> or via Extension's homepage. If you want to post your event, email IFA member jhayek@uiuc.edu with the following information in electronic format:

Name of Event: self-explanatory.

Date(s) & Time(s): include full date & start and stop times.

Location: be as specific as possible; include building/site, address, city, zip code, and county.

Description of Event: give as much detail as possible in order to adequately describe the event.

Contact Information: name, phone number(s), email, etc.

Jay cannot post individual documents such as MSWord or PDFs, but he can post the PDF or .doc if it is part of a URL.

Annual Meeting a Great Success!

The First Annual Meeting of the Illinois Forestry Association took place on July 22, 2006, at the Northfield Inn in Springfield, IL. Interim President Stephanie Brown set the tone for the celebration of the new organization by welcoming the audience of 40 members and thanking them for taking the time on a beautiful, sunny summer Saturday to share in the “historic occasion”.

In thanking the many individuals and entities who helped to establish the “Voice for Illinois Forests”—including volunteer landowners, forestry professionals, staffs of the IDNR and NRCS, IL Department of Agriculture, the IL Forestry Development Council, Resource Conservation and Development Councils, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, SIU, U of I, the IL Wood Producers Association, and IL Arborists Association—Brown reminded the group of the many accomplishments of the Association in its first year. The group adopted bylaws, drew up and began implementation of a plan of work, became incorporated within the State of Illinois, was designated as a 501c3 not-for-profit by the IRS, elected interim officers, and reached its goal of 200 members by July 2006. It

also crafted and began distribution of position papers on issues affecting forestry in Illinois.

Guest speakers at the meeting included Michael Jeffords, U of I Professor of Entomology, who addressed biodiversity in Illinois; NRCS sociologist Jody Rendziak, who reported on the IFA Survey results; Dale Zaug, president of the Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association, who provided insights into the establishment and maintenance of a forestry association; and James Appleby, U of I, presented an update on the emerald ash borer situation as it relates to Illinois forests.

On the business end of the meeting, officers and committee chairs made reports, and the results of the election of IFA officers was announced. (For a full listing of IFA’s officers and Board of Directors and their contact information, see page 5.)

To round out the celebration, Brown honored the Association’s 17 charter members with plaques. All in all, it was an “historic occasion” and one of which we can all be proud!



IFA Charter Members in attendance at the First Annual Meeting in Springfield in July 2006. (front l to r) Mary Duff, Stephanie Brown, Debbie Jones, Dave Gillespie, Bill Gradle, and Jack Wohlstadter. (back l to r) Mike Karcher, J. B. Gates, Kurt Bobsin, Bob Sloan, John Phelps, Joe Newcomb, Richard Nichols, Ray Herman, and Dr. Will Thielemann.

Do you have a passion for trees and forestry?

Are you interested in serving on a regional committee?

Contact an IFA officer today to find out how you can help!

From Region 2

Lee Rife and Susan Romano, Directors

When is a good time to begin working with our legislators in the new year? Right away!! Post-election submittal of position statements to the legislature may be a good way to reinforce our views and introduce our positions to the newly elected. The new General Assembly will convene in January, with sessions in earnest after the budget address in late January or early February. Let's all do our part as the "Voice for Illinois Forests"!



Region 4 Director Stephanie Brown presents a Charter Member plaque to consulting forester Mark Holmgren of Harrisburg.

From Region 4

Joe Newcomb and Stephanie Brown, Directors, Region 4

Twenty-four landowners and forestry professionals participated in IFA Region 4's Fall Workshop on November 13 at the USDA Service Center in Marion, IL.

The full afternoon agenda included Dr. Charles Ruffner, SIU Department of Forestry, who described the forest benefits of prescribed burning. Richard Johnson of Vienna, IL, announced the formation of the Southeastern IL Prescribed Burn Association.

Richard Breckinridge, Agriculture and Rural Affairs Advisor, IL EPA, discussed the IL Conservation and Climate Initiative, which helps in marketing carbon credits. He explained the qualifications for the program and how landowners can sign up for it.

Diane Wallace, NRCS District Conservationist, Franklin County, gave an overview of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), which includes a new option to help with the cost of forest management plans.

Gary Stratton, IDNR, brought the group up to date on State Forestry news and noted the hiring of two new district foresters.

A highlight of the meeting was the presentation by Region 4 Director Stephanie Brown of a Charter Member plaque to consulting forester Mark Holmgren of Harrisburg.

From Region 3

Rollie Spaniol and Roy Bailey, Directors

Sixty-five woodland owners and foresters participated in a Forestry Workshop on November 16, 2006. The morning presentations took place at the Midway Tavern, near Sigel, IL. After lunch the group met at Heartland Woods where owner Mark Willenborg conducted a tour of the facility, and his staff demonstrated the making of wood products.

The agenda covered exotics and invasive species, their impacts, and removal methods; forestry management plans; IFA goals, actions, and position on forestry in the State; and the development of a directory of regional forestry businesses that provide assistance to landowners.

The Association accepted 18 new members during workshop registration.

This event was sponsored by the IFA; Lincoln Heritage, Post Oak Flats, and Wabash Valley Resource Conservation and Development Councils (RC&D); the Embarras River Management Association (ERMA); IL Department of Natural Resources (IDNR); and the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

Here's what we learned for future workshops:

- We didn't charge enough for the workshop (IFA members \$8 and others \$12).
- The fee differential, great speakers, and the Heartland Hardwoods tour were positive factors in getting nearly 1/3 of the attendees to join IFA. The publicity in the region and in statewide media by the three RC&D Councils and ERMA was a positive factor in getting participants to the workshop. We had press coverage twice in at least 12 of the counties, email coverage to all IFA members, and several of the Soil and Water Conservation Districts announced the workshop in their newsletters. Almost all of the participants indicated they read about the workshop in their newspaper.
- The evaluation forms haven't been processed yet, but the comments were very positive. One man said it is easy to criticize so I will, "You need to do this more often."

In this mailing....

- IFA Position Papers
- EQIP Fact Sheet
- Membership Application

Meet Your Board of Directors!

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IFA Directors in attendance at the November 29 Board Meeting at Ballard Nature Center in Altamont, IL.

(l to r): Roy Bailey, Dan Price, Joe Newcomb, Susan Romano, Stephanie Brown, Debbie Jones, and Rollie Spaniol. Not shown: Mary Duff, Mike Kiefer, and Lee Rife.

A CROP OF CHRISTMAS TREES

Della Moen, Earth Team Volunteer, NRCS/ Stephenson Soil and Water Conservation District

Evergreen trees are appealing in the bleak cold months of winter when the landscape looks otherwise hardly alive. The use of evergreen trees to celebrate the winter season occurred before the birth of Christ. Ancient Romans decorated trees with small pieces of metal during Saturnalia, a winter festival in honor of Saturnus, the god of agriculture. Evergreen trees were decorated with apples during the feast of Adam and Eve on December 24th during the Middle Ages. Sometime in the 16th Century, decorated trees became part of the Christian celebration of Christmas.

Decorated evergreens continue as a traditional part of Christmas celebrations. In parts of the world where the season is summer, branches of other trees or artificial trees are incorporated into the celebration. Not surprisingly, winter celebrations of a secular nature often include decorated evergreen trees.

Artificial trees may be convenient, but they are not necessarily better for the environment. "You're not 'killing' a tree by using a real Christmas tree. Real Christmas trees are actually grown as crops, just like corn or wheat, and raised on a farm. Once they are harvested, up to three seedlings are planted to replace harvested trees. Therefore, there are actually more and more trees every year, not fewer. This year Christmas tree farmers planted 70 million new Christmas trees on farms throughout North America." (National Christmas Tree Association)

More than 2,000 trees per acre are usually planted on Christmas tree farms. On average 1,000 to 1,500 of these trees will survive. In the North, maybe 750 trees will remain. Almost all trees require shearing to attain the Christmas tree shape. At six to seven feet, trees are ready for harvest. It takes six to ten years of fighting heavy rain, wind, hail, drought, pests, and disease to get a mature tree.

In the United States, there are 21,000 tree growers including over 500 growers in Illinois. Christmas trees are grown in all 50 states. Oregon was the leading producer of Christmas Trees--6.5 million--in 2002. Oregon farmers had 67,804 acres in Christmas tree production; Illinois had 6,355.

The growing trees provide a habitat for wildlife. They remove dust and pollen from the air. An acre of Christmas trees provides for the daily oxygen requirements of 18 people. Recycled trees have been used to make sand and soil erosion barriers, placed in ponds for fish shelter, turned into bird feeders, or ground into mulch.

(Information for this article was taken from University of Illinois Extension, www.urbanext.uiuc.edu/trees/treefacts.html.)



because they know they are creating pollution or because the EPA has asked them to clean up their operation. To be eligible to purchase the offsets, they have to belong to CCX and must reduce their emissions by a contracted amount. To be eligible to receive payments, farmers must make application for one of the Offset Projects and sign a contract to maintain the qualifying acreage and crops for a period of time. Of course, there are rules for the buyers and the producers of the offset credits.

To learn more about CCX and the Offset Projects, log on to <http://chicagoclimatex.com/>. After you read this, click on Offset Projects for an overview of the projects. Click on Project Types on the left side of the screen for more detailed information about each of the five Offset Projects.

The Illinois Conservation and Climate Initiative Web site has been significantly restructured and updated making it easier to find what you are looking for. Also, some new tools have been added, including a "carbon calculator" that will allow potential enrollees to see what carbon is worth and how much they might receive by enrolling in the program. Check it out at www.illinoisclimate.org.

Since it is going to take a lot of land parcels to make a difference in the global atmosphere, there had to be a way to aggregate the lands and crops that farmers want to put into the Offset Projects. The State of Illinois (IEPA) is working with Delta Institute (a not-for-profit corporation) to pool the lands and crops. To get contract details and application forms, contact these people at the Delta Institute:

Timothy H. Brown at (312) 554-0900, ext. 1; thbrown@delta-institute.org or Abigail Corso at (312) 554-0900, ext. 25; acorso@delta-institute.org or by mail at Ms. Abigail Corso, P2/E2 Center, c/o The Delta Institute, 53 West Jackson Boulevard, Suite 230, Chicago, Illinois 60604.

Hey Buddy, Want Some Free Money?

By Rollie Spaniol, Director, Region 3

This sounds like unsolicited email, but it is really about carbon sequestration and a new program to get new money in the hands of grain and tree farmers. One of the nice features is that you probably don't have to do anything special to get it except apply.

Here's the situation: grain and tree farmers grow crops that produce materials that are good for the atmosphere. On the other hand, factories, power generating stations, etc., produce carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases (GHG) that have a negative influence on the atmosphere.

This article is about an American solution to a global problem. You won't get all of your questions answered in this little article, but here is how to get started.

Let's start with a company called the Chicago Climate Exchange (CCX). Over simplified, it is a company like the Chicago Stock Exchange except that it trades carbon credits produced by farmers to industries that are producing an over supply of harmful GHG. The industries pay for the carbon credits, called offsets,

Illinois Forestry Association

A non-profit, tax-exempt organization under IRS 501(c)3