

Illinois Forests



"The Voice for Illinois Forests"

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2021 Illinois Forestry Association Board of Directors

Executive Committee

PRESIDENT

Tom Walsh (Region 1)
Durand, IL
815/248-2234
walsh10@stateline-isp.com

VICE-PRESIDENT

Tricia Bethke (Region 1)
Naperville, IL
630/234-7325
tbethke@mortonarb.org

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

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

PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Zach DeVillez
Makanda, IL
618/8410932
ilforestry@gmail.com

Regional Directors

Region 1

Brad Petersburg
Galena, IL
641/420-5851
bf2100@gmail.com

Region 2

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

Debbie Fluegel
Tremont, IL
309/613-0095
dfluegel@treesforever.org

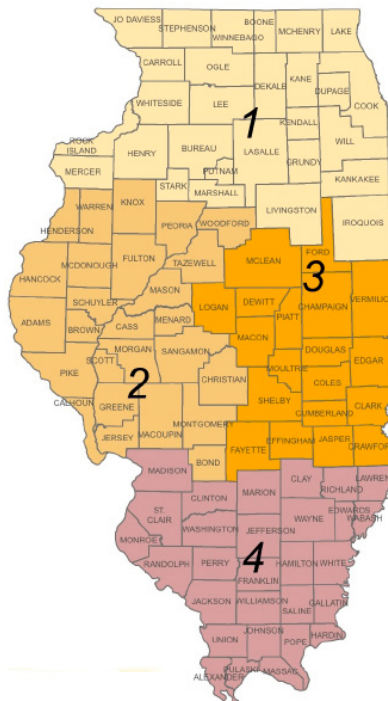
Region 3

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

Region 4

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

Bill Buechel
Highland, IL
904/480-0006
wmjbuechel@yahoo.com



Jeff Biethman
Red Bud, IL
618/282-3651
jcbiethman@gmail.com

Gary Hake
Nashville, IL
618/231-3081
teresaandgary85@gmail.com

Landon Satterfield
Benton, IL
270/704-2687
lsatter@siu.edu

IFA Technical Advisors

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

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

Stan Sipp
Forester
217/489-9003
sklipp@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."

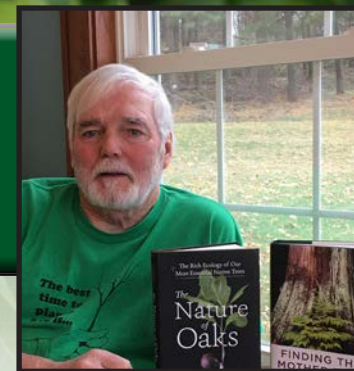
Our Goals...

- 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

<https://ilforestry.org>

Message From the IFA President

by Tom Walsh



Fellow IFA Members –

It's been a busy time since our last newsletter. In early May, I helped mentor Southern Illinois University students at the SIU Forestry Camp held at the Touch of Nature Environmental Preserve site south of Carbondale. I also attended the Chicago Region Tree Institute Field Day in Kendall County. We visited four sites and learned about a wide variety of forestry practices. On May 21st I attended the "resurrected" Tri-State Forestry Conference at the Palisades State Park outside Savanna.

In June, I took part in a work day at a 31 acre wooded tract that the Walnut Council manages just north of Roscoe, Illinois. All of the walnut trees are tagged and geo-located for record keeping purposes. It was a very hot day but we still managed to remove lots of brush and performed thinning in three separate areas of the woods. The Walnut Council members were great to work with and the parcel is loaded with beautiful walnut trees.

The Tree Farm Committee asked for a report of recent IFA activities so I met with them at the Scheel's Sporting Goods store in Springfield and delivered the update.

I'm glad to report our project coordinator Zach DeVillez recently finished composing and printing 5,600 brochures about various forestry topics. Zach did a great job on this project, as usual.

Chris Evans and Tricia Bethke, along with Dr. Fredric Miller, have been presenting forestry workshops across the state, which have been well attended and well received. Two virtual Tree ID sessions will be presented in the near future.

On June 9th I attended a Field Day at Brad Petersburg's beautiful Spirit Rock property near Galena. We heard information about the history of ancient inhabitants of the area and information about the archaeology and geology of the site. Brad also discussed plans to manage the site for wildlife.

From July 24th to the 27th, I attended a very informative Walnut Council annual meeting in Carbondale. The Walnut Council includes ten states in the Midwest and has members from Canada. I enjoyed presentations on 34 different topics. Experts with PhD's, forest property owners and other recognized experts, including our technical advisor Chris Evans, did a fine job presenting valuable, interesting information. Casey Calvert was installed as president of the National Walnut Council. I have worked with Casey on other projects and he told me he is looking forward to having Walnut Council members work with our IFA members on joint ventures during the coming year. Walnut Council is a great group to work with and I think both organizations will benefit from the synergy generated by our groups.

Our annual conference is rapidly approaching. Zach DeVillez and Brad Petersburg are doing a fine job pulling things together for the event. The week after the conference, we will be presenting twelve different topics to Boy Scouts at the Winnebago County Fairgrounds. This will cap off a very busy year during which I engaged with other forestry groups to move toward our goal of spreading the message about the benefits of healthy forests, brought about by employing sound forest management practices. It's been an honor to serve as president of our association during that time.

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!



REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN FOR THE ILLINOIS FORESTRY ASSOCIATION'S 17th ANNUAL CONFERENCE!

Where: Chestnut Mountain Resort in Galena, IL

When: September 16th – 17th

**To Register or To Learn More,
Go To:** <https://ilforestry.org/event-4905343>

We are now soliciting items for the traditional auction so if you have something you wish to contribute, just email Mike McMahan at mcmahan3465@hotmail.com or give him a call at (618) 977-3415.

Auction Item Ideas

- | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| - Wood Crafts | - Maple/Walnut Syrup | - Posters |
| - Art | - Other Forest Products | - Books |
| - Forest Photography | - Containerized Tree | - Forestry Related |
| - Forestry Equipment | Seedlings | Collectibles |

Lodging Options

Chestnut Mountain Resort
<https://www.chestnutmtn.com/>
(800) 397-1320
8700 West Chestnut Mountain Road,
Galena, IL 61036

Best Western Galena Inn & Suites
https://www.bestwestern.com/en_US/book/galena/hotel-rooms/best-western-galena-inn-suites/propertyCode.14119.html
(815) 777-2577
9923 US-20, Galena, IL 61036

Country Inn and Suites
<https://www.radissonhotelsamericas.com/en-us/hotels/country-inn-galena-il?cid=a:se+b:gmb+c:amer+i:local+e:ci+s+d:us+h:ILGALENA>
(815) 777-2400
11334 Oldenburg Ln, Galena, IL 61036

Stoney Creek Inn
<https://www.stoneycreekhoteles.com/hotel/galena/>
(815) 777-2223
940 Galena Square Drive,
Galena, IL 61036

Country Inn and Suites
<https://www.radissonhotelsamericas.com/en-us/hotels/country-inn-stockton-il?cid=a:se+b:gmb+c:amer+i:ocal+e:ci+s+d:us+h:ILSTOCTO>
(815) 947-6060
200 Dillon Avenue, Stockton, IL 61085

Rental Properties
<https://www.vrbo.com/>

IFA News and Updates

by Zach DeVillez



Now Taking Applications for IFA Director Positions

This fall, the IFA board of directors will undergo some changes. Some directors will be running for reelection, others will be taking on new roles for the IFA, while at least one director will be moving on from many years of excellent service to the Illinois Forestry.

For this election, we will be taking applications to fill much needed positions in our board of directors. Anyone that has a membership with IFA is welcome to send in an application. The only qualifications needed is to be interested in forestry and to have a willingness to stay involved with the operations of the IFA.

Any members interested in serving on the board of directors should send a paragraph to Program Coordinator, Zach DeVillez that includes the following information:

1. Background Information
2. Why did you join IFA?
3. Are you a landowner/professional?
4. Do you have any special interests related to forestry?

Our biggest geographic areas of need for directors includes region 1 (northern Illinois) and region 3 (Eastern Illinois).

Responsibilities of an IFA Director

- 1.) Attend Four Quarterly Board Meetings
- 2.) Serve on an IFA Committee
- 3.) Volunteer at IFA Events

For any interested individuals, please send applications to zachd@illinois.edu.

IFA to Organize Virtual Tree Identification Sessions

Make sure to keep watch for an announcement about a Tree Identification program. The IFA plans to hold two tree identification sessions conducted over zoom in late fall. This will be a part of a partnership between the Illinois Arborist Association and the IFA. The Illinois Arborist Association has agreed to fund these programs in an effort to get more urban forestry based programs to Southern and Central Illinois.

Lodging Reminder for Annual Conference

We hope you will join us for the 17th Annual Conference in Galena! If you are traveling from a great distance and need to arrange lodging, make sure to make your reservations as soon as possible. Galena is very popular from early to late fall, so it is

important that you don't wait until last minute and risk hotels in the area being booked. Refer to the lodging options on page 4. If you are planning to stay at Chestnut Mountain Resort, make sure to tell them that you are there for the Illinois Forestry Association Annual Conference. Many of their guests stay for a full weekend, so they like to book through Saturday with a checkout on Sunday. However, since our conference ends on Saturday morning, those traveling from great distance may not want to stay an extra night. If you let them know you are there for the conference they will allow a checkout time on Saturday morning.

IFA Member Directory

The IFA website now has a membership directory! As a member, you should be able to log into ilforestry.org. Once you're on your profile, you should see a member tab on the IFA home page. Listed under this tab is a Member Directory. This will allow members to find other members in their area. Each member of IFA can enter this directory and control their privacy and what information is available to other members. This is an opportunity for members to open communication other members in their geographic region for networking purposes.

IFA Holds Urban Tree Health Trainings

In case you missed it, the IFA could not be more excited to partner with the Illinois Arborist Association to bring much needed urban forestry programs to Southern Illinois.

The IFA has put together a team of tree health experts to educate Southern Illinois forestry professionals and the public about the urban tree health challenges we are facing today. See the team below!



University of Illinois Extension Forester, Chris Evans



Forest Pest Outreach Coordinator, Tricia Bethke



IDNR Forest Health Specialist, Dr. Fredric Miller



Training Topics

Tree Biology
EAB Management
Invasive Plant ID
Tree Pest and Disease Update
Invasive Plant Control
Recognizing Herbicide Drift Damage to Trees

Trees Forever

By Debbie Fluegel
Illinois Trees Forever Program Manager and Field Coordinator



Trees Forever is a Midwest based environmental non-profit organization whose mission is to help people plant and care for trees and the environment by empowering people, building community, and promoting stewardship. Founded in 1989, Trees Forever was started by two volunteers who were concerned with the amount of dirt covered snowbanks and by the number of windbreaks and forested areas being removed. After talking with friends and colleagues, they determined that something had to be done.

Currently, Trees Forever works in three Midwest states: Iowa, Illinois, and most recently, Wisconsin. Our Illinois programs include the Illinois Buffer Partnership program, Recover, Replant, Restore! program, and a program to help small towns access carbon crediting and associated funding from carbon credit sales.

The Illinois Buffer Partnership program provides cost share, up to a maximum of \$2,000, to public and private landowners and farmers to plant trees, shrubs, grasses, and wildflowers along streams and rivers to improve water quality, reduce stream erosion, and provide wildlife and pollinator habitat. Types of projects eligible for the Illinois Buffer Partnership program include: riparian buffers, livestock buffers, streambank stabilization projects, wetland development, pollinator habitat, rain gardens and agroforestry projects. The application period is closed for 2022.

Trees Forever also works with communities throughout Illinois with the Recover, Replant, Restore! program. In partnership with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources Urban and Community Forestry program, Trees Forever helps communities diversify their community forests and make them more resilient to the next storm, disease, or pest. Through this program, small communities receive assistance to conduct volunteer-led street tree inventories that helps communities determine what their community forest is made of and where the ash trees are located; achieve Tree City USA status; update and implement local forestry programs and ordinances; create volunteer tree boards and committees; inform citizens through public outreach and education how trees benefit their community and how the citizens can help; and volunteer training in the care and maintenance of the community trees. Trees Forever also provides small tree planting grants, ranging from \$500-\$3,000, available each spring and fall. The next round of tree planting grants will be available August 1, 2022 with a submission deadline of August 25, 2022 for a Fall 2022 planting. The application can be found at www.treesforever.org.

Trees Forever's newest program is the Carbon program that helps communities throughout Illinois and Iowa to plant more trees and certify those trees into carbon credits. The credits can then be sold and turned into revenue for the community. The community would work with Trees Forever, as the project operator, for 26 years, to plant and maintain trees, document tree survival at regular intervals, assist with mapping of the trees, and to sell carbon credits.

For more information, visit the Trees Forever website at: www.treesforever.org



TREES FOREVER

Continued on the next page -

Illinois Arborists and Foresters are Building Urban Forest Capacity

By Michael Brunk
Urban and Community Forestry Program Manager

Illinois Arborists and Foresters are sharing their professional expertise with under resourced communities through Illinois's Urban Forest Strike Team Program. The team leaves assisted communities with a better understanding of community tree care and management and is building urban forest capacity across the State.

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources Forestry Division has teamed up with Trees Forever and the US Forest Service to outreach to communities with little to no urban forest management experience, staff, or ability. The intention is to provide these communities guidance to initiating public tree care and management within their community to increase public safety, tree longevity and tree preservation. A component of this outreach program is the Illinois Urban Forest Strike Team which is a post disaster Tree Risk Assessment assistance program that targets under resourced communities in need.



The Illinois Urban Forest Strike Team is made up of a group of specially trained arborists and foresters who volunteer their time to help communities impacted by natural disasters. The volunteer team is recruited, trained, and coordinated through the State's Urban and Community Forestry program and fully supported through acquired federal urban forestry core funding. IDNR relies on its partner, Trees Forever, for deployment logistics, operations oversight and soon to be "mock" deployment training events.

The Illinois Urban Forest Strike Team has been slowly evolving since 2014 with five successful deployments across the state. In each of those five deployments Trees Forever and IDNR have provided disaster-stricken communities a tree risk assessment, a plan for mitigating tree hazards and ongoing forest recovery assistance and guidance. More recently the overall recovery plan included the addition of a tree planting component to better guide the community towards long-term urban forest health. Mike Brunk, the IDNR Urban and Community Forestry Program Administrator states "Disaster hit communities are anxious for assistance and open to preparation and prevention planning for their community, especially after experiencing tree devastation from severe weather events." Storm events provide a good opportunity for professional arborists and foresters to show their value in hazard mitigation and tree

preservation. IDNR uses the program as a foot-in-the-door opportunity to start counseling a community towards improving tree resiliency for a greener and safer tomorrow. IDNR uses a team approach in the Urban Forest Strike Team Program. Trees Forever is utilized to oversee the deployment operation and the professional arborist and forester volunteers from across the state make up the Strike Team Specialists. The Illinois Arborist Association has been utilized for assistance in training and the US Forest Service provides the base training for Strike Team Task Specialists. In 2020 IDNR started sponsoring ISA Tree Risk Assessment Qualification, TRAQ, certification for Strike Team volunteers. Although TRAQ is not required of the Strike Team members, TRAQ arborists and foresters are generally selected as team leaders. Brunk states there is much value in TRAQ and paying the \$750 TRAQ registration/testing fee for Strike Team volunteers helps illustrate the value in expertise we look to provide these communities.





According to Adam Clark, City of Ottawa Code Enforcement Official, "it's great to have the expert knowledge of the Strike Team available to communities. With the extent of the damage and our limited resources, we're very appreciative of the Strike Team coming together to help us determine which trees can be saved and which need to be removed." When asked about why he volunteered for the Strike Team, Jon Yeater, arborist from the Village of Westmont, says, "tree preservation in urban areas is important and we want to protect and save as much of the canopy as we can. We're losing many of our urban trees due to storms, diseases, EAB, and more." "We want to give back to others," says Eric Hendrickson, arborist with the Village of Lombard. "We also had a tornado hit the Village of Lombard and reached out for cleanup assistance through the Illinois Public Works Mutual Aid Network (IPWMAN). Volunteering the opportunity to help communities in need." Strike Team member, Kurt Blakemore, owner of Dripline, Inc., from Naperville, knows that many communities are financially struggling and need professional forestry assistance. "I've been in this industry for more than thirty years and am in a position where I can help others. In doing so, we are growing better forests and receiving so much more, than we give."

Mike Brunk adds, "These arborists are eager to utilize their specialty in assisting communities in need. We have federal support and team brain power to improve our ongoing effort as this program grows. One such idea, from a Strike Team member, is to organize volunteer risk assessment training within "communities in need". IDNR and Trees Forever look to incorporate this idea starting in 2022 with "mock event" training in specifically selected communities to allow training to serve the dual role of training volunteers and assisting under resourced communities. Brunk states the combination is a win win and allows training to effectively be utilized in communities with need, "what a great idea!"

In 2021 the IL Urban Forest Strike Team deployed to Canton and Fairview Illinois. Like many of these deployments, the Canton/Fairview deployment was a unique experience for IDNR and Trees Forever. Great data was collected, unique situations were experienced, and good input and guidance were noted by team members. Canton and Fairview were provided with tree risk assessments, mitigation guidance and urban forest management planning. Fairview was also provided a 5-year planting plan and both communities were informed how to pursue available tree planting grants. Like all assisted communities, Canton and Fairview are offered access into DNR's network of partners that provide ongoing information, partner outreach and technical and financial assistance opportunities.

The UFST program provides communities in need with actionable professional advice and allows the ability for IDNR and partners to initiate ongoing conversation and assistance for growing urban and community forest capacity across the state. The most important aspect of these deployments are the



professionals that make up the deployment teams. Illinois' Urban Forest Strike Team is a diverse group of public and private practitioners and the only volunteer-based team in the nation. The Illinois' team includes a mix of certified arborists, state foresters, city/village tree program managers, company owners, supervisors, climbers, college professors, retirees, and strike team members from other states that are new residents in Illinois. Brunk believes it is the team expertise and individual motivation that make this program successful.

IDNR presently has 41 members on the Urban Forest Strike Team and is looking to build the team to 100+. Interested certified arborists, degreed foresters or horticulturists with community tree care experience should contact Mike Brunk at Michael.brunk@illinois.gov, 217-361-9033 to find out more about becoming a member. Illinois DNR will pay the \$750 TRAQ registration and testing fees for a limited number of volunteers each year. TRAQ registration sponsorships are available for 2022 and 2023 TRAQ courses on a first come first serve basis.

August (and every month) is “Tree Check” Month

By Tricia Bethke, Forest Pest Outreach Coordinator

As summer starts to wind down, please make sure to get outside and check your trees for emerging adult insects such as Asian longhorned beetle (ALB) (*Anoplophora glabripennis*) and spotted lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*). If you see something suspicious, please report it to agr.pio@illinois.gov or lanternfly@illinois.edu (spotted lanternfly). Recently, Indiana, Michigan and Iowa have had positive confirmations for spotted lanternfly, so we know the pest is moving around. If we have a positive confirmation, we can have a rapid response and manage the infestation, if need be.

Illinois is the first state to eradicate ALB in the late 1990's; infestations still occur in Massachusetts, New York, Ohio and South Carolina. Eradication was achieved through removal of over 1,500 infested trees, and the application of systemic insecticides to about 50,000 surrounding trees on an annual basis. The cooperation of local citizens in tree removal and treatment, as well as the support of the mayor of Chicago and Chicago government was critical in this success. (<https://hyg.ipm.illinois.edu/pastpest/200802e.htm>)



© Kenneth R. Law, USDA APHIS PPQ, Bugwood.org

Figure 1: Asian Longhorned Beetle

Check out this webpage about ALB: <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/resources/pests-diseases/asian-longhorned-beetle>

Asian Longhorned Beetle

The Asian longhorned beetle, or ALB, is an invasive insect that feeds on a wide variety of trees:

- **Ash (*Fraxinus*)**
- **Birch (*Betula*)**
- **Elm (*Ulmus*)**
- **Golden raintree (*Koelreuteria*)**
- **London planetree/sycamore (*Platanus*)**
- **Maple (*Acer*)**
- **Horsechestnut/buckeye (*Aesculus*)**
- **Katsura (*Cercidiphyllum*)**
- **Mimosa (*Albizia*)**
- **Mountain ash (*Sorbus*)**
- **Poplar (*Populus*)**
- **Willow (*Salix*)**

The beetle is native to China and the Korean Peninsula and is in the wood-boring beetle family Cerambycidae. Adult beetles are large, distinctive-looking insects measuring 1 to 1.5 inches in length with long antennae. Their bodies are black with small white spots, and their antennae are banded in black and white. Checking your trees regularly for this insect and looking for the damage it causes and reporting any sightings can help prevent the spread of the beetle.

To report sightings, please visit: <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/resources/pests-diseases/asian-longhorned-beetle/report-it/reportit>

ALB Lifecycle and How It Affects Trees

Adult females chew depressions into the bark of various hardwood tree species. They lay an egg—about the size of a rice grain—under the bark at each site, the egg hatches, and the white larva bores into the tree, feeding live tissue. After several weeks, the larva tunnels into center, heartwood, where it overwinters. They form tunnels or galleries in tree trunks and branches. Sawdust-like material, called frass, from the insect's burrowing can be found at the trunk and branch bases of infested trees.



As the beetle larvae develops into adults, they chew their way out of the tree, leaving round exit holes approximately three-eighths of an inch in diameter. Once they have exited a tree, they feed on its leaves and bark for 10 to 14 days before mating and laying eggs.

Please get out and check your trees. If you see adults, or exit holes, please TAKE A PICTURE, and email at agr.pio@illinois.gov.

Not Established (Yet)

The Spotted Lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*) is native to China and was first detected in Pennsylvania in September 2014. Spotted lanternfly feeds on a wide range of fruit,

ornamental and woody trees, with tree-of-heaven being one of the preferred hosts.

- Almonds
- Apples
- Apricots
- Cherries
- Grapes
- Hops
- Maple Trees
- Nectarines
- Oak Trees
- Peaches
- Pine Trees
- Plums
- Poplar Trees
- Sycamore Trees
- Walnut Trees
- Willow Trees

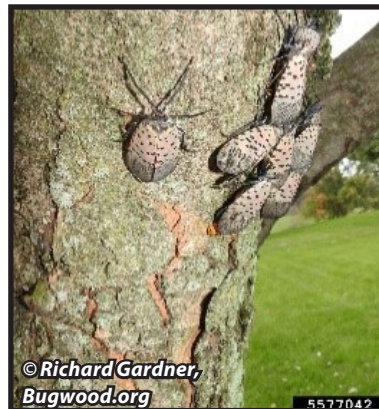


Figure 2: Spotted Lanternfly



Figure 3: SLF nymphs



Figure 3: Spongy moth egg mass (light brown) vs. SLF egg mass (gray)

Spotted lanternfly egg masses are about an inch long and resemble a smear of mud. Travelers passing through SLF quarantine areas should thoroughly check their vehicles, trailers, and even the clothes they are wearing to avoid accidentally moving the spotted lanternfly from a quarantine area to somewhere new.

Signs and symptoms:

- Plants that ooze or weep and have a fermented odor
- Buildup of sticky fluid (honeydew) on plants and on the ground underneath infested plants
- Sooty mold on infested plants

Spotted lanternfly (SLF) does not fly long distances, but it is a hitchhiker. Spotted lanternflies are invasive and can be spread long distances by transportation (cars, rail, planes) and people who inadvertently move infested material or items containing egg masses. Starting in the fall, SLF seek out outdoor surfaces and lay mud-like egg masses on tree bark, outdoor gear (such as lawnmowers, bikes, and grills), methods of transport, and more.

If you find this pest outside of a spotted lanternfly quarantine area, please take a picture of it and note the location to report it to lanterfly@illinois.edu or agr.pio@illinois.gov.

More Than a Handshake: Negotiating and Drafting an Effective Hunting Lease for Your Farm or Ranch

By Cari B. Rincker, Esq.

A hunting lease is a mutually-beneficial arrangement between a landowner with land to spare and a hunter looking for exclusive and guaranteed access to hunting land. However, a simple handshake and an exchange of cash between parties is not always enough to ensure smooth sailing in a hunting lease agreement. There are numerous variables, and endless opportunities for disagreement, when two or more parties share land in this way. To avoid disputes—or to at least resolve them efficiently—it is best for the parties to set out in writing the boundaries and inner-workings of their lease arrangement. This article discusses to terms who you should address and include in your hunting lease agreement.

Put It In Writing

First and foremost, your hunting lease agreement should be in writing. For one obvious reason, what one party promises orally is not easily provable, whereas a written lease documents every detail of the agreement made. The parties, as well as any future arbiter, can easily look back to a written agreement to determine what, exactly, was agreed-upon. One lesser-known consideration is that most states have a “Statute of Frauds,” which is a rule requiring that contracts lasting longer than a year—as many hunting leases do—must be in writing in order to be enforceable.

The Basics

Every contract must contain certain details in order for it to be enforceable. For a hunting lease, this includes the names and addresses of the parties involved, a description of the land subject to lease, the duration of the lease, and the amount of rent to be paid.

A hunting lease agreement should always identify both the landowner, known in legal terms as the “lessor,” and the hunter, known as the “lessee.” The land subject to the lease should be described in as much detail as possible, including both common and legal descriptions of the land. One way to avoid confusion is to attach a map of the leased area as an addendum to the lease. This map can depict the roads and points of entry that the lessee is permitted to use, as well as areas where the lessee may clean animal carcasses or dispose of refuse.

A hunting lease should clearly define the durational term of the lease, whether it be monthly, annual, or otherwise. It should also specify whether the agreement automatically renews at the end of each lease term, or whether the parties must proactively agree to renew the lease in advance. The lease should detail how much cash rent is due, at what interval, and by what form of payment. The landowner may consider asking for a security deposit up front, which may be used to cover any expenses in repairing damages caused during the lease.

Additional Considerations

The most effective way to avoid disputes is to make the hunting lease agreement as detailed as possible with respect to which activities are or are not permissible for each party. In addition to the basics, you may consider including the following in your lease:

- The species of animals that may be hunted;
- The number of each species that may be hunted;
- The types of weapons that the lessee may use;
- Whether the lessee may bring guests, and the number of guests permitted;
- Whether the lessee may construct improvements (e.g., hunting blinds, tree stands);
- Whether the lessee may use hunting dogs;
- Whether the lessee may use any facilities on the leased land (e.g., sheds, bunks);
- What kind of vehicles the lessee may bring, and where those vehicles may be driven;
- Whether the lessee can transfer the lease to another party without permission;

- Potential damages owed if either party violates the terms of the agreement;
- What happens if there is a natural disaster that makes the land unsuitable for hunting;
- What happens if the landowner wants to sell the land; and
- When and how either party can end the lease agreement.

Preparing for Disputes

While the primary goal of a hunting lease agreement is to avoid any disputes between the parties, a secondary goal is to roadmap what should happen in the event that a dispute nevertheless arises. To that end, a hunting lease should include the parties' wishes regarding the means to resolve any potential disputes. This includes whether the parties plan to use alternative dispute resolution (e.g., mediation or arbitration), which court will have jurisdiction over any legal proceedings, which state's laws will apply when interpreting the agreement, and whether parties will be allowed to recover any reasonable attorneys' fees incurred in a dispute.

Tips for the Landowner

If you are the landowner, there are a few things you should keep in mind before signing a hunting lease agreement. First, make sure that the lease agreement preserves your right to use the land in any way that you intend to during the course of the lease term. For example, the lease should specify if and when you are allowed to enter the leased area, for what purposes, and with what kind of notice to the lessee. Furthermore, if you have already leased out your

land to another party for another use (e.g., agricultural, mining, or drilling), or if you have plans to do so in the future, the lease should specify this as well.

As the landowner, you should also consider how to (1) prevent injury or damage caused by the lessee's activities on your land, and (2) protect yourself from liability in the event that any such injury or damage occurs. One way to minimize injury or damage is to include provisions in your lease agreement ensuring that the lessee is properly licensed to use firearms and to hunt, that the lessee follows appropriate firearm safety, that the lessee does not engage in hazardous activities such as drinking while hunting, and that the lessee follows all applicable state and federal laws. The hunting lease agreement should contain a provision informing the lessee that he or she assumes the risks of hunting and is responsible for any harm resulting therefrom. The agreement can also require that the lessee purchase insurance to cover the costs of any injury or damage, and it can provide that the lessee will indemnify—i.e., pay back—the landowner for any costs resulting from injury or damage caused by lessee's activities on the land.

Keep in mind that a hunting lessee may be spending more time on your land than you do. To that end, it may be in your interest for the lease to include certain responsibilities for the lessee in the supervision of your land. For example, a hunting lease agreement can contain provisions holding the lessee responsible for reporting or preventing certain hazards, such as wildfires or the presence of trespassers.

Tips for the Hunter

If you plan to lease someone else's land, it is important that you inspect the area in advance of signing an agreement to make sure that the leased area meets your expectations and is suitable for your hunting needs. Read the lease closely and make note of the ways in which the lessor may continue to use the land during the course of the hunting lease. Finally, use caution in bringing guests with you to hunt on the leased land, as you may be liable for any damage or injury that your guests cause.

Final Thoughts

Whether you are a landowner planning to lease your property for hunting purposes, or a hunter hoping to lease land, it is important to understand that lease agreements are binding contracts with significant consequences. Given the variables at stake, hunting leases should be carefully tailored for the unique needs of each party involved. It is advisable for either party to hire an attorney licensed in your jurisdiction to help craft or review a suitable hunting lease agreement. At a minimum, consider reviewing this article with your counterparty to ensure that your hunting lease agreement will address all salient subjects and avoid future costly disputes.

For more information contact:
Cari Rincker, Esq.
Rincker Law, PLLC
Licensed in IL, NY, NJ, CT, KY, TX and DC

Illinois Office:
301 N. Neil Street, Suite 400
Champaign, IL 61820

(212) 427-2049
cari@rinckerlaw.com
www.rinckerlaw.com

Two New Illinois State Champion Trees

By Zach DeVillez

There is something awe inspiring about a big tree. Those who frequent the forests of Illinois probably have an experience finding a massive oak tree. A tree that really separates itself from those around it with a wide base and a sprawling crown.

Did you know that there is a State Champion Tree Register? This register, updated and stewarded by the University of Illinois Extension Forestry, lists the largest, most impressive specimens of numerous species of native trees in Illinois. If you haven't checked out this list, I highly suggest you do so. We have some impressive champion trees in our state.

To access the Big Tree Register, visit the following link:
<https://go.illinois.edu/championtrees>

Most recently, two new champions were added to the register. You might be envisioning a humongous oak tree or a gargantuan cottonwood, but that is not the case. These two most recent submissions to the register were extremely large individuals for some species that are generally considered small trees and shrubs. That is, the new state champion pawpaw and buttonbush.

If you are familiar with these two species, you might be surprised to learn just how big theses individual specimens are. Check out these champions found in the Larue Pine Hills Area!

New State Champion Pawpaw (*Asimina triloba*)



Pictured: Christian Stadel (left), Matthew Kusek, Chris Evans (middle), Taryn Bieri, Ray Bieri (right)
Figure 1: The crew that measured the new champion pawpaw.

Tree Measurements

Diameter at breast height - 8 in.
 Circumference - 2.09 ft.
 Height - 47 ft.
 Spread - 21.15 ft.

Pawpaw is generally a small, understory tree, rarely getting about 30' tall. Pawpaw is a clonal species, meaning that it can form big patches that are connected to each other via their root systems. Pawpaw fruit is a highly sought after as a wild food as it tastes like a combination of a banana and a mango. Look for ripe fruit on pawpaw starting around early September.

New State Champion Buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*)



Figure 2: The new champion buttonbush.

Tree Measurements

Diameter at breast height - 5.3 in.
 Circumference - 1.3 ft.
 Height - 21.8 ft.
 Spread - 15.2 ft.

Buttonbush is a small, multi-stemmed shrub that grows in wet forests riparian areas, and even swamps. Usually it is 10' tall or less. Buttonbush gets its name from the spherical-shaped clusters of tiny white flowers, looking like round buttons. This is one of the best native shrubs to plant for pollinators as the flowers attract a host of insects, including butterflies.

Tree Tolerance to Flooding

By Zach DeVillez

This year has been a year of weather extremes for many parts of the country. Some regions are experiencing a much hotter than average year. Wildfires have raged out west. More recently, extreme flooding has impacted communities in St Louis and Eastern Kentucky.

Extreme weather events do happen, they always have, but as these extreme weather events happen more frequently, that could be considered a trend.

Flooding poses an extreme human safety threat. The number one priority for anyone caught in flooding is to seek safety. However, in this article, we are going to explore how flooding impacts trees.

Flooding events can have negative impacts to trees. However, the degree of damage to a tree depends on a few factors. Tree species and the time of year flooding occurs.

Different Species Vary in Tolerance

Some species of trees are more tolerant of flooding than others. As you might expect, species that occur in lower, wetter, bottomland environments are more tolerant than other species. Think of the tree species that you typically find in riparian areas (forested areas that occur directly along rivers and streams). It makes perfect sense for those species to be more tolerant to flooding than others because their preferred habitat is wetter areas that may be prone to occasional, often frequent flooding.

Species That Are More Tolerant to Flooding

Sycamore
Silver Maple
Green Ash
Silver Maple
Sweet Gum
River Birch
Bald Cypress

As you might expect, tree species that are typically found in more upland environments do not tolerate flooding as well. Those tree species prefer soils that have adequate drainage. Thus when soils are saturated, these species tend to experience significant damage that can often lead to mortality depending on the duration of the soil saturation.

Species That Are Less Tolerant to Flooding

White Oak
Red Oak
Pines
Mockernut/Pignut Hickory

Seasonal Flooding

When flooding occurs throughout the winter and early spring trees tend to tolerate flooding better than mid spring and summer. This is due to the fact that trees tend to experience more damage when trees are actively growing. During a tree's dormancy period, trees have significantly more

resilience to flooding.

Tree Health Problems Associated With Flooding

During long periods of standing water, much damage occurs because of poor aeration in the soil. When saturation occurs, water moves into the pores in soil that previously held gases like oxygen. Soil wash out can also occur. Moving water can move soil away from roots. Ultimately, having exposed roots will stress trees and make them less structurally sound. Flooding can also make trees more susceptible to pests and diseases.

Damage Symptoms Associated with Flooding

Leaf Chlorosis
Loss of Foliage
Stunted Leaves
Crown Dieback
Altered Seed Production
Early Leaf Drop

If your trees are experiencing any of these symptoms following a significant flooding event, you should make sure to contact a forester or an arborist. Planting the right tree in the right place and general tree care can be one of the better defenses against flood damage. However, in extreme events there is often little you can do. In forested areas, a timber harvest may be your best option. In an urban setting, hazard mitigation should be your first priority.

History of Conservation in Illinois

Installment #40

by Dave Gillespie, IFA Secretary

This account of the history of conservation in Illinois was written by Joseph P. Schavilje in 1941. This installment begins where installment # 39 ended.

1925 – 1941

In 1925, forestry, which before had been largely investigative, was given a new impetus by the embodiment in the Civil Administrative Code, which placed the protection and conservation of forests under the Department of Conservation. This clause empowers the Conservation Department “to take such measures for the promotion of planting, encouragement, protection and conservation of forests and to promote forestry in this State and to exercise the rights, powers and duties in relation thereto as has been or may be conferred by law.”

An “Act in relation to forests,” introduced and actively promoted in the legislature by Lewis B. Springer was passed in 1925. By this Act the newly created Conservation Department empowered to acquire or lease lands “more valuable for the growing of forests than for other purposes”, to organize them as state forests and to hold and manage them as sources of supply of forest products for the use of the people and industries of the State, to protect them against fire and other injuries and make them as game and fish sanctuaries, to sell the products of the State forests and to establish nurseries for the growing of forest trees to be planted in them; the act carried an appropriation of \$100,000 for the beginning of the program. (Illinois Blue Book, 1925-26)

(To be continued in the next issue of “The IFA Newsletter”.)





“Ancient trees are precious.
There is little else on Earth
that plays host to such a rich
community of life within a
single living organism.”

- Sir David Attenborough



Shawnee National Forest

We are
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than you think.

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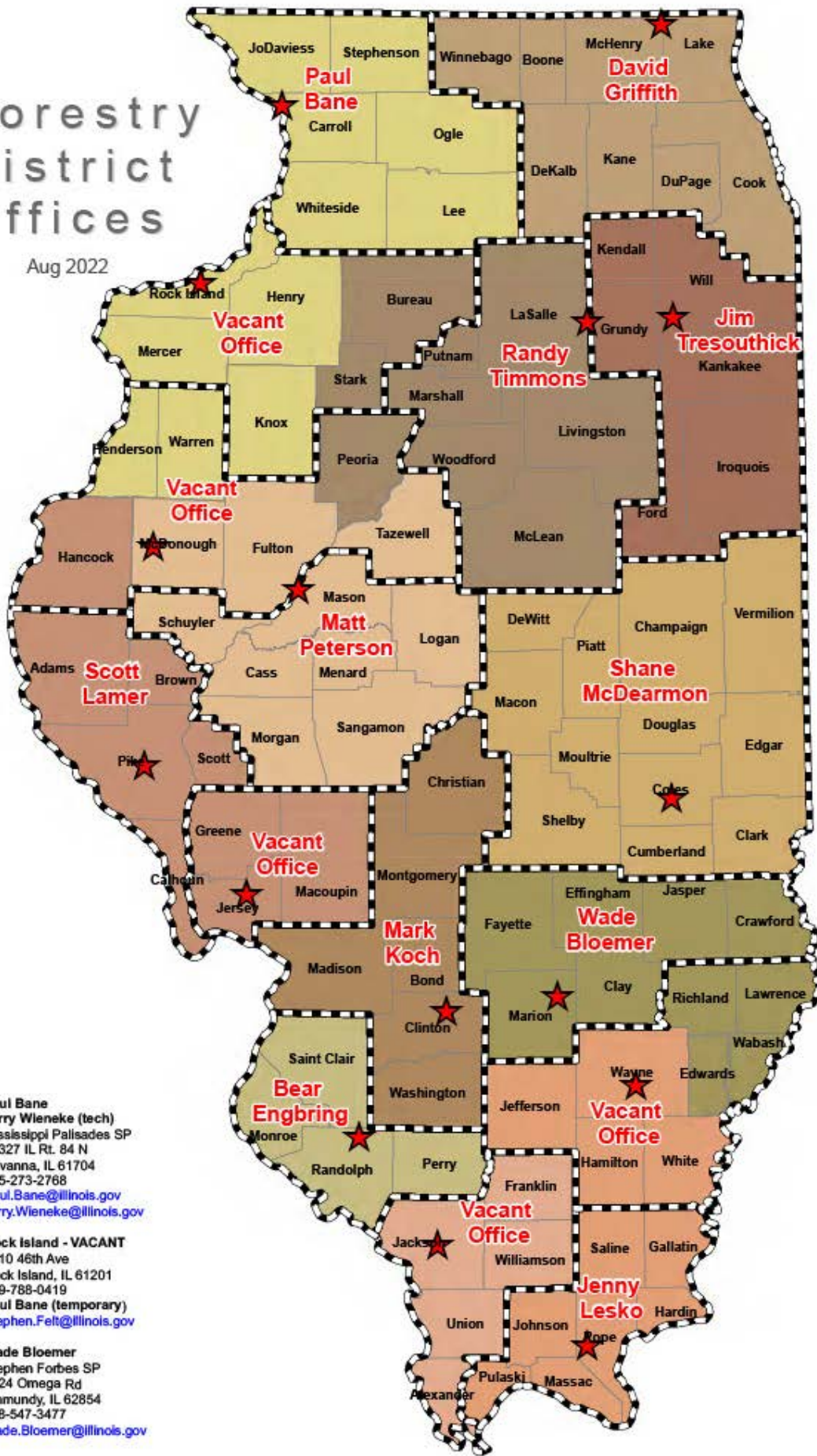
Stan Sipp
Director, Region 3
P.O. Box 111
Mansfield, IL 61854

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Questions?
Contact Stan by email at:
stanley.sipp@usda.gov

Forestry District Offices

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Paul Bane
Terry Wieneke (tech)
Mississippi Palsades SP
16327 IL Rt. 84 N
Savanna, IL 61704
815-273-2768
Paul.Bane@illinois.gov
Terry.Wieneke@illinois.gov

Rock Island - VACANT
1510 46th Ave
Rock Island, IL 61201
309-788-0419
Paul Bane (temporary)
Stephen.Felt@illinois.gov

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

Bear Engbring
World Shooting Recreation Complex
One Main Event Dr. Suite 140
Sparta, IL 62286
618-295-2877
Bear.Engbring@illinois.gov

David Griffith
Chain O Lakes Sp
8916 Wilmont Rd
Spring Grove, IL 60081
815-675-2388
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

Jerseyville - VACANT
604 E. Franklin
Jerseyville, IL 62052
618-498-1627
Scott Lamer (temporary)
Scott.Larmer@illinois.gov

Jenny Lesko
Dixon Springs SP
945 State Hwy 146W
Golconda, IL 62938
618-949-3729
Jennifer.Lesko@illinois.gov

Fairfield - VACANT
108 Andrews Rd.
Fairfield, IL 62837
618-847-3781
Jenny Lesko (Temporary)
Jennifer.Lesko@illinois.gov

Shane McDearmon
1680 West Polk Ave
Charleston, IL 61920
217-348-0174
Shane.McDearmon@illinois.gov

Argyle Lake - VACANT
Argyle Lake SP
640 Argyle Park Rd
Colchester, IL 62326

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

Murphysboro - VACANT
Lake Murphysboro SP
52 Cinder Hill Dr
Murphysboro, IL 62966
618-658-2828
Ben Snyder (temporary)
Benjamin.Snyder@illinois.gov

Randy Timmons
124 W. William St.
Seneca, IL 61380
815-357-8846
Randy.Timmons@illinois.gov

Jim Tresouthick
30550 Boathouse Rd
Wilmington, IL 60481
815-478-0258
Jim.Tresouthick@illinois.gov