



The Voice for Illinois Forests

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

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...and more!

IFA Web site

www.ilforestry.org

Message from the President

Stephanie Brown



Spring Forward with IFA!

Puxatawny Phil has declared we will have an early spring. That's a welcome prediction for those who enjoy the sights and sounds of nature emerging from dormancy. No doubt there are many who are already making plans to plant a garden, pick some tasty morels, or just take a walk through the woods and look for signs of color.

That's not to say that the woods aren't alive year round. Trees that stand dormant through the winter are busy underground, strengthening their root systems in preparation for a burst of growth. The same can be said for our work behind the scenes at the Illinois Forestry Association. Your Board of Directors has been busy laying down roots and preparing for a season of growth. Over the past few months we've made considerable strides -- evaluating our progress since formation of IFA in 2006, revisiting our mission, vision, and the audience we aspire to serve. We've been listening and learning from the landowners on our board; they have stepped up to help us serve you better. We've retooled our approach, making it easier for Directors and other volunteers to serve IFA, and adjusted our budget to make the most of our limited financial resources.

I'm pleased to welcome Mary Murphy as our very first Executive Director. This is a significant step forward for IFA. Although we are only able to afford a part-time staff position at this time, we are confident that the value added will yield benefits that continue to grow and strengthen our organization. Mary will be like the glue that fills in the gaps of an association that already has a strong culture of volunteer support. We have been blessed since inception with dedicated volunteers who contribute their time and believe in what we are doing -- but there are some jobs that need continuity across the terms that our leaders and board members serve.

Progress doesn't come without sacrifice. We made the difficult decision to part ways with J & J Legislative Group so that we could achieve a better balance between our charitable mission of providing information and education services to our members versus a more dedicated investment in lobbying. Rest assured we remain steadfast in our pursuit to be a strong voice for our members in Springfield. At the same time, we have a renewed appreciation for what many members value most -- information and educational programs that help empower landowners to be good stewards. Our vision is to be "a highly effective, "go to" community of well-informed property owners who are managing their trees and forests and are influential with their peers and government." The path to our success depends on the sustained growth of a robust and informed membership.

In hiring Mary, we have the best of both worlds. She was a registered lobbyist in her assistant executive director role with the Illinois Lumber and Material Dealer's Association. She will continue to monitor relevant legislation and represent our interests in Springfield. More importantly, she will focus her attention on crucial business behind the scenes at IFA that ultimately leads to increased membership -- so that our voice is louder and stronger. Your Board of Directors has been working hard "underground" to make sure we lay down the kind of roots that will best serve the members of IFA. Are you ready to Spring Forward with us? I hope so!

Calendar of Events	
	February
	March
	April

Upcoming Illinois Woodland Events

Please help the organizers of these events by registering when asked, even if they are offered free of charge. Knowing the number of visitors helps in countless ways.

3/5 - Webinar from 11am to Noon
Illinois Landowner Liability Laws
 Free, see IFA website for registration link

3/7 - Jefferson County from 9am to 3pm
"First Detector" Tree Pest Training
 \$25, call 618-548-1446 to register

3/9 - Sinsinawa, WI, from 8am to 5pm
Tri-State Forest Stewardship Conference
 \$50, see IFA website for info and links

3/10 - DuPage County from Noon to 4pm
Maple Syrup Sunday
 Free, call 630-850-8110 for info

3/14 - Madison County from 9am to 3pm
"First Detector" Tree Pest Training
 \$25, call 618-344-4230 to register

3//15 to 3/17 -Williamson County
Illinois Indigenous Plant Symposium
 \$20, call 618-687-1727 to register

3/17 - Vermilion County from 11am to 4pm
Maple Syrup Open House
 \$5, call 217-662-2142 for info

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For more information on events and meetings go to:
www.ilforestry.org/events

Legislative Report

A change of direction and the hiring of our own part-time Executive Director (Mary Murphy) means that IFA will no longer be working with J & J Legislative (Jenni Purdue and Jennifer Ross) on our legislative issues. However, we will continue to be active in working with the State Legislature, State agencies, and other organizations on our legislative agenda. Ms. Murphy will work with the IFA Legislative Committee on these issues. In no way does this change of direction reflect badly on J & J Legislative. We deeply appreciate their past services and wish Ms. Purdue and Ms. Ross continuing success.

Our focus will continue to be working with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) on their use of the funds collected as a result of timber sales. To review the background on this issue, the Illinois Forestry Development Act (IFDA) created the 4 % harvest fee collected on all timber sales in Illinois. These funds are collected by timber buyers, sent to the INDR, who then deposits the money in the Forestry Development Fund.

The IFDA says these funds are to be used for a forestry cost share program and to fund the expenses of the Illinois Forestry Development Council. While the law also says these funds can be used for expenses related to administering the IFDA, due to the poor economic conditions that caused budget cuts to the IDNR, the majority of the IFDA funds have been used for administrative costs in the IDNR. Currently no funds from the IFDA are being used for the forestry cost share program, and only \$20,000 is available for the Illinois Forestry Development Council.

It is the IFA's position that these funds should be used as the law prescribes. The forestry cost share program should begin to be funded again, and additional money should be made available to the Council. The IFA has legislation that would begin this process, and is ready to work with the State Legislature to resolve this issue.

The IFA will also work with the IDNR, other organizations and the State Legislature to protect the IFDA fund from Legislative sweeps, and to find and appropriate additional funds for the Forestry Division of the IDNR.

Secretary Comments

by Dave Gillespie

This is always a good time of the year for the IFA. This is the time the majority of our long-time members pay their dues. Before we changed a member's due date to pay their dues to the date on which they actually paid their dues, dues were due January 1. Therefore, I am kept busy going to the post office to pick up dues checks at our post office box, recording and depositing checks, and up-dating each members record on our membership database at the website. It's probably my busiest time of the year with this type of Secretarial duties, but it is worth the effort. Thanks to every member for your support of our organization.

I'm sure you have heard or read about our new part-time Executive Director, Mary Murphy. This is a new direction for the IFA, and one we've discussed since our organization was first formed. Mary brings with her experience in working with organizations such as ours, and also experience working with our State Legislature. While we will not be working with Jenni Purdue and Jennifer Ross on legislative matter, I am excited to be working with Mary on our legislative issues, and continuing to move the IFA forward on all fronts.

Contact me if you have questions or concerns.

IFA Wins Two Forestry Council Grants

The Association applied for two small grants - one for a publication to help everyone's tree planting efforts, and one to license our webinar service for a second year. We are delighted to report that both have been funded.

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Executive Director's Report

By Mary Murphy

After being selected as the first executive director of the Illinois Forestry Association I want to introduce myself to the membership. First, I need to say how excited I am to be part of this association that has held itself together for the past seven years with volunteers who have a great passion for Illinois' forests. Although my new position is only part-time, there are a number of things that I can do to help the Board make IFA stronger and more sustainable for the future.

For a little background information, as the assistant executive director I retired last June from the Illinois Lumber and Material Dealers Association after 27 years. During my time with ILMDA, I was the staff accountant, trust controller and foundation treasurer. I also was the editor of the bi-monthly publication, regulatory consultant, research lobbyist and participated in numerous other duties typically found in a small office. I am hoping to bring my administrative experience to IFA for the benefit of not only the board of directors but also to the entire membership.

I grew up in rural Pike County...have traveled extensively, and now live in Springfield with my husband, Richard Nichols who is the executive director of the Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Since the IFA and the IASWCD often cross paths, we talk "shop" quite often. Between us, we have four children, six grandchildren and two cats...although the cats are mine – not Rich's.

Getting down to business, I want to encourage every member to take stock in the value of this organization. If you have access to a computer and the internet, utilize the IFA website at www.ilforestry.org. Many answers to your tree and forest questions can be found there, and we continue to expand our webinar offerings. If you do not have computer access, consider attending or hosting an upcoming IFA-sponsored event. Feel



free to reach out to a board member or myself by telephone to learn more about our current efforts to serve your needs and be that all-important voice for woodland owners in Springfield.

As I become more familiar with my job duties and attend IFA and forestry related events, I look forward to meeting as many members as possible, working with the board of directors and helping to expand IFA across Illinois.

Truly a Family Forest: the Herman Farm of Crawford County

by Jake Hendee

Driving down a nondescript Crawford County dirt road, it would be easy to miss the unassuming gate of the Herman, Herman, and Sons Tree Farm. The mix of tillable ground, wooded draws, and CRP fields is that of the average Illinois farm. It's not until you follow the gravel lane onto the Herman farm and ford the muddy waters of La Motte Creek that you see this average Illinois farm transform into IFA member Ray Herman's 2012 Illinois Tree Farm of the Year.

Ray's philosophy is simple: "Trees are a crop worth managing." A USDA soil scientist by vocation and a farmer by heart, he has led the

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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!

Illinois Forestry Association

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

Walnuts & Acorns

by Lee M. Rife



This year I want to share some thoughts about climate change. I know that this will make some people want to burn me in effigy, others will say that I had better change my ways or be ready to meet old Lucifer, and still others will just call me a *!!@ Liberal and avoid me like the flu. That being said, I think that if we all sit down, draw a deep breath and observe we can say that there is something going on out there. Every day there are reports of violent storms and more violent storms occurring here in the good old USA. Further, these storms are becoming more frequent and in many cases doing large scale damage. As I write this, we are supposed to be getting heavy rains in record setting warmth for January. This prediction is from the same people who said we were to be buried under a blizzard a couple of weeks ago. (We got a dusting, as I recall.)

This change in weather patterns is not limited to the United States, however. We have had reports of widespread drought through the world in recent years. In 2011 there was devastating drought in Australia as well as the Southwestern United States. Last year drought hit the U.S. Great Plains, as well as here in the Midwest. Here in Central Illinois we are still trying to get out of dry weather. And if that isn't enough, where we don't have a drought, we get flooding: Consider 2010 in Australia and Europe and the U.S. Midwest in 2011. Also consider the pounding the Northeastern U. S. has gotten since late Fall.

However, I think a better gauge of a warming climate can be found in the northward migration of certain animals, reptiles and insects. Armadillos are being found in deep Southern Illinois, for example. Some species of snakes are being found here in Illinois several miles north of where they used to be found. I have even heard reports of fire ants in Arkansas. This has not been confirmed, however, and I hope that I am hearing things wrong.

Scientists tell us that all of this is being caused by man burning carbon fuels and releasing carbon dioxide (CO²) into the

air. If so, I think we need to plant more trees, and have them soak up the CO². If government is to be involved, its role should be to ENCOURAGE tree planting. We don't need any more mandates. Just gives some encouragement (as if IFA members need to be encouraged to plant trees) and stand back! Thank you!! Seriously, I have been concerned about clearing much of the Rain Forest area of South America and Asia. This was a tremendous carbon sink, and once cleared; the soils are being depleted in just a few short years. Is it really worth it?

Hurricane Sandy, 2012

- Affected 24 states, Florida to Wisconsin
- \$71 billion damage in US
- 4.8 million homes without electricity
- 132 people killed

U.S. Drought, 2012

- Covered 62% of contiguous US
- 1,692 county disaster areas in 36 states
- Estimated loss of \$75 to \$150 billion
 - Oklahoma wildfires (52,000 acres)
 - Colorado wildfires (202,000 acres)
 - June 2012 derecho (9 states)
 - March heat wave (100^o+ temps)
 - June/July 2012 heat wave

Hurricane Katrina, 2005

- Affected at least 9 states
- \$108 billion damage in US
- Over 1 million people relocated
- 1,833 people killed
- 1.3 million acres of woodlands destroyed.

Herman Farm continued from page 3

family in implementing timber stand improvement twice over the 200 wooded acres over the last 30 years, in addition to conducting a commercial improvement harvest in 1995. The number of decades-old thorny locust stumps that dot the property in the shadows of maturing veneer-quality black walnut timber—the locusts thinned from the stand years ago to “release” the best crop trees—are a testament to Ray's long-term commitment to raise a crop of high quality timber, also including hickory, yellow-poplar, pecan, black cherry, and a scattering of red and white oaks.

Like most Tree Farmers, the Hermans didn't buy the property to harvest the trees. The Herman brothers were interested in a place to sit around the campfire and trade stories the first weekend of shotgun season, hunt quail and squirrels, pick a few mushrooms in the spring, and have a place to get the sons out-of-doors. Today, Ray and his brother's 35 grandchildren enjoy the property bagging their first buck, catching bluegills in the two ponds, calling in their first turkey, glimpsing the fleeting sight of a bobcat darting into the woods, playing in the creek, and even getting a hands-on lesson or two in forest management. This is truly a family operation and the American Tree Farm System's “Certified Family Forest” brand could not ring more true on this farm.

Congratulations Ray and family! IFA members can join the Hermans at the annual Illinois Tree Farm field day at the Herman farm in Crawford County scheduled for early autumn of 2013.



The Herman family accepting award at the 2012 Illinois State Fair

Region 1

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Wildlife, Barbecue, State Park! Sounds Like This Year will Be a Picnic!

Here is a brief rundown of forest-related events in northern Illinois over the next several months. Full details can be found on the event calendar on our website, or contact one of the Region 1 directors.

On March 9th, the Tri-State Forest Stewardship Conference will be held at Sinsinawa, Wisconsin, just over the state line. This conference usually attracts from 400 to 550 woodland owners and is sponsored by Illinois, Iowa, and Wisconsin Extension Services and partially funded by the Forest Service. Five sessions with up to six tracks each offer attendees information on forestry practices, wildlife habitat, tool use and safety, non-timber forest products, invasives, etc.

On March 19th, the Northwest Illinois Forestry Association will hold their annual dinner meeting in Mount Carroll. The featured speaker will be Illinois Tree Farmer of 2012 Jerry Misek describing the 14 different conservation practices employed on his Jo Daviess County tree farm. Mr. Misek will illustrate these practices with a slide show.

On April 13th, an IFA demonstration of tree planting, herbicide application, and tour of two previous seedling plantings done in 2009 and 2011 will be held in Jo Daviess County with consulting forester Kevin Oetken. This field event will examine the progress of the plantings and their survival despite drought and deer.

In May, we hope to hold an IFA presentation and/or field day on the forest management effects on wildlife. Ben Vandermyde of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District, has agreed to lead the discussion. We will have more details as the location and date are confirmed.

In June, again in Jo Daviess County, IFA Member Larry Priske will host a tour of his last year's commercial thinning with logger and log buyer Keith Griebel present. Mr. Griebel will describe set up of the operation, avoidance of streambank erosion, placement of the staging area and trails, as well as answer questions.

In July, we are planning an IFA member barbecue. While our regional budget has not been established, which could limit

our plans, we are proceeding to explore facilities and providers.

Tentatively, September 13th and 14th have been selected for the IFA Annual Meeting with activities near LaSalle/Peru. This location will provide easy access north/south on I-39 and east/west on I-80. Regional Forester Randy Timmons has agreed to help plan the event and find surrounding locations of interest. We are hoping to attract other organizations as partners for this event. Check the IFA website for details as they are confirmed.

SWCD Tree Sales - If you are looking for some trees to plant this spring, check with your local Soil & Water Conservation District. Many are planning a spring sale, and some also sell tree shelters and deer repellent. It supports a worthy organization.

Region 2

Directors

Carol Bryant Jim Hynes
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Dan Schmoker Jake Hendee
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Macoupin County: Indoor Winter Tree ID workshop

When: Saturday March 23, 2013

Time: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Location: Carol Bryant Tree Farm, 7841 S. Panther Creek Road, Mt. Olive, IL 62069

Phone: 618/444-3864

Email: cabryant2@gmail.com

Escape from "our midwestern cabin fever". Attend the IFA Region 2 winter tree identification workshop on March 23rd. Region 2 IFA directors, Jake Hendee, Dan Schmoker, Jim Hynes and Carol Bryant will give their hands-on demonstration of Winter Tree ID using real three dimensional twigs. You can bring two of your "what the heck is it?" twigs for our experts to try to key out.

Carol is decorating the wall of her living room with twigs following the "Key to Illinois Trees in Winter" found in "Forest Trees in Illinois".

Would you please preregister at www.ilforestry.org so that Carol can provide lunch and bottled water (**Free**). In the afternoon we will study tree bark outside the house. You can support our organization if you so choose by purchasing relevant books at Carol's or donate on the IFA website.

Precursor to the event:

There will be an Illinois Forestry Association Webinar given at 11 a.m. on Feb 19th which directly ties in with our workshop. University of Illinois Extension Forester Jay Hayek will present a webinar entitled "Basic Winter Tree Identification". Don't miss it. We are all going to watch! You can register at www.ilforestry.org.

Sleet or snow:

If Mother Nature frowns on the event at Carol's on March 23, we plan to offer it again on March 30th at Jim Hynes' farm outside Pleasant Plains, IL

Detailed directions to Carol's house will be posted on the IFA website under Events.

Region 3

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Here in east central Illinois, we have an amazing example of the uses that our state parks and forests can accommodate. Much has been written about Hidden Springs State Forest. How its bottomland creeksides, gently rolling land, and steep hillsides combined with oak, ash, maple, sycamore, pine, and poplar forest across 1,200 acres create a recreational paradise. The state forest offers boating, camping, fishing, hunting, hiking, bird watching, picnicking, and biking. In this, Hidden Springs offers services similar to other state parks and forests. Besides the beauty opportunities of Hidden Springs, its multiple land uses set it apart.

Early in the Forest state ownership, serious erosion was addressed through reforestation, terracing, grass seeding, and toe wall construction. This stabilized the soil and improved water quality.

Pine stands are managed to produce superior seed for the state tree nurseries. In the fall, volunteers collect these pine cones as well as other nuts and seeds to be processed and planted at the state nurseries.

Some of the pine stands have been thinned, allowing for wildlife food plots. The removed trees are chipped and used on the forest trails. There is a demonstration area to educate the public on the beneficial effects of these thinnings.

Hardwood stands are managed for oak and black walnut timber through corrective pruning and vegetation control. There is also a demonstration area for these practices and for timber stand improvement. In addition, there are experimental burn plots to demonstrate the benefits of prescribed fire in forests.

All of this represents the way many more of our public parks and forests should be managed - for clean air and water, for recreation, for timber and forest products, and for education. Attractions include Big Tree Trail which features a 78-inch diameter sycamore, stocked fishing ponds, over 20 miles of trails and fire lanes, and varied wildlife. If you have a chance, stop by to see Hidden Springs State Forest near Clarksburg, 10 miles southeast of Shelbyville; you might decide to stay for a while.

With Ray and Bev Herman (at their Crawford County Farm) named 2012

Illinois Tree Farmers of the Year, those of us in east central Illinois can look forward to one of those educational and interesting Illinois Tree Farm (ITF) meetings this September. The ITF annual events always have great food, lots of other woodland owners to share ideas, and many demonstrations of practices you can implement. Plus, you can visit with someone who isn't bashful talking about forests and trees, Ray himself. (See the article about Ray Herman and his farm in this issue.) Watch the IFA website's Event Calendar for date and location.

Region 4

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Director Roger Smith recently continued his involvement in assisting the City of Harrisburg to recover from the tornado last year as he participated in a professional survey of the damage to publically owned trees. He and his team inspected individual trees and assessed whether some pruning was all that needed to be done or if the tree had to be completely removed and replaced. He also helped in recommending which species would be best for the specific planting location based on surrounding conditions such as utilities, buildings, adjacent trees, terrain, etc. This survey will assist the planners prepare for a spring planting effort to continue the re-building of this historical Southern Illinois city.

While he was in the area of Harrisburg, Roger Smith just happened to see a totally HUGE tree on private property. He and several of his associates contacted owner who told him that last summer during the drought, the owner and a neighbor carried water to this tree just so it would survive the severe weather conditions. Now THAT is the kind of concern that we can all be proud of! Roger hopes to have more information and pictures available for the next Newsletter.

Director Mike McMahan has recently been in contact with the Shawnee National Forest as a result of a recently published newspaper article that indicated the personnel at the Shawnee are upgrading their invasive species control effort. Questions such as why the increased concern as well as what can the average property owner do to help will be answered in the near future. Mike spoke with one of the forest service personnel on February 15th about just what sort of information he wanted in response to his earlier inquiry.

FRUIT TREE PRUNING SEMINAR: On March 2nd at 9:00 o'clock in the morning, the University of Illinois will conduct a series of sessions at Dixon Spring Agricultural Center in Johnson County where you will learn how to prune your home orchard. The technical aspects of pruning will be covered during the morning seminar and, following lunch, the hands-on instruction will be in the orchard. Outdoor gear is required. Bring you own pruners and loppers. Call (618) 687-1727 or go on-line to <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/fjprw/> to register. The \$20 registration fee includes lunch and access to all sessions.

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INDIGENOUS PLANT SYMPOSIUM:

The first Southern Illinois Indigenous Plant Symposium will be hosted on Saturday, March 16, 2013 by University of Illinois Extension Master Gardeners, SUI Carbondale/Department of Plant Biology and the Illinois Native Plant Society at the John A. Logan College Center for Business and Industry (Carterville, IL). The goal of the symposium is to promote awareness of native plants, their use and impact on our environment. The symposium will start with guided hikes at Giant City State Park on Friday, March 15th, and end on Sunday with more guided hikes at Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge. The event is open to everyone. The cost for the symposium is \$20.00 per person and includes lunch. Space is limited and there will be no registration on site. Call (618) 687-1727 or <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/fjprw/>. Details can be obtained by contacting Sonja Lallemand at lalleman@illinois.edu.

Website Construction

We try to provide you, our members, a top-quality woodland information source. To that end, we continually look for ways to improve and enhance your website. Recently, we have made these changes.

Sawmill Owner Directory: On the suggestion of IFA board member Tony Kreke, we have added a directory of IFA members who own sawmills and will do custom sawmilling. Naturally, transport of the logs to the mill is an issue, so location is key. But, if you are interested in getting those logs reduced to lumber, consider a fellow IFA member. The directory is within the "Markets" menu on the website. Also, if you own a mill and wish to be listed, email admin@ilforestry.org for information requirements.

Timber Price Chart: Following IDNR publication of the latest results from timber sales within Illinois, we have updated our ten-year chart of the four top performing species - black walnut,

white oak, red oak, and black cherry. This chart can also be found under the "Markets" menu.

Reminder about the Members' Section:

Some of you may have forgotten that the website's "Members-Only" section contains:

- links to both recorded and archived webinars,
- links to articles on forest ecology,
- articles on financial and taxation topics,
- information on management practices,
- information to help you diagnose hardwood tree diseases,
- methods to identify and control invasive plants, and
- a reference page with some relevant calculators.

Obviously, to get into the Members' Section, you must tell the system who you are by logging in with your email address and password. If you have forgotten your password, merely click "Change password" in the upper right of any screen.

Contributions Accepted: The website's donations page (ilforestry.org/donate) now accepts financial support for our webinar series, our website, our legislative efforts, our regional events and meetings, in addition to the scholarship fund memorializing forest activist Bob Sloan. You may hear us asking people at our webinars or field events to consider a donation if they benefited from our information or offerings. Our website costs about \$2 per member and additional funds will allow us to continue to expand and innovate here. Our webinars cost approximately \$3 per attendee, and some have made small donations to cover their expense and to help assure the series continues. Our legislative efforts are the most expensive in that they require person-to-legislator contact in Springfield as well as knowledge of the leaders and the processes. If you tell a friend about an event or a webinar or our website, ask them how they liked it, and then suggest they consider a donation - or even better, suggest they become a member.

"Be careful out there!"

by Dick Pouzar

That's borrowing from a very old TV police drama. Indeed, from chainsaw mishaps to errant tree limbs, safety is important in the woods. Yet, one of the most dangerous threats is hard to see - the tick.

Now, not all ticks carry disease, just as not all trees will fall on you; but you should take precautions. Wisconsin is a hotbed of Lyme disease reportings, and it's moving south into Illinois. One of the IFA board members contracted it this last year, and he is from Springfield. Lyme disease, though, is merely the most talked about tick-borne disease.

The Center for Disease Control lists these diseases carried by the type of ticks found in Illinois - Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, anaplasmosis, babesiosis, Lyme disease, ehrlichiosis, tularemia, STARI, and tick paralysis. Because the symptoms overlap, and because medical testing is not yet reliable enough to definitively diagnose each of them, many medical providers believe patients should be treated for these diseases simply because they present characteristic symptoms, as well as having been exposed to ticks.

Those characteristic major symptoms are fever or chills, aches and pains (headache, fatigue, muscle aches, joint aches), and an unusual rash. While there are other symptoms for each of these diseases, not all symptoms present themselves. Because some of these diseases can cause permanent nerve



damage, and some can cause death, it is recommended seeing a doctor if these three major symptoms appear.

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A Spreading Invader

by Tom Vorac

Emerald Ash Borer is spreading in Illinois. Do we panic or be concerned?

Universities, State and Federal agencies have been studying the Emerald Ash Borer and methods of containing this beetle and conducted numerous presentations on their findings.

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is an invasive species. When an invasive species enters our country it usually has no natural diseases, parasites or predators to control it. The lack of natural diseases, parasites or predators can allow the population to expand with nothing available to bring the beetle population in check.

What is the difference between the Emerald Ash Borer and the Gypsy Moth, another prevalent invader? Accidentally released into North America in the 1990s, the Emerald Ash Borer is a small beetle that has to bore into the cambium of the tree to deposit eggs. It specifically targets ash trees. The larvae of the beetle destroy the cambium, which is the circulatory system of the tree. Released into North America in 1869, the Gypsy Moth is a defoliator, depositing eggs and when the larvae emerge they feed on the leaves. It consumes the leaves of over 300 species of plants.

The Emerald Ash Borer is a small beetle (3/8" to 5/8") and a strong flier, but research has shown infestations spreading at less than half a mile per year. Once the beetle inhabits an area it can take up to five years to reach epidemic levels.

The Gypsy Moth has become a natural part of our eco-system. It has been found that the naturally occurring soil bacteria Btk is effective at stopping this pest. Scientists are working on biological agents to control the Emerald Ash Borer as well. Before a biological agent is introduced, extensive testing must occur to make sure that native species will not be affected. To date, a predator wasp has been introduced that targets the Emerald Ash Borer larvae. Mechanical control,

which involves the girdling of Ash trees to attract the beetle and then destroy the larvae, is an effective method when a population has been detected. Birds, especially woodpeckers, have become familiar with the larvae as a food source. Michigan State University researchers found woodpeckers consistently and persistently attacked EAB-laden ash trees, dramatically reducing their population and slowing their spread. (See article on woodpeckers in this same edition.)

The infected area for both of these insect invaders has been increased by human movement of these insects or their larva. That is why much of northern Illinois is quarantined, prohibiting the transport of ash logs out, but allowing ash trees to be cut and processed in the quarantine area.

What should you do as a forest landowner? Recommend maintaining a healthy, genetically superior, diversified forest. Should you cut all your Ash trees? If you cut all your Ash you are eliminating your diversity and a prolific seed source for wildlife. Why not reduce your percentage of Ash in heavily stocked Ash stands. In stands that are diversified, maintain proper stocking levels and increase the spacing between Ash trees. If someone approaches you to buy your Ash trees using fear as their pitch to get you to sell, be very careful and consult with a certified forester or an entomologist.

You can find more information on these invasive pests and links to their status and spread on the IFA website at www.ilforestry.org/healthalert.



IFA Webinars - Hot Tickets!

On February 19th, just before this edition was published, we held our fifth webinar "Basic Winter Tree Identification". We announced it several weeks in advance to give everyone the time to register. We needn't have been so generous. Interest in this topic was phenomenal. Within the first two days, we reached 100 registrants.

Because we can afford only 100 attendees per session, some may have been turned away with a "Webinar is Full" message. We regret if you were not able to attend, however, we do record these events, and you can view the recording in the "Members" section of our website. Currently we have recordings there for the last three webinars which you can view at your convenience -

- **Dealing with Forest Invasive Plants during Fall and Winter**, presenter: Chris Evans, Invasive Species Campaign Coordinator, Illinois Wildlife Action Plan
- **Non-Timber, Not Non-Profit - Alternative Forest Products**, presenter: Richard Straight, Technology Transfer Lead, National Agroforestry Research Center
- **Basic Winter Tree Identification**, presenter: Jay Hayek, State Forestry Specialist, University of Illinois Extension Service

Our next offering will be on Tuesday, March 5th, at 11 am, on "**Illinois Landowner Liability Laws**". If you are curious about

- what you can and cannot do to prohibit trespass,
 - what you owe your neighbor regarding a shared fence line,
 - whether you can divert a stream on your property, or
 - about your risks if someone is using your land for hunting or recreation,
- then join us on March 5th. This session will cover trespass laws, the Illinois Fence Law, the Illinois Drainage Law, and the Illinois Recreational Use Law. The presenter is Bryan Endres, Professor of Agricultural Law at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Information on how to register is on our website at www.ilforestry.org/events.

Two Unique Individuals

Behind the IFA name are many individuals working for healthy Illinois woodlands. This is an organization of people working together to improve our lands. Here are two of the 23 people who have volunteered to help you. (Subsequent editions will continue to introduce you to IFA volunteers.)



Bill Gradle graduated from the University of Illinois with a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Forest Management in 1974. He worked for a short time as a private consultant

as a registered forester in Southwestern Michigan before starting his career with Soil Conservation Service (SCS) in December 1978 in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Bill worked for 9 years in New Mexico and 11 years (at 3 locations) in California before being offered the position of State Conservationist in Illinois, where he worked for 15 years before retiring. Along the way SCS was renamed to the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

As IFA Director for Region 3, Bill brings a skill set of working with federal, state, county, and local units of government, including non-governmental organizations in a collaborative fashion to accomplish stated goals and objectives. During his years as State Conservationist he was a member of the Illinois Forestry Development Council. Bill was an early organizer of the IFA. He has watched IFA grow over the last 8 years and looks forward to working with the executive leadership of the IFA to take the organization to the next level.

John Edgington grew up with a farming background but was introduced early in life to the practical aspects of forestry thanks to his father and grandfather. The family farm is located in Crawford County. Despite its primary purpose as a grain and livestock operation, his



grandfather nurtured a large orchard of apples, peaches, plums, and cherries for both personal use and produce to sell. John helped tend the orchard from planting new trees and annual pruning to harvesting the fruit. John's father was an avid sportsman and imparted that outdoor spirit to his sons during an Alaskan assignment in the U.S. Air Force. They spent a lot of time in the forests of Alaska hunting, fishing, and camping. Although neither were trained in forestry, both John's grandfather and father strongly influenced him with their practical knowledge of trees, forests, and their resources.

John completed a BS in Forestry at the University of Illinois [1969] and after teaching high school physics and chemistry for two years, returned to the University of Illinois earning a MS in Forest Ecology [1973]. He began his career at the University of Illinois managing the University of Illinois Natural Areas until 1978 when he joined the Department of Forestry. In the Department of Forestry (subsequently the Department of NRES) he taught Introduction to Forestry, Dendrology, and Silviculture in the Forest Science curriculum. He also served as the Forestry Summer Field Studies program coordinator and taught Wildland Recreation Management and Introduction to Forest Resources Management. John's research interests centered on the composition, productivity, community structure and development, migration patterns, stability, and status of Illinois forests. John retired in 2005 as a Principal Research Specialist in Forestry after 34 years with the University, but continued to teach Dendrology and Silviculture until December 2010.

Since retiring, John, along with his wife Marty and daughter Molly, have been raising miniature jerseys and Nigerian dwarf goats while caring for 7 horses and 1 llama on their hobby farm near Mansfield. "The livestock keeps me busy, but I try to remain active in forestry. Becoming involved with the Illinois Forestry Association will allow me to renew a proactive role in promoting sound forestry practices in Illinois".

When To Prune Forest Trees

by IFA Technical Advisors

There are many publications discussing how and when to prune trees. Many suggest specific times of the year at which to prune depending on the tree species. This may be true for landscape or yard trees that are not surrounded by other trees and therefore experience more air circulation, but the forest environment is damper and has greater competition.

John Groninger, professor of silviculture at Southern Illinois University, cautions, "For forest trees, closed canopy conditions and lower vigor of understory trees makes for slower healing, higher humidity/fungal incidence and therefore a greater concern regarding pathogens than open grown horticultural trees."

John Edgington, retired from the University of Illinois, agrees, "Deciduous trees should be green pruned during dormancy (winter). Dry pruning dead branches can be done anytime, especially if hazardous. Typically, pruning forest grown trees is not cost effective unless high value trees are the focus of the pruning."

If you engage in pruning your high value trees, especially those less than 18 feet tall, concentrate on the leader, says forester, landowner, and IFA board member Dan Schmoker. Correcting the leader early in a tree's life is far easier than solving problems after ten or twenty years. Also, look for sharp or narrow-angled branching which is more susceptible to splitting and usually generates competing leaders.

Handle these sharp-angled crotches a bit differently. Cut off the weaker limb a few inches above the crotch. Then, in a few years, after the remaining leader has strengthened, go back and cut that stump flush. This method avoids creating weakness at the crotch which would result in losing the remaining leader as well in a windstorm.

Woodland Drummers

by Dick Pouzar

You may have heard their rat-a-tat drumming in your woods. Their calls, though infrequent, are unique enough to identify them. You may have seen evidence of their drilling for insects in your trees - lines of holes in the bark. And if you fill bird feeders, you certainly have seen the smallest of them.

They are woodpeckers - the scourge of log buyers, tree-boring insects, and people who live in cedar homes. Illinois has seven common to the state. From the smallest and most visible downy woodpecker to the largest and most elusive pileated woodpecker. They share many traits, but are distinct in their behaviors.

Our seven include the small bird-feeder-friendly 6"-long downy, its look-alike - the larger but shyer hairy, the strikingly colored red-headed (pictured), the



feeder-friendly and omnivorous red-bellied - even though the red on its head is more prominent (also pictured), the flicker who prefers foraging on the ground for ants,

the migratory yellow-bellied sapsucker, and the largest and not-often-seen 18"-long pileated.

They have the same colors - black and white - suited for hiding in the woods, with varying degrees of red decoration. They all have long thin beaks and four grasping toes, two opposing toes, and a strong tail - ideal for clinging to the side of a tree, bracing their tail, and punching holes in the bark to find insect larva. Their long sticky tongues are well suited for extracting their prey. And their hearing is so acute that they can sense larva chewing inside the tree. Their similarities make it easy to believe they are in the same family. Just as all of us, though, they have strange family members who never visit - the Central American toucan, jacamar, and barbet.

As we are told to don protective headgear when sawing, these birds have built-in head protection. A thick

membrane closes over their eyes just before each peck and they have feathers covering their nostrils from flying debris. Their brains are built to withstand the staccato drumming.

Six of our seven are resident year-round - the exception being the sapsucker - and have a varied diet. They concentrate on high-protein insects such as larva, grubs, and ants, especially during breeding and nesting. But they gladly take nuts and seeds when abundant, often storing them for winter. When available, fruits are welcome. Tree sap is also favored, most notably by the sapsucker. And your backyard suet feeders help add calories, needed during winter.

Usually in springtime, woodpeckers drum on anything that makes loud noise - drainpipes, aluminum siding, trash cans, and, of course, trees - the hollower the better. They drum to attract mates to their energetic display; they also drum to announce claim to a territory. Also, both males and females drum, usually in the morning, often choosing a high location so the sound carries. This drumming behavior drops off when breeding begins. With experience you could identify the woodpecker by its drum - its frequency, length, and heaviness. And if you get annoyed by woodpeckers drumming your house, imagine NASA's dismay when a 1995 space shuttle launch had to be delayed because woodpeckers had punched holes in an external fuel tank.

While log buyers may not appreciate them, woodpeckers are an effective defense against some insect infestations. They may not eliminate all insects but they have been shown to reduce infestations and greatly slow the spread of tree pests. Chemically treating a landscape or yard tree may be effective to control pests, but dowsing your entire forest is impractical without easy access to a helicopter and sprayer. Woodpeckers provide an inexpensive and integrated method of pest control. You should still rely on sanitation and surgical removal in an outbreak, but woodpeckers can help.

How does a woodpecker's "bird peck" affect the value of your trees? Depends on who is buying the finished lumber,

according to IFA member and sawmill operator Michael Johnson, "Like most 'character defects', selling bird peck is a matter of having the right customer." He continued, "It's interesting to notice how bird peck affects different species. The ones that heal with black streaks seem to be the most attractive to our customers, i. e., hickory and maple." Michael mentioned that they currently have some maple examples in their showroom



near Mount Carroll. (See our website's sawmill operator directory for contact information.)

In attracting woodpeckers to your land, do not rely on nestboxes. Only the red-bellied has been known to use them occasionally. Mostly woodpeckers prefer to excavate their own nest holes usually in dead trees, although sapsuckers prefer live softer species such as cottonwood. Leaving dead trees standing, especially larger ones, provides nesting opportunities for these birds. Also, their excavated holes later serve many other species who do not have wood cutting ability - kestrels, owls, several songbird species, squirrels, and bats. Also, you could keep suet feeders filled for woodpeckers during winter months.

These unique birds are a welcome addition to healthy forests, controlling pests, establishing nest sites, helping to break down dead trees, and adding percussion to the music of your woodland.

Reference Audubon or Peterson birding guidebook. There are also several excellent mobile apps that help identify birds.

Photo credit: Laura Gooch (red-headed) and Jason Paluck (red-bellied) and Jen Dosiero (Downy).

Spring Ephemerals

by Christopher David Benda

Soon it will be spring, and with it will bring many wildflowers; but did you know that there are plants called ephemeral wildflowers? You may have heard of the term “ephemeral” when it comes to ephemeral streams and ephemeral ponds, but how does it relate to wildflowers?

Ephemeral means “short-lived,” and when it comes to plants it doesn’t literally mean that their lives are short, but that some perennial plants (meaning they survive year after year) are dormant most of the year and only grow in the early spring. After flowering, they wither and remain dormant until the next spring. These are the spring ephemeral wildflowers.

Plants have adapted many strategies for survival. Some have reduced leaves like desert plants. Others are annuals and live only a single year, but depend on setting enough seed for the next generation to grow. And then there are spring ephemeral wildflowers, the herbaceous plants that grow on the forest floor. Being underneath a canopy of tree leaves most of the growing season, spring ephemeral wildflowers utilize the light they need for flowering and growth by capturing sunlight in the early spring, before the trees have grown their leaves.

Producing large blooms of colorful flowers comes at a price. A lot of energy is spent, and these ephemeral wildflowers must capture enough sunlight to create and store the sugar energy necessary for next year’s growth. They can do this best in the early spring, when unobstructed light is able to reach the forest floor. Once the trees begin growing leaves, the ephemeral wildflowers end their show and remain dormant for the remainder of the year.

In the spring, the forests of Illinois are covered in beautiful wildflowers of all colors. While this is pleasing to the human eye, it is also pleasing to the eye of an insect, who feasts on the buffet of nectar. Don’t overlook the nondescript flowers! The brown flowers of Wild Ginger are located on the forest floor,

where they can be reached by ground-dwelling insects. The flower also emits a pungent odor, attracting flies that feed on rotting organic material and carrion.

You are probably familiar with many other early wildflowers. The earliest is the Harbinger-of-spring, but it can only be found in higher quality woodlands. More widespread is the Spring Beauty. She can be found in virtually every woodland in Illinois. Many more showy species found throughout Illinois are Dutchman’s Breeches, Toothwort, Bloodroot, Trilliums, Buttercups, Trout Lilies, Bluebells, Phloxes, and all kinds of Violets.

These species are declining in many woodlands in Illinois because the conditions necessary for their survival are gone. Mainly, they are not getting enough light, sometimes because of invasive species. One of the worst early spring invasive plants is Garlic Mustard. This species sets a lot of seed quickly and can crowd out the native spring ephemerals. Pulling the plants is an easy, although time-consuming, task, and the resulting soil disturbance should be taken into consideration. Invasive shrub species like Honeysuckle and Autumn Olive also may be shading out the spring ephemerals. In addition, forests that haven’t been managed can be thick with small trees. Thinning them allows more light to reach the forest floor. Invasive species and young trees can sometimes both be managed through prescribed burning, which keeps the forest healthy and reduces competition for the herbaceous plants that make a forest community whole.

There are many organizations dedicated to the preservation of spring ephemeral wildflowers and other native plants. One such organization is the Illinois Native Plant Society. Visit their website at <http://www.ill-inps.org/> and contact your local chapter for information on how to become involved. Photographs of some of the common spring ephemerals can be found at this link www.facebook.com/southernillinoisplants.

Christopher David Benda is the southern chapter president of the Illinois Native Plant Society. Mr. Benda contributed the images used in this article - Bloodroot, Trout Lily, Garlic Mustard.



Bloodroot



Trout Lily



Garlic Mustard

The New Kids on the Block

by Kurt Bobsin

The IL Department of Natural Resources has added some District Foresters to the payroll. Thanks to some funding provided by the USDA - Natural Resource Conservation Service, some landowners will have a little less longer to wait for technical assistance. Three of the four positions now have been filled with another one to be added in southern Illinois in the future. District Foresters require a bachelor's degree in forestry and two years of experience. Here is a snapshot of who they are and the counties they have been assigned to.

Wade Bloemer [Clay, Crawford, Effingham, Fayette, Jasper, Marion counties]



Wade will be starting March 1, 2013 and will work out of the District Office located

at Stephen Forbes State Park near Effingham, his home town. He replaces Shane McDearmon who transferred to Charleston last March. Wade is a 2009 graduate forester from SIU who worked for Pheasants Forever just out of school. For the past two years Wade has been working as a forester for the National Wild Turkey Federation focused on writing forest management plans, tree planting plans and monitoring forestry practices that have been implemented under the CREP. He also completed an internship with IDNR's Division of Natural Heritage. Wade was recently elected to the Illinois Forestry Association as a Director.

Wade's interest in forestry began in the late 90's when he became involved in planting trees on the family farm. He has a great interest in wildlife habitat as do many of the forest landowners in Illinois. His work experience since graduating has provided him with a well rounded background in forest and grassland habitat management. He has also developed a great interest in prescribed

fire as a management too. Wade enjoys hunting and fishing. He and wife Brittany are looking forward to relocating to the Effingham area along with the newest addition to the Bloemer family, daughter Paisley who arrived a few short months ago.

Jeffrey Harris [Carroll, JoDaviess, Lee, Ogle, Stephenson, Whiteside, Winnebago counties]



Jeff comes out of SIU with a bachelor's degree and a Masters degree in forestry. In between his undergrad and post graduate

work, he worked out west in redwood country with the Bureau of Land Management as a surveyor. His post grad work focused on fire in the oak-hickory ecosystem. While at SIU, he honed his skills in prescribed burn management by working as a team member of SIU's student organization Saluki Fire Dawgs. The Dawgs provide assistance to landowners in southeastern Illinois by conducting prescribed burns to promote and perpetuate the oak - hickory forest type.

Jeff is living in Savanna and began working out of the District Office located at Mississippi Palisades State Park last October. This position was formerly held by retired District Forester Ralph Eads. Jeff finds daily engagement with forest landowners who want to learn about managing their forest land to be very rewarding. Like all foresters, he enjoys the outdoors. When he is not in the woods helping landowners, Jeff enjoys hiking, fishing, gardening and has a special interest in growing native flowers.

Scott Lamer [Adams, Brown, Calhoun, Pike, Scott counties]

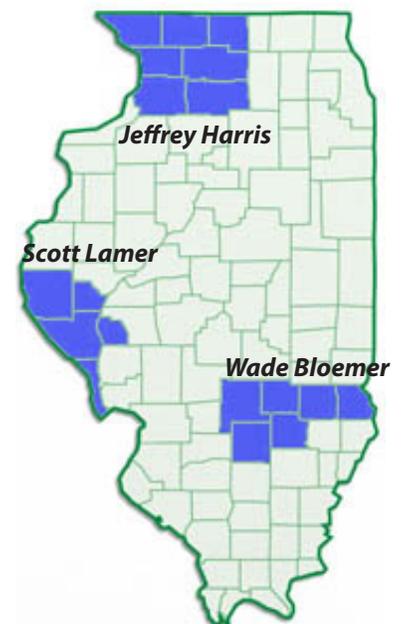
The last "not so new kid on the block" is a 1994 SIU graduate forester who has spent the last 18 years as a consulting forester in Illinois, Wisconsin and Missouri. He is also a 20 plus year veteran of the US Army. We thank and appreciate

him for his service. Scott brings a great perspective from the private sector into the state's forestry programs. The forestry consulting business he owned provides Scott with an extensive background in dealing with private landowners. In his former business, he was engaged in planning as well as implementing all of the usual forestry activities including timber appraisals and sales, forest improvement practices, tree planting and in developing forest management plans.



It is not surprising that he has an interest in forestry. His father Tom was a forester with IDNR for over 35 years. Scott recalls

tagging along with dad as being one of the reasons he was drawn to forestry as a career. His relationships with other IDNR foresters during his work as a consultant motivated him to apply for the District Forester position in Pittsfield vacated by Bob Church when he retired. Scott was hired and has been on the job since November. He lives in Jerseyville with his wife Jill and two very active boys Sam [9 yrs.] and Shane [4 yrs.] Could another generation of Lamer foresters be in the making? Stay tuned!



Oaks in Illinois

by Stan Sipp

Acorns (oak fruit) are an extremely important wildlife food. Whitetail Deer, Wild Turkey, Bobwhite Quail, Ruffed Grouse, Gray and Fox Squirrels, Woodpeckers, Blue Jays as well as a host of other birds and smaller mammals use acorns when they are available. The following is a compilation of the oaks that might be found in Illinois, both native and exotic.

Native oaks are divided into two groups based on the appearance of their leaves and the length of time required for the acorns to develop after the flowers have pollinated.



The **White Oak** group is identified by rounded tips on the leaf lobes. Trees in the white oak group flower and develop their acorns in the same year. The acorns from the white oak group are reputed to have been more desirable as food by Native Americans because of a "sweeter" flavor caused by lower tannin content than acorns from the red oak group. White Oak, Chinquapin Oak, Post Oak and Chestnut Oak are usually found in uplands and on slopes. Swamp White Oak, Overcup Oak and Swamp Chestnut Oak are usually found in bottomlands where flooding can occur. Bur Oak can be found in both bottomlands and uplands.

Upland White Oaks

White Oak (*Quercus alba*) is found on a wide variety of sites in dry to moist uplands statewide; white oak does not tolerate flooding. In addition to its desirability as a wildlife food, white oak is the most valuable oak.

Chinquapin Oak (*Quercus muehlenbergii*) can be found usually on upland slopes nearly statewide. This

oak is usually associated with limestone outcrops or soils with high pH subsoils. Chinquapin oak is not as common as White Oak.

Post Oak (*Quercus stellata*) is native in southern and western Illinois. Post oak is associated with two different sites. It is found on dry ridges and slopes, often on sites that are shallow to bedrock; and, on flatwoods sites which have level soils with a shallow claypan that does not allow moisture to percolate so these sites are very wet during the early spring but are usually extremely dry during summer when rainfall is limited.

Chestnut Oak or Rock Chestnut Oak (*Quercus prinus*) is native to only extreme southern Illinois, mainly in Union, Alexander, Hardin and Saline Counties. Chestnut Oak is typically found on dry ridges and slopes. When it occurs on deeper, more fertile soils, Chestnut Oak develops into a well formed, high quality tree.

White Oaks of both Uplands and Bottomlands

Bur Oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*) is native statewide in Illinois and can be found on a variety of sites. Bur Oak is commonly found in floodplains on sandy and silty bottomland soils where it is tolerant of relatively short duration flooding. In northern and northwestern Illinois, bur oak is frequently found on uplands. Bur oak is the classic oak of savannas where scattered large oaks are intermingled with prairie grasses and forbs. Bur Oak has the largest acorns of any native oak.

Bottomland White Oaks

Swamp White Oak (*Quercus bicolor*) is native statewide in Illinois. Swamp White Oak is primarily found on bottomland sites subject to flooding; however, it does not do well on sites that are saturated or are flooded for extremely long duration. Swamp White Oak acorns have their cap attached to a long stem.

Swamp Chestnut Oak (*Quercus michauxii*) is native to approximately the southern one-third of Illinois. Like Swamp White Oak, Swamp Chestnut Oak is primarily found on bottomland sites subject to short duration flooding. It is

primarily found on loamy bottomland sites in the Mississippi, Ohio, Wabash and Kaskaskia River bottoms and their tributary streams. Scattered trees are occasionally found in the Illinois River valley as well.

Overcup Oak (*Quercus lyrata*) is native to southern Illinois in the Mississippi, Ohio, Wabash and Kaskaskia River bottoms and their tributary streams as far north as the lower Illinois River; an outlier population occurs in Adams County in western Illinois. Overcup oak is very tolerant of overflow flooding and is found on poorly drained soils and is often found at the edges of standing water in swamps.



The **Red Oak** group is identified by leaves with sharply pointed tips with a bristle on the lobes. Trees in the red oak group flower in the spring, but the acorns do not mature until the fall of the following year. In this group, Northern Red Oak, Black Oak, Scarlet Oak, Northern Pin (or Hill's) Oak, Southern Red Oak and Blackjack Oak are usually found in uplands and on slopes. Shumard Oak, Cherrybark Oak, Willow Oak and Nuttall Oak are usually found in bottomlands. Pin Oak and Shingle Oak can be found in both bottomlands and uplands.

Upland Red Oaks

Northern Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*) is native statewide in Illinois. Red Oak does not tolerate flooding; it reaches its best development on the lower portions of shaded north and east facing slopes, ravines and coves on deep, moist, well drained soils. Red oak is often found in association with more moisture loving trees such as Sugar Maple, Basswood and Tulip Poplar.

Black Oak (*Quercus velutina*) is also native statewide in Illinois. Black oak is typically found on dry ridges and

upper slopes, often in association with White Oak. Black Oak reaches its best development on deep, well drained soils and it is intolerant of flooding.

Scarlet Oak (*Quercus coccinea*) is native to southern Illinois, primarily in the unglaciated area. Scarlet oak is usually found on ridges and slopes on drier sites. Scarlet Oak does not tolerate flooding. Scarlet Oak is a popular landscape tree because it will grow well on a variety of sites and has attractive fall foliage.

Southern Red Oak (*Quercus falcata*) is native to the same region as Scarlet Oak, but is generally more common. Southern Red Oak inhabits the same type of sites as Black Oak. Like Black Oak, Southern Red Oak is not tolerant of flooding.

Blackjack Oak (*Quercus marilandica*) is native to south-central, southern and west central Illinois. Blackjack Oak is typically found on extremely dry sites with shallow rocky soils or dry sandy soils. Blackjack Oak also is found on flatwoods in the claypan region of south-central Illinois in association with Post Oak; these soils typically have a tight claypan which causes them to be very wet in late winter and spring, but become very dry during the summer when rain is often scarce. Blackjack Oak is not tolerant of flooding.

Northern Pin or Hill's Oak (*Quercus ellipsoidalis*) is native to northern and eastern Illinois. Northern Pin Oak is usually found on dry, sandy soils and is easily mistaken for Black Oak. Further north in Wisconsin and Michigan, this oak is often associated with Jack Pine on sandy sites.

Red Oaks of both Uplands and Bottomlands

Shingle Oak (*Quercus imbricaria*) is native to most of Illinois except for the northwestern counties. Shingle Oak can grow on a variety of sites. It can be found on dry upland soils and on bottomlands that flood for fairly short duration. Shingle Oak is commonly found in fencerows. Shingle Oak is the more common of the two oaks with unlobed leaves.

Pin Oak (*Quercus palustris*) is native to nearly all of Illinois. Pin Oak can be found on bottomlands which frequently flood, upland flatwoods on claypan soils and in moist uplands. Pin Oak is a common tree in fencerows in areas where it is abundant. Pin Oak reaches its best development in medium textured soils in floodplains, but it is tolerant of poorly drained clay soils in floodplain situations as well.

Bottomland Red Oaks

Shumard Oak (*Quercus shumardii*) is mainly associated with bottomlands of the lower Mississippi, Ohio and Wabash Rivers and their tributary streams. Shumard Oak is tolerant of short duration flooding and is usually found on moist, loamy soils on terraces and footslopes along streams.

Cherrybark Oak (*Quercus pagoda*) [**formerly *Quercus falcata* var. *pagodifolia***] is native to bottomlands of the lower Ohio and Mississippi Rivers and their tributaries. Cherrybark Oak tolerates short duration flooding. Cherrybark Oak develops best on well drained loamy soils; it does not tolerate poorly drained, tight clay soils well.

Willow Oak (*Quercus phellos*) is native to the extreme lower Mississippi and Ohio River floodplains in Illinois. Willow Oak tolerates flooding, but it does not prefer poorly drained soils or swampy conditions. Willow Oak develops best on moist, but well drained soils that can flood regularly. Willow Oak is the other oak with unlobed leaves.

Nuttall Oak (*Quercus texana* formerly *Quercus nuttalli*) is extremely rare in Illinois, recorded only in extreme southern Illinois. Nuttall Oak is mainly found on tight, poorly drained clay soils in the Mississippi River bottomlands and tolerates flooding well. Nuttall Oak is easily mistaken for Pin Oak.

Exotic Oaks

Two oaks imported from Eurasia might be encountered.

English Oak (*Quercus robur*) can be found as an ornamental tree. English Oak has not been recorded as a naturalized

tree in Illinois according to the USDA Plants Database, but it is naturalized in several states in the northeastern and north central US. English Oak is like the White Oak Group in that its acorns develop during the same year as the flowers pollinate. Its leaves rather closely resemble native White Oak (*Quercus alba*).

Sawtooth Oak (*Quercus acutissima*) is an introduced oak from Asia. Sawtooth Oak is similar to the Red Oak Group in that its acorns take nearly two years to develop from flowering. Sawtooth Oak has been promoted as a food source for wildlife. Although Sawtooth Oak has naturalized and is spreading, it has not been recorded as a naturalized tree in Illinois according to the USDA Plants Database. Sawtooth Oak is recorded as naturalized in several states along the lower Atlantic and Gulf coast. Sawtooth Oak is considered by some to be an invasive exotic.

The most desirable conditions for acorn production for wildlife is a forest stand dominated by oaks of mast bearing age, generally 30 years of age or older. Ideally, there will be relatively even mixture of species from the Red Oak and White Oak groups. The reason for this distribution is that the white oak group flowers pollinate in the spring and the acorn develops in the fall of same year. The red oak group flowers pollinate in the spring, but the acorns do not mature until the fall of the following year.

A stand with trees from both groups reduces the risk of a complete mast failure because of inclement weather conditions. For example, an early frost might wipe out the flowers on both groups in a single year, but the acorns for the fall crop for that year from the red oak group will have been forming from the spring flowers of the prior year.

More detailed information about Illinois Oaks can be found in Forest Trees of Illinois. Internet sites with information would include Silvics of Trees of North America and the NRCS Plants Database which can be accessed by a web search.

History of Conservation in Illinois

(Installment # 3)

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 the second installment ended.

Written in the Memoir of De Gannes in 1721, concerning his travels in the Illinois country in earlier years (Pease and Werner, 1934) refers often to wildlife and forests which are of interest. At the junction of the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers he says, "Here you begin to see the beauty of this country, both for the soil, which yields bountifully and for the abundance of animals.

You find virgin forests on both side of the river consisting of tender walnuts, ash, whitewood, cottonwood, a few maples and grass taller in places than a man.

You find marshes which in autumn and spring are full of bustard, swans, ducks, cranes, and teals." While travelling in the Illinois Valley, De Gannes mentions the vast extent of the prairies, the abundance of wild turkeys, parakeets that live in bands of fifty to sixty and a game bird that is abundant and is like the French pheasant. He probably was referring to the prairie chickens.

On one occasion, De Gannes relates in his Memoir that a halt was called upon seeing a prairie herd of buffalos. Two of the older men harangued the young men for half an hour, urging them to show their skill in shooting down all the buffalos that they saw, and to manage so as to make all those that they could not kill move toward them. All were killed, a total of 120. "More than 1,200 buffalo were killed during our hunt, not counting the bears, does, stags, bucks, young turkeys and lynx."

In De Gannes travels through the woods, he frequently goes into detail concerning nuts, fruits, and berries, which he ventured to eat or taste. Those mentioned are bitternut hickory, papaw, wild grape, wild plums, crab apples, blackberries, Kentucky coffee tree, honey locust, and chestnuts. Among other game he encountered, not already mentioned, are opossums and skunk.

Of the fish in the rivers and small lakes, De Gannes wrote the abundance of fish and of "carp" much larger than those in France, two feet long and a half foot thick. Evidently he refers to the Buffalo, a native species. "A savage, in good weather, spears as many as 60 of them a day. There are brills of monstrous size (catfish). I have seen one whose two eyes were 16 inches apart and whose body was as big as the biggest man."

The country now Illinois was under French control until 1765. Mission, trading posts and forts were set up at various places. This Illinois colony, though founded from Quebec, was annexed in 1717 to the province of Louisiana and governed by commandants sent up from New Orleans. At the close of the French period, the only substantial results of French colonization were a group of five villages on or near the Mississippi, extending from Cahokia on the north to Kaskaskia on the south, with not more than two or three thousand inhabitants in all. (Ill. Blue Book, 1903) (To be continued in the next issue of "The IFA Newsletter".)

Be Carefull continued from page 7

It is even better to take these precautions against ticks when working in your woods -

- if possible, avoid areas of high grass (ticks hang out about 6" to 18" off the ground)
- walk in the center of trails
- use repellents that contain 20% or more DEET or
- use permethrin on your clothing (remember that permethrin is deadly to cats)
- examine yourself and your gear immediately upon returning home, including
 - bathing or showering within two hours of coming indoors
- use repellents on your pets and examine them regularly for ticks

Also, tucking your pants into your boots or socks makes it harder for them to get to your skin. Wearing light colored clothing makes it easier to spot them.

Ticks become active as the weather warms. By the time it reaches 45°F, they are looking for a meal. Be careful out there.

Grants continued from page 2

The Illinois Forestry Development Council (IFDC) had asked for proposals on how to spend its few remaining funds. Eight proposals totaling over \$19,000 were submitted from organizations and individuals across the state, competing for \$9,000 in funds. Two of those eight were IFA proposals, and we received both of our requests.

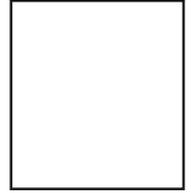
One of our grants will be used to produce a guide for managing seedling plantations through the first few years. Entitled "We Planted All of These Trees - Now What?" it will provide basic guidelines and best practices for:

- protecting against deer and rodent damage,
- controlling grasses and weeds and invasive species,
- monitoring for insect or disease threats,
- utilizing pruning and coppicing and thinning effectively and efficiently, and
- judging whether other maintenance steps are needed.

This guide will be published by mid-year in electronic form for availability on our website, and in printed form in limited quantities.

The other IFDC grant to the IFA will fund our webinar service for another year. Over the past ten months, our webinars have reached over 500 viewers, and this is just our first year. Our March 5th webinar on Illinois laws that define landowner liability is filling up nicely. In addition, we use this service for online meetings - allowing IFA volunteers to collaborate without the travel. Also, we hope to convene online meetings of small groups of landowners with common interests and concerns, delivering education and networking possibilities without any travel time or expense.

The IFDC is funded with a small portion of the 4% timber harvest fee. Due to the state's fiscal problems, the IFDC is not receiving its mandated share, but the Council is making good use of the few funds that it receives. We are grateful to the Illinois Forestry Development Council for their support and their confidence in our organization. The IFDC's commitment to forestry and to woodland owners in our state benefits us all.



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

Calendar Continued from page 2

3/17 - DuPage County from Noon to 4pm
Maple Syrup Sunday
Free, call 630-850-8110 for info

3/19 - Carroll County from 7pm to 10pm
NIFA Annual Dinner Meeting
\$12, call 815-947-2941 to register

3/21 - Champaign County from 9am to 3pm
"First Detector" Tree Pest Training
\$25, call 217-333-0740 to register

3/23 - Macoupin County from 10am to 3pm
Indoor Winter Tree ID Workshop
Free lunch if you register on IFA website

3/26 - DuPage County from 9am to 3pm
"First Detector" Tree Pest Training
\$25, call 630-685-2355 to register

4/3 - Champaign County from 10:30am to 3:30pm
IFA Board of Directors Meeting

4/13 - Jo Daviess County from 10am to Noon
Tree Planting Over the Last Five Years
Free, but register on IFA website

A reminder for hunters, an alert for non-hunters:

Turkey Hunting Dates

Southern Zone
3/30 to 3/31 - Youth Season
4/8 to 5/9 - 5 Adult Seasons

Northern Zone
4/6 to 4/7 - Youth Season
4/15 to 5/16 - 5 Adult Seasons