



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

John E. Gunter

The good news is that this has been a relatively mild winter thus far – at least here in Southern Illinois. As I write this the sun is shining, the outside temperature is in the 50's, spring is not that far off, and the U.S. economy seems to be improving – albeit slowly. Unfortunately, the news in the remainder of this message is not so good. It saddens me to say it, but the fact of the matter is that some of it is downright awful!

The problems that we are experiencing in forestry in this good state, which have been building for some time, have now reached a crescendo. Indeed, most of the IFA Board of Directors meeting on January 26 centered on the "Crisis in Our Woodlands" and what IFA can do to mitigate the situation. Here are some facts about the current circumstances in which we find ourselves. They are directly tied to an inept state government.

As I reported in our fall newsletter, upper administration of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources has stopped district foresters from accepting any new applications for cost-share practices under the Illinois Forestry Development Act (IFDA). Instead, they are using your four percent timber harvest tax monies to "administer" a program they have virtually killed. In a recent PowerPoint presentation the IDNR director stated that the practice of **no cost-share payments to landowners will be continued**. In the same presentation he admitted that the Division of Forestry had been particularly hard hit lately in terms of personnel. However, he went on to say that **further reductions in district forester staffing are likely** and it will be a **struggle to maintain a viable program**.

The IDNR director's statements were made in a meeting in Springfield on January 24 called by Rep. Frank J. Mautino (D- Spring Valley, Deputy Majority Leader). I attended this meeting along with other representatives of IDNR stakeholder organizations. The purpose of the meeting was to alert stakeholders to IDNR's very real budget problems and present a possible legislative solution – increased fees.

For FY12, IDNR overall has had to deal with a \$5.7 million shortfall in General Revenue Funding. This is a 10.4 percent decrease from the Governor's FY '12 proposed Maintenance Budget of \$54.6 million. The **projected shortfall** in IDNR's General Revenue Funding for **FY '13 is a whopping \$22.2 million** (i.e., a 45.4 percent decrease from the FY '12 actual budget of \$48.9 million). Thus, it is understandable that other budgetary solutions are being sought. However, not all of the proposed fees, euphemistically called "Illinois DNR Sustainability Concepts," necessarily make sense. Recognizing this, Rep. Mautino requested that stakeholders review the plethora of proposed fees and submit our comments back to him. This we have done.

The fee most impacting forest landowners has the title: Fees for Forestry Management Plans. The brief description provided is: "By administrative rule, collect an annual fee from all timber growers participating in IDNR's Forestry Development Act programs." Thus, if you have an IFDA management plan, which you have to have to get cost-shares and/or a break on your property taxes, you will be charged an annual fee – the grapevine has it at \$50/yr. To yours truly and the IFA Board this is adding insult to injury -- that is, piling on a spurious fee on top of killing the cost-share program.

Continued on page 3

Calendar of Events	
	February,
	March,
	April

February 17

Game of Logging course
 Location: near Omega, Illinois
 Contact: Tom Beyer, Marion County SWCD, 618-267-8900

February 29

Prescribed Burn Training
 IL farm Bureau
 Champaign, IL
 Contact: Ray Herman (cell) 217-377-7568

March 8

Prescribed Burn Training
 Sam Parr State Park
 Newton, IL
 Contact: Roy Bailey 618-238-4863

March 10

Annual Tri-State Forestry Conference
 Sinsinawa, WI
 Contact: Jay Hayek, 217-244-0534

March 29

Annual Meeting Northwest Illinois Forestry Association
 Carroll County Farm Bureau
 Contact: Keith Arnold, 815-947-2941

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

Secretary Report

by Dave Gillespie

Membership renewal for 2012 is progressing well in the IFA. With the help of our new website administered by Wild Apricot, and the membership services that come with it, dues renewal is progressing at a steady pace. In the past, before the IFA elected to use the services of Wild Apricot, dues were due on January 1. Now dues are due on the date on which they were paid.

The process works extremely well with those members who have given us their e-mail address. All members with e-mail addresses receive a dues notice via e-mail. They can either pay their dues online by using Paypal, or send a check to our post office box in Chatham. Those members who do not have an e-mail address, or have not shared their e-mail address with us, will receive their dues notice via the mail.

I encourage any IFA member who has an e-mail address, but has not shared that address with us to do so. Communication between the officers, the Board of Directors, and IFA committees are faster with the use of the membership services we now have on our website. In addition, those members with an e-mail address pay \$25.00 per year for their dues, while those members without an e-mail address pay \$35.00 per year.

If you have an e-mail address and you are willing to share it with us you can go to the IFA website at www.ilforestry.org, log in, and add your e-mail address to your information. Or, you can send your e-mail address to me at dandgisp@aol.com and I can add your e-mail address to your personal information.

Thanks for your continued interest and support.

Legislative Report

by Jenni and Paula Purdue & Jennifer Ross

The legislative session starts later than normal, on January 31. It will be a compact session, which probably means that it will be crazier than usual.

Your legislative committee and lobbyists have been working on drafting a bill that would require DNR to use at least 77 percent of the Forest Development Tax for the purpose of assisting those with forested land. The 33 percent is allowed for normal expenses of staffing, etc. for DNR.

We all know that the state of Illinois is in bad financial condition and we know that DNR has been hit particularly hard. This bill would also require an accounting of the four percent Forest Development Tax. Jenni, Jennifer and Paula are working with legislators to find sponsors for this bill. During this process, the bill may change. We will keep you updated.

Remember, this is the most important election year of the decade because of the new lines for the legislative districts. There are some incumbents that are running against each other, and some of those are in the Primary. This means that there are some Republican incumbents running against Republican incumbents and vice versa.

Be sure to find out whom your legislators and candidates are that are running in your primary and general election. A number of incumbents are not running again. There will be more changes after the primary and general elections than at any other election in this decade.

Check out who you can vote for and ask/educate those folks about forestry. This is your opportunity to make a positive difference!!!!

Wednesday, May 2 2012, is the IFA/IAA Lobby Day. Please mark your calendars and join us in Springfield.

President's Message

continued from cover

On behalf of your Board, I have apprised Rep. Mautino of IFA's opposition to the annual fee for Forestry Management Plans for these reasons:

First of all, any such fee is a disincentive to having a plan. There being no cost-sharing available, landowners may well withdraw from their plan to avoid the fee – especially if they aren't enjoying significant property tax benefits from having one.

Administration of such a fee will be quite complicated and it is highly unlikely that the agency will be up to the task. A flat fee per management plan is unfair to owners of small forest holdings vs. those with large holdings and to those getting no or small property tax benefits vs. those getting large tax benefits.

It is impossible to set a fee proportional to value and thus achieve equity among landowners and taxpayers.

Please know that we will continue to represent your interests on Rep. Mautino's stakeholder committee by being positive and constructive when we can – we would like to be a part of the solution.

Also know that we have legislation that will be introduced in the upcoming legislative session that, if passed, will go a long way toward rectifying the IDNR administrative withholding of cost-share payments.

Please stay tuned; in all likelihood your regional director will be calling on you to lobby your legislator to support our bill. Talking points will be provided to make this task easier.

Further, your Board will continue to work on ways to mitigate the Crisis in our Woodlands. Problems are not necessarily unsolvable. We can make a difference if we all pull together.

A Member's Perspective On Invasive Exotics

By Ray Herman

It is apparent as one travels any direction throughout the state of Illinois that invasive plants are widespread. In places, they dominate the landscape, crowding out the native species.

The term "invasive exotics" conjures the mind to think of different plants, depending on their geographic location in the state and how the land has been used. While the list can be almost endless, there are usually 4-5 that would appear on most everyone's list if centering on a specific land use.

We in IFA obviously are focused on our woodlands and most can quickly identify at least 4-5 invasive or invasive exotics. These are the unwanted invaders that restrict or prevent the growth of desired species, or limit overall use and value. So, most of us who actively manage our woodland know the plants we need to control. But, we don't always know how, or who can help, or why no one champions the "noxious weeds" of the woods issue.

Yes, I am trying to control the spread from and within my farm, but the problem is on all sides, down the roads, throughout the state. **A problem exists!**

I simply ask our IFA board to address this problem for the association members and for the resource statewide. The VOICE for Illinois forests needs to be heard.

I am asking for a position to be taken and an action plan to be developed to help members and nonmembers control the unwanted "weeds of the woods".

I also ask you as members to add your voice, concerns and actions. Problems don't just go away!

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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!

Walnuts & Acorns

By Lee M. Rife



This is the first of what I hope to be a regular feature in this newsletter: just a few musings from an old man about things going on in the fields of conservation, forestry and wildlife. My thirty-five acres of woodland, which is part of a larger acreage, is located roughly 180 miles south of where we live. It has been in my family since 1837.

The unique feature of this land is that it is a transition zone. The northeast corner starts the Shawnee Hills. Land to the west and southwest starts the Costal Plain which goes all the way to the Gulf of Mexico. Wildlife is abundant throughout the property, which brings me to the subject of this initial column.

A while back, I received an email with pictures from a friend about an 1800 pound wild boar which had been killed near the airport at Potosi, Missouri, which is roughly eighty miles southwest of St. Louis. I passed this along to several people including a retired accountant who grew up near me and who now lives in the Atlanta, Ga. area. He wrote back about the menace that these hogs were on property he owns, their called hogzillas in Georgia. He also reminded me that hogs never stop growing, thus the size of the one in Missouri. He further said that a 1500 pound cross between a Hampshire and European wild boar,



Wild hogs are destructive to crops and wildlife habitat. Image by piotrmarkiewicz from Fotolia.com

confirmed by DNA testing, was killed somewhere in Georgia. Problems with feral boar are being reported from coast to coast.

Now I learn that feral boar are being reported in a number of Illinois counties, even though many observers have thought that Illinois was protected by three rivers and by being too far north. Today's newspaper carried a front page article about a 400 pound feral hog being killed in Fulton County, which is west of Peoria. Feral (wild) boar can and will tear up a woodlot looking for nuts, grubs and anything they can eat. They have almost no natural enemies, due to their size and aggressiveness. When you are out hiking or wandering about in the woods, this is definitely NOT something you want to come across. As I understand, your best defense is to freeze and hope that you are upwind from the creature. It is said their eyesight is very poor. In any case, you don't want to do anything to call attention to yourself.

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources has asked anyone who sees either a feral boar or finds damage which might be caused by a feral hog in a field or woodlot to report it to them. Also, it is legal (as of the time this writing) to shoot feral boar on sight, IF you have landowner permission and hold a valid Firearm Owners Identification (FOID) card. The feral hog killed in Fulton County was taken on the first day of shotgun deer season.

To sum up, a feral boar is not the same as Porky Pig. This animal can make a mess of your woods, your pasture or your fields. They reproduce rapidly and if left unchecked, will become a major menace within a short time. They can also be very dangerous to humans and livestock, as well as pets. Also, they carry some 30 diseases which can be transmitted to livestock and humans. Unfortunately, feral boar will be a continuing problem as long as they can swim across the Mississippi. If proper measures are taken now, it can be a manageable problem.

Bill Gradle Retires

by Dave Gillespie

Bill Gradle, State Conservationist for the NRCS in Illinois, recently retired. Bill, a forester by education, was very interested in forestry in Illinois. It is with his involvement and concern regarding forestry in Illinois that substantial funds through EQIP have been used in our state to write forestry plans and accomplish many forestry practices in private woodlands in Illinois.

Bill was also most instrumental in forming the Illinois Forestry Association. He co-chaired the organizing committee in 2005 that set up the IFA. Through his leadership, all necessary steps were taken to set the IFA on the road to what it has become today.

Representatives of the IFA were present at Bill's retirement celebration to thank him for his leadership and dedication to forestry in Illinois, and to present him with a plaque.

He and his leadership and concern will be missed, but we wish him and his family well in his retirement.



Dave Gillespie (r), IFA Secretary, presents Bill Gradle, former NRCS State Conservationist, a plaque during his retirement party.

Illinois Forestry Association

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

Regional News

Region 1

Directors

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Happenings

by Dick Pouzar, Region 1 Director

Several Region 1 events are already scheduled for early this year. The always informative Tri-State Forest Stewardship (TSFS) Conference at Sinsinawa, Wisconsin, will be held on Saturday, March 10th. The Northwest Illinois Forestry Association (NIFA) annual dinner is on March 27th in Mount Carroll. Local Forest Preserve districts have maple syrup events on their calendars.

The TSFS Conference follows its regular format of 5 hour-long sessions with up to seven offerings per session; four-course lunch and break refreshments are included for \$40 per person.

Topics cover chain saw safety, estate planning, forest management issues, mushrooms and ginseng, invasives, prescribed burning, pond management, and much more. If you did not receive the mailed brochure, contact Jay Hayek, Illinois Extension Forester, for information at 217-244-0534. Sinsinawa is just over the state-line is SE Wisconsin.

The NIFA annual dinner this year features Morton Arboretum plant pathologist Fredric Miller discussing the current status of significant insect pests and diseases within northern Illinois. Dr. Miller just completed the first year of field sampling for the presence of insect pests, and will discuss those results as well as the progression of Thousand Canker Disease, Emerald Ash Borer, and Gypsy Moth.

Reservations are \$12 per person for the 7 p.m. dinner and should be mailed to Keith Arnold, 146 North Apple River Road, Stockton, IL 61085.

Contact your Regional Directors anytime with questions, suggestions and assistance needs.

Region 2

Directors

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EVENTS

by Carol Bryant, Region 2 Director

Region 2 kicked-off 2012 with a tour on Saturday, January 28th at The Forrest Keeling (FK) Nursery - home of the wonderful RPM trees - in Elsberry, Missouri (24 miles south of Louisiana on MO79).

We met at the FK Nursery Garden Center for complimentary coffee and donuts at 9:30 A.M. Forrest Keeling Nursery is the world-renowned originator of the RPM (root production method) technology for successfully transplanting trees. See their website at www.fknursery.com > garden center > location & hours for info and a map. Public and guests are welcome. Following the tour, attendees could visit a number of specialized wood craft shops in Clarksville, including The Windsor Chair Shop (www.thewindsorchairshop.net) and The Bent Tree Gallery (www.thebenttree.com).

A big THANK YOU to all of you who registered on the website for the Forrest Keeling Nursery tour.

Jim Hynes has made contact with Guy Sternberg of Starhill Forest Arboretum in Petersburg, Menard Co., about a visit this spring. As soon as the date is set it will be announced on our website. You may visit their website at www.starhillforest.com for more information.

Dan Schmoker is planning a tree planting event after the ground thaws at Jim Hynes' farm in Pleasant Plains. Time and place will be announced on our website.

CONTACTS:

Email: 112 contacts, active and lapsed members
Phone: 23 contacts, active and lapsed members
USPS: 2 member contacts
Face-to-face: 2 new members
Purple Paint Sign Sales: 15 signs to 6 non-members and 3 members
6 businesses in Mt. Olive and Litchfield posted the Purple Paint Flyer.

PUBLIC RELATIONS:

In their December 29th issue, The Mount Olive Herald published a good article about the Purple Paint Sign. They used the press release and the Purple Paint Flyer.

The NIFA schedule of their 2012 events, as well as other forestry event descriptions can be found at the IFA website, www.ilforestry.org. Our calendar will be updated as events are firmed up, so check back often.

Also, if you want to review the presentation material from past TSFS conferences, they can be found online at www.extension.iastate.edu/forestry/.

Region 3

Directors

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Direct Seeding-Self Service

by Roy Bailey, Region 3 Director

Dr. Eric Herman needed an alternative after three major floods on 40 acres of his Wabash River bottomlands in 2011. Converting the Crawford County 40 acres of cropland to CRP woodland became a likely option. But a timely planting of trees or crops on Darwin silty clay loam with flooding is tough. Cropland plantings had often been delayed till June or July.

Enter Uncle Ray who just happens to have a sideline business as a tree seed dealer. Ray Herman is a career conservationist, past president of IFA, and a farmland owner in another corner of Crawford County.

Ray and Dr. Herman seized the opportunity to direct seed that Darwin soil areas this fall under good moisture conditions and plant the remaining dryer seven acres next spring. The seven acres will be cleared of naturally generated junk seedlings this winter. The Hermans used a modified seedling planter and a Truix nut and acorn planter. They applied glyphosate (Roundup) to kill weeds about a month ahead of planting. Heavier remaining residue was burned.

The planting includes a wide variety of native oaks, pecan, and walnut. Bald cypress and sycamore will likely be broadcast over the surface later.

The latest word is that the seeding looks like a success and Ray is getting a break on some dental work.

Region 4

Directors

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Wes Beyers Odin, IL 618-775-6521 wesbeyers@yahoo.com	James Lewis Brookport, IL 618-564-3238 pope42@live.com
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SIU Forestry students host "Goods from your Woods"

By Dane Goble

On November 29, 2011 the Forest Products Marketing class from Southern Illinois University (SIU) hosted **Goods From Your Woods** at the Dunn-Richmond Center in Carbondale, Illinois. **Goods From Your Woods** is a workshop designed to inform local landowners on how to utilize the full potential of their land, whether it be for wildlife, hunting, revenue or even just aesthetics. There were over one hundred attendees, some traveling from as far as Peoria, IL.

Following a small meal, the workshop began with Chris Evans, the coordinator of The River to River Weed Cooperative Management Area. Chris's presentation covered multiple aspects of invasive species management including identification, eradication, and prevention. He discussed the common invasive species that landowners might find on their property and how to treat them in a safe manner. He also explained the ecological consequences that would arise if these plants were left unattended.

Following Chris, Ryan Pankau from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service talked about the benefits of implementing a forest management plan on private property. He explained to landowners that by having a professional forester assess the needs of your land with consideration to the expectations of the landowner, and then creating a list of objectives, landowners can utilize their property to better meet their needs.

Next to speak was Roger Leach, Vice-President of the Springfield branch of US Bank. Roger discussed the benefits of tax incentives as well as the different aspects of land trust programs. He explained how property management objectives may be more easily obtained through the benefits of tax incentive programs. He also discussed how to ensure the prosperity of your land by enrolling in a land trust program.

We then brought in Paul Deizman from The Illinois Department of Natural Resources to discuss a relatively new program, Call Before you Cut. He talked about how this program is designed to help private landowners make educated decisions when thinking about harvesting timber by explaining the steps necessary to prevent any loss of revenue, whether it is through liability, misinformation or even just doing business with unethical contractors.

The last speaker of the evening, John Pike with The University of Illinois Extension, discussed the benefits of a healthy ecosystem to wildlife. Regardless of the overall objectives of the property, most landowners enjoy seeing a variety of wildlife inhabiting their land. John explained the management techniques used to enhance the wildlife value of property in order to attract a variety of species and the resulting benefits to the landowner. He also discussed different aspects of hunting leases and what the landowner needs to know before making their land available as well as what to expect once the land is leased.



An overwhelming number attended 'Goods from Your Woods' workshop.

Meet Illinois' New Urban and Community Forester



Emily Hanson is the new Urban and Community Forester at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale. She is based out of Carbondale but will spend her time aiding communities throughout the state in the management of their urban forests. Some projects with which Emily can assist communities include:

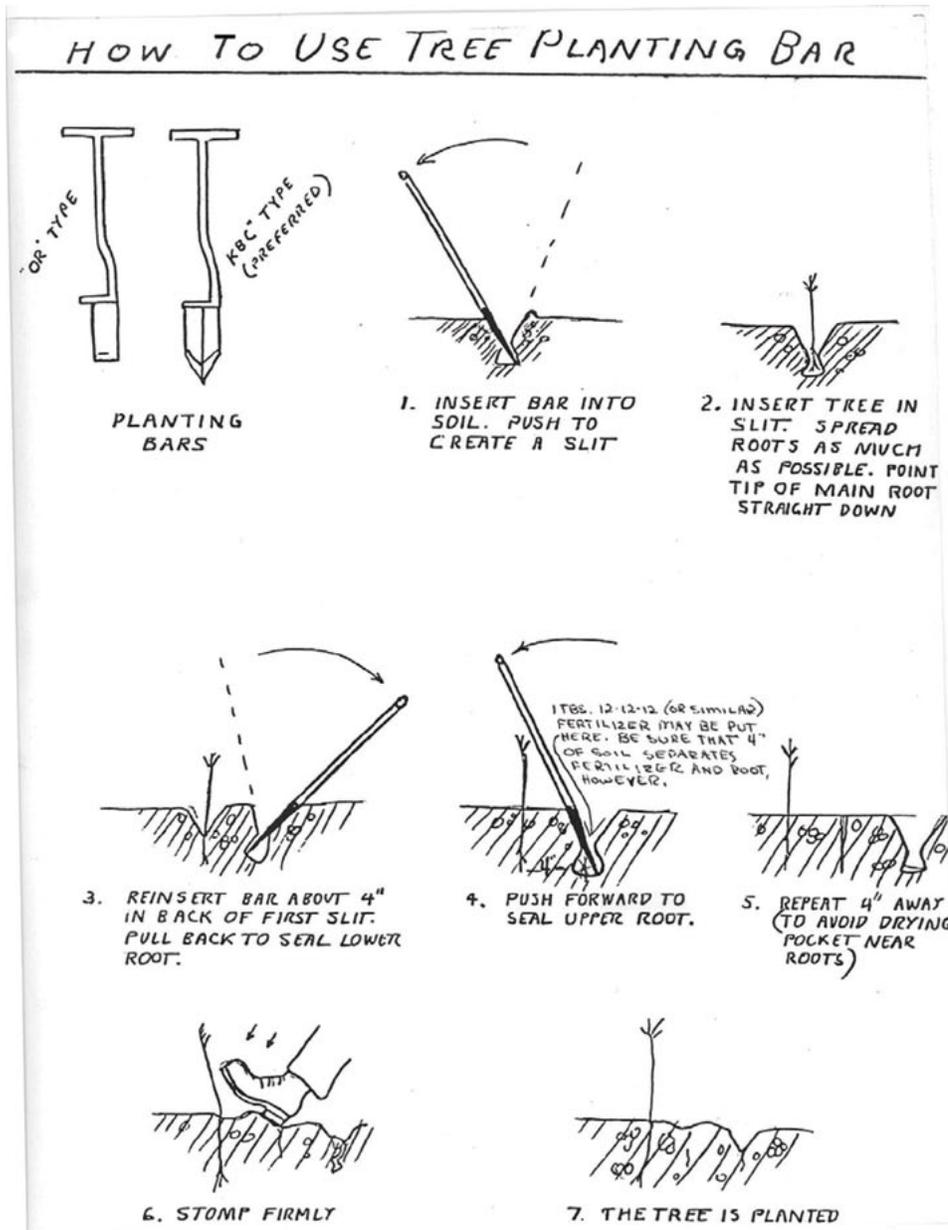
- Writing tree management plans
- Inventory of street trees
- Developing tree boards
- Drafting tree ordinances
- Organizing events, such as tree plantings
- Hosting educational seminars and events

Emily will also serve as a resource for urban forestry and arboriculture by email and phone. She received her degree in Urban & Community Forestry from the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities.

She was raised in southern Minnesota and has lived in Carbondale, Illinois since January 2012. In her free time she enjoys hiking, biking, backpacking, canoeing, rollerblading, gardening, and music.

Please contact Emily Hanson if you are part of a community or organization that would like assistance in any of the projects bulleted above.

Emily Hanson, Urban and Community Forester, emily@siu.edu, 618-453-2517



1986. Drawing by John Churan, retired IDNR District Forester. Used with his permission.

Marketing Lessons from “Goods from Your Woods”

by Jennifer Behnken, Graduate student,
Deborah G. Gunter, Ph.D. and Visiting Professor,
Department of Forestry, Southern Illinois
University Carbondale

IFA members and southern Illinois forestry professionals are well aware of the need for informing local rural landowners about woodlot management. A drive down almost any rural road gives the informed eye a vision of high-graded, poor quality timber set off by noxious autumn olive and other invasive species. The Marketing Forest Products class at Southern Illinois University Carbondale set out to do something about this by creating and marketing a workshop to inform landowners about their opportunities to improve their woodlots to get more “Goods” from their woods. We found several excellent speakers, a fine facility, and generous sponsors. Class members recruited several partners who provided financial and/or other support. The most difficult part of the work was successful marketing to the right audience—the same audience that the IFA is trying to reach in their membership efforts.

Marketing is the process of promoting and selling a good, in our case, woodlot management education. We began by determining our target audience—the rural landowner interested in land management for a variety of reasons, including wildlife habitat, timber, recreation, family asset protection and aesthetics. The US Forest Service National Woodland Owner Survey gives us a good idea of these individuals—generally older individuals who see their land as a family asset. Commercial timber production may not be the primary focus, but it is important and can affect other, primary goals such as wildlife habitat and conservation.

The class decided to use a multi-pronged strategy to reach their audience. A flyer was created to be used both as a small poster and as a handout. The class placed flyers in a variety of locations including local fast food restaurants where the



SIU Marketing Class for the ‘Goods from your Woods’ workshop.

older crowd meets for coffee, big stores like Rural King, libraries, visitor centers, related business enterprises like western stores and boot shops, tire shops, and churches. The flyer was distributed to IFA members by email and to individuals on the U of I Extension Service listserv.

The class pooled resources in an effort to collect contact information for private landowners. Sources included plat books, maps identifying land ownership and entitlement, landowner organizations such as the Southern Illinois Prescribed Burn Association and IFA. Using these resources, letters were written to invite landowners in the immediate area.

A press release was written to emphasize the benefits to the landowner from attending. The most effective contact list was that of local print media—which was supplied by Jennifer Behnken from her experience in a previous job. The press release was distributed via email and mail to the targeted local newspapers—daily papers, weekly county papers, and local special interest publications.

Radio and television stations were also contacted. The information was broadcast over public radio and some local radio stations. The local television station put the information on their website but was not interested enough to ask for an interview or give any on-air publicity.

The press release and flyer were posted on the website of one of our students, Amy McMorrow Hunter. Amy is the wife of a logger and her website is www.loveyourforest.com. She also posted links to information sources about forestry which had been collated by the class to provide more information to the public.

After the publicity campaign began, registrations started to trickle into the Murphysboro Extension Office, our generous partner in the program, who agreed to handle registration for us. The results were not outstanding, so one final push was tried.

A press release emphasizing lack of planning for passing on forest land was written and distributed via email. A short excerpt from our press release is as follows:

Many of these landowners treat their land as a family asset and intend for their heirs to someday take over their property. Unfortunately, many of these landowners never get around to actually teaching their adult children about land management. Adult children are hesitant to ask their parents about the family lands to avoid discussing sensitive issues like death and plans for leaving assets. As a result, when the lands do pass into the next generation's hands, the new owners are clueless about management.

As a result of the two press releases, the Southern Illinoian posted information on the workshop on the front page of the Sunday Business Section in the upper left hand corner of the page. Apparently, we had found the right key to sell ourselves to the newspaper—estate planning, which is a huge issue for rural landowners in Illinois—and that was the key to reach landowners. The following Monday, the phone was ringing off the hook at the Murphysboro Extension Office. After 91 people had registered for the program, we finally had to stop taking registrations. Due to space limitations, unfortunately, many more were turned away.

continued on page 9

Marketing Lessons

continued from page 8

Several key points in marketing forestry programs in Illinois were illustrated. First, newspapers are a primary source of information—particularly the Southern Illinoisan and most attendees indicated this was their source of information on the program. Second, it is important to write a press release that will interest the newspaper editor as well as the rural landowner. As our first guest lecturer, Mrs. Gayle Van Ormer told us—money talks! In this case, it seems that the financial aspect of estate planning for rural landowners gave us the entrée into the major newspaper's business section. Third, marketing is just as important as program planning. The greatest program in the world is a failure if no one attends.

Goods from your Woods was a great success. SIUC students learned useful marketing techniques and the value of good marketing. The public response to this program illustrates the unfulfilled desire for landowner education about forestry and wood lot management. The IFA can play an important role in working with other agencies and groups to provide more education to rural landowners. Successful marketing to 'our' audience can make these types of programs a success and hopefully, bring new members to the Illinois Forestry Association.

“If a tree falls in a forest and lands on a politician, even if you can't hear the tree or the screams, I'll bet you'd at least hear the applause”

Paul Tindale

Million Acre Mountain

submitted by Paul Deizman

A forester once used a fictitious, forested Million Acre Mountain (the Mountain) as a management decision example. If the hardwood forest on the Mountain dies-off at 200 years, then, rather than facing 1 million acres of biologically mature and dying forest by doing nothing, why not cut 1/200th each year in order to sustain the million acres of healthy, growing forest in perpetuity. This also would sustain the flow of products (plus other benefits and services) from the forest that in-turn sustain primary and secondary manufacturing and supporting operations and ultimately mean sustainable jobs for the local community. The forester's objective is to successfully regenerate quality forest on about 5,000 acres of the Mountain, on average, each year. He contends that careful management of the Mountain will result in always having important habitats and abundant old-growth, despite some planned clear-cuts, and always having young forest regeneration, too. In terms of cutting timber, and of time; what would you do if you owned the Million Acre Mountain?

What should you do if you are an Illinois forest landowner wanting to cut timber? Call a consulting forester using the Illinois Consulting Foresters directory!

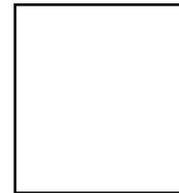
That directory is a comprehensive resource for finding a consultant and is available on the IFA website, the University of Illinois Extension website or the IDNR – Division of Forest Resources website at <http://dnr.state.il.us/conservation/forestry/>. Always provide your consultant with a copy of your forest management plan if you have one.

Illinois' New Gaming Law

by Dick Pouzar

It might seem odd to discuss casino legislation in a forestry newsletter, but Senate Bill 1849, which expands locations and regulation of gambling enterprises within Illinois, could improve our conservation efforts. The law is forecast to increase state gaming-generated revenue by \$45 million. Much of this money is to be directed to Soil and Water Conservation Districts and the University of Illinois Extension Service. Our SWCDs are in dire need of this level of funding, and the Extension Service has also suffered from the state's poor financial condition. This revenue could help our SWCDs strengthen support of our conservation efforts and help the Extension Service recover from staffing and program cuts. If passed, this bill would also put \$1.5 million in the DNR's Forestry Development Fund to employ DNR foresters in the field. Last year SB 1849 passed the Illinois Senate only to stall in the House. However you feel about this legislation, your state representative would appreciate hearing from you on this issue. You can find out more and contact your representative at www.ilga.gov.

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