

Time to Register...

“Restoring Illinois Oak Forests”

11th Annual Meeting of the Illinois Forestry Association 2016 Fall Meeting of the Illinois Society of American Foresters

Agenda At-A-Glance

Thursday, September 29 – ABCs of Forestry - Optional Pre-Conference Session for Landowners

- 12:30 p.m. Check In/Register – Friends Room, [Touch of Nature Environmental Center](#), Makanda, IL
- 1:00 p.m. Opening Remarks and Introductions
- The ABCs of Forestry is an optional session that will cover “the basics of forestry for landowners” in four hours. Topics will include everything from how a tree grows to how forests are managed. Learn the meaning behind commonly used terms, find out who’s who in forestry and conservation, and discover programs that can help make forestry more affordable. Hear from a variety of presenters, and ask the silly questions that will help everyone understand what forestry is all about.
- 5:00 p.m. Adjourn (Dinner on your own - there are many options!)

Friday, September 30 – Morning “Walk in the Woods” and Afternoon/Evening Main Events

- 8:30 a.m. Registration Opens (for 1 hour) – Coffee & Breakfast Pastries – Friends Room
- 9:30 a.m. Walk in the Woods! Depart on walking tour:
Plant and tree ID, measuring trees, assessing forest conditions, advance regeneration, reading the signs of past land use, wildlife considerations, etc. Learn about efforts underway to begin managing the forests associated with the Touch of Nature Center.
- 12:00 noon Registration Desk Reopens - Box lunch for tour participants and those registered for this option
- 1:00 p.m. Welcome – Mike McMahan, IFA President and Jeff Harris, IL-SAF Chair
- 1:15 p.m. Let the Sun Shine In – Overview and Panel Introductions – Tracy Fidler, US Forest Service
- 1:30 p.m. Role of fire in forest management – Charles Ruffner, SIU Forestry
- 2:00 p.m. Role of invasive species control – Kevin Rohling, River to River CWMA
- 2:30 p.m. Role of thinning and harvesting – Ben Snyder, IDNR Forest Resources
- 3:00 p.m. Break – Bid on Silent Auction Items
- 3:30 p.m. Panel Discussion - Getting the sequence right, Q&A
- 4:00 p.m. Working Together on Adjacent Lands– Brendan Cain, USFS - SNF Supervisor
- 4:15 p.m. The Natives are Restless: Impact of Oak Restoration on the Flora and Fauna of Illinois – Bob Gillespie, IDNR Natural Resources Coordinator, Natural Heritage
- 5:00 p.m. Social Hour – Bid on Silent Auction Items
- 6:00 p.m. Buffalo Tro - <http://ton.siu.edu/events/buffalo-tro/tro-tradition.html>
- 8:00 p.m. Fireside Forestry – Bonfire at Touch of Nature with the National Wild Turkey Federation
“Managing Forests for Wildlife” – Do you like to hunt? Will any forest do?

Saturday, October 1, 2016 – Hello OAKtober!! Business Meetings and Oak Restoration Field Tour

- 8:00 a.m. Illinois Forestry Association Business meeting – Friends Room
Illinois Society of American Foresters Business meeting – Indian Room (adjacent building)
- 9:30 a.m. Check out of lodging – drive over to [Trail of Tears State Forest](#) – Meet at the [White Barn](#)
- 10:00 a.m. Saturday’s field tour will highlight strategies underway to determine the best sequence of management practices to enable native oak trees - and their associated ecosystems - to flourish. See the results of different management practices and sequences first hand, and learn what they are planning to do next. We’ll enjoy lunch in the field at the appropriate time, and you’ll be free to depart or continue exploring the area’s many attractions no later than 2 p.m.