

Illinois Forests



"The Voice for Illinois Forests"

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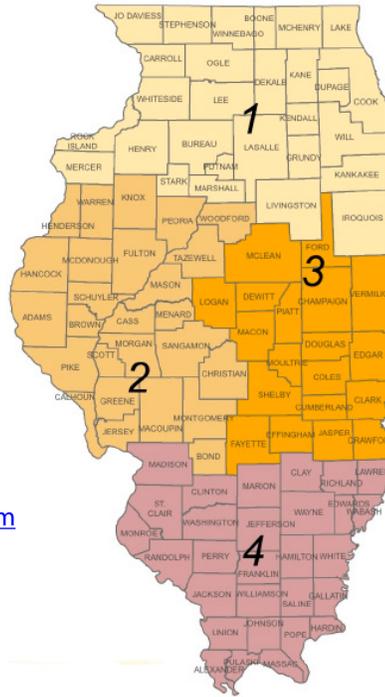
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Our Mission...

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

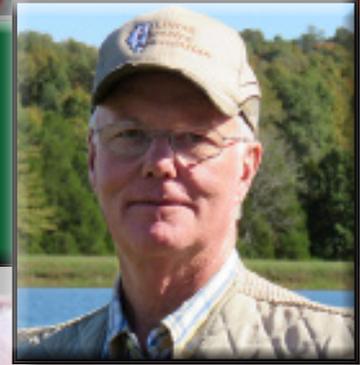
Our Goals...

- Promote forest management and help landowners manage their forests
- Educate members and the general public about rural and community forestry
- Advocate for favorable legislation and policies to benefit/protect landowners managing their forests
- Understand and engage our members, and increase IFA membership
- Govern the IFA efficiently and effectively to better serve our charitable mission

<https://ilforestry.org>

Message From the IFA President

by Mike McMahan



Fellow IFA Members –

This moment in time is one of those “bitter-sweet” events in my life. On one hand, I must say goodbye as your President. I cannot even begin to tell you how meaningful and rewarding it has been for me to serve in this capacity. IFA has a mission and purpose that can only lead to good things – both for us as members and for Illinois as our State and even beyond. Each tree we care for, either by planting an acorn or harvesting mature trees in our woodland for our use, is a tribute to nature in the short run and to us as its caretakers in the long run. I believe it is an awesome responsibility and one which I will miss. I will, however, continue to contribute in every way I can as IFA moves into the future.

That brings me to the “sweet” part of what I am trying to say. Tom Walsh is our candidate for Illinois Forestry Association President. Tom and his wife Julie own a farm outside Durand, IL. The farm has eight acres of flowers, 50 acres of other CRP, 70 acres of cropland and 35 acres of wooded land. Tom retired in November 2018 from his job as Supervisor of Assessments for Winnebago County. He had worked as a Real Estate Appraiser and Assessor for 42 years after serving in the U. S. Army and farming for five years. He is a Master Naturalist intern working on his volunteer and education requirements to become a Certified Master Naturalist. Tom is looking forward to spending more

time with his five grandchildren, tending to his wooded land, spending more time volunteering and devoting more time to serving IFA.

As you can see, Tom is highly qualified for this position. It is our job now to support him in as many ways as we can. It will take all of us, working together, to make this happen. The word “teamwork” comes to my mind in a unique way. My grandson recently completed basic training for the Marines. He was telling me about one of the events he and his “team-mates” were faced with. They were tired, dirty and only half-way through the series of challenges when they ran into a clearing in the woods. Their instructor said “See that log over there – somehow move it to that pile of rocks on the other side.” The log was about 16” in diameter and was just under 18’ long – weighed almost a thousand pounds. Quickly, they formed a plan. Only 8 guys could get around it so it was up to them. Together, they grabbed the log and TOGETHER they lifted it up. Literally marching, they were able to get the job done in just a few minutes. TEAMWORK!!

This is what IFA is faced with today. We have several committees that need members. They are our logs. I ask you to be one of the first to step up and be willing to lift together with others and carry your log as far as it needs to go.

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve as your President. I look forward to staying involved at a different level.



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Every little bit helps.
Thanks for your support!

IFA News and Updates

by Zach DeVillez



Happy fall everyone! I hope you're as ready for cool weather as I am. Please enjoy the following Illinois Forestry Association updates.

To Register for the IFA Annual Conference, go to:

<https://www.ilforestry.org/event-4508522>

Illinois Forestry Association Annual Conference

This fall, the IFA board had ambitions of holding a live annual conference. The original plans were to hold this annual event in conjunction with Tree Farm's annual field day. However, with the growing concern that is the covid delta variant, the IFA has decided to hold a virtual conference yet again this fall.

This virtual Annual Conference will include two presentations. One presentation will cover forest health in Illinois. This presentation will be led by forest health professionals Tricia Bethke and Dr. Fredric Miller. The second presentation will be led by the carbon offset company NCX. NCX sells carbon credits to corporations by enrolling forest landowners in their program. NCX inventories landowners' forests by using satellite imagery. Since this is a topic that could benefit IFA members, we have scheduled a representative to speak at the virtual conference.

Following the presentations at the virtual annual conference, the IFA will conduct its annual business meeting. This meeting will be available to members only. We encourage any interested IFA members to attend. IFA members should keep an eye out for the meeting agenda and other material for the business meeting.

Changes to the IFA Board

There will be a number of changes within the IFA board. This includes some new faces that will be joining the board as well as some familiar faces taking on new responsibilities.



Tom Walsh Running for IFA President

This year, Region 1 director, Tom Walsh will be running for IFA President. The IFA has the utmost confidence that Tom Walsh will bring dedication and passion to this new responsibility.

Tom and his wife Julie own a farm near Durand, Illinois. The farm has eight acres of flowers, 50 acres of other CRP, 70 acres of cropland

and 35 acres of wooded land. Tom retired in November 2018 from his job as Supervisor of Assessments for Winnebago County. He had worked as a Real Estate Appraiser and Assessor for 42 years after serving in the U. S. Army and farming for five years. Tom is looking forward to spending more time with his five grandchildren, tending to his wooded land, spending more time volunteering and devoting more time to serving on the board of the Illinois Forestry Association.



Tricia Bethke Running for Vice President

IFA Region 1 Director, Tricia Bethke will be running for Vice President. Tricia has not served on the board for as long as many of our directors, but ever since she was elected, she has been a true asset to the board. Tricia has brought the same dedication and enthusiasm she has shown in her career to her role in the IFA.

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Tricia Bethke is the Illinois Forest Pest Outreach Coordinator. Her position is funded through a cooperative grant with the United States Department of Agriculture Animal Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA APHIS, and The Morton Arboretum. Tricia's responsibilities include statewide training of key stakeholders on the USDA APHIS Hungry Pests program for forest pest identification, high-risk pathways, regulations and quarantines, and reporting protocols. Tricia also coordinates and instructs public and private audiences on forest pest detection, tree identification, and tree health monitoring. Additionally, Tricia has a M.S. in Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences from the University of Illinois.



Brad Petersburg Running for Region 1 Director

Brad lives near Galena, IL, and donates much of his time to a local conservation land trust and to various community betterment projects. To improve wildlife habitat in the region, he recently formed the Woodland Wildlife Cooperative with the slogan "Healthy Woodlands; Healthy Wildlife". The Cooperative began as an informal organization of private landowners in his neighborhood, and is now expanding. Brad has found it relatively easy to gain members because nearly all woodland owners support

improving wildlife habitat, and because the only membership requirement is to cooperate with neighboring landowners. In addition to facilitating collaboration, the Cooperative, with the support of various GO/NGO partners, provides information to its members about why and how to manage a woodland to restore oak ecosystems and, thereby, improve wildlife habitat. Brad found a receptive ear when he reached out to IFA for input and guidance last spring, and he looks forward to the opportunity to serve on the IFA Board.



Gary Hake Running for Region 4 Director

Gary recently retired from working as a social worker in the not-for-profit world for 41 years. His wife Teresa already retired and has stated that he will not be allowed to be home all the time, but this should not be a problem as he spends a lot of time trying to care for his family's tree farm in Washington County. Gary spends his weekends and summers planting or killing trees, mowing trails, and most recently dealing with the emerald ash borer who are feasting on acres of nicely planted rows of 35-year old green ash trees as well some big oaks. His goal in retirement is to be a good steward of the land that has been in his family for five generations and ensure that his seventh-generation grandchildren who currently live on

the land grow to love caring for "the woods."



Debbie Fluegel Running for Region 2 Director

Debbie Fluegel is the Illinois Program Manager and a Field Coordinator with Trees Forever, a non-profit organization in Iowa and Illinois, whose mission is to plant and care for trees and natural areas by empowering people, building community, and providing stewardship. Debbie manages the Illinois Community Forestry program, the Illinois Buffer Partnership program, and the Pollinator Habitat Conservation program, in both Iowa and Illinois. She works with farmers, landowners, and communities to develop and implement tree planting and native plant conservation practices. Debbie is a member of the Illinois Urban and Community Forestry Committee, serves as the Operational Manager of the Illinois Urban Forest Strike Team, is an ISA Certified Arborist, ISA Tree Risk Assessment Qualified, and Project Learning Tree facilitator.

She received her B.A. in Biology from the University of Maine at Machias and has a diverse background in conservation, environmental education, and biological monitoring of ecosystems.

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Debbie resides in Tremont, IL and helps manage her sister and brother-in-law's 7-acre woodland, in rural Tazewell Co.



Past President Mike McMahan Running for Treasurer

Mike McMahan has been a stable, reliable presence for the IFA. Mike has served as president for 2 years and has done a fantastic job doing it. Mike has given much of his time to the IFA serving two positions on the executive committee (also serving as Treasurer). His leadership led to many IFA accomplishments, and the IFA board as a whole owes him its gratitude for doing such a fine job. The board has asked Mike to run for the position of Treasurer yet again so that he can continue to serve on the executive committee and continue to provide stability to the IFA on the executive committee.



Previous Vice President Landon Satterfield Running for Region 4 Director

Landon Satterfield, has also provided stability, serving on the IFA Executive Committee. He has served as Vice President for 3 years, and has done a great job doing it. Landon has agreed to run as a Region 4 Director. The IFA board is confident that Landon will continue to be a reliable and knowledgeable presence on the IFA Board of Directors.

Upcoming Project

The Illinois Forestry Association will embark on a project to educate Illinois landowners about growing trees from seed collected locally. As an organization, we always like to advocate for Illinois citizens to plant trees. This program will take attendees through the process of collection, cold stratification, germination, planting, and post planting maintenance. We will do this through a collection of short how-to videos. This project will also include three webinars about the entire process.

This project should be relevant for folks living in rural areas as well as urban communities. It is our hope that IFA members will follow along by planting trees from seed themselves. This can be a fun project for the whole family.

This project has been funded by the Illinois Forestry Development Council. The Illinois Forestry Association thanks the IFDC for providing the opportunity to embark on this project.

NWOA Offering Discounted Price to IFA Members for Subscriptions to National Woodlands Magazine

The IFA is partnering with the National Woodland Owners Association to offer you their fantastic publication, National Woodlands, at a reduced cost. National Woodlands Magazine costs \$35 to the general public to receive a one-year membership to the quarterly magazine. However, the NWOA has agreed to offer this magazine as a special benefit of belonging to one their 44 state affiliates, of which IFA is one, at the reduced price of \$10 per yearly subscription. National Woodlands Magazine is a great resource to stay updated on forestry news, stories and research. Like the Illinois Forestry Association newsletter, this magazine is written with private forest landowners in mind. However, professionals engaged in forest management will also find the magazine to be relevant to their work.

How do I Subscribe?

For members that are not renewing any time soon, you can purchase a one, two, or three year subscription on the IFA's website by going to the following link (<https://www.ilforestry.org/Sys/Store/Products/268554>). Just simply sign in with your email and password and get access to the \$10 per yearly subscription reduced price. New and renewing members will have the option of subscribing on the Illinois Forestry Association membership form. This option can be found on the hard copy membership forms to be mailed in, as well as signing up/renewing online. Just add \$10 to your membership check or online payment per year of subscription. You can sign up for up to three years subscription to National Woodlands Magazine, but it has to match your years of membership purchased with the IFA.

In Fond Memory of Joseph FitzSimmons

- Longtime IFA member and IFA President from 2018 - 2019



The Illinois Forestry Association is deeply saddened by the loss of longtime IFA member and past president Joe FitzSimmons. We hope that you will keep Joe, his family, and friends in your thoughts as this is certainly a challenging time. Through this article, we hope to celebrate the impact Joe had on the Illinois Forestry Association and its members.

Joe joined the Illinois Forestry Association in 2008, just three years after the the organization's inception. He had plenty of interests within forestry. Many landowners have passions that lead them to responsible forest management. For Joe, those passions were wildlife and timber. Joe was a hunter, and realized the value of managing his forest for both game and other wildlife species. He also developed an interest in growing quality timber trees that he could mill himself with his portable sawmill. He used the wood he harvested on his farm to build a house, a barn and some other buildings. He enjoyed building furniture as well as doing other woodworking projects. He was always very welcoming with his property, offering his land for educational IFA events. He often allowed kids to experience nature on his property through hunting and exploring.

"It was always my pleasure to work beside and with Joe during his participation with the IFA. He was a wonderful man. His enthusiasm and zest for life went well beyond forestry. The forestry aspects of his life I know he thoroughly enjoyed yet he shared himself unselfishly to help the Illinois Forestry Association as a leader and activist. Joe will be

remembered by all whom he touched. Heavenly rest to Joe and condolences to his surviving family."

Paul Deizman - Illinois State Forester

"I got the fortune to work with Joe for several years on forestry-related issues in Illinois. What I loved best about him was that Joe was a dreamer and never afraid to set his sights high and push for big change to forestry when needed. But he was also practical and knew any change required work and was always one of the first ones to jump in and volunteer to do that work. I considered Joe a good friend and always a blast to hang out with talking trees, hunting dogs, or really just anything. He was an incredible force for forestry in Illinois. Joe will certainly be missed by me and the entire forestry community."

Chris Evans - U of I Extension Forester

"I first met Joe FitzSimmons sometime in the late 1960's. I was the district forester with the IDNR at the time. Johnson County was one of the counties I serviced. I met with Joe's father who had several acres he wanted to plant trees on. After reviewing their objectives, we settled on planting loblolly pine. I wrote their tree planting plan, helped them order their trees from IDNR's Tree Nursery, advised them of the cost share program they could use to offset the cost of the tree planting, and loaned them a mechanical tree planter they used to get the trees in the ground. I don't remember how many acres they planted, but it was a sizeable plantation."

"Down through the years they followed their plan to manage the plantation with pruning and thinning. After Joe's father passed, Joe kept up the forestry practices needed to keep his plantation healthy and growing. Joe eventually purchased a portable sawmill he used to saw his loblolly pine into lumber."

"I was very happy when Joe joined the Illinois Forestry Association (IFA). Because of his work with his father in their tree plantation, he had a vested interest in forestry. He was the first IFA member I remember joining that I had worked with when I was doing forestry field work. It's a thrill and a sense of pride for any forester who worked with private forest landowners to see them carry a successful forestry program to the end."

"Joe went on to be an officer in the IFA. As President he was a leader in every respect. He guided the IFA with his ability to communicate the IFA's goals and objectives with the IFA Board of Directors, the officers and members of other forestry organizations, political leaders, and the general public. His enthusiasm about forestry and the IFA was evident at every meeting he attended. He liked to work with young adults to make them aware of forestry-good forestry he could discuss and show them in the classroom and on the ground at his plantations."

"Joe will be missed by all who knew and worked with him. I know I will miss him as a personality and a friend."

Dave Gillespie - IFA Secretary

Physiology of Trees

By Zach DeVillez

If you were asked to explain a tree to someone, what would you say? Most people would say something like; "A tree is a tall plant with roots, bark, branches and leaves". This is not a trick question. That statement is absolutely correct. However, as is the case with most organisms, a tree's physiology is far more complex than a casual observer could ever measure with the naked eye.

Trees are in fact, very successful organisms. They have been around far longer than humans, existing for millions of years. Those millions of years of evolution have allowed trees to adapt to changes in climate and survive large scale extinction events that other organisms could not. It is not unfathomable to think that if human life were to go extinct, trees could continue to persist long after we're gone.



© Joseph Obrien, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org
Figure 1: The General Sherman tree. A giant sequoia that is over 2,000 years old.

This article will examine the physiological characteristics of trees that have made them so successful over the millions of years that they have existed and thrived.

It Starts With a Seed

Seeds are vital to tree and plant reproduction. To put it simply, seeds are just plant embryos with a protective outer covering. They are similar to eggs in this way. Both eggs and seeds contain an embryo with a stored food supply contained within a protective covering. After terrestrial (growing from land) plants evolved, trees were able to mate through the exchange of pollen between female and male reproductive systems. The seeds are the reproductive product for both angiosperms (flowering trees that produce fruit) and gymnosperms (non-flowering trees that produce naked seeds, often in cones). Seeds come in many shapes and sizes. This biological reproductive trait could be the key to trees surviving large scale extinction events. As harsh climatic conditions killed off many other species of organisms, seeds were able to survive and remain viable in the soil until conditions allowed for regeneration.



Figure 2: A yellow buckeye seed.

Strong Roots

As seeds come into contact with moisture in the soil, the seed outer covering cracks through expansion, allowing the embryo to sprout. First, a small root emerges, followed by a shoot. This root will proceed to grow downward. From this root called the taproot, lateral roots form which help further anchor the tree into the soil. As the roots grow larger and stronger, they allow for the entire tree to grow larger and remain rooted in the ground despite (most) windy conditions.

The roots also uptake water and nutrients from the soil. Roots have hairs that help in this process. Much like humans have a vascular system, so do plants. This water and nutrients can be translocated throughout the tree's xylem and phloem tissue. This tissue exists throughout the roots all the way up to the crown of the tree, allowing water, nutrients and sugars to flow freely throughout the tree. A tree can only be as healthy and vigorous as its root system allows.



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© David L. Clement, University of Maryland, Bugwood.org
Figure 3: A windthrown tree, exposing the root system of the tree.

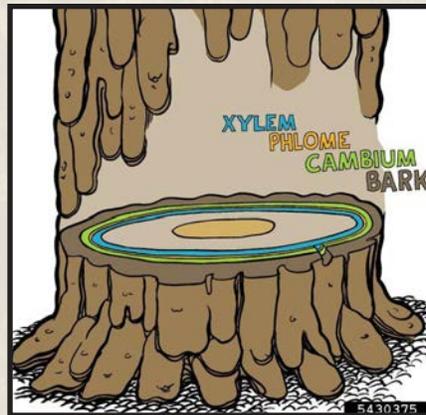
Competitive Advantages

From the ground surface upwards, we notice some pretty significant differences between most vascular plants and trees. Let's start with an obvious difference. Trees grow much taller than most vascular plants. Why would they develop this trait throughout their evolution? It's a competitive advantage. Like other organisms, plants must compete for resources including nutrients, water and sunlight. Different species of plants outcompete others because of developed traits like voracious seed dispersal, dense seed banks, having the ability to thrive in less sunlight, faster growth rates, and even exuding chemicals that discourage nearby competitors. A tree's competitive advantage? Grow taller.

When examining the main stem of a tree (the trunk), most people know that a tree consists of bark and wood. Bark essentially has the same function that skin has for mammals. The bark protects the cells and vascular system that is the xylem and phloem of the tree. Bark protects trees from animals, insect pests, disease, and insulates the tree from temperature extremes (cold and hot

weather). Tree species with thicker bark can have better protection against fire than those with thinner bark. Within the bark is the phloem and cambial layer, the living tissue of the tree. The phloem moves nutrients throughout the tree, while the cambium is the layer that puts on new growth. Under the cambial layer is the xylem or sapwood. This newer wood moves water throughout the tree connecting leaves to roots. Under the sapwood is the heartwood. This center, core layer of wood is not a living layer of the tree, but remains strong and resistant to rot as long as the outer layers function properly and remain intact.

Although trees cannot heal wounds by replacing damaged or dead cells, they do have a response to damage. Trees seal off areas of dead cells. Thereafter, the tree can grow over the wound. This can also be a valuable defense mechanism when fighting foreign invaders that could cause disease like fungi and bacteria.



© International Society of Arboriculture, Bugwood.org
Figure 4: Diagram of inner tree anatomy.

The Crown

Most have learned in grade school that trees and plants conduct photosynthesis, which is a crucial

biological process for the tree. You probably learned that trees take in carbon dioxide and release oxygen. While this may seem simple, there are actually a few complex chemical reactions that occur during photosynthesis. For our purposes let's run through a more simplified version of the process.

As we have discussed in a past article, leaves are green because of Chlorophyll. This pigment absorbs sunlight but reflects wavelengths that appear green to us. The sun's energy provides energy for the process of photosynthesis to occur. In this way, the leaves could be compared to a solar panel. Leaves also absorb carbon dioxide which is converted into sugars (food for the tree) by combining with hydrogen. Water, mostly absorbed through the roots also has an important role in the process. The end product is that the tree produces glucose for food, in which carbon dioxide was absorbed to do so, while extra oxygen from the chemical reaction is released into the atmosphere.

Leaf anatomy is very important to photosynthesis. Leaves consist of a petiole (connects leaf to plant stem), a midrib (structurally important to the leaf), veins (transports water and glucose) and stomata (pores that take in carbon dioxide and release oxygen).

In Summary

To a casual observer, trees could be summarized by roots, bark, wood, branches and leaves. However, trees are complex living organisms that have evolved and successfully thrived over millions of years. With a passing glance, it may not seem so, but trees rely on complex biological processes to survive. There is a lot more going on under that bark than meets the eye.

Illinois Forestry Development Council Report 2021

By Dr. Eric Holzmüller
IFDC Director and Southern Illinois University Professor of Forestry



From the Director

A 2020 publication, *Forest Products Industries' Economic Contributions: Illinois*, funded by the US Department of Agriculture Forest Service, reported that the Forest Products Industry in Illinois provides 38,554 jobs and contributes nearly \$22 billion annually to the state economy. For comparison, this is more direct labor, income, and output than commercial fishing, hunting, and trapping, and mining and oil and gas combined! It is nearly 75% of the agricultural production output (plant crop and animal) in Illinois.

However, it could be even better. Indiana, a state with a similar number of forested acres, employs nearly 18,000 more people in the Logging, Wood Products, and Wood Furniture industries compared to Illinois. This translates into a 33% greater direct output (over \$4 billion more!) in those categories. Why is this so? A primary reason is that many of the logs harvested in Illinois are sent across state lines to be manufactured into higher value wood products because of lower manufacturing costs, e.g. lower taxes, workman compensation rates, etc. Given that annual forest growth in Illinois exceeds volume losses from harvest, landuse change, and mortality, the State is poised to capitalize on the resources available. This can only happen though from improved policies developed by the Illinois General Assembly that foster manufacturing development and encourage Illinois landowners to reinvest in their forests.

The Illinois Forestry Development Council looks forward to continuing conversations with members of the Illinois General Assembly, State Officials, and other Forestry Partners to improve Illinois forestry in FY22 and beyond.

IFDC Accomplishments

SMALL PROJECTS PROGRAM

The IFDC provided funding to seven partners for the following small projects. These projects helped address forestry issues defined by the Council and included actions to mitigate these issues as outlined in the updated Illinois Forest Action Plan.

- The Association of Illinois Soil and Water District established an outdoor classroom in Pulaski County that serves as a forestry resource for schools across the region.
- Chicago Region Trees Initiative developed and distributed tree-tag kits to 22 communities across the Chicago region that promote the benefits of trees in urban areas.
- Touch of Nature at Southern Illinois University developed educational displays demonstrating invasive control techniques in heavily infested areas.
- Shawnee RC & D produced a three-part video series on oak forest management in southern Illinois and revamped the Let the Sun Shine In website - www.letthesunshinein.life.

- Heartland Conservancy created a demonstration site for invasive plant management practices in forested areas.
- The Illinois Forestry Association obtained funding to provide landowner education through a series of field days and developed an invasive species and management guide designed specifically for private landowners.
- Naturalist Chris Benda obtained funding to host two Illinois Natural Areas Inventory workshops. He is also worked on the recertification and verification campaign for the Illinois Big Tree Register.

REGIONAL CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

The IFDC project "Improving Oak-Hickory forest type" with the USDA/ Natural Resources Conservation Service was completed this past year. This project brought over \$2,000,000 in funding to Illinois to implement management practices that benefit Illinois forests. Now that this project is completed, it highlights the need for the State to step up and invest in management practices that improve forest productivity and health for the benefit of all Illinoisans. Illinois timber harvest fees (i.e., yield tax) generate nearly \$1,750,000 annually. The Council hereby recommends a significant portion of these yield

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taxes should go directly back to landowners to improve forest health on their properties as the original IL FDA law (525 ILCS 15) intended.

IFDC MEETINGS

The IFDC met (remotely) six times over the course of FY-2021. The Council meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the odd months. Locations are varied across the State and a remote option is always available. All meetings are open to the public. If you are interested in attending, check out the Council website for more information: <http://www.ifdc.nres.illinois.edu/>. Minutes of previous meetings are also available on the website.

Recommendations to the IL General Assembly

ILLINOIS TIMBER BUYERS LICENSING ACT - (225 ILCS 735/)

The Illinois Timber Buyers Licensing Act (TBLA) provides guidelines for timber harvesters who buy timber from timber growers in the state of Illinois for commercial purposes. Most of the timber growers are private landowners. Typically these landowners own tracts less than 100 acres and may only harvest timber on their property one or two times in their lifetimes. Any individual who buys timber in Illinois must obtain a license from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and is subject to fines, penalties, and possible license revocation for violations of the Act. The other primary provision of the TBLA is the collection of a 4% fee from all timber growers based on the purchase price of the timber. Timber Buyers are responsible for collecting the 4% fee and forwarding to the DNR. This money was originally intended to be returned to landowners to be used as cost share for management practices that improve forest health and productivity on their forests, but since 2015 all of this money is used

for Departmental salaries.

This past spring the DNR attempted to update the TBLA via shell bill SB1075. The primary goals of the update were to increase timber buyer fees, adjust penalties, improve collection compliance of the 4% fee, and improve landowner education through outreach. While these goals had noble intentions, the process was carried out hastily without adequate input from the Council, landowners, or timber buyers, and the proposed changes fell short on many fronts.

Based on feedback from our stakeholders, the Council voiced their disapproval of the proposed changes and the DNR decided to postpone pursuing such changes until all stakeholders have an opportunity to provide input. This upcoming year the Council will work with the DNR to adjust the updates to the TBLA so that all involved parties are satisfied with the outcome. The Council looks forward to working collaboratively with DNR and the Illinois General Assembly to improve forestry in Illinois in a more transparent manner.



Illinois Forestry Development Council Strategies and Actions

As Identified by the 2019 Illinois Forest Action Plan.

Save and Expand Oak-Hickory Forests

Create More Forested Areas of 500 Acres or More

Mitigate Forest Health Threats

Hire More Forestry Professionals

Expand on Illinois Forestry Industry

Expand Urban and Community Forests

Identify Permanent Funding for the State Forestry Division

State Forester Report

By Paul Deizman
IDNR State Forester



The Division of Forest Resources (Division) continues to deliver full forestry services. The pace at which our Division's shrinking staff, due to retirements, can deliver the traditional services and obligations is slower than normal. If the Division does not soon replace the four recently vacant district forester positions, the Division's workload will continue to grow. We appreciate everyone's patience and cooperation in these challenging times.

We hope to interview for a nursery technician and a district forester position during the next couple of months. We are also working on a project with our IDNR leadership and federal partners to place some forestry technicians or foresters at forestry districts to help our district foresters with delivery of our federal forestry programs.

The IDNR Wildland Fire Team deployed twice this summer, but not to the western US. During August and September a 20 person IDNR crew went twice to Minnesota to fight numerous wild fires, side by side with Minnesota's DNR crews. Our new Fire Program Manager Benjamin Snyder, located at our Benton, IL fire headquarters, was the crew boss and leader for the second deployment. Ben currently is also covering the Murphysboro field district and still overseeing projects on Trail of Tears State Forest. This makes hiring a forester for the Murphysboro district a high priority.

A critical program for the Division is urban and community forestry. In Illinois 80% of our population lives in an urban area or community. All such places need more trees. Illinois' community, park and street trees all contribute significantly to buffering our climate and providing direct local benefits to the citizens and visitors to our towns. The mission of the Division is to help communities develop and expand their tree programs to manage and increase their tree counts, natural areas and green infrastructure in route to a robust, fully stocked "urban forest". Even though each city and community are important, currently we have been focused on solutions and opportunities for cities and towns that have the greatest need and the least resources.

Our Mason State Tree Nursery continues to expand its native prairie seed production, potted tree availability and the production of top quality native tree seedlings. Illinois landowners can order plant material from the nursery online. Our nursery manager, Dave Horvath, and his staff continue to produce some of the best and cleanest, pure quality seed for prairie and pollinator habitat establishment that is available anywhere in the Midwest. The Division anticipates expanding tree seedling production. The demand for tree seedlings is forecasted to increase due to interest in expanding Illinois' and global forest cover. Quality native seed acquisition for us continues to remain a challenge and will continue the near future.

Our Forest Marketing and Utilization program manager position remains vacant. However, a team of district foresters and the IDNR Law Enforcement division are working to amend the Timber Buyers Licensing Act to adjust fees, definitions, violations, and administration of the provisions of the Act. Originally the Division had proposed language to require landowners contact the IDNR before harvesting, but that language has been dropped from the proposed changes. The Act helps maintain and expand Illinois' forest industry of mills and buyers, plus protects Illinois' forest landowners through the bonding the timber buyers.

The Division continues to administer the Illinois Forestry Development Act by approving forest management plans. These plans address the forest management and stewardship challenges all Illinois forest landowners face. The objective is to achieve quality timber, quality habitats and other benefits and opportunities such as hunting and recreation. Our Forest Stewardship program manager works with our district foresters to approve plans that private, professional consulting foresters write and then work with forest landowners to develop their forest resources.

Your State Forester and the Division remain committed to promoting and delivering good forest management, habitats and forest health, in both rural and urban community forests. We treasure the ongoing and new forestry partnerships with landowners, organizations, governments, and others in the conservation of our precious forest resources.

Fall Migration Birding Adventures in Illinois

By Kim Rohling
Extension Program Coordinator

Did you know fall migration starts as early as mid-June with shorebird migration and lasts until the early days of January with irruptive winter species? Identification of birds in the fall can be challenging since birds are in various stages of molt, juvenile birds may not resemble their parents, and birds are less vocal since male birds are not attracting mates or defending territories. Despite the challenges, fall is a rewarding time to go birding and say “farewell” to migrant species on their journey from breeding grounds in North America to overwintering grounds in Central- or South America.

August and September mark shorebird, wader, and hummingbird migration. Wading birds roam north from places as far as the Gulf Coast due to post-breeding dispersal. Some birds are blown in from hurricanes. Others are naive at migration and overshoot their intended destination. In 2021, rare visitors from this group of birds included a wood stork at Mermet Lake, roseate spoonbill at Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge, and white ibis at Sanganois State Wildlife Area. In August, birders in northern Illinois were treated to a glimpse of a Mexican violetear at a private residence in Lake County. This hummingbird resides in Mexico or Central America! Several rufous hummingbirds have been detected at feeders across the state this fall. Typically, rare hummingbirds stay only a day or two, but occasionally they delay their migration. In 2020, Carterville birders kept tabs on a female rufous hummingbird that arrived in a backyard in early November and stayed until December 24.



Figure 1: An immature wood stork in Massac County.
Photo by: Katy Banning

Late September to mid-October, is the ultimate month for insect-eating birds to migrate downstate. Chimney swifts, grosbeaks, nightjars, tanagers, thrushes, and warblers take flight before cold snaps limit their food supply. Sites with forest edge, tree diversity, and a nearby water source provides an attractive stop over location for migrants. Some of my favorite places to look for these birds are Cache River State Natural Area, Cave Creek near Pomona, Mermet Lake, and Dixon Springs State Park.

Waterfowl push through in waves from October to December stopping at open water sites along the Mississippi flyway. Large reservoirs host a variety of ducks, geese, grebes, loons, mergansers, scoters, and swans. Christmas Bird Counts in southernmost Illinois can provide good birdwatching opportunities at Carlyle Lake, Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge or Horseshoe Lake Fish and Wildlife Area. Be sure to search those sites for rare gulls,

jaegers, and kittiwakes. Carlyle Lake has already attracted a parasitic jaeger and Sabine’s gulls this September.



Figure 2: An immature Sabine’s gull.
Photo by: Katy Banning

December through January, when boreal conifer crops fail, irruptive boreal finches and their allies move south from Canada in search of food. The winter of 2020-2021 was considered to be a “superflight” year; one where backyard birders across Illinois saw large numbers of purple finches, pine siskins, redpolls, and evening grosbeaks. The last time evening grosbeaks were spotted in large numbers in southern Illinois was 1993! Residents in Pope and Saline county in the Shawnee National Forest enjoyed evening grosbeaks from November 2020 to May 2021 this year!

Continued on the next page -

In addition to seeking them out in the wild, entice birds to stop over in your yard by providing food, water, and shelter. Plant native trees that support caterpillars like oaks. Native shrubs with fall berry crops are important sources of food for insect- or fruit-eating birds. Viburnums, blackhaw, spicebush, chokeberry, hackberry, hawthorns, red cedar, dogwood, serviceberry, elderberry, and ninebark will add shelter and berry features to your yard. Planting native grasses or wildflowers will support seed-eating species like sparrows and finches late fall to winter as well as insect-eating species late summer to early fall. Water drippers or shallow fountains will attract a wide variety of species.



Figure 3: Southern red oak (*Quercus falcata*).
Photo by: Chris Evans

Well, what are you waiting for? The best of migration is all around us! Explore your favorite birding scene. Reach out to your local Audubon chapters to join planned outings. Assist with citizen science efforts to identify birds as they are migrating through your neck of the woods.

One such opportunity is the 4th annual Fall Migration "Mini-Sit" on Saturday, October 16. From 9:00 a.m. to noon, record as many bird species that you can identify by sight and sound at an eBird hotspot in the Cache River Watershed. Birdwatchers of all levels are invited to sit back, relax, and enjoy fall migration.

Participate alone or register with a team. Pack your binoculars or scope, camera, lawn chair, bug spray, and snacks to enjoy the event. Download the eBird app to record your sightings. After the event, bring your lunch and lawn chairs to the Cache River Wetlands Center (8885 IL-37, Cypress, IL 62923), for a socially distanced picnic outdoors to share your sightings. How many species can we identify?

Update: Registration has closed for this event. If you would be interested in an event like this in the future or you have questions, contact Kimberly Rohling at kimrohli@illinois.edu.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16

Fall Migration Mini-Sit

9:00 a.m. to noon

REGISTER ONLINE FOR YOUR EBIRD HOTSPOT TODAY AT:
GO.ILLINOIS.EDU/MINISIT
OR BY CALLING: 618-657-2064.

PLEASE KEEP CIRCLES AT FEWER THAN 10 PARTICIPANTS TO FOLLOW SOCIAL DISTANCING GUIDELINES. IN LIEU OF A POTLUCK, BRING YOUR OWN BAGGED LUNCH AND LAWN CHAIRS TO THE CACHE RIVER WETLANDS CENTER: 8885 IL-37, CYPRESS, IL 62923 FOR A SOCIALLY-DISTANCED PICNIC OUTDOORS FROM NOON TO 1:30PM. SHARE YOUR SIGHTINGS; HOW MANY SPECIES CAN WE IDENTIFY?

NCX, a Carbon Market Built for Every American Landowner

By Kathryn Morse
Landowner Success Manager

Private woodland owners play an unrecognized role in removing carbon from the atmosphere. Because of the expensive technical and certification hurdles required to enroll in carbon credit programs, landowners such as yourself have traditionally been unable to participate in these programs and receive financial compensation for sequestering this carbon.

That is until this year. Now, you have the option to enroll in the Natural Capital Exchange (NCX) forest carbon program.

Get Paid for Deferring Your Timber Harvest

The NCX program pays landowners to defer harvesting activity on their properties that they would have otherwise undertaken, increasing the average age of forests across the landscape and, consequently, generating carbon credits. Companies then purchase these carbon credits to offset their emissions. NCX runs in 1-year cycles, with a new cycle kicking off every three months.

What sets the NCX carbon program apart from other carbon programs?

NCX measures every acre of forest every year using remote sensing, AI, and rigorous data practices. This powerful dataset is the foundation of NCX's forest carbon marketplace, and the basis for its unique offering to woodland owners: 1-year terms, no fees for landowners to participate, and no acreage minimums.

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One Year Landowner Participation Overview

NCX runs in 1-year cycles, with a new cycle kicking off every three months.

1.) Submit your property information for a free property assessment. No commitment is required. The property assessment will result in an estimate of what NCX estimates you would harvest on your property in a business-as-usual scenario.

2.) Review free property assessment and determine at what price you'd like to be paid for deferring your harvest. The price you decide is known as your 'bid' which you submit to NCX to participate in the carbon offset exchange. NCX provides support for understanding how to place your bid. If you work with a forester, NCX recommends consulting them to understand how NCX participation best matches your management plan and objectives.

3.) After the bid submission deadline closes, NCX will overlay all landowner bids with the prices companies (such as Microsoft and Shell) are willing to pay for carbon credits and determine the market-clearing price.

4.) If your bid meets or is below the market-clearing price, your bid and your participation in the carbon marketplace is accepted, and you enter a 1-year agreement to defer harvest activities. If your bid is not accepted, you are welcome to participate in the next cycle round.

5.) In the event your participation is accepted, at the end of the one-year agreement, NCX will issue you payment upon verification of your deferral commitment.

6.) In the event your participation is accepted, at the end of the one-year agreement, NCX will issue you payment upon verification of your deferral commitment.

If a landowner needs to enroll all property under their ownership, does that mean they are required to defer harvest on all of their acres?

No. Landowners are not required to bid their maximum volume of eligible carbon. Landowners receive payment for total deferral of harvest regardless of where on their ownership it occurs. For example, a scheduled timber sale or thinning can continue as planned, landowners should just reduce their bids accordingly.



How Should Consulting Foresters Engage with the Program?

Consulting foresters play a crucial role in helping landowners plan and execute sustainable forest management, and NCX recognizes and values this important role that consultants will play as programs like ours develop. In response to this, NCX has developed tools to help consultants manage participation for their clients.

If interested, please sign up for the Consulting Forester Program at: <https://info.ncx.com/consulting-forester-and-affiliate-program-registration>

Interested in receiving an assessment?

For the current Winter cycle, the **deadline to request a free Property Assessment Report is December 1st**. The bid submission process will be in early December, during which we'll provide support and price range guidance. If your bid is accepted to participate in the carbon marketplace, the contract period will be from January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022.



End of Article

Walnuts & Acorns

by Lee M. Rife

During the past two or so months, I have received plenty of material concerning the possibility of establishing a carbon market for agriculture. Having a limited acreage in deep Southern Illinois (I jokingly refer to the farm as 10 miles from the Ohio and 20 miles from the Mississippi River) with 40 acres being woods and the east side being at least 200 feet higher than the west, farming in the area is at least interesting. Actually, I am lucky enough to have a tenant who rents some 73 acres for corn, soybeans and some hay. Life is good!

Having said all this, my ears perked up when I saw an article in the Farm Bureau weekly paper concerning the possibility of USDA starting a carbon credit program in an effort to sequester carbon. Such a program was thought to mirror the current carbon sequestering program administered by the EPA for industry.

However, a program for agriculture would have to be slightly different, due to the nature of differences between agriculture and other industries.

Some sources as well as Farm Week would include Farmdoc Daily at <https://farmdocdaily.illinois.edu/2021/04/what-questions-should-farmers-ask-about-selling-carbon-credits.html> from the University of Illinois College of ACES, and Carbon Markets 101 from Penn State Extension at <https://extension.psu.edu/carbon-markets-101> (This publication talks more about using forest land for the sequestration of carbon). I am sure that this topic will be around for some time, and I will be writing more about it as information becomes available. At the same time, I know that carbon credits for the sequestering of carbon isn't for everyone. Stay tuned!



“The care of the Earth is our most ancient and most worthy, and after all, our most pleasing responsibility.”

- Wendell Berry

History of Conservation in Illinois

Installment #37

by Dave Gillespie, IFA Secretary

This account of the history of conservation in Illinois was written by Joseph P. Schavilje in 1941. This installment begins where installment # 36 ended.

In 1923 the legislature passed a law establishing a Forestry Division in the Agricultural Experiment Station of the University of Illinois, to be charged with investigations in forestry and allied subjects for the promotion and development of the forestry resources of the State, with special reference to the maintenance and improvement of existing forests and farm woodlots and the establishment of forest culture on lands better adapted to forestry than to any other use, and also with the instructions of the people of the State by lectures and bulletin, by the establishment of demonstration forests, in the best methods of planting, care and utilization of forests and farm woodlots. (Forbes, 1927-28) The legislature failed to provide any funds for this purpose, consequently, its provisions were not carried out.

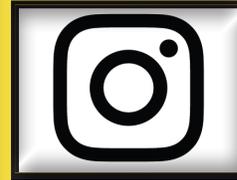
(To be continued in the next issue of "The IFA Newsletter".)



Shawnee National Forest

We are
Closer
than you think.

Chicago - 338 miles
Peoria - 222 miles
Effingham - 130 miles
Belleville - 64 miles



**Check Out the IFA
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Street Address _____	# of Signs ____ x \$18 (Non-Members) _____
City/State/Zip Code _____	Shipping & Handling _____
E-Mail Address _____	TOTAL _____

Shipping: 1 sign - \$8.00 | 2 signs - \$9.00 | 3 signs - \$9.00 | 4 signs - \$10.00 | 5 signs - \$11.00
Orders in excess of 5 signs must be shipped in two mailers

Mail Order Form to: (Check or Money Order made payable to Illinois Forestry Association)

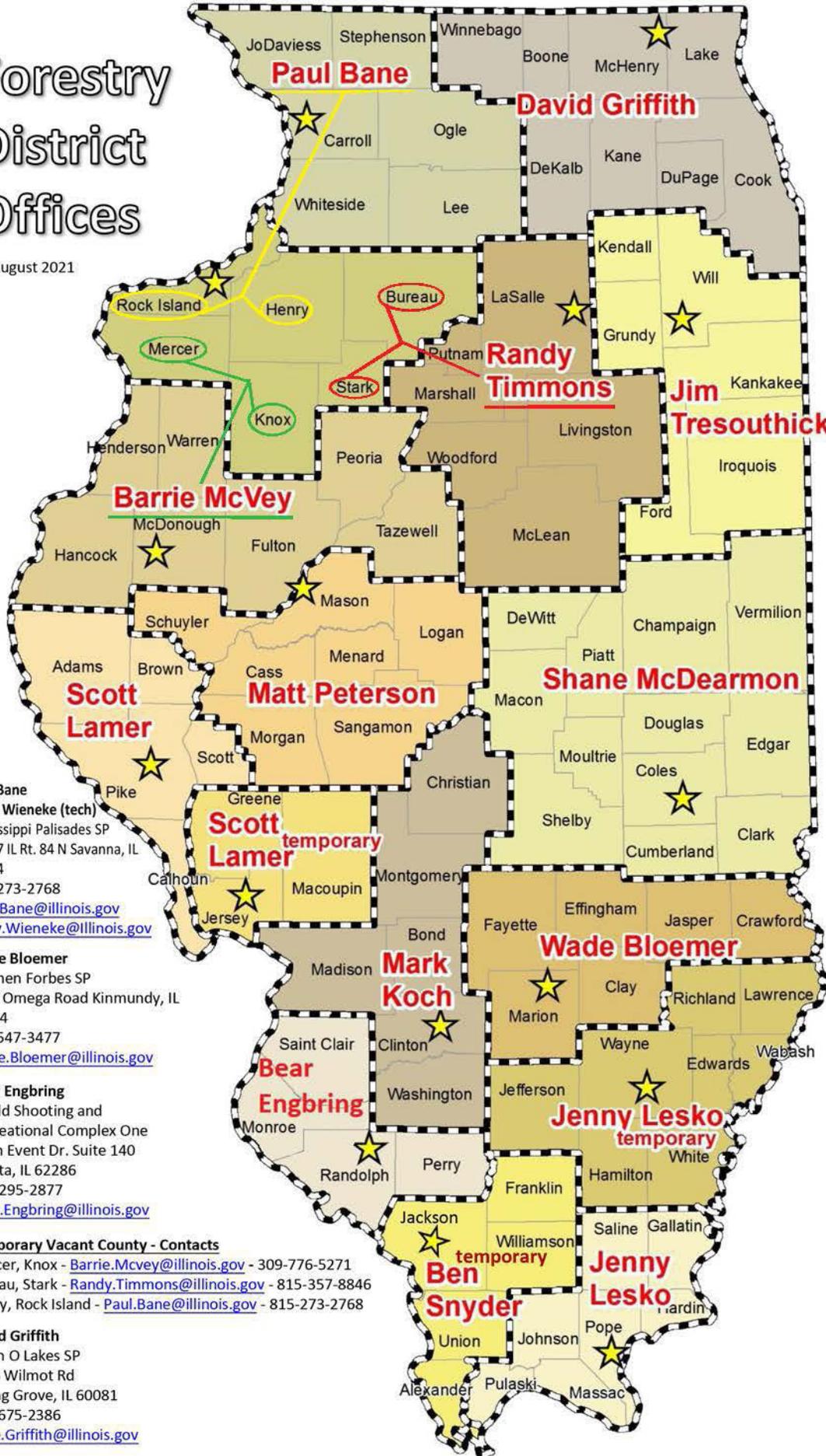
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Signs are shipped via U.S. Postal Service
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