

Illinois Forests



"The Voice for Illinois Forests"

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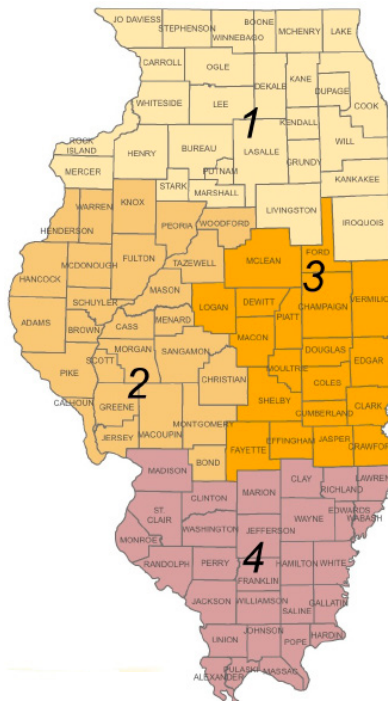
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Our Mission...

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

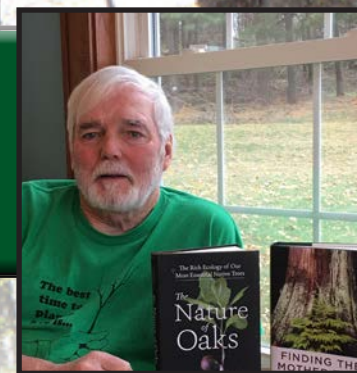
Our Goals...

- 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 Tom Walsh



Fellow IFA Members –

What interesting times we live in. Lots of things have been happening in our association lately. At a special meeting on May 5th, called for the purpose, we amended our By-Laws to allow our association to own and manage real estate. This was necessary for us to someday accept donations of real estate if we are ever fortunate enough to be presented with a good offer.

We are ready to start presenting urban forestry training sessions, in four Southern Illinois communities. These training sessions were made possible by the Illinois Arborist Association who have funded the programs so that the Illinois Forestry Association could bring urban tree/forestry trainings to Southern Illinois. We will also be presenting some virtual sessions later in the year. These trainings and virtual sessions have been put together by our Program Coordinator Zach Devillez, our Technical Advisor Chris Evans and our Vice President Tricia Bethke.

On April 9th we co-sponsored a Field Day with the Illinois Chapter of the Walnut Council, in Greene County. The field day was well attended and included presentations by Chris Evans and Tricia Bethke. It was a pleasure to work with the Walnut Council members and I'm hopeful we can again in the future.

I have been working with several groups to prepare a program which will be offered to 1,300 Boy Scouts at a Camp-A-Ree in northern Illinois, at Pecatonica, on September 24th. Some of the other groups involved include the University of Illinois Extension Service, the Winnebago County Forest Preserve District, the Natural Land Institute, the Winnebago County Soil and Water Conservation District and several others. I think this will be a good opportunity for us to inform and educate many new young ambassadors about the need for and value of sound forest management practices.

I have been working with Zach and Region 1 Director Brad Petersburg to prepare the agenda and make other arrangements for our Annual Fall Conference which will be held at the Chestnut Mountain Ski Resort outside Elizabeth II, in Jo Davies County, on September 16th and 17th. Our agenda includes a wide range of topics including Managing your Woodland for Wildlife and, for the first time I am aware of, a session on Trauma First Aid for Arborists and other Woodland Workers. This session will be presented by Dr. Matt Smetana who is an Emergency Department doctor from Rockford, IL. Dr. Smetana will be instructing us on what we should do and what we should not do before he, or other First Responders, arrive on the scene of a major trauma incident. I believe this instruction could prove

invaluable and may, someday, help us save the life of a friend or co-worker.

It has been a busy time to be the president of our association. I am very thankful for all the work and support I have received, especially from Zach, Chris, Tricia and Brad. Our association benefits greatly, every day, from the hard work and dedication provided by this fine team. They are moving our association forward and I'm proud to be associated with them.

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<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/27-0134781>

Even without the specifics, it's easy to search for the Illinois Forestry Association as your preferred charitable organization. Just remember to enter "smile dot" before amazon dot com. At no cost to you, Amazon will donate 0.5% of eligible purchase totals to the IFA.

Every little bit helps.
Thanks for your support!



Save the Date:

Illinois Forestry Association 17th Annual Conference

Where: Chestnut Mountain Resort, Galena IL

When: September 16th & 17th , 2022

This September, join us for the 17th Annual Conference of the Illinois Forestry Association! This two day event will include lectures and field tours about different aspects of responsible forest management. We couldn't be more excited to hold this event in the beautiful town of Galena. This area is popular in the fall, so try to look into lodging options well in advanced to get lower rates. We hope to see you there! **Registration for this event will open on July 22nd, 2022.**

New Approach to This Year's IFA Silent Auction

This year, the silent auction will include not only the traditional approach of offering hand-made items by IFA members but will also include a "wish list" capability. If there is something you would like to have someone make for you, you can request it and we will see if we can find somebody to make it for you for a donation to IFA. No promises but we will give it a try.

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

You have time to seriously think about this since the Annual Conference is not until September. But, as we all know, time flies so don't wait too long.

Auction Item Ideas

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

IFA News and Updates

by Zach DeVillez



IFA Bylaw Changes

In case you missed it, the board of the Illinois Forestry Association recently called a meeting to vote on some proposed amendments and additions to the bylaws. Members were alerted of the changes 30 days before the vote took place. Those who voted, voted in favor of the proposed bylaw changes. Thus, the following changes were made.

Membership Category Changes

The IFA has had some membership categories removed from the bylaws mostly because of disuse. The IFA has previously had listed in the bylaws a hunting group, an associate membership level and a family membership. Since these membership categories were not being used, they were omitted from the bylaws for simplicity sake.

The Ability to Own/Manage Land

At the special meeting, the following article was also adopted by vote.

ARTICLE VIII - REAL ESTATE

Section 1. The Association, through its Officers and Board of Directors, may purchase, own, lease, manage, sell, encumber and/or mortgage real estate located within the State of Illinois to protect forestry land and surrounding areas; to provide technical and forestry management training; to prevent degradation of forestry land; to create forestry land and preserves; and any other activities that may improve forest and/or forestry programs in Illinois.

The Illinois Forestry Association has recently explored the possibility of becoming an organization capable of owning and managing land. Some of the main benefits of this is that the organization could potentially have land that could be used for educating private landowners, while also serving as an income source for the IFA to further its educational mission. We believe that the IFA could show the balance between managing a property for forest health as well forest resource income.

Following up this amendment, the IFA has adopted the following policy.

BACKGROUND

With the adoption into the IFA By-Laws of Article VIII – Real Estate, the IFA can acquire ownership of real estate in Illinois and manage such property to protect forestry land and surrounding areas; provide technical and forestry management training; prevent degradation of forest land; create forestry land and preserves; and any other activities that may improve forest and/or forestry programs in Illinois.

There has been concern expressed that the IFA BOD would use IFA member dues to acquire and manage such property. To assure that the Mission, goals and objectives of the IFA are maintained as the IFA was first incorporated this policy is established.

POLICY

The IFA BOD, Executive Committee or any of its Officers and Directors individually will not authorize the use of IFA member dues for the purpose of acquiring or managing real estate in Illinois owned by the IFA. The IFA can acquire property through the donation of such property.

PROCEDURE

When it becomes necessary to invest in the maintenance and management of property owned by the IFA, to pay any real estate taxes due, such expenditures will be paid from funds donated to the IFA, the sale of timber and/or other resources from an IFA property, the sale of hunting rights and funds received through incentive programs from the state and/or federal programs.



ISA CEU's
Available

Urban Tree Health Training

For Professionals and the Public!

Topics Include

- Basic Biology of Trees
- Emerald Ash Borer
- Pest and Disease Updates
- Recognizing Herbicide Drift Damage
 - ID of Invasive Plants
- Invasive Plant Control Recommendations

- Edwardsville June 9th
- Waterloo June 10th
- Benton June 23rd
- Carbondale June 24th

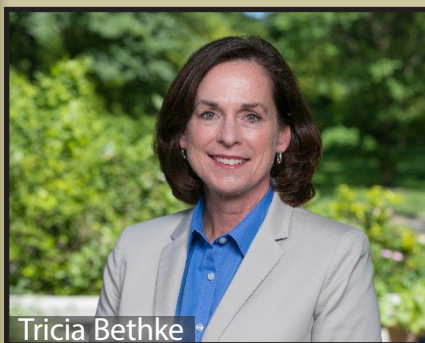
For More Info or to Register, Go to:
<https://ilforestry.org/Events>

This June the Illinois Forestry Association will be holding four Urban Tree Health Trainings in four different communities in Southern Illinois. These programs were made possible by the Illinois Arborist Association who has agreed to fund these programs in an effort to bring more urban forest/tree events to Southern Illinois.

While urban tree professionals will find these programs particularly useful, so too will the general public interested in tree health. We have three wonderful experts scheduled to give presentations over the topics listed in the flyer above. The three experts will be U of I Extension Forester Chris Evans, Forest Pest Outreach Coordinator Tricia Bethke and Forest Health Specialist Dr. Fredric Miller. Up to 4.75 Continuing Education Credits will be available. There is a \$10 registration fee, but that will go toward a box lunch for attendees.

Tree health threats and information to combat those threats is always evolving. Thus, this information is important to get to professionals and the public alike, so that we can keep Illinois trees healthy and well.

For more information or to register, go to: <https://ilforestry.org/Events>



Tricia Bethke



Dr. Fredric Miller



Chris Evans

Managing for Oaks with Coppicing

By Zach DeVillez

If you've kept up with past issues of this newsletter, you know how much emphasis we put into the managing of oaks in Illinois. You may remember just how important a role light has in the regeneration and growth of young oak trees. Managing for oaks requires us to strategically discourage surrounding competitors, whether that be abundant mesophytic, less desirable trees or invasives that occupy space.

When a young oak tree is surrounded by competitors dominating space and preventing ample light from reaching the young oak, the tree's form can be negatively impacted. A suppressed, overtopped oak tree will have a difficult time growing into a dominant position in the canopy. Often these trees will develop poor form and not grow straight.

As foresters, we want oak trees to grow big and straight. There's a few reasons for this. Trees that grow big, straight and free of defects are the more valuable timber trees. The larger, straighter, more dominant oak trees are also fantastic for wildlife habitat and nut production.

So when you're managing for oaks with a management technique like Forest Stand Improvement or invasive species control and you see an oak tree that has extremely poor growth form, what do you do? Coppicing is the answer.

Coppicing is basically cutting the main stem of a tree close to the ground down to a stump. Many species including oaks will then stump sprout and basically restart its growth. This method does not work on all species. Generally, many broadleaf trees respond well to coppicing, however most evergreen trees don't resprout after coppicing.



© Brian Lockhart, UDSA Forest Service, Bugwood.org

Figure 1: Cherrybark Oak stump sprouting

Traditionally, coppicing has been used as a method for timber production. Managers will harvest different trees throughout a woodland and allow coppiced trees to regrow. In theory, the coppiced trees can keep resetting and growing without dying of old age.

So when would you actually want to use this technique? Consider a young oak that is being suppressed by less desirable woody species. You can cut the undesirable species and treat the stumps with a systemic herbicide. This stump treatment will translocate the herbicide to the less desirable species' roots, ultimately killing the shrub or tree. You have now opened up some space around the oak that has poor form due to the suppression. Now, you should coppice the young oak. Obviously, don't treat the oak stump with any herbicide. Just cut the oak low to the ground and you're done. Now, you've effectively removed competition for the young oak and you have reset that oak so that it can restart its growth trajectory with ample light and space to grow big and straight. The young oak's root system is already well formed and that oak should have a competitive advantage over other species starting from scratch in the immediate area.



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University of Illinois Extension Forestry Brings a New and Exciting Program to Southern Illinois

By Taryn Bieri, Southern Illinois Beginning Forest Landowner Program Coordinator

In Illinois, many people are acquiring small parcels of land with an interest in forest management, but without the knowledge or resources to do it effectively. This creates a new landowner bottleneck for forest management on the landscape. Additionally, people are susceptible to poor management choices, whether well-intentioned neglect, under the misperception that “nature will take its course,” or selling timber to the first buyer without regard for forest health. Unfortunately, with forest management, poor management choices have long lasting impacts.

Over 75% of the five million acres of forest land in Illinois are privately owned (Crocker et al. 2017) and under 10% of those acres are currently operating with an established forest management plan (IDNR Personal Communication). As such, there is a huge need for education and training to increase forest planning and sound forest management. To address this need, University of Illinois Extension Forestry recently accepted enrollment of 22 forest landowners into its’ first cohort of students for a new project called the Southern Illinois Beginning Forest Landowner Program. Students of the program are either new forest landowners (within the last 10 years) or landowners who have little experience managing forest land.

The goal of this new program is to develop the knowledge and skill sets of beginning forest landowners in basic forest and natural resource management and management planning to allow them to actively manage their forested land. To meet this goal, the program utilizes a multifaceted approach through three tiers of education: instruction by experts, field-based learning with mentors, and peer to peer learning. Students gain knowledge and theory in the classroom setting and are then set up with a partner organization in order to observe and participate in implementation of forest management to increase their comfort level and understand how the theory works on the ground. They will also be connected with a peer mentor and long-term community of support. The program will be a year-long for each cohort of students. Graduates from previous years will be invited to participate in learning opportunities and the peer-to-peer learning in subsequent years. In addition, broader forest management outreach/educational programs will be included to not only educate the course participants but influence a broader audience of forest landowners in the region.



Figure 1: Southern Illinois Beginning Forest Landowner Program Coordinator, Taryn Bieri.

Development of this program has been led by project coordinator Taryn Bieri and project director Chris Evans of University of Illinois Extension Forestry and has involved the support and participation of multiple program partners including the Illinois Forestry Association, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry, the Shawnee Resource Conservation & Development Area, the Nature Conservancy, the Southern Illinois Prescribed Burn Association, and the River to River Cooperative Weed Management Area. Funding for this project was awarded by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture.



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Off to a Great Start!

The program held its first instructional class on March 19th covering an introduction into forest ecology and forest management with Chris Evans. Time was spent outside exploring the Demonstration Forest at the Dixon Spring Agricultural Center in Simpson, IL to recognize differences in response to forest management treatments (control, thinning, thinning plus prescribed burn, and prescribed burn only). The first field-day was held on March 28th covering Chainsaw Training and Safety with UI Extension Forestry Chris Evans and Kevin Rohling. Other topics that will be covered throughout the program include tree diversity and identification, invasive species of southern Illinois, basic silviculture and practical forest measurements for landowners, forest management for wildlife, developing management plans, conducting a timber harvest, maple syrup production, and much more!



Figure 2: Kevin Rohling of University of Illinois Extension Forestry discusses the operations and techniques of felling a tree safely.

Outcomes

The anticipated outcomes of this program include an increase regionally in the amount of private forest land actively being managed and an increase of landowners actively engaged in forestry and the forest industry. This will be a positive impact to the health of the forest and to the forest industry in the region. In the long-term, more timber will be entering the markets with increasing quality over time as the impacts from healthy forest managed becomes realized. These outcomes are anticipated to be long-lasting and to multiply with the continuation of the active network of forest landowners and increased engagement with the forestry partners.

This approach to developing a beginning forest landowners program can be easily replicated in other regions and other systems. The focus of this approach is to diversify content delivery and incorporate

hands-on experience, mentorship from experts, and direct learning from peers. While the technical content will change in forests outside of the broader central hardwoods systems, this multifaceted approach can be used directly in other regions and other agricultural systems.

More Information

If you are interested in potentially joining us for a future course or just learning more about the program, feel free to contact Taryn Bieri at tbieri@illinois.edu.

Sources

Crocker, S. J., B.J. Butler, C.M. Kurtz, W.H. McWilliams, P.D. Miles, R.S. Morin, M.D. Nelson, R. I. Riemann, J.E. Smith, J.A. Westfall, and C.W. Woodall. 2017. Illinois Forests 2015. USFS Resource Bulletin NRS-113. 82 p.



Figure 3: Students of the Southern Illinois Beginning Forest Landowner Program explore the Demonstration Forest at the Dixon Springs Ag Center in Simpson, IL.

Stop the Spread of Invasives Reminder

By Zach DeVillez

We all know how devastating invasive species can be to our environment. You are quite familiar with this message if you've been reading past articles. You've probably come to the conclusion that we talk about invasive species often. However, it never hurts to get a reminder. I myself sometimes need a reminder to check my clothing and gear before unintentionally moving invasive plant seed to an uninvaded area.

In the spirit of invasive species awareness month, remember to take the following precautions to prevent the further spread of invasive species when you're out and about in nature

Always Clean your Gear

It is very easy to transport invasive seed. One plant that sticks out in my mind is Japanese Chaff Flower. Those in the northern half of the state shouldn't be dealing with this plant quite yet. Hopefully, we can keep it that way because it is not an easy invasive to get under control. The seeds of chaff flower easily sticks to clothes or fur, which makes humans and wildlife a frequent spreader of chaff flower. When moving through chaff flower and other invasive plants, make sure to remove seed from your clothing and wash any equipment (especially ATV's/UTV's) before traveling to an uninvaded area.



Figure 1: Japanese chaff flower

Know the Invasive Threats

It is always extremely important to be familiar with the invasive species that threaten Illinois. Take spotted lanternfly for example. This leafhopper can be a destructive pest to a wide range of plants/trees. This pest can be bad news for orchards and vineyards. Thus, it is important to be able to identify this species and other invasive species, so that you can let the appropriate professionals know. This way, invaders can be found and controlled before further spread occurs.



Figure 2: Spotted Lanternfly

If you suspect spotted lantern fly, contact the Illinois Department of Agriculture at (815)787-5476 or contact: lanternfly@illinois.edu

Avoid Planting Invasives

There are a few invasive species that are commonly planted in yards that can spread and cause harm to native environments. One such example is the Bradford pear. These commonly planted non-native invasives have invaded natural areas and can often be found along the right of ways of roadways. It is always a good practice to plant a native species rather than a non-native like Bradford pear.



©Richard Gardner, Bugwood.org

Figure 3: Bradford pear

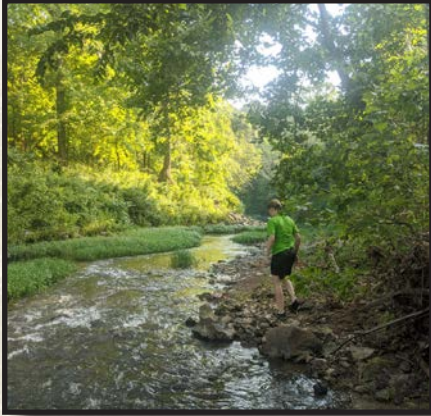
Don't Transport Firewood Significant Distances

Some forest pests are wood borers. If invasive wood borers are located inside your firewood, moving that firewood across great distances can worsen the spread of that invasive pest. That is why it is always a good idea to "burn it where you bought it" and to refrain from transporting firewood great distances.

Continued on the next page -

Two Amazing Sites to Paddle in the Shawnee National Forest This Summer

By Zach DeVillez



Lusk Creek Wilderness Area

This wilderness area, located in Pope County Illinois is the largest wilderness area in the state. It is comprised of a total 6,293 acres.

This beautiful site attracts horseback riders, hikers and kayakers to its rolling hills, dramatic sandstone bluffs and its pristine creek.

There are quite a few trails in the Wilderness Area, so hikers should be cautioned that it wouldn't be difficult to get lost. Lusk Creek itself is one of the most pristine streams in Illinois. To keep it that way, make sure to not leave trash or fishing line near or around the creek. Make sure to pack out what you bring in. Camping is discouraged along the creek because after significant rainfall, water levels rise very quickly and can create a hazard. Likewise kayakers/canoers should be cautioned that there is white water along the stream. This is a great opportunity for those who are prepared, but paddlers can get in over their heads very quickly if not prepared. However, floating Lusk can

be one of the prettiest scenic floats Illinois has to offer. It is an exceptional opportunity to spot different wildlife. The stream runs around 30 miles to the Ohio River. Again, paddlers should pay close attention to the water level of the creek. Lusk Creek crests very quickly but it also empties very quickly. Thus, the stream has the potential to be very hazardous. Alternatively, you may have to frequently carry your canoe or kayak from pool to pool in lower water levels.

Since this is a wilderness area, there are some regulations you should be aware of. For more information on this, please visit: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/shawnee/recarea/?recid=34609>



Glen O. Jones Lake

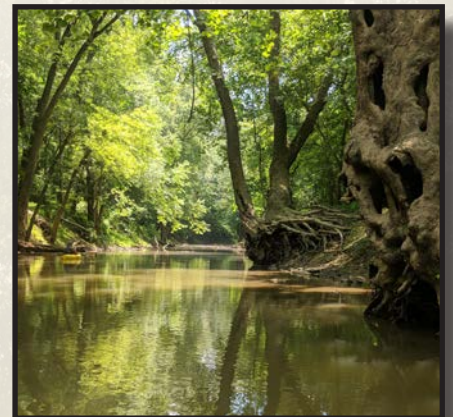
For a bit of a more tame paddle, Glen O. Jones Lake located in Saline County State Fish and Wildlife Area might just be the lake for you.

This beautiful scenic lake is tucked away between the hills of the Shawnee National Forest just 7 miles

north of Garden of the Gods. There is a campground surrounding the lake. Thus, it's a great place for an overnight trip.

This is a great place to see wildlife, especially for birdwatchers. Glen O. Jones Lake also offers great fishing opportunities for anglers. Anglers can expect to hook bluegill, crappie, channel catfish and largemouth bass. Just make sure to check on fishing regulations before fishing the site.

So what are you waiting for! Get out there and visit the Shawnee National Forest this summer. If exploring streams and lakes is your thing, you're sure to find a remote body of water to have your next adventure on. There are far more streams and lakes to explore than the ones I've highlighted in this article. So, do your research, load up the boat and get out there!



Timber Harvest Considerations

By Jenny Lesko, IDNR Distric Forester

There are many views about whether timber harvests are good or bad. Like many things, it depends, but can be controlled in part by which trees are selected for harvest. Some harvests can improve forest health while others can degrade the quality of a forest. A professional forester should select trees that will improve the overall health of a forest.

In Illinois, in the 1800s to early 1900s, clear cuts were the primary type of timber harvest. All but less than 0.1% of forests in Illinois were logged at some point before 1920, and it was originally 38% forested. Many modern-day forests, called second growth, now have trees large enough to harvest again and are logged periodically. Currently, most harvests in Illinois are conducted directly through a timber buyer.

The IFA, IDNR, and similar organizations agree that in order to have a timber harvest that improves forest health, the best option is to hire a forester that will mark the harvest and administer the sale, leaving the timber in the best possible condition for the future while helping to accomplish the goals of the landowner (see www.ilforestry.org/timbersaleadvice).



©Ben Snyder
Figure 1: Timber Logs

Steps in administering a timber sale:

Mark trees with tree marking paint, then create a request for bids sheet that outlines the number of trees by species and an estimate of board footage for each species. Send this bid sheet to timber buyers that are licensed in Illinois, soliciting sealed bids to be returned by the selected bid opening date. When bids are received typically the sale is awarded to the highest bidder. It is best when 3 or more bids are received for a comparison. The forester should be knowledgeable about current timber prices and be able to advise the landowner on whether or not the price offered is adequate. In the end the landowner retains the right to reject any or all bids received if they are not satisfied with the amount offered. If and/or when a timber buyer is awarded the sale, the forester will work with the landowner and buyer in completing a timber sale contract.



©Paul Bane
Figure 1: A forester marking timber for harvest.

Considerations of timber sales:

Even if a similar number of trees are ultimately removed, when a forester marks a harvest, he or she will usually choose some different trees to be cut than in a select or diameter limit cut. One criteria is the health or position of a tree in the canopy. When a tree has a defect or shows signs of decline, foresters mark these trees for harvest over those that still have many years of life. It may not seem that a forester-marked harvest would generate as much income since less high-dollar trees are being marked. However, because a forester sends out bids to many timber buyers, the landowner can receive several bids and choose the highest.

Continued on the next page -

There are also tree species a forester is going to mark differently. In a typical upland oak-hickory forest, a forester will want to mark more maple, hickory, and other species, along with oak, instead of mainly oak. This combats and helps undo high grading, which often involves harvesting mainly the highest dollar trees (usually oak and walnut). Additionally, for example, more black oak should be marked than white oak, because black oak is not as long-lived and should be sold before it starts to rot (black oak often starts to decline above 18" DBH).

A sale marked by a forester will typically include a diversity in tree size classes, rather than cutting everything above a set diameter limit. Most mills should be capable of processing trees down to 12" DBH, though 14" or 16" are the agreed-upon lowest size classes that are harvested. Marking trees in different size classes is done in several instances. For example, hickory grows slower than oak, so even though the canopy trees in a forest are the same age, hickories may be on average 16-18" while oaks of the same age are 20-24". In this some of the hickory are marked even though they are smaller, so that a landowner isn't left with a forest containing mostly hickory and few oaks. Another relevant example is ash; all ash above 14 or 16" should be marked so that it can be sold before being killed by Emerald Ash Borer beetle (as of 2022).

There are numerous other practicalities to take into account when marking a harvest. Some of these include collateral damage to nearby trees when felling a tree, culling trees, marking trees in groups versus single tree selection, invasive plant species in the understory, presence of oak or other desirable species saplings in the midstory, location within the state, and landowner preferences.

If your forest has a problem with invasive plant species or lack of desirable tree species regeneration, it is also recommended to follow up (or prepare for) a harvest with other management strategies such as invasive species treatment, forest stand improvement, and/or prescribed burning. Consider earmarking some of the funds for this, getting a Forest Management Plan, or applying for a reimbursement program, to keep your forest in good shape.



Photos of the Illinois Forestry Association and Illinois Chapter of the Walnut Council Spring Field Day



Dan Schmoker, who hosted the field tour on his property shows off some forestry tools.



Chris Evans shows of some tools used for Invasive species control.



Assessing the form of a hackberry that will be felled.



Steve Felt discusses soil characteristics on the site.



Chris Evans demonstrates proper use of a drip torch.



John Torbert prepares to demonstrate proper felling of a hackberry



Tricia Bethke shows examples of invasive forest pests that threaten Illinois trees and forests.



Hiking through the beautiful property.



Chris Evans teaching identification of invasive species.

Trees for the Bees

By Zach DeVillez

You can't overstate just how important pollinators like bees are to the environment and the world's food production. That's why you see so much messaging out there proclaiming "save the bees". Much of the world's crops depend on bees. Like other pollinators, these buzzing miracle workers need to be protected and conserved for. One such way any landowner can support bees is by planting trees that provide forage. These trees below are known for attracting bees and providing important forage.



Eastern Redbud



Red Maple



Serviceberry



American Basswood



Black Locust



Tulip Poplar



Flowering Dogwood



Black Cherry



Ohio Buckeye

History of Conservation in Illinois

Installment #39

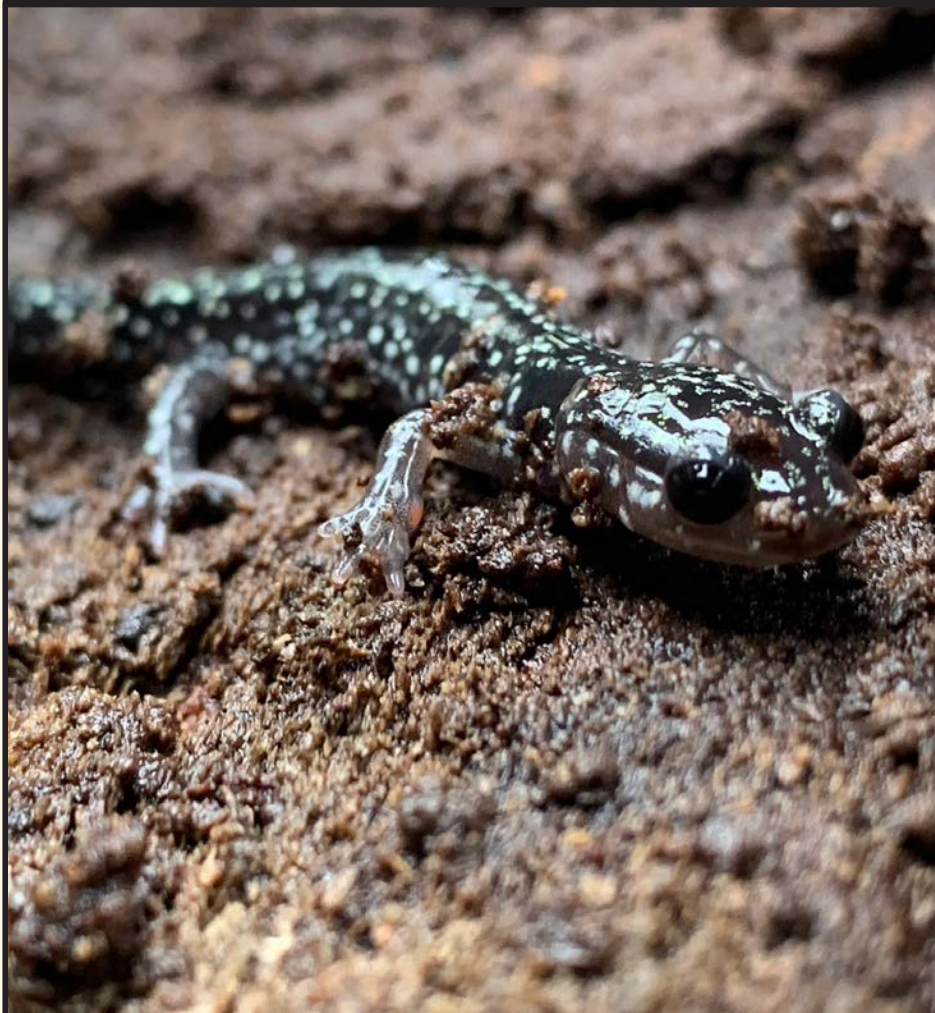
by Dave Gillespie, IFA Secretary

This account of the history of conservation in Illinois was written by Joseph P. Schavilje in 1941. This installment begins where installment # 38 ended.

During the period 1900 to 1925, the Illinois General Assembly passed several laws dealing with trees and forests:

- 1908 – After a vote of school children in 1907, the native oak became the official tree of Illinois by an act passed in 1908.
- 1913 – An act authorizing the formation of forest preserve districts in the State was passed in 1913. The first district formed was that in Cook County in 1915. R. A. Kennicott was appointed as Engineer and Forester in 1916. Land was first purchased in 1916, and by 1918 the first reforestation plantings were started. The Forester had established three small nurseries to supply the necessary trees. During the first five years, the district had purchased over 21,000 acres. DuPage, Winnebago, Kane, Will, Piatt and DeKalb counties have organized county forest preserve districts under the law of 1913.
- 1917 – A law passed giving the Department of Agriculture power to encourage and promote the interests of forestry as well as the power to encourage the planting of trees and shrubs.
- 1919 – A forester was appointed to head forestry problems under the Department of Registration and Education.
- 1923 – Cooperative marketing law passed to promote and encourage intelligent marketing of products.

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



Walnuts & Acorns

by Lee M. Rife



As I write this blog, it is supposed to be spring. Instead, it has been cold and wet. No snow to speak of but plenty of heavy clouds along with wind and rain. One positive thing is that the sixty mph gusts of wind has trimmed my trees and left a mess of pine cones, sticks and needles all over the back yard. In addition, there are numerous maple samaras on the back deck. The birds, squirrels and chipmunks are happy even though I must clean up the back yard almost daily. So far, I have sent between 15 and 20 tubs and litter sacks full of debris to the landfill, but my trees still appear to be healthy.

Still, this late spring is making some farmers concerned. It appears farmers are not able to start seedbed preparation anywhere in Illinois and as a result, a late crop may cut back on yield. Although I am a city dweller, I am still a country farm boy at heart. That is why I like trees and forests, and still wonder why I didn't major in forestry when I was in College. Trees fascinate me and probably always will. They brake the wind, provide shade during the summer, they serve as homes for many species of wildlife and provide building materials for homes for all of us. Forests soak up carbon dioxide and give off oxygen; just the oposite of humans and animals. They provide jobs in sawmills, factories (windows, doors, shipping crates and pallets etc.). Yet some people want to clear forests to use the land for other purposes. In the hills, they help stop erosion, as

they do along rivers and streams. Thus, they become a major tool to hold soil in place, particularly where the soil is shallow and can be easily washed away by heavy rain and flooding. Yet some say we need to push out the forest for other things.

Enough of my ranting. Here it is, late spring and still many farmers are still spending much of their time polishing the tractor because it is still too wet to prepare a decent seedbed. I would think this is making farmers very nervous. I trust that things might turn for the better. It is predicted that more bad weather will come, although the weather we've been getting may be more spotty than what we've had in recent weeks. Here's hoping for the best.



“Come to the woods, for here is rest. There is no response like that of the green deep woods. Sleep in forgetfulness of all ill.”

- John Muir

Shawnee National Forest

We are
Closer
than you think.

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






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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

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

Signs are shipped via U.S. Postal Service
Invoice will be included with signs

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

Forestry District Offices

August 2021

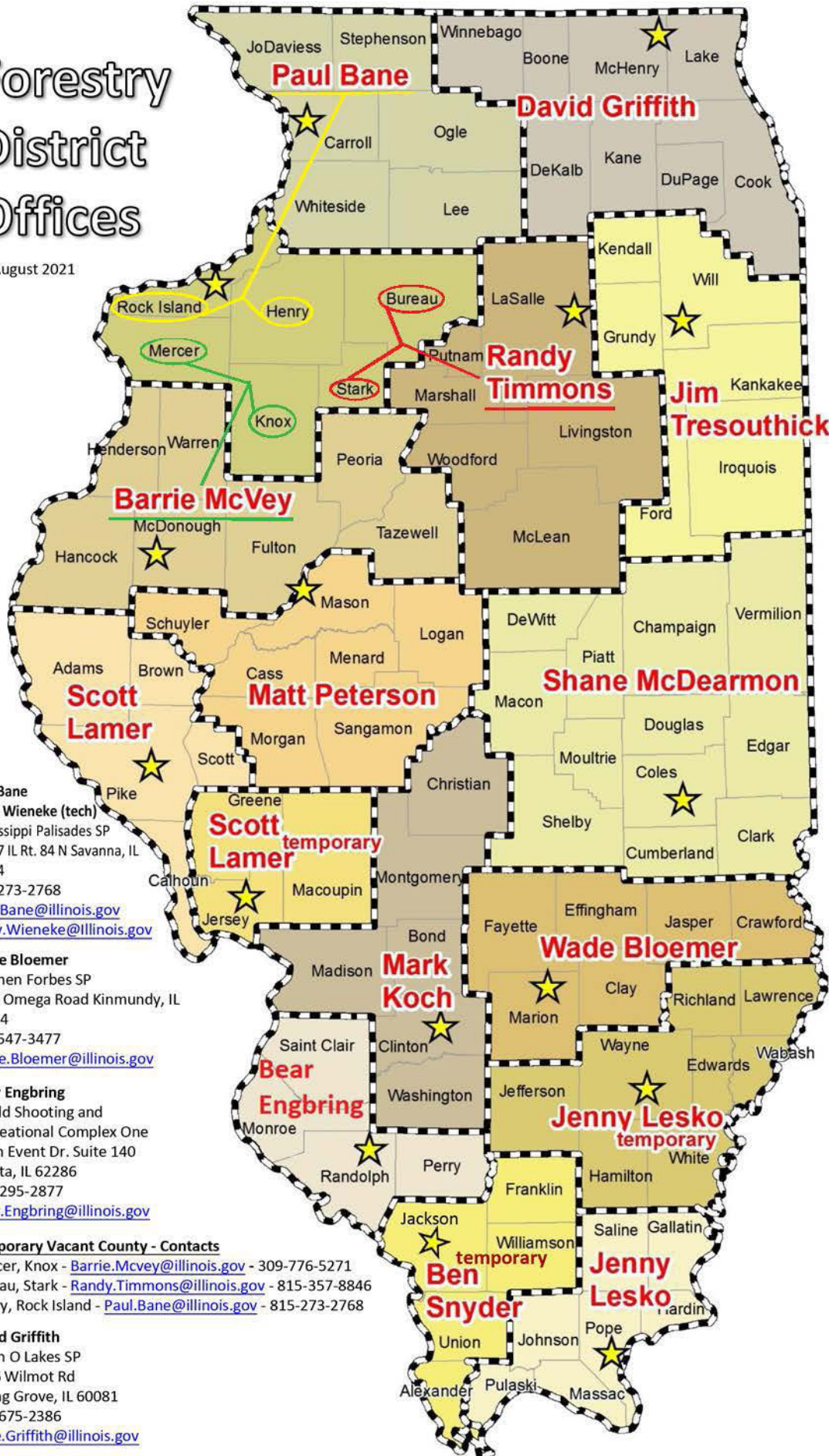
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