



The Voice for Illinois Forests

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Message from the President

By Joe FitzSimmons



I want to thank all of the Directors and the members of our organization for the confidence they have demonstrated in selecting me as IFA President for the 2017-18 term.

My role was the furthest thought from my mind when I joined the IFA about 6 or 7 years ago. In 1973 my father and I bought wooded property in Johnson County for hunting purposes. In 1976 we made a decision to “farm” our land with Christmas trees. We met with our region IDNR District Forester – Dave Gillespie – and Dave guided us through the process of planting 27 acres of white pine. The trees were planted by several students from the Southeastern Illinois College forestry department. Forty-one years later those trees are 60 to 80 feet tall and I am long retired from a career with the Chicago Police Department. In the interim very little in my life prepared me for this journey.

Like many of us, I joined the IFA because I recognize that my personal “forest” is a living, growing and changing “being.” The creeks and pond are little different from arteries carrying life blood. The deer, turkeys, quail, bass, squirrels – all of the fauna in the fields and woods – are like cells in the body of this forest. And the body that contains all of this is the forest.

I did a selective timber sale in 1995 and learned that many of the 75 trees we harvested were more than 100 years old. I saw the immediate, overnight change when the canopy was opened up and began thinking about that change. I found it very difficult to obtain information about “best practices”, long term planning and other important issues affecting my 170 acres. Eventually my research led to the Illinois Forestry Association – and a whole new world opened up to me.

The vision of the founding members is still the vision of your officers and Directors. It is our goal to provide our members with as much information as you can absorb. We will continue to give offer access to everything from original articles on topics like seedling purchasing, harvesting support, tax information, and invasive species - to IDNR news and legislative developments that are relevant to Illinois landowners.

It is our goal this year to put your organization into the mainstream of the organizations in this state that speak for the quality of our Illinois land – whether it is our private forests, tilled fields that border woodlands, town parks, or semi-urban areas defined by the serenity of tree lined streets. We expect to visibly raise our profile – your profile as a private woodland owner – with public officials and private corporations.

I believe that 2018 will be a productive year for all of our members throughout the state in terms of the support and information that all of us need for our forests as we guide them in their growth as the best possible habitat for healthy, productive trees and the creatures – four-footed and two-footed – that thrive under their canopies.

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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 forests
- Understand and engage our members, and increase IFA membership
- Govern the IFA efficiently and effectively to better serve our charitable mission



Healthy Forests on the Edge

by Dave Gillespie

The IFA recently held our Fall Conference and 12th Annual Meeting at The Morton Arboretum, located on over 1700 acres in Lisle, IL, in DuPage County. The theme of the conference was “Healthy Forests on the Edge”.

The 3-day event was well attended, with speakers who presented talks on such subjects as Climate Change Implications for IL Forest Management; Thousand Canker Disease and Bur Oak Blight Updates; Latest Trends in Invasive Plant Species; Options for Managing Small Parcels of Forestland; Urban Wood Utilization in Riverside; To our Children's Children, As Infitum; Agroforestry: Forestry on the Edge of Agriculture; and Illinois Forest Pest and Disease Update. We also heard a very informative and entertaining address from our keynote speaker, Ed Collins, McHenry County Conservation District, called The Fourth Wave – Shaping a Common Conservation Future.

In addition to the topics mentioned above, our hosts gave us a tram ride tour of The Morton Arboretum where we learned all about the program and facilities at this world class site, plus a field diagnostics tour on the grounds to look at tree diseases and insect pests given by one of the IFA's Region 1 Directors, Dr. Frederic Miller. While at the Morton Arboretum we enjoyed their gracious hospitality, excellent conference facilities, and great food supplied by their catering service.

Some speakers have made their slide presentations available. Find them at <https://ilforestry.org/event-2654854>



IFA's Growing Partnerships with The Morton Arboretum and Illinois Arborist Association

by Dave Gillespie, IFA Secretary

The IFA has been working with several forestry and natural resources organizations to help bridge the gap between urban and rural forestry. Our goal is to develop stronger program and political support for forestry as a whole - statewide. The IFA's downstate presence can greatly complement programs that are based in the Chicago region, and we could certainly benefit from urban interests having a better understanding about rural forestry. There are many landowners in the gray areas in between.

The Morton Arboretum and several of its staff recently joined the IFA as members - a result of our working together on shared interests, including our Healthy Forests on the Edge conference. This growing relationship has led to a new "perk" available to all card-carrying IFA members. The Morton Arboretum will waive their gate entrance fee for you and a guest - up to \$14 per person, depending on the time of year you decide to visit. All you have to do is show your IFA membership card. This is a wonderful benefit to IFA members. As I said before, the Morton Arboretum is a "World Class" site. Their research program is second to none, and the gift shop is all about trees.

Those of you who live in the area should consider taking advantage of this arrangement. For those who don't live in the area, I suggest planning a trip to the Chicago region that includes a day at the Arboretum. If you need your membership card updated, please contact me at 217/494-6982 or by email at dandgisp@aol.com.



We are also pleased to welcome the two most recent Presidents of the Illinois Arborist Association (IAA) as IFA members - Jim Smelka and Steve Ludwig. Watch for an article by Jim in our Spring newsletter.

This marked the third year in a row that the IFA has been invited to organize a special session for the IAA Fall Conference. Our theme this year was "Catching Fire: The role and practice of controlled burning in managing oak ecosystems." SIU Forestry professor and IFA member Dr. Charles Ruffner led the presentation with his classic talk on the history and role of fire in managing oak forests. Then Doug Bauer of DJM Ecological Services followed with a practitioner's perspective, covering some of the considerations in actually carrying out planned burns in more populated areas. Both talks were well received.

We hope to continue this and other joint activities like the training offered to SIU Forestry students and IAA members this past summer at Dixon Springs. Special thanks go to Roger Smith, IFA Region 4 Director, and Chris Evans, Chair of our Technical Advisory Committee, for leading the IFA in these important functions.



Region 1 IFA Director Bill Ferns mans the new IFA banner display at the Illinois Arborist Association Fall Conference at Tinley Park.



IAA Staff members take a break to visit the popular American Kestrel bird exhibit sponsored by Ameren and featured in the exhibit hall this year.



Our special session focused on oak restoration along the rural-urban interface has been so popular with conference attendees that it warranted a bigger room this year. Featured speakers Charles Ruffner and Doug Bauer kept our record of success intact!



IFA Co-Hosts Forest Industry Night at SIU

by Roger Smith

As an IFA Region 4 Director, Certified Arborist, and friend of the SIU Forestry Department, I've been working for a few years now to strengthen ties between the IFA, the Illinois Arborist Association (IAA), and SIU Forestry. We made some definite strides this year with the hosting of the IAA Summer Conference at Dixon Springs, as well as the training that we put together (with Illinois Extension Forestry) for SIU's forestry summer camp.

Our latest project took place on November 15th when we co-hosted a Forest Industry Night with SIU. Speakers included myself, Stan Curtis, Landon Satterfield, and Sally Malone Satterfield. The program was informal. We talked to the students about the work that we do, the opportunities that they might find in our line of work, and some of the most pressing challenges that we face. Thanks to groups like the IFA, we can face those challenges together.



Stan Curtis

SIU Forestry grad, owner/operator at Carbondale Veneer, and long-standing IFA member Stan Curtis was a primary driver behind the event, in addition to his speaking role about the opportunities and challenges facing forest industry in Illinois.



Region 4 IFA Director Landon Satterfield and wife Sally (right), both SIU Forestry grads and procurement foresters at Altenburg Hardwoods, spoke to the students about career opportunities and the importance of supporting statewide forestry groups like the IFA.

IDNR Welcomes New District Forester in Savanna Office



Paul Bane

Paul Bane recently joined the Illinois Department of Natural Resources' Forestry Division as the new District Forester out of Carroll County.

Paul graduated from Southern Illinois University in 2012 with a BS in forestry and a specialization in Natural Resource Management. He grew up in central Illinois where he helped raise livestock on his family farm. Prior to joining the IDNR, Paul owned and operated a consulting forestry company in northwest Illinois. He enjoys hiking, traveling, sports, and spending time with his fiancée, Megan and dog, Daisy.



Sally Malone shares her experience and outlook on forest industry

Where Have All the Loggers Gone?

by Stan Curtis



The once thriving Jonesboro Sawmill in Union County closed in 1999.

I started my forestry career in 1980 in southern Illinois as a procurement forester buying timber and logs from private landowners, State and Federal Agencies, and corporate landowners. At that time there were more than thirty full time logging companies, multiple small sawmills in every county, including the state's largest production sawmill, two pine mills and a pulp mill just across the river in Kentucky. The State of Illinois had a timber sale program and the Shawnee National Forest was harvesting 36 million board feet per year.

All of that began to change in the early 1990s. The new ten year forest plan on the Shawnee National Forest reduced the harvest levels from 36 million board feet to 20 million board feet, but in reality almost no hardwood timber has been harvested since 1993 and the state went nearly thirty years without a significant sale. This loss of timber volume meant the larger companies were competing for the smaller private sales. This made it hard for the smaller logging companies to compete. The result was a loss of loggers. With no pine sales from the Shawnee National Forest both of the pine sawmills had to shut down, again with a loss of loggers and a loss of markets.

About the same time, the Westvaco pulp mill in Kentucky discontinued a Worker's Compensation program that had offered affordable rates. The increase in the Illinois Worker's Compensation rates made it difficult for companies to hire workers. The current rate for timber cutters is \$1.26 per \$1.00 in wages, so if you pay your cutter \$1,000 a week, your worker's compensation bill is \$1,260! This means fewer companies, smaller crews and less production. The cost of commercial liability insurance is also an obstacle. Additionally, several economic recessions have thinned the industry. A prolonged retraction of the economy, with a downturn in housing starts, results in very limited lumber sales, which in turn means almost no log sales. The loss of sawmills and markets also has an impact on our economy because the logs, which would have been processed in Illinois, are now being shipped across state lines. In the early 1990s my company shipped about 5% of our log production out of state. In recent years we have sent over 50% to neighboring states for processing. These states are benefitting from the jobs created in the primary and secondary manufacturing process.

Statewide and national trends show that as the baby boomer generation is aging and retiring that the younger generations are not replacing workers in many industries, including forestry.

What does this decline in the forestry industry mean for private timberland owners and what are some remedies? The smaller workforce means fewer options for landowners. If landowners have high quality hardwoods, they will always have the interest of the industry. Lower quality sales, pulpwood sales and small tracts will have less competition, lower values and longer wait times to have a timber sale completed. If a landowner wants to have their logs sawn or wants to buy rough sawn lumber they may have to look beyond their local area. Most logging companies have timber bought and scheduled to harvest many months, and sometimes years, in advance. If a landowner needs an immediate salvage sale due to a weather incident, this may be difficult to schedule.

Although we have had worker's compensation reforms in Illinois recently, it has done little to relieve the financial burden of employers in the forest products industry.

We need more two-year training programs to recruit and prepare individuals for jobs in the forest industry. A great program once existed at Southeastern Illinois College in Harrisburg, Illinois. This could be a model for one of our Universities or Junior Colleges to create a similar program. Southeastern Illinois College owned a sawmill and logging equipment, so students had a meaningful, hands on experience.

Illinois grows some of the finest hardwoods in the world. We need policies in place to support and grow our industry. A healthy forest products industry benefits all of Illinois.

Stan Curtis is the owner/operator of [Carbondale Veneer](#). He is a long time representative of Illinois' forest industry on the Illinois Forestry Development Council.

Native Landscaping Along the Front Forty:

Ideas for enhancing the interface between the road, your home site, and the woods

by David Coulter, Horticulturist

Introduction

Among the interesting challenges any property owner considers is creating a landscape that balances the assorted priorities that are unique to every site and personality.

Those who are engaged with land management likely already have an appreciation for the native plant materials that surround us. This is an appreciation that is well founded. The native plants found in our local terrain can provide a living textbook as to what functions well in settings that may vary from one end of the state to the other.

Employing these types of plantings can be especially rewarding in the transitional areas that are generally considered to be more highly managed. Such areas, regardless of size, can be thought of as the “front forty” of a site. What are the types of native plants can be planted in these areas that are not only functional – but beautiful?

Planning, design, and plant availability

As we will see, there is a good deal of overlap on many of the topics that will be outlined here. While there are a number of practical considerations that will follow it is important to start out with some overarching design themes that are important – and enjoyable – personally. It is often in the early planning stage where the inspiration is found that will help underpin the work going forward.

This may also be the time to seek out design ideas and themes that utilize native plant materials. A good starting point for anyone working with Midwestern native plants would be to get some exposure to the work of Jens Jensen – who was an early proponent of using native materials in built landscapes. In the intervening decades since Jensen’s day there has been tremendous interest in using such materials in the contemporary landscape. A few hours at the front end digging into the catalogs of your local library would be time well spent.

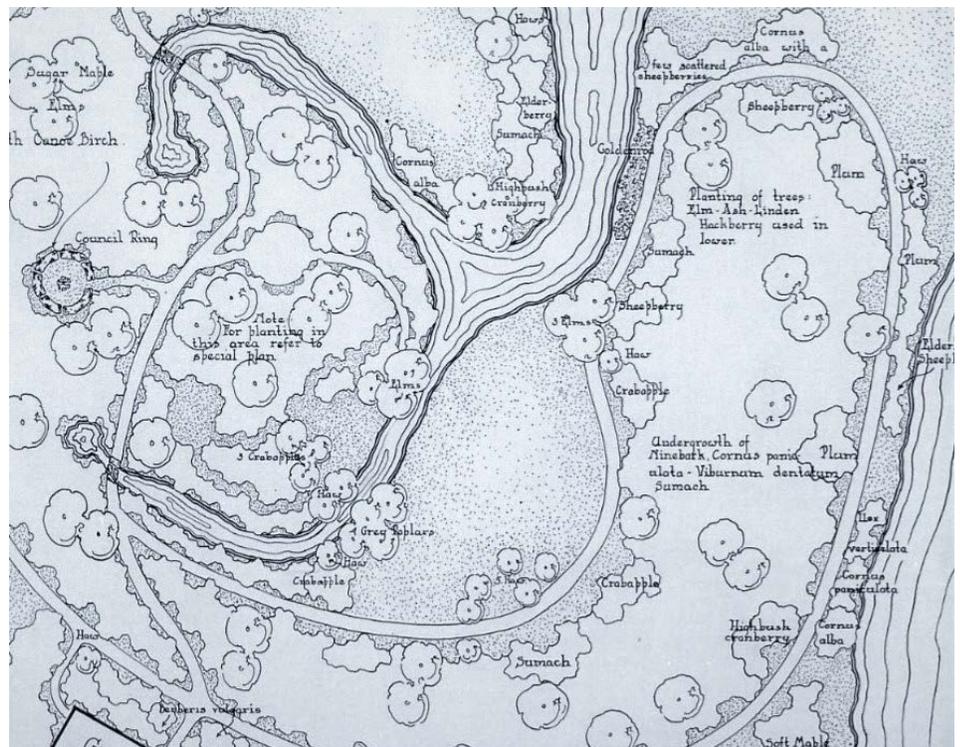


What sort of soils are you working with? You may already have some idea of what is underfoot, but if not it is worthwhile to do some quick and easy soil testing to help assess your soil’s make up. This is also an opportunity to take a sharper look at what is already growing wild in

your area. What are the trees and shrubs that are around you? If you can identify these dominant plants that may also help provide clues as to what sort of soils are present as well.

This is also a time to develop your own journal to jot down ideas, make sketches, and the like. Often during the design process there may be a brief idea that can become a sparkplug for your site. It’s important to record these during a time when they are in danger of being lost among a potential flood of new ideas.

Now that inspiration is flowing it’s time to temper that enthusiasm with a parallel investigation into what native plants are available to you through your local growers. Over the years I have learned that any garden or landscape design is truly built upon the materials that are close at hand. Landscape plants are sold by many different retailers, however, finding plants that are suitably native to your locale may take a bit of detective work.



Source: Columbus Park (fragment) by Jens Jensen (1917)

Native Landscaping - continued

Make use of your local/state extension services for possible ideas and recommendations for appropriate suppliers. There is nothing more frustrating to invest significant energy into an idea that simply isn't workable based on chosen plant materials that may not be readily available.

Goals: management, budgets, timelines

By now thoughts and inspirations are hopefully being piled up nicely. As a counterbalance it is also beneficial to think through the more practical matters such as goals, budgets, timelines, and future management needs for your landscape.

What are your goals for your front forty? For example, are you trying to attract wildlife? What is the look you are going after? Is this area going to have a neat and formal appearance or one that may be more casual and naturalistic? These are examples of some of the questions that may help to define some of the larger goals going forward.

Another critical consideration is outlining what the estimated costs are for the project, as well as the anticipated timeline for completion. These factors are closely linked. If circumstances allow for a longer – possibly more relaxed – timeline, this may allow for the use of smaller sized materials and the added time to allow them to grow to a mature size. Conversely, if one is hoping for a quicker, more dramatic impact, the costs may be increased for larger materials – but the visual payoff will be quicker.

It is important to remember that all landscapes – even the most naturalistic in appearance – will require some degree of post-planting management. How much work are you willing to invest in the future upkeep of these plantings?

Ideally those goals, budgets, timelines and management needs should help to both inform and refine the earlier inspirations for your project. Rather than acting as a damper on your plans, these practical considerations can help to make them more realistic - and more likely they will get implemented.

Adapting design ideas from the fields of agroforestry

There are two disciplines that offer design themes that could be easily adapted and refined for the inclusion of native plants. The world of agroforestry is worth investigating for design possibilities that may resonate with the goals being developed for your site.

Agroforestry is the intentional inclusion of woody plants into traditional agricultural landscapes. These plantings can be used to help produce food or timber, and can also help to mitigate run-off, wind erosion, and sequester carbon. Agroforestry practices have been garnering more attention as producers look for ways to protect the integrity of the land while diversifying and bolstering overall production.

The illustration below shows a design that can be adapted to include native plants. Compare that to the Jens Jensen image from a century ago, found on the previous page. Jensen used nature as inspiration for his designs. His naturalistic style honored the midwestern landscape that he rightly perceived was already becoming vulnerable at the start of the 20th century.

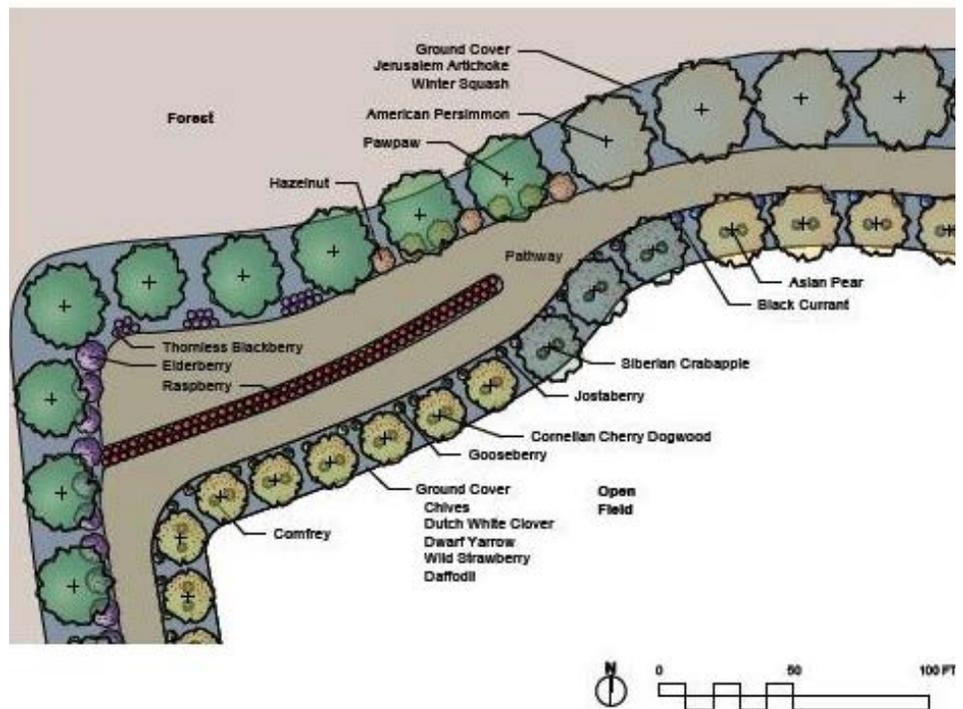
The agroforestry approach is seemingly drawn with a goal of site food productivity first, with a nod to native varieties being a secondary priority. As such, they are also sketched with less of an artistic flair.

What is a style that fits with your front forty? What are the native plants that align with that style – and the other goals and needs you have outlined? What ideas can be merged and refined to work for your site?

Conclusion

Rather than attempt an exhaustive summary of all the native plants that could be included in Illinois landscape, the goal of this essay was to help identify some tools to help a landowner make choices that suit both personal and site needs.

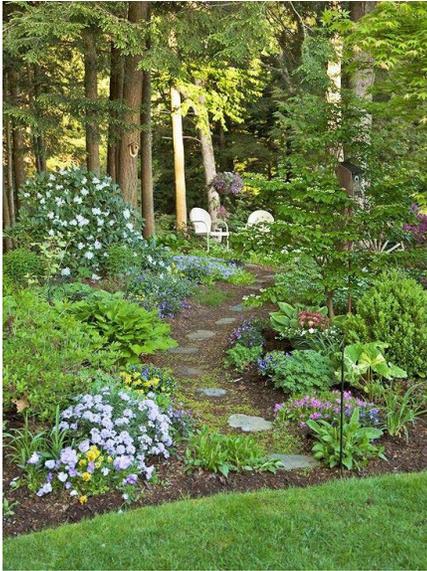
Fortunately we are living in a time when solid access to information and tools is freely available through a variety of agencies, universities, colleges, arboreta, and the like. Interest in the use of native plants is growing. This may be in response to larger environmental concerns, or simply in the recognition in how such materials simply belong here.



Source: *Backyard Abundance*. (2015); *Edible Agroforestry Design Templates*, Figure 33

Continued on the next page -

Native Landscaping - continued



Whatever the motivation is, there are myriad choices of native plants that will not only delight the senses of the landowner but help provide for the other wild creatures that depend on such resources for sustenance. Such thoughtful choices in landscapes of transition will be among the important examples that Illinoisans in the early 21st century can demonstrate to our families, friends, and wider communities.

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Oriental vs American Bittersweet: Winter identification using fruit characteristics

Oriental bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*) is an aggressive, invasive vine that is regulated in Illinois by the Illinois Exotic Weed Act (525 ILCS 10/). Its dense growth can girdle trees, break limbs, shade out shrubs and saplings, and outcompete native species. American bittersweet (*Celastrus scandens*) is a somewhat uncommon native vine that typically does not form the dense stands, cause severe damage to trees, or displace native species. Being able to distinguish the two species is important before applying management. In winter, fruit characteristics present on female plants can be used to determine correct identification.

Both bittersweet species are dioecious, with separate male and female plants. Female plants bear fruit that, when ripe, split open to reveal a dark red, three-parted fruit. The two species differ in the size and location of the fruit and the color of the capsule (fruit covering).

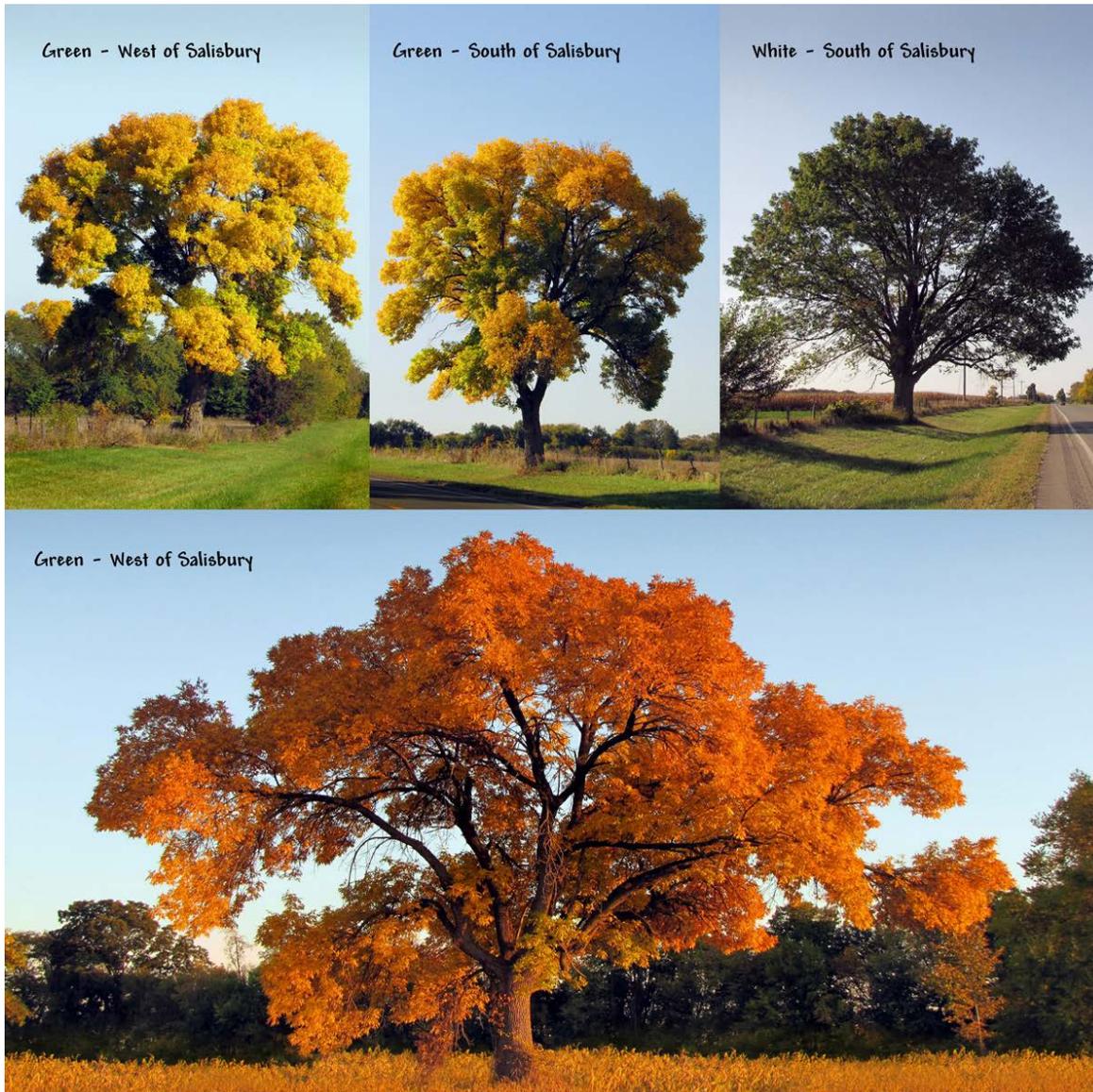
Oriental bittersweet has smaller fruit that are located in small clusters in the leaf axils along the length of the stem. Fruit capsules are yellow-orange in color.

American bittersweet has slightly larger fruit that are located in terminal clusters (at the end of the vines). Fruit capsules are dark orange to reddish in color.

Oriental Bittersweet
Yellow-orange capsules
Axillary fruit



American Bittersweet
Dark orange-reddish capsules
Terminal fruit



Roadside Ash-istance: Saving Remnant Ash Trees

by Guy Sternberg, Starhill Forest Arboretum

Once emerald ash borer was found to be heading in our direction (central Illinois), we decided to set up a treatment program for 22 key ash trees of many species at Starhill Forest Arboretum in Menard County. About that time, we noticed that IDOT was marking many (actually, most) roadside trees of all species along Route 97 northwest of Springfield and Route 125 west to Ashland for removal. The justification was that the ROW in that area was substandard in width and there was no longer room for safe coexistence of today's high speed traffic with so

many trees close to the road. The ROW clearance program was initiated due to a tree-related traffic accident that had happened in another county which was part of the same highway district.

IDOT was contacted by so many of my concerned friends (individuals and groups) that the Secretary of Transportation agreed to look into it further before making an irreversible decision. I was selected as a representative of the interested parties and I rode the routes with their District 6 engineers, looking closely at (and measuring from pavement edge)

every marked tree. We all agreed to save most of the trees even though their distance from the pavement was marginal according to current clearance standards. Only those that were in very poor condition, located on the outsides of dangerous curves, or extremely close to pavement would be taken out. One of them, a pre-settlement bur oak, was to be saved even though it was much too close by modern standards, and a special barrier or warning (like those used for bridge abutments) was to be installed instead.

Continued on the next page -

Ash Trees near Salisbury - continued

The primary reason for these exemptions was historic as well as biological and aesthetic. Most of these trees were part of the first highway beautification project in Illinois, done by the CCC in 1934 to improve the routes from Springfield to Lincoln's New Salem along routes 97, 125, and 29. The tree seedlings were dug (with permission) from adjacent pastures and planted randomly along the ROW. This action was approved by Governor Horner, and so many of the trees involved were native hawthorns that the project was dubbed the "Horner Hawthorn" initiative. One of my neighbors, Hank Whitehurst, who has since passed away, was a 10-year old boy during that time and he had told me his account of watching the "Dollar-a-Day" CCC crews planting the trees along Route 97. IDOT also has a large stone monument along Route 29 at Jefferie Road commemorating the historic project.

Some of the trees involved were green and white ash, which were destined to be killed by the new borer despite our efforts to protect them from ROW clearance. IDOT agreed to let me try to raise support for treating a few representative examples of these species, knowing that the rest would die from EAB because there was no money in the State budget to treat ash trees on public ROW. I selected two trees south of Salisbury and two more northwest of Salisbury as our focus group. To the south, we chose a very large male white ash on the east side of the highway and a large male green ash across the road from it, with both trees being as far from the pavement as they could be. I had used these trees for years as a tool in teaching our student interns windshield dendrology -- how to distinguish white as from green ash at 55 mph. West of Salisbury there was a very large male green ash and, next to it, the only female green ash in the area. Both were pretty close to the road, but behind the ditch and on the inside of the beginning of the highway curve to the north.

The call went out via newspapers, radio, and the Internet. We received considerable interest, and donations, from the Illinois Forestry Association,

the Springfield Civic Garden Club, the Illinois Native Plant Society, Trees Forever, and several other organizations, and many individuals. A dedicated account eventually was set up via the NPO Illinois Native Plant Society and I was designated as the signatory authority for authorizing expenses from that account. We remain open for additional contributions (contact Guy@StarhillForest.com for info) and we currently maintain a balance of nearly \$6000. Most of that money is being held in reserve initially because some volunteer arborists each agreed to treat the four trees at their own expense to get us started.

The first Salisbury ash treatment (Emamectin benzoate trunk injection) was done in May of 2015, and the second in May 2017. We will continue this every two years for as long as the money holds out and until all other (untreated) ash trees in the area are killed by EAB and the crest borer population thus crashes. At that time we will review the progress that might have been made with new biological controls and any other factors which could serve to enable us to phase back the treatment frequency or change the methods or materials used. By then, IDOT also might have access to funding to carry on the work.

Another volunteer arborist is treating five smaller male green ash trees via Imidacloprid soil injection up the road at Wayside Park, which I help to maintain on IDOT property that formerly was part of an old "Y" intersection where routes 97 and 123 meet east of Tallula. I am gradually removing the other ash trees there, which were evaluated and determined to be inferior in quality to those we are treating. If they are not treated or removed, they will die and become a public safety hazard. In addition, I am continuing to use donated materials from a tree-research company to treat two historic hawthorns and one historic buckeye there at Wayside Park. These three trees were part of the same CCC planting program as the Salisbury ash and had been threatened by heavy infestations of Japanese beetles prior to the treatments. All of this is done with IDOT's blessing, but thus far they have no capability to assist with funding. We appreciate their cooperation and support.

We can't save every tree. But, hopefully, in a couple of decades, you will still be able to come to Salisbury Illinois and show your children what a beautiful, mature ash tree used to look like, and you still will see younger ash trees and the three historic trees at Wayside Park. And, hopefully, some of those children will take up the cause and be motivated to do something positive to help save trees in Illinois. I probably won't live to see it, and perhaps you won't either, but if we don't do this now then no one will ever see it.

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Thousand Canker Disease:

What is the status and what have we learned so far?

by Fredric Miller

We have heard a lot about thousand cankers (TCD) the last few years and since then there have been some new developments concerning the disease, insect vectors, and walnut twig beetle biology.

The update presented here is not intended to be all inclusive, but to present recent findings on the status of TCD and walnut twig beetle (WTB) in Illinois and adjoining states, and some new the biology on TCD and the WTB, additional insect vectors of *Geosmithia morbida*, and other canker-causing fungi of eastern black walnut (EBW). Information presented in this article comes from recent field research conducted in Illinois, Indiana, and Missouri by myself, the author, and others, and research scientists who presented their findings at the recent TCD Research Update seminar in June, 2017.

FIELD MONITORING FOR WTB AND TCD IN ILLINOIS

As part of the USFS-Cooperative States Forest Health Protection program, a statewide trapping effort has been conducted over the past five years to determine if the WTB and TCD is present in Illinois and to better understand the role of ambrosia beetles, other bark beetles, and bark weevils in transmission of Gm . Field monitoring includes the deployment of four unit lindgren funnel traps (LFTs) baited with the newly developed WTB pheromone, establishment of walnut trap trees, and conducting visual surveys for eastern black walnut trees showing TCD symptoms (Figure 1).

FINDINGS FROM THE ILLINOIS FIELD MONITORING SURVEYS

To date, the good news is WTB has not been found in Illinois. However, some interesting results have been obtained regarding the presence of the Gm fungus associated ambrosia and bark beetles. Of the thousands of ambrosia and bark beetles recovered from Illinois trap trees

over the past several years, the ambrosia beetle *Xylosandrus crassiusculus* makes up 96% of the beetles. In a distant second place is *Xyleborinus saxeseni* with approximately 1% of the total specimens recovered (Miller, 2016, 2017). There is considerable variation in the distribution of ambrosia beetle species in Illinois compared to similar studies conducted in Indiana and Missouri where *X. crassiusculus* and *X. saxeseni* made up 43% and 34% of the insects recovered, respectively. In Missouri, *X. saxeseni* made up 83%, but *X. crassiusculus* was found in only 3% of insect recovered (Reed et al., 2015). A third ambrosia beetle, *Xylosandrus germanus* made up <9% of trap catches in all three states (Miller, unpublished, Reed et al. 2015). The Gm fungus was first found in Indiana on the bodies of the bark weevil, *S. pallidus* as reported by Juzwik et al. (2015) and was the first case of Gm being associated with a non-WTB vector. This bark weevil, *S. pallidus* was recovered in <6% of the trap tree specimens from Illinois, Indiana, and Missouri suggesting the bark weevil has a very casual relationship with the Gm fungus (Juzwik et al. 2015, Miller, 2016, 2017, Reed et al. 2015).

To determine if the above ambrosia beetle species collected from Illinois trap trees were associated with the Gm fungus, a subsample of nearly 400 ambrosia and bark beetles were bio-assayed. Results revealed 31% (101/323 beetles) of the ambrosia beetle *X. crassiusculus* were found to be contaminated with G.m. *Xyleborinus saxeseni* was a distant second with only 5 of 19 beetles (26%) carrying the Gm fungus.

The distribution of these Gm-contaminated ambrosia beetles appears to be throughout Illinois, from north to south and east to west, with the largest concentration of Gm-contaminated beetles in SW Illinois (Randolph County). Findings in 2016 represent an increase in the statewide distribution of Gm from four (4) locations in 2015 (primarily along the I-70 corridor through south-central Illinois) to a total of seven new sites for 2016. To date, Gm has been found on three different ambrosia beetle and one bark weevil species at 12 different locations in Illinois.

The important take home message from all of this is, in spite of the statewide occurrence of Gm in Illinois, the WTB has not been found nor have TCD symptoms been observed in eastern black walnut.

ARE THERE OTHER CANKER-CAUSING FUNGI ASSOCIATED WITH EASTERN BLACK WALNUT BESIDES Gm?

Early on forest entomologists and pathologists believed and understood that Gm was the primary canker-causing fungus responsible for TCD and the WTB was the only vector. So, the next question is “what role does WTB perform in Gm canker development?” Gm cankers usually develop around the nuptial chambers of the WTB however, field studies by Dr. Juzwik has discovered that without the WTB, cankers do not kill branches. This research seems to indicate that Gm is a rather weak canker-causing fungus



Figure 1 - Four Unit Lindgren Funnel Trap(LFT)

and the WTB plays a critical role in Gm development. Additional studies by Dr. Juzwik has shown there are other canker causing fungi associated with eastern black walnut including *Fusarium solani*, *Botryosphaeria* spp. and *Diplodia seriata* affecting the health of eastern black walnut (EBW).

Fusarium solani is known to produce cankers in EBW and has been isolated from the same ambrosia beetles mentioned above and their galleries (Carlson et al. 1993, Reed, 2010, Reed et al., 2010, 2013, 2014, Weber and McPherson, 1984). Secondary cankers caused by *Fusarium solani* are much more diffuse and larger than the Gm cankers. In addition to Gm and *Fusarium solani*, two additional canker-causing fungi appearing associated with EBW namely, *Botryosphaeria* spp. and *Diplodia seriata* both of which produce large cankers and appear to be more virulent than Gm.

One of the other questions researchers were wondering about was, do chemical volatiles emitted by girdled (i.e. stressed) trees make these trees more attractive to WTB. Evidently not, as research by Dr. Ginzal's lab at Purdue University has shown that WTB is attracted to girdled and non-girdled branches equally. In addition, WTB does not appear to respond to Gm volatiles, but was found to be attracted to fungal volatiles given off by *Fusarium solani*. So, while we thought there was only one canker,

Gm, involved in EBW decline, it is evident there are a complex of canker-causing fungi acting and additional insect vectors.

WHAT'S NEW WITH WALNUT TWIG BEETLE (WTB)

One positive note, hickory and pecan do not appear to be susceptible to colonization by WTB. The bad news is that all *Juglans* spp. are susceptible.

Laboratory flight studies indicate WTB is a weak flyer capable of flying up to a couple of miles, but usually about ¼ mile. By insect standards, the WTB is considered a weak flyer and peak beetle flight typically occurs from May to July and September to October. The WTB prefers to fly at night (nocturnal) when temperatures are between 68°F and 86°F.

Once wind speed exceeds 4 mph, beetle flight tends to drop off.

A common question most people present is "do you think a hard, cold winter will take care of WTB?" Probably not. Laboratory studies indicate the beetle is capable of super-cooling down into the mid minus 20°F with 50% mortality occurring at -6°F and 90% at -36°F. Based on these findings, Illinois falls in the 50-75% mortality range for normal cold winter temperatures whatever "normal" is anymore. Another climate related factor in the development of TCD and potential colonization by WTB is rainfall. In a three year study conducted by Griffin (2014) in Virginia (VA) and Tennessee (TN), he found EBW trees infected with TCD in VA developed new symptoms in Virginia in 2011 and 2012 associated with low precipitation levels, but in 2013 when high precipitation levels returned extensive new foliage, stem growth, and tree recovery from TCD occurred at both sites. This suggests that EBW may be able to fight off TCD infection when soil moisture is adequate.

HERE ARE SOME SUMMARY POINTS TO TAKE WITH YOU:

- MOST IMPORTANT: Only the Gm fungus has been found in Illinois. The WTB has not been found in Illinois and there is no evidence of TCD in Illinois.
- Based on laboratory bioassays, the Gm fungus is widely distributed throughout Illinois
- The Gm fungus has been isolated from a number of ambrosia beetles and a bark weevils
- *Geosmithia morbida* is highly dependent on the WTB for spread and development of cankers
- More virulent canker-causing fungi such as *Fusarium solani*, *Botryosphaeria* spp. and *Diplodia seriata* are being found associated with EBW
- The WTB can withstand fairly cold winter temperatures with Illinois being in the moderate WTB mortality range

CITED REFERENCES AND RECOMMENDED READING

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- Fredric Miller is professor of horticulture in the Department of Agriculture and Horticulture Sciences at Joliet Junior College, and a Senior Research Scientist – Entomology at The Morton Arboretum in Lisle, Illinois.*

New Forest Pest Threat: Spotted Lanternfly

by Tricia Bethke

The Spotted Lanternfly, *Lycorma delicatula*, isn't a fly. It is a planthopper native to China, Vietnam, and India, and was recently introduced to Korea and where it is considered a major pest. The pest was detected in September of 2014 in Pennsylvania. Spotted lanternflies are very invasive and can spread rapidly when introduced to new areas.

This insect has many hosts including tree of heaven, apples, grapes and stone fruits. Heavy feeding on walnut, red oak, hickory and maples has resulted in flagging, branch dieback and chlorotic looking leaves mid-growing season (noted on walnut trees in July of 2017 in Berks County, Pennsylvania).



Adult spotted lanternfly at rest

Identification

The Spotted Lanternfly adult is approximately 1" long and ½" wide at rest; the forewing is gray with black spots in the front and speckled band at the rear. The hind wings are scarlet and with black spots and with white and black bars at the rear of the body. Nymphs go through four developmental stages: during early stages they appear black with white spots, then red before they become an adult.

Damage

During the nymph and adult stages lanternfly can weaken and stress the trees by heavy feeding and sucking sap from stems and leaves - they suck sap from young stems and leaves, which can cause withering of whole trees. Heavy feeding can create ooze or weep on stems resulting in fermenting odors and excessive amounts of honeydew from the insects. Honeydew attracts other pests increasing the risk of secondary infestations.



Female spotted lanternfly & her egg mass

What to Look For

Spotted Lanternfly is easy to spot at dusk or night as they move up and down the tree trunk. In heavy shade areas the insects are visible around the base of the tree, if it is a sunny spot, then the insects can be seen in the tree canopy. Egg masses are found on smooth areas—bark, brick, stone, and dead plants.



Report Any Sightings

Spotted Lanternfly to date has been found in eastern Pennsylvania, where four counties are under quarantine; this pest has great potential to impact the country's grape, orchard, logging, tree- and wood-product, and green industries.

Please report any suspect insects immediately to Tricia Bethke, tbethke@mortonarb.org, Scott Blackwood, USDA APHIS, scott.blackwood@aphis.usda.gov, or plantclinic@mortonarb.org.

For more information please see [Spotted Lanternfly fact sheet](#).



Tricia Bethke is Forest Pest Outreach Coordinator at The Morton Arboretum in Lisle, IL.

History of Conservation in Illinois

Contributed by Dave Gillespie, IFA Secretary

(Installment # 23)

This account of the history of conservation in Illinois was written by Joseph P. Schavilje in 1941. This installment begins where installment # 22 ended.

Recognition of a farm forestry problem was evidenced as far back as 1868, when a committee on horticulture of the Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois recommended the establishment of an experimental forest plantation on University property. The Committee's report included this statement: "To teach the people of the State how to add those products of the forest to their other crops, and thus add millions of dollars annually to the wealth of the State; to give labor a wider range and a more comprehensive field for its employment, are objects worthy of such an institution (State University)". The planting was started in 1871 on an area of 13 acres originally prairie, but it had been farmed for some 30 years previous to establishment. A large number of forest species were planted and their progress carefully noted. The plantation is fully described in Bulletin No. 26 of the Agriculture Experiment Station of the University of Illinois, published in May, 1893.

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



Thank You!

Dan and Dottie Schmoker send their heartfelt gratitude for all who donated to the [GoFundMe page](#) set up for them by friend and fellow wood turner Keith Munter of Springfield.

For those who may not have heard, Dan and Dottie moved to Houston, Texas a few months ago to be closer to their daughter. While away at a family reunion, their new home was flooded by the unprecedented rainfall associated with Hurricane Harvey. Like many in the region, they did not have or think they would ever need flood insurance.

Dan reports that restoration of their kitchen and bathrooms is nearly complete, and that FEMA has been of some assistance. He misses us, and hopes that the momentum he witnessed in the IFA leading up to their move is still going strong.

We miss you, too, Dan! Hope to see you when you come for a visit. FYI - we have Finance and Membership Committee meetings scheduled for January 17th in Springfield. 😊



We have now entered into winter. Winter can be harsh, or it can be very peaceful. It can be extremely ugly or it can be very beautiful. We will not know which of these this winter will be until it is over and even then, much of what kind of winter we had will rest on our individual perception.

As we get older, we tend to become a little more mellow, and probably tolerate winter somewhat better than just a few short winters ago. Perhaps that is because we spend part of the time between Christmas and March in Texas, Florida or Arizona. Perhaps, if we remain here in Illinois, we have learned that "This too, shall pass" and we need to use the time to get ready for Spring. We look at seed catalogs, go to Home and Garden shows and discuss plans for the coming season with our spouses, friends and perhaps professionals which would mean that we have already made a commitment to whatever it is that we want to do.

A walk in the winter woods on a sunny day often will clear one's mind and allow a plan to develop. You might see the need for some timber stand improvement or maybe some thinning to trees in a few selected areas. You might see the need for a prescribed burn to get rid of exotics which seem to be popping up all over. Erosion control is another thing that might be on your list. Winter is a good time to look and see what need to be done and then to form a plan for doing it.

But, don't spend all of your time planning. Go to the trade shows whether the aforementioned Home and Garden, Farm Shows Vacation and Boat show or others. And if you can, head south for a few days or weeks. Time on the beach is a great cure for the winter blues!

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Every little bit helps.
Thanks for your support!

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EARLY NOTICE! - Details still being finalized
Emerald Ash Borer Workshops
E-mail cwevans@illinois.edu for more info
or watch the IFA website for upcoming events
<https://ilforestry.org/events>

Wednesday, Feb. 21 - Carbondale
Thursday, Feb. 22 - Metro East (StL) area, Caseyville or Collinsville
Friday, Feb. 23 - Effingham - Ballard Nature Center
Wednesday, Feb. 28th - Macomb

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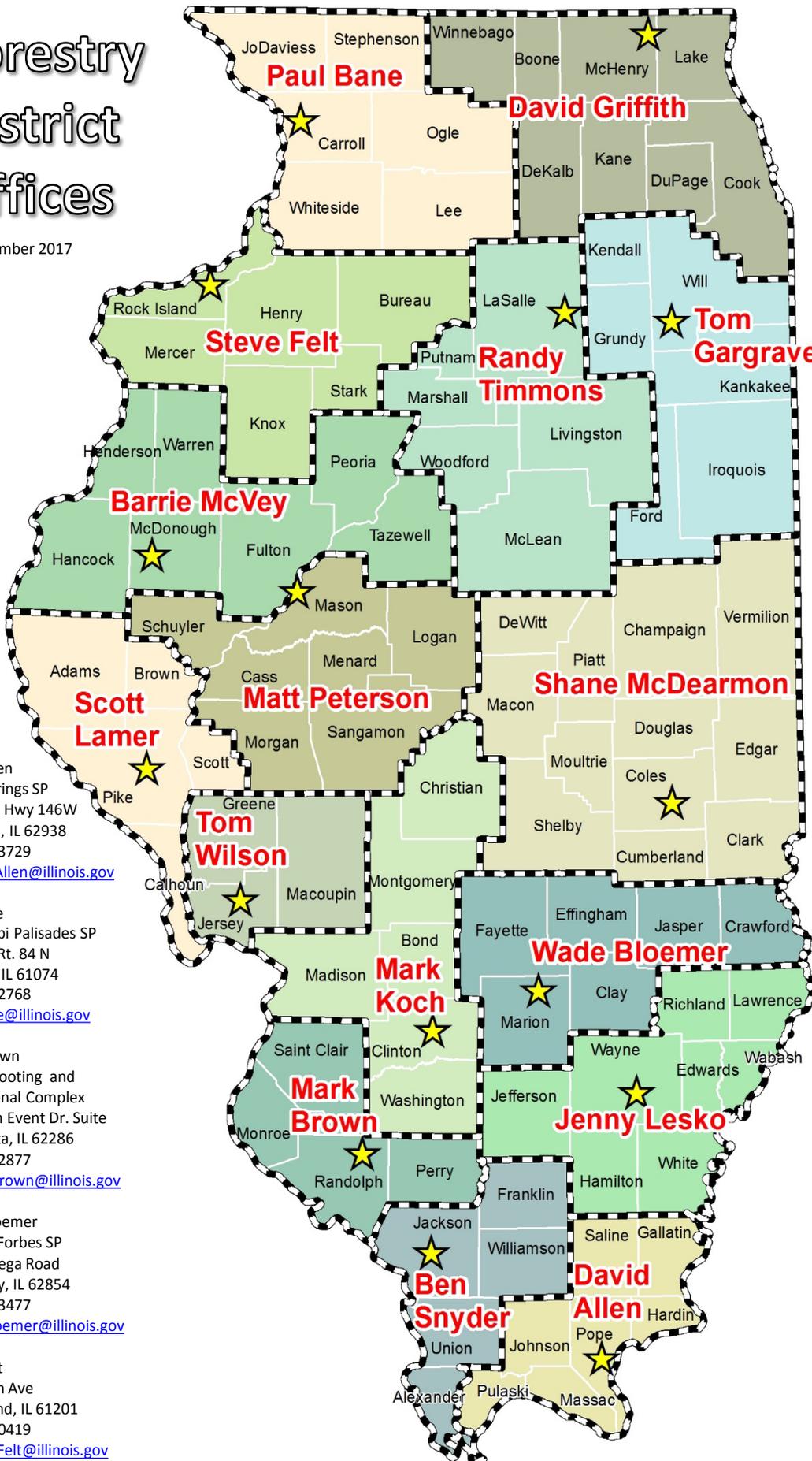
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Questions? Contact
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November 2017



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Chainsaw Safety and Invasive Control Training

January 20th, 1pm - 4pm
Dixon Springs Agricultural Center
354 State Highway 145N
Simpson, IL 62985-9614



Join us for a hands-on, field training for Chainsaw Safety and Invasive Species Control. Participants will get training in the safe use of chainsaws, what safety gear to use, and an opportunity to practice these skills with experts.

Please RSVP or ask questions by email krohling@illinois.edu or phone 618-695-3383 by January 19th.

Wear long pants and sturdy leather boots. If you have them, bring chainsaws and PPE (chaps, helmets, hearing protection, eye protection). We also have that stuff to loan if needed.



Department of Natural Resources
and Environmental Sciences

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Backyard Maple Syrup Production Workshop February 3rd, 2018 10:00am

The third annual backyard maple syrup production workshop will be held on Saturday, February 3, 2018 from 10am-noon at the Dixon Springs Agricultural Center, located at 354 State Highway 145 N, Simpson, IL 62985. This program is free and open to the public.

Chris Evans, University of Illinois Extension Forester, will cover tree identification, equipment needs, tree tapping, sap collection, boiling, and finishing maple syrup. Participants will see firsthand the processes involved in making maple syrup. We will have a demonstration of a syrup evaporator and an optional tour of a sugarbush forest, managed for maple syrup production and utilizing a pipeline system of sap collection.

The University of Illinois Extension will provide some activities for kids, including taste testing of real maple syrup!

Come see firsthand the entire process of maple syrup production!

If you are interested in attending this workshop, please RSVP by February 2, 2018 by calling the Ag Center office at 618-695-2441, please indicate if you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in this program.

For more information:

Chris Evans— cwevans@illinois.edu, 618-695-3383

Bronwyn Aly— baly@illinois.edu, 618-252-8391



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
EXTENSION

Extending Knowledge Changing Lives

Dixon Springs Ag Center

354 State Hwy 145 North

Simpson, IL 62985

Saturday, Feb 3, 2018

10:00am to 12:00p.m.

University of Illinois College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences— United States Department of Agriculture.—Local Extension Councils Cooperating provides equal opportunities in programming and employment.

If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in this program, contact Dixon Springs Ag Center at 618-695-2441.

2018 Map and Compass Training

February 10th, 9am–4pm, Dixon Springs Ag Center



Are you interested in learning to navigate using a map and compass?

The University of Illinois Extension Forestry is teaming up with the Shawnee National Forest to host this Map and Compass Training. The workshop will be hands-on and outdoors.

To Register—

There is a \$10 fee for this workshop, lunch is included. To register, go to http://web.extension.illinois.edu/state/calendar_event.cfm?ID=76721 or call 618-695-2441.

For more information:

Chris Evans— cwevans@illinois.edu, 618-695-3383

University of Illinois College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences— United States Department of Agriculture.—Local Extension Councils Cooperating provides equal opportunities in programming and employment. If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in this program, contact the Dixon Springs Ag Center, 618-695-3383.



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
EXTENSION

Dixon Springs Ag Center

354 State Hwy 145 North
Simpson, IL 62985

February 10, 2018

9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Oriental vs American Bittersweet: Winter identification using fruit characteristics

Oriental bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*) is an aggressive, invasive vine that is regulated in Illinois by the Illinois Exotic Weed Act (525 ILCS 10/). Its dense growth can girdle trees, break limbs, shade out shrubs and saplings, and outcompete native species. American bittersweet (*Celastrus scandens*) is a somewhat uncommon native vine that typically does not form the dense stands, cause severe damage to trees, or displace native species. Being able to distinguish the two species is important before applying management. In winter, fruit characteristics present on female plants can be used to determine correct identification.

Both bittersweet species are dioecious, with separate male and female plants. Female plants bear fruit that, when ripe, split open to reveal a dark red, three-parted fruit. The two species differ in the size and location of the fruit and the color of the capsule (fruit covering).

Oriental bittersweet has smaller fruit that are located in small clusters in the leaf axils along the length of the stem. Fruit capsules are yellow-orange in color.

American bittersweet has slightly larger fruit that are located in terminal clusters (at the end of the vines). Fruit capsules are dark orange to reddish in color.

Oriental Bittersweet

Yellow-orange capsules

Axillary fruit



American Bittersweet

Dark orange-reddish capsules

Terminal fruit





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Would you be interested in a volunteer role of any kind? Yes No Maybe

(We are always on the lookout for potential committee or board members, and occasionally need help with events, mailings and other tasks. If you have special skills or interests that might fit – forestry, clerical, legal, real estate, marketing, IT, etc., please let us know!)

Please return this form and your payment to: (or join and pay online at <http://ilforestry.org/join>)

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IFL - Life Membership *	\$500
BUS - Business Membership	\$50
STU - Student (non-voting, email only)	\$10

IFA is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit charitable organization. Dues may be tax deductible as a business expense, and donations counted toward charitable contributions. We encourage you to explore the tax benefits of IFA membership with your accountant. Welcome, and thanks for your support!

* Lifetime membership dues can be paid in two installments, up to 6 months apart

Date: _____ Membership Category Selected: _____

Amount Due: _____ Total Paid: _____ Check # _____