



The Voice for Illinois Forests

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

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and more....

It's here on the World Wide Web...

IFA Web site
www.ilforestry.org

IFA has a "Wiki" ...
<http://illinoisforestry.pbwiki.com>

President's Remarks

Ray Herman, IFA President

The "voice" for Illinois forests!? I would have to say we are making some inroads, but we have a long, long way to go to reach that goal.

Your Board is nearing its first full year of existence, and we are sometimes wondering if we are making a difference—for you and for the state's forest resources. From my viewpoint, knowing what your Board is involved in and has done in our short existence, I feel our voice is being heard. Let me say, I see your Board coming together more and more. We are discovering our roles and taking more individual initiative in our positions as officers, as directors, as chairpersons, or as members of committees. We are growing together as we need to in order to make a difference. We all have different roles and individual strengths that will continue to support our "voice" throughout the regions and throughout the state.

We have exerted a presence in Springfield in the last four to six weeks, laying groundwork for increased IDNR Forestry Division staffing, full restoration of the 4% timber harvest tax monies, and addressing the timberland assessment issue. We hired a young lobbyist out of Chicago to help us make our "voice" heard. He had the knowledge, the contacts, and the abilities to give us direction, set up meetings, and get us into discussions with key legislators, the Governor's staff, and others so our issues were heard. Later in this newsletter, you will read more details on these and future lobbying activities.

We are evolving and growing as we strengthen our "voice". We cannot do either without you, our members. In a recent letter, I invited you to send your concerns and thoughts to be shared in a "Members Voices" column that will start with this issue. Better yet, or in addition, call or email one or both of your directors. We need your "voice" to become a stronger association. We also need more of you to help us more actively. Tell us what you might be willing to do. I promise you we want and need more active members! Call me, call your directors---we need your help, your voice!!

Mark Your Calendars!!

IFA 2nd Annual Meeting
October 19-20, 2007
Rend Lake Resort and Conference Center

Calendar of Events 2007

July 19

ABCs of Carbon Credits for Forest Landowners
Morello's Pizza and Grill
Harrisburg, IL
618-949-3698

July 29-August 1

2007 National Walnut Council Meeting
Grand Harbor Resort
Dubuque, IA
Field tour and forestry fair at New Melleray Abbey south of Peosta.
765-583-3501

August 22

LaMotte Creek Watershed Conservation Field Day in Crawford County.
3 Tours: Agronomy, Organic Beef, & Forestry. Noon lunch will feature State Representative Roger Eddy and State Senator Dale Righter speaking to key issues.

August 28-30

IL Farm Progress Show
Decatur, IL
319-622-6090 or
866-264-7469

October 11-14

National Tree Farmer Convention
Hilton Madison Menona Terrace
Madison, WI
http://www.treefarmssystem.org/cms/pages/73_1.html

October 12

Calhoun Forestry Field Day
McCully Heritage Project
Kampsville, IL
217-285-4114

October 19-20

IFA 2nd Annual Meeting
Rend Lake Resort and Conference Center
Franklin County

Secretary's Report

Dave Gillespie, IFA Secretary

The Illinois Forestry Association continues to move forward steadily with renewal of 2006 memberships and new memberships for 2007. As of June 2, membership was 312. However, about 125 2006 members have not yet paid IFA dues for 2007. If you are one of those people, please renew your membership in IFA today. If you have any comments, constructive criticisms, or suggestions regarding the IFA, please contact one of the officers or a member of the Board of Directors.

We are acting on the position papers developed since the organization began. Good, positive things are happening, particularly in the Illinois General Assembly. We need for you to be a part of this, not only with your dues but also with your support as a member.

A number of members have asked that we make available a membership directory. Some state forestry associations publish such a directory. What do you think of this idea? Let us know your thoughts and ideas on this subject. Contact me at dandgisp@aol.com, P.O. Box 224, Chatham, IL 62629, or comment in the new Members Voices column in the IFA newsletter.

Technical Action Committee Report

Jay Hayek, IFA Technical Advisor

I attended the National Forest Products Utilization and Marketing Conference in Madison, WI, June 4-7, 2007. Over 82 forest product specialists from over 30 states participated, including specialists from industry, USDA Forest Service, state forestry agencies, universities, and Cooperative Extension Service.

Conference highlights: Tour of Madison state capital restoration project; tour of USDA Forest Products Laboratory; Forest Product Laboratory initiatives and research program reorganization; USDA State & Private Forestry reorganization; details about the USDA Wood Education and Resource Center (WERC – <http://www.na.fs.fed.us/werc/>) and Hardwood Value Improvement Project (HVIP); National Forest Products Utilization and Marketing Directory (<http://www.fpl.fs.fed.us/tmu/>); Northeastern Area Association of State Foresters; Madison Area Technical College Cabinetmaking and Millwork program; biorefinery & bioenergy; and technology transfer. The Forest Products Laboratory research and technology transfer mission and current focus areas include under utilized woody biomass, nanotechnology, biorefinery/bioenergy, advanced wood structures, and advanced composites. The two biggest topics at this year's conference were the USDA Forest Service restructuring issues (federal dollars, programs, and headcount) and biorefinery (i.e., woody biomass and bioenergy utilization).

I'm also proud to announce that the Lincoln Heritage RC&D office based in Tuscola, IL (Douglas Co.), has recently acquired contractual services from two consulting foresters. Primary services offered include forest management plan development, forest inventory and analysis, and intermediate stand management. The following counties are serviced by Lincoln Heritage RC&D: Champaign, Coles, Cumberland, Douglas, Edgar, and Vermilion Counties. Forest landowners interested in securing the services of these consultants should contact Tom Benjamin at Lincoln Heritage RC&D for more information at (217-253-5466), tom.benjamin@il.usda.gov.

Voices for Illinois Forests

Joe Newcomb, Region 4 Director

On March 30, IFA Vice President J. B. Gates and Region 4 Director Joe L. Newcomb met with State Representative Brandon Phelps (D), Illinois 118th Representative District, in his Harrisburg office. We wanted to get acquainted with him and to help him get acquainted with the IFA and its members and to emphasize the importance of forestry in Illinois. We learned that Rep. Phelps is vice chairman of the House Agriculture and Conservation Committee and that Rep. Dan Reitz (D), 116th Representative District from Sparta, is chairman of this Committee. He assured us that both share our interest in Illinois natural resource issues.

We gave him copies of the new IFA brochure and membership application forms and asked him to join. He said he would seriously consider it and that he would ask Chairman Reitz to also consider joining. Rep. Phelps offered to host a meeting with IFA leadership and Chairman Reitz. We also left for his office files copies of IFA Bylaws, IFDC description, Interview with White County Supervisor of Assessments Nancy Winter, and a letter about forestry issues.

While talking about the woodland tax assessment issue, Rep. Phelps advised that Rep. Kurt M. Granberg (D), 107th Representative District from Centralia, is the champion of this issue and would love to speak to our group about his findings, the current status of the issue, and where we are likely to go from here. We told him we were planning our annual meeting at Rend Lake Resort. He said it would be even more likely that Rep. Granberg could be persuaded to speak at our annual meeting at this site because of his historical ties to Rend Lake. Also, if Rep. Granberg's schedule doesn't permit an appearance, Rep. Phelps would be glad to fill in for him.

We discussed the 4% "sweep" issue. He said each representative in the House was asked to "check-off" which funds would not be affected by future "sweeps". He checked the 4% fund. Evidently, he has heard our complaints about the sweep of the 4% fund and voted against any more sweeps on it. He added that, largely due to the Illinois budget crisis, once the 4% money is spent, it is unlikely to be restored.

Regarding restoration of IDNR staff positions, Rep. Phelps was aware of the concern citizens have expressed and offered that it is apparently caught up in the overall Illinois state budget work with which the Legislature is struggling. Also, the Administration has more authority and responsibility in the personnel area than does the Legislature.

From the Legislative Committee

Susan Romano, Legislative Committee Chair

Paula Johnson Purdue is our Association's new lobbyist. Paula has been a lobbyist for 11 organizations over a period of 31 years. She holds a B.A. from Illinois State University and an M.S. from Michigan State University and recently received an M.A. from the University of Illinois at Springfield. Paula has experience in bill development and passage research, legislative processes, and coalition development and maintenance. She has developed good relationships with legislators in both political parties. She is also a founding member and co-chair of the Legislative Women's Network.

Paula will provide IFA with legislative updates, contact information, and legislative lobbying services. You will have an opportunity to meet her during the statewide IFA meeting in October.

Do you have a passion for trees and forestry?

Are you interested in serving on a regional committee?

Contact an IFA officer today to find out how you can help!

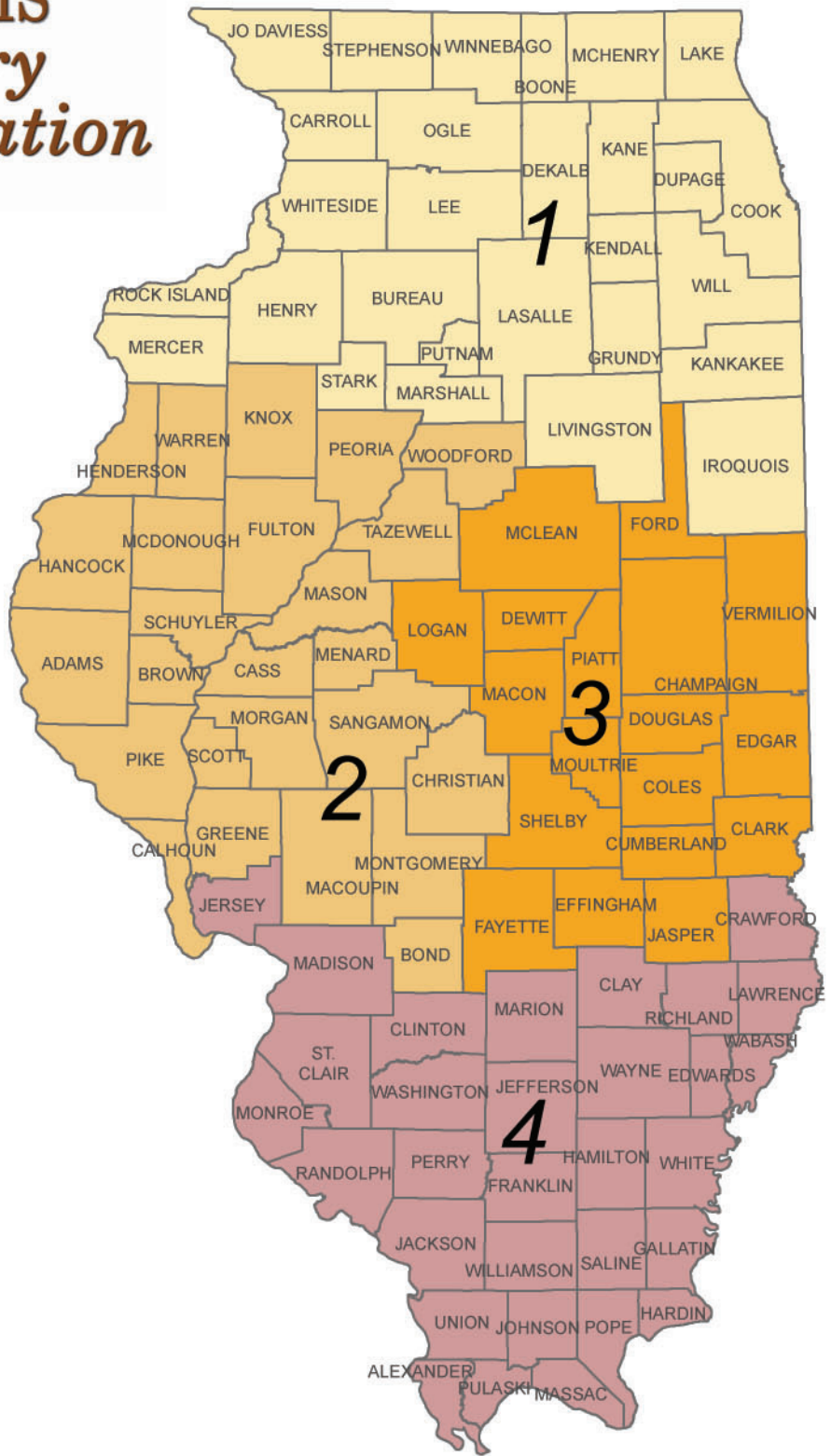
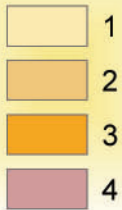
Featured Web site

The overall objective of Forestry Images is to provide an accessible and easily used archive of high quality images related to forest health and silviculture with particular emphasis on educational applications.

To visit go to: <http://www.forestryimages.org>

ILLINOIS Forestry Association

IFA Regions



Region 1 Report

Mary Duff and Debbie Jones,
Directors

WORKSHOPS!!! They are something we need in Region 1--a way to learn about topics important to us in the company of other good people with similar interests. I have attended several forestry related workshops recently, and I am trying to get a feel for how to organize one for our region. I need HELP!!!

Any suggestions? ("Get with it!" and "Do something,...anything!" have already been mentioned.) What tree topics interest you? What information do you need? What sounds like fun? How far would you travel?...and so on. Do you have a location to offer for a gathering of this nature? Know someone who provides a great program?

Surely, the more members we have, the more programs we can offer. Know anyone you think might like to join IFA? Land ownership or vast tree knowledge is not required. Perhaps you or a friend sit under a favorite park tree for summer shade, view a tree in your neighbor's yard, or value furniture made from wood--and just want to see trees thrive. Let's talk...call or write Debbie Jones in Manhattan at 815-478-4201; woodsylady1@yahoo.com.



Region 2 IFA members and guests are instructed in chainsaw maintenance at the Forestry Workshop at the Smith Farm.

From Region 2

Lee Rife and Susan Romano,
Directors

The Region 2 Spring Meeting took place at the farm of Gail, Yvonne, Terry and Tammy Smith in eastern Adams County. This operation consists of 736 acres, including 200 acres of managed forest land. The two primary goals of the Smith's management plan are to harvest each tract once every 10 years and to maintain a healthy forest to benefit wildlife. Terry and Tammy have a small sawmill operation, which they use to serve a niche market which mainly consists of hobby wood workers and wood turners. A small part of the farm is also planted in wildlife cover for deer and turkeys.

Some 26 members and guests attended the meeting. A short business meeting kicked off the event with a discussion of current state legislation affecting forestry. Members were urged to make their presence known at the local office of their state representative and senator and to voice their opinion concerning several bills which would affect their forestry operation. Also, District Directors urged those in attendance to set up an IFA recruiting table at local events, such as county fairs. Banners, applications, and brochures are available from the state IFA headquarters to aid in this effort.



Members enjoy a catered lunch at the Smith Farm southwest of Clayton, IL.

Jeff Waterman of Outdoor Power in Quincy gave a presentation on small engines used in forestry operations. Jeff also teaches a course on small engine maintenance at John Wood Community College in Quincy. The use of fresh, pure gasoline and the correct heat in replacement spark plugs was emphasized. Stabilizer should always be added to gasoline as soon as it is purchased to avoid a breakdown when the ambient temperature goes over 85 degrees. Also, a too-hot replacement plug can severely damage an engine.

After lunch, IDNR District Forester Bob Church and consulting forester Jeff Hudgens led the group on a walking tour of a part of the forest where TSI work was done about two years ago. Several excellent stands of oak were observed. Also, walnut trees were in bloom, having missed the Holy Week freeze that wiped out the acorn and hickory nut crop for this year. This may well be the only mast for wildlife this year.

IFA is active in Region 2. We urge all IFA members to become active in their regions and to pass along their concerns, ideas, and observations to their District Directors. The Directors can then report these at the quarterly board meetings and initiate any action needed at the state level. IFA is a grass roots organization. We want and need member input.



District Forester Bob Church leads the group on a tour of a recently completed timber stand improvement (TSI) area in the Smith forest.

From Region 3

Rollie Spaniol and Roy Bailey, Directors

Nearly 100 people from throughout the state participated in the Timber Management Planning Practicum at Stephen A. Forbes State Park in Marion County on June 5, 2007. Lots of discussion centered on woodland tax assessments and forest management plans as a way to continue to receive the preferential assessment.

The agenda featured IDNR foresters, private forestry consultants, and forestry students and faculty from SIU Carbondale. Landowners and students received on-the-ground training in the components of a forest management plan--assessment of the landowner's objectives for the forest resource; site inventory; timber stand improvement (TSI); and invasive species, wildlife, and erosion control considerations. The goals of the practicum were to:

- (For the Landowners)--Instill an appreciation for and understanding of the work of forestry professionals and the importance of forest planning; educate them about the conservation and financial benefits of planned forest management, the current tax assessment process,

and the elements of forest land planning; provide time for discussion with other landowners and with forestry professionals.

- (For the Forestry Students)--Provide an opportunity for them to learn first-hand from seasoned mentors; allow them to practice the elements of forestry planning; encourage them to move forward in their chosen discipline; help prepare them to become certified forest planners.
- (For the Professional Foresters)--Make effective and efficient use of their time by sharing their expertise with a large group of landowners and students.

The Lincoln Heritage, Post Oak Flats, and Wabash Valley Resource Conservation and Development Councils and the Illinois Forestry Association hosted the event. A second practicum, targeted to U of I students and local landowners, is planned for this fall. The practicums are funded by a Forest Land Enhancement Program grant to the RC&D Councils.



Bob Edgin, IL Nature Preserves Commission, discusses invasive species ID and control at the Timber Management Planning Practicum in Marion Co., June 5.

From Region 4

Joe Newcomb and Stephanie Brown, Directors

IFA Region 4 will host a workshop covering the ABCs of Carbon Credits for Forest Landowners on July 19th at 1 p.m. in Harrisburg. Participants will learn everything from the basic meaning of carbon and how it affects the environment to the mechanics of the program currently available that pays forest landowners for the amount of carbon being stored in their forestland. Forest landowner and IFA member Rollie Spaniol will talk about his experience with the program and what kind of benefits he expects to receive. Representatives of the Delta Institute and local Soil and Water Conservation Districts will be on hand to assist those interested in filling out the paperwork necessary for enrollment in the program.

The meeting will take place in the banquet room at Morello's Pizza and Grill on Route 13 two blocks east of the Courthouse square. Cost of registration for IFA members is \$10 per person or \$15 per couple, to be collected at the door, beginning at 12:30 p.m. Registration fees will cover the cost of the meeting room and materials. Non-member registration fee is \$35 per person or couple and will include the cost of 2007 membership in IFA. If you like Italian cuisine, arrive early and have lunch on your own--pizza, pasta, and salad buffet is \$6.75, or you may choose to order off the menu. For more information, contact Joe Newcomb at 618/265-3286 or Stephanie Brown at 618/949-3698. Any further details will be posted on the IFA Web site: www.ilforestry.org. See you there!

Keep in Touch with Your Board of Directors!

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Forest Facts

from Private Forests Are at Risk; The Need for Action in the 2007 Farm Bill

- **Development pressures** - An average of 1 million acres of private forests is converted every year to development.
- **Forest health problems** - 27 million acres of non-federal forests are at risk of insect and disease damage, including invasive pests, and an estimated 90 million acres are at risk of wildfire.
- **Minimal planning for the future** - Management planning helps families make a long-term commitment to the land. Yet estimates suggest that only 3% of family forest owners have a written management plan.
- **Minimal professional advice** - Professional advice helps landowners avoid unintended, poor management, yet only 22% of family forest owners have received professional advice prior to harvesting timber .



Charter Member Jill Kreke, with her Grandson Andrew Lidy, received her IFA clock from Director Joe Newcomb (right) and Director at Large Dan Price.

Meet Our First Lobbyist

Ray Herman, IFA President

Following is a brief description of Jeff Riley, our lobbyist for a short time. Unfortunately for us, he took a full-time position in downtown Chicago with city government, starting July 1.

Jeff is a young Democrat, energetic, personable, and knowledgeable of those who can "make a difference". He lives in downtown Chicago, and he and his wife are expecting their first child. Although he lives in the city and loves politics, I found him easy to work with. He quickly grasped our issues and analyzed strategies to work effectively with the General Assembly. Though city oriented, his attitude, personality, and knowledge of the process and people suggested he would be a good fit. When I learned he was an SIU grad, and his dad called him an "apple knocker", I was sold. Mary Duff met him and agreed. Susan Romano, Legislative Committee Chair, concurred, and we hired him.

I worked side by side with Jeff in Springfield, or separately, with his guidance and direction. We got into offices, mailed and delivered packets, developed fact sheets, and met and talked issues with key legislators. We roamed the Capitol and the Stratton Building, meeting and talking with legislators, the Governor's staff, agency staff, OMB staff, and other lobbyists. Not all was seemingly productive, but time will tell! We were not his only client. We didn't pay him that much. But, we got our money's worth! I'd hire him again if he was available.

I invite you to email Jeff at: jeff@rileypublicaffairs.com and say "thanks". Also, any member knowing of lake site property for sale, with or without a cabin, within three to four hours of Chicago, let Jeff or me know by email.

Jeff, thanks for being our first lobbyist!!
GOOD LUCK!

Members Voices

Welcome to this new regular column established to offer members the opportunity share ideas and concerns with the membership and with the IFA Board. Are we working on critical issues? Are we missing some important opportunities to be a true "Voice for Illinois Forests"? Good or bad, let us know. Our newsletter is published quarterly. Send short, concise comments to betty.joubert@il.usda.gov or call toll-free 800/585-6043.

I would like to make a special contribution to IFA to support our fees for a lobbyist. How can I do this and remain anonymous?
Signed Anonymous

I am wondering if the information about what our state government is doing to the forestry industry has been sent to the representatives and the senators. I think if they all get this good information, hopefully, they can rectify our problems and fund IDNR forestry again the way it should be funded. With all the GREEN things referenced today about conserving our atmosphere, etc., wouldn't that be a good way of approaching this problem with our Governor and maybe through the news media.

I have had a forestry management plan for almost 20 years and worked with the now retired State Forester Ralph Eades. It was great the first few years, but lately there just isn't any help to be had.

Thanks for your consideration:
Don Miller, Davis, IL. 61019
dgm@stateline-isp.com

Online Timber Sales

The Illinois Forestry Association is proud to offer a new Web-based service for posting landowner timber sale notices, *Online Timber Sales*. Current IFA members in good standing may post their private timber sales at no charge. There is a small service fee for nonmembers and for consulting foresters conducting business on behalf of their clients. The \$25 service fee entitles the nonmember or client to enroll as a general member in IFA. Timber sale postings are removed from the Web site following the bid opening date.

Visit www.ilforestry.org for more information.

Illinois Forestry Association

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Lobbyist Report

Jeff Riley, former IFA lobbyist

It was a pleasure to represent the Illinois Forestry Association for the past five weeks. During this time, I was always well received by members of the Illinois General Assembly, the Governor's Office, and other staff in the Capitol. I found this interesting despite the fact that the Association did not have a lobbyist presence in years past. Whether it was regarding the lack of staffing in the IDNR Forestry Division or the issue of the Timber Tax, people responded positively when they learned that the Association was concerned.

In the short time I was employed by the Association, President Ray Herman and I were successful in meeting with a number of influential legislators and staff about the above said issues. This work helped raise awareness of the Association at the Capitol and in the process, helped us identify a number of members who can serve as champions for the Association's causes and concerns in the future. Examples of these include Senator John Sullivan, who said he was willing to push the staffing issue during budget negotiations; Senator Mike Frerichs from Champaign; and Senator Jeff Schoenberg, who is an excellent northern Cook County Senator and a good example of a more "urban" champion. On the House side, Representatives Brandon Phelps, John Reitz, and Sara Feigenholtz seemed very willing to help the Association.



In addition to relationship building, we also tracked and weighed in on a number of pieces of important legislation including:

- Senate Bill 281, which provided that revenue from the sale of timber under the State Forest Act shall be deposited into the Forestry Development Fund instead of the Wildlife and Fish Fund;
- Senate Bill 1617, which created the Emerald Ash Borer Revolving Loan Program and the Emerald Ash Borer Revolving Loan Fund; and
- Senate Bill 17, which deals with the important land valuation issue.

Looking ahead for the Association, I am pleased to hear that another paid lobbyist has been retained. I believe it is imperative for the Association to continue to have a strong presence in Springfield. In addition, as I outlined in my initial action plan, I also think it is important for Association members to visit and communicate with their own representatives and senators this summer. This dual communication, with someone in Springfield and with people in the districts, will ensure that members of the General Assembly know the concerns of the Association throughout the year and can be proactive for the Association. I would like to add that the success of this communication effort depends on active participation by the entire Association that is driven by a clear plan from the Legislative Committee.

Thank you again for the opportunity to represent the Illinois Forestry Association, and I wish you much success in the future.

Next generation of forest landowners (information about resources for estate planning)

There is a crisis brewing in America's vast forest lands, but it has little to do with the health of the woods: the acreage is essentially the same as it was a century ago, and there is over 30 percent more wood volume per acre than in 1952. At stake are large tracts of private forest that are at risk of falling into mismanagement, subdivision or being sold for development.

Read the full story from the New York Times at:

http://www.nytimes.com/2007/06/14/business/smallbusiness/14sbiz.html?_r=2&oref=slogin&oref=slogin