



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....

IFA Web site

www.ilforestry.org

President's Message

J. B. Gates, IFA President

Now that 2009 has been entered in the record books, a new year is upon us and it is time to prepare for new adventures.

Some people are starting to work on fire-breaks and doing some TSI. Remember to contact your local offices to check on availability of funds to help with these projects.

Another winter project would be to get out the "Forest Management Program" and, with the assistance of your District Forester, update your plan for 2010. A lot has changed over the years and some of these changes merit consideration and revision of our management plans. For one thing, 'back when', we did not talk about invasive species. Today, this is an issue.

Your IFA board has been busy working on programs for this spring. The dates of some of these events are in this letter. Mark your calendar and prepare to attend these informational meetings. If you have a concern or a particular interest you would like explored in detail at an IFA regional meeting, let your director know. ILLINOIS FORESTRY ASSOCIATION is a grassroots association and we need and want your input in programs, legislative initiatives, and your help. If you would like to be a director – please let the membership committee chairperson [Ray Herman] know of your desires. We can use your help on various committees; drop me an email with your area of interest. With each of us working toward a common goal, great things are possible.

Last year, we as an association, hosted many workshops, conferences and held our annual meeting. Some of our members attended "Legislative Day" in Springfield where, in conjunction with the Illinois Arborist Association, we spent the day meeting with the legislators. I hope you will be able to join us this year in March. The more members we have participating in this and other events, the better it is and it is a lot of fun.

We, through our lobbyist, supported several bills and saw them passed to become law. We likewise voiced our opposition on others and had some success. I see IFA becoming more of a 'Voice of Illinois Forests' in future years. Again, we as an association count on you, the members, to take a part in your association. You can help by contacting your legislator and talking with them. Remember, you can tell them thanks and still let your desires be known.

We are a young association and we have a lot of growing to do yet. Some of the things we are looking into are: landowner liability insurance coverage, and [someday down the road] a management firm or executive director. However, as we mature, we the officers of your association, must and do keep your interests and welfare in mind. The directors and officers had a planning retreat last month to update the association's plan of work. Keep in mind The Illinois Forestry Association mission statement: "To act on issues that impact rural and community forests and to promote forestry in Illinois."

If you have a friend or know of a forest landowner who is not a member, ask them to join with you in promoting Illinois Forests. To use the words of the past president of IFA, "We are growing together as we need to in order to make a difference."

Just a thought to remember: No matter how rough the economy, the world and the weather appear today, there is a better day ahead.

Calendar of Events 2010

February 16

Region 3 Planning meeting
Coles County, 9:00 am
Roy Bailey 618-238-4863

March 9-10

Chainsaw Course - Part 1
Mercer or Knox County
John Torbert 309-377-0879

March 13

Tri-State Forest Stewardship
Conference
Sinsinawa Mound Center
Sinsinawa, WI
Early bird reg. Feb 20
Jay Hayek 217-244-0534

March 12-13

Chainsaw Course - Part 1
Crawford County
Ray Herman 217-377-7568

March 17

Lobby Day
Dave Gillespie 217-483-2711

March 23

Forest Management Workshop
Enfield, IL
Debbie Gray 618-382-2213,
Ext 3.

March 30-31

Chainsaw Course - Part 2
Crawford County
Ray Herman 217-377-7568

April 2-3

Chainsaw Course - Part 2
Mercer or Knox County
John Torbert 309-377-0879

April 6

Northwest Illinois Forest
Association 2010 Annual
Meeting
Mt. Carroll, IL
Keith Arnold, 815-947-2941

Secretary's Report

By Dave Gillespie, IFA Secretary

Membership renewals and new memberships have been coming at a steady pace. We again this year helped the Division of Forest Resources at the IDNR send out their Forestry Development Act Certification Letters. For our help, we were allowed to send a letter from our President about the IFA and an IFA Membership Registration Form. We have received a great response to that letter and many new IFA members. In addition to IFA members renewing their dues from 2009 membership, we have even picked up a few old members who did not renew their dues during 2007 or 2008, but have renewed their dues for 2010. I will be sending out notices very soon to those 2009 members who have not renewed their dues for 2010.

If there is anything I can do for you, please contact me.

Legislative Report

By Paula & Jenni Purdue

The Primary election is over and we are still not sure who the gubernatorial candidates are for the November election. The Primary election was hard fought in both parties in several races. Many members from the state legislature ran in this primary for other seats (state-wide office and congress), and many of them left their current positions in order to run. While this does not have an effect on this upcoming session, it does add another layer of interest on the November election to see who will be coming into some of those empty seats (ones without an incumbent running). It should be an interesting election season next fall and will be very important in determining what issues will be decided in the legislature. The fall election will dominate all political and legislative activities for the session this year. The party that wins the House, Senate and Governor can draw the map for their party. If a map can't pass the House, Senate and be signed by the Governor – a commission is created and a party's name is drawn out of the hat to draw the legislative district lines.

We start the next session in earnest with anywhere from a 12 – 13 billion dollar deficit. Several committees have stated that there will be no new mandate bills heard this session because of the fiscal crisis. We will see if that is a reality.

Because of the looming election in November, we are doubtful that we will have a balanced budget this year, but we hope we are wrong.

Look forward to seeing everyone at the March 17, 2010 (Wed.) IFA/IAA Lobby Day.

Legislative Committee Report

By Dave Gillespie, Legislative Committee

During past sessions of the Illinois General Assembly I have on a number of occasions contacted IFA members asking them to contact their State Senator and State Representative on a particular issue. Responses by the membership to such requests have been very good. I am sure I will be contacting the membership again when legislative action is needed.

Just a few words about contacting your State Senator and Representative. The best way to contact either of them, of course, is a visit in person to their office. The next best way is a telephone call. Then comes a letter and lastly by e-mail. When you contact them, be sure to tell them you are a member of the Illinois Forestry Association. If you do not know your State Senator or Representative, or want their address, phone number, etc., contact me and I will be happy to help you.

If the IFA has some type of meeting scheduled, invite the local State Senator and Representative to attend. You'll be surprised how many can attend, or will at least contact you to say thanks for the invitation, but they can't attend. When they are able to attend your meeting, be sure to introduce them to all in attendance, and thank the legislator for taking time out of their busy day to come.

The IFA has again this year scheduled a Lobby Day. As we did last year, we will partner with the Illinois Arborists Association and as many of our partner groups who would like to participate. The date for this year's Lobby Day is Wednesday, March 17, 2010. If any of you would like to attend, please contact me ASAP. It's a very busy day, but it's also quite informative as to the legislative process, and very enjoyable.

Membership Committee Report

By Ray Herman

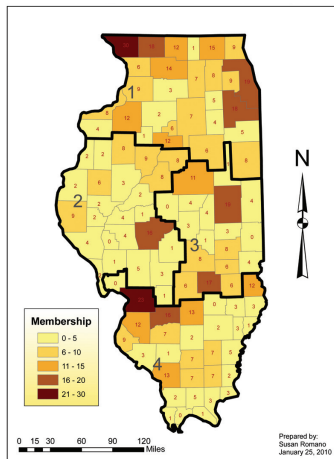
IFA membership retention is a perennial problem. We had nearly 800 members at the end of 2008. We had about 100 less, or 692, at the end of 2009. Now, we have only about 515 members. We should have 1000+ by now!

Your board is very concerned about this downward trend, and wants the Membership Committee to reverse the trend. We think you as a member hold the answers on how we can better retain and/or build membership. State maps showing the trends statewide are shown below. They show too many counties with 0-5 members.

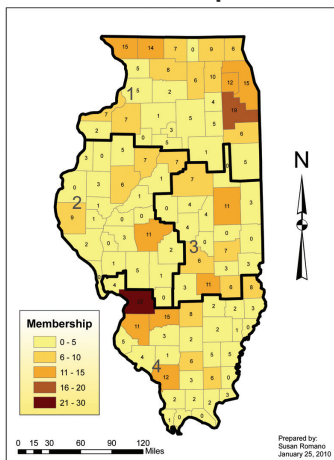
This committee requests your feedback. Call or email Ray Herman or any regional director with your feedback. Is it price? Is it process? Is it lack of activities? Please help us keep our members and grow to strengthen our voice.

Have You Renewed Your membership?

Illinois Forestry Association
Membership 2009



Illinois Forestry Association
Membership 2010



PAST PRESIDENT'S Perspective

By Ray Herman

Winter is the best time to evaluate your woods as it relates to your Forest Management Plan. Many of us forget to review the plan on an annual basis.

I had my plan redone recently, as 10 years passed way too fast. My District Forester's recommendations spurred me into signing up for NRCS's EQIP cost share assistance last summer. Now I've got an incentive to work over some extensive areas of our approximately 200 acres of woods.

Exotics, particularly Amur honeysuckle and multiflora rose, have exploded in some areas. And, of course, vines of several species need cutting again in most areas. Along with essential Timber Stand Improvement (TSI), I need to spend lots of days cutting and spraying! I've never done prescribed burns, but, taking Roy Bailey's cue (see elsewhere), I and some family members are establishing fire breaks and hope to use burns to help control exotics. While nothing can substitute for good, old fashion labor, I believe fire and the proper use of chemicals can significantly lessen the load.

Bottom line, make sure you know if you have exotics, what and where they are, and how to best control them. Then don't wait to control them. They spread Fast!!

**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!**

I think that I shall never see
A billboard lovely as a tree.
Perhaps, unless the
billboards fall,
I'll never see a tree at all.

~Ogden Nash,
"Song of the Open Road," 1933

A Change of Direction

IFA members ---- how can your board better meet your needs? We are thinking of holding county or multi-county workshops and/or social gatherings. We are thinking that smaller, informal gatherings will generate better discussion and allow for hands on opportunities that address your needs. Anyone who would like to voice an opinion is asked to contact their regional director to offer comments.

Region 1 Report

By Jay Markuson and Mark Duntemann, IFA
Region 3 Directors

Jay Markuson Introduction

Hello, my name is Jay Markuson. I am 51 years old, an 81' graduate of Western Illinois University, and have a passion for our national forests. After being fortunate enough for this opportunity to serve on the board of directors of Region 1, I consider this an honor and a privilege to serve with the other directors on the Illinois Forestry Association.

I live in Maple Park with my wife of 22 years, Melanie, and my two boys Logan, 17, and Alex, 15. We own a small timber parcel in Mount Carroll that I am excited to have in the State's program. I look forward to holding seminars in the fall for our Region 1 members and public.

I taught high school for 7 years and now have been running my own business for 21 years. I build custom homes, remodel, build furniture, and mill my own timber. I love to hunt, camp, and horseback ride; so, being close to the timber and forests has been a priority in my life.

Region 3 Report

By Roy Bailey, IFA Region 3 Director

Firewood: Don't Move It.....Burn IT

Firewood is a very efficiently produced renewable fuel that is readily available to people in most every community in Illinois. Well managed woodlands can produce a good supply of fuel while continuing to absorb large quantities of carbon dioxide, a worrisome greenhouse gas in some circles. A healthy tree can consume more CO₂ than is released when wood from a comparable tree is burned. Wiping out some exotic species, as part of timber stand improvement, can yield some hot burning firewood. Cutting firewood from post-logging treetops can result in a good fuel supply at low cost.

Check the heat potential of these common tree species in terms of BTUs per cord.

Osage orange 32.9	Shagbark Hickory 27.7
Black Locust 26.8	Honey Locust 26.5
Red Oak 24.0	Sugar Maple 24.0
White Ash 23.6	Black Cherry 20.0
Green Ash 19.9	Boxelder 1.9

For more information go to
<http://Firewoodresource.com>

Region 2 Report

By Susan Romano and Lee Rife, IFA Region 2
Directors

Region 2 directors have tentatively set September 25, 2010 as IFA's annual meeting date. Please mark your calendar now to hold that date. Preliminary location would be the Stoney Creek Inn in the Peoria area. Definite location and program details will be in the next newsletter and on the website.

Region 4 Report

By John Gunter, IFA Region 4 Director

IFA Leads the Way in Casualty Loss Education

Southern Illinois forest landowners and homeowners learned about casualty loss deductions in four workshops sponsored by the Illinois Forestry Association, the Shawnee RC&D and the IL DNR. The workshops, held in Carterville and in Metropolis on November 10 & 12, 2009, were taught by Dr. Deborah Gaddis, an Extension Forester, from Mississippi State University, an expert in forest taxation education. There were 172 participants.

The workshops were in direct response to the devastating ice storm that hit the area in January and the derecho (inland hurricane) which struck Southern Illinois on May 8, 2009. The landowners were taught about basis, the investment value of a capital asset such as timber or shade trees, and how to qualify for a casualty loss deduction on their income tax return. A preliminary review of the evaluations showed the landowners and homeowners are interested in learning more about trees, forests, and forest management. Participants were provided information about the Illinois Forestry Association and encouraged to become a member.

Forest Management Workshop March 23rd, 2010 Enfield IL

By Joe L. Newcomb, IFA Region 4 Director

Region 4 of the Illinois Forestry Association, Hamilton County SWCD and White County SWCD are sponsoring free workshop at **St. Patrick's Catholic Church** from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. The church is located on the White-Hamilton County boundary: two miles west of the Enfield junction of State Highway 45 and State Highway 14, and one mile south of Illinois Highway 14.

The speakers include:

David Johnson, IDNR District Forester who will tell us what forestry assistance is available from the State of Illinois;

Rhonda Cox, District Conservationist for Hamilton County will tell us about forestry assistance from the federal EQIP Program; and

Nancy Winter, Supervisor of Assessments of White County will bring us up-to-date on the current tax situation on forested land in White County.

Also, there will be a panel of experts to answer questions. The panel will include:

- A landowner who has implemented a Forest Management plan,
- A timber buyer who buys timber in both counties,
- A Consulting Forester who helps landowners makes forestry decisions on their land, and
- The White County Supervisor of assessments.

There will be snacks during the break.

Debbie Gray, Resource Conservationist for White County, Chris Mitchell, Resource Conservationist for Hamilton County, and Joe L. Newcomb, Consulting Forester are making the arrangements for the meeting. Chris will be moderator. If you have questions call Debbie Gray at 618 382 2213, Ext 3.

If you are interested in what can be done with your forested land, be there at 6:30 pm and bring questions.

Operation Oak Program offered



The National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTf) is continuing its Operation Oak Program. The NWTf's Program, in partnership with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and

Southwest Illinois Rural Conservation and Development, will again offer FREE select oak seedlings to private landowners in Illinois. For more information and to download an application go to <http://www.illinoisnwtf.org/>

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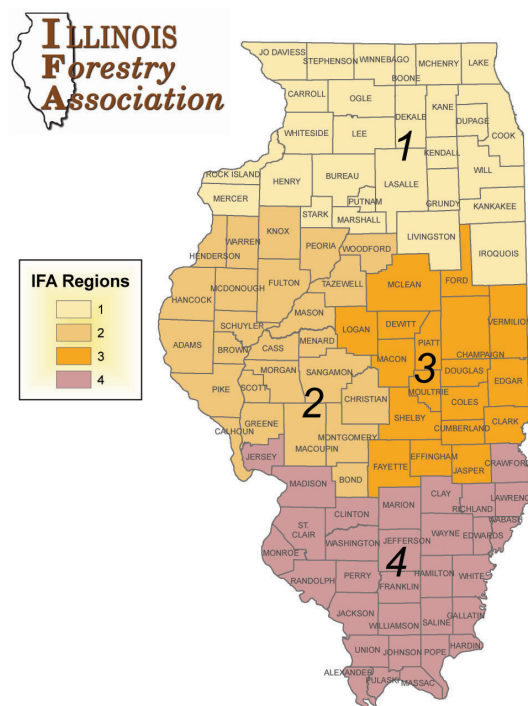
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BACKPACK SPRAYERS---

An Essential Tool

By Dan Schmoker, IFA Vice President

Using a backpack sprayer is easier and much more efficient than carrying a canister type sprayer. Why you ask? Several reasons come to mind:

- Your load of, say, 3 gallons (appx. 25 lb.) is balanced on your back.
- By pumping the lever you get even and adequate pressure. Canister sprayers are a real pain to set down and pump-up.
- Backpacks with a large port on top do not collect debris and the tank stays clean.
- Most tank type sprayers come with only a cone shaped nozzle which is not very good for herbicide applications.
- Backpacks have spray wands which can easily be adapted for various nozzles such as even flow flat fans, side delivery flat fans, or even cone shaped spray patterns.
- With flat fan nozzles you can spray (with practice) right down the edge of a row of planted seedlings. Try that with a cone shaped nozzle!



For 30 years I have depended on Solo sprayers. This brand is well made and easy to maintain. I also have a Hudson brand which is also good. A really

serious backpack with an equally serious price is the Birchmeier brand, which sells for over \$200. It is sold by Townsend- Chemical. com. This company supplies industrial workers----think right of way applications. This sprayer uses 2.5 gallon jugs for the reservoir. It is especially good for application of ester type herbicides like Garlon 4E where oil, not water, is the carrier. You can obtain information on any of these brands on the web.

If possible, buy the Army type chest and belt straps as an accessory. This rigging really eases the strain on your back.

All sprayers work best and will last a long time with proper and prompt cleaning. Read the directions even if you are the male of the species. Store and transport these sprayers out of direct sunlight. Call me if you have questions or comments at 217-529-0061

Bob Sloan Memorial

The IFA Board formally established a memorial fund in honor of Bob Sloan. The amount of \$1000 from the general revenue was approved to establish the fund. Members who wish to add to this fund should send contributions to Dave Gillespie.

The **Bob Sloan Memorial Fund** will make available an annual award to deserving students studying Forestry at our state universities. The first recipient will be awarded at IFA's annual meeting. Criteria for applicants will be announced in the next newsletter.

On Serving GRITs

By John Gunter, IFA Region 4 Director

Four IFA members, who are also members of the Illinois Farm Bureau, are working cooperatively with Farm Bureau by bringing forestry expertise and issues to that organization's GRITs teams. The four IFA/IFB members are Charles Everett, McLeansboro; John Gunter, Marion; Ray Herman, Seymour; and Stan Sipp, Mansfield.

Grass Roots Issue Teams (GRITs) are established annually by Farm Bureau to "...identify emerging policy issues and new or underused business or educational opportunities/programs to help increase members' farm income, determine how issues discussed fit into current policy and draft policy submittals to change or create new policy, refer policy submittals to the IFB Resolutions Committee for consideration, and refer any opportunity/program recommendations to the IFB Board for consideration."

There are eight GRITs teams. The two of most interest to the forestry community are: Conservation and Natural Resources, and Renewable Resources and Energy. All the teams met on December 18, 2009 at the IAA Building in Bloomington. They will meet at least one other time before making their recommendations to the IFB Board in March 2010.

An issue that has moved to the forefront on the Conservation and Natural Resources GRITs team is the Four Percent Harvest Tax. This "self-imposed" tax is collected on all private timber sales in Illinois. Concerns center on availability of monies collected for their intended use as cost-share payments to forest landowners, administration of the fund by IDNR and "sweeps" of the fund by the legislature. The Four Percent tax has long been a concern of IFA. Members are encouraged to go to the IFA web site and read the recently-updated position paper there to learn more about what's at stake.

(And here you thought that this article had to do with that staple of Southern breakfasts!)

NW Illinois Forest Association Annual Meeting

By Ray Herman

The Northwest Illinois Forest Association 2010 Annual Dinner meeting will be held Tuesday evening, April 6, 7:00 p.m. at the Mount Carroll Church of God. Please note the change to April this year. Guest speaker will be Wade Conn, Agroforester with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service in Illinois. He will tell of Farm Bill programs available to forest landowners.

Cost of the meal is \$12.00. Please make reservations by March 30th with Keith Arnold at 162 S. Apple River Rd., Stockton, IL 61085, or by calling 815-947-2941. The Church of God is located at the northeast corner of the intersection of Highways 52/64 and 78 on the south end of Mt. Carroll.

Illinois Forestry Association

A non-profit, tax-exempt organization under IRS 501(c)3

Firebreaks Save Labor

By Roy Bailey, IFA Region 3 Director

Conducting a controlled burn can be tough due to fickle weather and the inflexible schedules of potential workers. Firebreaks can help reduce the number of helpers needed for a safe burn. Well planned breaks can serve your operation for many years while saving labor costs.

LOCATION

Roads, streams and adjacent land without fire potential will provide you with a free break. Otherwise a firebreak will need to be established at the edge of the area needing protection. When cropland is adjacent, a firebreak can be gained by doing the burn when there is no crop in the field and the flammable crop residue level is low. A narrow strip of light tillage can turn a cornstalk field into a good break.

CONSTRUCTION

Developing a firebreak at the woodland edge is best accomplished using smaller equipment and hand tools so that adjacent areas will not be damaged. Cutting trees, shrubs, and seedlings within the new firebreak at ground level is best done with chainsaws and brushcutters. A loader on a small tractor can help push fallen woody growth aside. Use a pitchfork and a gas-powered blower to send leaves, twigs, and small woody pieces off your break. Treat stumps with herbicide and follow later with a combination of a foliar and a residual herbicide. The alignment of the firebreak can be shifted to avoid excessively steep areas and to save prize trees.

MAINTENANCE

Use foliar and residual herbicides for 1 or 2 growing seasons to kill off any woody growth. Erosion can be a problem, especially on long and steeper slopes. Rainfall runoff from areas near the firebreak can sometimes be diverted away from the firebreak. Earthen ridges constructed diagonally across the firebreak (often termed waterbars) can prevent gullies. Mulch, tree trimmings, and temporary seeding may be needed. Woody growth reaching horizontally from adjacent areas can squeeze a break to nothing in a few years. Consider adding a horizontal spray nozzle to your 4-wheeler sprayer to limit this growth each spring. Tillage of firebreaks

should be limited to seedbed preparation on the more erosive sections. Mow or use herbicide to control plant growth that could contribute to a fire.

SEEDING

Seed erosive firebreak zones with a cool-season sod forming grass like timothy or smooth brome. Ladino clover is a good lush growing legume that will cover the soil and provide wildlife food. Natural regeneration of non-woody plants can provide benefits if mowed short a few times each year.

MULTIPLE BENEFITS

Firebreaks can be used for travel for woodland management and harvest. We will do a better job of management if it is convenient. The same breaks are great for recreational riding, nature watching and hunter access. Grass and clover on firebreaks provide food and cover for wildlife.

GAME of LOGGING - Chainsaw Training

By Ray Herman

See the fact sheet below for particulars on the course.

If you use a chainsaw, this course is a must. Safety is the number one issue. But you will learn and demonstrate techniques that you will use over and over. If both courses get filled and you attend all four days, there is a high likelihood of a rebate.

The Crawford County location includes an opportunity to sleep over and has kitchen facilities. Four (4) individuals are currently enrolled. Ray Herman asks that you call him if you want to hold a spot. The Mercer County location currently has two (2) enrolled. Call John for particulars and to hold a spot at that location.

"Game of Logging"

CHAINSAW SAFETY & TREE FELLING CLASS

Sponsored by:
the Illinois Walnut Council and the Illinois Forestry Association
In the interest of safety

Four day seminar split into two 2 day sessions



Instructor: Joe Glenn, professional logger and certified instructor

Class size 12 people

\$400.00/person

You will learn:
Chainsaw operation, maintenance and safety;
Tree felling; Topping and cutting spring poles

March 9 & 10 AND April 2 & 3, 2010 in Mercer County
Contact John Torbert @ 309-337-0879

March 12 & 13 AND March 30 & 31 in Crawford County
Contact Ray Herman @ 217-377-7568

Equipment (chainsaw, chaps, helmet, etc) provided

ALL STUDENTS WILL CUT TREES!

Illinois Forestry Association
P.O. 224
Chatham, IL 62629-0224



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