



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

Message from the President

Bill Gradle

On October 9, 2013, I assumed the office of President of the Illinois Forestry Association (IFA). I am very humbled to be able to serve as president of such a great organization. Eight years ago there were a number of us that worked on creating a statewide forestry association that is now IFA. I need to say a special thanks to Stephanie Brown, our immediate past-president. Stephanie was also IFA's very first president. She responded to the call two years ago to fill the vice-president slot when nobody could be found to take the position. She has served IFA with great vision and forethought in all of the executive positions she has held. I thank her for her dedication, hard work, and her ability to get things done. IFA has been blessed with some very good leadership over the years. Currently we have a very good Board of Directors that are directing Regional activities for members. Our current Vice-President, Mr. Dick Little rounds out our executive team with Dave Gillespie and Susan Romano as Secretary and Treasurer respectively.

Our goal over the next year is to increase our membership. While we have experienced an increase in membership over the last year, we need to do better. Internal studies that we have completed show that to continue to provide our members with services, be effective in the formulation of policy at the state and federal levels, and promote forestry in Illinois, we need more memberships to generate the funding to complete our goals and objectives. While we currently have around 712 members, we need a 1,000!!

Our activities over the next year will be to increase membership and fund-raising. I'm confident we can increase both and have some fun doing it!

While we face challenges on both the state and federal levels when it comes to funding for technical assistance and implementing forest plans, by working together and strategically working with other forest partners, we can make a difference.

I look forward to working with all of you and wish you a healthy, happy, and safe holiday season.

Executive Director

by Mary Murphy



Being the first executive director for the Illinois Forestry Association was an exciting

challenge for both the Association and for me. I arrived at the IFA with over 27 years in association administration and looked forward to using those skills in formatting new ideas for this Association. Looking back over the past year, I can truly say what a pleasure it has been to be involved in this dynamic organization. The board consists of foresters, land owners, Tree Farmers, arborists and other interested professionals. The members are actively working in their professions or retired and working to better the IFA. What a great group of people and I thank them for their strong leadership abilities.

During 2013, I have met many of the key players in the IDNR. Mike Mason and Paul Deizman, took their time to visit with me and explain their IDNR positions and how the IFA can partner with them on many projects. Working hand in hand with the Department of Natural Resources is an essential benefit for both organizations.

I have enjoyed the field trips and hope the entire membership will take advantage of these learning activities in 2014. Reading the event calendar will show that there are field-trip opportunities all over the state. These trips focus on many amazing people whose interest in forestry and the impact of this industry on the Illinois

economy is great. And, I have met people whose forestry interest is only in the beauty of it all. Either way it has been an educational experience.

The year is almost up now, and as much as I have enjoyed it, I am saying good-bye and will not continue into 2014. I slipped out of retirement to take on this adventure and now I will slip back into retirement and watch as the IFA heads full-force into the future.

Thanks to all for your support.

Here Comes the Sun! IFA Annual Meeting Held on the 21st and 22nd of September, 2013

by Mary Murphy

A most successful IFA annual meeting was held in September at the Illinois Valley Community College with 75 people attending the field day and 64 the annual meeting and educational programs. Illinois Forestry Association's annual meeting committee members Dick Pouzar, Galena; Tom Vorac, Geneseo and Kurt Bobsin, Clinton, provided a full agenda for those who participated.

As part of the business meeting, new officers for the IFA were elected for 2014. The new officers are Bill Gradle, Champaign, President and Dick Little, Pleasant Plains, Vice President. Dave Gillespie, Chatham, Secretary and Susan Romano, Macomb, Treasurer will continue in their current positions for 2014. Stephanie Brown, 2013 President, Golconda, moved into the honored position of Past President.

New board members are as follows: Region 1 - Todd Stone, Davis Junction and Alan Wolfgang, Hinsdale; Region 2 - Edward Eppy, Metamora; and Region 4- John Dickson, Makanda.

Secretary Comments

by Dave Gillespie

Following a great annual meeting, organized and conducted by our Region 1 Directors, we begin a new year with Bill Gradle as President and Dick Little as Vice President. I have worked with both gentlemen for a number of years, and know they are very capable in their new leadership roles in the IFA. Bill is retired from the NRCS, and was the co-chair of the task force that organized the IFA. Dick is retired from the IDNR, and previously has been the Treasurer of the IFA.

Our membership numbers continue to grow. As of today after adding two (2) new members and renewing the membership of three (3) members, the IFA has 732 active members. In addition to the leadership provided by our Officers and the Board of Directors, the key to the success of the IFA is our membership. As the old saying goes; "The more the merrier." We all need to be recruiters of new IFA members. I am sure if you think about it, you know at least three or four people who are your friends, your neighbors, or your relatives who are interested in trees and the forests of Illinois. Get them to join the IFA. If we all would do this our membership would grow, and we would be an even more effective organization.

Do you have questions or concerns about the IFA? Contact me. Thanks for your interest and concern regarding forestry in Illinois.

Illinois Forestry Association

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IRS 501(c)3

IFA Annual Meeting A Success

Here Comes the Sun

by Kurt Bobsin, IFA Technical Advisor

This was the theme around which IFA's 8th annual meeting was centered. Dick Pouzar, Tom Vorac and the IFA Technical Committee, with the help of IDNR District Forester Randy Timmons, did an outstanding job of setting up speakers and presenters to demonstrate the importance of managing forest light conditions. Whether you are growing wood for logs, attracting migrating songbirds or interested in hunting deer or wild turkey, it is all about the light.

This year's annual meeting returned to the idea of setting up field stops the day before the business meeting. On Friday, participants received hands-on experience to examine the methods and benefits of opening space in the forest. Following a discussion by Dr. Fredric Miller about the emerald ash borer in the parking lot at Starved Rock State Park, the group broke up and headed in different directions.

Each group rotated from several sites including Camp Stanley, a private property and certified Tree Farm, a nearby nature preserve at Matthiesson Dells State Park and another Starved Rock site. Forestry practices for thinning trees and controlling undesirable vegetation, including exotic and invasive plant species were presented. Brain Walters, a restoration ecologist, discussed several years of managing the nature preserve using fire and mechanical methods. The impacts were very evident by simply comparing to the woods across the road with no treatment.

Tom Gargrave and Dave Griffith [IDNR Forestry] did a great job of showing proper tree felling techniques and discussing the invasive species work going on at the park. Kurt Bobsin [IDNR Forestry] and John Edgington [IFA Director and former forestry professor] helped Randy Timmons at Camp Stanley that featured a 21 year old black walnut plantation and an inspection of the woodland response following a harvest nearly 40 years ago.

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IDNR Forester Dave Griffith leads a discussion on identifying and controlling exotic invasive species.



Tom Gargrave, IDNR Regional Forester, discusses invasive species in the woods.



2013 Outstanding Achievement Award being awarded to Dan Schmoker by President Stephanie Brown

That evening, the group enjoyed a dinner and some socializing to renew old friendships and make new friends. William Luppold [US Forest Service] gave a presentation about the role of Illinois hardwoods in the international and domestic market place.

On Saturday, the IFA membership gathered to take care of business under the guidance of IFA's Executive Director, Mary Murphy. New officers and director were installed, awards were presented and the members voted on by-law revisions to help set the course and direction of the Association for 2014.

Following lunch there were presentations given by John Edgington, Jeff Harris [IDNR Forestry], Stacy Lindemann [National Wild Turkey Federation] and John Gunter [past IFA president and forestry professor]. They continued on the theme of the meeting by reinforcing many of the concepts presented during the field tour. Manipulating light conditions in the forest and some of the costs and benefits associated with such practices.

This was a very successful meeting that had a record number of IFA members in attendance. If you missed out, you missed out...but don't despair. Planning efforts are already underway for next year's meeting by the Region 2 Directors. The meeting location has been determined – Springfield - and "A Taste of the Forest" will be the theme for the 9th IFA Annual Meeting. So set aside the dates now -Sept. 26 – 27, 2014 - and watch future newsletters and check the website www.ilforestry.org for upcoming information.



Randy Timmons, IDNR District Forester, talks about the 21 year old black walnut plantation.



Top: Kurt Bobsin, IDNR Forester, extends a welcome to the field day and briefing on the logistics for the afternoon.

Left: Annual meeting attendees listen to presenter Jeff Harris, IDNR District Forester.

Opinions & Commentary Walnuts & Acorns

by Lee M. Rife



Some Thoughts About Autumn

October is my favorite time of the year. The days are still warm to mild, much of the humidity has gone out of the air, and we get fall colors. Combines are moving through farm fields, bringing in the harvest, which this year, promises to be a rather good one. High schools are having their homecomings and every town in Illinois large enough to have a high school football team is out on Friday night cheering their local boys on. Yes, October is a reward for a cold Winter, wet Spring and hot Summer. All too soon it will be January once again and time for the cycle to repeat.

Here in the lower Midwest we don't have very many native conifer trees, so we don't get to see a green forest for five to six months out of the year. From mid-November until sometime in April we get to look at naked trees, instead. I find this to be probably the most depressing thing about wintertime. No leaves with the wind rustling through. No green undergrowth on the forest floor. Just cold wind howling and making one wish that they had either put on insulated Carharts or thermal underwear before venturing outside.

But this is October. While it might be cool in the morning, it will soon be warm and even a sweatshirt will be too hot. There might be fog, but it will soon burn off and we will see nature in all her glory. It's time to celebrate. The crops are coming in, the trees are turning out magnificent colors and the weather is perfect. What more can we ask?

"The History of Conservation in Illinois"

(Installment # 6)

By: Dave Gillespie, Secretary

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

Some of the notes found in Andre Michaux' Journal about the medicinal and other values of trees and shrubs are of interest from which only a few are selected: "Liquidambar. (now the red gum). "A Frenchman who traded among the Cheroquis savages cured himself of the itch by drinking for ten days a decoction of chips of that tree which he called copalm and which is the true Liquidambar." Celtis occidentalis, Hackberry. "The 7th of November confirmed my opinion that the second bark of Celtis occidentalis (called in the Illinois country Bois connu and toward New Orleans inconnu) is an excellent remedy for curing jaundice; a handful of the roots or leaves of Smilax sarsaparilla is added to it; it is used for about eight days as a decoction."

Padus virginiana (*Prunus virginiana*). "in making wheels for vehicles the workmen use the wood of Padus virginiana for the felloes, elm for the naves and white oak for the spokes."

Quercus – Oak. "Having nothing to do on January 2nd, I made ink with gall nuts which I gathered on the oaks in the vicinity of the spot where we camped. It was made in less than five minutes and will serve as a sample."

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

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!

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What Good is Dead Wood?

by Tom Vorac, Region 1 Director

When you hear a barred owl calling “who cooks for you?” in your woods, chances are it’s calling from a nest cavity in the limb of a dying tree. When you see the bright red head of a woodpecker as it streaks through the forest, chances are it’s flying from the home it excavated in a hollow snag. When you encounter a fox, field mouse, opossum, raccoon or other woodland mammal, chances are that dead logs, stumps and brush on your forest floor provide the cover these creatures need to survive. And when you turn over a fallen log to find a salamander, you uncover the hidden world that thrives beneath the moist, decaying wood.

Chances are the dead wood that might seem useless to you is really home to one or more forest animal. Wildlife biologists estimate that as many as 20 % of woodland species depend on dead or dying wood to survive and thrive. Since managing for wildlife is one of the cornerstones of good forest management, it’s good to keep snags, brush, slash and other dead wood in your woodlands. By doing so, you can help provide homes for creatures of all kinds.

Snags, logs and brushpiles are vital to a wide variety of wild creatures.

Snags



Many things can kill trees from ice storms to insects to fire. But once a

tree is dead, there are alternatives to cutting it down and carting it out of the woods. A snag acts as a home for insects, birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians. It acts like a time-release

‘compost stick’ that is slowly releasing nutrients into the soil. Without snags, a forest just isn’t the same for wildlife who use the cavities to nest, attract mates and find food.”

Logs



When you leave downed trees or logs on your property, you are starting a life cycle fueled by the decomposing wood. Plants, fungi and animals rely on logs as food sources and places to live. Decomposing logs enrich the soil and provide places for tree saplings and other plants to take root. They also serve as shelter and denning sites for animals.

Brushpiles

Brushpiles provide a microhabitat for small woodland creatures to hide from predators. By recycling extra trimmings, branches and logs into brushpiles for wildlife, you can boost biodiversity on your land.

All they need to do is provide the right food and shelter for their desired species. And it often starts with using dead wood!

If you are interested in more information please contact your Regional Directors.

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Fall Into Tree Planting

Tree Selection and Planting

Guide for Fall Tree Plantings

by Jennifer Behnken, SIU, Dept. of Forestry

With autumn colors in full array, now is the time to get out there and become active with fall tree plantings. Even planting one tree provides a wide variety of benefits, including environmental (e.g. stormwater uptake, air filtration, wildlife habitat), social (e.g. recreation, community interactions, increased health recovery time), and economical (e.g. increase property value, save power on utilities, economic boost for businesses) assets. With all of these benefits in mind and more, why wait any further?

Fall is one of the best times to plant. Trees are ending their growing season and shutting down for a winter's sleep. As a result, there are less stressful components since the tree's energy storage is being rerouted to the roots. Transplant shock is less and the tree has a chance to work on re-establishing its root system in preparation for the next growing season the following spring. A few frosts and freezes do not harden the ground completely as in the winter months, making digging less cumbersome during the fall season. Colder temperatures also diminish the insect and disease populations, making the trees less susceptible to infestations.

There are a few things to consider before planting a tree. First, know who owns the land, whether it is your own property or having the permission of the city to plant on a public right-of-way. You also may have to check for underground pipes or power lines before digging as well as power lines overhead.

Second, understand the planting space, including soil characteristics, drainage, soil space, and depth. These factors will help guide your tree selection and options, such as tree species, growth rate, mature height, and mature spread.

Different species of trees will have different types of requirements, such as amount of light needed, moisture, soil chemistry, and tolerance to urban areas (e.g. road salt, herbicides, compaction, pollution). You may also have personal objectives of how your tree will serve you, including shade, fruit, flowering, attract wildlife species, energy conservation, or fall foliage aesthetics. Do your research by looking at tree identification books or resources online to determine which tree species will best fit your needs.

Once you have made your decision and bought your tree, the first step to planting is digging the hole. The depth of the hole should be level with the root collar of the tree, or the transition area between the tree trunk and the roots. The soil directly underneath the tree should be firm to serve as a pedestal so the tree does not raise or sink. The hole should be 2-3 times the diameter of the root ball to ensure that the roots will have room to grow and expand outward. Check the roots before planting the tree. If grown in a container or burlap, for example, the roots may be pot bound and need to be loosened to ensure that they continue to grow out instead of encircling the tree, which may lead to root girdling in the future.

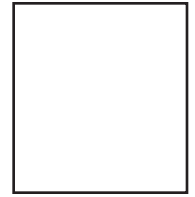
Once the tree is planted, fill the soil back in and tamp the soil down to eliminate air pockets. Staking the tree is not always necessary. Use stakes only if the tree cannot stand up on its own or the trunk is bending at an undesirable angle. Otherwise, staking the tree can potentially weaken the root structure, as it needs to "learn" how to stand on its own against typical weather elements. Mulching around the tree helps retain moisture and keeps other competitive vegetation at bay. The mulch should be placed in a doughnut shape around the tree without actually touching the trunk at a depth of 2-4 inches. Water the tree at least once a week, depending on rainfall amounts, until the soil freezes. Give the tree a chance to re-establish itself before pruning, which typically happens 1-3 years after the tree is planted. You may also lightly fertilize if needed.

For additional information, see:
<http://urbanext.illinois.edu/treeselector/>
<http://www.arborday.org/shopping/trees/treewizard/intro.cfm>
<http://www.arborday.org/trees/video/howToPlant.cfm>

For further inquiries, contact your district or city forester or arborist. You may also contact Jennifer Behnken, Southern Illinois University Carbondale's urban and community forester at 618-453-2517 or urban.forestry@siu.edu.

Planting a tree provides many opportunities, whether it is for yourself, your family, or your community. Take this time to explore how trees can work for you. Have fun playing in your yard and get planting!

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

Upcoming Events

You can find more information on our website, www.ilforestry.org/Events

December

12/14/2013 "Managing Your Backyard Forest", Rock Springs Nature Center, Decatur, 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

January

Check the Illinois Forestry Association website for upcoming events

February

Check the Illinois Forestry Association website for upcoming events