



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



Greetings Illinois Forestry Association Members:

Spring has finally arrived, though as I write this it is rather cool!!

One concern for those interested with forestry issues in Illinois has been the status of the States' tree nurseries. Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) has operated two facilities, one in Mason County and the other in Union County. At their peak in the middle 90's, they were raising around six million bare root seedlings and shrubs. Since then, as with the rest of State government, staffing has been reduced at these facilities and within the last year, due to retirements, no one remained at the Union County facility and it was shut down. Staff reductions at the Mason County Nursery were such that last year only around one million seedlings were produced, though demand is still very high. In fact, the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan calls for 350,000 acres of reforestation! This does not include what's in the Illinois Forest Action Plan!!

In an atmosphere of very tight budgets, Illinois Forestry Association (IFA) has approached the decision-makers in IDNR to charge for the cost of the seedlings in order to cover the costs for staff and overhead. Both the interim State Forester Tom Wilson and IDNR Director Mark Miller have been receptive to the idea. Federal programs such as the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and the former Wetland Reserve Program, which is being rolled into the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP), have funding available for restoration, including trees. In these types of restorations, it is important to have native stock, grown locally that is adaptive to our eco-types here in Illinois.

We also discussed this issue with State Senator John Sullivan, Vice-Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Conservation. He also was receptive to the idea of IDNR selling the seedlings to cover costs.

In all our conversations with these folks we stressed the need for IDNR to have the flexibility to give out free seedlings when necessary, say if a community is devastated by a tornado or say to a school.

On May 14, 2014, we were informed by interim State Forester Tom Wilson that Senator Sullivan was including, in a supplemental appropriation, the dollars to place four employees at the Union County Nursery and to fill two Forest Health positions. This is good news indeed!! While it is not a done deal, it is promising. At this writing, I do not have a bill number, but when that is available we will send it out to you. We urge you to contact your state legislature representatives and urge passage of the bill.

On another front, as you read this, IFA will be advertizing for an Executive Director.

Our 9th Annual Meeting will be in Springfield this year at Scheel's. I believe we have some information on the website. The planning committee is finalizing the agenda. They have some "heavy hitters" lined up for speakers on Friday September 26 and interesting field tours on the 27th. It's shaping up to be the best one yet!!

We still need to bolster our membership rolls and to those existing members, if you are interested in serving as a Director on our Board, please let us know.

Have yourselves a nice Summer!!

IFA Annual Meeting

by Carol Bryant, Region 2 Director

The Illinois Forestry Association is hosting a two-day conference, "A Taste of the forest", on September 26-27 at SCHEELS in Springfield. The Friday afternoon session will feature presentations by Ivan Dozier, Illinois State Conservationist - Natural Resources Conservation Service, Marc Miller, Director - Illinois Department of Natural Resources, and Gwen Kolb, State Coordinator, Partners for Fish and Wildlife - U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. The evening dinner is scheduled for 5:00 p.m. followed by the Keynote Speaker, James Veselenak - University of Illinois Springfield, retired, discussing "Fungi in the Forest". The annual business meeting will follow Dr. Veselenak's presentation. The traditional silent auction (Don't forget to bring money or a checkbook) will be split over two separate days with different items available on the two days.

On Saturday, groups will visit the Ralph Winch Sawmill where they will watch the operation of a WoodMizer LT40 Hydraulic portable sawmill and Hynes Farm where they will participate in small breakout sessions about Tree ID, Tree planting, chainsaw sharpening and maintenance, shiitake log plugging, and forest wildlife habitat, etc. A lunch will be provided at the farm.

SCHEELS is a large sports, sportswear and recreational equipment store located in the Legacy Pointe Town Center at 3801 S. MacArthur Boulevard, one exit west of the junction of Interstates 72 and 55 on the southern edge of Springfield, Illinois. Special attractions at SCHEELS include Wildlife Mountain, Buck Hunt shooting gallery, Archery land, golf simulator & putting green, a Home Decor and Gift Lodge, an on-site cafeteria, a salt water aquarium and a 65-foot Ferris wheel.

The Route 66 Mother Road Festival is held in downtown Springfield the same weekend, so you may want to make your room reservations early. A "courtesy" block of 20 guest rooms has been reserved at the Holiday Inn Express, 3050 S. Dirksen Pkwy, for Friday, September 26, 2014 at a price of \$89.00 plus tax per night for 1-2 guests per room. The block will be listed as Illinois Forestry Association, so that when our guests call in (Phone: 217-529-7771 or 800-465-4329), all they need to do is mention IFA. The block will be released on August 26, 2014.

There are 18 motels within 15 minutes of Scheels. There are 6 campgrounds in the area. A map with their locations can be found on the Springfield Convention & Visitors Bureau website: visit-springfieldillinois.com.

IFA Annual Meeting Registration Fees

Friday & Saturday: IFA member - \$50; IFA member & guest - \$90; non-member - \$60
Friday or Saturday: IFA member - \$30; IFA member & guest - \$55; non-member - \$35

Mail a check made out to the "Illinois Forestry Association" to: Carol Bryant, 7841 S. Panther Creek Road, Mount Olive, Illinois 62069 or register online at www.ilforestry.org. Check must arrive before Friday, September 19, 2014. Registrations received after September 19th may be charged an additional \$5 or \$10 at the door.

Contact persons: Jake Hendee (913-547-2541), Jim Hynes (217-502-4528), Dan Schmoker (217-416-1587), Ed Eppy (309-256-3430) and Carol Bryant (618-444-3864).

Secretary Comments

by Dave Gillespie

I'd like to use this report to discuss some of the things going on in the Illinois Legislature this Spring Legislative session.

As we've reported in the past, one of the objectives of the IFA is to work with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) to strengthen the Division of Forest Resources. Within that objective, the IFA is very concerned that the Union Tree Nursery has been basically closed for the last couple of years. In addition to an IDNR facility being idle and not contributing to the local economy, production of quality tree seedlings from Illinois seed sources does not come close to meeting the demand for such seedlings. Only the Mason Tree Nursery remains open and active.

About a month ago, IFA President Bill Gradle and I met with State Senator John Sullivan. Senator Sullivan has assisted the IFA and the IDNR in the past. We explained the IDNR Union Nursery situation and the importance of reactivating the nursery to help meet the demand for tree seedlings. A few days ago we received word that Senator Sullivan has worked with IDNR Director Miller and Acting State Forester Tom Wilson to prepare a supplemental budget proposal to reactivate the Union Tree Nursery.

This was great news, but we learned that the supplemental budget proposal will only happen if the Democratic Caucus proposes a supplemental budget. So, we will have to wait to see what happens with the State Legislature and the budget for next fiscal year.

However, we did get the attention of the IDNR, and again we need to thank Senator John Sullivan for his concern and assistance with forestry issues. We will keep you informed.

New Publications of interest

by Dick Little, IFA Vice President

The US Forest Service Northern Research Station periodically publishes reports that may be of interest to you. The following are just a few new publications that are available online at www.nrs.fs.fed.us/pubs.



GTR-NRS-109.

An assessment of invasive plant species monitored by the Northern Research Station Forest Inventory and Analysis Program, 2005 through 2010. Kurtz, C.M. 70p.

Invasive plant species are a worldwide concern due to the high ecological and economic costs associated with their presence. This document describes the plant characteristics and regional distribution of the 50 invasive plant species monitored from 2005 through 2010 on forested Phase 2 (P2) Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) plots in the 24 states of the Northern Research Station. (Illinois is one of the States.) Genus level data for nonnative bush honeysuckles (*Lonicera* species) are included from 2005 through 2006. The data are from plots that are monitored in forested areas for public and private ownership classes.

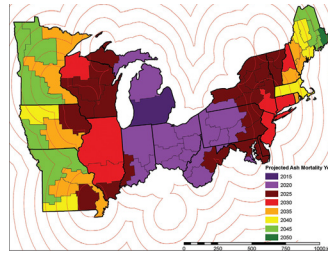
GTR-NRS-P-115. Managing fire hardwoods after a half century of research: Proceedings of the Seventh Walnut Council Research Symposium. Van Sambeek, J.W.; Jackson, E.A.; Coggeshall, M.V.; Thomas, A.L.; Michler, C.H., eds. 106 p. (*may still be available in CD ROM*).

This report presents information from the Seventh Walnut Council Research Symposium, held August 1-3, 2011. This report includes 14 papers and abstracts relating to economics and utilization, pest management, nursery production, plantation establishment, tree improvement, stand management, agroforestry, and nut production of black walnut, related *Juglans* species, and other high value hardwoods.

RN-NRS-182. An assessment of multiflora rose in northern U.S. forest. Kurtz, C.M.; Hansen, M.

This publication (5 pages) provides an overview of multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*) on forest land across the 24 states of the Midwestern and Northeastern United States based on an extensive systematic network of plots measured by the FIA program of the U.S. Forest Service, Northern Research Station (NRS).

GTR-NRS-112. Modeling the effects of emerald ash borer on forest composition in the Midwest and Northeast United States. DeSanis, R.D.; Moser, W.K.; Huggett, R.J.; Li, R.; Wear, D.N.; Miles, P.D. 23p.



The nonnative invasive Emerald Ash Borer (*Agrilus planipennis* Fairmaire; EAB) has

caused considerable damage to the ash (*Fraxinus* spp.) resource in North America. While there are methods to mitigate, contain, control, even eradicate some nonnative invasive insects, EAB continues to spread across North America. Considering strong evidence suggesting >99 percent probability of host tree mortality, the loss of the North American ash resource is possible.

To examine anticipated effect of EAB on tree species composition, the study modeled future spatial and temporal changes in forest composition over the next 50 years with and without ash mortality anticipated from EAB spread. The authors used Forest Service IFA data, the current extent of EAB in the North American, estimated spread rate and host mortality data, and a suite of human population, energy, consumption, land use, and economic models to project the future conditions of forests in the Midwest and Northeast U.S.

The results suggest that in most cases EAB will not have a substantial effect on ecosystem function of future forest measured by FIA because of the replacement of ash by other species. The transition from ash to other species may take many decades, but forests can eventually recover when a variety of associated species replace ash.

Updated Forestry EQIP Fact Sheet

by Wade Conn, NRCS, IFA Technical Advisor

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has completed revision of the Forestry Fact Sheet. The fact sheet titled, Key Practices for Forestry, lists 10 different key practices covered under the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

Practices include Forest Management Plans, Prescribed Burns, Tree/Shrub Establishment and more. EQIP eligible participants may receive financial assistance to implement forestry practices on their non-industrial Forestland.

All revised EQIP fact sheets can be found on the Illinois NRCS website (www.il.nrcs.usda.gov) under the Newsroom tab and Fact Sheets. Or contact your local NRCS office.

The image shows the cover of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Fact Sheet. The cover features the USDA logo and the title 'Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)'. Below the title, there is a list of key practices for forestry, including Forest Management Plans, Prescribed Burns, Tree/Shrub Establishment, and more. The cover also includes a small photograph of a person working in a forest.

WARNING

PURPLE PAINT

means

NO TRESPASSING !

It's the Law

Illinois Forestry Association - The Voice for Illinois Forests

Purple Paint Signs - Still Available

by Stan Sipp, Region 3 Director

No Trespassing signs which explain that purple paint marked property boundaries signify trespassing is not allowed continue to be available from the Illinois Forestry Association (IFA). The Purple Paint Law was passed by the Illinois General Assembly in 2011 with the support of the IFA.

The concept of using purple paint to designate property on which unauthorized trespassing is prohibited allows the property owner the option of using a lower cost method of marking boundaries which has the added advantage of being very tamper resistant. Posting signs at intervals close enough so that they will not be overlooked is expensive; and, such signs are easily defaced, removed or destroyed. In addition, attaching signs to live trees is usually detrimental to the health and value of the tree.

For the first two years of the law's existence, a landowner was required to notify, either orally or in writing, or post signage explaining that unauthorized trespass on property marked with purple paint was illegal. These signs constitute an appropriate method of such notification. The notification/signing requirement was to educate the general public of the concept that purple paint marked boundaries meant **No Trespassing**. As of January 1, 2013, the requirement to post such signs lapsed with the assumption that the general public was now aware that purple paint meant **No Trespassing**.

In spite of the educational notifications since the inception of the law, many individuals are still not aware of the meaning of purple paint marked

property boundaries. Posting a Purple Paint Sign at the entrance to your property will insure that individuals know that unauthorized trespass is not allowed.

Members can purchase signs for \$12.00 each; non-member cost is \$18.00 each. An additional \$8.00 charge is added for packing, mailing and insurance for shipping an individual sign to a purchaser. Shipping costs per sign decline somewhat with multiple sign orders. The maximum number of signs that can be sent in one mailing package is five; the shipping charge for a package with five signs is \$11.00.

Please contact me via e-mail at skipp@illinois.edu or at P.O. Box 111, Mansfield, IL 61854 to order signs for your property. You can also order signs through the Illinois Forestry Association website www.ilforestry.org.

"Ailanthus: A Nonnative Urban Tree Is Causing Trouble in Our Forest"

by Dick Little, IFA Vice President

Recently, Ailanthus or Tree-of-Heaven has come up in a couple of meetings that I have attended. This non-native species can cause problems in both the Urban and Rural settings. The US Forest Service Northern Research Station has just published their quarterly publication, (Number 22 Spring 2014) on this invasive plant. The following is a short summary of their report.

"Ailanthus, the so-called tree-of-heaven, is probably the most famous invasive tree in the United States. It's the title tree in Betty Smith's classic 1943 novel *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*, where it is used as a metaphor for persistence and toughness in the face of adversity.

However, that toughness makes this tree –*Ailanthus altissima* (aka ailanthus, tree-of-heaven, stink tree, and Chinese sumac) – a serious problem wherever it grows. It usually grows in urban settings, industrial wastelands, and mine

spoils, and along railroad and highway corridors. It survives in hot, dry, and toxic soils, and sends its roots down around and through concrete and paving cracks. It sends out seeds in enormous numbers, smells bad, and is allelopathic (toxic to other plants). Ailanthus can create dense clonal thickets, almost monocultures. It grows very quickly, often displacing native plants, which may affect wildlife. It is extremely difficult to eradicate, and cutting down the trunk and/or pesticide treatment only results in new shoots growing up from the roots.

Botanists, ecologists, and foresters plus forest owners and managers have realized that ailanthus has now spread into the eastern forests and is endangering regeneration and restoration efforts, especially in the mixed-oak forests of West Virginia, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. Ailanthus is beginning to show up in the forest areas in Illinois outside of the urban areas. Forest ailanthus may be trees descended from those planted at abandoned farmsteads or from seeds brought along transportation corridors.

Scientists are working to control and prevent Ailanthus infestations. Ailanthus exacerbates the challenges of regenerating oaks, especially in natural

disturbance, timber harvests, and prescribed and wildfires. Although ailanthus is shade-intolerant, it can survive under shade and then grow vigorously into even small clearings, interfering with growth of native oaks and other trees and spreading out into large clonal patches.

There are many questions to be answered. However, there is some good news. The Forest Service scientists are working on some promising alternative methods for controlling ailanthus. Hopefully, these will be available in the near future before it becomes a serious problem in Illinois.



Opinions & Commentary Walnuts & Acorns

by Lee M. Rife



Having a backyard full (approximately ten gazillion) of maple seeds and even a greater number, as if that were possible in the front yard, I got to thinking. Every tree has its plusses and its minuses. For example, maple trees provide excellent shade. Unfortunately, soft maples shed limbs constantly and the aforementioned seeds, particularly on the roof and in gutters can be a real pain. Sweet Gum trees are beautiful in the fall; however, gumballs are a particular nuisance for home owners and city maintenance people. They clog gutters, storm sewers and can become a hazard under certain conditions. White pines shed needles and cones throughout the winter, and unless they are thoroughly raked up, will kill grass as well as most other plant life near the tree requiring an extra heavy application of pelletized lime every spring. Really, the best use of pine straw is around blueberry bushes, which love acid soil.

Other trees which can be nuisance are honey locust, which can always seem to crop up in pastures and are really a nuisance the year after you have clipped them as they leave stumps like big spike nails just looking for tractor tires, yet these trees produce some of the most beautiful lumber that I have seen. Red elm may not be high on any timber growers list, but every 'shromer' will know the location of each and every red elm tree in the woods: fried morels anyone? Needless to say any maple is not welcome in the forest due to its ability to shade everything else out.

In addition, with the exception of the northern most tiers of counties, Illinois does not grow quality maple, or so I'm told. However, I can remember when there was a fairly good market for soft maple to be used in furniture frames.

We have recently completed a prescribed burn on my 35 acres of woodland. It was said to be very successful. Still there are some exotics surviving. We will be working on those later in the year. For now, I wish each and every reader the best for summer 2014.

From every conceivable angle—economic, social, cultural, public health, national defense—conservation of natural resources is an objective on which all should agree.

Hugh Hammond Bennett
1959

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"The History of Conservation in Illinois"

(Installment # 8)

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 seventh installment ended.

Illinois as a Frontier State

1818 – 1848

By 1818, owing to a rapid increase of population, Illinois finally became a State by Act of Congress. A State Constitution was adopted in August, State officers were elected, and by the end of the year, Illinois was formally admitted to the Union on equal footing with the original states. (Ill. Blue Book, 1903.)

During the early years of statehood, Illinois was distinctly the frontier state of the northwest. The northern half of the State, in 1818, was almost wholly unoccupied by white settlers, and even in the southern half the settlements were often separated by long stretches of wilderness. (Ill. Blue Book, 1903.) There were but two centers of population in the entire State which could fairly be designated as towns, these were Kaskaskia in the west and Shawneetown on the Ohio River in southeastern Illinois. (Quaife, 1918)

A journal kept by Mr. John Wood in 1819 describing his trip from England to the "English Prairie" in Illinois reveals interesting facts concerning the wildlife and forests near Shawneetown. (Thwaite, 1748-1846.)

(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!

**Illinois Conservation Police Warn Landowners to
Beware of Timber Theft
Logging company must pay \$75,000 settlement: second timber theft
case results in 16 felony charges**

SPRINGFIELD, IL – Two recent timber theft cases have resulted in hefty settlements and felony charges for loggers that cut trees without permission. The Illinois Conservation Police reminds landowners to make sure loggers are licensed, bonded and that a written contract is obtained prior to the harvest. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry will also assist the landowners with marking their timber, and encourages landowners to contract them at (888) 244-1706 or visit the IDNR website: <http://dnr.state.il.us/conservation/forestry/>.

- Eighty-eight white oak trees illegally harvested

A central Illinois logging company must pay \$75,000 for illegally harvesting 88 mature white oak trees within the Tallmadge Sand Forest Land and Water Reserve owned by The Nature Conservancy and protected by the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission. The theft of trees valued conservatively at \$20,000 was first discovered at the Kankakee County site in September 2009. The Illinois Nature Preserves Commission within the Illinois Department of Natural Resources works to provide legal protection to Illinois' remaining natural areas.

As part of the settlement agreement, Poignant Logging, Inc. of Lacon and LeRoy Poignant Jr., will pay The Nature Conservancy (TNC) \$75,000 as compensation for the stolen timber and damage done to the site. In the process of removing these trees, Poignant and the loggers caused over \$61,780 in damages to the ground and understory. The logging company was hired by the Antlers and Wings Hunt Club of Kankakee County, operated by Anthony Dinovo and located adjacent to the protected forest. Loggers accessed the forest from the hunt club property. As part of the agreement, the club will sell 69 acres to the TNC to expand the Tallmadge Sand Forest LWR. TNC has an option to purchase an additional 41 acres.

- Eleven landowners not compensated for timber harvested

The Illinois Conservation Police investigated a complaint in September 2013 from a Stephenson County landowner alleging timber had been cut on property owned by 11 different landowners, and that payment was not received. The value of the stolen timber was estimated to be in excess of \$97,000. Ronald J. Hertel, 63, of Shannon, IL was arrested April 16 after the Stephenson County State's Attorney authorized 16 felony charges for theft of timber, and 12 misdemeanor charges for failure to pay the IDNR four percent harvest fee, and failure to provide IDNR and accounting of the timber harvest. Equipment used to conduct the illegal harvest also was confiscated, including a John Deere Log Skidder and other gear. Additional charges are pending in Carroll County. Conservation Police are aware Hertel was cutting in several other counties in northern Illinois. Anyone with additional information should call (217) 782-6431.

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

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FORESTRY WORKSHOP

Heart of the Sangamon Ecosystem Partnership is sponsoring a Forestry Workshop to provide Woodlot Landowners the information needed to have a profitable forest.

The workshop will focus on water quality and forest management. The open forum discussion will stem from the findings and observations at the toured woodlots.

Even if you attended the Forest Management Workshop in the fall, you won't want to miss this one!



When: June 28th
Where: National Sequestration Educational Center
(3451 President Howard Brown Blvd., Decatur, IL)
Time: 8:00 a.m. – 2:15 p.m.

TIME LINE OF EVENTS

8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.	Load Charter Bus at NSEC Building Free Donuts on the bus!
8:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Tour 3 Area Woodlots Informational DVD's on bus!
11:30 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.	Lunch/Vendor Exhibits Free Lunch provided at NSEC Building! Tour vendor exhibits at lunch!
1: p.m. – 1:45 p.m.	Expert Panel Presentation
1:45 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.	Open Forum Discussion

Registration Form

Please Register by June 10th to ensure a spot on the charter bus and free lunch!

Name: _____

Address: _____

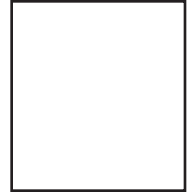
E-mail: _____ Phone: _____

Please return to:

Macon County Soil and Water Conservation District
4004 College Park Road
Decatur IL 62521

or e-mail: laura@maconcountyswcd.org

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

Upcoming Events

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

June

- 06/21/2014 - Cook County: Forest Ecology and Wildlife Workshop. 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM - Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center, Willow Springs
- 06/21/2014 - Green County: Safety in Forest Demonstration. **Attention Chainsaw Users** 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM - Tree Farm in Green County
- 06/28/2014 - Macon County: Forestry Workshop. 8:00 AM - 2:30 PM - National Sequestration Education Center
(*Registration form inside newsletter*)

September

- 09/26-27/2014 - Sangamon County: **IFA Annual Meeting**. Meeting will be held at the large sporting goods store, SHEELS, in Springfield.