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Illinois Forests

Illinois Forestry Association

"The Voice for Illinois Forests"

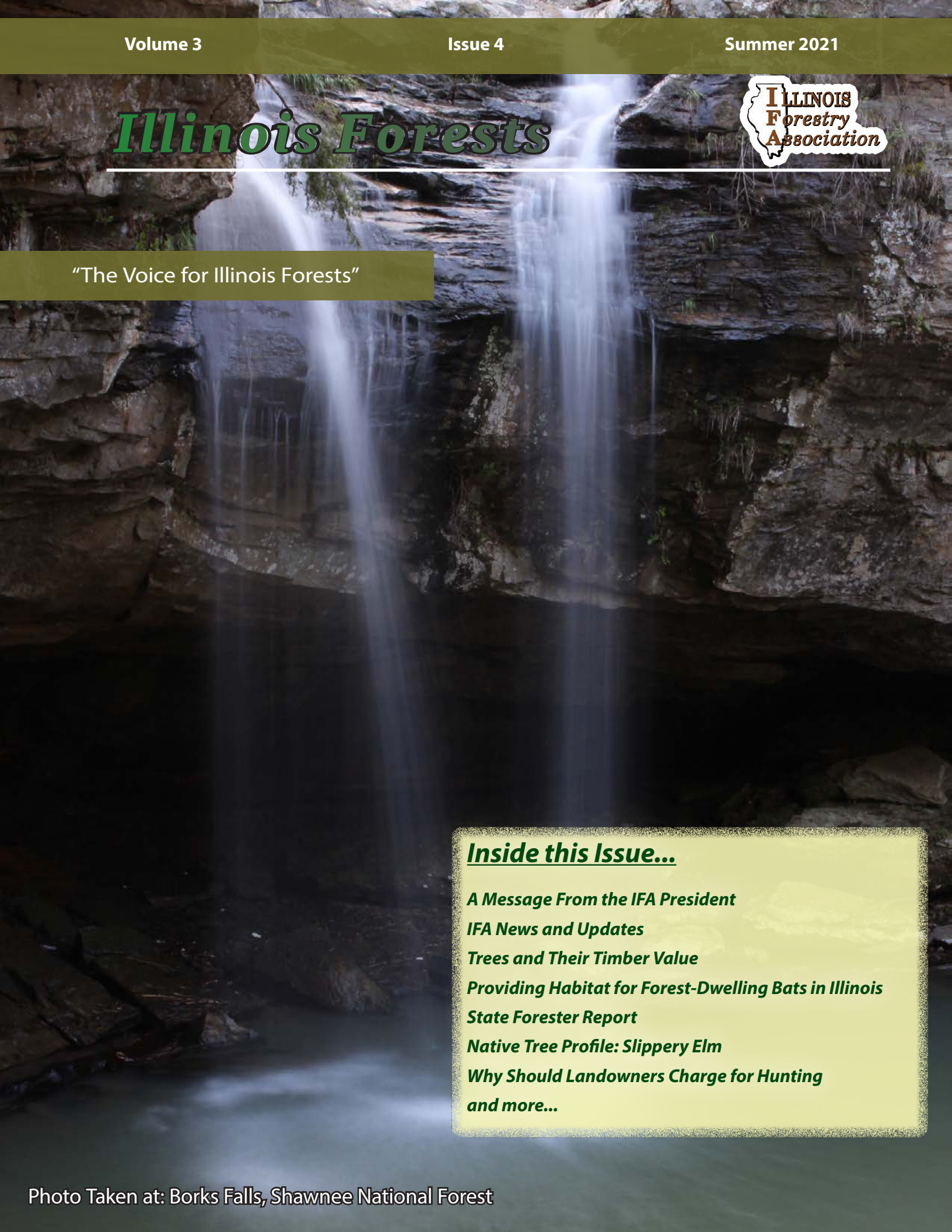

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Photo Taken at: Borks Falls, Shawnee National Forest

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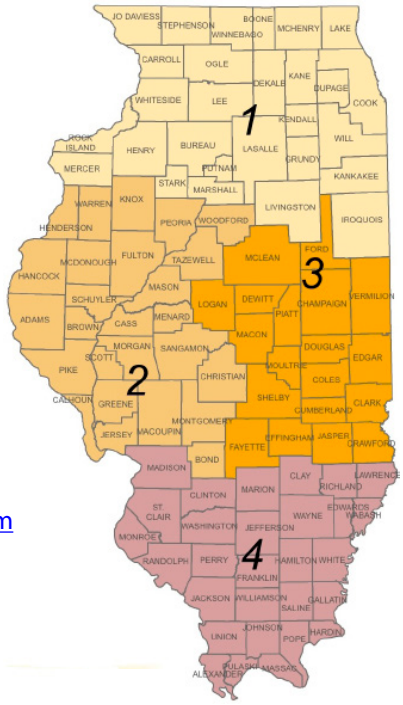

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Our Mission...

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

Our Goals...

- Promote forest management and help landowners manage their forests
- Educate members and the general public about rural and community forestry
- Advocate for favorable legislation and policies to benefit/protect landowners managing their forests
- Understand and engage our members, and increase IFA membership
- Govern the IFA efficiently and effectively to better serve our charitable mission

https://ilforestry.org

Message From the IFA President

Fellow IFA Members –

IFA is on the verge of significant leadership in the Illinois forestry world. Over the last several years, IFA has proposed several projects to the Illinois Forestry Development Council (IFDC) which have been approved. These include, but are not limited to, two major invasive management drive-thru areas, one at Touch of Nature near Carbondale and the other at the HeartLands Conservancy, Arlington Wetlands near Collinsville. Another significant project is the coordination of four Field Days around the State to focus on forestry issues.

This maturing partnership between IFA and the IFDC is refreshing but more importantly it sets the stage for the future. We are working on a couple of "How to do it" presentations. The first is we are planning a series of either videos or webinars with the first on this fall where we go out into the woods and collect acorns. Depending on the species, we will then go through the required process to prepare them for germination and planting. White Oak is a little different in that it germinates in the fall rather than spring but we will handle those sorts of concerns. The bottom line is we are going to try to show everyone how to grow their own trees. Should be lots of fun and, hopefully, will help those of us who are want-to-be foresters.

If you are interested in helping at any level with any of our future projects, please let us know so that we can include you in every step of the planning process. We will give you a preview of each upcoming project before we submit any proposals to IFDC. In all cases, any project we do will officially start when IFDC approves our submission. Once given a green light, each project must be 100% complete by June of the next year in order for funding to be released to IFA. We have experience with this process, so we should be able to navigate through the requirement easily.

One last thought, if you have any ideas on topics we should consider for submission to IFDC, let us know!! We would be very happy to give serious consideration to you thoughts.

I will be asking the Board of Directors to take leadership roles in these efforts and be the focal point for you to get involved. Contact information will follow. If you want to volunteer early, you can certainly do so by contacting me or Zach now.

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Even without the specifics, it's easy to search for the Illinois Forestry Association as your preferred charitable organization. Just remember to enter "smile dot" before amazon dot com. At no cost to you, Amazon will donate 0.5% of eligible purchase totals to the IFA.

Every little bit helps.
Thanks for your support!

IFA News and Updates

by Zach DeVillez

In a previous issue of the Illinois Forestry Association Newsletter, you may remember that the IFA had plans to conduct multiple projects focused on forestry education and restoration of recreational sites that have been invaded by invasives.

First, we would like to thank the Illinois Forestry Development Council for agreeing to fund the following projects. The IFDC's Small Projects Program has allowed for some wonderful projects to be carried out by the Illinois Forestry Association as well as other forestry groups and dedicated individuals.

IFA Regional Field Tours

The Illinois Forestry Association held four field tours this year that were focused on touring sites that have undergone various forest management efforts. The locations of the field tours were planned strategically so that any IFA member would have a field tour within reasonable driving distance. The management techniques toured at the sites included invasive species management, prescribed burns, as well as various topics about forest health. The locations we toured were Pricipia College, Touch of Nature Environmental Center, Funderburg and Howard Coleman Forest Preserves, and Allerton Park.

We would like to thank all the speakers and field tour leaders who did such a wonderful job running the programs. (List below)

Dr. John Lovseth - Assistant Professor of Biology and Natural Resources, Principia College

Dr. Charles Ruffner - Professor of Forestry, SIUC

Roger Smith - Arborist

Chris Evans - University of Illinois Extension Forester

Zach DeVillez - IFA Program Coordinator

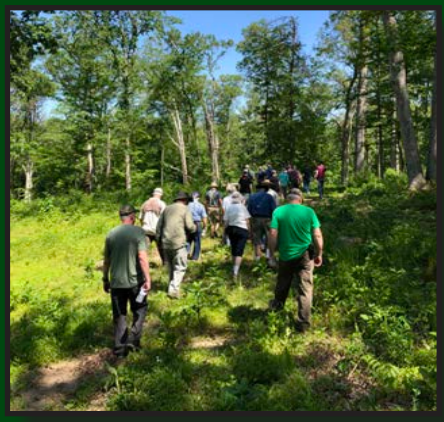
Mike Woolery - Consulting Forester

Tricia Bethke - Illinois Forest Pest Outreach Coordinator, The Morton Arboretum

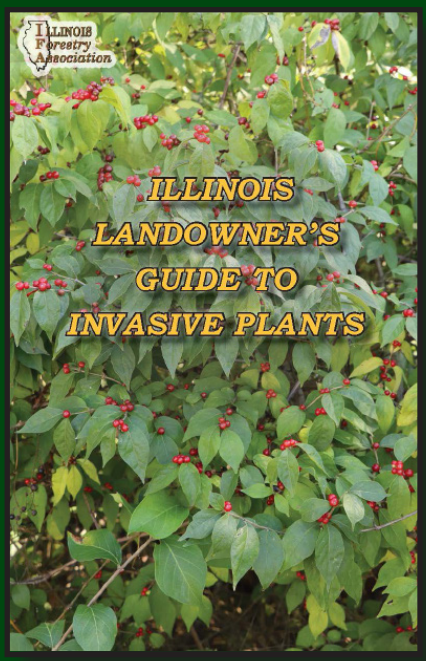
Tom Walsh - IFA Director

Ryan Pankau - Extension Educator, Horticulture, University of Illinois

Nathan Beccue - Natural Areas Manager, Allerton Park



Development of an Invasive Plant Field Guide



For this project, the IFA's mission was to develop a field guide that can help landowners to identify and control non-native invasive plants. This field guide contains detailed descriptions of invasive plant control methods, large pictures and detailed descriptions to help with identification of invasive plants, a phenology calendar, and a table that makes herbicide recommendations.

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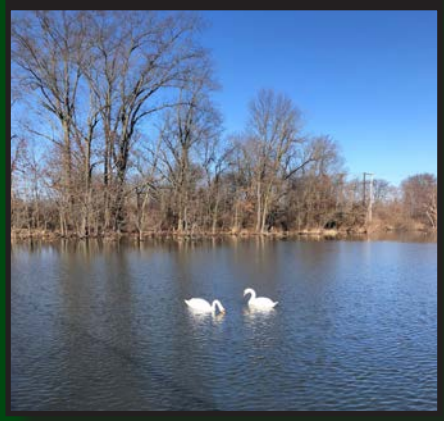
The Illinois Forestry Association intends to print hard copies of this guide so that they can be available to forest landowners and forest managing professionals. An electronic copy will also be made available on the Illinois Forestry Association website at https://www.ilforestry.org/Links/publications.

HeartLands Conservancy: Arlington Wetlands Restoration Project

As you will recall in a previous issue, the Illinois Forestry Association and HeartLands Conservancy teamed up to carry out an invasive plant removal project at Arlington Wetlands in Madison County. The wooded area that surrounds the wetlands had been severely invaded by bush honeysuckle and some autumn olive. Arborist and IFA Director, Roger Smith worked to remove the woody invasives from the understory of the forest.

Like the woody invasive removal project at Touch of Nature Environmental Center, demonstration signs will be placed at Arlington to educate site visitors about effective control of non-native invasive plants. Visitors will be able to visually analyze three units that compare pre-management heavy invasions of invasives, cut invasives that were not treated with herbicide (ineffective control method), and invasives that were cut and treated with herbicide (successful control of invasives).



It is our hope that visitors of Arlington Wetlands will learn about non-native invasive plants and learn the importance of controlling them to keep beautiful natural environments like this pristine and free of invasives.

Restoration Project at Touch of Nature Environmental Center

The Illinois Forestry Association continued to help carry out invasive control at Touch of Nature Environmental Center. Much like the work we've previously helped with at Touch of Nature, this year we continued to use a forestry mulcher to eradicate woody invasives.

Invasive control efforts were carried out at a historic orchard site that has become overtaken by woody invasives near the upper forty section of Touch of Nature, just off Giant City Road. Approximately 20 acres were cleared with a forestry mulcher with the intention of cutting back invasives and releasing what native trees still stand in the area.

However, as you well may know, cutting down the invasives will not be enough to control the usual suspects; autumn olive and bush honeysuckle. To truly get these invaders under control, herbicide treatments will need to follow to successfully control invasives in the area.

Once free of invasives, this site could undergo native tree planting efforts. Native plants can take back hold of the area, providing for a much more productive, healthy forested area.

Final Thoughts

With projects like these, the Illinois Forestry Association can continue to practice and educate about the various steps needed to conduct responsible forest management. Those of us that stand as stewards of the forests can truly have an impact if we unify, share information and contiue to prioritize the health and productivity of our forests.

Trees and Their Timber Value

By Zach DeVillez

Forests have so much value to humans, wildlife and planet Earth as a whole. That is the core reason the Illinois Forestry Association exists. Most, if not all of us believe that we must protect those values that a forest provides. Between protecting wildlife habitat, ensuring forested acreage remains or is added to help moderate climate, protecting human recreational opportunities and producing high quality forest products, there exists a fine balance. In my opinion, shepherding a forest to that balance is what makes a forester or a landowner a good steward.

Producing quality timber is a very important aspect of forestry. Different species of trees provide varying wood qualities needed for a multitude of markets. I understand landowners' reservations about cutting down trees; but when harvesting is done responsibly with future forest health, species composition and wildlife in mind, harvesting trees can actually help establish a new generation of trees which is important to the succession of a forest.

Have you ever wondered what all the different species of trees harvested are actually used for? Maybe you know what species of trees are more valuable, but have never investigated what that red oak you had harvested might be used for. This article will discuss the varying uses for different species of trees.

Figure 1: Black Walnut (*Juglans nigra*)

Black Walnut

Black walnut is considered one of the most valuable timber species in Illinois. It's strong, durable wood is highly sought after, largely because of its striking appearance. Its light colored sapwood which transitions to a deep chocolatey brown hue in the heartwood is beloved by woodworkers. It can be polished to a nice smooth finish that makes it ideal for furniture such as desks, tables and bedroom furniture. Walnut wood is also considered to have good rot resistance. Veneer quality walnut tends to hold the most value of any tree in Illinois.

Figure 1: Northern Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*)

Red Oak Species

Some species in the red oak family have significant timber value in Illinois. Timber from cherrybark, shumard and Northern red oak tend to be of highest quality, while other species hold significantly less value and some hold poor market value. Red oak generally has a light brown color with a slight reddish hue. The grain of the wood tends to run straight. It is most commonly used for flooring, cabinets, furniture, and veneer. Red oak wood is hard and strong, which is why it is so valued by woodworkers.

Figure 1: White Oak (*Quercus alba*)

White Oak

Some species in the white oak family are second only to walnut in timber value. White oak, swamp chestnut oak and sometimes chinkapin oak carry the most timber value. Generally, white oak heartwood is a light brown, while the sapwood is almost white in color. The wood grain runs straight. The wood is rot resistant and very durable. White oak is commonly used for flooring,

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furniture, cabinets and veneer. White oak is also used to make barrels for aging spirits like wine and bourbon. Since white oak wood is considered more porous than other species, it allows for adequate oxygen exchange which reacts with the alcohol inside the barrel.

Figure 1: Black Cherry *Prunus serotina*

Black Cherry

Black cherry is one of the more valuable timber species. However, coming across individuals that grow straight enough to hold timber value could be considered less common. Black cherry heartwood is reddish brown in color while the sapwood is yellowish to light brown. The grains run straight. Black cherry wood is rot resistant and very durable. Black cherry is known for being an exceptional wood to work with by wood workers. It is commonly used for flooring, furniture, cabinets and veneer.

Figure 1: Ash (Green/White) *Fraxinus sp.*

Ash

Ash is not considered to be one of the more valuable timber species in Illinois. However, it is an important timber species nonetheless. Currently, ash are critically endangered by the invasive emerald ash borer beetle that is whiping out ash numbers throughout the state. The heartwood of ash is light brown, while the sapwood is a slightly lighter brown color. The grains usualyy run straight. Ash is not considered to be all that rot resistant. Ash wood has been used for flooring, crates, baseball bats and tool handles. Emerald ash borer has obviously had a significant impact on the availability of ash lumber.

Figure 1: Sugar Maple *Acer saccharum*

Sugar Maple

Sugar maple is valued similar to ash (at least before Emerald Ash Borer). It is not considered a high value timber species, however it does carry a significant market value. The sapwood of sugar maple is a cream white color while the heartwood is reddish brown in color. The grain of the wood tends to run straight but can also be wavy on occasion. Maple is not considered to be rot resistant. Sugar maple, sometimes referred to as hard maple, carries slightly more value than soft maple species. Sugar maple is often used for flooring, music instruments, baseball bats, paper and veneer.

Figure 1: Tulip Poplar *Liriodendron tulipifera*

Tulip Poplar

Tulip Poplar is valued similarly to ash and sugar maple. Tulip poplar heartwood is light yellowish-brown, while the sapwood is yellowish white in color. The wood grains run straight and are relatively uniform. Tulip poplar wood is relatively durable but is considered moderately rot resistant. Tulip poplar is not often used for its appearance, however some individuals absorb mineral stain resulting in dramatic variations in color, including yellows, greens reds, purples and blacks. The end product of the occurence of minerals staining poplar is sometimes referred to "rainbow poplar". Tulip poplar wood could be considred to be a utility wood, meaning it has a lot of uses in the market but it is rarely used solely for finer wood products. Poplar is often used for crates/pallets, furniture frames and plywood.

ILLINOIS Forestry Association

Providing Habitat for Forest-Dwelling Bats in Illinois

By Joy O'Keefe,
University of Illinois Assistant Professor and Wildlife Extension Specialist

Step outside just after sunset on a warm summer night and you might be lucky enough to catch a glimpse of a bat swooping under the trees in your yard or somersaulting through the open air as it pursues an insect in flight. Illinois hosts a remarkable diversity of bats, all nighttime predators that help control pestilent insects. Fourteen bat species are regularly found here, though diversity is highest in the southern part of the state where forest and karst structures are more prominent. Three species have federal protection, but all of Illinois' bat species are at risk or experiencing population declines due to habitat loss, disease, and wind energy development.

From late March to late October, most bats in Illinois spend their days roosting in trees; these "tree bats" can be divided into the foliage dwellers and the cavity or crevice dwellers. Tree bats tend to like solar-exposed trees that provide warm temperatures for pup development and rearing, which happens from about May to August each year. Some trees may host tens or hundreds of females in a "maternity colony." Bats sometimes roost in shaded trees below the canopy, typically roosting in small groups or singly, dropping their body temperature to match the outside air and warming up in time for evening emergence. Bats are faithful to their summer roosting areas, returning year after year to the same trees or patches of woods.

© Dylan Horvath
Figure 1: Eastern red bat roosting in the leaves of a downed scarlet oak.

© Joy O'Keefe
Figure 2: A dead tree that served as a maternity roost for a colony of Indiana bats in Central Indiana.

Large-diameter (>1-foot diameter) dead or damaged trees are critical roosts for many tree bats, but bats aren't particular about tree species. Optimal trees will have big patches of bark sloughing off or a cavity, either in the main trunk or a branch. Elm, ash, poplar, cottonwood, oak, hickory, and maple are all viable roosts, but this is not an exhaustive list. Because live shagbark or shellbark hickory and white oaks provide patches of peeling bark, these are also suitable roosts for crevice-dwelling bats. Foliage dwellers will tuck inside large leaves or clumps of dead leaves within the canopy of a live tree or will even hide among the dead leaves of a downed tree on the forest floor.

Because dead trees are essential for many bats, it's important to retain and protect standing dead trees in your woods. Also keep in mind that large live trees will eventually succumb to the forces of nature and time and will gradually develop into bat roosts. If you plan to remove dead trees, the optimal time to do this is when bats are hibernating, which is from about November to late March. If you remove trees during the warmer months, I recommend safeguarding dead trees, even leaving a patch of live trees around them to buffer them from treefall and winds that will whip through newly open woods. Maintaining a diverse array of tree species in your forest should provide roosting habitat for all types of tree bats.

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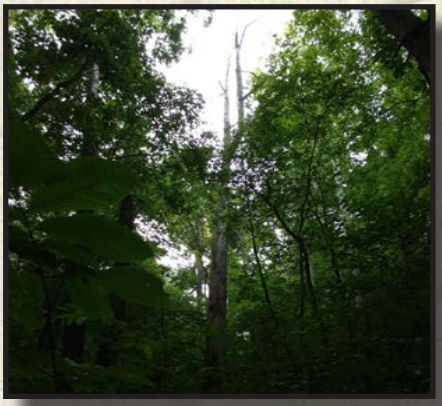

© Joy O'Keefe
Figure 3: A dead poplar that hosted a maternity colony of Indiana bats in Southern Illinois.

You can also support tree bats by removing invasive shrubs. For example, Amur honeysuckle, autumn olive, common privet, and multiflora rose may dominate the understory in our forests, sucking up nutrients and stealing space and light from seedlings and saplings of native tree species. On forest edges, these shrubs grow to excessive heights and depths, potentially blocking access to the forest interior for bats flying along the edge. On the Illinois Extension Forestry website, you'll find a very helpful booklet detailing methods for controlling non-native plant species in Illinois.

© Chris Evans
Figure 4: Woody invasives dominating the understory of a forest.

Forest thinning can support the development of large trees, which may otherwise grow at a very slow pace in a forest that is too densely stocked. Even if you do not wish to harvest trees for profit, you could improve habitat conditions for bats and other wildlife through a selective harvest. Thick regrowth forests may be too dense for bats to effectively maneuver and capture insect prey. Thinning creates structural conditions more suitable for bats in flight and will reduce competition and spur growth in the trees left after harvest, thereby promoting the development of large trees that can eventually serve as maternity roosts. Avoid high-grading (cutting only the most profitable trees); instead work with a consulting forester to develop a Forest Stewardship Plan that protects dead trees and retains wildlife-friendly species, too.

© Kevin Rohling
Figure 5: An aerial photo of thinning operations; a practice that can favor desirable trees to grow to larger diameters.

If you've observed bats in your woods, drop me a line and tell me about your observations. I would love to learn from your experiences. You can reach me at jmokeefe@illinois.edu.

Forest Dwelling Bats

Indiana Bat *Myotis sodalis*

Evening Bat *Nycticeius humeralis*

Northern Long-eared Bat
Myotis septentrionalis

State Forester Report

By Paul Deizman
IDNR State Forester

The Division of Forest Resources (Division) remains delivering full services and foresters are in their field offices at least 1 day per week. The DNR headquarters and some field offices are now to the public. The state government processes are continuing to return to normal and in the end I expect a more efficient more flexible government for the people, and in the case of DNR; for the resources. The IDNR building on the fairgrounds is on hold at 60% capacity awaiting direction from the Governor's office. Most resource conservation office personnel are each working at headquarters 2 or more days per week.

Forestry recently hired a new Fire Programs Manager Mr. Benjamin Snyder located at Benton, IL. Ben is well qualified for the broad responsibilities of the many fire programs the department and division are engaged. We are losing another district forester to retirement this July 30. Our top priorities remain a nursery technician/specialist at Mason Co. and a district forester at Wayne Co. The Division still has nine critical open positions to fill. We remain patient with few other options and alternatives.

The Illinois Forest Action Plan 2020-2030 was approved by the Washington Office of the USDA Forest Service this month. It will be posted soon on our DNR forestry webpage and plans to outreach and share the important assessments and priorities for the future of Illinois forests are in motion. Please look and be aware of the issues Illinois forests face. An executive summary and story map are being created. Implementation of the plan is what is most important.

IDNR Foresters at the districts are extremely busy and many remain backlogged for most services and processes. Our urban and community forestry programs are becoming more and more important with respect to the population of our state and the lack of trees and tree canopy cover in so many communities. I and our DNR leadership in general see urban forestry opportunities also as climate mitigation opportunities. Planting and maintaining more and more trees across Illinois communities in the communities that need them most is a vision we maintain.

ILLINOIS
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RESOURCES

Our Mason State Tree Nursery continues to expand its native seed production, potted tree availability and is continuing to grow top quality native tree seedlings. Anyone may order materials from the nursery online.

Conservation World at the Illinois State Fair will be open this August. Forestry, wildlife, fisheries, heritage, farm programs and others will all have dedicated tents and specialists on hand to interact with the public. Please come see us and enjoy Conservation World as you enjoy the fair.

Our DNR wildfire team which is comprised of six district foresters and other DNR specialists plus firefighters from allied conservation organizations and the forest service have been deployed to Minnesota July 17 and likely other destinations before they return in early August. The fire threat level in the USA is currently at level 5 of 5. We thank these 21 individuals for their service this season.

Your State Forester and the Division remain committed to promoting and delivering forestry, forest management, forest habitats and forest health across all Illinois forests and demographics. We treasure the ongoing and new forestry partnerships with landowners, organizations, governments, and others in conservation of our precious forest resources.

Native Tree Profile: Slippery Elm (Ulmus rubra)

By Chris Evans
University of Illinois Extension Forester and Research Specialist

Illinois is home to an amazing number of native tree species. In fact, over 180 species of trees are naturally found in Illinois. While most everyone is familiar with species like black walnut or white oak, it is also important to highlight less well-known species of native trees.

Slippery elm, Ulmus rubra, is a very common tree in Illinois, being found in every county, but many people are not familiar with it or know how to distinguish it from American elm. Slippery elm is also called red elm and is one of four elm tree species native to our state. This species gets its name from the slimy or slippery inner bark, which has traditionally been used for medicinal purposes.

© Christopher David Benda
Figure 1: Eastern prairie fringe orchid (*Platanthera leucophaea*)

Slippery elm is a medium-sized deciduous tree, usually growing up to around 80 feet in height. It has a full, rounded canopy with limbs that tend to be more spreading that the strongly upright V-shaped canopy of American elm. Like all elms in Illinois, slippery elm has simple, alternate leaves with typically off-center bases and double serrations. The term double serrations describes that the edge of the leaves have two different sizes of sawtooth-like serrations with smaller serrations in between larger ones. Slippery elm leaves differ from the other elm leaves by having an extremely rough and scratchy upper surface. The leaves are often described as "sandpaper-like".

© Christopher David Benda
Figure 2: White lady slipper orchid (*Cypripedium candidum*)

The twigs are thin, but not as thin as American elm, with the leaves and buds arranged alternately. Winter buds are dark black in color, often with orangish hairs. The leaf buds are sharply pointed, and the flower buds are larger and round. Flowers are small and occur in tight clusters along the twigs. Slippery elm is one of the first trees to bloom in the spring, often in late February in southern Illinois and mid-March in northern Illinois. Fruits are small, dry samara with a single seed surrounded by thin wingings.

Elm tree species can be easily distinguished, even in winter. Slippery elm does not produce corky wingings like winged and rock elm do. Slippery elm bark is thick and furrowed, often turning somewhat platy with age. The bark is soft and spongy, and is a consistent reddish color in cross-sections as opposed to the stark two-toned look of American elm.

Slippery elm has a wide habitat tolerance and can be found throughout the landscape, from dry uplands and old fields to moist bottomlands. It can grow in full sun to partial shade. It is somewhat susceptible to Dutch Elm Disease with many older, larger individuals being lost as this disease spreads throughout the state. Still, slippery elm remains an abundant tree in the state.

Like all elms, the grain of slippery elm wood is interlocked, which makes it resistant to splitting, increasing the difficulty of woodworking with it. Even though it is hard to split, the wood burns well and produces little ash, so it is a good firewood species.

Common uses for slippery elm wood are pallets/crates, pulp, and furniture. Larger, quality trees can be quite valuable for veneer.

Keep an eye out for slippery elm in Illinois woods. In winter, those large, rounded, black flower buds really stand out. In the growing season, just feel the sandpapery leaves or take a look at the bark and this one is unmistakable.

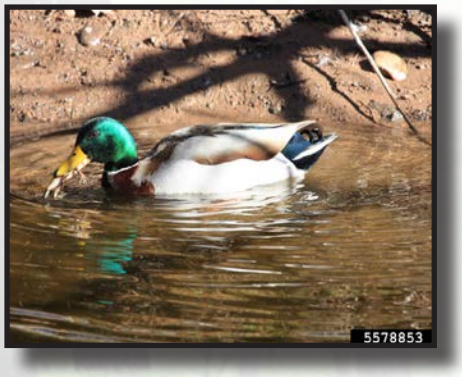
Why Should Landowner's Charge for Hunting

By Stephen Ruckman
Owner of Hunting Land Advisors and Merk Farms

In this brief article we will examine Three main reasons why landowners have and should charge for hunting access to their Lands. The very first and most important reason for landowners to charge for hunting access to their lands is that a landowner's land is not FREE. A landowner carries countless costs associated with land ownership such as taxes, mortgages/loans/liens, Insurance, maintenance and a variety of other things such as costs for land related entrepreneurial ventures. Furthermore, landowners are constantly encouraged to improve their lands to enrich their flora and fauna through oftentimes costly programs. It is highly unreasonable for a landowner to carry all of these costs of land ownership so that they allow others to use their land for free.

Figure 1: A doe and two fauns

A second reason a landowner should charge for hunting access to their lands is that there are countless amounts of state and federal lands already available for hunters to hunt on for free (public). It is very hard to objectively compare hunting quality and experiences but usually these free hunting lands are relatively as good as private lands. Wildlife do not know boundaries so they travel freely on both public and private lands. Additionally, once a good gene pool is established with adequate food, water and cover the hunting will be broadly the same in large parts of the state, regardless of public/private landownership. The main differentiation that hunters look for between public/private hunting land is in fact one type of land is "private". Private lands allow a hunting group to not worry about the large number of hunters that can flood into public land hunting areas. Having a small private area controlled by a small group of hunters adds to their hunting experience by allowing them to manage the hunting as they see fit. Being able to hunt private land also increases safety by allowing the hunting group to effectively communicate with each other about their hunting times, strategies and practices. Add up these private land advantages and it creates a real monetizable asset for the landowner as they are offering an incredibly unique opportunity to hunters. A landowner's main asset is privacy, of which as we discussed earlier, is not free to the landowner. The landowner pays many costs so their land stays private and not public so thus a hunter should reasonably be expected to pay so that their hunting experience remains private and not public.



© Steven Katovich, Bugwood.org
Figure 2: A mallard duck

The third and last reason we will discuss is that hunting has become heavily commercialized. Various sources place current spending by hunters to be about $2,800 per year per hunter towards hunting. Additionally, this adds up to over $20 billion spent each year in hunting related trips and equipment in the U.S. A quick internet search for hunting trips and equipment will produce a flood of information of which you could spend days sorting through all of the various companies and opportunities vying for a hunter's money. In any given year, a hunter might buy such items as: a new set of hunting clothes for hundreds of dollars, new trail cameras for hundreds of dollars each, new feeders for hundreds or thousands of dollars each, new hunting stands/blinds for hundreds or thousands of dollars each and more. The previous list of items does not even take into consideration if someone buys an atv/utv or maybe a new hunting weapon for thousands and/or tens of thousands of dollars. In this dynamic of astounding

Continued on the next page -

spending in the hunting industry, the landowner is often left out of the spending equation. It is highly common for hunters to try and find private lands they can hunt for free or find landowners that do not understand the market and give them little money or far below what a landowner should charge for hunting. A hunter may not be acting out of malice but it is poor form to show up to hunt having spent thousands of dollars to hunting related companies but then shortchange the person that is holding the asset that makes all of the other spending possible, THE LAND!

© Billy Humphries, Forest Resource Consultants, Inc., Bugwood.org
Figure 3: A deer stand

While charging for private hunting access is becoming more common, hunting private lands for free is still the most common form of hunting. Even though I just went over some quick reasons why a landowner should charge for hunting access, there are still countless other topics a landowner may want to inform themselves about before deciding to charge for hunting. I will explore other similar topics a landowner may want to know about in a future issue such as hunting program formats, liability Issues, why hunters are Interested in a certain area and more. I encourage each landowner to make their own best-informed decision on their hunting access program for their lands. As far as this covered topic, a landowner needs to remember that their land is not free to themselves. There are countless public lands already available to hunt for Free and hunting has become heavily commercialized with many companies making millions of dollars while the landowner is often forgot about.

Figure 4: Stephen Ruckman

About the Author

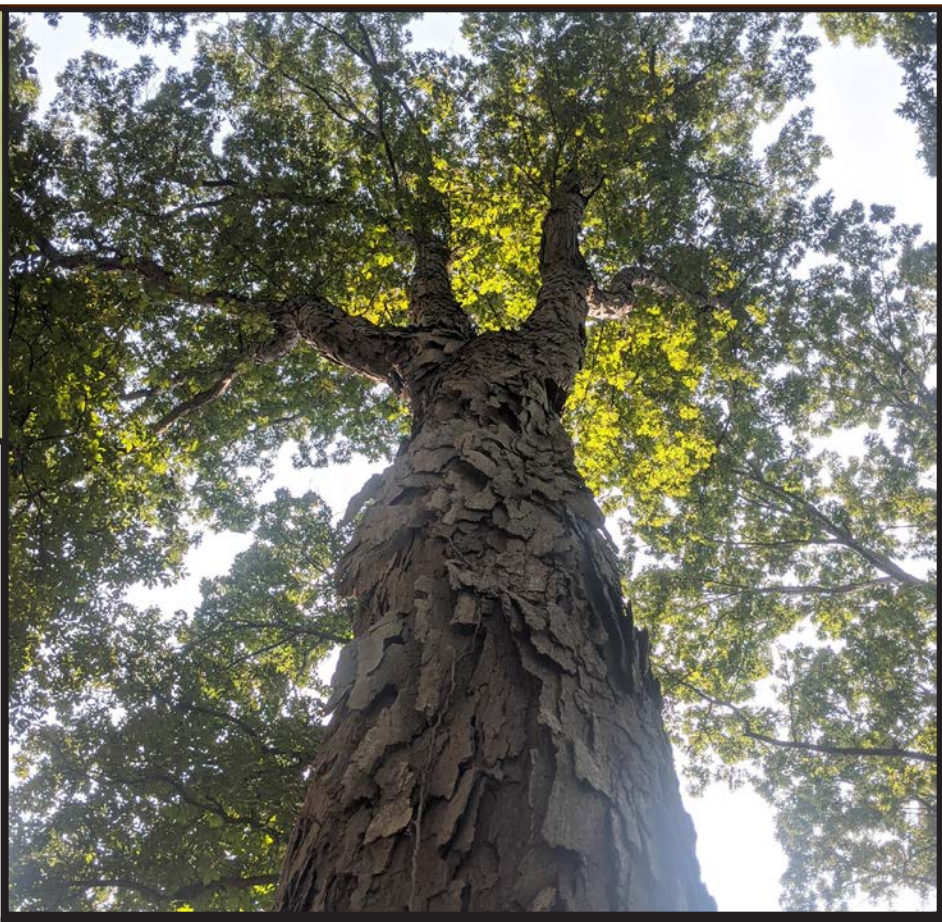
Stephen Ruckman is highly educated with a Master's and Post-Graduate work from the University of Louisville. He has spent over a decade working with landowners to create hunting Income and access programs in some of the most desirable hunting areas of the United States. He has been an invited speaker at various landowner education programs and is a sponsor/presenter at many regional and national conventions targeted towards landowner education. He is founder and owner of Hunting Land Advisors and Merk Farms, while also being involved in several other hunting related ventures.

History of Conservation in Illinois

Installment #36

by Dave Gillespie, IFA Secretary

Photos by Chris Evans



This account of the history of conservation in Illinois was written by Joseph P. Schavilje in 1941. This installment begins where installment # 35 ended.

The first attempt to establish a forest planting on strip mine land in Illinois was made in 1920. The work was done in the spring of that year in Vermilion County on the property of the United Electric Coal Company. Nine thousand trees were planted including the following species: red pine, jack pine, Scotch pine, tulip poplar, black walnut, white ash, black ash, and black locust. (Schavilje, 1940)

In 1921 the staff of foresters at the Natural History Survey was further enlarged by the addition of three foresters who conducted a statewide survey of the forests of Illinois. Field work began in that year and was completed in 1925. The results were published in a series of three reports as follows: "First Report on a Forest Survey of Illinois", by R. B. Miller, 1923; "Second Report on a Forest Survey of Illinois, The Economics of Forestry in the State", by H. H. Chapman and R. B. Miller, 1924; "Third Report on a Forest Survey of Illinois", by C. J. Telford, 1926.

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

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As I write this, summer is a few short weeks away. The days are long and the temperature has risen above 90 for much of Illinois. However, after the winter and spring (What Spring?) that we have experienced, the much warmer days are most welcome. I don't know about most IFA people, but I have been cooped up for over a year due to COVID and feel like a prisoner in my own house. I'm ready to get working outdoors, and can't understand just why so many people refuse to take the Covid vaccine, especially when it is free, and not only protects the individual receiving the shot, but will also protect others who may not be elligible to receive it.

However, Covid is not the them of this column. What I think will affect us long term has happened over a two to three year period. Actually, it startedmuch longer ago and was something that we took as common during the summer months, so we just accepted it as normal. I am writing about the forest fires in the far West. We have accepted them as a normal happening each year until recently. However, until the last few years, they seldom covered the large tracts of forest or brush that they have in the past couple years. Sure, environmentalists have pointed out some significance and the Forest Service pushed Smoky Bear, but that was about the extent of it. I, for one, always looked upon the reported fires as just brush fires in a remote part of the world called Southern California.

About three or more years ago, we started hearing of forest fires in Colorado and Utah as well and I saw a different picture. These fires affected real stands of timber. Trees that became lumber and thence two by fours, planks, and other building materials. When a forest became just a stretch of land without vegetation, we started to see erosion occuer, and mudlides covering highways, railroads and interfering with electrical distribution. Large regions must be replanted, involving cost plus time before these trees can be harvested and made into lumber or other wood products. In the meantime, sawmills shut down, towns and villages dry up, and now we have a real economic problem. Think of Kansas, Oklahoma and North Texas during the "Dust Bowl" days!

We see similar things here in Illinois with disease threatening certain species of trees; maple ash and walnut come to mind. Thanks to a fast response, the maple problem in Northeastern Illinois was contained. Since it happened mostly in an urban area, the economic loss was not as bad as it would have been in a more sparsely populated area where logging and sawmilling make up a part of the economy. However, the Emerald Ash Borer has spread throughout the state, and is a real problem, threatening to practically eliminate ash as a species here in the state.

Further, we have seen lumber prices move much higher in recent months, due to wildfires taking down forests, as well as disease problems. Who would have ever thought of a 4'x8' sheet of plywood costing $50 or more? With all the rebuilding from fire, hurricanes and flooding in the past couple of years, wood has become very valuable, indeed.

Understanding Family, Genus and Species of Trees

By Zach DeVillez

Have you ever heard a forester refer to a tree by its scientific name (latin name)? For a non-expert, some of these scientific names can make your head spin. Believe me, I have had plenty of exposure to experts in the fields of forestry and botany and I myself have had some difficulty knowing what plant experts are referring to when they use scientific names. While these scientific names can be confusing, they are nonetheless important and can even help us know how a species may relate to another.

All species that have been discovered on planet earth have been given a two-word name. This is what the term "binomial nomenclature" refers to. This name includes genus and species. The scientific names are in latin so that people around the world can communicate about the same species without differences in languages causing confusion between one scientist to another.

While genus and species are typically the only scientific names used to communicate about a tree species, the family a species is in can also be importaannt to know. Plants that are in the same family often have similar physical characteristics. For example, pecans (*Carya illinoinensis*) and black walnuts (*Juglans nigra*) are noticeably different trees, yet they're in the same family. Both walnuts and pecans are in the *Juglandaceae* family, more commonly known as the walnut family. Despite the fact that they are two very different trees, they share quite a few physical similarities. Both pecans and walnuts produce nuts that grow inside an outer husk. They both have pinnately compund leaves. Flowers of both trees are also arranged in Catkins.

© Ryan Armbrust, Kansas Forest Service, Bugwood.org
Figure 1: A pecan tree (*Carya illinoinensis*)

© Franklin Bonner, USFS (ret.), Buggwood.org
Figure 2: A black walnut tree (*Juglans nigra*)

To put it simply, these trees are "closer cousins" in the evolutionary tree (phylogenetic tree), as opposed to comparing either species to a "more distant cousin" such as an American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*), a tree in the *Fagaceae* family.

The Fagaceae family, otherwise known as the beech family, includes some of Illinois' most important tree species, oaks. It may come as a surprise that oaks (genus: *Quercus*) are in the same family as beech (genus: *Fagus*). Beech can sometimes be viewed by foresters as antagonistic to the regeneration of oaks in certain areas. Yet nonetheless, the two genuses are fairly close relatives on the phylogenetic tree. The leaves in this family are most often arranged alternately along branches, with simple leaves that are smooth, lobed, or toothed. They also have sigle seed nuts that are partially or completely covered by cup shaped spiny burs or scales.

In summarization, knowing family, genus and species is vitally important to tree classification. When we see a white oak, we can say that the tree is in the Fagaceae family (beech family), it belongs to the genus *Quercus (*a species of oak), and it is the species of *alba (alba* translates to "white" in latin).

The next page will include a list of common trees in Illinois grouped by family. Next time you are out identifying trees, try to learn their scientific names!

Note: Scientific names are subject to change. On occasion, after further research on a specific species, scientists will assign a new genus classification, changing a tree's binomial nomenclature. The scientific names listed below follow the U of I Extension resource "Forest Trees of Illinois".

Aceraceae - Maple Family
Box Elder - *Acer negundo*
Black Maple - *Acer nigrum*
Red Maple - *Acer rubrum*
Silver Maple - *Acer saccharinum*
Sugar Maple - *Acer saccharum*

Betulaceae - Birch Family
European Alder - *Alnus glutinosa*
Yellow Birch - *Betula allegheniensis*
River Birch - *Betula nigra*
Paper Birch - *Betula papyrifera*

Bignoniaceae - Bignonias Family
Southern Catalpa -*Catalpa bignonioides*
Northern Catalpa - *Catalpa speciosa*

Cannabaceae - Hemp Family
Sugarberry - *Celtis laevigata*
Hackberry - *Celtis occidentalis*
Georgia Hackberry - *Celtis tenuifolia*

Cornaceae - Dogwood Family
Alternate-Leaf Dogwood - *Cornus alternifolia*
Roughleaf Dogwood - *Cornus drummondii*
Flowering Dogwood - *Cornus florida*
Gray Dogwood - *Cornus racemosa*

Cupressaceae - Cypress Family
Eastern Red-Cedar - *Juniperus virginiana*
Northern White-Cedar - *Thuja occidentalis*
Bald-Cypress - *Taxodium distichum*

Fabaceae - Pea Family
Easten Redbud - *Cercis canadensis*
Yellowwood - *Cladrastis kentukea*
Kentucky Coffeetree - *Gymnocladus dioicus*
Honeylocust - *Gleditsia tricanthos*
Water Locust - *Gleditsia aquatica*

Fagaceae - Beech Family
American Beech - *Fagus americana*
American Chestnut - *Castanea dentata*
White Oak - *Quercus alba*
Swamp White Oak - *Quercus bicolor*
Scarlet Oak - *Quercus coccinea*
Northern Pin Oak - *Quercus ellipsoidalis*
Southern Red Oak - *Quercus falcata*
Overcup Oak - *Quercus lyrata*
Bur Oak - *Quercus macrocarpa*
Blackjack Oak - *Quercus marilandica*
Swamp Chestnut Oak - *Quercus michauxii*
Chinkapin Oak - *Quercus muehlenbergii*
Cherrybark Oak - *Quercus pogoda*
Pin Oak - *Quercus palustris*
Willow Oak - *Quercus phellos*
Chestnut Oak - *Quercus prinus*
Northern Red Oak - *Quercus rubra*
Shumard Oak - *Quercus shumardii*
Post Oak - *Quercus stellata*
Nuttall Oak - *Quercus texana*
Black Oak - *Quercus velutina*

Juglandaceae - Walnut Family
Mockernut Hickory - *Carya alba*
Water Hickory - *Carya aquatica*
Bitternut Hickory - *Carya cordiformis*
Pignut Hickory - *Carya glabra*
Pecan - *Carya illinoinensis*
Shellbark Hickory - *Carya laciniosa*
Red Hickory - *Carya ovalis*
Shagbark Hickory - *Carya ovata*
Black Hickory - *Carya texana*
Black Walnut - *Juglans nigra*

Magnoliaceae - Magnolia Family
Cucumbertree - *Magnolia acuminata*
Star Magnolia - *Magnolia stellata*
Southern Magnolia - *Magnolia grandiflora*
Tulip-Poplar - *Liriodendron tulipifera*

Moraceae - Mulberry Family
Red Mulberry - *Morus rubra*
White Mulberry - *Morus alba*
Osage-Orange - *Maclura pomifera*

Oleaceae - Olive Family
Fringe Tree - *Chionanthus virginicus*
White Ash - *Fraxinus americana*
Black Ash - *Fraxinus nigra*
Green Ash - *Fraxinus pennsylvanica*
Pumpkin Ash - *Fraxinus profunda*
Blue Ash - *Fraxinus quadrangulata*

Platanaceae - Sycamore Family
Sycamore - *Platanus occidentalis*

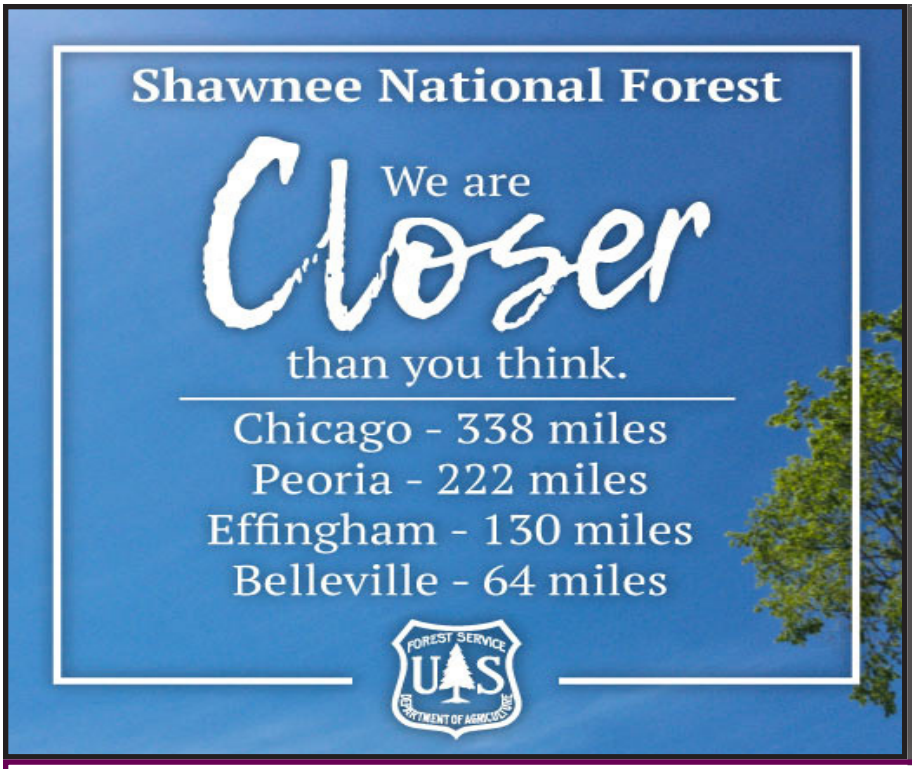
Pinaceae - Pine Family
Red Pine - *Pinus resinosa*
Eastern White Pine - *Pinus strobus*
Scotch Pine - *Pinus sylvestris*
Loblolly Pine - *Pinus taeda*

Rosaceae - Rose Family
Black Cherry - *Prunus serotina*
Allegheny Serviceberry - *Amelanchier laevis*
Downy Serviceberry - *Amelanchier arborea*
Downy Hawthorne - *Crataegus mollis*

Salicaceae - Willow Family
Eastern Cottonwood - *Populus deltoides*
Quaking Aspen - *Populus tremuloides*
Black Willow - *Salix negra*
Sandbar Willow - *Salix exigua*

Sapindaceae - Soapberry Family
Yellow Buckeye - *Aesculus flava*
Ohio Buckeye - *Aesculus glabra*
Red Buckeye - *Aesculus pavia*

Ulmaceae - Elm Family
American Elm - *Ulmus americana*
Slippery Elm - *Ulmus rubra*
Winged Elm - *Ulmus alata*



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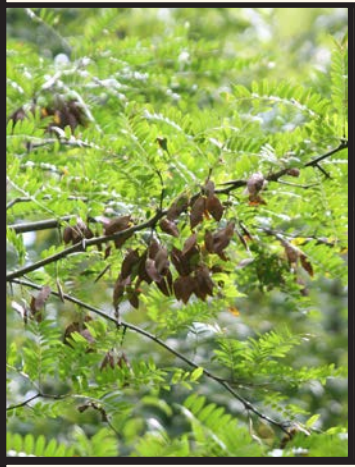
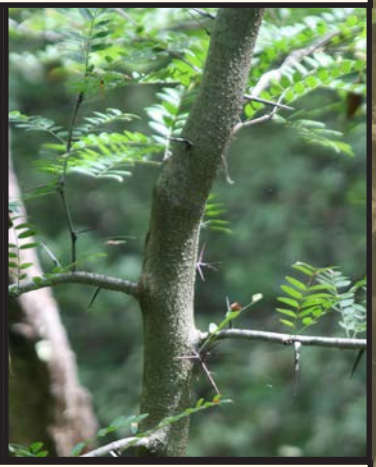
Rare Trees of Illinois

Photos by Chris Evans


Swamp Tupelo (*Nyssa biflora*)


Water Hickory *(Carya aquatica)*


Gum Bully *(Sideroxylon lanuginosum)*

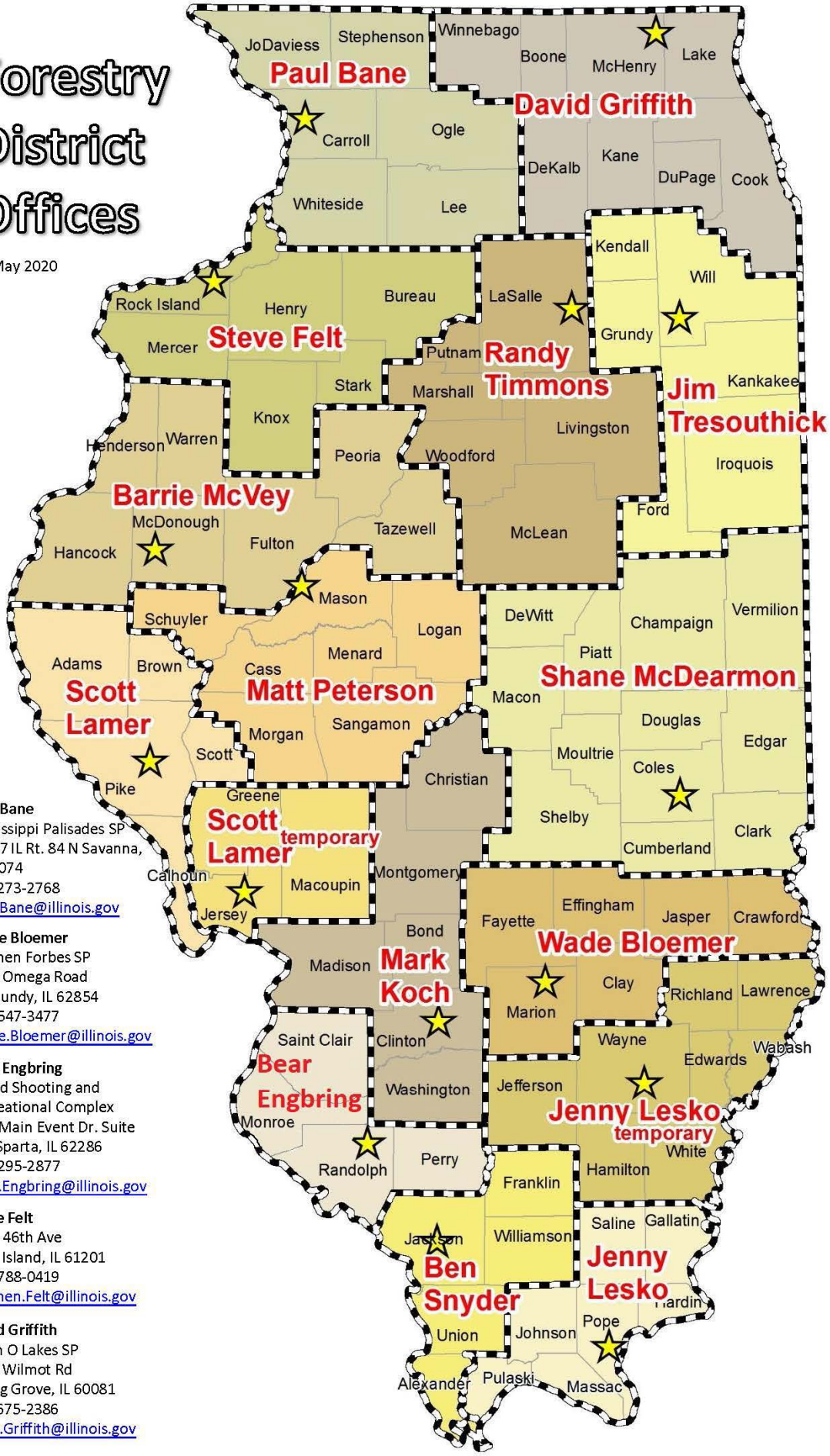
Water Locust *(Gleditsia aquatica)*


Carolina Silverbell (*Halesia carolina*)

Cucumber Tree (*Magnolia acuminata*)

Forestry District Offices

May 2020



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