

THE WOODLAND SCOOP

Illinois Tree Farm System's Forestry Newsletter
Spring/Summer 2007



Ralph Eads: A Life Among the Trees

This past December, the career of Ralph Eads as District Forester with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources came to a close after almost 37 years.

Back in 1970, Ralph had started out the year working the night shift milking cows for a large dairy farm near Effingham. He'd graduated from Forestry School from Southern Illinois University with hopes of working as a professional forester but jobs had become scarce. In March he received a call from SIU Forestry professor, Dr. Dwight McCurdy, with news that the then Illinois Division of Forestry had two District Forester positions they wanted to fill. Ralph got an interview in March with State Forester, Fred Siemert, who hired him on the spot. He recalls that he was given a choice of two jobs. He knew little of either location but had a relative who knew of Mt. Carroll and advised him that it was a nice place. Mt. Carroll is, and thus began an historic career of dedication and service.

Initial training started with 2 weeks in Havana, Illinois with his first supervisor, Regional Forester Gordon Cech, and with District Forester Grant Haley, followed by a week of technical training at Hidden Springs State Forest. Ralph was then on his own and never looked back.

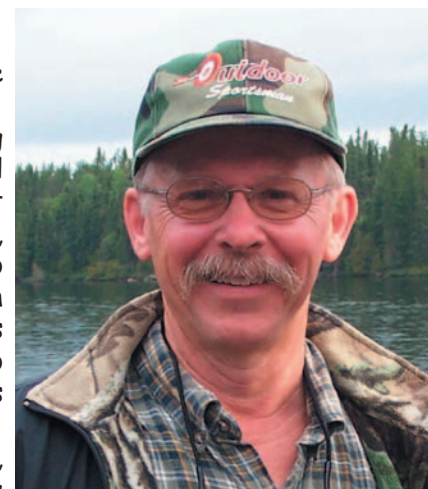
The next 36 plus years were all spent as District Forester in Mt. Carroll. During his career he helped thousands of folks in JoDaviess, Carroll, Whiteside and Stephenson Counties. He mostly worked with forestland owners by providing technical forestry assistance in properly managing their woodlands and in taking advantage of government incentive programs. Many other folks were assisted as well. Ralph organized forestry programs featuring Smokey the Bear for school children, contributed to community forestry work, and gave advice to landowners about proper care of their shade trees.

During his years as District Forester, Ralph has witnessed many changes. Most dramatic have been staffing changes. At one point Ralph had an Assistant District Forester, a clerical staff person, and two professional Interns helping in his District. At the time of his retirement at the end of December of '06, he had no clerical staff and only part time assistance from a forestry technician. During his career he's experienced 5 office changes and worked for or with 5 different State Foresters, 2 Regional Foresters, 3 Forestry Technicians, 7 Forestry Interns, and 4 clerical staff people.

Ralph built the District he managed into one of the most productive in the state. During his tenure he was responsible for assisting thousands of landowners on tens of thousands of acres and has been involved in the planting of over a million trees. That's a lot of clean air and water, not to mention quality forest products! Ralph was also instrumental in starting, actively supporting and helping grow the Northwest Illinois Forestry Association, Illinois' most active and successful forest landowners organization.

The Illinois Tree Farm Program has always been close to Ralph's heart. He's certified over 300 Tree Farms with over 12,000 acres. That is by far the most of any Illinois Forester (2nd best is less than 100). He was Illinois' first outstanding Tree Farm Inspector and has won that award 3 times. No other inspector has won more than once. He was Illinois' only National Regional Outstanding Inspector winner. He has nominated numerous state Outstanding Tree Farm award winners and participated in many Tree Farm field events. Ralph relates that one of his greatest joys is the annual Northwest Illinois Forestry Assoc. dinner where he was able to give recognition to new Tree Farmers and see the smile on their faces and the pride they displayed when handed their new Tree Farm signs. There have been many folks who have made considerable contributions to Illinois' Tree Farm program but it can be safely said that to date, Ralph Eads has done more for the Illinois Tree Farm program than anyone.

When asked how he decided on a career in forestry, Ralph relates that it began his junior year in high school from a talk with his father. The senior



Illinois Tree Farm System



Mr. Eads had asked Ralph what he planned to do after high school. Ralph answered that he really didn't want to go to school anymore and thought he'd just work on the farm with his Dad. His Dad responded that the farm was too small for the both of them and he wasn't going anywhere, so Ralph needed to plan to do something else. During the rest of his high school days he thought on it and finally decided to become a forester since he liked the outdoors and being among trees, as experienced during summers on his uncle's place in Wisconsin. Upon graduating from high school near Decatur he was off to SIU and later on to a career as Illinois District Forester.

In response to what he'd miss the most Ralph answered, "working in the woods on a nice day and talking with folks about their trees. During such times over the years I remember thinking that I can't believe my good fortune in being paid for this. . . and if I ran across a morel or two, that was even better!"

During his retirement years Ralph looks forward to hunting, fishing, "honey-do" projects, helping his son-in-law with his beef herd, doing some forestry consulting, church mission work, possibly some cross country trips with his son in the big rig, and enjoying life in general with wife Linda, daughter Shawna and son Lincoln.

Ralph's career was one of professionalism, production and quality service to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and the good folks of Northwest Illinois. He built and managed one of the most productive and successful forestry districts in Illinois. If there were an Illinois Forestry Hall of Fame . . . Ralph would be a first ballot inductee!

We, his friends and colleagues feel fortunate to have worked with and known Ralph and we congratulate him on his long and successful career. We wish him an even longer and successful retirement. Thanks for everything Ralph. We'll miss you.
by Matt Siemert, Regional Forester

!!!VISIT YOUR WEBSITE!!! www.illinoistreefarm.org to find out more about the September 7, 2008 field day at Jack and Beth Riley's 2006 Outstanding Tree Farm near Mt. Vernon.



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Mark Your Calendars Now!



The American Tree Farm System invites you to join us at the
2007 National Tree Farmer Convention

October 11 - 14 in Madison, WI

Check www.treefarmssystem.org in May for registration materials



From the President's Desk

by Jack Wohlstadter, President, IL TFC



Last fall each certified Tree Farmer should have received a letter from ATFS asking for a voluntary contribution. The amount of your assessment was based on the size of your Tree Farm. The letter stressed the need for Tree Farmers to start supporting their TF program monetarily due to dwindling contributions from corporations which, in the past, supported the Tree Farm program.

The committee received some feed back from Tree Farmers, so it was decided that we would like to find out the feelings of all Illinois Tree Farmers before the national leadership conference that will be held in mid-February. The results of this survey will be discussed at that meeting.

First of all, a little background: The Tree Farm program is operated thru the American Tree Farm System (ATFS), a national program of the American Forest Foundation (AFF). AFF has three different programs, ATFS, Project Learning Tree (which is an environmental education program open to all teachers nation wide to provide class room education curriculum) and Forests for Watersheds and Wildlife (a habitat preservation program linking private forest landowners with public non-profit groups to preserve critical habitat for endangered species).

ATFS operates on a \$1.8 million budget. Most of this money comes directly from AFF, which in turn receives its money from foundations, grants and donations. It is ATFS's position that by asking each Tree Farmer to make a contribution to his or her program, it will increase participation and self-reliance, and lessen the burden on AFF to provide the majority of funding for our program. ATFS uses their budget to support each state committee and to fund their national office.

In the assessment letter that we all received, ATFS asked each Tree Farmer to pay a certain amount of money ranging from \$50 to \$150 based on the size of your Tree Farm. This is a voluntary payment and even if you didn't send in a penny, you will not be dropped or decertified. If you paid your assessment and gave an additional amount of money then you will receive other benefits depending on the size of your contribution. This is a yearly assessment at this point in time so we can expect the same request in 2007, and beyond.

The letter also explained all the benefits of being a certified Tree Farm and all the things the national program provides to you. Each state committee will receive \$10 for each assessment received. Illinois' share should be coming in January along with the short survey cards that were included with the assessment letter. That survey card will just help us update some of our files and mailing lists for our day to day operations.

Attached to the Woodland Scoop is our own survey which we are asking each Illinois Tree Farmer to fill out and return to us. This survey is to find out what Illinois Tree Farmers think of the voluntary assessment program ATFS has instituted. At our last state committee meeting, we were unsure of where our Tree Farmers stood on this issue. So before we go to speak on your behalf at the leadership conference, tell us what you think.

Please, this is your program with direct benefits for you. Your opinion is needed. Thanks for helping us out.



NORTHWEST ILLINOIS FORESTRY ASSOCIATION TENTATIVE 2007 AGENDA

For more information on all these events, visit the website: www.nifatrees.org

2/16/07: Forestry Herbicide Workshop. All day. Superwash Conference Center, Morrison.

3/10/07: Tri-state Forest Stewardship Conference. 7:30-4:30, Sinsinawa Conference Center, Sinsinawa, WI.

3/20/07: Annual Dinner Meeting. 7 p.m., Mt. Carroll Church of God. Jay Hayek, speaker.

4/07/07: Tour Tom Arnold Farm near Elizabeth. 1 p.m.

5/13/07: Spring Tour of Schurmeier Forest. 1 p.m. South of Elizabeth.

June: Chain Saw Safety/ Directional Felling Class. Date to be announced. Johnson Creek Tree Farm, Mt. Carroll.

7/29-8/1/07: Walnut Council Annual Meeting, New Melleray Abbey, Peosta, IA.

August: Tour of Heartbuilt Homes manufacturing facility. Stockton. Date to be announced.

September: Two day forestry expo in Jo Daviess County. Details to be announced.

9/09/07: Fall tour of Schurmeier Forest. 1 p.m. South of Elizabeth.

October: Tour to be announced.

11/13/07: 2008 Agenda Planning Session. 7p.m. Bring your ideas. Location to be announced.

12/11/07: Election of Officers. 7p.m. Location to be announced.

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OTHER MEETINGS OF INTEREST THROUGHOUT THE STATE

3/16/07: Trees Forever Riparian Buffer Workshop. Information and field tour. Springfield. Contact Harry Hendrickson, 217-498-8411.

3/21/07: Illinois Forestry Development Council. Springfield. Contact Dick Little, 217-493-6736.

4/27-29/07: IL Walnut Council State Meeting. Seminars and field tour. Washington, IA. Contact Larry Krotz. 319-653-4959

..... Contact the editors: the_scoop@jcwifi.com

TRI-STATE FOREST STEWARDSHIP CONFERENCE

Saturday, March 10, 2007

Sinsinawa Mound Center

585 County Road Z

Sinsinawa, Wisconsin 53824

Concurrent sessions in many aspects of forestland management provide landowners from Illinois, Iowa, and Wisconsin with the knowledge and skills to manage their woodlands using good stewardship principles. Anyone interested in woodlands and natural resources is welcome.

Earlybird registration ends February 10.


Deadline to mail registration is February 24.

Online registration through March 3 at
<http://basineducation.uwex.edu.gpsp>.

For more information, contact
Peggy Compton (608) 342-1633
peggy.compton@ces.uwex.edu

“Better Woodlands Through Education”

Northwest Illinois
Forestry Association



is made up of interested individuals and Tree Farmers from across Illinois, who share a common interest in forestry, whether they own forest land or not.

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Wood Power by Clint Patterson

Alternative energy sources are a pretty hot topic these days. No wonder, considering America's dependence on foreign oil. Here in the Midwest, ethanol and bio-diesel, made from row crops, seem to be commanding the most attention. (For some reason, any time I hear about ethanol, I think of *Granny* on the *Beverly Hillbillies* pouring moonshine into their old jalopy... ever seen that episode?) This technology is nothing new. Herr Diesel invented his engine to run on vegetable oil in the first place. Conversely, Tree Farmers may be interested to know that wood power may actually be an even more viable alternative... and not just for heating buildings or producing electricity. In fact, wood powered automobiles have been in use for over 60 years!

I remember my Grandpa Torbeck, who was a truck driver and interpreter during WWII, described the wood-burning vehicles the oil-strapped Germans used after their synthetic oil (made from coal) refineries were bombed. Although I've thought about that a few times, I never looked into it until recently. I was amazed to find out that it is pretty simple to run a car off of wood. In fact, by the end of WWII, many civilians all over Europe, out of necessity, had converted their cars to run on wood ... using only old washing machines and hot water heaters to build the converter necessary to capture the flammable gas produced by the burning wood and divert it into the intake manifold.

While I was looking into wood power on the internet, I ran across several web sites which offered plans showing how to convert your engine to burn wood. One article, by the *Mother Earth News*, written in 1981, detailed how they had converted a tractor, and then a pick-up, to run on wood for about \$200, then went on to describe their competent performance. "Wouldn't it be neat", I thought to myself, "if Tree Farmers could use the waste wood from their T.S.I. projects to run their vehicle or tractor ... or a generator to produce their electricity... or even rig up their sawmill to run on wood? Talk about independence! Hmmm...."

I've always been amazed at the hidden treasures to be discovered in History. Many of Modern Man's discoveries are, in fact, rediscoveries. For instance, long before Magellan got the credit for sailing around Africa, Herodotus, the Greek historian, documented the Phoenicians' expedition around Africa in 600 B.C.; after which they promptly built the first Suez Canal, which lasted for over 1,400 years. The Lighthouse at nearby Alexandria stood for 1,600 years; at 384 feet tall, it still holds the record for the tallest lighthouse ever built. Then there's Erasthones, who in 205 B.C., centuries before most Europeans accepted that the Earth wasn't flat, had already accurately calculated the Earth's circumference!

Who knows what the future holds concerning alternative energy. Chances are, however, that unless someone unlocks the secrets of nuclear fission, we'll be rediscovering our solutions from the past. Meanwhile, I wonder if Tree Farm would be interested in promoting alternative fuel and forest management at the same time through wood power? If nothing else, it would surely grab some attention and allow us to tell our story.

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Hey Buddy, Want Some Free Money?

by Rollie Spaniol, IL Outstanding Tree Farmer, 2005 - Charleston, IL

This sounds like unsolicited email but is really about carbon sequestration. This is a new program which is getting new money in the hands of grain, animal and tree farmers. One of the nice features is that you probably don't have to do anything to get this money except to apply. This all comes about because farmers produce materials that are good for the atmosphere. There are businesses with factories and power generating stations that produce carbon dioxide and other Green Houses Gases (GHG) that have a negative influence on the atmosphere. Then, there are those who sit in the think tanks and figure out how to solve the global warming problem by developing solutions to the problem.

This is not a government program. It is an American free enterprise solution to a global problem. You won't get all of your questions answered in this little article, but here is how to get started

There is a company called the Chicago Climate Exchange (CCX). Over simplified, it is a company like the Chicago Stock Exchange except it trades carbon credits produced by farmers to industries that are producing an over supply of harmful GHG. The industries pay for the carbon credits (called Offsets) because they know they are creating pollution or because the EPA has asked them to clean up their operation. To be eligible to purchase the offsets they have to belong to CCX and must reduce their emissions by a contracted amount. To be eligible to receive payments farmers must make application for one of the Offset Programs and sign a contract to maintain the qualifying acreage and crops for a period of time. Of course there are rules for the buyers and the producers of the Offset credits.

To learn more about CCX and the Offset projects use the internet. Google CCX which will get you to www.chicagoclimatex.com. After you read, this, click on the map under Offset Projects which will give you an overview of the projects. Now click on Project Types on the left side of the screen where you will see that there are five Offset programs. From this screen you can get to descriptions of each of the project types by clicking on the icon above the CCX project type..

Since it is going to take a lot of land parcels to make a difference in the global atmosphere they had to come up with a way to aggregate the lands and crops that are going into the Offsets program. The State of Illinois (IEPA) is working with Delta Institute (a not-for-profit corporation) to pool the lands and crops. To get the contract details and applications forms go to www.illinoisclimate.org. This website describes your eligibility for the program, tells you how to apply, provides the enrollment forms, explains how the trading works, provides a calculator to estimate your income from the project, and tells you about the partners who have put the program together for us.

You can contact the Delta Institute at:

Mr. Timothy H. Brown (312)554-0900 ext. 25
thbrown@delta-institute.org

or

Ms. Abigail Corso (312)554-0900 ext. 25
acorso@delta-institute.org

or by mail to:

Ms. Abigail Corso, P2/E2 Center
c/o The Delta Institute
53 West Jackson Blvd., Suite 230
Chicago, Illinois 60604



Illinois Forestry Association

Our Mission: To act on issues that impact rural and community forests and to promote forestry in Illinois.

www.ilforestry.org



Illinois Tree Farm System

The Patterson Perspective

by Clint Patterson, District Forester



Since a neighbor friend loaned us several seasons' worth of "Little House on the Prairie" CD's, we've been watching three or four episodes a week for at least a couple of months now. My wife and I really loved this show when we were growing up, and we get just as big a kick out of them as the kids do. They learn a lot from the shows too... often asking some pretty deep questions afterwards. Then, last night our five year old, Jacob, finally sheepishly asked "What's a prairie?"!

"You mean we've been watching these shows for months and you don't know what a prairie is?" popped into my head, but thankfully I caught myself and answered it without embarrassing him. And now he

knows what a prairie is.

Likewise, I wonder how many people we're around really understand what we're talking about when we're discussing "board feet," "basal area," and "d.b.h.?" How many people even think about forestry beyond whether or not a harvested forest down the road "looks bad?" Yet, many of these people today are questioning foresters' and landowners' decisions about how to manage both public and private forests, without having ever understood, "What's a forest?"

Heinrich von Cotta, often called the "Father of Forestry," described the situation in 1816: "Three principle causes exist why forestry is still so backward; first, the long time which wood needs for its development; second, the great variety of sites on which it grows; thirdly, the fact that the forester who practices much writes but little, and he who writes much practices but little."

The first two causes cannot be helped ... so let's try to do our best to address the third. Maybe someday there will be a show called "Little House in the Big Woods"... wasn't that one of the Wilder books too? I can't wait.

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To all Tree Farmers in the West Central Region

Your Committee is planning a Shiitake Mushroom Workshop this Spring. A location and date have not yet been chosen, but you can check the Tree Farm website: www.illinoistreefarm.org for more information about this event. The UPCOMING EVENTS page is the only place for workshop notification, as we will not be sending out individual mailings. If you do not have internet access and you want to know about this event or other programs being organized by the West Central Region Tree Farm Committee, contact Barrie McVey at 309-776-5271.

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Illinois Wood Products Association Sponsors Game of Logging

The Illinois Wood Products Association will offer three sessions of the Game of Logging in three sites later in the summer and autumn. The Game of Logging program includes 5 days of hands-on instruction in timber harvesting emphasizing safety, technique and proper use of tools. Joe Glen, who teaches a Professional Timber Harvester Program in Missouri, will be the instructor. Session A will be held during July and August in the Carbondale area. Session B will be carried out in July, August and September in the Effingham area. Session C will be in November and December near Peoria. All sessions are limited to 12 students. The cost is \$125 for the entire session. IWPA members can register for \$100. For information and registration, please contact Lee Rife at P.O. Box 11211, Springfield, IL 62791, Tel: 217-529-2886.



Citizen Big Tree Inspector Workshop in Calhoun County

The University of Illinois Extension Service will hold a Citizen Big Tree Inspector Workshop at the McCully Heritage Project, outside Campville, in Calhoun County on April 21, 2007. Jay Hayek, Extension Forester, wants to encourage people to pay more attention to the trees surrounding them by involving citizens in the process of identifying big trees and by initiating a "Notable Tree Registry," which would be in addition to the current Illinois Big Tree Register. The Notable Tree Registry would include trees of historic significance, hybrids, exceptional non-native species, as well as exceptional native species which nevertheless don't have enough points to qualify as the largest of their kind in Illinois. Following the Calhoun County workshop, the same program will be presented in Whiteside or Knox County, Dupage County (at the Morton Arboretum), and Piatt County (at Allerton Park). Anyone interested in learning how to measure and score trees is invited to attend. Information about the April workshop in Calhoun County can be found on line at www.mccullyheritage.org. The specific times and locations of the other three workshops will be available in the near future at <http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/forestry/ilbigtree.html>. If you can't attend one of the workshops, you can find a lot of information about the measurement of big trees on this site. If you have a suggestion about a specific place to hold one of the workshops, or you would like to request the scheduling of a workshop in your part of the state, contact Jay Hayek by email at jhayek@uiuc.edu.

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