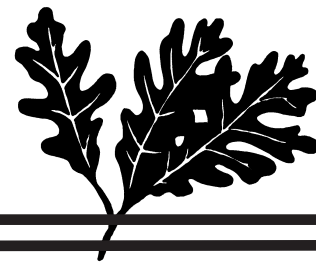


# THE WOODLAND SCOOP

Illinois Tree Farm System's Forestry Newsletter  
Spring/Summer 2011



## 2009 Outstanding Tree Farmers Field Day at Hegner's

By Dave Griffith  
IDNR Forester for Northeastern Illinois

On October 16, 2010, Tree Farmers came from around the state and landed at Dick and Betty's 485 acre Tree Farm in Harvard, Illinois for the 2009 Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year field day.

In the morning there were talks given by Paul Deizman, IDNR Forester, about managing a 10 year old tree planting, and by Ray Eisbrenner about wetland management and management strategies. For lunch, we enjoyed a pig roast and a fine talk by Steve Byers, Illinois Nature Preserves Commission, who assisted the Hegners in placing their property in Land and Water Reserve, protecting it for generations to come.

The afternoon was spent watching field demonstrations. Premiere Forest Products demonstrated their processor, thinning white pine rows. When the demo was completed, Tony Zimmerman, owner, educated the participants about what they do, where the wood goes, and how to contact the company. This demo was the most talked about... nothing like a big machine to turn everyone into children again.

The day was wrapped by Frank Jacobsen, IDNR Fisheries Biologist, talking about pond management, who gave a fish-shocking demonstration to show how to inventory pond fish populations.

All in all, the Field Day was a tremendous success. There was record turn out and we lucked out with fantastic weather. Thanks to everyone who helped plan and move equipment around the state, the speakers for speaking, and the attendees for attending. It is very encouraging for Illinois forestry to see so much interest and enthusiasm in the Tree Farm program.



Dick Hegner presiding over the field day

### Inside The Scoop

Go to [www.illinoistreefarm.org](http://www.illinoistreefarm.org)

- P. 2: From the Chairman
- P. 3: The International Year of the Forest
- P. 4: IL Forestry Association Update
- P. 5: Just Say "No" to the Mulch Volcano
- P. 6: Missouri Tree Farm Conference
- P. 7: Firewood and How to Handle it



Paul Deizman discussing pine plantation management

# Illinois Tree Farm System



## From The Chairman: Spring 2011

Welcome: 2010 is behind us and I hope everyone had a good year. With the New Year comes change and new challenges.

Some of the changes on the national level include changes to the Estate Tax. In December, Congress passed a large tax bill, which included a two-year fix to the estate tax. It sets the estate tax exemption level at \$5 million and a 35% tax rate for the next two years. Had Congress not taken action before the end of the year, the estate tax would have reverted back to the 2001 levels, a high tax rate of 55% and a lower exemption level of \$1 million. There is still some proposed legislation out there (Family Farm Estate Tax Deferral Act) which would exempt family forest owners from estate tax if they keep the land in the family and as a Forest.

The United Nations General Assembly declared 2011 as the International Year of Forests to raise awareness on sustainable management, conservation, and sustainable development of all types of forests. The International Year of Forests provides an excellent platform for increased awareness of the connections between healthy forests, ecosystems, people, and economies. The forest products industry is a source of economic growth and employment, with global forest products traded internationally in the order of \$270 billion. Forests play an integral part in the livelihoods of 1.6 billion people worldwide, supply the habitat for millions of species, and play a critical role in mitigating the effects of climate change. It is estimated that every year 50,000 square miles of the world's forests are lost due to deforestation to create agricultural land, unsustainable harvesting of timber, unsound land management practices, and creation of human settlements, among other reasons. According to the World Bank, deforestation accounts for up to 20 percent of the global greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to global warming.

The world's forests and forest soil store more than one trillion tons of carbon - twice the amount found in the atmosphere. The World Bank estimates that forests provide habitats to about two-thirds of all species on earth, and that deforestation of closed tropical rainforests could account for biodiversity loss of as many as 100 species a day.

If anyone has plans for Timber Stand Improvement practices, or is looking to tackle invasive species problems, now is the time. Currently the USDA NRCS office is taking applications for financial support of these practices under the EQUIP program. Contact your local NRCS office for details.

For those of you out there who have completed a timber harvest in the recent past, the IL Div. of Forestry has cost share money available to do follow-up practices. Along with the cost share, you are eligible to receive up to 100% of your 4% harvest fee back. Please check with your District Forester regarding details about the FDA cost share program.

Your Illinois Tree Farm Committee will try to keep everyone up to date on the latest information available about events, cost-share programs, and important issues to forestland owners. Of course, you can help by becoming involved, particularly with this committee. We welcome new ideas and new people! Don't hesitate. Please check out your website at:

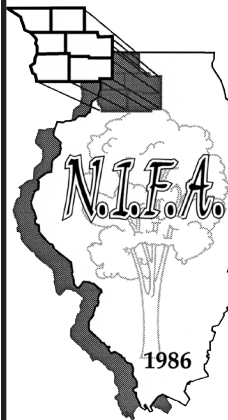
[www.illinoistreefarm.org](http://www.illinoistreefarm.org).

Best wishes for a productive spring season.



Bob Wagoner, Chairman

## "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.

NIFA's purpose is to promote awareness and achievement of the benefits of forest management, including the economic and environmental values. Join us for an entire year of educational programming.

**Membership: \$20.00/year**

Contact us at 162 S. Apple River Rd. Stockton 61085  
or call 815-858-2407 [www.nifatrees.org](http://www.nifatrees.org)

Check website for schedule details



# Illinois Tree Farm System

## 2011 IS THE YEAR OF FORESTS !!!



### **INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF FORESTS • 2011**

2011 has been designated the **International Year of Forests** to promote broader understanding of the importance of forests, and to bolster global efforts to promote sustainable forest management and conservation. Activities are being scheduled across the USA and around the globe to bring attention to the importance of healthy forests.

Saturday May 21, 2011 is "**National Walk in The Woods Day**"!! Your Illinois Tree Farm Committee and the American Forest Foundation invite you to help others learn about the importance of forests for people by participating in, or leading, a "walk in the woods" activity.

You can make it as simple as taking the whole family out for a walk on your Tree Farm. Other ideas include inviting your neighbors, family, friends and elected officials or other community members to join you for a walk on your Tree Farm. Or take your kids, grandkids or neighbors kids out for an exploratory walk in your woods. What better way to get kids involved than a hands-on activity! You could also invite a local youth or after-school club to visit your Tree Farm. How about helping a school improve its grounds by planting trees with the students and their teachers? In these tight budget times, many schools are looking for additional volunteer help. Or you can simply go camping in a forest and enjoy the quiet beauty around you.

**No matter what you do, mark your calendar for May 21 and go for A Walk in the Woods!!!**

## Northwest Illinois Forestry Association 2011 Schedule

**March 12<sup>th</sup>** Tri State Forestry Conference at Sinsinawa Mound. 8 am - 5 pm  
[www.forestry.iastate.edu](http://www.forestry.iastate.edu)

**March 29<sup>th</sup>** Annual Dinner Meeting at Naaman Diehl Auditorium, Mt. Carroll, 7:00pm, with Cory Ritterbusch of Prairie Works Inc. speaking about control of invasive species in the forest.

**April** ( date to be scheduled ) 1:00pm at the Greg Hopton forest tour near Hanover to see recent Timber Harvest, Timber Stand Improvement, and Tree Planting.

**April 17<sup>th</sup>** Chain Saw Safety session ( location to be announced ) with a maximum of 12 participants at a cost of \$100 per participant.

**May 14<sup>th</sup>** Walnut Stand thinning at Tom Syke's CRP planting in East Dubuque with Steve Felt. This tour is co-sponsored with The Illinois Forestry Association and the Illinois Walnut Council.

**June 4<sup>th</sup>** Tour of Consulting Forester, Kevin Oetken's, forest and lumber sales operation at Monmouth, Iowa. Tour to start at 10:00 am with lunch furnished.

**July** Follow up on the invasive forest plants control by Cory Ritterbusch. Location and date of the tour to be announced.

**August** Paula Purdue to address forestry issues. Paula is the lobbyist for the Illinois Forestry Association. Location and date to be announced.

**September 24<sup>th</sup>** 1:00pm tour at the Scott Schaffer property near Savanna to see wildlife considerations for forest and open land. Scott is the IDNR Wildlife Biologist.

**October** Tour Bill Hawes forest near Elizabeth featuring a novice approach to forest management. Time and date to be announced.

**November 8<sup>th</sup>** Business meeting at 7:00pm to plan for 2012 meeting and tour agenda. Stockton Library.

**December 13<sup>th</sup>** Business meeting and election of officers and directors at 7:00pm. Stockton Library.



## Illinois Forestry Association Update

by Kurt Bobsin  
IFA Technical Advisor

As IFA goes into a new year, many challenges, new and old, continue for forestry. Diminished technical forestry assistance continues, state dollars available to forest landowners are problematic and the demand for forestry program participation increases. IFA continues to support the delivery of information to landowners through workshops, field days, their newsletter and website : [www.ilforestry.org](http://www.ilforestry.org).

### New - Membership Benefit

- IFA will soon be offering timber land and recreational use liability insurance to its members. This may also be useful in supplementing the property liability insurance you already have in place. Talk to your Regional director and watch the website for additional information

### Legislation

- IFA lobby day will be March 30<sup>th</sup>. Plan on coming to Springfield for the day to meet, greet and let your legislators know about the issues that concern you
- HB 0025 has been introduced that would eliminate the 4% harvest fee. These funds are important to assist landowners in carrying out forestry practices in their management plans. Hundreds of thousands of dollars have been used over the years to improve our forests by controlling undesirable species and improving growth rates. IFA is working to stop this legislation from going forward
- Protecting the Forestry Development Fund from legislative sweeps and other misuses is critical for preserving current and future revenues that flow into this Fund. The Fund supports the delivery of programs and technical assistance to forest landowners and communities. IFA is introducing legislation to protect and direct the use of this Fund for the intended purposes.
- Landowners throughout the state have trouble with unwanted and uninvited "visitors" coming on to their property. IFA is moving to have legislation introduced [similar to Missouri's purple paint law] that will help landowners protect their properties from trespassing.
- The IL Forestry Development Council has yet to be reactivated as per the Forestry Development Act amendment that IFA was successful in getting passed last legislative session. IFA continues to pressure the Governor's office for making the recommended appointments and for IDNR to move forward on facilitating the convening of this Council.

### Newsletter

- Continues to be a major source for communication with IFA. Discussions continue with the Board on how to continue to deliver the newsletter [hard copies or electronically] Let your Directors know if you have some suggestions on this

### Events and Meetings

- There are numerous activities already scheduled and posted on the website. Check this page to see what is happening in your area. IFA will be partnering with Tree Farm this year to bring one day chainsaw safety and use workshops throughout the state. These are oriented to homeowners and landowners who do not feel they can commit to the more intense and rigorous Game of Logging chainsaw workshops. Stay tuned to the website for updates and listings.
- On this website page you will also find the meeting minutes from all IFA Board meetings. This is an excellent way to keep abreast of what is going on and what is being discussed with the IFA Board

**It is time to renew your membership for 2011. If you have not done this, please take time right now to do so. Thank you for your continued support and interest in IFA!!**

**[www.ilforestry.org](http://www.ilforestry.org)**



# Illinois Tree Farm System

Mulch Volcano - BAD



Proper Mulching



**JEFF HUDGENS**

Forester



**PRAIRIE HILLS FORESTRY CONSULTING**

Management Plans • Timber Sales • TSI  
Direct Seeding • Tree Planting  
Timber Appraisals • Portable Saw Mill

13860 N. 225th Rd.  
Industry, IL 61440

Bus. Phone (309) 254-3665

[www.prairiehillsforestry.com](http://www.prairiehillsforestry.com)

## “Just Say No To The Mulch Volcano”

by Mary Grapperhaus

The biggest problem seen today is too much mulch. Piling mulch and more mulch up high around the tree creating the **Mulch Volcano** harms or kills the tree. Commonly seen more and more in highly visible locations such as residential and business landscapes, many think this is correct. But this is a bad landscaping practice and it's getting out of control.

Excessive mulch: causes rot in the trunk, creates a home for insects that attack the tree, and encourages the development of a secondary root system.

At this point I have my own story to tell! When I bought my house about 7 years ago both backyard red maple trees had been mulched. Upon a closer look I noticed the mulch was too deep, too high, and up against the trunk (a mulch volcano). I tried to rake it away from the trunk, but it was too late, the secondary root system had developed. A series of problems over the next few years (see above...excess mulch) and finally the 6" diameter red maple, shading my deck...died. Interestingly, after a secondary root system forms in a too-thick mulch layer, the underground root system which is not being used will start to wither and die off. A huge problem because now the tree has lost its feeder roots and also its support system. So, think about this: during any type of dry weather your tree will be stressed with drought and be susceptible to blow over.

### Now Get Ready.....May is for Mulching!!

And as with anything, the more I read about mulching the more I'm learning. Way more than I will cover here, but if you are new to mulching here are some things I have learned.

Mulch is, by definition, a protective cover placed over the soil to retain moisture, reduce erosion, provide nutrients, suppress weed growth and seed germination. Mulching around a tree mimics the leaf cover that is found on forest floors.

Any organic material can be mulch, such as: ground up leaves, ground up bark, wood chips, lawn clippings, or even stone.

The best mulches are compost and rotted wood chips, which are alive and full of beneficial bugs, worms and micronutrients. All organic materials need time to age or they will harm plants, especially if used in landscaping. And if termites are a concern, choose bark over wood chips...Why? Termites only eat wood fiber, so bark will not attract termites.

How to correctly apply mulch around a tree is very simple.

- Remove any grass within the mulch area
- Spread mulch 3-6 feet in diameter
- Thin layer 3 inches or less
- Keep mulch away from tree trunk
- Apply annually, mulch isn't permanent
- One bag each year/tree will usually do it!



**Mulch applied correctly is a Tree's Best Friend!!!!**

# Illinois Tree Farm System



## WOOD YOU BELIEVE...

There are 751 million acres of forests in the United States - roughly one third of its total land area.

Forest area has been relatively stable since 1910.

Over 75 million acres of forests are reserved for non-timber use, such as parks and wilderness areas.

The average volume of growing timber per acre is rising. In some areas, the volume per acre is nearly double what it was fifty years ago.

This information is brought to you by the USDA Forest Service Forest Inventory and Analysis National Program and Barrie McVey, District Forester.

## Missouri Tree Farm Annual Conference Featuring - Tree Farmer of the Year: **Dave Murphy**

Theme: Managing Habitat for Maximum Wild Turkey

### Populations

Please mark your calendar to join us on **May 21, 2011** for a field day with special demonstrations & booths as we recognize Dave Murphy as our 2010 Tree Farmer of the Year. The event will be located in Clark County, Missouri (northeast Missouri). We will have two sessions of tours (a short one in the morning and long one in the afternoon). Participants will get to choose five tour stop options:

- ◆ Bee hives on the farm
- ◆ Cost basis - the bottom dollar
- ◆ Fescue conversion - Green browse
- ◆ Quail management
- ◆ Safety
- ◆ Sawmill demonstration
- ◆ Timber sales
- ◆ Timber stand improvement - acorn production
- ◆ Turkey management
- ◆ Walnut production

Dave will show us the results of his work and we would like to hear your thoughts & ideas. Registration is \$20 per person and this cost includes lunch. We hope to have the on-line registration available soon (<http://www.moforest.org/treefarmssystem.htm>).

If you would like to get on the early bird list or have any questions, please send an email to Clayton Lee, Missouri Tree Farm Chair ([clayton.lee@mchsi.com](mailto:clayton.lee@mchsi.com)), or leave a telephone message [(573) 446-0757] or send me a note (4500 Shoram Court, Columbia, MO 65203) and I will get back to you as soon as possible.



A Missouri inspected and certified nursery.  
Harrison D. Wells, II, Owner

P.O. Box 614  
Doniphan, Missouri 63935

Phone/Fax: 573-996-3449  
[ripleycountyfarms@windstream.net](mailto:ripleycountyfarms@windstream.net)  
[www.ripleycountyfarms.com](http://www.ripleycountyfarms.com)

### **Midwestern Growers of Reforestation Seedlings**

Call or email us to request quotes for all oaks, black walnuts, pecans, cottonwood cuttings, rooted cottonwood cuttings and other hardwood varieties.

*Our midwestern seed sources are concentrated along the upper Mississippi River basin (Zone 5), as well as along the Ohio River Valley (Zone 6).*



Pronounced "I ah whistle"

**We supply the quality, hardy, root-cultured seedlings and larger bareroot stock you need for Northern Illinois.**

*Native species for CRP, wildlife, and reforestation plantings.*

Visit our website: [www.iawisil.com](http://www.iawisil.com)  
for inventory and prices

Write or email us for a hard copy catalog.

Leo and Mary Frueh, owners,  
24333 N. Cascade Rd, Cascade, IA 52033  
563-590-1835.



## FIREWOOD FOR SALE

We've all seen the signs, usually hand-lettered in a front yard. A further look most often finds stacks of firewood along the property edge that are sometimes partially covered and other times not. If you are in the market to purchase firewood, you've surely wondered if the wood in the yard is worthy of consideration. The question becomes "**What wood is best?**"

**Safety first.** The primary consideration of most firewood buyers is the desire for firewood that is safe. This usually means that which is least likely to contribute to chimney fires. There are other safety factors which are dependent on use. For fireplace owners, since firewood can spend some time in your house, it is desirable to have a minimum of insect and animal residues. If the wood is to be burned in a fireplace, campfire or other "open" fire it is safest to stay away from wood that pops burning sparks.

Chimney fires are caused by a buildup of creosote. Creosote accumulates from the gases that are emitted up through chimneys. The safest wood to burn to minimize creosote buildup is not related to species. **The safest wood is that which is fully and properly seasoned.** The moisture content in the wood determines how hot it will burn and thus how much creosote will build up. Firewood that has not been dried for over a year (if outside) will not burn as hot or as completely and thus is not as safe as fully seasoned wood which will burn hot and clean. The best, fastest and most complete seasoning of firewood is achieved from that which is seasoned in a well ventilated, enclosed building. This also produces wood with the least amount of rot and critter residues which in turn makes it the cleanest.

According to scientific testing to determine what woods produced the most creosote, hardwoods such as oak actually created more creosote than softwoods such as pine and fir. It was found that if the softwoods are completely dry they result in a more intense and hotter fire. This means the air and smoke move up the chimney faster and at a higher temperature resulting in less creosote buildup. The common thought that the pitch in pine and fir causes creosote buildup just isn't true. In fact, the moisture in any wood causes creosote buildup and if pine or fir firewood is free of moisture the pitch actually becomes intensely hot-burning fuel.

**What species to consider.** In the Midwest, elm, hard (sugar) maple, oak, black locust, hackberry, cherry, walnut, mulberry and apple can all be good choices for burning in fireplaces if properly seasoned. These hardwoods are all rather dense and thus produce a good amount of heat and coals without burning out quickly. Fir and pine are considerably less dense and burn much more quickly. For those burning wood in sealed stoves, sparking is not a safety hazard so heavy sparking species such as osage-orange (hedge) and honey locust are good choices since they have high heat values.

### **Bottom-line firewood purchasing tips:**

- Buy only fully dried wood. That seasoned indoors is best. Next best is that protected from the weather as much as possible
- Do not be so concerned about species as with dryness
- If unsure if wood is fully dried, buy firewood a year in advance of using and store protected from the weather as much as possible.
- Avoid wood cut over 3 years which very well may have begun to rot
- Do not hesitate to pay a bit more for confirmed, absolutely dry, well-seasoned hardwood firewood that will result in easier starting, better burning and safer fires.
- Do not store and avoid buying wood seasoned under a tarp. Tarps trap moisture contributing to incomplete drying and rotting.
- Ash has good firewood qualities but . . . . **HELP PREVENT THE SPREAD OF EMERALD ASH BORER. DO NOT MOVE ASH FIREWOOD. BURN IT WHERE YOU BUY IT.**



# ATTENTION TREE FARMERS!

Your Tree Farm Committee is going to try something new and we would like to find out what you think about it. Inside this copy of "The Woodland Scoop" you will find only the cover story and a table of contents telling you what other articles are in this edition of the newsletter.

It will be up to you to go to your website [www.illinoistreefarm.org](http://www.illinoistreefarm.org) left click on **NEWSLETTER**, and discover the timely and valuable information included in this latest issue of "The Woodland Scoop." You'll also find previous issues going back to 2004, when we started your website.

You can find out about scheduled field days, workshops, tours, and important issues for Tree Farmers. Don't hesitate. This will affect YOU. Thank you from the Editors. Once again, the address is: [www.illinoistreefarm.org](http://www.illinoistreefarm.org). Then send your editor's a message to let us know if this works for you: email us at [thescoop@jcwifi.com](mailto:thescoop@jcwifi.com).



Return Service Requested

Illinois Tree Farm System  
Illinois Tree Farm Committee  
6480 Daggert Road  
Mount Carroll, IL 61053  
[thescoop@jcwifi.com](mailto:thescoop@jcwifi.com)

NON PROFIT  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
MT. CARROLL, IL  
61053  
PERMIT NO. 6