

Illinois' 176,000 private woodland owners, who control an estimated 82% of the state's 4.96 million acres of forestland, are the primary audience targeted by RREA funds. RREA funding is leveraged with additional funds from private gifts and funding from the state and we estimate these amounts equal \$50,000/yr.



Jay Hayek, UI Extension forester, leads a group of college students in chainsaw safety.

**Partnership for Oak Management Education:** UI Extension forestry partnered with IDNR, Illinois Forestry Assoc., and the Shawnee National Forest to conduct a series of educational events on oak regeneration. Conferences, presentations, and field days were all used to help convey the need for active forest management, such as harvesting and prescribed fire, to stimulate oak regeneration in Illinois forests.

**New Agroforestry Initiatives:** UI Extension forestry established a three-acre managed sugarbush for maple syrup production, a log-grown mushroom program, and is developing 12 acres of woody polyculture plantings utilizing chestnuts and black walnuts with species of shrubs, canes, and interplanted herbaceous crops. The first two agroforestry workshops attracted 100 attendees for maple syrup production and 43 for log grown mushroom production.



Chris Evans, UI Extension forester, discusses winter identification of sugar maple and explains maple syrup production to a group of 100 attendees at the Dixon Springs Agricultural Center in southern Illinois.

*"This is the best forestry conference, bar none, in the Midwest – I look forward to attending this every year!"* Tri-state Forest Stewardship Conference attendee.

**22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Tri-State Forest Stewardship Conference:** UI Extension forestry, in partnership with ISU Extension forestry, delivered yet another successful conference to 528 woodland owners from IL, IA, and WI. Our annual conference continues to deliver a variety of forestry-, wildlife-, and conservation-related presentations to a diverse audience.

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