

Southern Illinois

Beginning Forest Landowner Program

Project Director

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Program Overview

The purpose of this program is to develop the knowledge and skill sets of beginning forest landowners in basic forest and natural resource management and management planning to allow them to actively manage their forested land.

The University of Illinois Extension Forestry Program has partnered with the Illinois Forestry Association, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry, the Shawnee Resource Conservation & Development Area, the Nature Conservancy, the Southern Illinois Prescribed Burn Association, and the River to River Cooperative Weed Management Area to provide an array of learning and networking opportunities. The course will cover topics such as forest ecology, tree identification, the timber harvesting process, thinning and pruning, managing for wildlife, invasive species control, and prescribed burning.

The class will:

Introduce the practices commonly used in the management of the Central Hardwoods Forests and the planning process through instruction.

Participants will:

- Gain knowledge in the planning and implementation of forest management.
- Gain field experience through observation of forest management activities.
- Practice implementing forest management in a constructive manner through mentorship by foresters and expert managers.
- Develop a support network of new and experienced forest landowners and managers through peer-to-peer learning.
- Receive a paid, one-year membership, to the Illinois Forestry Association
- Earn a certificate upon completion of the program.



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Program Expectations:

Students are expected attend four out of the five full-day instructional sessions provided. Students are expected to attend three of the field-based mentoring opportunities but are strongly encouraged to attend more. Students are also expected to attend one of three community events and meet with their assigned experienced forest landowner peer on two separate occasions. Reasonable accommodations may be provided in the event that a student cannot attend an instructional session in person (i.e., attending via zoom or recording the presentation for later viewing). Other reasonable accommodations will be provided upon request.

Course Materials:

Several tools/materials will be required throughout the program to help landowners develop their skills. These items, provided by the program, include but are not limited to:

- Jim-Gem Cruz-All/Angle Gauge
- Tree and Log Scale Stick
- Pocket Diameter Tape
- Eye Protection, Ear Protection, & Leather Gloves
- Textbook: *Forest Trees of Illinois 10th Ed.*
- Textbook: *Forest Measurements: An Applied Approach*
- 3-ring Binder



Curriculum

Full-day Instructional Sessions – Held at the Dixon Springs Ag Center (354 State Hwy 145N Simpson IL 62985)

Date and Time	Topic	Presenters
March 19 th , 2022 9am-3pm	Introduction to the Program Forest Ecology & Development & Introduction to Forest Management	Taryn Bieri UI Extension Forestry Chris Evans UI Extension Forestry
May 14 th , 2022 9am-3pm	Tree Diversity & Identification Invasive Species of Southern Illinois: ID, Treatment, & Local Resources	Taryn Bieri UI Extension Forestry Nick Seaton RTRCWMA
July 23 rd , 2022 9am-3pm	Basic Silviculture & Practical Forest Measurements for Landowners Forest Management for Wildlife	Jesse Riechman SIPBA Joy O’Keefe UI Wildlife Extension Specialist
September 17 th , 2022 9am-3pm	Oak Management & Regeneration Prescribed Fire	Dr. Eric Holzmueller Professor SIUC Kevin Rohling UI Extension Forestry
October 7 th 1:30pm-2:30pm	NRCS and Your Forest	Margaret Anderson NRCS
October 22 nd , 2022 9am-3pm	Developing Management Plans Conducting a Timber Harvest	Jennifer Lesko IDNR Benjamin Snyder IDNR

Field-based Mentoring Opportunities

***Registration required prior to events.**

Date & Time	Topic	Location
March 28 th , 2022 1pm-4pm	Chainsaw Training & Safety Mentors: Chris Evans and Kevin Rohling-UI Extension Forestry	Dixon Springs Agricultural Center 354 State Highway 145N Simpson IL 62985
April 16 th , 2022 3pm-6pm	Crop Tree Release Mentor: Chris Evans-UI Extension Forestry	Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge Hickory Bottoms Mt Olive Rd, Dongola, IL 62926



Date & Time	Topic	Location
		(37.33821, -89.07323)
May 28 th , 2022 9am-1pm	ID, Survey, Mapping & Control of Invasive Species Mentor: Nick Seaton-RTRCWMA	260 North Iron Furnace Road Elizabethtown, IL 62931 (37.52710° N, 88.32850° W)
June 11 th , 2022 9am-12pm or 1pm-4pm	Tree & Woody Shrub ID Mentors: Taryn & Ray Bieri	Giant City State Park Visitor Center 1-245 Giant City Rd, Makanda, IL 62958
June 25 th , 2022 9am-10:30am	Forest Health Field-tour Mentors: Chris Evans and Ellen Crocker	Lake Murphysboro State Park 52 Cinder Hill Dr, Murphysboro 62966
July 30 th , 2022 9am-12pm	Forest Measurements: Use Your Toolkit Mentor: Jesse Riechman-SIPBA	Giant City State Park Visitor Center 1-245 Giant City Rd, Makanda, IL 62958
September 10 th , 2022 9am-12pm	Marking & Conducting Timber/Forest Stand Improvement Mentor: Mike Long-Long Forestry Consultation	Dixon Springs Ag Center 354 State Highway 145N Simpson, IL 62985
September 18 th , 2022 10am-2pm	Tool Maintenance, Herbicide Sprayers, Herbicide Mixing Mentor: Nick Seaton-RTRCWMA	Dixon Springs Ag Center 354 State Highway 145N Simpson, IL 62985
October 8 th , 2022 10am-2pm	Introduction to Forest Soils & Climate Adaptation in the Forest Mentor: Brooke Hagarty-USFS	Harvest Site near Garden of the Gods Meeting Location: Mitchellsville Country Store 5850 Highway 145 S, Harrisburg, IL 62946
October 21st 10am-12pm	Planning & Implementing a Rx Burn Mentors: UI Extension Forestry and SIPBA	Dixon Springs Ag Center Pavilion 354 State Highway 145N Simpson, IL 62985
November 22 nd 10am-4pm	Implementation of an Rx Burn (hands-on) Mentors: UI Extension Forestry	Dixon Springs Ag Center Pavilion 354 State Highway 145N Simpson, IL 62985



Date & Time	Topic	Location
December 16 th , 2022 1pm-4pm	Maple Syrup Part 1: Prep & Setup Mentors: UI Extension Forestry Staff	Dixon Springs Ag Center 354 State Highway 145N Simpson, IL 62985
January 20 th , 2023 1pm-4pm	Maple Syrup Part 2: Processing Mentors: UI Extension Forestry Staff	Dixon Springs Ag Center 354 State Highway 145N Simpson, IL 62985
February 11 th , 2023 9am-12pm	Pruning Your Forest Mentor: Chris Evans and Kevin Rohling-UI Extension Forestry	Barkhausen Cache River Wetlands Center 8885 Il-37, Cypress, IL 62923-2323

Community Events

***Registration required prior to events.**

Date and Time	Activity	Location
June 18 th , 2022 10am-12pm	Explore Jim and Mary Maginel's Property	20601 Maggie Lane, Tamms, IL 62988
July 9 th , 2022 3pm-6pm	Explore Mike McMahan's Property Meet & greet with Illinois Forestry Association	3465 Indian Point Road, Vienna, IL 62995
October 1 st , 2022 1pm-4pm	Explore Debbie Newman's Property	6420 Hwy 4, Ava, IL 62907

Public Events

***Registration required prior to events.**

Date and Time	Topic/Activity	Location
June 25 th , 2022 Time 1pm-2:30pm	Forest Health in Southern Illinois Presenter: Dr. Ellen Crocker-Forest Health Extension University of Kentucky	University of Illinois Extension Office Jackson County, 402 Ava Rd, Murphysboro, IL 62966
July 12 th , 2022 6pm-7:15pm	Income from Private Woodlands Presenter: Lenny Farlee-Extension Forester Purdue University	Virtual Register here: IncomeFromPrivateWoodlands



Date and Time	Topic/Activity	Location
August 19 th 9am-12pm	Emerald Ash Borer Workshop Presenter: Fredric Miller-Professor at Joliet Junior College	21610 Minnesota Rd, Richview Il 62877 Register here: EAB Workshop
September 2 nd , 2022 Session 1: 10am-12pm Session 2: 2pm-4pm	Field-day with Ozark Koala Ecosystem Services Presenter: Jeremy Schumacher	70 Shelby Rd. Vienna, IL 62995 Register here: OKES Field-Day
October 26 th , 2022 2pm-3pm	Agroforestry 101: How Trees Can Support IL Farms and Landscapes Presenter: Devon Brock-Montgomery from the Savanna Institute	Webinar (online) Register here: Agroforestry101

Additional Information

Find additional resources/publications at: <https://extension.illinois.edu/forestry/resources>

Find additional events/webinar series offered by University of Illinois Extension at:
<https://extension.illinois.edu/global/events>

Join the Extension Forestry email list: <https://groups.webservices.illinois.edu/subscribe/133646;%20>

Additional information from program partners can be found at the following links:

- Illinois Forestry Association: <https://www.ilforestry.org/>
- Illinois Dept. of Nat. Resources Div. of Forestry:
<https://www2.illinois.gov/dnr/conservation/forestry/pages/default.aspx>
- Shawnee Resource and Development Council: <https://shawneercd.org/>
- The Nature Conservancy: <https://www.nature.org/en-us/about-us/where-we-work/united-states/illinois/>
- Southern Illinois Prescribed Burn Association: <http://www.sipba.org/>
- River to River Cooperative Weed Management Area: <https://www.rtrcwma.org/>

