

Review of Year 1

Director: Chris Evans **Coordinator:** Taryn Bieri



Background on Program

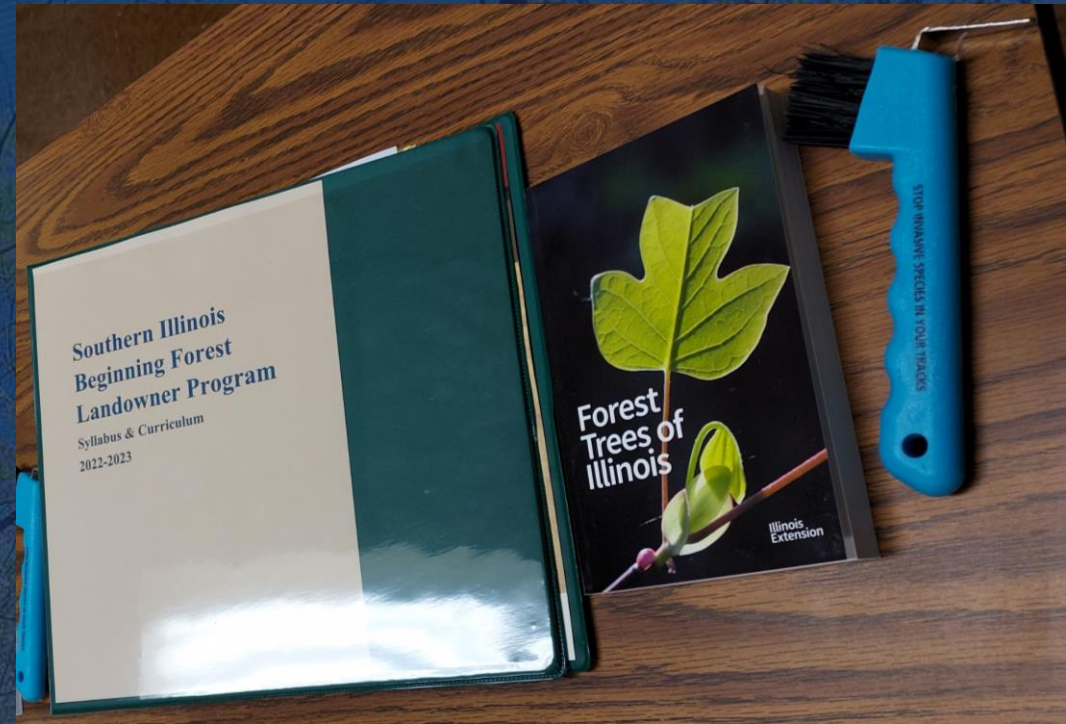


Logo developed by UI
marketing team

- 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 class will:**
 - Introduce the practices commonly used in the management of the Central Hardwoods Forests and the planning process through instruction.
- **Structure**
 - ~5 Instructional Classes (Traditional Lecture-style)
 - ~12 Field-based Mentorship Opportunities (Field-days)
 - ~3 Community Events
 - ~4 Public Events

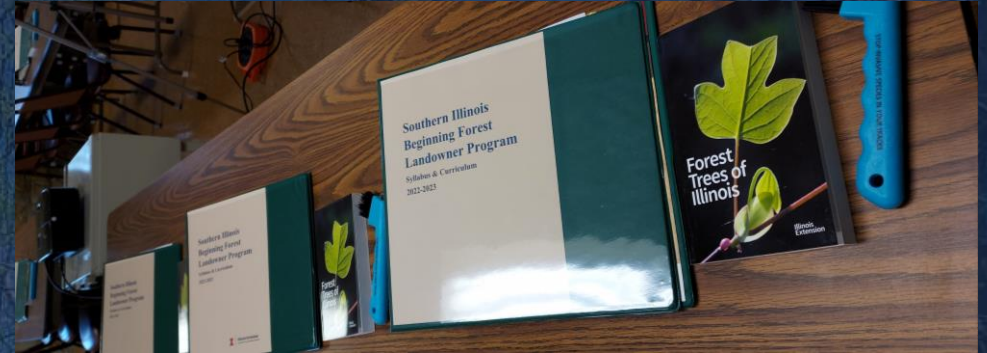
Class Materials Provided

1. Jim-Gem Cruz-All/Angle Gauge
2. Tree and Log Scale Stick
3. Pocket Diameter Tape
4. Eye Protection, Ear Protection, & Leather Gloves
5. Textbook: Forest Trees of Illinois 10th Ed.
6. Textbook: Forest Measurements: An Applied Approach
7. 3-ring Binder full of curriculum
8. Boot Brush



Instructional Classes

1. Introduction to the program; Forest Ecology & Development; Introduction to Forest Management
 - Presenters: Taryn Bieri & Chris Evans
2. Tree Diversity and ID & Invasive Plant Species: ID, Treatment, and Local Resources
 - Presenters: Taryn Bieri and Nick Seaton
3. Intro to Silviculture and Forest Measurements; Forest Management for Wildlife
 - Presenters: Jesse Riechman and Joy O'Keefe
4. Management for Oak Regeneration; Prescribed Fire
 - Presenters: Dr. Eric Holzmüller and Kevin Rohling
5. Timber Harvesting Process; Forest Management Plans
 - Presenters: Ben Snyder and Jenny Lesko
6. NRCS and Your Forest Webinar
 - Presenter: Margaret Anderson





Field-days

1. Chainsaw Training and Safety
Presenters: Kevin Rohling & Chris Evans
2. Crop Tree Release
Presenters: Chris Evans
3. ID, Survey, Mapping & Control of Invasives
Presenters: Nick Seaton
4. Tree Identification
Presenters: Ray and Taryn Bieri
5. Forest Health Field-Tour
Presenters: Dr. Ellen Crocker
6. Forest Measurements
Presenters: Jesse Riechman
7. Timber/Forest Stand Improvement
Presenters: Mike Long
8. Tool Maintenance/Herbicide and Sprayers
Presenters: Nick Seaton
9. Forest Soils and Climate Adaptation
Presenters: Brooke Hagarty
10. Rx Burn Planning w/ SIPBA
Presenters: Chris Evans, Kevin Rohling, & SIPBA
11. Rx Burn Implementation w/ SIPBA
Presenters: Chris Evans, Kevin Rohling, Ray and Taryn Bieri, Zach DeVillez, & SIPBA
12. Maple Syrup Part 1: Prep & Setup
Presenters: Chris Evans, Taryn Bieri, Kevin Rohling, Zach DeVillez, Casey Dorre
13. Maple Syrup Part 2: Processing
Presenters: Chris Evans, Taryn Bieri, Kevin Rohling
14. Pruning
Presenters: Jay Hayek





Community Events

1. Jim and Mary Maginel's
2. Mike McMahan
3. Debbie Newman



Public Events

1. Forest Health in Southern IL
Presenters: Dr. Ellen Crocker UKY
2. Income from Private Woodlands Webinar
Presenters: Lenny Farlee Purdue U
3. EAB Workshop
Presenters: Dr. Fredric Miller JJC and Chris Evans
4. O.K.E.S Field-day
Presenters: Jeremy Schumacher
5. Agroforestry 101 Webinar
Presenters: Devon Brock-Montgomery Savanna Institute



Site Visits

As part of a match agreement with Shawnee R C&D Area Inc., site visits were provided to interested participants. A contractor would walk the participant's property for a couple hours with them discussing their goals, pointing out interesting things they saw, and offering advice.

The contractor provided a write up following the meeting, with notes from the site visit (example below).

Landowner Site Visit Summary

Goals

- Park-like recreational site with campsite and trails
- Possibly create small pond from the creek below campsite
- Diverse oak/hickory forest with more light reaching forest floor
- Non-native invasive species control to promote ecosystem health and aesthetics

Tree/shrub Species*

Black oak, white oak, northern red oak, mockernut hickory, shagbark hickory, Kentucky coffeetree, tulip-poplar, hackberry, blackberry, spicebush, coralberry, red mulberry, black cherry, sycamore, red bud, green ash, cedar, persimmon, sugar maple, flowering dogwood, sweetgum, American beech.

Herbaceous Species*

White snakeroot, Christmas fern, smartweed, Ladies' Tresses orchid

* Species lists are not exhaustive.

Non-Native Invasive Species (NNIS)

Autumn olive, oriental bittersweet, Japanese stiltgrass, multiflora rose

Management Considerations

NNIS

Control of NNIS along trails, near the Ladies' Tresses orchid, and at the Southern margin of the forest stand are priorities. The use of a forestry mulcher seems to have effectively controlled NNIS where it was utilized. These areas may require a follow-up treatment of herbicide. Glyphosate or triclopyr can be used to control woody NNIS (autumn olive, oriental bittersweet, & multiflora rose) by foliar or cut-stump application. Glyphosate can also be used for a foliar treatment of Japanese stiltgrass. For areas near the creek, or any bodies of water Aqueanest is a water-safe formulation of Glyphosate. Sethoxydim and clethodim are grass specific herbicides that can control Japanese stiltgrass with a foliar application. If a

harvest is conducted with the current infestation levels of autumn olive and bittersweet, these populations will likely expand significantly. These are the two most troublesome NNIS on the property.

Oak/hickory Ecosystem

Much of the forested area is a beautiful, closed canopy forest. The dominant overstory is a diverse mix of oaks and hickories, tulip-poplar, sugar maple, sycamore, hackberry, and sweetgum. The understory has a nice mix as well with some oak regeneration. Areas near the creek and going up the drainages towards the South end of the forest are largely mature. On a ridgetop that runs through the Northwestern quarter of the forest there is a younger forest component with some larger mature trees. Unfortunately, this area of the forest is heavily infested with autumn olive and bittersweet. Time and energy may be better spent controlling invasives near the trails and campsite. Although, working on the outer edges of this infestation slowly over time will likely yield positive results for the forest ecosystem and overall aesthetics. The vines of bittersweet have managed to climb the larger trees and are tangled throughout the canopy. So, cutting trees in this area may be dangerous. Cutting the vines at the base and following up with an application of herbicide (glyphosate or triclopyr) on the cut stump is recommended to gain control over the bittersweet in this heavily invaded area. The selective removal of some maples may boost the diversity of the herbaceous ground cover (grasses, sedges, & wildflowers). However, it is important to monitor these areas after a canopy opening has been created, as plenty of NNIS will try to capture light from the new canopy opening. Another consideration regarding the potential of a harvest, is the fact that there seems to have been some trees that were toppled by wind at some time in the past. Any removal of trees may leave the remaining trees less windfirm.



Testimonies

January 18th 2023 Program Participant following Site Visit

“Thanks to all that came out to look at our place. Up until now, I’ve been overwhelmed by the “fabricated” thoughts that our forest land is in really bad shape. It’s kind of funny how our minds can put us in this state and with a little input from experienced caring people, we can be brought to reality. I thought that the mass amount of coral berry (I think that’s what Chris said it was) was all invasive and taking over everything in the first two tracts. Knowing that many of the seedlings in the northern tract are ash, fear of taking out a desired species was eliminated. More practice with tree and plant ID is always a need on my part.

Now I’ve got more motivation to “get after” the tasks at hand so the land doesn’t progressively get worse. I might have to postpone any projects during syrup season though. I’ve sacrificed a batch by not being able to time multitasking too well. Live and learn.”

August 19th 2022 Emerald Ash Borer Workshop

"This was a top notch presentation. Presenters were knowledgeable and conveyed info to all individuals very well."

Taryn Bieri

Coordinator- Southern IL Beginning Forest Landowner Program

tbieri@illinois.edu

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