

Invasive Plant Identification and Control by Chris Evans

Invasive plant control is an important part of managing any property. Correct identification of the invasive species and knowledge of cost effective techniques to control these invaders is necessary to successfully manage your land. This presentation will review the common plants invading forests in the region as well as proven techniques to control each species.

Tree Identification Tips for Landowners by Chris Evans

Identifying trees is an important skill for any landowner. This presentation will go over some of the basics concepts and terms of tree identification, resources available for trees in the Midwest, and how to identify some of the common trees in the region.

Bottomland Hardwood Forest Management by Joe Herring

Bottomland forests are a unique situation for woodland management. Flooding, invasive species, variability in soils, and oxbow channels are real challenges for growing a healthy crop of trees, and often result in foresters and landowners simply throwing in the towel. And like Ronald Reagan said, "There are no easy answers, but there are simple answers." Managing bottomland forests can be very simple if we just recognize how they function and are willing to be persistent. This session will review the basic ecological principles of bottomland forests and provide management advice and tips for landowners who are dealing with the common challenges of floodplain forestry.

Forest Management and Stream Water Quality: A new twist on an old story by Jan Thompson & Michaeleen Gerken

Join this interactive workshop to consider new evidence on important roles of understory plants in forest communities! We will examine trends in plant diversity and abundance in the understory as affected by different types of forest management. Participants will reflect on forest stewardship goals and explore opportunities to enhance ecological forest functions. New methods of forest restoration, emphasizing understory vegetation, will be discussed and integrated in participant planning for ongoing stewardship.

How Crowded is Your Forest? How Foresters Determine When and How to Thin a Stand by Joe Herring

The tale of Goldilocks tells about a little girl who wanders into the home of 3 bears. But what about a bear that wanders into 3 different forests --- one is much too crowded; the next is much too open & park-like; and the other...well, it's just right! Learn how foresters assess a stand's density and degree of crowding through the use of stocking guides, and the different methods of thinning that can be used to bring a stand into the "sweet spot" for optimal growth and performance. Discussion of crop tree release versus basal area thinning approaches.

Woody Biomass Harvesting on Private Lands: Capturing Opportunity & Minimizing Impact by Tricia Knoot

Harvesting woody biomass from private woodlands for renewable energy generation in Midwest will likely increase as demand for the small diameter and typically low-value material grows. Usually this material is left on site after a timber harvest; however, as markets for woody biomass expand, the economic benefits for removing the material may outweigh costs. The removal of woody biomass can contribute to woodland owners' economic and conservation goals, including helping to restore degraded stands, improving owners' access to their woodlands, or enhancing wildlife habitat. However, it is also important that biomass removal activities minimize negative environmental concerns and are compatible with woodland owners' other non-timber goals. Several states in the Midwest have developed Best Management Practices (BMPs) to help inform and guide responsible biomass removal. In this talk, we will share recent findings from a survey sent to 1,500 woodland owners in Iowa, in which woodland owners shared general interests and concerns about woody biomass harvesting on their lands. We will also discuss woodland conditions where biomass removal may or may not be appropriate and strategies for minimizing impacts on the long-term sustainability of privately owned woodlands.

Diagnosis of Hardwood Diseases by Erika Saalau

This talk will focus on identification of common woodland tree health issues and understanding their causes. We will cover symptom description, distribution, and recommendations. There will also be updates on emerging diseases such as bur oak blight and thousand cankers on walnut.

Current Insect Problems; Some Old Some New by Laura Jesse

Come learn about what insect pests should be your greatest concern when managing your woodland health.

Getting Involved with Managing your Woodland for Timber Products by Carl Mize

If you want to get involved or more involved in managing your woodland for forest products, this talk might help you. A simple view of how to start managing a woodland for forest products involves 1) dividing the woodland into compartments (areas covered by similar types of forest), 2) determining the condition of the trees in each compartment, 3) identifying a timber management goal for each compartment, 4) determining activities currently needed to reach each compartment's goal, and 5) carrying out those activities. After getting started, management involves steps 2, 4, and 5 as needed. Foresters are taught how to do each step, but a motivated woodland owner can complete a few steps with some training and can do others with the assistance of a forester. The talk will cover all five steps but focus on step 2 - forest inventory and show how a computer program, *TIGER for Woodlands and Compartments*, can help make that step easier.

Managing your Farm Pond Fish, Plants, & Algae by Allen Pattillo

Most of Iowa's 85,000 ponds are found in the hilly regions of southern Iowa, however there are many scattered throughout the state. Most are private farm ponds intended for recreational fishing. Managing a pond to produce a quality fishery requires careful planning and active manipulation of the pond ecosystem. A combination of watershed, water quality, aquatic vegetation, and fish population assessment and management will help build a healthy, sustainable fishery.

Watershed ponds collect their water from the drainage area uphill of the dam. Contaminants, excessive nutrients, and sedimentation from agricultural, industrial, or urban development all directly affect the water quality and health of the pond ecosystem. Because Iowa soils are naturally nutrient rich, aquatic plants can grow to extremely high densities and cause major problems for the fish and can be an eyesore. Aquatic vegetation, however, is essential in a healthy ecosystem because it provides the base food inputs for the food web. The fish population directly reflects the condition of the pond ecosystem; thus plants, fish, and other organisms should be considered equally. The best management practices in this presentation will ensure an excellent fishery and a healthy pond ecosystem.

Wisconsin's Voluntary Public Access Program by Melissa Keenan

Voluntary Public Access (VPA) provides financial incentives to private landowners who open up their land to the public for hunting, fishing, trapping, and wildlife observation. The Wisconsin DNR received \$1.9 million dollars to implement this program through a grant authorized under the 2008 Federal Farm Bill. Currently, there are 37 counties eligible for enrollment into VPA. Grassland, wetland, forestland, and in some cases agricultural land are eligible for enrollment. Annual lease payments are determined by land type and range from \$3-\$15/acre. Landowners interested in learning more about this program and how to enroll should attend this presentation. Additional information will be available at the VPA exhibition booth.

Working with Fire: the Nuts and Bolts of Prescribed Fire by Ryan Harr

Prescribed fire can be extremely time- & cost effective tool for meeting land management goals, but using fire safely takes an understanding of how fire operates as well as the effects it can have on the plants and animals of your property. Once you understand the basics and have an idea of how prescribed fire moves – maybe you've conducted a burn or two yourself --the next step is learning how to fine-tune your burn plan and what conditions positively or negatively affect the success of a burn on a particular piece of land. This seminar will move beyond the introduction to prescribed fire, really getting into the nuts and bolts of meeting specific goals. An open discussion is welcome.

Wolf Management Updates in Wisconsin in 2012 by Adrian Wydeven

The gray wolf (*Canis lupus*) was extirpated from Wisconsin in the late 1950s and returned to the state in the mid-1970s. The Wisconsin DNR has monitored the wolf population in the state since winter 1979-1980, when 25 wolves were counted in 5 packs. Last winter (2010-2011) we counted about 800 wolves in 202+ packs. Wolves were federally listed as endangered in the state in 1974, and listed as state endangered in 1975. Wolves were delisted by the WDNR from the State list in 2004. They were removed from the federal list in 2007, 2009 and again in 2012, with lawsuits causing loss of delisting in 2 previous attempts. With return to state management in 2012, more flexible management will resume, and hopefully will improve public tolerance toward wolves. I will discuss changes in wolf management and the future direction of wolf conservation in Wisconsin.

Farm Transition and Estate Planning by Steven Bohr

Steve will discuss 2 main macro economic issues that agriculture will face in the near future...farm continuation and estate tax. With the current demographic of land ownership (65% is owned by folks 60 years and older), the recent increase in land values and estate tax uncertainty, both issues are of dire importance to our local communities. In addition, Steve will give examples based on 20 years of experience in planning over 3,500 farm estates. Steve is the current columnist for the Iowa Farmer Today for estate and farm continuation.

Chainsaw Safety and Chainsaw Maintenance by Ian Hunt

We will be discussing proper safety apparel required for working with chain saws. Other points that will be discussed are: proper cutting & felling techniques, tree failure recognition & arboricultural biology. In the second portion of the training we will cover proper field maintenance on the machines, how to care for the cutting attachments of the chainsaw and how to properly sharpen the chain.

Beekeeping for the Beginner to Intermediate Levels by Andy Joseph

This talk will cover the basics of getting started out with bees. We'll discuss the basic equipment options – hives, related gear, and beekeeping “how to” resources – and how to order a starter colony of bees. We'll then detail how to get your new bees into their new home, and outline what to expect through your first year as a beekeeper.

RPM to Produce High Quality Tree Seedlings by Forest Keeling

Wayne Lovelace, Forrest Keeling Nursery, has always had a keen interest in native oaks and was frustrated with the limited availability and poor success rates associated with transplanting bare-root, cultivated oaks. In the early 1990's, Wayne began to experiment with different methods of root pruning and after more than 20 years has developed the now patented RPM, Root Production Method (R) growing process. Forrest Keeling produces native hardwood seedlings through traditional field production in addition to the RPM growing process. This presentation will highlight Forrest Keeling's production and will offer a comparison of field grown and RPM container produced seedlings.

Shitake Mushroom Production in the Midwest by Greg Bernie

This talk will provide information on Shitake mushroom production by a local producer. Greg will provide a hands-on demonstration of shitake production log setup and will prepare logs for inoculation. He will demonstrate inoculation techniques and will discuss the methods that he has used over the years. This talk will showcase tips and tricks from a producer.

Woods Grown American Ginseng Production by Jarett Cook

A presentation by ISU Graduate Research Assistant, Jarett Cook, on the production of American ginseng (*Panax quinquefolius*) in its native environment. The presentation will begin with an overview of the nature, history and growing methods of ginseng. Production, harvesting and marketing techniques will be discussed in greater detail along with a final highlight of the major limitations to production.

Raising Chestnuts as a Crop by Linda and Dale Black

Steps to a Successful Tree Planting by Roger Bohringer

My talk will be on successful tree planting and follow-up maintenance, with emphasis on how to avoid the common pitfalls that doom many plantings.

Managing temporary, woodland ponds and their associated wildlife

Ever wonder why you'd give a second thought to that low spot in your woods that holds water for a time almost every spring? In this session, you'll learn about the importance of these little "low spots" for wildlife, particularly woodland amphibians. You'll receive information on how managing for these areas ties in to the Christmas Tree Growers' management plan requirements, and how you can make a difference for a group of animals in great need of your help in providing safe habitat for breeding and producing young.

Safe Handling and Processing of Wild Game by Jim Kerns

Herbicides Commonly Used in Forestry by Debra Morton

Conducting Timber Sales and Current Timber Markets by Bob Petrzelka and Gretchen Cline

Dendrochronology and Fire Scars: Reconstructing the Past to Understand the Future by Mike Stambaugh