

The Renewable Resources Extension Act (RREA) Program, FY 2008



The Renewable Resources Extension Act (RREA) program funds allocated to the University of Illinois (UIUC) are used primarily for landowner education and outreach via the Internet, regional/state conferences and workshops, production of landowner guides to promote sustainable forest stewardship and land management practices, meeting individual landowner economic or aesthetic goals, and raising awareness of the importance of Illinois' rural and community forest resources. RREA funding is leveraged with additional funds from the State of Illinois, National Resources Conservation Service, and private gifts.



The UIUC Extension Forester (EF) provided direct technical outreach and education to approximately 944 forest landowners, Master Naturalists, citizens, students, and natural resource professionals through nine workshops, conferences, and seminars. He presented "*Forest Carbon Basics: A Simplified Look at a Complex Process*" to 60 participants at the 2008 Tri-State Forest Stewardship Conference held in Sinsinawa, Wisconsin.

The EF edited the *Forest Trees of Illinois* for the 10th edition reprinting. The new edition added four new tree species and updated text. To improve publication quality, 90% of

the tree photos were replaced with new, higher resolution photographs.

The *Urban Timber Harvesting and Hardwood Utilization and*

Recovery (UTiH IzR) extension two-day workshop provided training to municipal and private arborists in concepts from the Game of Logging[™] to the Hardwood Value Improvement Project, helping arborists utilize and recover wood products from urban trees, especially ash trees affected by Emerald Ash Borer. A tree identification course was conducted for all new State of Illinois Service and Soil and Water Conservation District employees.



Teaching tree identification skills to new NRCS and SWCD employees

Contacts through the Illinois Extension Forestry web site

(<http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/forestry/>) included 222,659 hits, an 11% increase in activity over FY2007. The site hosts an "Ask a Forester" forum and allows homeowners, students, and forest landowners across the nation to ask forestry questions. This web site ranks 50th out of 328 University of Illinois Extension web sites.

Located within the Shawnee National Forest, the University of Illinois Forest Resource Center (IFRC) is an ideal setting for a teaching, research, and outreach center designed to help forest landowners. The Center's philosophy is to emphasize forest resource management to landowners and encourage the management of their forestlands in order to meet individual economic or aesthetic goals consistent with statewide forest management programs. IFRC continues to promote and distribute *A Landowner's Guide to Woodland Stewardship*. This resource guide, including the video "Managing Your Forestland," contains a myriad of information for both beginners and professionals.

This year marked the 19th year of the award-winning annual Stewardship Week held at the Dixon Springs Agricultural Center (DSAC). The event has reached more than 55,000 participants since its inception. In a sign of the maturity and effectiveness of the program, one of our DSAC employees who worked on this year's Stewardship Week had attended Stewardship Week as a student. This popular outdoor education program provides a full day of learning about good natural resources management practices to 3,200 students and 165 teachers a year. Students and teachers attend 6-8 sessions per day on topics that include forestry, wildlife, fish management, soil conservation, water quality, geology, archaeology, energy, and many other natural resource topics. Sessions are staffed by more than 110 resource professionals who provide hands-on instruction to the students.

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