Prez Says
Dan Schmoker

Have you read your forestry plan lately? Whether it was an FDA, CRP, CREP, or EQIP Plan, you need to read it again.

One page of that plan is really important. It is called the “activity schedule.” This important page is the roadmap that was designed to help you realize your objectives and goals. If you desire to leave your forest better off than you found it, to have a really great timber sale, to maintain good habitat for wildlife, to enjoy spring wildflowers and fall color then you need to reread your forestry plan. More importantly you need to accomplish the practices listed on the “activity schedule.”

But wait a minute you say, there isn’t any cost share money. FDA dried up 5 years ago due to sweeps, EQIP has shifted gears making most forestry practices a lower priority. So what, you agreed to carry out the plan you signed your name. You promised!!

All right what can you do without any cost shares?
- Work on your woods one day every two weeks, that’s 26 days per year.
- Brainstorm ways to make your work more efficient. Get organized, maintain your chain saw after every use.
- When you cut trees down, saw up the tops, scatter the brush and don’t stack it.
- Find new methods, instead of cutting small diameter trees, use the basal bark method. In a year or two they fall over.
- Enlist the help of family and friends. After all you have helped them and now it is time for them to help you.
- Organize a local co-operative with other people who need to activate their management plan. Trade labor and purchase tools and supplies in quantity to get a better deal.
- Host a state or regional Walnut Council meeting, field day and make people work for their lunch.
- Finally get out of you Lazy Boy, get some exercise, develop some pride in your accomplishment and your woods will be better off. Lack of cost sharing is difficult but it is not an excuse for you to practice BENIGN NEGLECT.

Please think about this and get going.
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The Illinois legislature in its closing hours last year passed a law to make it easier for woodland owners to mark their property boundaries. Patterned after laws in several other states, the Purple Paint Law allows landowners to use purple stripes on boundary trees in place of “No Trespassing” signs. By using paint, your trees need not be damaged from nails holding signs.

This law provides that -

1) Landowners can still use “No Trespassing” signs
2) As an alternative to signs, landowners can mark trees or posts to indicate their property boundaries
3) Trees are marked with a vertical line at least 8 inches long and between 3 and 5 feet off the ground with no more than 100 feet between marked trees (the side of the tree facing away from the property is marked)
4) Boundary fence posts are marked by painting the top two inches which must be between 3 and 5 feet off the ground with no more than 36 feet between posts
5) Landowners must obtain agreement of their neighbors if using this post method, because the fence post’s painted top is visible from both sides of the boundary (neighbor’s agreement is not needed if marking trees)
6) Landowners using purple paint must also post a sign indicating their use of this method at the main entrance to their property (see below for signs)
7) Marking property boundaries with purple paint constitutes a valid warning against trespassing and those violating such marked boundaries can be prosecuted

There is currently no standard for type of paint or shade of purple or width of stripe, so landowners have many options. Darker purples will not be seen as easily as lighter or vibrant shades. Quality brand paint will probably last longer than no-name brands, and since not much paint is needed, the cost of quality paint is justified if it lasts two or three more years. An exterior latex, semi-gloss is considered your best choice.

For smooth-barked trees, a 3” brush works fine. Two brush widths will give you an easily seen 6” wide, 8” long stripe. For rough-barked trees (like walnut, hickory, or oak), spray paint is a better choice. This is not an endorsement, but some landowners have found the purple Krylon spray paint works well. Also, Nelson Paint Company (www.nelsonpaint.com) that specializes in tree marking products sells a purple spray paint for less than $5 per can.

As to the sign needed at the entrance to your property, the Illinois Forestry Association has those for sale. It is an aluminum sign (pictured), 18” wide and 12” high. The price is $18 per sign plus a shipping/insurance/packaging fee of $8 to $11 depending on how many signs are ordered. To get an invoice with a total cost, send an email to purplepaint@ilforestry.org and indicate your name, address, and number of signs to be purchased. Upon receipt of your check, the sign(s) will be shipped and you will be notified. Questions about the law can be sent to purplepaint@ilforestry.org and the Illinois Forestry Association will try to answer.

Other provisions of this law are -

Trespassing on property marked for “no trespassing” is a Class B misdemeanor, except when a person trespasses using a motor vehicle if the marked area is an orchard; an enclosed area containing livestock; a barn or other agricultural building containing livestock; or a field that is used or capable of being used for growing crops. Such trespassing constitutes a Class A misdemeanor.

No landowner or lessee is authorized to post purple marks if doing so would violate any applicable law, rule, ordinance, order, covenant, bylaw, declaration, regulation, restriction, contract, or other instrument.

The new “Purple Paint Law” does not apply to real property located in a municipality of over 2,000,000 inhabitants.
Glossary of Forestry Terms

AGS - Acceptable growing stock

ASPECT - Direction which a slope faces

BASAL AREA - (a) The cross-sectional area (in square feet) of a tree trunk at breast height (4.5 feet above the ground); used to determine stand density

BOARD FOOT (bd. ft.) - unit used to measure the volume of wood in a tree; a piece of wood 12” x 12” x 1”

BUTT LOG - That part of a harvested tree directly above the stump

CANOPY - A layer or multiple layers of branches and foliage at the top or crown of a forest's trees...

Open canopy- a significant amount of sunlight reaches the forest floor (<85% shade)

Closed canopy- the ground is mostly shaded (>85% sunlight)

CROP TREE - Any tree selected to grow to final harvest or to a selected size. Crop trees are selected for quality, species, size, timber potential, aesthetics, or wildlife value.

CROWN - The branches and foliage at the top of a tree.

CRUISE - A forest inventory to document species composition, tree size, and wood volume

CULL - A tree or log of marketable size that is useless for all but firewood or pulpwood because of crookedness, rot, injuries, or damage from dis-ease or insects.

DEFECT - A physical flaw in a tree or log, including knots, cracks, rot, etc., which lower the quality and value of a tree or log.

DIAMETER AT BREAST HEIGHT (DBH) - The diameter of a tree measured in inches at breast height—a standard 4.5 feet above the ground.

DIAMETER INSIDE BARK (DIB) - The diameter of a log measured inside the bark at the small end of a log

DOMINANT TREES - The largest trees in a stand

DOMINANT SPECIES - The most numerous species in a stand

FELLING - The process of cutting standing trees

GIRDLING - Cutting a complete ring around the trunk of a tree, at least ½ to 1 inch deep in order to kill a tree.

LANDING - A place in or near the forest where logs are gathered for further processing or transport

LOG RULES - Tables showing the estimated amount of lumber in a standing tree (tree scale) or a cut log (log scale); Doyle log scale is usually used in Illinois.

LOGGING - The process of removing timber from a wooded area- includes felling and skidding

MAST - Fruits or nuts used as a food source by wildlife. Soft mast includes most fruits with fleshy coverings, such as persimmon, dogwood seed, or black gum seed; Hard mast refers to nuts such as acorns, beechnuts, walnuts, pecans, and hickory nuts.
Glossary of Forestry Terms

MERCHANTABLE HEIGHT - The length of merchantable wood in a standing tree generally to a minimum of 12 inches in diameter, generally measured in 8 foot increments.

OVERMATURE TREES - Trees which have essentially stopped growing

POLE - Young trees ranging from 6- to 12-inches in diameter

REGENERATION - Trees present in the understory or seedlings and saplings, which would replace trees removed in the overstory.

RELEASE - To free trees from competition by cutting or killing surrounding trees

SAPLING - Very young trees ranging from 1- to 4-inches in diameter

SAWTIMBER - Trees larger than 12-inches in diameter

SCARIFICATION - Site preparation - the process of disturbing the soil surface to promote natural regeneration

REGENERATION - the process of scratching the seed coat to promote germination

SEEDLING - New trees up to 1 inch in diameter

SHADE TOLERANCE - Ability to grow in low light (shade) conditions

SITE - Area of land with relatively uniform soil and climatic factors

SITE INDEX - The average height of dominant trees at 50 years of age.

SKID TRAIL - a road or trail over which logs are dragged to a landing.

SLASH - Remains from harvested trees.

STAND - An area or group of trees with similar characteristics that have similar management requirements

STOCKING - Stand density/number of trees per acre

STRATIFICATION - Cold treatment of tree seed required prior to germination

STUMPAGE - Value of standing trees

UGS - Unacceptable growing stock, usually consists of undesirable tree species (e.g. boxelder, elm, mulberry, locust, ironwood, hackberry), trees with poor form (not likely to become a crop tree) or culls. Generally these trees should be removed from timber stands.

UNDERSTORY - trees growing in the shade of surrounding trees

WATER BAR - a shallow channel or raised barrier of soil or other material laid diagonally across the surface of a road or skid trail to lead water off the road and prevent erosion.

VENEER - A thin sheet of wood sliced or peeled from a log used for plywood or for surfacing furniture
As markets improve, timber buyers will be more aggressive to buy standing timber. So here’s some advice about selling timber. It is important that a timber grower know which trees are being sold. Timber buyers often generally specify how many trees they want to purchase and what price they want to pay. The first piece of advice is to make sure that trees that are being offered for sale are marked. Hopefully, you are selling trees because a timber harvest is prescribed in your management plan. Often this harvest is an “improvement cut” to remove mature, defective, or undesirable trees that are merchantable (see a previous article in the Juglans on “When To Harvest Trees”). If you do not have a forest management plan, at least get advice from a professional forester. Timber owners are usually advised to get multiple bids to get a better idea of the value of the trees. Prepare a “timber sale notice” or an “invitation to bid” for potential buyers. Include the following information:

- Seller information: List the seller's name, address, and how to contact.
- Location of the sale: Provide a sale map showing property boundaries and access roads. Additional information should include the legal description and directions for locating the area.
- Tree description: Describe the trees to be sold, including number and estimated volumes by species; color of paint used to mark trees.
- The type of sale: Specify sealed bid lump-sum, sealed bid sale-by-unit or sealed bid sale-by-shares.
- Times when potential buyers can inspect the trees: Usually at least two to four weeks are allowed from the time notices are sent until a buyer is selected. Specify how and when prospective buyers can inspect the sale area, including whether the seller or the seller's representative must be present.
- Date, time and place that written sealed bids will be opened and the buyer selected: Include a statement that the seller reserves the right to reject any and all bids.
- Whether a deposit binding the offer must accompany the bid and, if so, the amount: The binding deposits of unsuccessful bidders are returned to them immediately after the buyer is selected. The deposit of the successful bidder might not be refunded if he or she later decides to withdraw from the sale.
- How payment is to be made: On lump-sum sales, full payment by bank or certified check before any harvest activity begins is desirable. On large sales, payment schedules are sometimes negotiated. On a sale-by-unit or sale-by-shares sale, a definite cutting and payment timetable needs to be negotiated, with the seller's intent to do this stated in the notice.
- Any major conditions or limitations on the sale: For example, the time by which the trees must be harvested, restrictions on access to the area, and time or conditions when the logger cannot operate, such as when the area is excessively wet. Note that excessive restrictions on buyers may cause a reduced bid or loss of interest in the sale.
- Get a written contract
Member News and Information

FINANCIAL REPORT
December 5, 2012

Checking Account Beginning Balance (September 10, 2011)....................$6,914.94

Revenue:
IWC Annual Meeting Registrations.........................$270.00

TOTAL REVENUE: $270.00

Expenditures:
Juglans Newsletter - Postage, VCCD.........................$95.00
National Walnut Council Meeting
   Professional Services......................................$800.00
   Early Bird Registration Drawing......................$135.00
   Banquet Speaker.........................................$450.00
   Monday Field Day.......................................$426.79
   Sunday Reception.......................................$217.62
   Postage for meeting reminder.........................$13.40
   Total NWC Meeting.................................$2,133.89
IWC Annual Meeting Expenses......................................$324.07

TOTAL EXPENDITURES: $2,552.96
Expenditures over Revenue......................................$2,282.96
Subtract to Beginning Balance..............................$4,631.98
(AGREES WITH BANK STATEMENT)

Market Report

Latest reports indicate that all markets have improved over the past few months:

• The market for walnut has been good for the past 5 years;
• The domestic markets for red and white oak is good,
• The export market for ash lumber has been reasonably good, especially when you consider that
  the availability of logs is affected by quarantine issues, both statewide and federally.
• Hickory has been steady
• There seems to be more interest in black cherry than in the past 2 years.
• Improved market for cottonwood in northwestern Illinois
• The demand for silver (soft) maple has been good.
• Current market for white elm and black locust

Logging conditions have not been ideal since we have had a fairly mild winter which did not allow a deep
frost. In addition, the late snow cover in northern Illinois will also make people leery of allowing heavy
equipment in their woods. With spring coming and what frost we have coming out of the ground, many
roads will be posted, restricting the weight of a load transported over those roads.
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Please keep your IWC membership address and dues current. Payment of $35.00 should be sent to IWC Headquarters at Forest Glen at the address listed on the return label. You can also pay online at www.WalnutCouncil.org.

Upcoming Events

March 28    TCD Webinar at Purdue University in Lafayette, IN
April 13    Tree planting demo at the Pouzar property in Jo Daviess County, IL
April 20    Tree planting at Scott property in Macon County, IL
April 20    Field day at Farlee Property in Clinton County, IN
May 1-11    Field day at Gentzsch property in Callaway County, MO
May 18      Field day at Hallock Forest in Grant County, WI
July 21-24  National Walnut Council annual meeting in Morgantown, WV
July 25-27  Annual National Tree Farm convention in Minneapolis, MN
September 6-7 Annual Illinois Walnut Council field day & meeting near Pittsfield, IL
October 5   Annual Illinois Tree Farm Field Day
November 1-2 Indiana Woodland Owner Conference