



Volume 1, Issue 1



Legislative Day a success!

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No, this is not an April Fool's joke, the IAA visited Springfield to become a "Voice for the Trees". Wow, what a day! It began with a long and arduous drive from the Oak Lawn train station before a single rooster call (5:45am) to arriving at the capitol 4-hours later. Once at the capitol, we met up with our lobbyist Jenni Purdue, where we all changed into our "Trees Pay You Back" t-shirts and got down to business. We couldn't be happier with Jenni, for she was a wonderful guide with a great personality and plenty of suggestions. Since we arrived a little early, we spent a few minutes in a conference room, where as you

can see from the photo to the right (Photo Caption) a heated discussion broke out about whether or not Edith Makra should run for governor. Now that was an April Fool's joke. We were just having a little fun with setting. Shortly after that, we moved to our reserved conference room to begin orientation and hear from our bill sponsor Senator Sullivan. It was nice to hear one of legislators speaking our language. After that, we were off to meet with other legislators armed with literature expressing our views on pending bills in both the house and senate. Somewhere along the way, we happened to run into Governor



Tree people Gone Wild!

Quinn, who gladly agreed to take a picture with us. In all, the day was a total success. All in attendance were brought up to speed as to the legislative process in Illinois. Hope to see you all there next year. More information to follow.



Wilma Schroeder, Jenni Purdue, April Toney, Paula Purdue



IAA to Pursue "Specialty" License Plate

Happy Trees, Health Homes, will be the slogan for our specialty license plates. Currently the bill (SB1659) is in a holding pattern, while Illinois works on correcting their huge budget deficit. When it is time to move forward again, we need as much support as possible.

One of the requirements for obtaining specialty plates from the state of Illinois is 1000 advanced paid registrations. We have secured a domain name (which is not up and running yet) www.healthtreeshappyhomes.com in anticipation of gaining approval. Be sure to show your

support for trees and the Illinois Arborist Association and sign-up when the time comes. We are asking for artwork suggestions for the plates. Please submit your artwork to April Toney at the IAA office.

IAA Review of Proposed Bills

SB 1659

Title: *Illinois Vehicle Code and the State Finance Act*

Sponsor: Dillard (R)

Amends the Illinois Vehicle Code and the State Finance Act. Creates the "Healthy Trees, Happy Home" Fund as a special fund in the State treasury. Provides for the issuance of "Happy Trees, Healthy Homes" plates. Provides that in addition to the appropriate registration fees, an applicant for the special plate shall be charged a fee of \$40 at original issuance and \$27 at renewal.

Position - Support

HB 1087

Sponsor: Reitz (D)

Title: *Illinois Forestry Development Act*

Amends the Illinois Forestry Development Act. Changes "forestry management" to "forest management". Makes other name changes and revisions. Makes changes concerning cost share amounts and eligibility. Makes other changes. Creates the Forestry Development Council. Specifies the Council's membership duties.

Position - Support

HB 1295

Title: *Natural Resources Act*

Sponsor: Cavaletto (R)

Creates the Natural Resources Congress Act. Creates the Natural Resources Congress in order to protect, conserve, and appropriately use the natural resources of the State; to ensure that opportunities are available

for the enjoyment of natural resources; and to enhance the quality of life of all or the present and future citizens of Illinois.

Position - Support

SB 1413

Title: *Illinois Forestry Development Act*

Sponsor: Sullivan J (D)

Amends the Illinois Forestry Development Act. Changes "forestry management" to "forest management". Makes other name changes and revisions. Makes changes concerning cost share amounts and eligibility. Makes other changes. Creates the Forestry Development Council. Specifies the Council's membership duties.

Position - Support

Note: Since this bill is identical to HB 1087 and is further along in the process, we will put our support behind this bill.

HB 477

Title: *Downstate Forest Preserve District Act*

Sponsor: Winters (R)

Amends the Downstate Forest Preserve District Act. Provides that, if the boundaries of a district are co-extensive with the boundaries of a county having a population of more than 200,000 but less than 800,000, bordering the State of Wisconsin but not adjoining any county with a population of over 2,000,000, then all commissioners of the forest preserve district shall be elected at large. Provides for the election of 7 commissioners.

Position - Support

HB 1328

Title: *Illinois Lottery Law*

Sponsor: Boland (D)

Amends the Illinois Lottery Law. Requires the Department of Revenue to offer a special instant scratch-off game to support State parks and State historic sites, to commence on July 1, 2009 and to be discontinued on December 31, 2014. Provides that the net revenue from the game shall be deposited into the State Parks and Historic Sites Endowment Fund for appropriation by the General Assembly to the Department of Natural Resources.

Position - Support

SB 176

Sponsor: Harmon (D)

Title: *Cook County Forest Preserve District Act*

Amends the Cook County Forest Preserve District Act. Changes the definition of "Board". Provides that the commissioners of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County shall be elected in a countywide election. Provides the election procedures and terms of office for commissioners. Specifies the procedure for selecting a president of the board. Provides that the president, with the advice and consent of the board of commissioners, may appoint officers.

Position - Support

SB 919

Sponsor: Cullerton (D)

Title: *Illinois Forestry Development Act*

Amends the Illinois Forestry Development Act. Makes a technical change in a Section concerning the short title.

Position - Monitor

SB 1201

Title: General Revenue Appropriation

Sponsor: Sullivan J (D)

Appropriates \$2 from the General Revenue Fund to the Department of Natural Resources for its FY 10 ordinary and contingent expenses.

Position - Monitor

HB 494

Sponsor: Fritchey (D)

Title: *Recreational Use of Land and Water Areas Act*

Amends the Recreational Use of Land and Water Areas Act. Provides that the purpose of the Act is to make land and water areas available for recreational or conservation purposes by limiting liability to others. Provides that the definition of land used for recreational or conservation purposes does not include residential buildings.

Position - Monitor

HB 622

Title: *Department of Natural Resources*

Sponsor: Phelps (D)

Amends the Department of Natural Resources Law of the Civil Administrative Code of Illinois. Makes a technical change in a Section concerning the short title.

Position - Monitor

IAA Review of Proposed Bills (continued)

HB 1120

Title: Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development Act

Sponsor: Coulson (R)

Amends the Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development Act. Makes a technical change in a Section concerning the short title of the Act.

Position - Monitor

HB 2740

Title: Forestry Development Act

Sponsor: Cross (R)

Amends the Illinois Forestry Development Act. Makes a technical change in a Section concerning the short title.

Position - Monitor

HB 3601

Title: Illinois Forestry Development Act

Sponsor: Cross (R)

Amends the Illinois Forestry Development Act. Makes a technical change in a Section concerning the short title.

Position - Monitor

SB 16

Title: Agricultural Areas Conservations and Protection Act

Sponsor: Cullerton (D)

Amends the Agricultural Areas Conservation and Protection Act. Makes a technical change in a Section concerning the short title.

Position - Monitor

SB 394

Title: Department of Natural Resources Act

Sponsor: Cullerton (D)

Amends the Department of Natural Resources Act. Makes a technical change in a Section concerning definitions.

Position - Monitor



Senator Dillard with April Toney and Wilma Schroeder

Tree\$ Pay U\$ Back



www.illinoisarborist.org
www.ilforestry.org

“Trees Pay Us Back”, was the dress code for the day during our first ever Legislative Day. The shirts, created by Spencer Parker, were a big hit at the capitol building. People were referencing us as “the tree people”. By the end of our day at the capitol, requests were made for our t-shirts, which were designed to bring awareness to many ways that trees pay us back. During these tough economic times, we felt that the message of trees pay us back in conjunction with the points on the back of shirts. Trees are a growing asset. They can lower our cooling bills, remove pollutants from the air, reduce storm water run-off, etc. Here is a look at the artwork that was printed on our t-shirts.

Front of t-shirt (Left)

Tree\$ Pay U\$ Back

Healthy, well maintained trees can:

- \$ Save 6.5% of annual home energy cost
- \$ Reduce crime in neighborhoods by 40%
- \$ Increase value of retail goods by 12%
- \$ Return \$4 of benefits for every \$1 invested
- \$ Turn CO₂ into fresh oxygen and filter pollution



Back of t-shirt (Above)

Coming Soon...Legislative Page

Coming soon will be our first ever “Legislative” webpage on our website www.illinoisarborist.org. As we become more active in making our voice heard in Springfield, the need for a place to post the progress is more necessary. I am in the process of developing a page that lists bill that make an impact on our industry, whether direct or indirect. So be sure to check in often for changes. If you have any question, comments or concerns about legislative issues, feel free to send them into the IAA office. If I can’t answer your question, I will find someone who can.

Hopefully, we will see you all at next year’s Legislative Day...remember, there are strength in numbers.



Legislative Day in Springfield

Check out some of the pictures from our day in Springfield. Fun was had by all in attendance. Everyone who came, left with a better understanding of the legislative process. Special thanks goes out to all who took the time to participate. We look forward to seeing more of you next year.



IAA Group photo with Governor Quinn



Trees pay us back!



April poses next to tree with price tag that estimates the annual dollar amount of what that street tree contributes to the City of Springfield.

The Trees

There is unrest in the forest
There is trouble with the trees
For the maples want more sunlight
And the oaks ignore their pleas

The trouble with the maples
(And they're quite convinced they're right)

They say the oaks are just too lofty
And they grab up all the light
But the oaks can't help their feelings
If they like the way they're made
And they wonder why the maples
Can't be happy in their shade

There is trouble in the forest
And the creatures all have fled
As the maples scream 'Oppression!'
And the oaks just shake their heads

So the maples formed a union
And demanded equal rights
'The oaks are just too greedy
We will make them give us light'
Now there's no more oak oppression

For they passed a noble law
And the trees are all kept equal

By hatchet, axe and saw

-Rush

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