

Illinois' 176,000 private woodland owners, who control an estimated 82% of the state's 5.0 million acres of forestland, are the primary audience targeted by RREA funds. RREA funding is leveraged with additional funds from private gifts and funding from the state and we estimate these amounts equal \$50,000/yr.



Chris Evans, UI Extension forester, discusses non-native invasive plant species during Forestry Field Days at DSAC.

### **Partnership to Enhance Training for Current and Future Forestry and Tree Care Professionals:**

UI Extension Forestry partnered with the IL Forestry Association, So. IL Univ. Carbondale, and the IL Arborist Assoc. to host Forestry Field Days at UI's Dixon Springs Agricultural Center (DSAC). Forestry students, foresters, and tree care specialists had the opportunity to learn and practice safe and effective methods of operating forestry equipment and to discuss the future of forestry and the tree care industry. Over 70 professionals and forestry students were in attendance.

**Forest Health Workshops Target Forestry Professionals Across Illinois:** UI Extension Forestry partnered with the IL Dept. of Natural Resources and The Morton Arboretum to host a series of three Forest Health Workshops across Illinois. These workshops targeted forestry professionals and gave updates on major forest health issues, such as Emerald Ash Borer, the recent outbreak of oak skeletonizer in Illinois, and new invasive plant threats. A session on field diagnostics was included to

increase attendee's ability to identify forest health issues and to recognize new emerging pests and diseases. Over 56 people participated in these workshops.



Jay Hayek, UI Extension Forester, leads another successful 2-day chainsaw safety course.

### **23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Tri-State Forest Stewardship Conference:**

UI Extension forestry and ISU Extension forestry successfully delivered their 23<sup>rd</sup> joint annual forestry conference on March 11, 2017, to 508 woodland owners. This well-known forestry conference draws attendees from IL, IA, IN, MN, MO, and Wisc.

*"There are two things I look forward to every March: this forestry conference and the coffee mug every attendee receives." 21-year veteran of the Tri-State Forest Stewardship Conference.*

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