

Illinois' 176,000 private woodland owners, who control an estimated 82% of the state's 5.02 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.

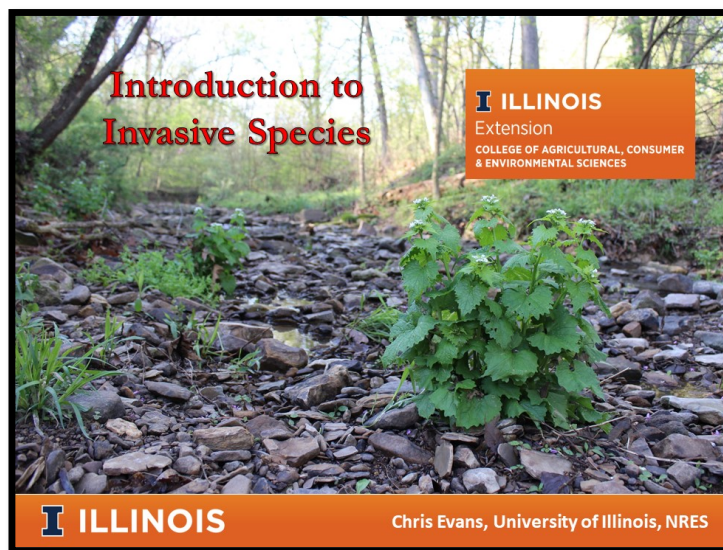


Kevin Rohling, UI Extension forestry technician, piloting a drone to identify and map invasive species in southern Illinois forests (photo credit: Nick Seaton).

Applied Forestry Research:

UI Extension forestry has jumped on the technology bandwagon and is literally riding it to new heights. The forests of southern Illinois have a new friend in the fight against invasive species – the use of drones and associated mapping technologies.

“This is an exciting time for technological advances in natural resource conservation. Drone technology is a game changer. It has the potential to drastically increase our ability to quickly detect and address issues in Illinois forests without allocating a lot of resources,” explains Kevin Rohling.



Chris Evans and Kevin Rohling have invested heavily in “online programming” during the COVID pandemic.

Extension Forestry Embraces Online and Video Programming During COVID:

Due to the global COVID pandemic, both Extension forester Chris Evans and Extension forestry technician Kevin Rohling have invested heavily in online programming via Zoom webinar offerings. The Extension forestry team co-hosted, hosted, and participated in 28 webinars that reached over 5,700 audience members across IL and the US.

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