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Wachiska to hear from state forester

March 27, 2014 10:32 am • by [Jeanne Kern](#) / [Wachiska Audubon chapter](#)

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Wachiska Audubon's general meeting at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 10 will feature Dr. Scott Josiah, state forester and director of Nebraska Forest Service at UNO. His talk will be titled "Forest Issues and Trends Affecting Birds in Nebraska." The public is invited to the program at the Dick Administration auditorium on Union College campus, Room 3.

Never have Nebraska's tree and forest resources faced so many challenges, threats, and opportunities. Recent changes include catastrophic wildfires destroying vast acreages of coniferous forests, imminent threats of enormously damaging invasive insects such as emerald ash borer, increasingly intense and historic weather events evidenced by the 2011 floods that inundated Missouri River forests for four months, the unprecedented 2012 drought, increasing temperatures, economic forces driving expansion of agricultural land at the expense of trees, and the rapid expansion of eastern redcedar by 38,000 acres per year, mostly across grasslands.

The Nebraska Forest Service is working with many partners to respond to these challenges so our forests remain healthy and vibrant long into the future. This presentation will discuss these trends and challenges with an eye on how they affect bird populations. Included will be a discussion of the programs the Nebraska Forest Service has designed to address these issues. Finally, an update will be given of the NFS Forestry Education Center that is being developed on NFS land near Plattsmouth for potential use by birding and other conservation groups.

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