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GOLCONDA JOB CORPS URBAN FORESTRY PROGRAM MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Harrisburg, IL, June 3, 2009— Since the Hidden Springs Ranger District and surrounding areas felt the wrath of “Ice Storm 2009,” the Golconda Job Corps Center’s (GJCC) Urban Forestry students have been busy helping with the cleanup. The “2009 Ice Storm,” resulted in the GJCC Urban Forestry students removing downed trees and clearing hangers and damaged trees at Rosiclare Hospital in the city of Rosiclare, in the village of Elizabethtown, at the Golconda Job Corps Center and at Shawnee National Forest recreation sites such as Lake Glendale and Pounds Hollow Recreation Areas.

In addition, Urban Forestry students worked for several days cleaning up the Dixon Springs Agriculture Center (Ag Center) site. Had it not been for the GJCC forestry students’ work cleaning up the debris at the Ag Center, the 20th annual conservation education program, Stewardship Week, would have been cancelled, and the nearly 3,000 students would have missed the opportunity to learn more about their natural resources.

Mr. Marshall adjusted schedules to start the clean up work after the ice storm. He stated, “The Urban Forestry Program has been working in the community and the Forest since the ice storm and is glad to continue to help those close to home.”

The students that work for Mr. Marshall are in training to be certified in tree removal and clean up through the International Society of Arbor Culture. This program allows them to



qualify for numerous positions in the Arbor Culture profession. The students graduate in six months to a year. Ricky Grammer, student, stated, “Ground workers gather the hangers that the cutters cut.” Before the cutters drop anything to the ground they yell “headache.” Students were up 60 feet in trees according to instructor Trent Commer. “These are the cool kids, the climbers,” says student, Zachary Hallaway.

Instructor Marshall said that safety was always number one. “Teach no bad habits and they will know none. No way can they fall out of a tree because they are always tied in.”

“We are fortunate to have the Job Corps close by to help us in situations such as the ice storm,” stated District Ranger Tim Pohlman. He went on to say “Their help in our ice storm recovery efforts has been invaluable.”

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