

TIMBERTALK

Newsletter of the Iowa Woodland Owners Association

August 2012



IWOA Annual Meeting Set for September 28, 2012

Time **Topic/Activity**
The Iowa Woodland Owners Association is holding their Annual Meeting during the Iowa Tree Farmers Association's Iowa Tree Farmer of the Year Fall Field Day. Here is the schedule:

8:30am	Registration and refreshments
9am	Restoring Stream Habitat- Native Prairie Reconstruction- Direct Seeding- Lessons Learned
12pm	Lunch <i>(Note: IWOA will split off during lunch hour to hold their Annual Meeting. We will rejoin the field day at 1pm).</i>
1pm-4pm	Algific Slopes- Regeneration Systems Timber Marketing and Log Quality

Instructors:

Eric and Cindy Boehm - Landowners
Greg Heidebrink - District Forester, (Charles City) Iowa DNR
Bill Kalishek - Fisheries Biologist (Decorah) Iowa DNR
Jesse Randall - Extension Forester, Iowa State University
Jason Walker - District Forester, (Charles City) Iowa DNR
Mark Webb- Oakwood Timber Service, Decorah

Directions:

Meet at Eric & Cindy Boehm's property (12663 D Ave., Wadena, IA 52169). From Wadena Iowa, take county Road W-51 (D Ave.) south 2 miles to the Boehm's place.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Annual Meeting	1
Coalition Update	2
Guest Article: Iowa Nut Growers Association	3
African Tree Farms	4-5

2012 Iowa Tree Farmer of the Year

By Larry Wiley, IWOA Member and Past President

The 2012 Iowa Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year is Eric Boehm. Eric has a 300 acre tree farm located near Wadena, Iowa in Fayette County. Eric's first management plan was in 1993. After retiring from the Soil and Water Conservation in 2009, a new management plan was implemented. Work on Eric's farm includes forestry work, wetland restoration and stream bank stabilization. His main interests are improving water quality of the smallmouth bass stream (Brush Creek) on his property, develop a healthy diverse forest and provide wildlife habitat for a wide array of species. Eric has four classes of trees growing on his tree farm. 5% of the area is in the sapling size class, 12% in the pole size class, 38% in the small saw log class, and 45% in the saw timber class. 217 acres of timber stand improvement have been completed since 2000. He has had three timber sales. A selective harvest on 40 acres in 1996, a sale of mature walnut in 2004 and a 21 acre shelterwood cut in 2010. Along with his forestry efforts, Eric has installed 60 acres of native prairie, contour buffer strips, and filter strips to improve water quality in the stream. He has installed 1430 feet of stream bank stabilization and buried fish hides in the bank. 70 acres of his property has been enrolled in the Emergency Watershed Protection program. Eric is willing to share his accomplishments with others as a way of promoting good conservation. Since 1992 Eric has been on the Fayette County Conservation Board, a long-time member of Pheasants Forever, and a member of the Northeast Iowa Forestry Advisory Committee (NIFAC).

Spring Field Day a Success

By Dave Bartemes, IWOA President

The Iowa Woodland Owners Spring Field Day was held on May 12th at Dave's Hardwood Trees, LLC in Wayne County, Iowa. The featured speakers were: Helga Offenburger, DNR Wildlife Specialist; Mark Fehske, Soil Conservationist; and Dan Fogle, Private Forester. 44 attendees toured the Farm to view six successive plantings and a one acre walnut orchard in the beginning phase. District Forester Jeremy Cochran led the tour. Most notable observations were the severe deer predation, especially in the bottomland areas, and the successful side-hill stands of mixed oak and green ash. A five acre prairie along the ridge top also proved to present several interesting aspects. As we ventured into the prairie area that was burned three weeks before the field day, several quail bolted to the sky. Quail had not been seen in this area for several years. Unfortunately, a one acre demonstration burn wasn't possible because of high humidity and green growth. Lunch was prepared by local farmer, Dennis Clayton, who served smoked turkey breast with all the trimmings.

The IWOA Board

Dave Bartemes, IWOA President: dwbartemes87@q.com

Al Wagner, IWOA Vice President: wagneraj@netins.net

Paul Millice, IWOA Secretary: pmillice@aol.com

Allan Rathje: alrathje@mchsi.com

Chuck Semler: chucksemler@gmail.com

Linda Rouse: bellbookandcandle@mchsi.com

Robert Jefferson: bandbj@dunkerton.net

Kevin Kelly: ktf@netins.net

IWOA Support Staff

Cathy Wilkie, Membership Secretary

Joanne Mensinger, Treasurer

This was one of the most successful lunches served at a field day in recent memory. A total of 10 new members were recruited and two were the owners of the adjacent 240 acres. These new members are planning to plant trees, food plots, and prairie grasses on much of their newly acquired property.

Coalition for Iowa's Trees and Forest Update

By Dave Bartemes, IWOA President

During the 2012 Legislative Session, we made progress in the following areas:

- Retained the popular Iowa Forest Reserve Tax Incentive program. This effort required many meetings and a great deal of discussion.
- Maintained (but did not increase) the \$100,000 line item for forest health. Keep in mind when you see Gypsy Moth traps or other pest surveys taking place, this funding is helping with those important activities. It is also helping to match federal dollars for forest health. Be sure to thank your legislators for their support for this.
- Held a "Trees and Forest" day at the Iowa Capitol on March 15. Many member groups attended and put up displays. We used the value of nut trees to lowans as a way to attract legislators, who seemed to appreciate the chocolate candies we handed out made with Iowa black walnuts (donated by Tom Wahl).
- Continued to educate key lawmakers about the importance of trees and forests to lowans—economically and because they greatly increase our quality of life. This effort was accomplished through many individual conversations by members with legislators, emails and mailings.

Thanks to our paid advocacy consultant, Jim Obradovich, who kept a close eye on bills of importance and attended many meetings where forestry issues were discussed. He was very helpful with our Day at the Capitol, and provided weekly updates during the session and helped with alerts and updates to Coalition members.

A Nutty Solution for Reducing Non-Point Pollution and Improving Ecological Function

By Jeff Jensen, Iowa Nut Growers Association

Iowa needs to grow more perennials. In the land of corn and soybeans this could be construed as a controversial statement; but upon deeper investigation is really a no brainer and simply common sense. Perennials, including trees, shrubs, vines, native grasses, cover crops, bioenergy crops, etc. provide a multitude of benefits besides the fruit, biomass, or timber that is the purpose of the crop. Ecological benefits include: reduced soil erosion from wind & water, enhanced carbon sequestration, wildlife habitat for a multitude of species; including our keystone pollinators, and many more. This is why I'm fond of saying that agriculture needs to provide more than simply food, fuel, feed, and fiber; it also must include ecological *function*.

Strategically placed perennials on the landscape could significantly improve water quality in the state which consistently ranks among the dirtiest in the U.S. Scientists and researchers at Iowa State University, and other land grant universities, are acutely aware of this potential and are conducting research into strategies, systems, and methods for increasing perennials on the landscape. ISU for instance, is doing fascinating work with living mulches incorporated between the rows of corn and soybean plantings. In addition, cover crops and work being done at Practical Farmers of Iowa represent low hanging fruit in the quest for added perennials. However, even with all the work underway to understand, develop, and manage perennial systems, in the end perennials only get planted if there is an economic incentive to do so.

Nut crops, in my humble opinion, are an underutilized option for getting more perennials on the landscape. Species such as hazelnut and hickory can be incorporated into riparian plantings that adjoin surface waters. Multi-species plantings of nut producing trees can be included in field windbreaks and farm shelterbelts. In the age of ever larger row crop farm equipment, areas too small for the

machinery or corners of pivot irrigation systems work well for growing nut trees and shrubs. Hog confinements and feedlots could benefit from nut crops bordering the property; any number of possibilities abound.

While the opportunities are countless, challenges exist. At this point and time chestnuts and black walnut are the only nut crops with commercial potential and documented positive returns. Hazelnuts have tremendous upside potential but as of yet are still under development while superior plants are identified and propagated for future commercial production. Hickories demand a premium in the marketplace, if you can find them at all, and would benefit from a renewed focus on commercial development. Even pecans, which reach their northern range in the state, have lots of upside especially if the weather we have had this spring becomes more and more common.

Iowa is unique in the number of nut species we can grow here. Certainly black walnut is well known and readily prevalent throughout the state, but pecan, hazelnut, chestnut, shagbark & shellbark hickory, heartnut, butternut, buartnut, and others also grow here as well. We would be wise to recognize not only the benefits of perennials, but specifically the opportunities available through nut growing. Imagine a targeted effort focused on converting even a mere 5% - 10% of our most environmentally sensitive acres from row-crops to perennials like nut crops. The results could be profound and a leading strategy for improving water quality in the state of Iowa. That is an investment that is worth making.

For additional information on the Iowa Nut Growers Association please visit www.iowanutgrowers.com or contact info@iowanutgrowers.com

African Tree Farms

By Dave Bartemes, IWOA President

I learned a long time ago that if you don't ask, you probably won't receive. Last October, I sent a request to a local organization and asked to be a part of a journey to the top of Africa. The organization is *Above and Beyond Cancer*, a group dedicated to promoting the idea that people with cancer are survivors, and as survivors, they have a lot of life yet to be lived.

OK. So what does this have to do with tree farming and the Iowa Woodland Owners Association? Everything, I say; because I'm not only a tree farmer, I am also a cancer survivor. Over the past 23 years I have been operated on, radiated on, and checked up on, more than anyone would ever believe. Presently I am on hormone therapy and in remission for the third time.

In mid-November I was notified by Dr. Richard Deming, the founder of *Above and Beyond Cancer*, that I was included in the party that would not only go to Africa, but, would also climb Mount Kilimanjaro; the world's highest and largest volcanic mountain. The peak of Kilimanjaro is also the highest point in Africa at 19,340 feet.

We left Des Moines on January 1, 2012, and arrived in Tanzania, Africa, 25 hours later. The last thing on my mind was tree farming. I was fascinated by the land, the people, my companions, the food, the water, the color of the towns and countryside, and my own dedication to making the journey of a lifetime.

"The canyon into Marangu Falls was extremely difficult. It was steep, slippery, twisted, and long. It was a tough test of our determination before heading off to Kilimanjaro National Park the next day."

Dave Bartemes at Marangu Falls



We prepared for the trip for a month with rigorous training. The first full day in Tanzania, we took a hike to Marangu Falls, near Moshe, a city of 225,000 people. The canyon into Marangu Falls was extremely difficult. It was steep, slippery, twisted, and long. It was a tough test of our determination before heading off to Kilimanjaro National Park the next day.

The people of Moshe and surrounding towns and villages use charcoal to cook their food. One of the delicacies is charcoal roasted goat. Wow, is it good! Over the centuries, most of the wood in the area had been harvested for cooking and for building. There were vast areas near the city that were without trees, and the areas with water were dedicated to raising banana, plantain, and coffee. It was only after traveling 60 miles or more that we saw any trees that could be useful for charcoal or construction.

The trip from Moshe to the entrance to the National Park was a gradual rise in elevation from about 2200 feet above sea level to 4900 feet above sea level. We traveled from green river and creek basins up through desert until we reached about 4000 feet. All at once the countryside turned green as we approached

the rain forest. Then, after a few more miles, we began to see trees. The most common tree was an African pine. I don't know anything else about it.

All at once, we came into an area where these trees were planted in rows as straight as Iowa corn. Each stand was about 10 acres in size and the most notable characteristic was that the rows were interplanted with potatoes until the trees reached about 20 feet in height. Hundreds of people; men, women, and children, were harvesting the potatoes, gathering them into white bags of about two bushels each and placing them by the road to be picked up later.



Tree Plantation at the entrance to Kilimanjaro national Park

“All at once, we came into an area where these trees were planted in rows as straight as Iowa corn...”

Potatoes are the staple of Tanzania, along with the sweetest locally grown pineapple, mango, bananas, and other tropical fruits one can imagine. Fruit and potatoes for every meal; a trekkers delight.

We learned from our guides that trees are in great demand for construction and charcoal. What is today a National Park was once the source of these trees, but over the years they have been depleted. The University has taken on the challenge of replanting in a big way. The university in Dar Es Salam and at several stations around the country is responsible for planting these stands of trees for future use. (There is one university with local units scattered around the country.) The best area for the trees seems to be in the 4,000 to 6,500 foot level just before one would enter the rain forest. The rain forest above 6,500 feet has been cut over so much that most of the trees are relatively small with the exception of trees of little or no commercial value.

I came home from Tanzania with a new appreciation for the people and the country. The country is impoverished by a political system that has stifled development by its dependency on an imposed culture. The people, however, are intelligent, hard working and forward thinking. Their efforts to replant their resources and to rediscover their heritage are an indication of what may become one of the most beautiful and promising parts of Africa.

Note: I hope to have completed a book on my journey to Kilimanjaro and my journey with cancer before the end of this year. The world is a beautiful place, and I intend to enjoy it to the maximum. I'll let you know when the book is completed.

Board Minutes

Board Meeting

Saturday, January 28, 2012\

Ox Yoke Inn, Amana, Iowa

President Bartemes called the meeting to order at 10:10 AM. Members answering roll call were –Al Rathje, Kevin Kelly, Dave Bartemes, Al Wagner, and Linda Rouse. No other persons were present. In the absence of Secretary Millice, Rouse acted as secretary.

A motion by Kelly/Rathje to approve the minutes of September 9, 2011, with inclusion of the name of Dave Hannon as outgoing Board member, and with recognition of the award to President Bartemes by Iowa's Coalition for Woodlands and Trees presented at the September Annual Meeting of the membership on September 10, 2011, was approved unanimously.

The report of Treasurer Jo Ann Mensinger was discussed. A motion to approve was made by Rouse/Wagner. Vote – Unanimous.

No Membership Report was available. A discussion followed regarding membership, By-Laws, and dues. Board members have volunteered to contact those on the membership list whose dues are delinquent after such member has received a written dues notice and failed to respond. It was decided by consensus that the phone numbers of Board Members should be included in Timber Talk. A motion made by Kelly/Rathje to allow Al Wagner to proceed with setting up a 'Pay Pal' option for dues was approved. Vote – Unanimous.

In the report on Iowa's Coalition for Woodlands and Trees, Bartemes informed the Board that the issues around the Forest Reserve Law will be given to a formal committee at the Legislature. The Board agreed to nominate Chuck Semler to be the representative from IWOA on the Committee. An informal suggestion by Kevin Kelly to require a forest owner not be allowed to submit his/her application for Forest Reserve until after the forest has been in his/her possession for five years was favorably discussed by the Board.

A motion was made by Rouse/Kelly to ask the President to communicate with Mensinger regarding her continuing role as Treasurer including the offer of remuneration. The Board recognizes the time commitment as well as the skills required and is appreciative of her many years of excellent service to IWOA.

The committee of Kelly, Millice and Rathje appointed at the September meeting of the Board presented written suggestions on "what constitutes a woodland owner". After discussion, a motion was made by Rathje/Kelly to clarify the definition of 'woodland owner' in an amendment to the By-Laws by adding to Article IV, Section 4, a new Subsection. At the April Board meeting, the Board will be asked to approve:

Article IV., Section 4, Subsection A. – Definition of Woodland Owner -- a person who owns at least one acre of land that has no buildings or structures, and at least 200 actively growing trees/acre where domestic animals and livestock are excluded. Vote – Unanimous. Article XIV, Section 3. requires a two thirds vote of the membership and/or the Board for an amendment.

The Board discussed the ongoing issue of accepting advertising in Timber Talk and on the Website. A motion by Wagner/Rouse to allow ads of business card size (approximately 2" X 3,5") at a charge of \$25/issue was passed. Yes – Rathje, Wagner, Rouse. Abstain – Kelly. The members of the Board will solicit ads.

A motion was made by Rathje/Wagner to table action on the discussion of stipends for speakers. Vote – Unanimous.

Dave Bartemes reported that the May Field Day will be a "humdinger" which will include a prairie burn of one acre and lunch will be "the best". It was decided on a motion by Rouse/Kelly to charge \$20. for registration (to include free membership) and \$10. for student registration. Vote – Unanimous.

A suggestion has been made by a long time member for our Annual Meeting in 2012. The President will have more information for the Board meeting in April.

The proposed Budget for 2012 was discussed and approved on a motion by Wagner/Rathje. Vote –Unanimous.

Kevin Kelly brought a copy of Forest and Shade Trees of Iowa which can be purchased for sale by IWOA at 45% off the publishers' price. A motion was made by Rouse/Rathje to purchase ten books for the approximate cost of \$200. Vote – Unanimous.

The next Board meeting was tentatively set for Saturday, April 7, to be held at the Ox Yoke Inn in Amana. Wagner made the motion to adjourn. Vote – Unanimous.

Linda Rouse, Acting Secretary

Featured Non-Native Tree

Ponderosa Pine *Pinus ponderosa*

By Tom Brady, IWOA Member

Ponderosa Pine is an abundant and wide spread western tree, native from the Black Hills to the west coast, north to British Columbia, and south to northern Mexico. It furnishes more lumber than any other pine, including white pine.

It is characterized by its long (up to 10") needles in bundles of 3, which are clustered at the tips of the branches. The bark is dark brown to black on young trees changing to a distinctive, attractive, rusty orange at maturity. The bark is also distinctive in that it is covered with flakes that are described as looking like jigsaw puzzle pieces. Mature trees have thick (up to 4") bark, making the tree fire resistant.

Ponderosa pine trees have a long tap root. A 6" tree might have a 3' root. They dominate in dry conditions, but are difficult to transplant.

A mature ponderosa pine may be over 100' tall with more than half its length clear of branches, with a trunk 3' in diameter, the tallest specimen is over 200' with a diameter of 7'.

The cones are small for so large a tree averaging 3-6". Each pine cone scale has a sharp point that curves toward the base of the cone. The cones are not persistent. When they fall, they often leave a few scales behind, still attached to the branch.

I bought 1000 ponderosa pine in 1998 when I converted 85 acres of CRP land to wildlife habitat. I had wanted to buy these trees because I was intrigued by their great size. The state nursery had started offering ponderosa pine but recommended them for western Iowa only, presumably because it's drier there (I'm from Polk county). I ignored that advice, but bought my trees from a nursery in Michigan. Their survival has been good (probably 80-90%). I've lost trees principally for two reasons: the site was too moist, or from transplanting (the long tap root was cut). The higher up the hill sides, the better they grow.

The tallest are approaching 25'. Some are starting to produce cones. Being shade intolerant, it will be interesting to see if they can compete. They have plenty of competition and so far they are keeping up.

My trees, at this stage, have branches clear to the ground. The bark is flaky as the book describes but mine are tan with a pinkish cast. The trees are pyramidal but with a rounded top. The shape mimics the shape of a typical open pine cone (if that makes sense). Despite its long needles, the tree has a rather coarse appearance, with its needles clustered at the tips of branches.

I like this tree. It's distinctive. People ask me what it is more than any of the 10 different pine trees I've grown over the years.

Advertise In TimberTalk!

Place a business-card size ad (3 ½ x2 inches) in TimberTalk for \$25 per issue.

It can be as easy as scanning in your business card and e-mailing the image in!

Or, if all you want in the ad is text, please detail what text you want and the TimberTalk editor will typeset it for you.

Please send your ad image or your text
via e-mail
in a Microsoft Word Document
or as a PDF
to the Timber Talk editor, Cathy Wilkie,
at
cat_wilkie@yahoo.com

PLEASE put in your subject line
"TIMBER TALK AD."
Ad will not be printed until payment is received.

Send check for payment to
Cathy Wilkie
204 Park Rd.
Iowa City, IA 52246

Become a Member of IWOA

We invite you (or someone you might know) to become a member of the Iowa Woodland Owners Association

- Member \$20—woodland owner, voting
- Associate Member \$20—non-woodland owner, non-voting
- Contributing Member \$50—woodland owner, voting
- Contributing Associate Member \$50—non-woodland owner, non-voting

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Amount of forest acres owned _____

County/Countries where acres are located _____

Mail this completed form and your check to:
Cathy Wilkie, IWOA Membership Secretary
204 Park Rd., Iowa City, IA 52246

Safety Corner

By Larry Wiley, IWOA Member

While preparing an area for spring planting I was pondering what the topic of this safety article should be, when I realized it was blowing all around me.

The wind was blowing at 25 mph with gusts to 40 mph. It's not a good time to be in the woods. Especially where there are large mature trees. Dead limbs can come down at any time. You may avoid injury from a small limb by wearing a hard hat; however a larger limb can still inflict serious injury. It's best to work in areas with younger trees or stay out of the woods until the wind lies down, or in my case, where I was already clearing.

There is also a hazard from blowing dust and debris. Saw dust can blow in your face or eyes. This can cause reflex actions that may cause the chain saw to go places you would rather it didn't. Eye injury can be a serious threat requiring a doctor visit to remove foreign particles or repair a more serious injury. Not only is this a concern for the saw operator, but anyone in the area is subject to the same risks as the wind moves things around. Wearing a hard hat with a face shield will minimize the risk.

The wind may also have an adverse affect when felling a tree. The more limbs and leaves in the tree top the more force the wind will apply. Observe the direction of the wind and consider the impact on the direction you want the tree to fall. You can even use the wind in your favor if it supports the direction you want the tree to fall. Be mindful of the wind and be safe.



TimberTalk
Larry Wiley
2370 Comp Rd.
Palo, IA 52324
www.iowawoodlandowners.org

August 2012 Issue
TimberTalk is a newsletter published 3 times per year that serves members of the Iowa Woodland Owners Association and the Iowa Tree Farmers Association.

