

Timber Talk

*Newsletter of the Iowa Woodland Owners Association
and Iowa Tree Farmers Association
December 2016*

Editor: Steve Meyer



TREE FARMER OF THE YEAR FIELD DAY 2016

By Aaron Lumley, Iowa Tree Farm Secretary

Fall leaves were just starting to turn, with the Walnut and Cottonwood leaves already mostly gone, when the masses gathered in Northeast Iowa on a cool October morning. Unsure on turn out as the crops were starting to be harvested and the week before the Yellow River State Forest Field day had over 160 people in attendance, the coffee was hot and the doughnuts fresh. As the start time approached, with the realization that parking was now full and the side road being utilized, the turnout was going to be big to see the 2016 Tree Farmer of the Year's tree farm. Shortly after 9:30 a.m. the field day had 120 plus people standing around a wonderful old barn, listening to Tree Farm Chair Ron Fullenkamp, introducing Rick Burras and his family. The DNR leadership team was in attendance as well, with Director Gipp congratulating Rick on his achievement.

ISU Extension Forester Jesse Randall's famous quote "I ordered the weather today" was appropriate as a bright sunny day that warmed up quick provided a fantastic day. The morning started off with two groups; always a hot topic is operating a portable saw mill and Lucas Mill was a great show, big thanks to Webb's, and District Foresters Jason Walker and Joe Herring had a technology session ranging from smart phone apps to ID trees to utilizing the GPS/GIS functions to maximize work done on a tree farm. Lunch, the second most important thing after the award right, was provided by the Edgewood Locker and was as tasty as always. Mid lunch break, tree farm held a short TF committee meeting and Division Director Jim Gillespie with Iowa Department of Agriculture and

Land Stewardship discussed water quality as well as other IDALS information.

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The afternoon was divided into three areas, a tour to see all the work that Rick and his family have done over the years, "ask a forester," and chainsaw safety with Grau Logging. The tour was fantastic, seeing all that is and still being done is a testament to why Rick is the 2016 Tree Farmer of the Year. Luckily, many people have burning, both figuratively and literally, questions that the foresters were here to answer, with Forest Health being always popular. Rounding out the three sessions was a professional class on chainsaw safety with heavy Q & A lead by Patrick Grau with oversight by his father Chris; no matter the level of sawyer, this class was full of tips and tricks. While we could not have asked for a better day, we could not have had any better hosts and presenters. The Tree Farm Committee would like to thank everyone involved and of course everyone in attendance. As a

side note, anyone looking for iron patches, ball caps, or stocking hats with the TF logo, the committee has them in stock.



Rick Burras (Left) receiving the 2016 Tree Farmer of the Year award from Tree Farm Committee Chairman Ron Fullenkamp.



PRESIDENTS COLUMN

By Paul Millice, IWOA President

Welcome to the inaugural Presidents Column. Paul Millice here as your new IWOA President. I'm on my second three year adventure of serving on the Board. I also served as the secretary for the last five years.

Briefly, we are doing well and adding members. I especially want to recognize Larry Wiley as well as Board member Kevin Karr for their efforts in this regard. As we add members we want to continue to provide great field day experiences for our membership. On that line we are always looking for folks to share their planting, growing and management experiences. If you might be interested in hosting a field day please get in touch with us.

Another opportunity that exists that will allow everyone to get involved is our "Day on the Hill"

scheduled for March 29, 2017. We will meet under the Rotunda at 9 AM and we will walk you through the process. The more help we get the louder our voice. Please read the article by Board member Dave Bartemes in this issue on the subject.

We want to know what the membership thinks about the *Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund*. Does the membership want IWOA behind this effort? Please let us know your thoughts on this issue to help provide direction for our organization.

I realize not everyone is on email so I will also provide my mailing address: Paul Millice, 2254 Black Diamond Rd SW, Iowa City IA 52240 or pmillice@aol.com



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

By Dave Bartemes

It's never too soon to be thinking about the upcoming legislative season. All IWOA members have a stake in what happens at the legislature and how legislation affects our natural resources, including Iowa's woodlands.

A major effort by the Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship to close the Department of Natural Resources State Tree Nursery in Ames was delayed because of strong grass root activity. In addition, the rules governing the pricing of nursery stock have been changed and the new rules are expected to be allowed in the near future. The increase in pricing will help the nursery to operate at "break even" as required by law.

The battle, however, isn't over. Several people in the statehouse are indicating that the DNR budget will face more cuts in the 2017 legislature. If the DNR budget is cut further (it has been cut more than 45% since 2008) the tree nursery will probably be on the target list.

IWOA members are encouraged to talk to their respective legislators to promote the need for

more, not less, funding for the Department of Natural Resources, especially for the Forestry Division.

Increased funding for the Healthy Woodlands Initiative is critical as communities and landowners deal with invasive species. The Emerald ash borer is but one invasive insect that is killing Iowa's trees. We are also worried about diseases such as thousand cankers disease of black walnut, oak taters, oak wilt and many more. Invasive plants are equally destructive and control measures are needed to protect IWOA member's investments in woodlands.

IWOA members who are also members of the Farm Bureau, should be aware that one of the Farm Bureau's goals is to eliminate the Forest Reserve legislation that relieves property taxes on woodlands. Without the Forest Reserve tax relief, many farmers will take their woodlands out or fail to manage them to increase their value. Farm Bureau members should be talking with their county representative to try to delete this item from their platform.



SAFETY CORNER USING A POLE SAW

By Larry Wiley

Pole saws are just what the name implies. A chain saw at the end of a pole. Some have telescoping handles that let you reach 12 feet or so in the air. Most of the time pole saws are used to prune trees. They are very efficient tools but can be very tiring. Excessive use can lead to sore shoulder muscles and a tired, achy back.

Safety equipment is important. Because you are working overhead safety glasses and a hard hat are an absolute necessity. Obviously with every cut something is going to drop from the tree. Be very careful not to be directly under the limb being cut. Try to work the saw at an angle so the limb being cut is not directly overhead. Saw dust will also fall. Considering the wind direction may keep saw dust from falling directly in your face. Again, a hard hat with a safety shield can be very beneficial. Looking

directly into the sun can be annoying and make it difficult to see. I prefer to prune on cloudy days.

Quite unexpectedly I found another use for my pole saw. A storm had broken a large limb from a tree, lodging it in the canopy of two trees next to it. Not being able to pull the limb free, it was decided to cut down the elm tree holding the largest part of the limb. Assuming the tree would fall normally, carrying the limb a safe distance with it. Using the bore cut method, I cut the notch, made the bore cut establishing the hinge, and cut the remaining wood to the back strap. For whatever reason, perhaps Devine guidance, I chose to cut the back strap with the pole saw, leaving me some distance from the base of the tree. What happened next was incredible. Rather than the tree falling as expected, carrying the limb with it, it all came crashing nearly straight down in less than a heartbeat. Being away from the base of the elm tree was a good choice. I still don't understand how it did what it did, but, as with many accidents, they are often hard to explain. This incident turned out well.

Since that experience I have used my pole saw on a couple more occasions where there appeared to be hazards overhead. Making the final cut with the pole saw provides an extra margin of safety. Some trees are called "Widow Makers" for a reason. Make the best plan you can for every tree you cut. Consider including a pole saw in that plan if you need an extra margin of safety.

Be Safe!

Larry Wiley



Iowa Invasive Species Conference (IISC) March 28–29, 2017

Honey Creek Resort at Rathbun Lake, Moravia, Iowa
www.iowainvasives.org

The goal of IISC is to improve invasive species research, management, and policy across aquatic and terrestrial habitats in the state of Iowa.

The IISC features two full days of vendors, workshops, sessions, plenaries, and social events.

Sponsors include Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, Iowa Weed Commissioners Association, Polk County Conservation Board. Many more sponsor opportunities are available!

Topics that will be included:

- Invasive species identification and management sessions (forestry, aquatic, wetland, grassland, roadside)
- How to improve local efforts (initiation, prioritization, planning, engagement, and success stories)
- Best Management Practices

Sign up to receive updated conference information, registration alerts, and special offers at www.iowainvasives.org.



NON- NATIVE TREE OF THE QUARTER PAULOWNIA TOMENTOSA: ROYAL PAULOWNIA OR EMPRESS TREE

By Tom Brady

Royal Paulownia is a native of China it is often advertised in magazines and touted for its rapid growth and its showy pale purple flowers, and in some conditions it is indeed a rapid grower. I'll get to that later. Royal Paulownia has opposite leaves that can be quite large, up to 10 inches long and wide. Under some conditions they can be much larger, up to 3 feet! No, I am not kidding. The leaves are slightly fuzzy on top and very fuzzy underneath (that's what tomentosa means: fuzzy). The leaves are more or less heart shaped, sometimes shallowly 3 or 5 lobbed. The tree and its leaves would remind you of a catalpa. The leaves have no fall color. They fall off green. To get the giant leaves, the tree must be cut to the ground yearly. In which case the tree will sprout from the roots and grow as much as 8 feet in one year, while producing huge leaves. Some say, under these conditions, that it looks like a giant button weed (velvet leaf).

This 40 to 50 foot tree (in its native range some are over 100 feet), is very marginal in Iowa. It's rated at zone 5 which is about highway 30, but I think that's a stretch. It's naturalized in the Eastern United States, where due to its numerous seeds, it's sometimes considered an invasive species. In Iowa, our winters should keep the tree from flowering. No flowers, no fruit, no seeds. The flower buds are formed in the fall, and in my experience, are destroyed by a typical Iowa winter. They would normally flower early (April or May) so the necessary insects may not be available? I only know that I have had buds but no flowers.

If the flowers are produced, they are pale purple and bell shaped. They are numerous on an upright panicle. Each flower is up to 2 inches long. They have darker spots and yellow stripes inside. They are followed by a 2 inch beaked capsule with up to 2000 winged seeds inside!

I bought 2 trees in 1997 and 10 in 2002. Only 2 survive. I've done worse. The one tree is 35 foot tall and is the one producing flower buds but no flowers. It's located in a border area on the golf course, and is surrounded by other trees and shrubs. So far it has been able to keep up with its neighbors, which is good, since the tree is shade intolerant. It's near a ladies tee and one lady asked me, when it was still young, why I had planted a button weed. The other is in my side yard and will remain there. It typically dies to the ground each winter, and sprouts from the roots. I pick the best one and eliminate the rest. There are several. Unless it's a dry year, it has grown as much as 8 to 10 feet, with leaves bigger than dinner plates.

So, why grow this tree? I can't give a good reason, except for the novelty.

Tom Brady IWOA board member

DISEASES OF TREES IN THE GREAT PLAINS

Many of you have been waiting for the updated version of the "Diseases of Trees in the Great Plains." The link below takes you to the .pdf version. There will be a copy in each District Foresters Office and on each State Forest. Let me know if you have questions.

http://nac.unl.edu/documents/research/publications/rmrs_gtr335.pdf

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do various farm tasks. After graduation he hopes to get a higher responsibility position at Prudenterra.



Jared Trent

OAK SAVANNAH RESTORATION

By Jared Trent

Etched between the riparian floodplain forests and the tall grass prairie, the oak savannah dominated much of the Iowan landscape at one time. These savannahs incorporated both the diverse herbaceous layer of the prairie ecosystem as well as the fire tolerant tree species of oak and hickory. Pre European settlement, characteristic fire ecology made possible for such an ecosystem. Lightning has long been thought to be the primary mechanism for the fire regime though many believe that native tribes utilized fire management to create a favorable ground layer for game animals as well as recreation. Whatever the case, semi consistent burning patterns killed other shrubs and trees making it possible for this ecosystem to flourish.

Oak trees such as the bur oak, *Quercus macrocarpa* (the tree of Iowa) thrived in the savannah environment due to natural defenses against fire. Oaks achieve this resistance due to thick insulating bark, an active apical meristem, and high resistance to rotting after the fire head pushed through. Shagbark hickory, a somewhat fire tolerant species, also grew in these conditions.

Because most tree species couldn't cope with the fire ecology regime, the landscape consisted of prairie grasses and forbs interspersed with large



JARED TRENT IS 2016 IWOA FORESTRY SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

Jared Trent is the 2016 recipient of the IWOA Forestry scholarship at Iowa State University. Jared will be a senior in the forestry program. He hails from the Stuart area in Guthrie County. He earned his Associate of Arts degree at Southwestern Community College in Creston, IA. He graduated there with a 3.95 GPA and was accepted into Phi Theta Kappa Honors Society. He started there to help control his college expenses and feels this scholarship of \$1000 will help him graduate debt free.

At a young age he knew he wanted to be in an ecosystem management field. He knew ISU had an excellent program and its location close to his home made this a logical choice.

He is currently a member of the Fisheries and Wildlife Biology Club at ISU. He also works two natural resource related jobs outside of ISU. The first job is as a forester's assistant at Prudenterra out of Nevada, IA. His second job is near Redfield where he works alongside people with developmental disabilities teaching them how to

branching trees. This created an unbelievably diverse ecosystem of flora and fauna. Prairie plants produced a large amount of food in the spring and summer while the acorns from oaks produced a reliable food source for the harsh winter.

Today, much of the oak savannah ecosystem has been replaced by farmland, pastures, or overgrown with undesirable species due to a suppressed fire regime. A once commonplace ecosystem now sits on the precipice of forgotten. In correlation with the reduction of oak savannahs, many animals that once inhabited the landscape are now threatened or endangered. Although it seems oak savannahs are all but gone, there have been individual pushes to see the ecosystem come back.

Enter Paul Lengeling of central Iowa. Paul owns a woodland passed down by generations that was once an oak savannah. After years of fire suppression and no management, the booming savannah has turned into a dense forest of hackberry, ironwood, elm, and cherry as just a few of the tree species found on the sight. Invasive shrubs such as honeysuckle and buckthorn have since dominated the ground layer, shading out virtually any competition.

Fortunately, Paul contacted the company I work for, Prudenterra. Prudenterra strives to restore perennials and build a legacy of stewardship through agroecosystem planning, forestry, and prairie, wetland, and riparian restoration services. Paul and the owner of Prudenterra, Luke Gran, conducted a landwalk where the goals of the Lengeling family were put forth. From there, an oak savannah restoration was underway.

I started working on the site earlier this summer. The team, including myself, would arrive at Paul's at eight in the morning. We equipped our personal protective equipment consisting of hard hats, eye protection, ear protection, gloves, chainsaw chaps, and footwear. Each crew member carried a chainsaw or handsaw as well as herbicide to apply on cut stumps of undesirable tree and shrub species. Our days of work consisted of removing invasive honeysuckle and buckthorn as well as thinning everything non-native to an oak-hickory savannah. The dense overstory soon opened up and sunlight began to wash to the

ground. On a lunch break one day, I remember Paul explaining that as a boy he would watch the sunrise from his window. Over the years, the thick canopy made that impossible. Today, the canopy has been drastically opened again and Paul can once again enjoy the sunrise.

In the future, we plan on conducting a prescribed burn once the fuel is dry enough. The fire will set back invasive plants and promote native wildflower growth. This will be a crucial step in the process to restore and promote native grasses to take hold. To paraphrase Wendell Berry "the world is not given by his fathers, but borrowed from his children." The road to a thriving oak-savannah ecosystem may be long but it will be a lasting legacy for generations to come.

If you want to learn more about the projects that I have been involved with or if you have a desire to reach your own land objectives please visit www.prudenterra.com or like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/prudenterra/



IWOA Board Minutes March 23, 2016

Iowa State Capitol Des Moines Iowa

Present: Al Wagner, Chuck Semler, Dave Bartemes, Ann Schneckloth, Tom Brady, Paul Millice , Robert Jefferson, Kevin Karr, Tom Brady, Al Rathje.

Absent: Jefferson, Schneckloth

President Semler called the meeting to order at 12 noon.

Minutes of Jan Board were reviewed; motion to approve by Wagner and second by Brady; approved.

Treasures Report; was reviewed there was discussion around investing funds and liquidity of same.

Spring Field day was discussed. IWOA to pay for coffee and donuts. Millice to put info out on List serve.

Field days were discussed. Bartemes suggested that we provide a quality lunch to help entice members to attend.

Apparently some members are having sign up problems with List serve, Semler to check with our webmaster.

Exposure was discussed and Semler to look into Face book adds.

Timber Talk update, apparently Steve is looking for a lead story for the March issue.

It was shared that we have only gotten one article from the Iowa Tree Farm group.

Comp membership were discussed, suggested we should be getting news articles from these folks.

Talked about human interest stories. How you got into tree growing.

Awards and Recognitions were discussed, get your nominations into the board members.

Wagner and Schneckloth were appointed to the nominating committee. The terms for Semler, Brady and Rathje will be up this year.

Fall meeting was discussed. Want it to be our Annual Meeting.

Millice shared on possibility for a field day in the Washington area.

Bartemes suggested that we should look at utilizing some of the public wood lands in the Des Moines Park, Water Works Park, trails, i.e. Walnut Creek, Gray's Lake or Jester Park. Bartemes to look into these possibilities.

Either way we need to stay off of the Iowa/Iowa State football date.

We need to get scheduled a year in advance.

Membership Drive letter all done. Cathy does not have Microsoft Publisher which would save a lot of work.

Discussed sending membership drive letter out bulk mail.

Karr working at getting tree identification set up at the Iowa State Fair grounds which would be smart phone compatible. Karr shares that he need to meet with the Grounds folks.

Next board meeting Monday July 18, 10 am at the Ox yoke Amana.

Karr shared information from his county's political platform in that they are opposed to the Forest Reserve Program.

Motion by Wagner to adjourn. 1:10 pm

Paul Millice IWOA Sec.

Approved 18 July 2016



IWOA Board Minutes July 10, 2016

Ronneburg Restaurant Amana Iowa

Present: Chuck Semler, Dave Bartemes, Ann Schneckloth, Paul Millice , Robert Jefferson, Kevin Karr, Al Wagner

Absent: Rathje, Brady

Also in attendance Shannon Ramsey *Trees Forever*

President Semler called the meeting to order at 10 am.

Minutes of March Board meeting were reviewed; motion to approve by Wagner and second by Bartemes, approved.

Treasurer Report; was reviewed motion by Bartemes and second by Schneckloth, Approved.

Bonding was discussed, Bonding requires that any check over \$500 have two signatures. Currently the Secretary is also on the signature card. It was suggested that the treasurer forward the check to the Secretary for the second signature. This would most likely only be necessary for the printing of the newsletter.

Membership Report was reviewed. Motion by Bartemes and second by Schneckloth. Report approved.

Shannon Ramsey *Trees Forever* Talked "Tree Day on the Hill" 2017 March `29th, It was suggested we have talking points prior to. We need to make a concerted effort to get more of our membership to this event. Our check to the coalition is due in 2017 .

It was suggested that we purchase a new pull up display. Shannon will help. Motion by Millice and second by Bartemes to authorize up to \$300 for a new display.

Minnesota has done a great job with buffers and we need to get Iowa to implement similar programs. Talked the "Leaflet".

It was suggested that we need a letter to the editor from IWOA. Dave Bartemes to handle.

It was suggested that we have at least one field day with our legislators invited to speak.

Shannon needs contact information for Deer organizations.

Discussed advertisement in Iowa State Hunting Regulations booklet.

Kevin Karr shared information on the membership project that he has been working on. We now have 22 new members in three counties

The Board agreed to continue with the mail out.

We talked about a welcome letter to new members, Semler said he would handle.

Semler asked Wagner to follow up on Facebook advertising.

Fall field day discussed. 0900 Sep 24 to be held at the *State Forest Nursery Ames, IA* and then on to the *Horticultural Center* and lunch by the Cattleman. Board meeting will start at 0800.

Next year's meetings. It was suggested that we check with private Foresters, State Foresters as well as ISU Extension.

Shannon Ramsey volunteered to host the Spring 2017 Field Day; we need to avoid Earth Week.

Kevin Karr may host Spring Field Day April 2018

Semler to check with *Timber Talk* Editor Reference header for *Timber Talk*

Board elections, Semler, Brady and Rathje's terms will be up this year, Semler will not be running for reelection. We have four names on the ballot to fill three spots.

Scholarship; IWOA received word that ISU issued a scholarship this year in our name although we did not get an invitation to the presentation event

Millice presented a bill to the board for \$74.20 which was for the coffee for the Spring Field Day.

Millice shared that he attended an *Iowa DNR Trees For Kids* event in West Liberty on Sat May 21st managed by Laura Wagner and was highly impressed

Millice shared that we are down to 38 lanyards and need to order another hundred. The plan is to print up three name tags for each member and keep closer tabs on lanyards not being returned.

Motion by Semler to adjourn. 12:20 pm

Paul Millice IWOA Sec.

Approved Sept. 24 2016



IWOA Past President Chuck Semler

IWOA Board Minutes September 24, 2016

State Forest Nursery Ames Iowa

Present: Chuck Semler, Paul Millice, Robert Jefferson, Kevin Karr, Al Wagner, Tom Brady

Absent: Rathje, Bartemes, Schneckloth

Also in attendance Cathy Wilkie

President Semler called the meeting to order at 8 am.

Minutes of July Board meeting were reviewed; motion to approve by Wagner and second by Jefferson, approved.

Treasurer Report; was reviewed motion by Jefferson and second by Semler, Approved.

Semler to follow up with Treasurer as to status of bonding.

Membership: We are up about twelve members do to Kevin's direct mailings and Larry Wiley's work. Motion by Millice and Second by Semler, approved.

Welcome letter, Semler will follow up and pass along to the new President.

Face book advertising, Wagner has created an Iowa Woodland Owners group and Cathy said she would resurrect the IWOA page on Face book.

There was some question about our web site, responsibility and the need to clean it up.

ISU Forestry Scholarship the balance is \$4,937.50 and a reminder that anyone can contribute to this, and we need to put a note in Timber Talk to this opportunity for our members.

Jefferson suggested that we get Iowa State U to write an article for Timber Talk, Semler to follow up.

Cathy could include a note in renewals.

Elections: Ed Kocal was elected and Tom Brady and Al Rathje were reelected.

Officers; President Millice, VP Kevin Karr, Secretary Ann Schneckloth, Treas Sherris Sisson, Membership Cathy Wilkie.

Motion by Wagner second by Karr, Office holders approved.

Timber talk timing was discussed, as of now the publication dates are April 1 Aug 1 and Dec 15th

It was suggested that we invite scholarship winners to write article for Timber Talk.

Jefferson asked if there is any way to track the scholarship recipients over the years?

Motion to adjourn at 0815

Paul Millice



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!

IWOA ANNUAL MEETING OCTOBER 27, 2015

Richard & Bobbi Stoneking Farm Columbus Junction

President Semler called the meeting to order at 12:30 pm and introduced the newly elected board members, and Officers: Semler **President**; Ann Schneckloth **Vice President**; Sherris Sisson **Treasurer**; Millice **Secretary**; and Cathy Wilkie as **Membership**. Schneckloth, Wagner and Jefferson were reelected to three year terms.

Minutes of last annual meeting were presented by Semler.

Treasurers' report was presented; IWOA has a balance of \$16,000 on hand.

Semler shared information on the Forestry Scholarship that IWOA is providing to Iowa State.

Newsletter "Timber Talk" was discussed. It has been determined that we will publish April 1st, Aug 1st and Dec 15th, with cost being shared with the Iowa Tree Farmers Group.

The Coalition for Health Trees report was shared by Bartemes. The Governor will be asking for \$500,000 in his budget to the Legislature for the Healthy Woodlands Initiative. We are recommending that the Governor's budget request be increased to \$1.9 million.

We also support keeping the Division of Forestry Tree Nursery open.

As well as efforts to grant landowners a reduced tax base on any buffer strips planted in accordance with FSA and State Conservation rules and regulations.

IWOA presented Joanne Mesinger with the **Larry and Twila Wiley** award for her tireless work as our Treasurer.

Door prizes were presented and the meeting was adjourned at 1 pm.

Prepared by Paul Millice, Sec,
Approved Sep 24 2016



THE COST OF CUTTING YOUR OWN FIREWOOD

ISU Forestry Extension Notes F-335

A formula has been developed for calculating the cost of cutting your own firewood: $COST\ PER\ CORD = S + [(P/M + F) (ND)] + [(T + ND/R) (L)]$ where: S = chain saw cost (variable & fixed) for cutting one cord P = price per gallon for truck fuel M = miles per gallon for truck F = fixed cost per mile for truck N = number of round-trips required

to haul one cord D = round-trip hauling distance T = hours required to cut, split, load and unload one cord R = average speed of truck during haul L = labor charge per hour

The first component in the formula (S) is the chain saw cost per cord and includes variable costs and depreciation. Variable costs would depend upon gasoline and oil consumption per cord plus maintenance per unit of volume produced. Depreciation charge would be determined by the initial cost of the saw and the depreciation schedule used.

The second component in the formula identifies transportation cost per cord (exclusive of labor) and includes costs for gasoline plus a fixed charge per mile for depreciation, taxes, insurance, and maintenance. The magnitude of this component is also directly affected by hauling capacity of the truck and the hauling distance involved.

The final component represents the labor cost per cord; it includes both labor for cutting the cord and labor time involved in hauling. The labor charge per hour appropriate to particular situations depends upon alternative employment opportunities available during the wood cutting period. If no charge is to be made for labor, the final component would disappear; this situation may be appropriate for individuals cutting their own fuel on weekends. An example will illustrate how the the formula works. Let's assume chain saw costs per cord at \$1.30 for gasoline and oil plus \$0.60 for depreciation and maintenance. A 1/2-ton pickup truck with a load capacity of 2,000 pounds is to be used for hauling. The pickup averages 10 miles per gallon at an average hauling speed of 35 miles per hour; gasoline is \$1.00 per gallon. A charge of \$0.14 per mile is assessed for maintenance, depreciation, taxes, and insurance. The green firewood to be transported weighs 6,000 pounds per cord; three round-trips will be required to transfer one cord from the woods to your house. A total of 10 hours are needed to cut, split, load, and unload one cord of firewood.

Obviously, labor charges are a major factor in determining the total cost for producing a cord of firewood. Even if you are not charging for labor, you can use the formula to determine the value of

your time for firewood production. The difference between prevailing market price for a delivered cord of firewood and the production cost (excluding labor) divided by the number of hours required will give an estimate of the hourly wages you are earning.

Hauling distance is also a very significant factor; as fuel prices rise, the importance of this item may increase. A larger truck or a truck-trailer combination would reduce the number of trips required to haul a cord, but operating and investment costs would also rise. Drying firewood to reduce weight before hauling may also reduce the number of trips needed to haul a cord.

The formula assumes free stumpage (standing trees). Any charges for standing timber can, of course, simply be added to the total cost of producing a cord of firewood generated by the formula.

The key to this type of analysis is identification of costs relevant to your own specific situation. This analysis should not be considered as the only approach. However, it is one logical way of estimating the cost of cutting your own firewood.

Prepared by Dean R. Prestemon, Extension Forester

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Dear Iowa Tree Farm Members,

If your mailing label on this newsletter reads “ITF” after your name, you receive our newsletter via Iowa Woodland Owner’s Association joint newsletter mailing effort with the Iowa Tree Farm Members.

If you are an ITF member, and would rather receive your copy of Timber Talk via e-mail rather than receive a paper copy in the mail, please e-mail Cathy Wilkie, IWOA Membership Secretary at cat_wilkie@yahoo.com, and put “ITF MEMBER REQUESTING ELECTRONIC COPY” in the subject line of your e-mail. Include your current mailing address in the body of the e-mail so I make sure I get the right person signed up for the electronic mailing.

We appreciate the Iowa Tree Farm folks taking the time to read Timber Talk, and we would also like to ask you to consider becoming more involved in IWOA by becoming a full-fledged IWOA member.

If you’d like to join, please fill out the form on the right, and send in with your dues payment.

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 _____

E-mail _____

Number of forest acres you own _____

County acres located _____

Mail this completed form and check to:

Cathy Wilkie

IWOA Membership Secretary

80 Circle Drive #4

North Liberty, IA 52317



Timber Talk, December 2016

Allen Wagner

914 Elbow Creek Rd.

Springville, IA 52336

IWOA Website: www.iowawoodlandowners.org

Timber Talk is a newsletter published 3 times per year to serve members of the Iowa Woodland Owners Association and the Iowa Tree Farmer’s Association.

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Dyersville, IA
Permit No. 28