

# TIMBER TALK

*Newsletter of the Iowa Woodland Owners Association*

Winter 2005

Volume 15 Number 1

## Thank You for being Editor, Jane!

The IWOA Board of Directors would like to express their heartfelt gratitude to Jane Ulfers for serving as Editor of *Timber Talk* for the past three and a half years.

Producing the quarterly newsletter is a lot of work: igniting the creative juices, writing and collecting articles, typing, printing, folding, labeling, and mailing, and Jane handled it like a pro.

*Timber Talk* is not only important to IWOA members for its interesting and useful information, but for how it creates a feeling of community among IWOA members.

IWOA members are invited to let Jane know how much they have appreciated her work by sending her a note at 2301 Hawthorne Drive, Cedar Falls, IA 50613; or E-mail her at [ulfers@cfu.net](mailto:ulfers@cfu.net).

We thank Jane for all of her hard work, but we hope she'll still contribute an article or two...

## New Timber Talk Editor

Bev Brink, a member of IWOA since 1994, is the new editor of *Timber Talk*. Bev also currently serves on the IWOA Board of Directors.

Bev has big plans for *Timber Talk*, and invites all IWOA members to help make this *your* newsletter! If you've got something you'd like to talk about—submit an article! Editorials, photos, great recipes relating to tree produce (nuts, fruit), tree/forestry book reviews, useful websites, and other tidbits are also welcome. Got a question, use our Help Corner!

To submit an article, editorial, or other item, contact Bev at 106 High Street NE, Elkader, IA 52043; Phone (563) 245-2044; or E-mail [bbrink@aeal.k2.ia.us](mailto:bbrink@aeal.k2.ia.us)

## NEW! IWOA Website—Check It Out!

IWOA's new website, at [www.iowawoodlandowners.org](http://www.iowawoodlandowners.org), has plenty of information and features of interest to IWOA members, along with links to take you to other useful sites.

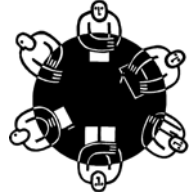
We owe a big thanks to Mark Fullenkamp, son of IWOA Board Member Ron Fullenkamp, and to Tom Woodruff, IWOA Secretary, who designed and created the website.

Tom, who has volunteered to be our webmaster, welcomes your suggestions for what you'd like to see on the website. Contact him at 4115 Rodeo Rd, Davenport, IA 52806; Phone (563) 391-8227; [APWood70@aol.com](mailto:APWood70@aol.com)



## IWOA Officers and Board Members

Steve Hansen - President/Director (05)  
Ace Hendricks - Vice President/Director (05)  
Jack Miner - Director (05)  
Bev Brink - Timber Talk Editor/Director (06)  
Ron Fullenkamp - Director (06)  
Gary Harman - Director (06)  
Tom Rosenberger - Director (07)  
Keith Sparks - Director (07)  
Larry Wiley - Director (07)  
Tom Woodruff - Secretary  
Cathy Wilkie Tomes - Membership Secretary  
Joanne Mensinger - Treasurer



## Next Board Meeting

10:00am - 1pm, Saturday, April 9, 2005, at the Linn County ISU Extension office, 3279 Seventh Ave., Marion, IA. Interested IWOA members are invited to attend.

## IWOA Annual Meeting and Field Day

Each year, IWOA hosts a Summer Field Day and a Fall membership-wide Annual Meeting. Both are great ways to network with fellow IWOA members.

The Annual Meeting comes complete with lunch, educational sessions, an afternoon field day, and demonstrations. Mark your calendars to attend this year, and don't forget to bring a friend. It's a great time to learn new techniques, discuss solutions, visit with friends, and to keep up on what's happening politically with Iowa's woodlands.

### • Summer Field Day

**When:** Saturday, July 9, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

**Where:** Larry Wiley's, near Palo.

**Topics:** Bottomland woodland restoration-natural regeneration; islands of trees and their management; introduction of other species; silver maple and bottomlands-markets and value; management and marketing; timber stand improvement and weed control; riparian management-grass buffers; streambank stabilization; care and maintenance of plantings-planting large nursery stock; weed control in plantings and islands.

### • IWOA Annual Meeting/Field Day

**When:** Saturday, September 17

**Where:** Amana Colonies

**Topics:** (*tentative ideas*) planning that applies to tree farms; nuts for production; encouraging/discouraging wildlife; recreational opportunities; diseases/pests; expanding operations (Christmas trees, maple syrup, wood carving, walking sticks, basketry, archery bows); tree identification; meet a Legislator. Watch for more details and registration information in the next *Timber Talk*.

## Help! Corner

Answers researched with limited time and resources by the Editor.

**Q: I have a loss of seedlings due to pocket gophers, how can I get rid of or discourage them?**

--Frank Nelson, Muscatine, IA  
IWOA member since 2004



**A:** Look at ISU Publication PM-1302A, Managing Iowa Wildlife: Pocket Gophers, available from your county extension office or from the ISU website

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu> Use their Search feature to find gopher control. PM-

1302A describes how to control these critters by trapping, toxicants, hand baiting, and mechanical burrow machines. The publication was prepared by Kurt Johnson and Jim Pease, Extension Wildlife Specialist. Jim says, "The best control is achieved when pocket gophers are actively working near the surface, which is usually in the spring and fall. Attempting to control the pocket gopher at other times may waste time, money, and labor." Contact Jim at ISU, 515/294-7429 JLPEASE@IASTATE.EDU

**Q: Where do people get information on Forest Reserve and becoming a Certified Tree Farmer?**

--Jane Beebe-Irwin, Center Point, IA  
IWOA member since 1994

**A:** ISU Publication PM-605, Iowa's Forest Reserve Laws, again, available from your county extension office or from the ISU website as a download, describes the criteria forest land must meet in order to be accepted into the Forest Reserve Program, exempt from property taxes. As for becoming a certified Tree Farmer, which mean you become a member of the American Tree Farm System. Certification assures the public that the tree farm produces a wood crop using environmentally sound plans and practices. "Certification has become an increasingly hot topic in recent years, driven largely by the rising demand for certified wood and paper products worldwide... Inspection and certification is free and the only obligation of the landowner is to allow a professional forester to inspect the operation every five years to ensure compliance with American Tree Farm System standards.

The first step for a landowner to get involved in either program is to contact their District Forester. These are listed on the Iowa DNR website:

<http://www.iowadnr.com/forestry/district.html> or call 515/281-5918, the DNR office for the name and contact information for your forester.

For a list of ISU Forestry Publications you can request from your extension office or download from your computer, go to:

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/pubs/fo2.htm>

Do you have a question that you'd like answered in the next newsletter? Send it to Bev Brink, Timber Talk Editor, at 106 High Street NE, Elkader, IA 52043; Phone (563) 245-2044; or E-mail [bbrink@aeal.k2.ia.us](mailto:bbrink@aeal.k2.ia.us).

## Volunteer Project Opportunities

Are you a MWM (Master Woodland Manager) who needs a project? Do you have a forestry project that needs volunteers? Volunteer project opportunities for Master Woodland Manager graduates will be posted on the IWOA Web site. Contact Tom Woodruff, IWOA webmaster, 4115 Rodeo Rd, Davenport, IA 52806; Phone (563) 391-8227; or E-mail [APWood70@aol.com](mailto:APWood70@aol.com)

## Garst Seed Family Donates 5,000 Acres to Iowa

from the Cedar Rapids Gazette

The Garst Family has given the state nearly 1,300 acres and plans to donate a total of 5,000 acres for a nature preserve in Western Iowa.

The donation will be one of the largest land contributions ever to the state, officials said. The donors include Mary Garst and daughters Liz and Rachel Garst of Coon Rapids; Sarah Garst of West Des Moines; Kate Garst of Seattle; Jennifer Garst of Ames and Antonia Garst Lee of London.

The donated land contains pasture and limited crop ground, prairie, timbers, restored wetlands and rare oak savanna areas. It reaches from Coon Rapids to northwest Guthrie County, along the Middle Raccoon River.

Mary Garst's husband, Stephen, died in January 2004. His father, Roswell Garst, founded the Garst and Thomas Seed Corn Company in 1929.

The Garst family will volunteer time to the new nonprofit for the first few years.

## IWOA Facts

- IWOA worth is approximately \$10,000
  - Membership: 544, an increase of 10 since September.
- IWOA Membership Secretary Cathy Wilkie-Tomes says we have great room for growth since we only have 10% of the nearly 55,000 woodland owners in Iowa.

## Oakwood Muffins

from Terry Kuntz, Oakwood Sporting Resort

At the 2004 IWOA Fall Meeting and Field Day, delicious muffins were served during the morning sessions. Several IWOA members have asked if they could have the recipe. Marilyn Miner has tried them and says they are fantastic! Some walnuts might be a good addition.

1 egg	1 T. vanilla
1/2 c. margarine	2 c flour
1 c sugar	2/3 c applesauce
1 tsp bkg soda	1/3 c sour cream
1/2 tsp bkg powder	1 T. pumpkin pie spice



Mix all dry ingredients together. In separate bowl, mix all other ingredients. Pour the wet ingredients into dry ingredients and mix until the dry are moist. Do not over-mix. Spray muffin tin with Pam and fill 1/2 -2/3 full. Bake at 400 degrees for 20-23 minutes. Makes 12 fairly large muffins.



## Legislative Update

by Ron Fullenkamp, IWOA Legislative Chair

The Legislature, so far this year, has been very quiet as far as issues concerning forestry and tree planting.

Last year, as you may recall, a number of us on behalf of the tree farmers and foresters attended a lobbying meeting at the Capitol to help defeat a bill being introduced to the legislature. This bill was to do away with the State Nursery, and turn all production of nursery stock to the private sector. This has not come up in any bills being presented so far.

There is a bill that has entered the Senate file that should be of great interest to the Tree Farmers of Iowa. This bill was presented by Senator Kreiman. It states that on and after January 1, 2006, any landowner making application for a forest reserve tax exemption shall agree to allow public access for walk-in hunting on the forest reservation during the total period of tax exemption. The bill states that the county conservation boards would provide appropriate signs for the boundaries of the reserve, and the erection and maintenance of the signs would be the duty of the reserve owner.

In my opinion, this is a terrible bill. As I understand it, anyone who applies for forest preserve status after that date will be turning their property into a public park for hunting. It seems to state that the owners would have to allow anyone access to the property, thus making their private land a public hunting ground.

One of the things that comes to mind in reviewing this bill is the issue of liability. Who would be the responsible party? I am afraid it would fall on the landowner. I have talked with persons "in the know" who mentioned that there may be a limitation of liability, but those things typically do not work. I honestly doubt that this bill (Senate File 42) will get anywhere, but it is something we must watch closely.

Just a little note regarding tree planting. It was brought up that the State Nursery has had orders for less than one million trees for 2004 plantings as compared to the usual three to four million. Part of the reason for this is the fact that so many cost share programs have been cut, and so tree farmers are putting off plantings. This is another thing we all should keep a watchful eye on.

If you have any questions or ideas on these items, give me a call at 319 837-6178. \_\_\_\_\_

## Current Lumber Values

Thanks to Paul Wray, ISU Extension Forester for providing these websites with timber price reports.

Illinois [http://ilvirtuallforest.nres.uiuc.edu/harvest/t\\_prices.htm](http://ilvirtuallforest.nres.uiuc.edu/harvest/t_prices.htm)

Missouri <http://agebb.missouri.edu/mkt/timber/index.htm>

Nebraska <http://www.nfs.unl.edu/FPU.htm>

For assistance selling your trees, talk with your district forester. It's free advice from professionals who know good marketing strategy and will help you select the trees to sell.

John Walkowiak, State Forester, adds that there is, "no real stumpage price report - since timber quality and accessibility are determining factors. I can supply timber prices from state lands." Contact John at 515-242-5966 [Jewalkow@aol.com](mailto:Jewalkow@aol.com)

## IWOA Donates to Organizations and Projects

- \$500 to help sponsor the 2005 Master Woodland Managers training program
- \$100 to support FFA awards.
- \$300 to DNR's Trees for Kids program.
- \$300 for Web site software.
- \$100 to Mark Fullenkamp for Web site creation.

## Bulk Mailing Permit

The IWOA Board reviewed the possibility of getting a bulk-mailing permit. Some issues are yet to be resolved. An audit for the IRS will be required and the cost of such an audit is being investigated.

## IWOA at Iowa State Fair

An IWOA presence at the Iowa State Fair was discussed at the last board meeting. Some Board Members feel IWOA efforts would be more effective if directed at the County Fair level. Gary Harman will investigate various options for how IWOA could be present at the State Fair. Gene Frye will attempt to get a list of 2005 Iowa County Fairs, their locations and dates.

## IWOA Finalizes 2005 Committees

Iowa State Horticultural Society-Leonard Grimes

Iowa Tree Farm Committee-Gene Frye

Walnut Council-Larry Krotz

East Central Iowa Council-Gary Mensinger

Future Farmers of America-Harvey Ulfers

Newsletter Editor (TIMBER TALK)-Beverly Brink

Legislative Matters-Ron Fullenkamp, Ch

Nominating/Election Committee-Joe Hansen, Ch

Audit Committee-Keith Sparks, Ch

State Fair-Gary Harman, Ch

Annual Fall Meeting-Tom Rosenberger, Ch

Summer Field Day-Larry Wiley, Ch

## Group Transportation to Forestry Events



The IWOA Board discussed the possibility of organizing transportation to woodland/forest events of interest to IWOA members. We're thinking perhaps regional car-pools. Good idea? What do you think? Send your ideas to Bev Brink, 106 High St NE, Elkader, IA 52043 (563) 245-2044 [bbrink@aea1.k2.ia.us](mailto:bbrink@aea1.k2.ia.us)

## Results of the Survey on Renewal Forms

by Cathy Wilkie Tomes, IWOA Membership Secretary

Only 59 of our 544 members have expressed an interest in receiving *Timber Talk* online. We will have to look into this, to see how it might affect our bulk mailing rates on those who prefer paper versus electronic. We also only had 23 of you express an interest in meeting other IWOA members in your area. We'll keep you updated of any developments on these two issues, now that we know what your opinions are.

## Why Select Native Species of Trees to Plant?

There are 3 very good reasons:

- they are genetically suited to Iowa soil and climate
- they are naturally immune to certain diseases and pests found in Iowa. Imported trees from outside Iowa can bring in devastating pests such as emerald ash borer, gypsy moth (oak disease), and others.

The Iowa State Forest Nursery provides only native tree and shrub seedlings.

For a 2004-2005 State Forest Nursery catalog (includes information on seedling descriptions, planting techniques, weed control), or for a beautiful 2005 calendar with timely forestry tips throughout, call 800 865-2477, or go to their website: <http://www.iowadnr.com/forestry>

## Tri-State Forest Stewardship Conference

Sinsinawa Mound Center, Sinsinawa, WI

Saturday, March 12, 2005

**Registrations Deadline: March 4**

This conference is designed for landowners from Iowa, Illinois, and Wisconsin. Agency professionals, consultants, forestry industry representatives and others interested in woodlands and natural resources are welcome. Six concurrent sessions. 8am-4:45 pm.

For more information, contact: Peggy Compton  
(608) 342-1633 Email: [peggy.compton@ces.uwex.edu](mailto:peggy.compton@ces.uwex.edu)



## Timber Talk

Bev Brink, Editor  
106 High Street NE  
Elkader IA 52043

New Website!

[www.iowawoodlandowners.org](http://www.iowawoodlandowners.org)

## Midwest Woodlands & Prairies features IWOA Members

Rollie Henkes sends us this preview of the next issue of Midwest Woodlands & Prairies, which will be mailed to subscribers shortly. It's a new quarterly journal about wise management of woodlands and other natural resources. Rollie launched it a year ago from his home near Monona in northeast Iowa.



An IWOA member in 1995, Rollie retired from a career in agricultural journalism in 1998. He got the itch to get back into the game after networking with other woodland owners at IWOA meetings and other events. "I saw all these stories about the land and its people that I felt weren't getting told," he says.

The cover of the first issue featured IWOA members Ron and Carol Fullenkamp hugging a beautiful black walnut on their farm near West Bend. Another issue told how trees came to change the lives of IWOA member Carolyn Koopman and her family on their farm near Garnavillo.

The current issue lead with a story about a LaCrosse, Wis., tree farmer, who also happens to be a world class downhill racer.

Light-on-the-land logging is the theme of other stories. Woodland owners and consultants tell how they're using small-scale low-impact equipment to do their own logging. A visit with hose logger Tim Carroll caps the series.

Another story deals with recovering native prairie that might be hiding under the sod-bound brome grass on older CRP land.

Printed in full color, the journal features fine photography, including works from Iowa Carl Kurtz, a noted naturalist and writer/photographer.

Rollie depends on an annual subscription rate of \$14 to keep the journal going. He says support from IWOA members has been heartening.

If you're not a subscriber, a review copy of this current issue is available on request. Rollie will also send a copy of the Fall 04, issue. It tells how to obtain original survey notes and other historical information to track the history of your land. Please enclose \$1 to cover mailing cost --- Rollie Henkes, Midwest Woodlands & Prairies, P.O. Box 713, Monona, IA 52159 [woodriver@netins.net](mailto:woodriver@netins.net) (563) 539-4145.

## Non-Native Tree of the Quarter

By Tom Brady, IWOA Member

I believe that Gold Birch, also called Russian Rock Birch or Erman Birch, is one of the rarest trees I've ever written about. I get a whole stack of tree catalogs mailed to me each year and of those, only one offered this tree—and then only for 3 or 4 years starting in 1998. I don't know why they no longer carry it. I consider it one of my real success stories.

Not only is the tree rarely offered for sale, it's rarely mentioned in reference material—and those that do can't agree on some of the details.

So that's why I have three common names listed above. One each from three different references (I like Gold Birch best) and one that listed no common name at all.

The maximum height is listed as 35, 60, 80 or 100 feet. Its hardiness zone is either 5 or 6. They do agree that the young branches are golden while the older trunk is a creamy off-white with peeling bark. The tree is generally broadly pyramidal throughout its life. The leaves are more or less oval with a sharp point and a coarsely toothed edge. They turn pure yellow in the fall. They are about 4" long and 2" wide.

I purchased 500 one-foot trees in 1998, and planted them on our CRP ground. I don't think I've lost one of those trees. The tallest are now 15'-20'. They are as pretty as any birch I've grown. I like them especially for their tendency to grow as a single trunk (unlike most birches) with a strong central leader.

I've moved a few to the golf course (with permission from my District Forester, of course) and I like the contrast of their pure yellow fall color with some of the red oak family and hard maple's fall color. It's a great tree if you can find it.



## Timber Taxes: Use Them to Your Advantage

Congress provided favorable tax advantages to stimulate increased productivity from the nation's privately owned forestlands. When you take advantage of these favorable provisions you avoid paying unnecessary income taxes, and you earn more income from your woodland operations.

Ann Menke, CPA, from West Point, IA, spoke with IWOA members at last Fall's 2004 IWOA Annual Meeting. She explained the importance of learning about tax laws relating to woodlands, such as capitalizing expenses, amortizing,

figuring the tax basis for your timber land.

Most tax preparers are not aware of or up-to-date with the tax laws that affect woodland owners. It may be up to you to become versed and inform your tax preparer.



If you would like to learn more, go to the timber tax website at <http://www.timbertax.org>

Five Points to Remember When Filing Your 2004 Timber Tax [http://forestry.about.com/cs/timbertax/a/tbr\\_tax\\_file.htm](http://forestry.about.com/cs/timbertax/a/tbr_tax_file.htm) Adapted from USFS, Cooperative Forestry, Tax Tips for Forest Landowners for the 2004 Tax Year, by Larry M. Bishop, Forest Management and Taxation Specialist.

Other USDA Forest Service publications are available at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop> Their publication Tax Tips for Forest Landowners for the 2003 Tax Year

If you would like to contact Ann Menke for timber tax advice, she's at: Ann Menke, 406 Avenue E, West Point, IA 52656. (319) 837-6042, 7 am-6 pm M-F. Email: [ann@annmenke.com](mailto:ann@annmenke.com)

## Word Search: Invasive Species

Let's see how well you can do! Invasive species are those that are not native, that were brought or snuck in, and are now problematic to our native trees and forest flora. They are often shade-lovers and have few natural predators or competitors. Once started they are difficult to get rid of.

Thanks to Larry and Twila Wiley of Palo for creating and sending us this puzzle. Larry and Twila are IWOA members and Larry is on the IWOA Board of Directors. They are hosting this summer's Field Day at their farm on July 9.

### Invasive Species

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WILD PARSNIP	REED CANARY GRASS
LEAFY SPURGE	GARLIC MUSTARD
AUTUMN OLIVE	COMMON BUCKTHORN
CROWN VETCH	PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE
MULTIFLORA ROSE	TARTARIAN HONEYSUCKLE

## Trees Help Clean Up Our Planet Earth

*Info from Lawyer Nursery Inc Newsletter, Spring 2005, submitted to Timber Talk by Gary Harman, IWOA Board Member*

“Urban areas have been a site of increased studies to see what impact loss of tree cover has on the quality of life and the environment. An American Forests study revealed that urban areas have 21% less tree cover than they did just 10 years ago. This equates to more air pollution, drinking water pollution, stormwater management and higher temperatures in what are deemed “urban heat islands”. Increasing tree cover will save tax payers billions of dollars nationally and greatly improve everyone’s quality of life.



What should I be doing now?

By John Byrd, forestry consultant and contractor  
Pathfinders RC&D, Fairfield

It's a question we all ask ourselves now and then, especially on those nice March/April days when we're itching to get outside after a long winter. IWOA asked me to give my suggestions for what woodland owners might do at this time of year for their trees.

### If you'll be planting seedlings this spring:

Make sure you have a management plan stating species of trees, what and quantity of chemicals to spray, site prep. Needed, etc. Once you have a solid plan double check to ensure your seedlings have been ordered and approximately when they will arrive. Or, if you have decided to hire a contractor, get in touch with them to see if everything is on schedule.

### For your seedlings (1-3 yr olds):

Look to see if vegetation (especially grass) is starting to compete with your trees. If this is the case you may need to apply herbicide in order for the seedlings to have a fighting chance. Keep in mind this herbicide application will need to be done before the trees break buds. After the herbicide starts to work this is a great time to inventory what seedlings need to be replaced.

### For your saplings:

Older trees can also benefit from spraying if there is still thick vegetative cover. Trees at this point are a look and see (with your local Forester) what needs to be done.

### For your young trees:

Take a quick cruise through your stand to see what the densities are. In a direct seeded or naturally regenerated area it will probably be thick. Preparing management activities such as thinning or pruning or both could be planned for fall (especially if you have oak).

### For your old growth timber:

Maybe it is time to have a selective harvest on some of those old trees. If it is accessible during summer months it could be possible to harvest soon. If there will be crop fields to cross try plan early for the Fall/Winter. Here again, invite your local Forester out to take a look.

Pathfinders Total Forestry Program (Fairfield) provides a full range of services for woodland owners in Southeast Iowa. If you have questions for John, feel free to contact him at 641 472-8033 or email [jcbtftp@kdsi.net](mailto:jcbtftp@kdsi.net).

Besides actions like driving less or turning down the thermostat, planting trees is a proven way to reduce energy consumption. Trees can naturally reduce heating and cooling costs by blocking cold winds, shading from the hot sun or by evaporating cooling water from their leaves.

A well planned landscape can reduce home energy consumption by 30% and reduce surrounding air temperatures by as much as 25 degrees F. This can equate to a single family household annual energy savings of \$100-\$250.”