

W A M B E R T A L K

Newsletter of the Iowa Woodland Owners Association

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Results, 1996 Director Election

In the recent election for IWOA Board members, James Ahrens, Allen Manning and Greg Twedt were elected to three-year terms on the Board. Manning was elected to a second term on the Board, while Ahrens and Twedt replaced Robert Grau and William Ritter, both of whom did not stand for re-election.

Summary, September 1996 Board Meeting

The IWOA Board of Directors met near Washington, IA September 20, 1996. Present were hold-over Directors Frye, Hansen, Krotz, Manning, G. Mensinger, Winfrey, incoming director Twedt, outgoing Directors Grau and Ritter, Treasurer J. Mensinger, and Jerry Kemperman representing State Forester Bill Farris.

President G. Mensinger opened the floor for nominations for 1996-97 officers. The president officers were all nominated for another term in their respective offices, and were elected by acclamation. The continuing officers are Gary Mensinger President, Larry Krotz Vice President, Joanne Mensinger Treasurer and Eugene Frye Secretary. President expressed gratitude to retiring Board members Grau and Ritter for their long service to IWOA.

Secretary Frye distributed copies of his year-end report. The current number of paid-up members is 329, a gain of 25 over that of last year, and the total mailing list is now 389. He reported secretarial and administrative expenses of \$926.22, exclusive of Treasurer's expenses, but including 1000 new IWOA brochures and purchase of an additional 200 tree identification books. Newsletter costs were \$644.78.

Treasurer J. Mensinger distributed copies of her year-end report. She reported that the net worth of IWOA stood at \$6,046.17, down \$532.09 from that of last year. This decrease was mainly due to larger than usual contributions to other organizations. She has moved IWOA's bank account to a local credit union to avoid bank charges and to earn some interest on IWOA funds.

Manning reported on his Membership Chairman and 1996 IWOA Forestry Field Day activities. Approximately 30-40 people attended the Field Day, and Manning received a number of very favorable comments on it.

Hansen reported on the 1996 State Fair activities. IWOA direct costs were \$1,139, and many people stopped by the IWOA booth. A number of nice comments were received, and some new members were obtained.

President Mensinger reported on the Wildlife Damage Task Force. The next meeting with DNR is scheduled for next week, mostly to handle items left over from the last meeting. Krotz suggested that maybe it is time for us to seek a legislative solution to the problem. Considering the substantial travel needed to attend these and similar meetings, the board agreed that Board members travelling to special meetings be reimbursed at a rate of 15 cents per mile for trips exceeding a 50 mile radius.

Kemperman reported that the State Forestry Nursery order forms have been revised substantially this year, and that the SFN wants customer feedback on these changes. The Forestry Division of DNR is now on the Internet along with other elements of DNR. He stated that the USDA is now conducting forest inventories about every eight years, or roughly double the rate in the past.

Winfrey stated that he thinks that IWOA should go after the Legislature to drop State Forestry Nursery prices through subsidies to landowners or by other means.

Next Board meeting was set for January 11, 1997 at Marion, IA.

Summary, 1996 Annual Meeting

The excellent physical arrangements and coordination for this meeting were made by Vice President Larry Krotz. The technical and field trip portions were held at the Krotz farm northeast of Washington, IA, and the annual business meeting and banquet were held in downtown Washington. Arrangements were especially challenging because the technical and field portions of the meeting were joint affairs with the

Walnut Council and the Extension Service. All events went smoothly, and the weather was nearly ideal.

Technical Program and Field Trip

The morning technical program featured Prof. David Countryman of ISU Forestry Department discussing the economics of direct seeding, and Bob Petrazelka of Geode RC&D with District Forester Stan Tate described direct seeding procedures and equipment. Stan Potratz of Premier Farms made a presentation on deer browse protection. This was followed by a demonstration of direct seeding equipment and a static display of fencing.

The afternoon field trip sites demonstrated flood plain planting, direct seeding & companion planting and variable density plantings. Results of the direct seedings were impressive.

Annual Business Meeting and Banquet

After opening remarks by President G. Mensinger, Secretary Frye presented the Secretary's report for the 1995-96 administrative year, followed by Treasurer J. Mensinger with the Treasurer's report for the year.

Annual Meeting Chairman Larry Krotz reported that there were about 110 attendees at the technical program earlier in the day. Krotz was given a nice hand for his work on the meeting.

State Fair Chairman Joe Hansen described this year's Fair activity and thanked all who helped make it a success.

Field Day Chairman Al Manning described the IWOA-sponsored Field Day at the Bacon Veneer Company July 19, and sought ideas for a 1997 Field Day.

Mildred Grimes described the Farmers Advisory Committee on which she has been serving since its inception in 1988, and indicated that she would like to step down from the committee and is seeking a replacement.

President Mensinger made the following major committee assignments:

- Membership: Al Manning and all Board members
- Annual Meeting: Greg Twedt, Vern Winfrey, Larry Krotz
- State Fair: Joe Hansen, Joanne Mensinger, Gary Mensinger
- Field Day: Al Manning, Jim Ahrens
- FFA: Jim Murphy, Joe Hansen
- Wildlife Damage: Gary Mensinger, Jim Murphy

Dinner speaker Dr. Larry Severeid of LaCrosse, WI presented a fascinating slide talk on "Reforestation in Germany."

Officer-Director Addresses

As an aid in contacting IWOA Officers and Directors, their contact information is listed below. All encourage input from members.

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Vernon L. Winfrey, Director
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Cedar Rapids, IA 52402 Phone 319-363-8763

Dues Will Soon Be Due!

Yes, that time of the year is rolling around again. If your membership will expire at the end of 1996, you will find a membership renewal form enclosed. Please fill out the form completely, enclose with your check and mail to IWOA at the address indicated on the form. Dues remain at \$10 per year.

Proposed Constitutional Amendment

A proposed amendment to the constitution of the State of Iowa will appear on the November 5 election ballot. This amendment would prohibit hunting, trapping and fishing license money to be used for other government activities. During the Iowa state budget crisis in 1991, attempts were made to lump these funds into the state's general treasury to help balance the budget. This measure is meant to prevent future such attempts or actions. Note that this proposed amendment covers only the one trust fund.

Iowa Forestry Department is on The Internet

The Iowa Forestry Department has established a "Home Page" on the World Wide Web section of the Internet digital communication service. This site already contains a great deal of information useful to Iowa woodland owners, and State Forester Bill Farris expects it to be expanded rapidly. Should you have suggestions for additional information types to be included on this site, please contact him. His e-mail address is : wfarris@max.state.ia.us. The "URL" for the Forestry Department site is:

<http://www.state.ia.us/government/dnr/organiza/forest/forest.htm>

1996 Forestry Field Day

The IWOA-sponsored Forestry Field Day held July 19, 1996 at the Bacon Veneer Company facilities near Grundy Center, IA, was attended by over 30 people. Field Day Chairman Al Manning received a number of favorable comments on this event.

Iowa State Fair

The joint IWOA-Iowa Christmas Tree Growers booth at the Iowa State Fair August 8-18 was well attended. Roughly 700 copies of the new IWOA membership recruiting brochure were handed out. A drawing was held of the booth registrants each day to award a copy of a tree identification booklet. State Fair Chairman Joe Hansen thanks all who helped with this event.

New Publications of Interest

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources has recently released two new publications that may be of interest to Iowa

woodland owners. The first is "A Vision for Iowa's Forests", which reviews Iowa's present forest resources and presents goals and actions for these forests. The second is the "Iowa Forest Products Directory", which is meant to facilitate marketing of Iowa wood and wood products, and lists Iowa wood users.

Both publications are available from:

DNR
Wallace State Office Bldg.
Des Moines, IA 50319-0034
Phone 515-281-2145

The President's Corner

Sunday afternoon provided a spectacular opportunity for a cruise through our Jackson county timber. We had just returned that morning to Camanche after attending the IWOA annual meeting at the Krotz Tree Farm in Washington, Iowa. I possessed more information than I could put order to and was anxious to put the yardstick to our woodlands. I hurriedly packed a "farm lunch" and endured the hour drive north.

Beyond the farm building, the lane encounters a quarter acre of naturally regenerated walnut trees. The 3-strand sessile baler twine fence enclosure was yet in place and seemed to be redirecting deer movement. The stand is pure walnut, with little training in evidence. I'll continue limited pruning on the 6-7 year old stand which exhibits about one-third the growth rates of Larry's plots.

Around the pond and across a CRP field, I stopped to check a one-acre clear cut opening in East Woods. A few young hand seeded walnut had emerged along with scattered red oak. The box elder seedlings were numerous. I didn't seed them, but for now they'll remain - good companion tree, Larry said.

On the way back to the farmyard, I checked several young walnut trees which earlier showed signs of deer buck rub. Last week, I had twist wrapped sessile on the rub areas. So far no additional damage.

Soon the tractor was rambling toward the creek bottoms. Last fall we hand seeded a small plot with walnut. It proved to be a squirrel version of an Easter egg hunt. This year I will mow the grass short, apply herbicide, and use some wire seed covers. Perhaps we will "overwhelm" the squirrels with pure numbers of seed - Larry's method.

Exciting prospects for tomorrow - the lifeblood of the forester. The annual meeting "charged my battery" - exchanging ideas with IWOA friends is a highlight of the occasion. The Krotz', Larry, Sandy and family, organized and hosted a top notch forestry event. The contribution of ISU Extension, Iowa DNR, Geode RC&D, the Walnut Council and others made the day truly notable. Our thanks to all!!

The IWOA Board of Directors held its annual reorganization meeting. New directors seated include Greg Twedt, Jim Ahrens and incumbent Al Manning. Retiring directors, Bill Ritter and Bob Grau, were active Board members and will certainly be missed! The new Board is already planning events for 1997 with hopes of better serving the membership. Your ideas are welcomed, and your participation is encouraged.

Gary C. Mensinger, President, IWOA