

TIMBER TALK

Newsletter of the Iowa Woodland Owners Association

Summer, 1997

Volume 7, Number 3

Summary, June 1997 Board Meeting

The IWOA Board of Directors met in Marion, IA June 21, 1997. Present were Directors Ahrens, Frye, Krotz, Manning, G. Mensinger and Twedt, and Treasurer J. Mensinger. Also present was State Forester Bill Farris.

Secretary Frye reported that current membership is 367, compared with 319 at this time last year. He stated that the required Annual Report to the Iowa Secretary of State was mailed May 12.

Treasurer J. Mensinger distributed copies of her Treasurer's Report for the quarter. Current net worth of IWOA is \$7,390.54, a gain of \$1,434.68 over that of last year at this time.

Krotz attended an IDALS-sponsored meeting on wetlands in Des Moines April 9. He reported that progress in rewriting Iowa Wetlands legislation will be slow because of the many diverse viewpoints of attendees.

Mensinger reported for Hansen that arrangements for IWOA's participation in the Iowa State Fair August 7-17 are progressing. He has made commitments for exhibit space, tickets, parking and other fees.

Regarding deer depredation, J. Mensinger reported that Hansen attended a DNR meeting on the subject June 2. DNR is hiring two new wildlife biologists to work the problem, has formulated new rules for deer depredation management, and is seeking public comment on these rules. Farris distributed copies of the new rules. Hansen plans to attend the next meeting, now scheduled for July 7.

Membership Chairman Manning is continuing advertising in a shopper newsletter and providing IWOA representation at Forestry Field Days.

Manning reported on arrangements for the IWOA-sponsored Forestry Field Day to be held at the Amanas July 23. The tentative arrangements were approved and Manning directed to finalize them.

Twedt reported on arrangements for the IWOA Annual Meeting September 20 at LeGrand Iowa. A planning meeting was held at that location April 9. Arrangements are now pretty well firmed up. Mildred Grimes was appointed Publicity and Exhibits chairman for the event. The Board will meet the evening of September 19 to elect officers for the coming year and to act on other business matters. Twedt and committee directed to proceed with the arrangements.

State Forester Bill Farris reported on a number of forestry-related legislative and other activities. Federal and State funding for various Iowa forestry activities is expected to remain at about the same level as last year. Forestry is updating its forestry brochures, and is seeking ideas for new publications. A new "Big Tree" book for Iowa is in the process of being prepared.

Farris distributed copies of results of recent Iowa timber sales supervised by District Foresters. He cautioned that these represent only about 5% of Iowa timber sales, and that the prices paid are probably on the high side. Summaries of these may be published in TIMBER TALK.

Regarding the proposition of joining or not joining the Iowa Environmental Council, Board felt that more information is necessary, and directed President to seek to have IWOA representatives attend one or more IEC meetings prior to making any decision on the matter.

Agreed to aid the Iowa Tree Farm Committee in providing financial support for the Master Woodland Manager training program by co-sponsoring the program with ITFC. Maximum IWOA commitment to be \$1,000 per year for a maximum of three years, and to be reviewed annually.

Board appointed G. and J. Mensinger as Nominating Committee for 1997 Board member election.

Next Board meeting was set for September 19 in Marshalltown, IA.

1997 Nominating Committee

The Board of Directors appointed President Gary Mensinger and Treasurer Joanne Mensinger to chair IWOA's 1997 Nominating

Committee. This committee will nominate candidates for the IWOA Board seats of Gary Mensinger, James Murphy and Vernon Winfrey, which are expiring at the 1997 Annual Meeting. Ballots will be mailed to voting members of IWOA in mid-August.

Voting members wishing to be considered for nomination to the Board should submit resumes to Gary Mensinger before August 1. The Board meets quarterly, usually on a Saturday morning in locations more-or-less in the central part of the state. Interim committee work is also expected of Board members. Board members elect IWOA's officers for the coming year at the Annual Meeting. For further information, contact:

Gary C. Mensinger
415 2nd. St.
Camanche, IA 52730-2304
Phone 319-259-1160

Forestry Field Day

Arrangements for the IWOA-sponsored Forestry Field Day scheduled for Wednesday July 23, 1997 at The Amanas are complete. The meeting will be headquartered at The Amana Barn Restaurant, 4709 220th. Trl, Amana, IA 52203-8033. The program is as follows:

9:00am Registration at the Amana Barn Restaurant
9:30am to 12 noon Technical Presentations
Larry Gnewikow, Amana Forester
Bob Hibbs, DNR District Forester
12:00 Lunch
1:00pm to 3:00pm
Tour of furniture factory
Tour of Amana Colony woodlots

The Advance Registration fee is set at \$10, and includes coffee and rolls, lunch and the tours. At-the-door registration is \$13.00. Advance registrations must be received by July 17. Mail to:

Jim Ahrens
549 250th. St.
West Branch, IA 52358
Phone 319-643-2445

1997 Annual Meeting

IWOA's 1997 Annual meeting will be held in and near LeGrand, IA September 20, 1997. Arrangements for the meeting are essentially complete. The morning will be devoted to technical presentations and demonstrations covering a wide range of woodland topics at the LeGrand Community Center, and the afternoon to field visits at the historic Ferguson Timber several miles north of LeGrand. The field part will include actual tree felling demonstrations and safety education.

The evening's events will be held at the Iowa Valley Continuing Education Center in Marshalltown, and will start with the Annual Meeting where new officers are introduced and IWOA's activities for the past year are reviewed. This will be followed by the Annual Banquet featuring Dr. Dennis Keeney, Director of the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture, who will talk on "Iowa Woodlands: Critical Resources for Sustainable Landscapes."

The final program for the meeting and registration materials will be mailed out to all IWOA members about mid-August.

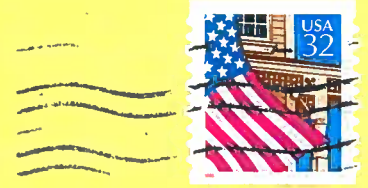
Deer Depredation Management

The Iowa Natural Resource Commission has issued new draft rules for Deer Depredation Management, and is seeking public comment on them. Copies of the new Rules may be obtained from:

Wildlife Bureau Chief
Department of Natural Resources
Wallace State Office Building
Des Moines, IA 50319-0034
Phone 515-281-6156, Fax 515-281-6974.

Written comments must be received before the public hearing scheduled for 10:00am August 19, 1997 in the Fourth floor conference room at the Wallace building.

(Continued overleaf)



2735 14th. Ave.
Marion, IA 52302-1848

Summer, 1997

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Mr. Thomas Brady
199 NE 80th. St.
Runnels, IA 50237-2028

Deer Depredation Management (Cont'd)

IWOA urges all members having a deer problem to obtain a copy of these Rules and comment on them to DNR.

Recent Iowa Timber Prices

Summarized below are the ranges of timber prices paid as reported by Iowa District Foresters for sales during the period December 1996 through February 1997. These are stumpage prices (unfelled trees) expressed in terms of dollars per thousand board feet (\$/MBF). State Forester Bill Farris cautions that these represent only about 5% of the total Iowa timber sales for the period, and are most likely on the high side since they are "sealed bid" sales of marked trees.

As explained in previous issues of **TIMBER TALK**, the price paid for a particular lot of trees depends upon a number of factors, including quality, ease of access and distance from markets. However, these figures can be useful in evaluating timber bids for reasonableness.

The Forestry Division of DNR can furnish IWOA with copies of their monthly timber sales reports. Please advise IWOA if you would like to see such timber price summaries published regularly in **TIMBER TALK**.

Summary, Winter 1996-97 Timber Prices
(Dollars per Thousand Board Feet)

Species	Low	High
Mixed Hardwoods	140	398
Walnut	1020	5740
Oak, Black	160	203
Oak, Burr	208	208
Oak, Red	428	441
Oak, White	160	380
Oak, Mixed	168	412

IWOA Demographic Analysis

Presented below is a demographic analysis of IWOA members based on member data as of April 6, 1997.

Ownership/Acreage Distribution

Acres	Number of Members	Total Acreage in Range
1-10	29	153
10-20	38	477
20-30	50	1138
30-40	26	847
40-50	27	1112
50-60	19	979
60-70	20	1245
70-80	10	717
80-90	12	960
90-100	10	911
100-200	53	6816
200-300	26	5611
300-400	10	3261
400-500	3	1269
500-1000	4	2522
1000+	1	7000
TOTALS	338	35018
Avg. Acres Held Per Member=103.6		

Membership characteristics

No. of Voting Members (Landowners)	347
No. of Associate Members (Non-Voting)	19
No. on Complimentary Mailing List	26
Total on Mailing List	392
No. of Members in Forest Reserve	227
No. of Members Certified Tree Farmers	123
No. Master Woodland Manager Graduates	95+(Known)
No. of Charter Members	161
No. Memberships as male only	274
No. Memberships as female only	23+(Known)
No. Memberships as joint male and female	39

The President's Corner

As a member of the local Tree Board and a volunteer on the city urban forestry group, I have had the opportunity to obtain perspectives on trees quite opposed to my views as a woodland owner. While there seems to be consensus that trees are in general beneficial and beautiful, when we look at specifics, agreement quickly dissolves.

For example, that old hollow silver maple on the property line belongs to the neighbor. "It'll blow down in the next storm, right on my garage...he'll have to pay!" The other neighbor enjoys watching the squirrels and woodpeckers and fears the tree may not last much longer. He hopes the owner doesn't cut it down. That beautifully shaped mulberry tree in the backyard is another source of controversy. Its golden foliage in the fall is enjoyed by many, and bird watchers are thrilled at the number of birds which consume its fruits. However, neighbors who hang out clothes which are not purple hued are enraged! And so on, each homeowner's problems proclaim a differing value of trees. Many communities have formulated tree lists which outline tree species earmarked for planting and note other species which should not be planted. Maybe because of man's "red neck" tendencies, the urban forest in most cases continues to be very diverse, is probably better appreciated, and serves a wide variety of functions. The trees on a property are an indicator of the health and wealth of the owner.

The woodland owner attempts in some way to read the interests of the urban consumer so that at harvest time a high value timber may be available. The wood products-guzzling urbanite demands that the lumber store provide an infinite supply of knotless, straight material in every length of every species every day of the year. No problem for the woodland owners...we'll get right out and plant some additional trees. After nurturing the trees for sixty years, you check with the bank to make sure space is available for your funds, then select a logging firm to begin the harvest. Shortly thereafter the urbanites arrive to request that you not cut the trees down. They'll need the trees to help maintain their air quality: the ecosystem will function less efficiently if the trees are eliminated. Others believe their quality of life is lessened if the trees do not contribute to the landscape, while still others fear that the loss of life forms dependent on the trees will be substantial. Now what signal is the woodland owner receiving?

These are some of the forces we must deal with, and they are all valid. On a continent of dwindling resources, it's good news for us woodland owners, but we must continue to educate to insure our future. Our wood lots are renewable resources, and their tree productivity is not measured by just one stick.

Gary C. Mensinger, President, IWOA