

TIMBER TALK

Newsletter of the Iowa Woodland Owners Association

Winter, 1997

Volume 7, Number 1

Summary, January 1997 Board Meeting

The IWOA Board of Directors met at Marion, IA January 11, 1997. Present were Directors Ahrens, Frye, Krotz, G. Mensinger, Murphy, Twedt and Winfrey, and Treasurer J. Mensinger. Also present was Donald Pfeiffer, DNR District Wildlife Supervisor.

Secretary Frye reported that current membership is 365, compared with 328 last year. This is the second year in a row in which net membership gain has exceeded 10%.

Treasurer J. Mensinger distributed her Treasurer's Report for the quarter. Current net worth is \$7,268.88, a gain of \$662.44 over last year at this time.

Discussed member communications requesting that IWOA work to obtain better information on timber sale prices for members. Mensinger and Frye were directed to pursue the matter with appropriate state officials.

President appointed Krotz to represent IWOA on Iowa State Horticultural Society matters.

Krotz reported that the Iowa Round Table activity relating to woodland affairs is being revived.

There was considerable discussion on a request that IWOA Join the Iowa Environmental Council. Agreed that an IEC representative be invited to present its case at the next Board meeting.

Field Day Chairman Manning had requested guidance in setting up this summer's IWOA-sponsored Forestry Field Day. Board felt that a Field Day at the Amanas would be attractive.

Annual Meeting Chairman Twedt reported on progress in setting up the IWOA 1997 Annual Meeting, and distributed an outline of preliminary arrangements. The date has been set for Saturday, September 20, with headquarters at the LeGrand Community Center, LeGrand IA, and a tentative program has been drafted. Committee was directed to proceed with more detailed arrangements and to report at the next Board meeting.

State Fair Committee Chairman Joe Hansen reported by telephone that he is prepared to work on this year's Fair arrangements as appropriate.

FFA Chairman Murphy reported on this activity. Board agreed to continue IWOA's FFA awards and support program with Murphy continuing as Chairman.

DNR representative Pfeiffer described DNR's current and planned deer herd management activities. He stated that DNR is tailoring the deer seasons, permits and sex of takings increasingly to reflect reported local deer problems. There was considerable discussion on the subject.

Mensinger reported on the Wildlife Damage Task Force on which he represents IWOA. Members of this diverse group are obtaining a better understanding of how wildlife affects its various elements. Mensinger was directed to continue representing IWOA on this group.

Next Board meeting was set for March 28, 1997 at Marion, IA.

1997 Dues are Overdue!

If you have not already paid your 1997 dues, a dues notice is inserted in this issue of your copy of TIMBER TALK. Many thanks to the 258 members who have already renewed their memberships. Remember, IWOA dues remain at only \$10 per year, the same as when IWOA was organized in 1987!

ISHS Needs Volunteers

The Iowa State Horticultural Society, of which IWOA is a component member, is in need of volunteers to help operate its February 19-23 Garden Show fundraiser at the Veteran's Memorial Auditorium in Des Moines. For further information, phone ISHS at 515-281-5402 or write ISHS at Wallace Office Bldg., Des Moines, IA 50319.

Timber Harvesting Publications

Those who are contemplating harvesting or marketing their timber can find a wealth of information on the subject in the following ISU Forestry Extension publications:

F-301 Directory of Sawmills, Veneer Mills and Pulp Mills in Iowa

Pm-413 Marketing Iowa Timber

Pm-413a Notice of Timber for Sale

Pm-413b Timber Sale Contract

F-325 When to Harvest Your Trees

These free publications are available at many County Extension Offices, or may be ordered from:

Forestry Extension

251 Bessey Hall

Iowa State University

Ames, IA 50011

Third Annual National Tree Farmer Convention

IWOA member Eves Cadwallader and wife Iola of 2420 285th St., Oskaloosa, IA 52577, attended the Third Annual National Tree Farm Convention last fall. Their report to IWOA is printed below.

"The American Forestry Foundation held its Third Annual Tree Farmer Convention in Portland, OR October 24-27, 1996. It was a marvelous opportunity for those of us from other parts of the country to see various aspects of Tree Farm management in the Pacific Northwest.

We participated in two days of pre-convention tours. Mornings were spent experiencing tree farm practices and challenges. The first afternoon we studied forestry in the Mt. Hood area and the second afternoon we had first-hand explanations of Mount St. Helens from the new Educational Center. From there we traveled on to the Coldwater Ridge Visitors Center, which belongs to the U.S. Forest Service. These two days were filled with bonus experiences including historic sights enroute, such as Multnomah Falls, the Cascades and the Columbia River Gorge. We saw how one tree farmer managed his forest so that his main market is a certain quality of log 30'+ long that goes solely into the export market. Problems with diseased trees are identified early, these trees are clear-cut and different disease-resistant trees are planted to break the disease cycle. We learned that with sufficient sunlight, Alder is becoming a usable hardwood; it has been largely overlooked until now.

A half day was spent with Weyerhaeuser timber experts to learn how that lumber giant copes with environmental issues as it balances its forest resources. We saw how they organize their clearcutting and reforestation, wildlife habitat, fish and water areas, forest products and still maintain the soil. Weyerhaeuser's managed forests produce over twice as much lumber as unmanaged forests produce. It was interesting to see the hundreds of 2,400 pound bags of fertilizer sized to fit into helicopter hoppers, for application at two different intervals during the 60-70 year tree rotation.

The convention offered many practical demonstrations and workshops at various sites and times which could be applied to Iowa woodland management. Some of the topics included:

Small game and animal management

Safe use of herbicides

Tree identification

Tree pruning

Timber plotting

Tree felling (and National Loggers Contest)

Blights and fires

Educational helps for outdoor learning labs

Alternative sources of income

Project Learning Tree (Environmental education program)

To see, to feel, to have a first hand taste of the majesty of Pacific Northwest Forestry was a dream fulfilled for us. We were inspired beyond words as we experienced being in the heart of a Douglas Fir forest, seeing late afternoon sun turn Mt. Hood into a rosy glow against a backdrop of blue sky, and witnessing the miraculous healing forces of nature that are rebuilding the Mount St. Helens area. It was all an educational exposure long to be remembered."

(Continued overleaf)



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

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

Regional Timber Price Ranges

Presented below are ranges of timber prices reported paid in Illinois for the period November 1995 to February 1996 in the northwest part of the state. These are stumpage prices (unfelled trees) expressed in terms of dollars per thousand board feet. The figures were extracted from a report by the Illinois Agricultural Statistics Service, P. O. Box 19283, Springfield, IL 62794-9283, dated June 1996. This report is also available on the "Gopher" service of the University of Illinois on the Internet digital communications network.

Because these are Illinois prices of nearly a year ago, caution should be exercised in attempting to apply them to this area and to this year. However, these numbers can be useful to IWOA members in evaluating timber bids for reasonableness. In general, sawtimber prices were comparable to those of last year, but the spread between low and high prices was generally somewhat higher.

SAWTIMBER

Species	Low	High
Ash	100	250
Basswood	30	200
Cottonwood	20	50
Elm & Hackberry	30	100
Hickory	30	150
Soft Maple	80	150
Sugar Maple	100	200
Black Oak	20	250
Red Oak	70	400
White Oak	70	450
Black Walnut	200	600

FACE VENEER

Species	Low	High
Red Oak	310	1270
White Oak	250	1550
Walnut	580	3020

COOPERAGE

Species	Low	High
White Oak	140	300

CUSTOM SAWING

	Low	High
\$/1000BF	110	300

1996 National Tree Farmers of the Year

Rachael and Don Jordan were named "1996 National Tree Farmers of the Year" by the American Forest Foundation, parent organization of the American Tree Farm System. Their 733 acre woods are located in southwestern Wisconsin. Rachael is a past president of the Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association.

Profile, Northern Forest Landowners

The USDA-Forest Service has issued a book, "Private Forestland Owners of the United States," which presents a great deal of information relating to the demographics of woodland owners in the northern part of the United States, including Iowa. Topics covered include size of holdings, social characteristics of landowners, owner objectives, timber harvesting behavior and

management planning. The book is summarized in the January, 1997 issue of NATIONAL WOODLANDS, published by the National Woodland Owners Association, of which IWOA is an affiliate. The report is available from:

US Forest Service
Publications Distribution
359 Main Rd.
Delaware, OH 43015

The President's Corner

On December 16, 1996, the Wildlife Damage Control Task Force met at Iowa DNR headquarters. As your IWOA representative, I listened with great interest as Administrator Alan Farris presented the preliminary 1997 proposed deer hunting regulations. If the proposed regulations are approved by the Natural Resources Commission, an increased number of whitetail deer would be taken by hunters. The increase in deer harvested would likely occur in those counties where population indicators suggest additional harvest is warranted. The preliminary deer hunting recommendation provides not only opportunities for additional numbers of deer to be harvested, but in many cases, direct the hunter to utilize antlerless individuals. Total numbers taken and sex ratio harvested are two key components of a deer management strategy.

As a woodland owner, a variety of options are available in terms of participating in the deer management process. The determination of whether deer constitute a "nuisance" and impact your operations significantly is pretty much your call. If you "house and feed" more deer than you consider appropriate, you probably have a deer problem. Iowa Farm Bureau and Iowa DNR have attempted to match in some counties hunters desiring a place to hunt and landowners who want responsible hunters. Early efforts show limited results, however, the vast majority of hunting in Iowa is dependent on a healthy hunter-landowner relationship. Some initial screening may be possible by the agencies, however, the final screening occurs when the landowner/hunter meet to decide the conditions of the hunt. There appear to be opportunities for responsible hunters to help landowners not only harvest the surplus animals, but often the hunter can assist with policing of trespassers and the patrol of fences.

As a landowner with significant deer depredation, you should report damage occurrences to the DNR wildlife or enforcement representative. Deer damage reports may be used with population surveys and deer traffic kill reports to determine if a county is eligible for more liberalized hunting regulations.

Most landowners also have the option of harvesting antlerless deer rather than the traditional buck. Taking a young doe may not provide bragging material at the coffee shop, but it's an effective strategy to help reduce an overabundant resident herd.

The DNR recommendations to increase the overall numbers of deer harvested and also increase the antlerless deer component in counties where problems exist should serve the best interests of most woodland owners. During the legislative session there may be proposals relating to deer control considered. On behalf of its members, the IWOA Board of Directors will continue to seek solutions to wildlife damage problems through the avenues offered by the regulatory agencies. Political solutions must be thoroughly evaluated, as short-term gains may eventually lead to tradeoffs which limit our rights to manage our woodlots.

Gary C. Mensinger, President, IWOA