

TIMBER TALK

Newsletter of the Iowa Woodland Owners Association

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Summary, September 14, 2001 Board Meeting

The IWOA Board of Directors met at Marion, IA, September 14, 2001. The meeting was called to order by President Tom Woodruff, with Directors Ahrens, Harmon, McClain, Manning, Miner, Ulfers, and Woodruff present. Also present were outgoing Secretary Gene Frye, past IWOA board member Larry Krotz, and State Forester Mike Brandrup.

President Woodruff reviewed the results of the election for Board members in which George McClain and Jane Ulfers were re-elected for three-year terms, and Keith Sparks was elected for a three-year term replacing Eugene Frye who did not stand for re-election.

President Woodruff opened the floor for nominations for president for 2001-2002. James Ahrens was elected president and George McClain vice president. Elected as secretary was Tom Woodruff, and Joanne Mensinger was re-elected as treasurer. Cathy Wilkie-Tomes was engaged as membership secretary with a compensation of \$100 per month.

Secretary Frye presented the 2000-2001 Secretary's report. He stated that IWOA had 378 members paid through 2001 or later (compared with 381 at this time last year), 39 paid through 1999 (compared with 44 paid through 1999 last year), and 32 on the complimentary mailing list, for a total mailing list of 449. Secretarial expenses for the year were \$976.46 for administration and \$821.96 for the newsletter, totaling \$1,798.32. Of this amount, \$1018.17 was for postage. He mentioned that sales of the tree ID books and IWOA member signs have been brisk and that these return a modest profit.

Treasurer Mensinger's report was distributed. She reported income of \$4603.80 and expenses of \$3,166.90, for an operating profit of \$1,436.90. Additionally, \$453.90 in interest was earned. Net worth of the organization at the beginning of September was \$11,053.91, up \$978.74 from this time last year. With one CD just expired, Mensinger was authorized to purchase another up to the amount of \$8,000 for a one-year term. There were comments on the relatively large balance. It was agreed that the matter should be brought up at the next Board meeting.

Activity at the IWOA booth at the recent Iowa State Fair was discussed. It was noted that the supply of brochures was exhausted about halfway through the fair and that more tree ID book order forms could have been used. It was considered that IWOA's support of a booth was worthwhile.

Frye noted that Harvey Ulfers had volunteered to serve as IWOA's representative to FFA. Harvey stated that he has volunteered to be one of FFA's judges this coming year. There was some discussion about upping IWOA's annual contribution of \$100 per year to FFA. No action was taken.

Ulfers reported that the IWOA Lending Library sees activity whenever there is a note about it in Timber Talk. As the new editor the newsletter, she plans to insert more information on the lending library.

Mike Brandrup, State Forester, reported on the status of a number of the Forestry Division's programs. He distributed the new state forest nursery catalog which has been revamped considerably. IDNR is now collecting tree seed, and Mike noted that collection of seeds in cities has an additional benefit of decreasing landfill volume. He also distributed a new Forests and Prairies brochure. He stated that a reorganization of IDNR is now underway but did not have any details. The USDA farm bill is now out of the House and does include a forestry title. Mike has been working directly with members of Congress on this matter.

Next Board meeting was set for the morning of December 8, 2001, in the Marion, IA area.

The Board gave outgoing Secretary Frye a round of applause for his work in the organizations as its secretary, newsletter editor, and Board member for over 10 years.

Summary, 2001 Annual Meeting

Morning sessions and the Annual Membership Meeting were held at the Horseshoe Falls Lodge in Linn County's Pinicon

Ridge Park near Central City, Iowa. These were followed by a field trip to the Jane & Herbert Douglas timber near Bertram, IA.

Annual Membership Meeting

President Ahrens introduced the Officers and Board Members.

Outgoing Secretary Frye presented his report for the 2000-2001 year, followed by Treasurer Mensinger's annual report.

There was considerable discussion about the relatively large net worth of the organization and what to do about it. It was noted that with a paid membership secretary administrative expenses will increase. The matter will be addressed at the next Board meeting.

Member recruiting methods were discussed.

Methods of controlling hunters and their conduct on private property were discussed.

A member requested that IWOA generate a list of e-mail addresses of its members. A sign-up list for these addresses was started.

There was some sentiment that IWOA should establish a web site.

Technical Program

Iowa DNR Wildlife Biologist Jim Jansen presented a slide show entitled "Managing Wildlife Damage." Jansen outlined some of the methods used to minimize deer damage to trees. He explained the research being done on fencing for protection of new trees. Slides showing protected vs. non-protected stands dramatized the significant impact deer have on new stands and the protection fencing can offer. Jim also talked about availability of deer licenses and teaming with neighbors for controlling deer numbers.

"Using Your Woodlands as a Teaching Tool" was the subject of a presentation by Tom Woodruff, past president of IWOA. Woodruff and his wife, Doris, gave a detailed slide show of their timber in the Iowa City area. This timber has been open to the public for several years. The results have been both positive and negative. From the appreciation of fellow woodland enthusiasts on the plus side to the near total destruction of their summer cabin by vandals, the Woodruffs have prevailed over the years and continue to share their land with the public.

Professor Joe Colletti from the ISU Forestry Department discussed woodland economics. Timber capital characteristics and financial vs. economic decision making were highlighted.

Direct seeding as an alternative to seedlings for reforestation was the emphasis of a presentation by Gary Beyer, IDNR District Forester. He showed slides of sites which have been direct seeded. In addition he discussed various techniques for planting and maintaining areas of direct seeding.

Luncheon speaker was John Walkowiak, Assistant State Forester. He reviewed the state of health of Iowa forests. If you have ever placed a moth trap in your timber for reporting of the Gypsy moth or just wondered what that odd bug is - John was the one to ask. Problems from Dutch Elm disease to Asian Longhorn beetle infestation were brought to our attention.

Field Walk

An afternoon field trip to Douglas Timber was led by Mark Vitosh, District Forester. Members traveled to a site near Bertram, IA. This stand had been clear cut and then direct seeded. The timber stand improvement process was discussed and a demonstration area was reviewed.

Non-Native Tree of the Quarter

Dawn Redwood *Metasequoia Glyptostroboidea*

Dawn Redwood has to be one of my all time favorite scientific names: meh-tuh-see-kwoy' yuh glip-tro-stroh-boy'-deez. Say that fast a few times.

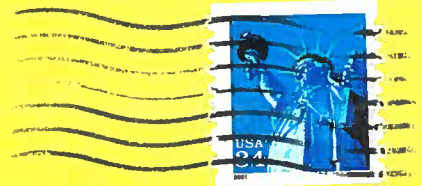
The tree is not a true redwood, but is in the family. Dawn Redwood is a deciduous conifer. It has bright green needles in the summer that turn orange brown in the fall before falling. The tree is fast growing if sited properly to 100 + feet by 25 feet.

(Continued overleaf)



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2001
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It maintains a feathery pyramidal form throughout its life. It prefers moist, well drained soils and perhaps a little more acidic soil than we have in Iowa. However, it seems adaptable from my experience.

The tree was discovered as a fossil before being found alive in southeastern China in 1941 (I thought there was a war going on). It was brought to this country in the late 40's. It has a beautiful buttressed trunk when older with dark red brown bark that peels off in thin strips.

I bought 50 one foot trees in 1993 and have about 35 alive. The rabbits thought they were candy the first year, but because the trees are deciduous, they resprouted from the roots. Through ignorance, I planted them on the worst possible site: a clay hill. Despite this, I have several 12' trees. They suffered some tip die back last winter. With the exception of 5 trees that I had transplanted, all have survived, however.

This is a great tree....one that people will ask about.

Tom Brady, Member, IWOA

Out on a Limb; The President's Corner

Times they are a changing! I have just read, and reread, a draft (about 100 pages) of the **Regional Forest Stewardship Standards for the Lake States Working Group by the FSC US Working Group, a chamber-balanced committee authorized by the Forest Stewardship Council – U.S. (National Initiative)**. Whew!!!! These are their words not mine to describe their organization. This group's charge was to develop regional forestry standards specifying additional requirements for responsible forestry.

I have never read such a collection of words and ideas since the original OSHA. My opinion is that if this were signed and implemented, trial lawyers and your attorney would have job security forever. Other impressions were that anyone who would require and/or sign this had long ago abandoned any common sense or morality. Just a few examples from their ten (10) principles:

Principle 1 – Compliance with the Law and FSC Principles

"In signature countries, the provisions of all binding international agreements such as CITES, ILO Conventions, ITTA, and Convention on Biological Diversity shall be respected."

Note – Are you going to actually be able, as a smaller woodland owner, to comply with that, let alone ever understand it?

Principle 2 – Tenure and Use Rights and Responsibilities

"Long term tenure and use rights to the land and forest resources shall be clearly defined, documented and legally established."

Note – Two pages later not even my best lawyer friend could interpret this for me – says I can't afford it.

I'll skip to the fourth principle, and that will be enough.

Principle 4 – Community Relations and Workers Rights

"Forest management operations shall maintain or enhance the long-term social and economic well-being of forest workers and local communities."

Note – Seven pages later they have covered all the socialistic bases including some gibberish about a living wage.

The forest industry, fortunately, has taken its own initiatives to counteract such unrealistic and inoperable guidelines. My best summary of this proposal is that it is "well intentioned but ill conceived." I would offer you the web site for more information, but it doesn't deserve a hit.

Tom Woodruff, Secretary, Past President, IWOA

Officer-Director Addresses

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

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