

TIMBER TALK

Newsletter of the Iowa Woodland Owners Association

Spring, 2001

Volume 11, Number 2

William C. Ritter

1921-2000

We were saddened to learn of the passing of prominent Iowa forester and IWOA Past President "Bill" Ritter November 16, 2000. A forestry graduate of Iowa State University, he worked for the Iowa DNR and its predecessors for 34 years, first as the District Forester for NE Iowa and then the Regional Forester for the State. Additionally, he owned and operated Greenhaven Christmas Tree Farms for nearly 40 years. Bill was a founder and Charter Member of IWOA and served as its president from 1991-1993, a critical period in the evolution of IWOA.

He is survived by his wife Arlene (who accompanied him to many IWOA meetings), a son John and grandson Jonathan.

Summary, March 31, 2001 Board Meeting

The meeting was called to order by President Tom Woodruff at Marion, IA March 31, 2001. Present were Directors Frye, Harmon, Manning, Miner, Twedt, Ulfers and Woodruff. Also present were State Forester Mike Brandrup and DNR Depredation Biologist Jim Jansen.

Secretary Frye reported that to date, IWOA has 323 members paid up through 2001, 72 paid through 2000, and 32 on the complimentary list for a total of 427 on the mailing list. There were 411 on the list last year at this time. Frye reported that the required biennial report to the Iowa Secretary of State was mailed January 12, 2001. He reported that IWOA Past President Joe Hansen attended a "Get acquainted" meeting with new IDNR Director Jeff Vonk March 30, and introduced himself on behalf of IWOA. Joe stated that a number of environmental and other activist groups were there.

Frye distributed Treasurer Mensinger's report for the period 10/1/00 to 3/24/01. The net worth of IWOA was \$11,280.53 as of 3/24/01, an increase of \$1759.24 over that of this time last year.

Woodruff reported for the Membership Committee. Board agreed that soliciting enrollees in the county's Forest Reserve, while labor-intensive and somewhat expensive, was worth while. Ulfers agreed to circulate Bremer County Forest Reserve enrollees, and Harmon those in Boone County.

Frye, reporting for Ahrens, stated that Ahrens had explored conducting the 2001 IWOA-sponsored Field Day at the State Forestry Nursery in Ames, and concluded that it could be a good one. Board directed Ahrens to secure a date and proceed with the arrangements.

McClain and Frye directed to start setting up the program for the 2001 Annual Meeting to be held near Central City, IA, September 15, 2001.

Twedt reported that last week he had attended a planning session for the 2001 Iowa State Fair. He said it was a challenge to come up with something new, different and exciting for this event. It was suggested that a list of record trees in Iowa with pictorial locations might be attractive. Brandrup said that he would look in to it.

Ulfers reported that the IWOA lending library sees activity whenever there is a note about it in TIMBER TALK. It was suggested that copies of the library catalog be sent out to all county Extension offices in Iowa. Frye to look into.

It was suggested that a donation in memory of the late Bill Ritter, a Past IWOA President, be made to ISHS's Dan Cooper Scholarship Fund. Agreed that it was a good idea and precedent, but delayed action to the next Board meeting pending further investigation.

State Forester Mike Brandrup reviewed significant events in Iowa forestry since the last Board meeting. He said that this year the State Forestry Nursery will have delivered about four million seedlings, and that the Montrose operation near Fort Madison is being expanded significantly. Forestry Division is reviewing the type of seedlings that are really needed by its customers. With the current state budget crunch, it is expected that 1.8 million, or about 6% is to be cut from Forestry's budget. Hopefully this will be in services, not staff. The Gypsy Moth

monitoring program is in jeopardy. House File HF-318 to allow public access to all lands enrolled in the Forest Reserve program died in committee, but Mike expects continuing assaults on this program. He stated that IDNR's "Trees for Kids" program (spark plugged by John Walkowiak), which is supported by contributions from many organizations, would be a worthy place for IWOA to make donations.

Wildlife Depredation Biologist Jim Jansen presented a summary of his activities for the year. He stated that there was an unusually large amount of damage to vegetation and stored crops from deer this winter, primarily due to the extended length of the snow cover north of I-80. There was also substantial deer starvation. He also said that the only things that really work to prevent deer damage under these conditions are barriers. DNR is monitoring deer diseases closely.

Discussed replacement for Secretary Frye who has stated his intention to step down from that position at the 2001 Annual Meeting. Thus far there have been no real volunteers. Discussed breaking the job down to Secretary, Membership Chairperson (this is over half of the work) and Newsletter Editor/publisher. Frye to generate a plan for doing so.

Next Board meeting was set for June 2, 2001 in Marion, Iowa.

Fifteenth Annual Meeting

IWOA's Fifteenth Annual Meeting is set for September 15, 2001 at the Horseshoe Falls Lodge in Linn County's Pinicon Ridge Park near Central City, IA. Detailed arrangements are in process.

IWOA-Sponsored Field Day

Arrangements for an IWOA-sponsored Field Day to be held in July 2001 at the State Forestry Nursery in Ames, IA are in process.

Jeff Vonk Named New IDNR Director

Jeffrey R. Vonk was recently named by Governor Vilsack as the new Director of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

Jeff holds degrees in both forest biology and wildlife management, and has served in a number of posts in the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, most recently as California State Conservationist for NRCS. From 1990 to 1994 he was NRCS State Conservationist in Iowa. He and his wife Mary volunteered with the Peace Corps in Chile.

Volunteers Needed For State Fair Booth

We are once again looking for volunteers to serve in our booth at the Iowa State Fair this August. No particular talents or training are needed. The only prerequisite is a desire to share your enthusiasm for growing trees in Iowa. Most volunteers comment that they find the experience of working the fair to be highly rewarding and interesting.

If you are a recent Master Woodland Manager, you may want to consider that the hours spent working the IWOA booth can be applied to your to your commitment of volunteer hours.

Volunteers may chose to work alone or with a partner. Those volunteering receive an exhibitor's parking permit and 2 state fair tickets. This year's fair runs from Thursday August 9 through Sunday August 19. Each day is divided into two 6 hour shifts (9:00 AM - 3:00 PM and 3:00 PM - 9:00 PM). Please help us spread the word. If you think you might be willing to take a shift at the fair, please contact Greg Twedt, 3304 Main Street Road, Marshalltown, IA 50158. Phone 641-754-9884, e-mail treefrog@adiis.net

2001 Master Woodland Manager Training

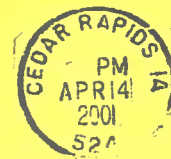
There will be two separate Master Woodland Manager training sessions held in 2001, the first in the Howard County area May 10 through June 14, and the second in the Washington-Iowa City area August 14 through September 18. Each of the sessions consists of 36 hours of training. For further information, contact Dr. Paul Wray, 251 Bessey Hall, Iowa State University, Ames, IA 50011, Phone 515-294-6739., e-mail phw@iastate.edu. IWOA recommends this training strongly for woodland owners.

(Continued overleaf)



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Wild in the Woods

The NE Iowa Forestry Advisory Committee coordinated a "Wild in the Woods" teacher workshop with Barb Gigar, IDNR and the Keystone Area Education Agency. The workshop, a two-part program, was held at the Yellow River State Forest. The Project Wild, Project Aquatic Wild and Project Learning Tree sessions were presented October 7, and a forestry emphasis session on October 11.

Darrin Siefken, a naturalist with the Bremer County Conservation Board presented the Project programs and the forestry session was conducted by District Foresters Gary Beyer and Bruce Blair, and Extension Forester Paul Wray. Tree farmers Jim Kerns and Will Ogle discussed their experiences in the timber, and the wrap up session was presented by Dave Mullis, Science/Conservation teacher with Ed-Co High School in Edgewood.

Participants included teachers, naturalists, nature facility directors and ISU Extension 4-H representatives from a number of locations around the state.

Forest Insect & Disease Council Meeting

Significant outputs of the IDNR-IDALS sponsored Forest Insect and Disease Council meeting in Ames, IA April 5, 2001 are shown below.

Chairman John Walkowiak of IDNR reviewed recent changes in IDNR forestry. Perhaps the most important is that Forestry expects to lose the \$150,000 planned for its Gypsy Moth control and containment program due to the current state budget crunch. District 12 Forester Wayne Fuhlbrugge will be assisting John in managing the Forest Health Council. ISU has been contracted to aid IDNR in Forestry, Entomology and Disease issues.

State Entomologist John Haanstad reviewed the current Gypsy Moth situation. Last year only 47 of the moths were trapped as compared with 132 the year previously. Most of the GM detections were associated with infected nursery stock imported into the state. However, there is continuing concern about GM's migrating into the state from western Wisconsin and Illinois. (The moths have been spreading to the west at an approximate rate of 15 miles per year) Dr. Haanstad has been directed not to plan for a GM program for this year. He mentioned an "Alternate" GM program for this year.

Robert Meinders, USDA, described an "Alternate" GM program that could be put into place this year. He stated that USDA is participating in the GM program to the extent of about 50% of the funds, and reviewed what could be done as a stopgap measure this year. USDA is exploring the possible use of volunteers for deploying a significant portion of the GM traps to be used this year. USDA alone could set out about 2000 traps; about 6000 were used last year.

So far, the Asian Long Horned Beetle seems to be contained to the Chicago area.

The Ash Decline seen in much of Iowa remains poorly understood. It has been established that the Ash Yellowings seen in Minnesota is not a large factor in the decline seen in Iowa's ashes, primarily the green variety. Intensive investigation is continuing.

The Scotch Pine Dieback seen in recent years is also not well understood. Of the recent sudden fatalities, nematodes have been associated with only a few. There is some thought that the

"Ips" Beetles only finish off the job of killing an already stressed tree. Investigative work is continuing.

A new program involves attempts to monitor air and soil quality by using "bio indicators," mainly trees and shrubs.

Efforts are being made to increase public awareness of plants invasive to woodlands, such as Garlic Mustard, Honeysuckle and Buckthorn.

A Forest Health Tour is being organized for August 7-8, probably covering eastern Iowa.

A copy of "Iowa's Forest Health Report 2000" can be obtained from

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Non-Native Tree of the Quarter

Chinese Elm *Ulmus Parvifolia*. This tree should not be confused with Siberian Elm *Ulmus Pumila*, a weed tree whose only good attribute is fast growth.

Chinese Elm, also known as Lacebark Elm, has the American Elm shape (sort of), but is resistant to Dutch Elm Disease and the elm leaf beetle. It has a "weeping" appearance to 50 feet tall. It has small leaves that have good fall color from yellow to purple. The trees I have are too young, but the tree flowers in late summer to early autumn and then sets its seeds. Various publications describe the flowers as red to light green. They are subtle but add to the tree's interest. The seeds are small with pale green wings. They hang in clusters that contrast with the darker leaves.

The best attribute of Chinese Elm is its mottled bark which is shades of gray, green, orange, and brown. Unfortunately, this happens on older trees and I planted one tree in 1997 and 500 more in 1998, so I'll have to wait.

The tree has a wide range and we're on its northern edge. I've seen them growing from Florida and California to the Iowa Arboretum near Boone, Iowa. If you can find a northern source, plant Chinese Elm where you can view its magnificent bark.

Tom Brady, Member, IWOA

Out on a Limb; The President's Corner

I hope all of you take time to read ALL of the Newsletter this month. And that secretary/membership/newsletter editor Gene has been able to put in all of the information discussed at the March Board meeting. What an informative meeting! Remember, you're always welcome to attend them.

Some of the items shared related to the extremely stressful winter on plants and wildlife. We anxiously await getting out there to see those results and to put those winter-planned summer plans into action.

We would also like to know what out members are finding and doing. Share them with us and we'll share them with others.

Your activities also help the Board determine what programs and Field trips we should schedule. Have a good Spring.

Tom A. Woodruff, President, IWOA