

TIMBER TALK

Newsletter of the Iowa Woodland Owners Association

Summer, 2001

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Summary, June 2, 2001 Board Meeting

The IWOA Board of Directors met at Marion, IA June 2, 2001. The meeting was called to order by President Tom Woodruff, with Directors Ahrens, Frye, McClain, Miner, Twedt, Ulfers and Woodruff present. Also present was State Forester Mike Brandrup.

Secretary Frye reported that to date, IWOA has 346 members paid through 2001, 58 paid through 2000, and 32 on the complimentary list for a total of 436. Last year at this time there were 438 on the list.

Frye distributed copies of Treasurer J. Mensinger's quarterly Treasurer's Report. The report shows that IWOA's current net worth is \$10,887.19, an increase of \$1,216.24 over that of last year at this time. There was some discussion on what constitutes and appropriate balance for IWOA.

Secretary passed around a copy of draft "Regional Forest Stewardship Standards" sent to him by IDNR for IWOA review or consideration. Woodruff to take under advisement.

Discussed arrangements for the 2001 Annual Meeting to be held at Linn County's Pinicon Ridge Park Saturday, September 15, 2001. McClain and Frye were charged with setting up the program and arrangements. After discussion, agreed to have a daytime only meeting with no evening banquet.

Ahrens reported on arrangements for the IWOA-sponsored Field Day tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, July 25 at the State Forestry Nursery at Ames, IA. Ahrens to get the details of the meeting to Frye by June 15 for publishing in the Summer issue of TIMBER TALK. Ron Harmon will be asked to coordinate local arrangements at the Nursery.

Twedt reported on arrangements for the IWOA booth at the Iowa State Fair August 9-19 and passed around a sign-up sheet for booth attendants. He asked that a call for volunteers be printed in the Summer Newsletter. ISHS is designing the booth.

Secretary distributed materials from FFA, and stated that in his opinion, co-sponsoring a forestry award with the Iowa Tree Farm Committee continued to be a good investment of IWOA funds. Harvey Ulfers asked to investigate to see if our current annual contribution is still appropriate or if it should be modified. Matter to be considered at the September Board meeting.

Ulfers reported moderate activity for the IWOA lending library.

Twedt reported that we had made our annual \$500 contribution to the Iowa Tree Farm Committee to support the Master Woodland Manager training program.

State Forester Mike Brandrup reported that the matter of "Green" certification to indicate that covered wood products were produced in an environmentally friendly manner is becoming increasingly important to wood producers. He stated that there has been a 75% reduction in National Forest harvests recently, resulting in increasing imports of wood fiber materials and closing of some domestic wood processing facilities. He also said that a proposed timber sale in Washington County was stopped by environmental groups. After considerable financial and political maneuvering, the Gypsy Moth monitoring program for the eastern part of the state will be conducted by IDALS and for the western part by IDNR. He indicated that it is important for groups such as ours be able to react on short notice to rapidly changing regulatory and legislative affairs. Mike said that the State Forestry Nursery sold about 3.9 million seedlings this year.

Frye recommended that IWOA establish a "Government Relations" committee to handle government actions that may affect Iowa woodlands. Frye directed to put the matter on the agenda for the September Board meeting.

Frye to work with Brandrup to acquire updated DNR materials for IWOA's new member kits.

President Woodruff to appoint the Nominating Committee shortly.

Board agreed to contribute \$200 to the ISHS Dan Cooper Scholarship Fund in memory of Past President Bill Ritter.

There was considerable discussion on finding a replacement for Secretary Frye who intends to retire from that position at the 2001 Annual Meeting. A stated problem is that the growth of

IWOA both in number of members and scope of operations has resulted in exceeding the reasonable workload for a single volunteer person. The Board's feeling is that the job should be broken up into several components. Frye to prepare job descriptions for these components. There was general agreement to accept Paul Wray's offer to provide an official IWOA mailing address and to forward IWOA materials received to the current IWOA Secretary. (The State Forestry Nursery may no longer be able to provide this function)

Next Board meeting was set for the evening of September 14 in the Marion, IA area.

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. As an experiment, the IWOA Board decided to dispense with the usual dinner meeting that has traditionally been held the evening of the annual meeting.

Detailed arrangements are in process. Should any member have suggestions on topics of special interest, please contact IWOA at 2735 14th Ave., Marion, IA 52302-1848, phone 319-377-2540 and e-mail fryex@attglobal.net before July 15. The final meeting schedule and arrangements will be mailed to members by August 15, 2001.

IWOA-Sponsored Field Day

An IWOA-sponsored Field Day will be held Tuesday, July 24, 2001 at the State Forestry Nursery, 2404 S. Duff Ave., Ames, IA. The schedule is as follows:

Registration	8:00am-8:30am
Tour of Nursery	8:30am-11:00am
Lunch (at a nearby restaurant)	11:30am-1:00pm
Field trips conducted by ISU personnel	1:00pm-3:00pm

The preregistration fee (for refreshments) is \$5, and registration at the door is \$7. Send registration fees to James Ahrens, 549 250th St., West Branch, IA 52358-8533, Phone 319-643-2445.

2001 Nominating Committee

The Executive Committee appointed Past President Joe Hansen to chair the 2001 Nominating Committee. This committee will nominate candidates for the IWOA Board seats of Eugene Frye, George McClain and Jane Ulfers, whose terms are expiring with the 2001 Annual Meeting. IWOA voting members who have an interest in serving on the Board should contact Joe H. Hansen, 1316 Hackley, Des Moines, IA 50315, Phone 515-285-6522 before July 20, 2001. Ballots will be mailed to voting members by August 15 along with registration materials for the 2000 Annual Meeting.

The new IWOA Board will elect the 2001-2002 President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer at its meeting September 14.

Volunteers Still Needed for State Fair Booth

We are still 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 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

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Summer, 2001

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Some Useful Web Sites

Below are listed some World Wide Web (Internet) sites that may be of interest to woodland owners.

Iowa Department of Natural Resources--This site has direct links to all of IDNR's Divisions including Forests & Prairies, the State Forestry Nursery and others
<http://www.state.ia.us.governemnt/dnr/htm>

ISU Forestry Department
<http://www.ag.iastate.edu/departments/forestry/Forestry.html>

American Tree Farm System
<http://www.treefarmssystem.org>

National Forestry Net--Direct links to National Woodland Owners Association, National Foresters Association and others.
<http://www.nationalforestry.net/nfnet.asp>

Missouri Timber Prices
<http://agebb.missouri.edu/mkt/timber/index/htm>

Illinois Timber Prices--Has direct links to many other forestry topics
<http://ilvirtualforest.nres.uiuc.edu/page25.html>

Non-Native Tree of the Quarter

I've been planting non-native trees and shrubs for 10 plus years now, and I always feared that I might pay for my insolence if we ever had a "real" Iowa winter. Although last winter was unusual for its severity, any non-native trees or shrubs we may consider planting should be planted with the knowledge that another winter like it is probably inevitable. I would like to review the trees I've covered so far in reference to their ability to survive last winter.

Last quarter's feature tree, Chinese Elm, had mixed results. My 12 foot tree is now a 3 footer. The smaller trees planted in 1998 seem okay. Of my approximately 20 Japanese Black Pine, all turned brown, 1/2 are dead, 1/4 lost their terminal leader, and 1/4 will probably grow out of it. (Until the next time.) Probably my greatest disappointment is the death clear to the ground of my Sweet Gum. Even though some were grown from northern (Kansas City) seed sources. Some will sprout from the roots, but I've given up on this tree. (For now.)

Sawtooth Oak and Tulip Tree had just a little tip die back and should be okay. The following trees seem totally unaffected by last winter. Larch sp., American Persimmon, Cutleaf Weeping Birch, and Amur Maple.

I had a potential list of over 150 species as candidates for my articles. That list has gotten smaller, and those I do cover will forever be referenced to how well they did after the winter of 2000-2001.

I'm sustained by my successes, so I planted 15 more non-native trees this spring! Wish me luck.

Tom Brady, Member, IWOA

Out on a Limb; The President's Corner

Eminent Domain (ED) is a word that may strike fear in your heart if you are on the receiving end of its use. This will not be a legal explanation of what ED means but more of a practical way to deal with it if it happens to you.

ED is basically powers given by law to acquire properties or items that have been determined to be of a necessary public use. These include Rights-of-Way (ROW) for such things as roads, community infrastructure and public utility facilities.

I spent several years purchasing such ROW from land owners but one is never prepared for the situation when you are the one giving up the land. After years of planting and nurishing acres of woodland seedlings, being asked to give up five of them at any price tests all the lessons you ever learned in Sunday School. Here are several practical things I suggest keeping in mind.

1. Most ED purchases have historic and/or legally mandated prices.

-The reason for that is to apply consistency and fairness to all landowners as well as the tax-paying body. This does limit your bargaining rights.

-You WILL NOT be paid a greater price for "anticipated" use, but ask anyway.

2. Generally, you will find ROW purchasers experienced and will willingly give all information requested but don't expect them to volunteer many options.

-Don't fail to ask for on-site visits by those who design the facilities for your land. Without exception, those folk are forthright and open.

-Particulary frustrating is the change of personal that goes on. You may see several different people before the transaction is completed -this can work to your advantage as early committments can be added to. They want to be liked too.

3. Always ask them to explain options they considered to help minimize the impact.

-Typically, you are asked to give more just for the sake of minimizing the efforts of a land surveyor who doesn't like to turn corners.

4. Flexibility in payment is available to the purchaser for "damage" or "construction-related" type items (I once had a guy want payment for a mushroom patch).

-These include such things as crop payment, construction work space, fencing, surfacing a drive, temporary roads or land fertilization. Even a new driveway.

5 And finally, don't be in a hurry to sign on.

-For the purchaser to go to a Condemnation Hearing, they most show evidence of settlement with a majority of the landowners. You learn a lot with patience.

6. A difficult situation for both parties is the evaluation of woodlands.

-A nursery person's advice or your records of time spent to date will be considered and increase the value above "normal" land use.

7. Early on, get legal counsel and have all Final Agreements in writing.

And finally, get over being angry as both parties in the end want to avoid that final humiliation of Condemnation by a jury of peers. Peer Condemation people, your neighbors, will probably think you're getting paid too much anyway. Good luck if it happens to you.

Tom Woodruff, President, IWOA