

TIMBER TALK

Newsletter of the Iowa Woodland Owners Association

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Summary, October 4, 2002 Board Meeting

The IWOA Board of Directors met at Charles City, IA, October 4, 2002. The meeting was called to order by President Jim Ahrens, with Directors Ahrens, Kemp-Ulfers, McClain, Manning, Miner, Twedt, and Woodruff present. Several spouses were guests.

Board election results: Joe Hansen, election judge, sent the following results. Ace Hendricks and Steve Hansen were elected new 2002-2005 Board members, with Jack Miner being re-elected for another term. Outgoing Board member Al Manning will be missed, but available.

Nominations for the 2002-2003 officers: It was moved and seconded that a unanimous ballot be cast for the existing officers and elected positions. These are: Ahrens, President; McClain, Vice-president; Woodruff, Secretary; Mensinger, Treasurer. Motion carried.

Paid contract position of membership secretary: Cathy Wilkie-Tomes was rehired for another year. The Board agreed to give Cathy a one-time additional payment of \$50 along with the Board's sincere thank you for her professional assistance. Ahrens requested that Cathy's time spent preparing the State Fair exhibit should also be reimbursed.

Minutes of the Board meeting on June 8, 2002, were approved.

The treasurer's report was approved. The current net worth, September to September, is \$10,912 compared to \$11,156 a year ago. Expenses for the year were \$5391 compared to \$3765 a year ago. This year's figures are affected by our holding the annual meeting at a later date, the new paid position of membership secretary, increased and additional donations made, and some recent tree book purchases. Finances are still very strong. A "collection of appreciation" was taken by Board members to be sent to Joanne Mensinger along with an appropriate and well deserved thank you note.

Membership report: Current membership stands at 454 with 31 complimentary members included. These figures were 436 and 32 a year ago, for a net growth of 18. Substantial efforts were made to retain old members and signing new ones at locations such as field days and the State Fair. Considerable discussion followed on membership growth. The Board set a goal of 5% membership growth for next year.

President's report: President Ahrens reviewed the annual report that would be presented at the annual meeting.

Correspondence sent/received: Thank you notes from Phil Anderson and Laura Norlin, FFA award winners, were received for our contribution to the annual FFA forest and product proficiency program. A letter was sent to IPTV for consideration of a "Living in Iowa" program about IWOA. The annual IWOA report was sent to our umbrella group, ISHS.

Other reports:

State Fair: Those attending felt our booth location and display were largely responsible for increased contacts. Eighty requests for tree finder books were handled and five new memberships received. Thanks Jack and Greg.

July Field Day: The field day was held in the Pella area. It was a hot day, but a successful one. The Corps of Engineers assisted with the program.

Legislative updates: Correspondence from Gary Mensinger was read whereby the ECIG is very active in taking a position on selling the state nursery in Ames. Many of the members had received and responded to the proposal. The Board moved that President Ahrens prepare a position statement for IWOA and present it at the annual meeting. All were encouraged to participate in responding to the proposed selling of the nursery.

Annual Meeting: Al Manning reviewed the program for the annual meeting. Items for the prize drawings were selected.

Old business: Woodruff has agreed to head a committee to create a web site for IWOA. It was also reported that the IWOA 2003 budget has not yet been finalized.

New business: Ulfers advised that the FFA award contribution is due by February 2003. The Board approved the disbursement of \$200 for the award.

The next Board meeting will be held in Marion, Iowa, at the ISU Extension office on December 14 at 10:00 am.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned following a special thank you to Al Manning for his years of service and for his help in planning this year's annual meeting.

2002 Annual Meeting

Membership Meeting

President Jim Ahrens opened the annual membership meeting and introduced the officers and Board members.

Secretary Woodruff presented his report for the 2001-2002 year, followed by the treasurer's report.

President Ahrens gave his annual report. He placed considerable emphasis on the legislative task force appointed to reduce overall government departmental costs by 2%. The primary concern to IWOA members is the proposed sale of the state nursery in Ames. Ahrens read a prepared position statement to be sent to the study group. The statement was approved by members with no dissenting votes.

Other subjects discussed were the pictorial display for the 2003 State Fair booth and the goal to increase membership by 5%.

IWOA was organized in 1987. There are 113 charter members. Al Manning recognized the five charter members who were in attendance at the annual meeting. They were Gene Frye, Stan Boyer, Jim Ahrens, Joe Hansen, and Jim Kepler.

Technical Program

Doug Schroeder, park director, gave an overview and short history of the Rockford Fossil Park.

State Representative Mark Kuhn reviewed state legislative issues related to woodlands.

New programs of interest to woodland owners for 2002-2003 were reviewed by Dennis Sande, Floyd County NRCS Director.

District Forester Gary Beyer spoke about invasive plants. He brought examples for participants to examine.

The use of chemicals in woodlands management was the subject of a presentation by Amy Asmus of Asmus Farm Supply.

Thomas Schmitz of Rock Grove Hardwoods discussed his portable saw mill business. He brought examples of wood types. After lunch he demonstrated the portable saw mill.

Other after lunch activities included information presented by John Walkowiak, Iowa DNR, regarding the Iowa Big Tree Program and tours of the fossil park and kilns.

Gypsy Moth Update

Matt Edwards, Urban Forestry Volunteer Coordinator for the Iowa DNR, has reported that to date no gypsy moths have been found in Iowa through the citizen monitoring effort.

Traps were distributed to citizen volunteers and were returned to the DNR. The traps were then analyzed by DNR staff or forwarded to the state entomologist for further clarification.

The volunteer monitoring program will continue next year. If you would like to participate, contact Matt Edwards at the DNR in Des Moines.

2003 State Fair Display

Keep your camera handy as you venture into the woods this fall and winter. The IWOA display for the State Fair will highlight the multiple uses and activities we enjoy from our woodlands. Take pictures of planting, harvesting, pruning, hiking, wildflowers, animals, birds, hunting, or any other activity that takes place in your woodland.

Photos should be from 5x7 to 8x10 either color or black and white. Pictures may be sent to Jim Ahrens, 549 - 250th St., West Branch, IA 52358. Please put your name and address on the back and the county in which the woodland is located. Photos will become the property of the IWOA.

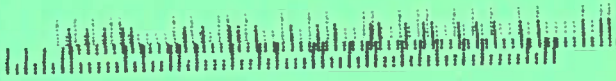


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Iowa State Forest Operation Resolution

The following resolution was approved by the IWOA membership at the annual meeting on October 5, 2002. The resolution was sent to the Program Elimination Committee.

Whereas, Woodlands enhance the quality of life in Iowa and

Whereas, Woodlands provide habitat for numerous birds, plants and animals in addition to producing quality lumber and veneer products and

Whereas, Woodlands provide countless hours of recreation for the citizens of Iowa in the form of such activities as: hiking, mushrooming, hunting, photography, bird watching, fishing, camping, etc. and

Whereas, Woodlands provide jobs for Iowans in such fields as: timber harvesting, trucking, sawmills, veneer manufacturing, tree planting, nut gathering, professional natural resource positions, etc. and

Whereas, Woodlands improve soil, air, and water quality therefore

BE IT RESOLVED by the IOWA WOODLAND OWNERS ASSOCIATION, an organization of 454 members owning 39,213 Iowa woodland acres,

"that the State of Iowa continue the current forest nursery operation in order to help provide a dependable supply of native conifer and hardwood seedlings to the citizens of Iowa and to help replant and maintain our forested areas for the present and future generations of Iowans."

Non-Native Tree of the Quarter

CHINESE CATALPA *Catalpa Ovata*

The more common Northern Catalpa and Ohio buckeye are trees that I remember from my youth. In both cases, I was fascinated with the seed. The unripe buckeyes would change from cream colored to shiny brown in my pocket overnight, and it was fun to pick the long "bean pods" from the catalpa we had in our yard. The Northern Catalpa is also not native to Iowa, but it's been around long enough that it's naturalized and familiar to most of us. The Chinese Catalpa is another story.

I encountered Chinese Catalpa at the Iowa Arboretum (near Luther, Iowa). I could identify it as a catalpa, but it has several differences that make it fascinating. It also has the large (4"-8" or more) leaves that are opposite or whorled. Instead of being just generally heart-shaped, they are also slightly 3-lobed. They add color in the spring by opening purplish and changing to light green. There is little or no fall color, however. The tree has yellow flowers rather than white with purple centers as the normal catalpa does. They also open later. The tree has the long pods, (12" or more in length), but they are more numerous and thinner (less than 1/3" in diameter). Inside the pods are many fringed seeds. The tree is a rapid grower and can be expected to eventually reach normal catalpa size (50' high by 30' wide or more).

I picked a small sack of pods at the arboretum when they weren't looking. (Just kidding. They really don't care, but they do like for you to stop in and let them know). From these I have managed to grow about a dozen trees. In 3 years, most were 8' tall or more and flowering already. My tallest tree is approaching 15' at 5 or 6 years old. I like the spring foliage and

the yellow flowers, but the tree is a little unkempt looking in fruit. Most of the trees require pruning to keep a single leader.

I think maybe only one nursery carries the tree, and you would probably have to buy at least 10. So, pick pods at the arboretum or see me, as I've never seen another one. (But maybe you have.)

Tom Brady, Member, 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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