

TIMBER TALK

Newsletter of the Iowa Woodland Owners Association

Spring, 2002

Phone 319-266-4228

Volume 12, Number 2

e-mail ulfers@cfu.net

Summary, March 9, 2002 Board Meeting

The IWOA Board of Directors met at Marion, IA, March 9, 2002. The meeting was called to order by President James Ahrens, with Directors Ahrens, Harmon, McClain, Manning, Miner, and Ulfers present. Also present were Membership Secretary Cathy Wilkie-Tomes, Past Secretary Eugene Frye, and Assistant State Forester John Walkowiak.

Treasurer Mensinger's report for the period October 2001 through March 2002 was approved. The report showed a net profit for the period of \$1,403.37 and a net worth of \$12,559.17.

President Ahrens announced that the Iowa Nut Growers Association has some grant money available. Applications should be in by the end of September 2002 for awards in March 2003.

Past President Leonard Grimes has resigned as IWOA's representative to the Iowa State Horticultural Society thus a new representative is needed. An appropriate solicitation will be put in the newsletter.

President Ahrens reported that he had attended a DNR Legislative Proposals meeting. The meeting was held in Des Moines on January 25.

Tomes distributed and presented her membership report showing that there are 466 members at present, an increase of two since the December Board meeting. There was considerable discussion on strategies for recruitment of new members. Tomes was authorized to send out letters and brochures to those attending forestry field days last year who are not currently IWOA members at an approximate cost of \$131.41.

John Walkowiak presented a report on recent DNR activities of interest to woodland owners. He noted that the annual deadline for applying for Forest Reserve status has been advanced to February 1. He reported that once again the Forest Reserve program is under attack by both county assessors and commercial forest seedling nursery operators. The assessors would like to deny Forest Reserve status for any tract in which any one of the landowners resides outside of Iowa. Among other things, the nursery operators are complaining that the prices for SFN stock are too low. A candidate bill, HF2244 relating to these matters is currently in the hands of the House Ways and Means committee. The Gypsy Moth program is expected to be about the same as last year. This year's "Trees for Kids" program is focusing on invasive species and to train volunteers to map invasive plants in a manner similar to Extension's "Nature Mapping" program. He showed a cardboard display board to which pictures and text had been attached as an example of an inexpensive display for meetings.

Frye reported on arrangements for IWOA's 2002 Field Day for Twedt, who was unable to attend due to adverse weather. The meeting will be held in the Pella area in conjunction with a window manufacturer there, with a focus on use of wood products. A catered lunch will be held at a nearby lake. The Army Corps of Engineers will participate in the meeting. The meeting will be held in July 2002 at a date to be set soon.

Frye stated that Twedt had received initial materials for the 2002 Iowa State Fair and will be distributing them to his state fair committee members.

Frye reported that the Iowa Tree Farm Committee is expecting a grant to help support training meetings for small woodland owners but may need some additional funding. The matter is expected to come up at ITFC's April 12 Board meeting.

Manning reported on initial arrangements for the IWOA 2002 Annual Meeting, recommending that it be held October 5 at the new nature center of the Rockford Fossil and Prairie Park near Rockford, IA. Rockford is near Charles City. He had made some program arrangements. The Board recommended that the IWOA Annual Business Meeting be held in at the beginning of the morning session and that the meeting be a one-day affair with the Board meeting the night before as was done at the 2001 Annual Meeting. Manning will continue to pursue and finalize the arrangements.

The Board agreed to contribute \$500 to the Iowa Tree Farm Committee to co-sponsor this year's Master Woodland Manager training sessions. The money will go to the purchase of "Biltmore Sticks" for students.

Manning detailed his request of the last Board meeting to fund a controlled study of deer damage to seedlings in several direct-seeded 1/10 acre test plots. The plots are in existence, but seedlings would need to be counted, identified, and measured for several years. He stated that the estimated cost of hiring forestry students to do this is in the \$750-\$1000 range. Walkowiak stated the baseline data is needed to quantify deer damage as no Iowa studies of this nature have yet been conducted. Up to \$1000 was authorized to fund the Manning deer damage study, and it was recommended that the use of senior forestry students at ISU be utilized for the inventories.

Harmon was directed to meet with Extension Forester Paul Wray to investigate the feasibility of utilizing ISU/Extension resources to set up an IWOA web site.

Next Board meeting was set for the morning of Saturday, June 8, at the Linn County Extension offices at 10:00 am.

Iowa Nut Growers Association Grant

Application forms and guidelines are now available from the Iowa Nut Growers Association Research/Projects Committee for applicants to submit their proposals for grant money. There will be \$1,000 available for grants in March 2003. The Research/Projects Committee could recommend funds for a proposal for up to 3 years for a total of \$1,500 or more.

The Research/Projects Committee encourages the submission of proposals for grants. Applications may be submitted through September 2002 for consideration and recommendation. Refinements and adjustments may be made up to the January 2003 nut evaluation meeting.

Anyone who is interested is eligible to submit proposals and receive grant money. Any topic dealing with temperate zone tree nuts is eligible. Possible consideration may be given to topics concerning other woody crops. The INGA favors projects that yield applied results that become part of the public domain. A partial list of suggested topic areas includes:

- Propagation
- Disease, Insect & Weed Control
- Equipment Development
- Marketing
- Postharvest Handling and Processing
- Preservation of Existing Estate Plantings

If you are interested in applying for an INGA grant, contact Jim Ahrens at 319-643-2445 or by e-mail at jahrens@coin.org.

Summer Field Day

The IWOA Summer Field Day will be held in Pella on Saturday, July 20. Pella is truly one of Iowa's treasures. This will be your chance to see the new canal, hotel, and other downtown Pella developments, including the spectacular newly imported five story high Dutch windmill.

We will be meeting just south of town at Lake Red Rock where the Army Corps of Engineers will be showing us how they are managing their forestry and prairie resources. Our hosts for the field day will be John Holt of the Corps and DNR District Forester Duane Bedford. Projects programmed to be seen include prairie plantings, a walnut / olive planting, and several mixed hardwood plantings.

The field day will include both morning and early afternoon sessions. A small fee will be charged to cover the cost of a catered lunch. Registration information, directions and a detailed schedule will be printed in the next issue of Timber Talk.

Please join us for the summer field day. Mark your calendar now. Come see the changes in Pella, buy some Dutch letters, and learn how the US Corps works with its extensive forest resources.

Greg Twedt, Director, IWOA



2301 Hawthorne Dr.
Cedar Falls, IA 50613

Spring, 2002



2002
Mr. Thomas Brady
199 NE 80th. St.
Runnels, IA 50237-2128

50237+2128



Non-Native Tree of the Quarter

English Oak (*Quercus robur*)

Although a native of England, this tree might more properly be named European Oak since it is wide spread there. It is in the White Oak family and, indeed, there are hybrids with other members of the family available...Burenglish Oak, for example. The leaves are similar to White Oak. The main distinguishing characteristic being the leaf bases, which look like there are ear lobes on each side of the stem. The leaves lack fall color, but stay on the tree most of the winter.

The acorns are very unusual. They have shallow cups shiny brown with lighter longitudinal stripes when ripe. When removed from the cups, they remind me of little brown blimps. The seed requires fall planting before they dry out.

I've grown many trees from seeds gathered from the parking outside the Des Moines Botanical Center. Ewing Park in Des Moines and Iowa State University also have trees.

Left to its own nature, English Oak will have a short trunk and heavy branches giving it a rounded shape. I have my two biggest trees (20') trimmed to 7' or 8' and the trees haven't fought me by putting out water sprouts like some trees do. English Oak can grow huge!! One hundred feet in Europe, more likely 60' in cultivation and nearly as wide. They live for centuries. They can be expected to grow a foot or so a year.

If you have lots of room and want something different (like me), English Oak is not a bad choice. It is fully hardy in Iowa, but , to be perfectly honest, it's not superior to our native oaks. I like the acorns the best. Show one to most people and they don't have a clue.

Tom Brady, Member, IWOA

A Breeze In The Branches

Hopefully, when you are reading this, the breezes in the branches by your house will be warm southern ones and will carry the songs of birds and tree frogs. I knew if I tried hard enough I could work the word "tree" in that first sentence somehow.

Speaking of trees, the Board has been getting the arrangements finalized for the summer field day and the annual meeting. Please mark the dates on your calendar and make plans to attend. The field day will be held in the Pella area and I think the program will be interesting and informative. We have not had a gathering in this part of the state for some time, and I hope it is convenient for those of you from this area.

Sometime this summer there will be a request for people to help staff the IWOA booth at the state fair. If you can, I urge you to sign up for a shift. It is not hard work, and you will meet the nicest people and get to talk about trees. You don't have to feel you must be an expert in all things pertaining to trees to do this. Believe me, it is fun!

Well it is a nice afternoon, and I think I will go for a walk in the woods. I know it is too early for mushrooms, but I can at least take note of where the dead elms look promising.

Good luck on any tree plantings you may be doing, and I hope to see you at the summer field day.

Jim Ahrens, President, IWOA

State Forestry Nursery Under Attack -- Again

On March 25, an amendment, L58 6066JA.701, was offered to the joint IA Senate House sub committee on appropriations for Agriculture and Natural Resources. It was passed and will go to the House and Senate appropriation committees before a vote at the House and Senate floors. The amendment states:

"1) That the state nursery establish a process to cap its sale or distribution of seedlings based on the ability of private nurseries to meet demand. The division shall review the cap at the end of each fiscal year to determine whether the cap should be adjusted for the following fiscal year. However, the state nursery shall not sell or distribute more than two and half million seedlings.

2) That the state nursery establish a price structure for the sale of nursery stock necessary to ensure that the pricing does not provide a competitive advantage to private nurseries. In adopting rules required under this paragraph, the division shall consult with interested persons including organizations involved in the private sale of nursery products."

I think we all know where this little gem came from. If this passes, the consequences to woodland owners should be obvious.

The e-mail address and other contact information for Iowa legislators can be obtained from <http://www.legis.state.ia.us> in its "Legislature" section.

Gene Frye, Past Secretary, IWOA

Iowa Horticultural Society Representative

The IOWA Board is looking for a member who will volunteer as our representative at the Iowa Horticultural Society meetings. Leonard Grimes has stepped down from that position.

If you are interested in becoming the IWOA representative or if you want more information regarding what this position involves, contact IWOA President Jim Ahrens at 319-643-2445 or jahrens@coin.org.

Forestry Web Site

ForestryUSA.com is website which focuses on forests and forestry in America. It provides links to sites of the federal and state governments, the forest industries, service and supply companies, associations and NGOs, consultants, education and research, forestry news, employment opportunities, and much more. The website can be accessed at www.forestryusa.com.

IWOA Lending Library

Members who would like a listing of the holdings of the IWOA Lending Library can obtain a copy by sending an e-mail request to Jane Kemp-Ulfers at ulfers@cfu.net or by mail to 2301 Hawthorne Dr., Cedar Falls, IA 50613.