

TIMBER TALK

Newsletter of the Iowa Woodland Owners Association

Summer, 2002

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Summary, June 8, 2002 Board Meeting

The IWOA Board of Directors met at Marion, IA, June 8, 2002. The meeting was called to order by President Jim Ahrens, with Directors Ahrens, Kemp-Ulfers, McClain, Manning, Miner, Sparks, Twedt, Wilkie-Tomes, and Woodruff present. Also present were Gene Frye and John Walkowiak (DNR).

Minutes of the Board meeting on 3/10/02 were approved with the following correction – “Past President Leonard Grimes has agreed to remain as IWOA’s representative to the ISHS.”

The treasurer’s report was approved. Income through the fiscal year is \$4,076.00 compared to expenses of \$3,492.87. Total assets are \$11,964.62. President Ahrens will meet with the treasurer and secretary to develop a 2002-03 budget and address our growing funds prior to the October Board meeting.

Ron and Carol Fullenkamp have been selected as the 2002 Tree Farmers of the Year, and recognition was suggested at the IWOA Annual Meeting. A thank you was received from Rod Swinton, Chair of the ITFC, for our donation of \$500 towards the Master Woodlands Manager program. A motion was made and seconded to participate in the ITHC Trees for Acreage’s Conference for Small Woodland Owners to be held August 31 in Waterloo. Harvey Ulfers attended the Annual FFA Awards banquet and received thank you notes from the winners for our \$200 contribution.

Wilkie-Tomes reported a membership growth to 478. There has been a growth of 12 since the March. Letters resulted in recapturing 5 members. Personal calls will be made this month to the 49 who have not paid 2001-2002 dues. She also reviewed some additional recruitment strategies which she will be pursuing. She presented a condensed IWOA membership form to be used at the Iowa State Fair booth.

John Walkowiak of the DNR distributed brochures on garlic mustard. He reviewed current legislation passed on the state nursery operation. The most significant change already required by law is an 11% price increase. The DNR budget has been reduced by 2%. A federally funded contract with the University of Northern Iowa has been started to survey strategic woodland owner needs with a completion date of December 31. An invasive species conference will be held in the Cedar Rapids area on July 25th. On August 25-26 a “Non-Timber Products” conference conducted by Paul Wray will be held in the Dubuque area. A Forest Service grant has been received to track invasive species locations, severity, etc. The gypsy moth program will be conducted similar to last year. John will present information on the big tree program at our annual meeting.

IWOA Field Day is set for July 20th at the Corps area at Redrock. The annual meeting will be held Oct. 5 in Rockford, IA.

We will again have a booth at the Iowa State Fair. Harmon will assist with booth set-up in conjunction with the Iowa Tree Growers Association. Miner is arranging booth volunteers with Ahrens chairing the project.

It was suggested by Harvey Ulfers to do more of the FFA forestry award winners. Winners of the IWOA-sponsored awards will be granted a one-year complimentary membership.

Paul Wray offered to help implement our IWOA website. Tomes will prepare a rough draft of our needs. Anyone with an interest in this, please see President Ahrens.

President Ahrens appointed Joe Hansen, Gene Frye, and George McClain as the 2002 Nominating Committee.

It was moved and seconded to amend the bylaws to add October as an allowable month for annual meetings. The motion carried but must be ratified at our annual meeting.

The next Board meeting was set for the evening of October 4, at Granny’s Café in Charles City.

Trees for Acreages

A conference for owners of small woodlots will be held on August 31, 2002, in Tama Hall on the Hawkeye Community College campus in Waterloo. The conference is organized and sponsored by the Iowa Tree Farm Committee, ISU Extension, Iowa DNR Division of Forests and Prairies, and the Natural

Resources Conservation Service. Workshops will address a wide variety of issues including tree health, woodland wildflowers, wildlife, tree pruning techniques, and building among the trees. For more information and to register, contact Rod L. Swinton, Iowa Tree Farm Committee, 5846 Cactus Lane, Waterloo, IA, 50701. He may be reached by phone at 319-296-3676. To receive a conference brochure, send a SASE to address listed above.

Summer Field Day in Pella

This summer’s IWOA Forestry Field Day will be held at Lake Red Rock just south of Pella on Saturday, July 20. We will be meeting at the Red Rock Visitor’s Center located on the south end of the dam (county road T-15). Our hosts for the field day will be John Holt of the US Army Corps of Engineers, DNR district forester Duane Bedford, and other DNR personnel.

Both morning and afternoon sessions have been programmed. We will be seeing how the Corps manages Lake Red Rock’s forestry and prairie resources. Tours will include a mixed conifer plantation, a white pine plantation, a borrow area (where soil was borrowed for the dam), a native prairie site, a walnut plantation and a young native stand ready for TSI. The schedule is as follows:

- Registration, coffee, juice and rolls 8:00am - 9:00am
- Introduction and field trips 9:00am - 11:30am
- Catered lunch at a Red Rock shelter house 11:30am - 12:30pm
- Afternoon sessions / field trips 12:30pm - 3:00pm

The pre-registration fee is only \$10 and will include your lunch and morning and afternoon refreshments. We ask you to help us out by pre-registering by mail before July 15. The at the door registration fee will be \$15. Send registration fees to Keith Sparks, 2994 Hwy 169, Winterset, IA 50273, Phone 515-462-2256.

Please plan to join us on July 20th. Be sure to allow yourself enough time to visit downtown Pella. Buy some Dutch letters and see the new canal, hotel and other downtown developments. The newly inaugurated five story high imported Dutch windmill is spectacular.

2002 Annual Meeting

Plans are set for the IWOA 2002 Annual Meeting at the Rockford Fossil Park Visitors Center on October 5th, 2002. Registration will begin at 8 am.

In addition to several interesting presentations, a log cutting demonstration is scheduled. Participants will also have the unique opportunity to view fossils from the upper-level Devonian fossil period.

The final meeting schedule and arrangements will be mailed to members in August.

State Fair Booth

Volunteers are needed to staff the IWOA booth at the State Fair. Dates for the fair are August 8-18. Each volunteer is given admission tickets and a parking pass for the day. Please contact Jack Miner if you are interested in assisting. He may be reached at 641-897-5372.

Garlic Mustard

In an effort to educate woodland owner on invasive species, the garlic mustard insert in this newsletter was provided by the DNR in conjunction with the Sierra Club.

Tree Farmers of the Year

IWOA members Ron and Carol Fullenkamp have been awarded Iowa’s Outstanding Tree Farmer award. The Fullenkamps own 136 woodland acres in Lee County. Ron and Carol are both graduates of the Master Woodland Manager’s Program. Since acquiring the land they have been involved in a number of forest management practices. Congratulations to the Fullenkamps!



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Summer, 2002

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Non-Native Tree of the Quarter

KOREAN MOUNTAINASH: *Sorbus Alnifolia*

The scientific name means mountainash with alder-like leaves. This doesn't aid most of us much in identification though. The leaves do resemble some alders but none we're likely familiar with. They also resemble beech (another non-native species that I haven't written about [yet]). Perhaps the most likely comparable leaf that we might be familiar with is ironwood (hornbeam).

None of this is particularly important unless you are familiar with the more common European mountainash. Mountainashes are not ashes, of course, but along with Pricklyash, are named so because of their compound leaves. Korean mountainash fails in this comparison in that it is unmountainash-like and has simple, alternate leaves.

The tree has dense, dark green leaves that turn scarlet and crimson in the fall. The flowers are pure white, abundantly produced in flat topped clusters called corymbs. The fruit is scarlet and persists into the winter. This is arguable the best of the mountainashes, but it is scarce because the seed is difficult to germinate.

I don't know why this is, but I have planted hundreds of seeds over the last 4 or 5 years with no success. The tree is least susceptible to the borers and canker (among other things) that kill European mountainashes just about the time you start enjoying them. The tree is described as weakly pyramidal when mature and can reach 60 feet tall. The mature bark is gray.

Korean mountainash are native to China, Japan, and Korea and are fully hardy in Iowa. It would make a good lawn specimen but shouldn't be used where it would be exposed to polluted conditions. I have 3 trees, the tallest of which is approaching 15 foot. None were affected by the winter of 2000-2001. My trees show a strong upright habit rather than the predicted pyramidal shape.

PS I would like to respond (if the editor will permit me) to those of you who have spoken to me at the tree meetings or written to me. There is always a lingering doubt that there are those who enjoy these rather amateurish efforts at writing these articles, and since you've been universally supportive, I very much appreciate it. To answer some questions about my situation...my family and I own and operate a golf course which, to avoid being blatantly commercial, I will not name. This golf course is located on a 250 acre tract. I can't plant trees on all of it, of course, but let's just say that there is sufficient area, time, and resources to indulge my hobby, so that I've accumulated enough non-native trees and shrubs to write this column for 25 years... an unlikely occurrence.

Tom Brady, Member, IWOA

Forest Dream Fulfilled

Ever since 1939 when I saw a picture in my country school geography book of a 1917 Model T Ford car driving through a Redwood tree in northern California, I have wanted the same experience. Finally, 63 years later, mission accomplished. What a great experience!

The ancient Redwood forests are scattered along the Pacific coast from central California north to south Oregon. Thanks to hundreds of recognized private forest owners and the 1924

Redwoods Foundation, over five per cent of the original forests have been set aside.

Redwoods are the oldest living things on earth and can grow to 360 feet in height. Some survive for 500 to 1100 years with others known to surpass 2000 years. They can resist fire, create their own fog and release up to 500 gallons of water per day into the air. I am fascinated that a seed the size of a pencil eraser and a seed cone the size of a quarter can grow such specimens.

Since Redwoods probably can not pull water more than 300 feet in the air, many picturesque crowns are visible from dead and dieing roof top branches. Fire retardation is due the fact they do not contain resin or pitch. Longevity is also helped by their being subject to only six diseases as compared to our 200 plus in oaks.

After spending three days in these magnificent forests, you can begin to understand the mystical and protective atmosphere one can develop in and for these forests. Closer to home, I had the same feeling when the county trimmed the 1200 feet of tree canopy over-growing the old road past our tree farm.

Tom Woodruff, Secretary, Past President, IWOA

IWOA Board Member Nominations

Nominations for Board members are now being accepted. If you or someone you know is interested in serving on the Board, please contact Joe Hansen at joe.Hansen@iowalink.com or by phone at 515-285-6522.

A Breeze in the Branches: The President's Corner State Fair 2003

No, I do not have the wrong date. I am planning the IWOA display for the 2003 Iowa State Fair, and I need your help.

I would like to display pictures of woodland owners and their woods throughout the year. So for the next 12 months when you head for the woods, take your camera along and take some pictures. I would like to have pictures from all seasons of the year and all types of activities. The display will highlight the multiple uses and activities we enjoy from our woodlands. So grab that camera and take pictures of planting, harvesting, pruning, hiking, wildflowers, animals, birds, hunting, whatever it is your family/friends do in your woodlands.

The 2003 Iowa State Fair display is up to each and every one of you who is able to get out into your woods with a camera. Please help out so we can at least in part show why our woodlands are important to us and the multiple benefits they provide to Iowa.

I would like the pictures to be from 5x7 to 8.10 color or black and white. Please put your name and address on the back and the county in which the woodland is located. The pictures you send in will become the property of the IWOA, and we may display them at other gatherings such as the annual meeting or perhaps the DNR building, if they would like. You may mail the pictures to me throughout the year as you take them.

I can't do this without your help. Without your pictures there can not be a display.

Jim Ahrens, President, IWOA