

# TIMBER TALK

## Newsletter of the Iowa Woodland Owners Association

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### Summary, September 19, 2003 Board Meeting

The IWOA Board of Directors met at Indianola, IA, September 19, 2003. The meeting was called to order by President Jim Ahrens, with Ahrens, Twedt, Woodruff, Hansen, Hendricks, and Miner present. Guests included DNR Bureau Chief John Walkowiak, Ron Fullenkamp, Gary Harman, and several spouses.

Board election results were announced. Joe Hansen, election chair, reported the following were elected as Board members through 2006: Beverly Brink – Elkader, Ron Fullenkamp – West Point, and Gary Harman – Indianola.

On unanimous votes, Steve Hansen was elected president and Ace Hendricks was elected vice president. Treasurer Joanne Mensinger and Secretary Tom Woodruff were reelected. Paid Membership Secretary Cathy Wilkie-Tomes was reappointed for 2003-2004 with a monthly salary increase to \$110.

Minutes of the Board meeting on June 7, 2003, were approved.

The treasurer's report was approved. The secretary was instructed to later advise the Board of the treasurer's need and amount of transfer of additional funds from our CD to the checking account. There is a balance of \$9,330.24 in our equity accounts as compared to last year's balance of \$10,909.68. The differences are due primarily to more generous contributions and the timing of the annual meeting expenses.

The secretary reported on the Trees for Kids program. As approved earlier, a contribution will be sent to this program. Our annual report to the Iowa State Horticultural Society will be sent. Information was shared with members during the annual meeting.

A report on the meeting with DNR/IWOA/Hunter representatives was given. More input on woodland interests seems to be needed. John Walkowiak handed out the results of the Forest Reserve Survey with which IWOA helped. The DNR will be looking at administrative alternative to forest reserve concerns as opposed to legislative action. No action was taken by the legislature on selling the state nursery at Ames.

Steve Hansen reported on the state fair booth. Hansen arranged the event this year with significant help from many volunteers including Jack Miner, Greg Twedt, and Howard Smith. The secretary will send Smith a thank you note. Suggestions were to make a contribution next year to the ISHS for arrangements, maybe improve the location, update the big tree display, increase the supplies of several items, and prepare some instructions for the booth monitors. State fair expenses will be on the next Board meeting agenda.

The annual field day was held June 27. It was one of the best attended field days ever. The event was held at Batey's Sawmills south of Mount Pleasant with a field trip to a nearby prairie reserve. All phases from tree harvest through sales were viewed and discussed.

Membership lists were approved to be sent to all Board members and also to DNR Forestry Bureau Chief John Walkowiak. (This will allow Walkowiak to quickly communicate DNR activities to our group.) The Board continues the policy of approving all membership list requests. A note will be added to our next newsletter.

A letter will be drafted by Jim Ahrens and given to Iowa DNR Chief Vonk at the committee meeting on September 25 with hunting interests. The letter will express woodland owner concerns and cooperation.

The next Board meeting was tentatively set for Saturday, January 10, 2004 at the state nursery in Ames.

The meeting was adjourned following a special thank you to Jim Ahrens, outgoing president, for his past two years of leadership and two terms on the Board. Additional thanks were given to outgoing Board members Ron Harmon, Tom Woodruff, and Greg Twedt, to Jane Ulfers for our newsletter and Joanne Mensinger for an excellent job with our finances.

### 2003 Annual Meeting/Membership Meeting

Past President Jim Ahrens opened the annual membership meeting with approximately 55 members and guest in attendance. He introduced the officers and Board members.

Secretary Woodruff presented the membership report. Currently there are 492 memberships, an increase of 68 over the previous year. This is due to several complimentary memberships given to new Tree Farmers and graduates of the Woodland Management program and aggressive membership renewals while keeping the files current and clear of unpaid members. Efforts will continue to improve our new and renewal memberships.

Past President Ahrens gave his annual report outlining the Board meetings, field day activities, state fair representations, and legislative work with our congressmen and the DNR. Ahrens encouraged our commitment to IWOA and its goals combined with our excellent relationship with the Iowa DNR. Both groups have mutual goals and many have been met.

Member Leonard Grimes, representative to the ISHS, reviewed the ISHS since its founding in 1966 and the changes that have occurred since there is no funding by the legislature. Private membership plans have not been too successful to date. As a result, the Iowa Arboretum will administer the Iowa State Horticultural Society and new members will be members of both. This year IWOA became a member of the new group. Individual memberships are encouraged.

IDNR Forestry Chief John Walkowiak gave a brief legislative update on successful efforts at retaining the state nursery facility at Ames and the Iowa Forest Reserve program. Regarding the forest reserve program some administrative changes may be necessary with a goal to keep it simple. IWOA members were advised to keep current on efforts related to a review of property values including what market values may be considered.

Members were reminded that photos are still needed for the annual display at the state fair. There was also discussion regarding Polk County's aggressive review of Forest Reserve land. Many questionable parcels were taken out of the program. A motion was made and passed to send a letter to IDNR Chief Vonk on the issue of awareness related to woodland owner concerns and cooperation related to hunting policies.

The group thanked Jim Ahrens for his leadership. A special thank you was extended to Ace Hendricks, his wife Judy, and the DNR for the annual meeting program and field day.

### A Breeze in the Branches: The President's Corner

This is my last "Breeze" as I have completed my term as president, and the office is now in the very capable hands of Steve Hansen. Thank you, Steve, for accepting the position.

I owe one of our members an apology, and I am sorry I don't know their name. One of you sent me a photo of you driving a skidder for the IWOA photo album, and I misplaced the photo. Actually I just plain lost it! I even went as far as to clean off my desk (talk about an archeological dig), but to no dice, or photo either for that matter. I do apologize, and if you would be willing to send me another photo, I will get it in the album.

I think the photo album is off to a good start, and I hope members will continue to send photos (5x7) of their activities in their woodlands so we can add to it. It is my plan to have the album as part of our library so all of the membership can enjoy it. Continue to send your photos to me, and I will get them added to the album. I think this album will be a great resource for IWOA.

Thank you to the present and former board members for their time and efforts. You certainly made my job easier. Thank you to the new board members for their willingness to give of themselves to IWOA. I believe the organization is in good hands.

One last request, encourage a neighbor or a friend to join IWOA. It is a good organization, and I think we need to get the word out.

I think it is time to close and to go pick up some walnuts and plant them while enjoying a nice fall day.

Jim Ahrens, IWOA President



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## Officer/Director Addresses

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## TREES

I am the heat of your hearth, the shade screening you from the sun; I am the beam that holds your house, the board of your table; I am the handle of your hoe, the door of your homestead, the wood of your cradle, and the shell of your coffin. I am the gift of God, and the friend of Man. - Anon

Contributed by Robert Hibbs, DNR Forester

## IWOA/DNR Forest Reserve Survey

During the legislative session of 2002-2003, legislative officials at both the state and federal levels have been very active in areas involving forestry and woodlands in Iowa. From issues relating to the operations of the state forest nursery to the forest reserve program, IWOA is working with the DNR forestry Bureau to make sure up to date information is being supplied to our elected leaders to assist them in developing long term policy.

Direct feedback from our private land owners is vital in ensuring that we are utilizing our forest resources in the best manner possible. A voluntary survey was sent out to woodland owner association members during the spring of 2003. In all, 491 surveys were sent out, with 235 completed surveys being returned which contained valuable feedback from IWOA members.

The survey included questions ranging from major reasons for owning woodlands, to the role of the state nursery, to the forest reserve program to private landowner forestry practices, to IWOA representation.

To receive a copy of the survey results, contact John Walkowiak at the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. His address is Wallace Building, 502 East 9<sup>th</sup> St., Des Moines, IA, 50319-0034. He can be reached by phone at 515-242-5960, and his fax number is 515-261-6794. He can also be contacted by email. That address is John.Walkowiak@dnr.state.ia.us.

## Non-Native Tree of the Quarter

### Douglas Fir *Pseudotsuga Menziesii*

Douglas Fir is not a true fir, but is more closely related to Hemlocks. Thus the scientific name *Pseudotsuga* ( soo-doe-soo-ga ) meaning "false hemlock." It is called a fir because it shares many characteristics. The main difference is that its cones hang down when ripe, not stick up in the air as firs do. The cones, which are up to 4" long, also have many sharp bracts sticking out which make them distinctive.

Douglas Fir has soft needles up to 1 1/2" long. They are either blue-green or dark green depending on the seed source. Both colors have two white stripes on the under side. The blue-green version grows in the Rocky Mountains while the dark green grows along the Pacific Coast. The blue-green are hardier (zone 4) and should be grown in Iowa if given a choice.

Douglas Fir is densely pyramidal when young and more open as it ages. It is a noble, ornamental evergreen under landscape conditions. It should not be crowded. It grows to 200' or more in the wild and perhaps 80' under landscape conditions. Its lower branches droop, its middle branches are straight, and its upper branches ascend. From my experience, they are slow growing at first, but will grow 1 to 2 feet a year after 5 years or so. I have 15 year old trees over 20' tall.

I first bought a Douglas Fir because my friend from San Francisco often bragged about his "Doug Fir." I told him he knew the tree better since they were native to his area, but we had to call them "Douglas."

I have perhaps 25 trees on the golf course, and another 500 my district forester allowed me to plant in the CRP ground. He says that my trees on the golf course are as beautiful as any he has seen. I trim them up 4' to 5' or so golfers can find their golf balls.

Tom Brady IWOA Member