

TIMBER TALK

Newsletter of the Iowa Woodland Owners Association

Winter, 2003

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Summary, December 14, 2002 Board Meeting

The IWOA Board of Directors met at Marion, IA, December 14, 2002. The meeting was called to order by President James Ahrens, with Directors Ahrens, Twedt, McClain, Woodruff, Miner, Hansen, Hendricks, 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 2002 through mid-December 2002 was approved. Generally we are down about \$500 which is typical of the period prior to new/renewal membership contributions, our primary source of income.

President Ahrens reminded us of IWOA goals and our wish to grow membership by 5% in 2003. A brief summary of our income and member source was reviewed. Our success in book sales and new members at the state fair will be aided this year by a pictorial display of woodland owners projects.

Assistant State Forester John Walkowiak commented on the IWOA resolution regarding the state nursery. He indicated that the Program Elimination Committee received significant and varied positive public support for keeping the state nursery. The Board discussed other options including a modified resolution or letters to the legislative leadership. Walkowiak is holding meetings with private tree producers and some joint advertising will be done. In addition, Walkowiak outlined the new organization of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. Steve Pennington has been hired to work in the area of forestry health, applied research, and seed source. This will be a real asset to our needs. Walkowiak reminded us that on February 12 the NEIC conference, "How to Enhance Forestry Environment," will be held, and on February 20 the Society of American Forestry will invite legislators to their conference. IWOA is invited to set up a display.

The Forest Reserve Program is a serious issue for woodland owners. The Farm Bureau has voted to support revision or elimination of the program. A motion was passed directing the IWOA president and secretary, after reviewing the Farm Bureau document that was passed, to develop a letter to the Farm Bureau indicating our disagreement.

Cathy Wilkie-Tomes, IWOA Membership Secretary, presented the membership report. There has been a growth in membership of 10 members since October 2002. She showed the redesigned membership cards and letter sent to renewing members. There was considerable discussion regarding a proposal to advertise to locate potential new members. A part of the discussion related to having articles in publications regarding the organization and in that way raising awareness of IWOA.

Woodruff reviewed information regarding a web site for the organization. He shared correspondence he had received and talked about a sample site now used by the arborist group attached to the ISU Forestry Department site. All agreed that this would be a good start and details will be shared as things are finalized. The secretary is designated to keep the web site current.

A motion was passed to approve a donation of \$200 to the Rockford Fossil and Prairie Park. Because the annual meeting was held at the facility and there was no charge, the Board agreed that the donation was appropriate. A thank you letter and details were shared regarding the donation to the FFA for their forestry proficiency program.

Approved revisions to the bylaws related to updating names and addresses and the annual meeting dates will be given to the Board at the next meeting.

There was considerable discussion on the direction and needs of IWOA for the upcoming year. Visibility at the state fair, field days, and in legislative issues is important. Moreover the group must continue to invest money in programs and activities that promote improved management of Iowa's woodlands.

Committee appointments were made.

- State Fair: Ahrens, Miner, Hansen, Wilkie-Tomes
- Field Days: Walkowiak, Ahrens
- Annual Meeting: Hendricks, Woodruff, Walkowiak (location/agenda)

- Membership: McClain, Wilkie-Tomes, Ulfers

A motion was approved to continue as a member of the Iowa State Horticultural Society. Due to reorganization of the ISHS the membership fee for an affiliate member is \$50. Membership in ISHS has been beneficial in the past. IWOA has always had a representative to the group.

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

Web Sites of Interest to Woodland Owners

Winter weather is finally here, so now is the perfect time to check out web sites related to woodlands. Here are a few sites that might help you pass the time on a cold winter night.

- **ISU Department of Forestry**
www.forestry.iastate.edu
Of particular interest on the ISU Department of Forestry site is the link to the Iowa Woodland Invasive Species Inventory. The study is explained, and information regarding the four species being inventoried is included at the site.
- **The Bugwood Network**
www.bugwood.org
In addition to a unique name, this site is full of information about entomology, forestry, forest health, and natural resources. The highlight is the library of images accessible at the site. You can find photos of trees by type, insects, weeds, and forest diseases. There are also links to agriculture images, insect images, and invasive and exotic species images. Be prepared to spend some time at this site.
- **Iowa DNR Bureau of Forestry – Big Tree List**
www.state.ia.us/forestry/browse.htm
Everyone loves big trees. In order to find a list of Iowa's biggest trees, go to the address above, scroll down and click on Big Tree List. There is also a link to a page where you can nominate your own big tree.
- **Forest Forever – A Campaign for Wood**
www.forestsforever.org.uk
"Leave now and remain uninformed. Enter our site and learn the facts about timber and the environment." Who could possibly pass up a site with that statement on its opening page? This British site is very pro timber. A children's section, a media center, and a fact file are included.

IWOA Membership Report Highlights

Current Members: 464

Total Forest Acres Owned by IWOA Members: 39,912 acres

Forest Reserve:

58% of IWOA members have indicated that they have land in forest reserve. This is up 1% since October.

Certified Tree Farmers:

31% of IWOA members have indicated that they are certified tree farmers.

Statistics provided by Cathy Wilkie-Tomes,
Membership Secretary

Membership Renewal

Please check your address label to confirm that your membership is current. If your label has the year 2002 highlighted in yellow, your membership dues had not been paid as of the printing of the labels. To renew your membership, please fill in the enclosed form and return it to Tom Woodruff, Iowa Woodland Owners Association, 4115 Rodeo Rd, Davenport, IA 52806. If you have already renewed your membership, please disregard the notice.



2003
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Winter, 2003

Non-Native Tree of the Quarter

Bald Cypress *Taxodium distichum*

I was surprised to find that Bald Cypress had a chance of surviving in Iowa. I knew this to be the tree of the cypress swamps of Florida and Louisiana, and it just didn't seem logical that this tree would survive here. But, as it turns out, although Bald Cypress grows as far north as Delaware (which doesn't have an Iowa-like climate), it has been planted far north of its natural range and is thriving in Minnesota and even southern Canada. Naturally when I found this out, I had to have the tree!! I just needed a supplier. I could probably point to a half dozen catalogs that supply Bald Cypress today, but this was 10 or 12 years ago, and they were hard to come by then.

I've been lucky enough to spend a week or two in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas in the winter over the years, (thus avoiding a snow storm or two) and as it turns out, the local Wal-Mart often receives its spring nursery stock shipment in January! I was standing there watching the truck being unloaded, when off came two 8' Bald Cypress already marked at \$11.99 each. I bought them both, trimmed them to 5' to get them in my trunk, and took them back to Iowa for spring planting. One of those two trees is still alive and is a perfect 20' pyramid. I have 3 other smaller trees from later purchases.

Bald Cypress are not true cypresses which are all genus *Cupressus* and are all evergreen and of such southern origin that not even I would try to grow them here. Bald Cypress are the third kind of deciduous conifers that I have written about. The others being Larch and Dawn Redwood which Bald Cypress closely resembles. Dawn Redwood has opposite twigs and needles while Bald Cypress has alternate, and although both do well in moist soil, Dawn Redwood cannot tolerate having its roots fully submerged as Bald Cypress can.

In its native habitat, you will find Bald Cypress in very wet to swampy conditions exclusively, but it can tolerate and even thrive under much drier conditions. When growing with its roots covered with water, Bald Cypress will grow "cypress knees" which are outgrowths of roots that penetrate the water surface and are thought to aid in air transfer to the root although exactly how is not clear. These "knees" do not occur when the tree grows away from water.

The tree has yellow-green needles in the spring, turning darker green in summer, then turning light brown with shades of russet and orange before falling from the tree in late fall.

Bald Cypress can grow 100' or more in the wild and more likely half that in cultivation. It has a narrow pyramidal habit when young. It has a lacy open appearance that is quite beautiful and unusual. It develops a straight heavily buttressed trunk as it

ages, especially in water. The bark is fibrous and an attractive red-brown when older. The cones are 1" in diameter and more or less round. They are green to purple ripening to brown.

Larry Krotz gave me a whole sack of cones last fall. (Thank you one more time.) They break into pieces when fully ripe. I planted them all in my nursery bed in November, so we'll see what happens in the spring.

Tom Brady, Member, IWOA

LEARNING FROM TREES

"All I Need To Know About Life I Learned From Trees"
 (author unknown)

- It's important to have roots.
- In today's complex world, it pays to branch out.
- Don't pine away over old flames.
- If you really believe in something, don't be afraid to go out on a limb.
- Be flexible so you don't break when a harsh wind blows.
- Sometimes you have to shed your old bark in order to grow.
- If you want to maintain accurate records, keep a log.
- To be politically correct, don't wear firs.
- Grow where you're planted.
- It's perfectly okay to be a late bloomer.
- Avoid people who would like to cut you down.
- Get all spruced up when you have a hot date.
- If the party gets boring, just leaf.
- You can't hide your true colors as you approach the autumn of your life.
- It's more important to be honest than poplar.

Cathy Wilkie-Tomes, Membership Secretary

Correction

In the last issue of the newsletter, the address for Membership Secretary Cathy Wilkie-Tomes was incorrect. The correct information is Cathy Wilkie-Tomes, 3415 Twin Lake View Drive NE, North Liberty, IA 52317. Her email address is cawilkie@avalon.net, and she may be reached by phone at 319-665-2489.