

# TIMBER TALK

## Newsletter of the Iowa Woodland Owners Association

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### Summary, March 20, 2004 Board Meeting

The IWOA Board of Directors met at the State Forest Nursery in Ames, IA, on March 20, 2004. The meeting was called to order by President Steve Hansen, with Directors Brink, Fullenkamp, Hendricks, Harman, and McClain present. Also present were State Forester John Walkowiak, Membership Secretary Cathy Wilkie-Tomes, and Past Secretary Eugene Frye serving as secretary pro-tem.

The minutes of the January 10, 2004, Board meeting and Treasurer Mensinger's January treasurer's report and other materials had been mailed out earlier by the secretary.

Brink noted that the URL given in the January 10<sup>th</sup> minutes should have read "iowatreplanting.com" rather than "iatreplanting.com" as published. The minutes were approved with this correction.

The treasurer's report was approved as distributed.

The President read several communications. Among them was a letter from Gov. Vilsack asking for nominations honoring one who has done an outstanding job of promoting Trees for Kids. It was moved and seconded to nominate Ace Hendricks. The motion carried.

### MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Tomes distributed copies of the membership report. Currently there are 502 total members. This includes 65 gained from recent Master Woodland Managers and new certified Tree Farmers and 63 who did not renew. Some discussion on membership development followed.

### IDNR REPORT

John Walkowiak reported on IDNR forestry matters. He noted that the legislative committee voted not to approve HF 2050 for consideration by the full House and that the many letters received by legislators influenced the decision greatly. Approximately 70 legislators attended the recent legislative breakfast sponsored by IWOA, the Iowa Tree Farm Committee, and others.

The Board extended its thanks to Ron Fullenkamp for acting as its legislative liaison.

Walkowiak distributed a list of Iowa forest issues. He also distributed copies of a new brochure on the Emerald Ash Borer which has devastated maple trees in southern Michigan and is apparently spreading westward. He has asked Iowa nurserymen and landscapers to procure ash trees only from locations west of the Mississippi River. He distributed copies of a new Trees for Kids publication.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**2004 Annual Meeting:** Brinks handed out copies of a tentative agenda for the 2004 IWOA Annual Meeting at Lake Belva Deer that she and Hendricks had worked up. There was some discussion on details of the presentations and some adjustments were made. Fullenkamp will procure a good talk on timber taxes. Walkowiak noted that the benefits of mycorrhiza are controversial. This being the case Frye recommended that a speaker from ISU Forestry be procured to talk on the subject. The committee will continue to pursue arrangements for this meeting.

**State Fair:** Hansen reported that the environment at the State Fair has changed greatly this year. The reorganization of the Iowa State Horticultural Society means that ISHS support for our booth has gone away. There have also been problems with the building manager, and costs will increase. Moved by Fullenkamp, seconded by Hendricks to not have a booth at the State Fair this year, but to have copies of the IWOA brochure available at the State Forestry booth. Motion carried. It was agreed informally to investigate having booths or tables at several regional events such as the Winter Gardening Fair at Kirkwood Community College.

**2004 IWOA Field Day:** McClain reported on his investigation of arrangements for the 2004 IWOA Field Day. HE recommended a tour of the Frye Tree Farm near Lisbon, IA, the morning of June 29, followed by lunch at the Indian Creek Nature Center just southwest of Cedar Rapids, then a walking tour of selected ICNC facilities. The registration fee, including lunch, was set at \$10 per person. McClain to finalize details.

**New Business:** Walkowiak asked for vigilance in tracking legislative matters relating to forestry.

Wilkie-Tomes passed out copies of a draft of a new IWOA brochure and an IWOA mission statement. Moved by Fullenkamp, seconded by Hendricks to direct Wilkie-Tomes and Secretary Tom Woodruff to finalize the brochure within the next two weeks. Motion carried.

Wilkie-Tomes distributed copies of advertising costs for membership recruitment. After discussion, Wilkie-Tomes was directed to send press releases to Iowa's County Conservation Board directors.

Hansen reported on bulk mailing costs for the newsletter. It was agreed to pursue bulk mailing of the newsletter to reduce costs for its mailing.

**Old Business:** Hansen reported that Woodruff has given up on establishing an IWOA web site under the umbrella of the ISU Forestry Department. Frye was directed to look in to the National Woodlands Owners Association as a possible host for a web site.

The next Board meeting was set for Saturday, June 19, 2004 at the Linn County Extension office, 3729 Seventh Ave., Marion, IA.

### Summer Field Day

The IWOA Summer Field Day will be held on June 29, in the Lisbon/Cedar Rapids area. This will be a day filled with interesting presentations.

The day will begin with registration from 7:30 to 8:30 at Gene Frye's Ganderhawk Forest. Presentations at the site will cover a brief history of the property since 1969, a review of the site management plan and how it has changed of the years. In addition there will be a walking tour of several plantation sites and test areas which include white pine plantation, mono culture planting, mixed species planting, and fuel wood planting. The walking tour will discussion will focus on recorded growth history and what has worked and what has not in these areas.

Lunch and the afternoon session take place at the Indian Creek Nature Center in Cedar Rapids. Rich Paterson, the center director, will address the participants. After lunch there will be a guided walking tour of the reestablished prairie, wetlands, fire control of multiflora rose, the effects of controlled burn on timber, the Sugar House, and the Center's waste water filter system.

Mark your calendars. This will be a day you won't want to miss.

### IWOA History

Some of you may want your memories refreshed or newer members may appreciate some background on your organization.

IWOA was founded in 1987 as a non-profit organization to fulfill what several felt was a need for a diverse group of woodland owners. Dan Fogle from Creston was our first president. After one year our membership was 157 with a bank balance of \$3,704 and a membership fee of \$10/year. Today our membership stands at 502, our assets are at the \$11,000 level, and we still have the annual \$10 membership fee.

Records show our very first project was a booth at the Iowa State Fair and that project has continued until this year. Projects continued to grow by financially and personally supporting the FFA Forest Management Award, Master Woodland Training, IDNR Trees For Kids, and the Dan Cooper Scholarship Fund along with several specific woodland research programs.

Activities by many of our members have resulted in excellent communications with the ISU Forestry Department and the IDNR. We have an open ear to actively participate in all related legislative proposals and our opinions have had diverse woodland interests. We are a strong and active organization.

Tom Woodruff, IWOA Secretary



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Spring, 2004



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## Non-Native Tree of the Quarter

### Persimmon *Diospyros virginiana*

Persimmon is a deciduous tree with distinctive dark, thick bark typically broken into small squarish blocks. When young, the bark is lighter brown with pale fissures. The leaves are 2-5 inches long, somewhat thickened, egg-shaped and without teeth. They are a dark, lustrous green above and much paler below.

Persimmon has a medium growth habit reaching 30-50 feet and half as wide. The fruit is an edible berry one to one and a half inches in diameter, yellow to orange when ripe, and with one to eight flat brown seeds enclosed. They make you "pucker up" if you taste them before they are ripe. They say it takes a frost to ripen them, but I wouldn't plant the tree for its fruit production. To me they seem awfully mushy when ripe. Persimmon is native to the southeastern United States but should grow anywhere in Iowa. Although like any tree with a wide range, seed source location is critical to success.

I've found a 30' tree producing fruit at Ewing Park in Des Moines. It requires a pollinator, so there must be a male nearby, but I haven't noticed one. There are also several trees at the Iowa Arboretum in Luther, IA. The tree is in the Ebony family, and the wood is close-grained and hard. Golf club heads were formerly made of persimmon before metal "woods" took over.

Tom Brady, Member, IWOA

## Little Known Facts About Iowa Woodlands

- \* Iowa has ideal conditions for raising high-quality hardwoods and produce some of the best quality black walnut in the world.
- \* There are 55,000 private citizens in Iowa who own 92% of the states 2.1 million acres of woodlands.
- \* Iowa's wood-based industry earnings exceed 500 million dollars per year and employs over 19,000 people.
- \* In addition to Federal programs, Iowa provides assistance for numerous woodland programs
- \* Since 1926, Iowa has legislatively recognized through tax relief, the preservation, protection and planting of woodlands with their Forest Reserve Program.

Tom Woodruff, IWOA Secretary

## More Forest Facts

- \* There are 747 million acres of forestland in the United States, about 71% as much as there was in 1630. Since 1950, hardwood growth in the United States has increased by 70%.
- \* Each year about 1.4 billion tree seedlings are planted – roughly four million a day – more than making up for those that are harvested. If you include naturally regenerated trees the net growth exceeds the harvesting by 33% due to good forest management
- \* One acre of forest absorbs six tons of carbon dioxide and produces four tons of oxygen. This is enough to meet the annual needs of eighteen people.

- \* The U.S. is the world's leading producer of forest products.
- \* The average American uses about 749 pounds of paper every year and 95% of the houses built are done so using wood. That means that the average person uses the equivalent of a 100 foot high, 16 inches in diameter tree each year for their wood and paper needs.
- \* America's forests are owned by private individuals (54%), public agencies (37%), and private industries (9%).

Source: Various web sites

## Item Needed

The IWOA Field Day is just around the corner, and we need a battery operated megaphone to use for that activity as well as future field days and events. Do you have one you can donate or know of a place where one can be purchased?

If you can help please contact President Steve Hansen at 515-279-9854 (e-mail: Shansen516@aol.com) or Secretary Tom Woodruff at 563-391-8227 (e-mail: APWood70@aol.com).

## 2004 IWOA Annual Meeting

The 2004 IWOA Annual Meeting will be held on September 18 at Lake Belva Deer Park in Keokuk County. Keep that date open and look for more information regarding the event in upcoming newsletters. Board member Bev Brink is the contact person for the meeting. She can be reached at 563-245-2044 or by e-mail at Bbrink@aea1.k12.ia.us.

## My Cabin in the Woods Display

At the IWOA Annual Meeting in September we hope to create a display called My Cabin in the Woods, a collection of photos and brief write-ups of cabins that belong to IWOA members and that are located in or very near woodlands. They can be old or new, but always special places to getaway, get back to nature, and get recharged. It's an opportunity for members to share and to get ideas for that cabin they'd like to build some day.

What we need from members:

- Photo -- the larger the better but any size will do
- Member's name, contact info, and location of the cabin
- A paragraph(s) that tells about your cabin, when was it built, features, how often you use it, interesting stories and facts, what you like best about it and what you'd change about it if you could.

Send cabin photos and information to Bev Brink, PO Box 865, Elkader IA (563) 245-2044

Bev Brink, IWOA Board Member