

TIMBER TALK

Newsletter of the Iowa Woodland Owners Association

Summer, 2004

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Summary, June 19, 2004 Board Meeting

The IWOA Board of Directors met at Marion, IA, June 19, 2004. The meeting was called to order by President Steve Hansen, with Directors Brink, Fullenkamp, Harmon, McClain, Miner, Sparks, Ulfers, and Woodruff present. Also present were State Forester John Walkowiak, Membership Secretary Cathy Wilkie-Tomes, and Past Secretary Eugene Frye.

The minutes of the March 19, 2004, Board meeting and Treasurer Mensinger's March treasurer's report were approved. The income and expenses appear on budgeted expectations.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Tomes shows an increase of two members to 509 after dropping 50 for various reasons. Sixty-five new members came as first year complimentary members from the Master Woodland Managers program. The report was approved.

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

ISU Forestry is presenting a wilderness school for educators in July in Ames. IDNR is holding a school July 17 to assist in the grant writing process for funds for developing wildlife habitat. This will be held at the Iowa Historical Society building in Des Moines. Hansen will contact Hendricks for his attendance. Member Leonard Grimes is holding a field day at his property near Marshalltown in August. IWOA Ace Hendricks recently received a significant award entitled "Above and Beyond" for his woodlands work with students. The Association of Sawmills and Woodlands asked to have our mailing list to advertise events. The secretary will contact them and ask that they send us information to put in our newsletter.

IDNR REPORT

John Walkowiak reported that more action may be taken this fall to change the forest reserve program. Perhaps a proactive stance should be taken. The pros and cons were debated. There will be discussion on this topic at the IWOA Annual Meeting.

Walkowiak also noted that the state nursery sold 3.5 million trees and shrubs this year, down slightly from last year. This may be due to technical assistance that is now available. In addition he stated that the Forest Land Enhancement Program was the only program left in the federal budget funding and is now considered a duplication of funding in other programs.

Longtime forester Jerry Kemperman is retiring. The secretary will send him a card expressing our appreciation for many years of helpful and supportive service to IWOA.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

State Fair: There was nothing new to report since the decision has been made not to participate until many of the site and communication problems are addressed.

2004 IWOA Field Day: McClain has all the arrangements made and letters out for the June 29 field day at Gene Frye's Ganderhawk Forest near Lisbon and Indian Creek Nature Center in SE Cedar Rapids.

2004 Annual Meeting: Brink handed out and reviewed in detail the agenda, assignments, etc. She and Hendricks will complete the agenda with the suggestions received. The Board approved the \$50 deposit for the Sigourney Oakwoods Sporting Resort needed for the morning meeting site and luncheon. The afternoon sessions will be at nearby Lake Belva Deer County Park in Keokuk County. Reservations have been made at the Elmwoods B&B in Keota for the 7:00 pm dinner and Board meeting on Friday evening on September 18. Anyone wanting to stay at this B&B (\$60 includes full breakfast) should call Marjorie at 641-636-3001.

Revised IWOA Membership Brochure: Wilkie-Tomes distributed the revised brochure with a master copy for anyone to duplicate. The secretary will print copies for upcoming field days, the IDNR booth at the State Fair and anyone who wants copies.

Conservation Board Membership Press Release: Wilkie-Tomes distributed copies she will be sending to the 89 state conservation boards soliciting memberships. We suspect this will result in many calls.

Web Site: Fullenkamp offered assistance to develop our web site. He will have his contact get in touch with the secretary

who will in turn solicit Gene Frye's expertise in the development.

Woodlands Reacting to Higher CO2 Levels

Forests around the world are apparently reacting to the increased levels of carbon dioxide in the air with a growth spurt. Research reported recently in the journal *Nature* confirms that dirty air is good for trees! Expressed more positively, trees are part of the answer in helping to clean the air.

Trees grow using the sun-powered process of photosynthesis. They take in CO2 and emit Oxygen, storing the deleted carbon in the wood. With increased levels of CO2, it stands to reason they will capture and store more carbon through accelerated growth. The increase has been most apparent within the past 20 years.

Acknowledged as one of nature's best "carbon sinks," forests can also release a great deal of it when burned. The Hayman and Missionary Ridge fires in Colorado in 2002 released five million tons of carbon dioxide into the air in just a month, according to the National Center for Atmospheric Research. That amount is equal to all the CO2 released by cars and truck in Colorado over the course of a year.

Keith A. Argow, Editor
National Woodland Owners Association

IWOA Member Honored

On April 27th IWOA member Ace Hendricks was honored by receiving the governor's Above and Beyond Award. This award honors groups and individuals who have made an outstanding contribution toward improving the well-being of Iowa children.

Ace is a teacher at Lincoln High School in Des Moines. As an educator, Ace has taught environmental concepts and conducted environmental activities with an average of 200 youth per year. He has taught environmental sciences, advanced placement environmental science, zoology and a field botany course based on conservation. Over the past 31 years, Ace has certified nearly 2000 youth in hunter education and has also involved his students in the Fish Iowa program each year.

Over the years, Ace and his students have worked together to establish and maintain a prairie on campus and an outdoor woodland study area. They have planted hundreds of trees and shrubs on and near the campus, conducted controlled burns on the campus prairie, and helped with controlled burns on other school prairies. His students have built nest boxes for Warren and Polk Counties, the school's campus, the Red Rock Lake Wildlife Area, and the Neal Smith National Refuge. The students conducted a plastic recycling project before Des Moines began a citywide recycling program and they collect and recycle leaves for the woodland area at the school every year. They have established a butterfly garden near the school library. Students have participated in Prairie Rescue Days for five years, cooperated with the Iowa DNR in tree distribution and collected acorns to be delivered to the state nursery. They have collected cans to earn money to donate toward wetland adoption through the Iowa National Heritage Foundation. The Midwest Retriever Club involved the students with field trial activities. The students also received a grant from Trees Forever to purchase and plant Iowa native trees on campus as part of the Iowa Sesquicentennial Forest Program.

Ace is a member of the Sierra Club, the Audubon Society, the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, the Iowa Native Plant Society, Ducks Unlimited and the National Wild Turkey Federation. He has been a Warren County Conservation Board member and a member of the Central Iowa Prairie Network. He provided the artwork for the original Fish Iowa Curriculum Guide and worked with educators to develop the curriculum for the Neal Smith Wildlife Refuge, Project Bluestem.

Awards received by Ace include the 1993 Environmental Educator of the Year Award from the Metro Waste Authority and the Polk County Conservation Board and the Iowa Academy of Science Award for Excellence in Science Teaching.

Ace was nominated for the Above and Beyond award by the IWOA Board. His actions as an environmental educator and his involvement in environmental activities demonstrate unusual commitment and comprise an outstanding contribution to Iowa.

Steve Hansen, IWOA President



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Summer, 2004

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Non-Native Tree of the Quarter

Tulip Tree *Liriodendron tulipifera*

The Tulip Tree is the tallest species of hardwood of the eastern forests, with some specimens reaching over 150 feet in height. In their natural range, they grow as far west as Illinois and as far south as northern Florida. Because of this, location of seed source is important in attempting plantings outside their normal range. Other common names for this tree are Tulip Poplar and Yellow Poplar, but the tree is actually closely related to the magnolias.

Tulip trees are fast growing and pyramidal in growth habit. Their chief desirable characteristics are uniquely shaped bright green leaves that look like a six inch maple leaf with its tip cut off, leaving four lobes, its tulip-like flowers and its fall color.

I've killed a lot of trees to get two tulip trees to grow. One is now 12 - 15 feet high and is a beautiful specimen. Not flowers yet though.

I know of two large trees, one in Prairie City and one in Carlisle. I have tried growing from seed once with no success. The book says there are few good seeds.

Tom Brady, Member, IWOA
(reprint of Fall 1999 article)

Master Woodland Manager's Program

A Master Woodland Manager's Program is again being offered through ISU Forestry Extension and the Forestry Division of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

The program is 32 hours of intensive forestry training focused on managing woodlands for multiple benefits. In both classroom and hands-on field labs, you will be provided basic information on: tree identification, tree biology, land and tree measurements, woodland inventory, silviculture, forest economics, tree planting, wildlife habitat, pest management, timber marketing, wood use, government assistance programs, and stewardship planning.

For more information contact ISU Extension Forestry at 515-294-1168 or write to:

Master Woodland Manager Program
ISU Forestry Department
253 Bessey Hall
Ames, Iowa 50011-1021

Forestry Field Days

The following field days are being planned by ISU Forestry Extension. In addition to these, there will also be field days at Yellow River State Forest, Hardin County, Cedar County, the Tree Farm Field Day in Fayette County on October 12, and at the Loess Hills State Forest. More information will be available in August. To obtain additional information, contact Paul Wray at Iowa State University: 515-294-1168 or phw@iastate.edu) or at the web site www.ag.iastate.edu/departments/forestry/ext/ext.html

DUBUQUE COUNTY

September 29, 2004, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

John & Barb Ludescher Tree Farm

Topics: Herbaceous Habitat Development-prairie, food plots, cover crops; Tree Protection-tree shelters, mesh tubes, fencing, bud caps; Timber Harvesting and Marketing; Sustaining Woodlands Through Woodland Cooperatives; Woodland Plant Identification; Woodland Improvement and Pruning

Directions: From Bankston, north 0.5 miles on Y17 to D17 (Ashbury Road); east on Asbury Road 4 miles to the Field Day Site (15775 Asbury Road) OR from Dubuque, 5.5 miles west on Asbury Road.

Cost: No Cost

LINN COUNTY

October 1, 2004, 12:15 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Larry & Twila Wiley Tree Farm

Topics: Bottomland Woodland Restoration-natural regeneration, islands of trees and their management, introduction of other species; Silver Maple and Bottomlands-markets and value, management and marketing, timber stand improvement and weed control; Riparian Management-grass buffers, stream bank stabilization; Care and Maintenance of Plantings-planting large nursery stock, weed control in plantings and islands.

Directions: From the north edge of Palo, north on Palo Marsh Road 1.2 miles to Comp Road; east on Comp Road approximately 1 mile to Field Day Site.

Cost: No Cost

LEE COUNTY

October 5, 2004, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

The Barn, Shimek State Forest

Topics: Tree Identification; Sprayers and Calibration of Sprayers; Herbicide Labels-getting the most from your herbicide; Chemical Control of Competition in Tree Plantings; Wildlife Food Plots; Information from Your NRCS; Gullies and Erosion in Woodlands; Log Quality to Lumber Quality-log defects, sawing and lumber defects, how to avoid loss and damage.

Directions: From Farmington, east on J56, three miles; south on Forest Road 1 mile

Cost: \$8.00 for donuts, coffee, lunch and materials

PAGE COUNTY

October 6, 2004, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Nodaway Valley Park

Topics: Tree and Shrub Identification; Shade Tree Planting and Care-planting shade trees, care of new plantings, pruning shade trees; Habitat Improvement-design and planting for wildlife, planting forest seedlings, care and maintenance of wildlife and forest plantings; Attracting/Detracting Wildlife; woodland Improvement for Timber and Wildlife-crop trees, weed trees and thinning

Directions: East of Clarinda to the intersection of Hwys 71 & 2; north on Hwy 71 2 miles to Nodaway Valley Park

Cost: \$5.00 for materials and refreshments