

# TIMBER TALK

## Newsletter of the Iowa Woodland Owners Association

Winter, 2004

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### Summary, January 10, 2004 Board Meeting

The IWOA Board of Directors met at the State Forest Nursery in Ames, IA, January 10, 2004. The meeting was called to order by President Steve Hansen, with Directors Brink, Fullenkamp, Hendricks, McClain, Miner, Sparks, and Ulfers present. Also present were State Forester John Walkowiak, Steve Pennington of DNR Forestry, Membership Secretary Cathy Wilkie-Tomes, and Past Secretary Eugene Frye serving as secretary pro-tem.

The minutes of the September 19, 2003 Board meeting and the treasurer's report were approved.

Tomes presented her membership report. Currently there are 498 members. She dropped 20 members last year. Discussion on membership development followed. She would like a list of web sites useful to members. For new member development she suggested advertising and mailings to State Forest Nursery customer, about 2100 names. She estimates costs of about \$1500. A committee was formed to investigate the suggestions.

John Walkowiak reported on IDNR Forestry matters. He distributed a white paper on the State Forest Nursery, copies of the SFN Stakeholder meeting of October 24, 2003, a handout on Forest Reserve Law findings, and a description of the Bottomland Hardwood Initiative. He mentioned a new web site, [iatreeplanting.com](http://iatreeplanting.com), which contains useful tree planting information. He also passed out materials on four upcoming forestry meetings.

At this time Walkowiak is not aware of any pertinent new legislative items, but mentioned two holdovers from last year's session. REAP assemblies are coming up, and he recommends attending. He expressed appreciation for the \$300 IWOA donated to the "Trees for Kids" program.

Steve Pennington summarized the IDNR's genetic tree improvement program. As a result of inputs, he selected 120 walnut trees across the state for testing and has obtained seeds from 75. They have been planted.

Frye reported that the Iowa Tree Farm Committee is seeking its usual \$500 contribution from IWOA to co-sponsor the 2004 Master Woodland Manager training program. This has been budgeted. The donation was approved.

Because Iowa State Horticultural Society is in a state of transition, it was stated that IWOA needs to coordinate activities with it more tightly. In addition there is a great deal of commonality on legislative items between IWOA and the Iowa Christmas Tree Growers Association and it was recommended that we continue coordination with them.

Ulfers reported on the IWOA Newsletter. She would like to have committee chairpersons send her items for inclusion. She agreed to look into bulk mailing arrangements for IWOA.

New business included discussion of spending down IWOA funds. A general consensus was reached that IWOA should maintain a net worth/cash base of at least one year's income, which would be about \$5000. It was also noted that the IWOA brochure needs updating. President Hansen will coordinate this activity.

The proposed 2004 budget was discussed. There was considerable discussion on funds for membership development and ways to make IWOA more valuable to its members. The proposed budget was approved with an added line item of Membership Development in the amount of \$500.

McClain reported that for the 2004 IWOA Field Day he is leaning toward another in the Amana area. A detailed report will be made in March.

Brink, reporting on the 2004 Annual Meeting, recommended that it be held at the Lake Belva Deer Park near Sigourney in Keokuk County on September 18. She passed out an extensive description of the site and area and described a number of possible programs. Another report will be made in March.

It was noted that the State Fair arrangements are up in the air due to the ISHS situation. Hansen asked for ideas for updating our booth. It was noted that \$600 is budgeted for the fair.

Ulfers request \$200 to support this years FFA woodland activity. The request was approved. In addition a \$200 donation to the Friends of Warren County Nature Center in appreciation of

IWOA's use of the facility for the 2003 annual meeting was approved.

The next Board meeting was set for Saturday, March 20, 2004 at the State Forest Nursery in Ames.

### New Tree Planting Web Page to Add to Your Favorites

The Iowa DNR Forestry Bureau working with Iowa Grown Conservation Nurseries has developed a one-stop information web site for people who wish to plant and care for new conservation plantings. Go to [www.iowatreeplanting.com](http://www.iowatreeplanting.com) and bookmark it. It has the latest information on conservation programs and will be updated with new information on regular basis.

It should be noted that all Iowa Grown Conservation Nurseries (State and Private) have good supplies of quality conservation trees and shrubs this year from native seed sources.

John Walkowiak, Iowa DNR Forestry Bureau Chief

### REAP Regional Assemblies IWOA Members Urged to Attend

The Resources Enhancement and Protection Program (REAP) was established in 1989 by the Iowa Legislature to help Iowa enhance its natural resources on public and private lands. REAP offers a host of programs with state funding to assist in public land management, acquisition, county conservation boards, city and open spaces, conservation education and soil and water conservation (tree planting, wildlife habitat and TSI \$300,000 to \$600,000 annually in 75% cost share). Through the years, state general fund dollars plus fees from REAP Natural Resources license plates provide \$10-\$12 million annually. Funding was lost in 2002, but regained in 2003.

Every two years, the DNR Director hosts a series of regional REAP Assemblies that leads up to a REAP Congress in July. IWOA members are urged to attend these REAP Assemblies that are close to their homes. Strong attendance shows great local support for the numerous REAP projects in your area. For more information on REAP, go to [www.iowadnr.com/REAP/](http://www.iowadnr.com/REAP/) Dates and locations of the REAP Assemblies, beginning on February 3<sup>rd</sup> in Calmar, are listed below, with each program starting at 7:00 PM and ending by 9:30 PM.

Date	City	Location
2/3/04	Calmar	NEICC Dairy Facility Room 112
2/8/04	Marshalltown	Iowa Valley CC Main Bldg Rm 614
2/10/04	Cedar Rapids	Kirkwood CC Cedar Hall
2/12/04	Cedar Falls	Rotary Reserve Lodge 5932 N. Union Rd
2/17/04	Afton	Three Mile Lake Lodge north of Afton on P53
2/18/04	Maquoketa	Community Ctr. 506 S. Eliza St
2/24/04	Carroll	Holy Spirit Catholic Church 401 E Bluff St
2/26/04	Griswold	Community Center 601 Second St
3/2/04	Correctionville	Community Center 716 5 <sup>th</sup> St
3/4/04	Arnolds Park	City Hall 156 N. Okoboji Grove Rd
3/11/04	Des Moines	Izaak Walton League 4343 Valley Dr
3/10/04	Muscatine	Muscatine High School 2705 Cedar
3/16/04	Ottumwa	Indian Hills CC Bennett Regional Rm 100
3/18/04	Fort Dodge	Iowa Central CC Voc Tech Bldg Rm 101
3/23/04	Mason City	Pubic Library 225 Second St SE
3/25/04	Burlington	Memorial Aud Room B 200 Front St

John Walkowiak, Iowa DNR Forestry Bureau Chief



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## Non-Native Tree of the Quarter

American Yellowwood *CLADRATIS lutea (kentuckea)*

Yellowwood is a small to medium sized deciduous tree ( to 50') with a broad oval shape as it matures. The tree has compound leaves with 7-11 oval leaflets to 4" The leaflets have smooth edges and end in a sharp point. The end leaflet is largest. They are unusual in that the leaflets alternate on the stem rather than in pairs like ash and walnut. The leaves are light green enough to contrast with most trees in the summer and they turn yellow in the fall. The bark is smooth except on old trees, resembling beech or maybe a little like the more familiar American Hornbeam (Ironwood).

The heartwood is yellow and was used for dye in pioneer days. The tree is in the legume family and has long racemes of white flowers hanging from the branch tips in early summer. They are said to resemble white wisteria blossoms and are fragrant. The fruit is the familiar flat brown pod, 4" long by 1/2" wide with 3-6 small seeds. The seed pod closely resembles red bud if that helps. Yellowwood tends to branch close to the ground and have branch angles that are susceptible to storm damage, but should be trimmed in summer or fall as it bleeds profusely in spring, if trimmed. The tree is rare even in its native range, which is the southeastern US, probably no nearer to Iowa than Kentucky. Despite this, yellowwood has proven to be hardy to zone 3.

I first encountered yellowwood at a Des Moines nursery about 8 or 9 years ago. The tree was in a pot unlabeled except for the price. I thought it looked like an unfamiliar ash. After some difficulty, I got the tree identified. Since I had never heard of it at the time, I had to buy it. That tree struggled at first, but has survived. I bought it at 6' and it is probably close to 12' now. (Still too small to flower so far.)

I have probably 15 to 20 other trees ranging up to 8' that I've grown from seed. I found two good sized trees in Ewing Park which is on the south side of Des Moines. The seed has a hard seed coat that needs to be softened to germinate. I just remove them from the pods and fall plant 1/4" deep or so. If I plant 100 seeds, I might get 6 trees to sprout the first spring and, if I don't bury the seeds too deep, when I remove those trees in the fall, I'll get a few more trees for the next couple of years from the same seeds.

Tom Brady, IWOA member

## Tree Planting Initiative for Private Landowners

Iowa landowners interested in planting trees and shrubs to reduce erosion, improve air and water quality, produce wood fiber, and increase wildlife habitat in flood prone bottomlands now have a new ongoing program in which to enroll.

The Bottomland Timber Establishment on Wetland Initiative (CP31), a new continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) practice, was announced recently by the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA). The program offers eligible landowners fifty percent cost-share reimbursement and annual land rental payments for 15 years for planting at least three mast (seed) producing hardwood trees and/or shrubs on eligible lands. Eligible land must have a cropping history for four out of six

years between 1996 and 2001. It must also be within the one hundred year floodplain and contain 51 percent hydric soil.

Soil rental rates and eligibility for the program will be determined by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Technical assistance to private landowners on species selection, planting design, and continuing maintenance will be provided by the IDNR, Forestry Bureau. If you are interested in finding out more about this opportunity contact your local FSA, NRCS or IDNR Forestry office. Additional sources of information can be found at [www.iowadnr.com/forestry/](http://www.iowadnr.com/forestry/). Individual landowners who need assistance in locating their county field offices or District Forester can contact Forestry Supervisor Paul Tauke via phone at 515/242-6898 or via e-mail at [paul.tauke@dnr.state.ia.us](mailto:paul.tauke@dnr.state.ia.us)

John Walkowiak, Iowa DNR Forestry Bureau Chief

## New Legislation to impact State Forest Nursery

HF 2050 introduced by Rep. Gene Manternach - proposes to include the cost of land and corporate business taxes to state forest nursery seedling prices and cap production of seedling sales to 28% of the overall demand in any year. The bill assigned to the Natural Resources Committee of the Iowa House of Representatives will go to a sub committee in the next couple of weeks before coming back to the full Natural Resources Committee for a vote.

Initial impacts of HF 2050 if it passes would require the state to increase prices significantly for State Forest Nursery Stock, limit availability of native grown and locally collected seed and impact availability of district forester/enhancement forester availability. For more information on this bill go to: <http://www.legis.state.ia.us/Mapper/BillsComm.html>

John Walkowiak, Iowa DNR Forestry Bureau Chief

## Trees for Kids

Trees For Kids is an Iowa tree education and planting program for Iowa elementary and secondary school teachers and students. Entering its 15<sup>th</sup> season of producing Iowa tree education materials, and posters - it hopes to reach 12,000 teachers this year.

IWOA is a sponsor of the program - with this year's theme on Lewis and Clark Trees and Shrubs of Iowa. If you would like materials to pass along to a teacher in your area or just use the materials for field days - there is no costs thanks to generous donations from MidAmerican Energy, Aquila, Alliant Energy, Iowa Nursery and Landscape Association, Iowa Tree Farm Committee, Trees Forever and IWOA. Contact Callie Pieracci at 515-281-4915 or email her at [TFKids@dnr.state.ia.us](mailto:TFKids@dnr.state.ia.us) to request materials that will be available around the end of March.

## IWOA 2004 Annual Meeting

Mark your calendars for the 2004 IWOA Annual Meeting. The event will be held on September 18 at Lake Belva Deer Park in Keokuk County. There will be presentations of interest for everyone. Please plan ahead to be there. You won't want to miss it.