

TIMBER TALK

Newsletter of the Iowa Woodland Owners Association
Volume 16 Number 3 November 2006

July Field Day at Fullenkamp's

The July 15 IWOA summer field day was held at Ron and Carol Fullenkamp's Tree Farm near West Point. The Fullenkamp family, their kids and grandkids, hosted the event at the Fullenkamp 160-acre woodlands that Ron and Carol planted with trees over the past 20 years. The property features a pond stocked with bass and bluegill, a shelter house, and playground equipment for the kids. It is a beautiful location that sees frequent field days because of the many examples of a well-managed

woodland, including managing growth in a 16-yr-old planting, and evaluating a mature forest after TSI 15 years ago.

The pond provided a great opportunity to learn about fish stocking and how to take a fish count, or inventory, using a shocking technique.

Presentations were made about financial assistance programs, land title transfer options, and an ash borer and oak wilt update.



Attendees learned about an interesting way to keep flies away. Just fill some plastic gallon sacks and hang them from the ceiling. Can you see them in the top picture? Nobody can quite figure out why it works, but it does. Amazing.



IWOA Annual Meeting & Field Day

Swiss Valley Nature Park, southeast of Dubuque just a few miles, provided a beautiful location and facility for this year's annual meeting on Sept. 23. Sixty-two folks attended on that drizzly, rainy day, but it didn't dampen spirits. The park forests spread over 3200 acres of hills and valleys, tillable and timber, in this area of Iowa known as Little Switzerland.

After a brief visit from Secretary of Agriculture candidate Denise O'Brien and a lively business meeting presided over by IWOA president Ace Hendricks, the morning program held the attention of all. It included a legislative update from State Representative Roger Thomas of Elkader, eye-opening facts about uses and future uses of wood products, a discussion about the IWOA exhibit at the Iowa State Fair, and a drawing for a chainsaw, Zach print, and other prizes. (see page 7 for more info and pix)



Photo: MidWest Woodlands & Prairies

After lunch, attendees drove 5 miles west to New Mellary Abbey, a 150 yr-old Benedictine Monastery where 32 monks currently live. A tour included the grounds

with all its rich history, the large stone chapel, gift shop, and the carpentry shop where they make their beautiful wooden caskets that are sold worldwide to provide income for the monks.

Trees dying as bark stripped for herbal remedies... Slippery Elm!

Daniel Boone National Forest, KY (AP)

The 20-ft tree stands half naked, much of the bark stripped from its trunk. It has only months to live. "It doesn't know it's dead," says U.S. Forest Service botanist David Taylor, pointing to the healthy leaves overhead.

This slippery elm has fallen victim to thieves who tore off its bark for profit in the lucrative and burgeoning herbal-remedy market.



The gummy lining of the bark has long been used in North America, and especially Appalachia, as a soothing agent for coughs, gastrointestinal ailments and skin irritations. But now, slippery elm and other herbal products that were once used seasonally by locals are in demand by millions.

Slippery elms are native to North America and can be found from Canada to Texas. Authorities say the prime season for stealing is mid-June and early July, when the bark is easy to peel.

Since the wood has no commercial value, the stripped trees are left to die. About a dozen trees face that fate for each 50-pound sack of bark, which can fetch \$150 if the stuff is dry. The demand for the bark has landed the tree on the protection list kept by the Ohio-based national Center for the preservation of Medicinal Herbs, a non-profit organization that research safe ways to grow and replenish medicinal plants.

Armando Gonzalez Stuart, a researcher at the University of Texas El Paso/Austin Cooperative Pharmacy Program, said the herbal industry should cultivate slippery elms on private property and harvest the bark in a way that preserves the trees.

Consider letting bow hunters hunt your woods

by Tom Rosenberger, IWOA Board Member

After reading about the dilemma that Kevin Kelly from Clarence is in with the DNR I feel a need to write this.

I have bow-hunted for 30+ years and have been planting and growing trees for just as long. I allow others to hunt my property also.

Here are some guidelines I use. Since bow-hunters often hunt from elevated stands (tree stands being one example) I have required that

1) No injury to trees using screw-in steps, nails, etc. be allowed.

2) Ladder stands (a ladder with platform/seat that is secured to the tree with a chain or belt around it) be used, and that they also be removed after each hunting season so as not to be "grown-ins" if left several years.

3) Harvest does (plural) not just a buck.

In closing, I'll say I have permanent stands in several trees and have used screw-in steps in the past... not any more.

A Woodland Counting Book

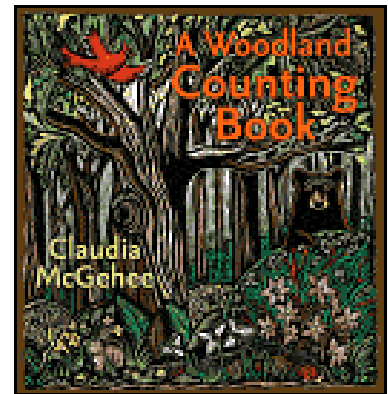
By Claudia McGehee, 2006, 32 pgs, for children to adults, \$17.95, reprinted from *Cedar Rapids Gazette*

From one white oak to 50 busy carpenter ants, illustrator Claudia McGehee counts the wonders of the woodlands. Follows spring to summer to fall to winter – returning at the book's end to springtime in one woodland community – McGehee introduces more than 20 species of

plants and animals to young readers.

From the white oaks that tower overhead to tiny evening bats, which roost in hollow trees, the book

features a wild world of woodland life. McGehee is a resident of Iowa City.



Wood for Home Heating

by Paul Wray, Professor of Forestry, ISU

With cooler weather and higher energy prices, homeowners will begin looking at alternative sources for home heating. The use of firewood in stoves, furnaces and fireplaces will be considered for home heating by many homeowners. Before running out and buying a new wood stove or chain saw, consider some facts about your wood supply and the effort and resource needed to produce it.

Most species of wood contain approximately the same amount of energy per pound, assuming they are at the same moisture content. Firewood at 20% moisture content or air seasoned for at least one year has approximately 7,000 Btu's of energy per pound. Species differences occur in firewood because of the density variation across species. In Iowa basswood weighs about 25 pounds per cubic foot and shagbark hickory weighs 51 pounds.

Species of Wood	Weight per Cord (lbs)
Osage Orange	4792
Shagbark Hickory	4072
Red Oak	3536
Green Ash	3296
Silver Maple	2752
Cottonwood	2272
Basswood	1984

Firewood is often measured and sold by the stacked volume. A cord of wood is a stack of firewood 4" x 4' x 8' or 128 cubic feet of wood and air. A cord of air-dried basswood weighs a ton and shagbark hickory weighs two tons; therefore, a cord of shagbark hickory has twice the heat value as a cord of basswood.

Consider the heat equivalents for home heating. Assuming that the wood appliance is 60% efficient compared with either LP or natural gas at 85% efficiency or electricity at 100%. A cord of basswood is equivalent to 9700 ft³ natural gas, 108 gallons of LP or 2427 kilowatts of electricity; a cord of shagbark hickory is equivalent to 20,000 ft³ of natural gas, 223 gallons of LP or 4994 kilowatts of electricity.

Firewood must be seasoned or dried. To accomplish this, requires that the wood be cut and stacked for at least a year before burning. The

average wood usage in Iowa for home heating is 3-7 cords per year.

Using firewood for home heating requires a good supply of firewood. A few trees in the backyard is not sufficient. Most woodlands in Iowa are capable of producing or growing up to a cord of wood per acre per year with good management. Firewood burners should have a minimum of 5 to 10 acres of a well stocked (land fully occupied with trees) and well-managed woodland to provide the fuel for heating the average home.

If the homeowner is planning on using wood as an alternative source of energy, consider all aspects of wood burning including the cost of the stove and installation, supply of wood, production cost including equipment such as chainsaw, splitter, and pickup, storage of the wood, planning at least a year ahead of time, and the hassles of feeding and tending the wood burning equipment.

Burning wood can have impacts on the environment through smoke pollution outdoors, indoors and damage to the woodland or forest through unwise practices. It is safe to say that if wood from a sustainable managed forest is properly processed, dried and burned in a properly installed and maintained efficient wood burner, the environmental impacts will be minimized.

A good web site for learning more about wood burning is: <http://www.woodheat.org/>

New IWOA Board Members Elected



Harlan Stientjes was elected as a new Board Member, for the 2006-2009 term. He and his wife Marcia live near Ely and have 16 acres of timber they have named Heaven Woods.

Ron Fullenkamp and Bev Brink were re-elected to the IWOA Board for another term. Ron also serves as President of the Iowa Tree Farmers.

Non-Native Tree of the Quarter



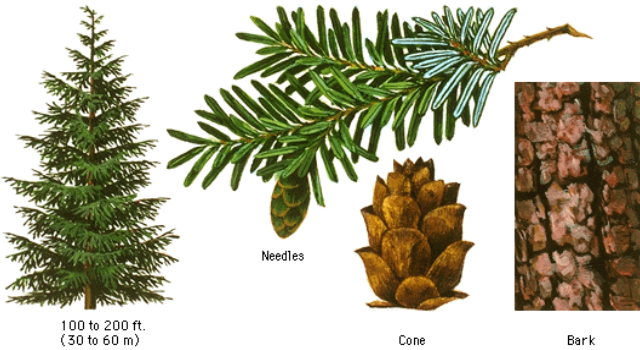
Canadian or Eastern Hemlock

Tsuga Canadensis

by Tom Brady

IWOA Member and Tree Fanatic

Eastern Hemlock is a lacy, graceful needled evergreen. If you are one to assign gender to trees (and who isn't), this tree is definitely female because of its grace and beauty. Of course, it is actually both sexes having both male and female flowers. The male flowers are yellow and the female green. The female flowers resemble small cones and later form brown cones of less than an inch. These contain winged seeds and persist on the tree after releasing the ripe seeds. The cones are generally situated on the end of the previous years growth and are egg-shaped.



The needles are flattened, short (less than 1”), and have rounded tips. They are soft to the touch. They grow spirally around the twigs, but appear to be arranged in two rows on each side of the twigs. There is often an additional row on the top of the twig, with shorter needles that are often twisted so that the underside is showing, revealing the two white lines which are not visible on the top of the other needles, being underneath. The springtime needles are light green and darken as they ripen. They persist on the tree generally for three years and leave a rough texture to the twigs when they fall. This is a defining characteristic.



Eastern Hemlock is native from Nova Scotia to NE Minnesota and south on the mountains of the eastern states all the way to north Alabama. It is hardy to zone 3, but must be planted judiciously in Iowa. It must be protected from drying winds preferably in partial shade. Being planted on a north facing slope

can be helpful. The tree growth is medium and can top out at 70’ or more. Young trees can have several leaders but just pick the best one, trim off the others, and the tree will not fight any longer, but grow like a normal conifer. The leader tends to droop sideways, like it’s been bent by the wind, but despite this, the tree grows straight.

The bark is flaky at first becoming deeply furrowed and brown as the tree ages. The limbs persist and hang to the ground. I planted 10 trees in 1994 and 3 survived. Only those that were deeply shaded lived, so when they got big enough to move to the golf course, (8-10’ otherwise they would be run over by golfers) I placed them in shade where they thrive. All 3 are 15’ – 20’ tall.

Additional notes: For you history buffs, this is NOT the poison Socrates took. That plant is related to parsnip. The scientific name “Tsuga” is Japanese and is pronounced “soo’gah”. It means “tree mother”. Thought you’d like to know.



IWOA honors Paul Wray with Retirement Gift

IWOA President Ace Hendricks presents a retirement gift to Paul Wray, as a small token of appreciation for all that he has done to educate and encourage good management practices among Iowa woodland owners.



SAFETY CORNER

Topic: LOOK!

When growing up my dad would use a phrase like, “Look what you’re doing,” when, maybe, I wasn’t paying enough attention to the task at hand. Maybe you’ve heard a similar phrase. We really need to heed those words as we work and play in the woods. “**Look,**” is likely the key word!

When felling a tree there are several things to **look** for.

- **Look** at the top of the tree for dead limbs (also in adjacent trees). Falling objects are a serious threat.



- **Look** for obstructions that could cause an erratic or misdirected fall.
- **Look** for such things as power lines or various other hazards.
- **Look** to know what is coming down when the tree falls.
- **Look** for an escape route. Clear away brush or limbs as needed.
- **Look** at the landing area (including adjacent areas) to be sure they are clear of hazards that could fly back at you and, of course, **look** to make sure no one else (or your truck) is in or around the landing zone.
- **Look** at the tree trunk for signs of it being hollow or for other suspicious defects.
- **Look** to see if the tree is leaning such that it could “barber chair” when cut.

When trimming down trees and brush, **look** for limbs that are “loaded up.” That is, bent under tension such that, when cut could release and strike with considerable force. (Been there, my hard hat saved an awful headache).

- **Look** at how the tree is supported to avoid any chance that it could roll when a limb is removed.
- **Look** at the ground surface for holes or bumps or stumps that could cause a fall.
- **Look** for any kind of hazard! I’m sure there are more than mentioned here. But also, **look** at all the neat things we get to experience in our woodlands.

Be safe and enjoy the woods!

All Things are Interrelated

This is another indication that outdoor activities may have positive or negative effects on the natural ecosystems. The wood duck was to be benefited by the

box placed in the tree fifteen feet above the ground near our pond, twenty yards from our house. But obviously, the



queen bee had other “thoughts”. The wild swarm has been in the box for the past three

months. Since wild populations of honeybees have been negatively affected by mite infestations, I am happy to see their being



successful this season. This unexpected arrival of bees has had a positive impact on the wildflowers in our nearby prairie plot. Photos by Mike Ripperger

Newsletter Mailing Party

by Bev Brink, Timber Talk editor & Board Member



The June issue of 1400 copies of Timber Talk is labeled, taped, sorted at the home of Bill and Judy Bennett of rural Elgin. Pictured from the left: Tom Rosenberger, Bev and George Brink, Bill and Judy Bennett. Not pictured: Will Ogle. As you can tell from the picture, it’s a lot of work, but a lot of fun, too.

Join the IWOA Listserv

A listerv is an email address group that allows a member of the group to send a message to everyone in the listserv at once.

It is a great way to get information out to the listserv members quickly and to electronically “talk amongst ourselves”.

All it requires is that you have an email address and a willingness to be included in this email group.

People use the listserv to share interesting woodland-related information, ask other listserv members for help on any forestry issue or problem, get updated on legislative activities/issues, receive reminders, info on events, tidbits and tips.

At any time, a listserv member may choose to be taken off.

How do you sign up?

1. Go to the IWOA website
<http://www.iowawoodlandowners.org>
2. Click on Contact Us
3. Where it says Subscribe to the IWOA listserv, type in your email address, then click the purple button that says Yahoo Groups Join Now.
4. You will receive a confirmation email that asks that you confirm you own the submitted email address.

That’s all there is to it. We look forward to having lots of IWOA members joining in the listserv discussions.

If you want to join the listserv, have any questions or comments about the listserv, contact Bev Brink at 563 245-2044 bbrink@alpinecom.net

IWOA website - information central

www.iowawoodlandowners.org

A number of pictures from IWOA activities and additional notes from the Annual Meeting are now



posted on the IWOA website.

Your suggestions and/or pictures, information, woodland related poems or stories,

are always welcome for consideration on the IWOA website. Send them to Bev Brink, 106 High St NE, Elkader IA 52043 bbrink@alpinecom.net

Join IWOA

Benefits of IWOA membership:

- Opportunities to get together with and get to know other woodland owners, and DNR staff, ISU staff, District Foresters, and forestry product vendors;
- informational and educational opportunities; legislative influence;
- opportunities to attend field days and other forestry events;
- and the Timber Talk newsletter.

To join, complete this form, download IWOA membership brochures from the IWOA website or from Cathy Wilkie, IWOA Membership Secretary, 204 Park Rd, Iowa City, IA 52246 cat_wilkie@yahoo.com

- Member** \$10 - woodland owner, voting
- Assoc. Member** \$10 – non-woodland owner, non-voting
- Contributing Member** \$50 – woodland owner, voting
- Contributing Assoc. Member** \$50+, non-woodland owner, non-voting

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ **Zip:** _____

Home phone: _____

Email address: _____

Would you like to be added to the IWOA listserv?
Yes No

Number of forest acres you own: _____

Is your land in the forest reserve program? ___

Are you a certified tree farmer? _____

I am interested in volunteering for IWOA committees and/or events in the future

I am interested in serving on the IWOA Board of Directors and/or learning more about the Board of Directors' responsibilities.

Send this application to: Cathy Wilkie, IWOA Membership Secretary, 204 Park Rd, Iowa City, IA 52246 cat_wilkie@yahoo.com

Natural Resources Committee to discuss sustainable funding

from Cedar Rapids Gazette, 8/3/06 and notes from Tom Rosenberger, IWOA Board President

A committee has been appointed to explore sustainable funding for natural resources in Iowa, led by Jeff Vonk, Director of the DNR. This is an “invited” committee, not open to the public.

During the 2006 session the Iowa Legislature called for creation of the committee to develop a report containing the following components:

- A sustainable funding plan for the conservation of Iowa’s natural resources
- A summary of sustainable funding initiatives implemented in surrounding states
- The estimated revenue needed to implement the plan and accomplishments that would be achieved if it is implemented
- An analysis of Iowans’ willingness to pay for identified conservation actions.

The committee consists of representatives of both houses and both parties of the Legislature, Conservation Districts of Iowa, Ducks Unlimited, Farmers Union, Iowa Association of County Conservation Boards, Iowa Environmental Council (IEC), Iowa Farm Bureau, Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, Iowa Renewable Fuels Association, Izaak Walton League of Iowa, Pheasants Forever, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, the Seirra Club and The Nature Conservancy. IWOA is represented through the IEC. Board Member Ace Hendricks serves as liaison with the IEC. If you have input for this sustainable funding committee, submit it to Ace who will forward it to the IEC. Contact Ace at 2070 Highway 92, Ackworth, IA 50315 email: judenace@fbx.com or phone: (515) 961-8157

Public meetings will be held in the future for input.

Contact information for TimberTalk:

Bev Brink, Editor, 563 245-2044
Please let us know your thoughts, ideas, suggestions. Timbertalk is published 3 times a year. Next issue will come out in October or November.

Do you have an idea for an article IWOA and ITF members will find of interest? How about an editorial

on
an
issue
or



philosophy close to your heart? Please send articles or ideas by October 1 to Bev Brink, 106 High St NE, Elkader, IA 52043
bbrink49@hotmail.com

IWOA Gains its 500th Member at the 2006 Annual Meeting

Tom Rosenberger IWOA Board President shakes hands with Bill Blackburn, IWOA’s 500th member, as Cathy Wilkie, IWOA Membership Secretary looks on.

A Highlight of 2006 IWOA Annual Meeting: Drawing for Donated Gifts

Ray Reuter, IWOA member from Monticello, won a 14” Stihl chainsaw donated by Gregg



Redlin, IWOA member and owner of Air Cooled Engines, Iowa City.

Jim Murphy, IWOA member from Runnels, won a framed Larry Zach print, Winter Cardinals on Goldenrod,

which was donated by Zach, IWOA member and nationally renowned wildlife artist from Ankeny.

Other prizes included IWOA signs, note cards created by Ace Hendricks, Zack note

pads and magnets.





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