

# TimberTalk

Newsletter of the Iowa Woodland Owners Association

Volume 18 No. 2 May 2008

## Sustainable Funding for Iowa's Natural Resources

by Paul Tauke, Chief of IDNR Forestry Bureau

Iowa moved one step closer to earmarking funding for natural resources when our legislature passed Senate Joint Resolution 2002, a Constitutional amendment to create and protect sustainable funding for natural resources.

If the House and Senate pass SJR 2002 in the next General Assembly the issue of constitutionally dedicating and protecting 3/8 of a penny of Iowa's sales tax to natural resources would be put before a vote of the Iowa people. If the people pass the initiative, the 3/8 of a cent tax would occur the next time there is a statewide sales tax increase and could not be used for any other purpose than natural resource conservation and management.

Several months ago I was asked to project the potential impact of Sustainable Funding on Iowa's woodland resources and woodland owners. Here's what I came up with:

Potential impact #1: Achieve the following annual increases in private land management:

- 1,000 additional site visits on an additional 30,000 acres
- 3,500 additional acres of reforestation
- 2,500 additional acres of forest stand improvement
- 10,000 acres of additional forest wildlife assists
- \$650,000 worth of additional timber marketing assistance to Iowa landowners
- financial incentives to private landowners for reforestation, forest stand improvement, forest restoration, invasive species control, prescribed burning, forest wildlife habitat improvement, savanna management and agroforestry on 4,000 acres annually.

Potential impact #2: Research to develop:

- improved varieties of black walnut, red oak, butternut, white pine and other species
- effective control measures for tree and forest health issues including but not limited to emerald ash borer, gypsy moth, wildlife damage, tubakia, oak tatters, bush honeysuckle, garlic mustard, buckthorn, multiflora rose and autumn olive.
- silvicultural practices to insure Iowa's oak forest resource decline is reversed.
- minimally invasive solutions to forest gully erosion  
(continued on page 2)

## A Tree Farm Update

by Ron Fullenkamp, IWOA

Board Member and Past

President of Iowa Tree Farmers



The past two years for Iowa Tree Farm (ITF) organization have seen many changes. I will try to bring you up to date.

No doubt the largest impact on American Tree Farm (ATF) was the \$150,000,000 given to us by the Canadian Government. Prior to this funding the National Tree Farm (NTF) system was in fiscal trouble to say the least. Its annual budget was around four million dollars and receipts were running less than expenditures. With the influx of new money, it now has a budget of around \$11 million. This has many positive implications and opportunities for ITF.

A little over a year ago I received a call from National saying they wanted me as President of ITF and an additional officer to attend the National Leadership Conference in Orlando, FL, expenses paid. Bill and Judy Bennett and my wife, Carol, and I attended and learned many things we were previously unaware of. This year National sent ITF additional funding to  
(continued on page 2)

## Calendar of Events

- May 23 \* Boone County, Society of American Foresters Meeting with National Wild Turkey Fed
- May 28 \* Fayette County, Field Day, 12:30 - 4  
Located 2 miles south of Wadena, IA. on W51.
- June 19 \*\* IWOA Bd Mtg, Ox Yoke Inn, Amana 10-1
- June 26 \* Johnson County, Invasive Species Field Day, F.W. Kent Park. 9:00 am - 2:45 pm
- August 21 Master Woodland Manager class starts, Backbone Park, Strawberry Point
- Sept 17 \* Floyd County, Field Day
- Sept 19 \*\* IWOA Annual Conference & Field Day
- Oct 2 \* Yellow River State Forest, Field Day
- Oct 7 \* Shimek State Forest, Field Day
- Oct 8 \* Marshall County, Field Day
- Oct 15 \* Loess Hills, Field Day

\* For details, go to ISU Forestry Extension:  
[www.forestry.iastate.edu/education/fielddays.html](http://www.forestry.iastate.edu/education/fielddays.html)  
or contact Jesse Randall of ISU 515-294-1168

\*\*For details, go to the IWOA website and click on Events  
[www.iowawoodlandowners.org](http://www.iowawoodlandowners.org) or contact Larry Wiley of  
IWOA 319 851-3371 [wileyfam@netins.net](mailto:wileyfam@netins.net)

## Sustainable Funding *(continued from page 1)*

- markets for small diameter woody forest material generated from forest stand improvement activities including potential for the material to be used as biomass for energy production or cellulosic feed stock for ethanol production.
- improved varieties of fast growing hardwoods to feed a woody biomass or cellulosic ethanol industry.
- study of the effects of common silvicultural practices on wildlife populations and forest floor flora.

Sustainable Funding would also provide funding to address urban and community forestry, forest health, state forest management and forest resource outreach and education issues.

The potential impact of sustainable funding on Iowa's woodland resource is enormous. It will be up to each individual Iowan to determine if the benefits of protected and sustained natural resource funding outweigh the additional cost.

Whatever your personal feeling on the issue, I urge you to stay informed and get involved in what promises to be the most important natural resources legislation that the State of Iowa has seen in over a century. \_\_\_\_\_

## ITF Update *(continued from page 1)*

support travel and registration expenses for two couples to the National Leadership Conference. Current ITF President Bill and Judy Bennett along with Vice-President Jim and Jody Kerns attended and came back with a lot of new information as to the direction of the Tree Farm Program.

Another change that happened in 2006 was an effort to ask members to voluntarily pay dues. However, the program was not handled very well and fell pretty flat. This year again, a solicitation for voluntary dues was launched and results were much better. We now receive 50% of all dues submitted for Iowa use. You no doubt are asking if we have all this money, why dues.

There are several reasons:

1. the monies from our industry partners has been getting less over the past several years.
2. NTF is being asked to provide many more services for our members which are costly.
3. it is evident that those willing to put their own money up are more likely to make sure that the dollars are used wisely to promote the ideas of the Tree Farm System.
4. Number one is we are a 501c3 organization which means we are tax exempt and dues are tax deductible as a contribution.

In Iowa we are awarded a grant for \$4,000 to promote new members of ITF. In cooperation with the

Iowa DNR, the Iowa Woodland Owners, and Iowa State University Forestry Extension Service and great help from Jesse Randall, ISU Extension Forester, we will be doing a membership mailing of timber owners in early summer. It will be sent to approximately 10,000 private landowners to inform them of the advantages of belonging to ITF or IWOA. Our cost on this mailing will be around \$6,000.

There are many other changes happening with ITF, such as looking to expand our programs in educational and outreach particularly to our youth. Several new programs were discussed April 24 at our committee meeting and will be introduced over the next year. Some of these are exciting and as soon as we can finalize them we will be informing you of the progress.

If you have questions, contact Ron Fullenkamp, [ron\\_fullenkamp@iowatelecom.net](mailto:ron_fullenkamp@iowatelecom.net) 319 837-6178

## Invasive Species Field Day

An Invasive Species Field Day will be held June 26, 2008 at F.W. Kent Park near Tiffin, IA.. The hours are 9:00 AM-2:45 PM. There is no charge, however, space is limited and lunch is provided so please make reservations by 4:00 PM Wednesday, June 18, 2008 by calling the Johnson County Conservation Education Center at 319-645-1011.

## Memorable Trees

The nations largest and oldest Sitka Spruce tree at 750 years and 206 feet tall finally fell as a result of 100mph plus winds in November 2007. Because of age, it had been damaged in earlier years resulting in many ideas as to how to preserve it. Fortunately, foresters decided to let nature take its course.

We visited this fallen giant in March and it was like honoring an old friend. Memorable and Humbling. By fate (?) it had fell precisely between the visitors center and the re-created Lewis and Clark 1805 winter headquarters at Fort Clatsop, Oregon at the mouth of the Columbia river. A fitting monument to its life. It's interesting to know that several amateur woodland people have successfully started seedlings.

While most of us support woodland management from birth to death, including harvest, we all have one in our Iowa woods.



*Doris Woodruff stands by the big, fallen Sitka Spruce*

## Think Safety

by Larry Wiley, IWOA Board Member, Palo

Spring is here and summer is on the way. Along with the pleasant warm air and fresh breezes come bugs, bees, poison plants and other outdoor hazards associated with summer in the woods.



One of the most popular and maybe the most populous insect is the mosquito. Other than the obvious irritation from bites that itch, the mosquito can transmit the West Nile Virus. Using insect repellent

allows you to continue to play and work outdoors with a reduced risk of mosquito bites. Products containing "DEET" or "Picaridin" may provide longer lasting protection than some other products. Wearing long sleeve shirts and long pants will provide some protection. Clothing with mosquito netting is also available. Eliminating mosquito breeding sites may reduce the population. Any body of standing water can become a mosquito breeding site, even the bird bath in the garden. Bats are good at reducing the population of mosquitoes. Maintain bat houses to foster larger population of bats.



Ticks are another crawling insect that can cause problems such as Lyme Disease. Using insect repellent with 20% to 30% DEET can help avoid bites from ticks. Wearing light colored clothing can help you spot ticks. Long pants

and long sleeved shirts along with long socks will keep ticks off your skin. Check skin daily for ticks if you are in wooded or tall grassy areas. The symptoms of Lyme disease may vary. A distinctive rash may appear with a bull's-eye appearance as the rash enlarges. Other symptoms include fatigue, chills, fever, headache, and muscle and joint aches, and swollen lymph nodes.



Bee stings can be very painful and for some result in a dangerous allergic reaction. Again, protective clothing and insect repellent can help in avoiding stings. Avoid area with known bee or wasp populations is a good idea.

Symptoms of an allergic reaction may include difficulty breathing or speaking, swelling of the mouth or throat, a rash over much of the body, faintness or decreased level of consciousness. In these cases seek immediate medical assistance.

Poisonous plants can also be a hazard in the outdoors. Poison Ivy is likely the most common although there are others such as poison oak and wild parsnip. Contact with these can result in a nasty rash

that can be very itchy and painful. This is caused by a chemical in the plants sap known as urushiol.

Learning to identify these plants and avoiding contact is the first defense. Like with insects, long clothing will help protect the skin. Cleansing the skin quickly after contact will help reduce the reaction. It is important to note, that clothing or other items should also be cleaned or you can be infected at a later time from the urushiol on these items.



More information on all of these hazards and others is available on various web sites by doing a simple search. Also, don't forget the sunscreen.

Be safe and enjoy the woods!

## Wood Fiber as Biofuel Energy

Technologies are rapidly developing to help the nation meet its renewable energy goals. While some of the technologies are not there yet, wood fiber is potentially one of the most attractive because cellulose ethanol, ethanol made from wood fiber, has one of the most efficient cellulose potentials.



It is estimated that each British

Thermal Unit (BTU) of fossil fuel used to produce cellulose ethanol from wood could produce 17 BTUs of renewable energy.

This compares much more favorably than: Corn - 1.3, Biodiesel - 2.5 and Sugar Cane - 8. (One BTU is about the equivalent of the energy from a farmer's match. The average home furnace burns 80-120,000 BTUs per hour).

Source: Worldwatch Institute

## IWOA Annual Conference and Field Day goes to SE Iowa – Sept. 19, Friday

Plans are in the making for the IWOA Fall Meeting. Location: Pilot Grove, Lee County in SE Iowa Morning: Short business meeting then presentations on various current forestry topics Lunch: locally catered by Mohrfeld family Afternoon: Field day at Shimek State Forest for outside field day events.



More info will be mailed to you this summer. For now, pencil the date into your calendar. Don't miss it. Tie a string around your finger if it works for you!

Trees are the best monuments that a man can erect to his own memory. They speak his praises without flattery, and they are blessings to children yet unborn. Lord Orrery, 1749

We invite you to visit the IWOA website where you will find information about forestry events, photos from recent events, interesting and informative forestry weblinks, membership and contact information, a link for signing up for the IWOA email listserv, and how to order an IWOA tee shirt, cap, sign, or tree I.D. booklet, [www.iowawoodlandowners.org](http://www.iowawoodlandowners.org)



**IWOA**  
IOWA WOODLAND OWNERS ASSOCIATION

**Welcome to the Iowa Woodland Owners Association**

IWOA is committed to advancing the interests of Woodland Owners, developing public appreciation for their importance and to foster and encourage wise use and management of woodlands and related resources in Iowa. Founded in 1987, the IWOA is a private non-profit organization that welcomes anyone with an interest in woodlands. Members are invited to attend woodland field days and conferences.

**February 2008 Timber Talk Newsletter** (pdf)  
IWOA Library Resources  
**Photo Gallery: Winter Gardening Fair at Kirkwood**  
**IWOA Annual Meeting Minutes**

**Join the IWOA listserv**

The listserv is a great way to communicate with other IWOA members, ask questions

**IWOA Board**  
**2005-08**  
Steve Hansen- Des Moines



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