

The IDNR Division of Forestry budget for 2010 is \$2,045,015. This is only .34% of the overall state budget in 2008. The 2010 budget is less than the 2008 budget. The Iowa legislature should recognize the importance of trees, wood, wood products, and produce to the Iowa economy and to the beauty of our state.

By increasing the IDNR Division of Forestry budget for 2011, the necessary research, data collection, forest management, urban forestry programs, and technical assistance can be provided to individuals and communities to avoid lost woodlands and to increase the economic contribution of woodlands to our state. An Iowa without trees should be unimaginable, by taking action now we won't have to consider this possibility.

David W. Bartemes and his family own and manage Dave's Hardwood Trees, LLC, a managed tree farm in Wayne County. All data in this article was extracted from one of the two following resources Iowa Forests Today, IDNR, June 2010 Or Healthy Woodlands Initiative, 2011 Legislative Proposal IDNR Division of Forestry, 2010

**Become a Member of IWOA**  
*We invite you (or someone you might know) to become a member of the Iowa Woodland Owners Association*

Member \$20—woodland owner, voting  
 Associate Member \$20—non-woodland owner, non-voting  
 Contributing Member \$50—woodland owner, voting  
 Contributing Associate Member \$50—non-woodland owner, non-voting

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 Number of forest acres you own \_\_\_\_\_  
 County acres located \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail this completed form and check to:**  
**Cathy Wilkie**  
**IWOA Membership Secretary**  
**204 Park Rd.**  
**Iowa City, IA 52246**

50327\*8035 R005



**From the President**

*by Dave Bartemes, IWOA President*

There are some new ideas in the works at IWOA. I'm hoping that you will all take the time to give new ideas some consideration. In any event we welcome feedback, so don't be timid.

One of the most costly of our efforts at IWOA is the printing and mailing of Timber Talk. Everyone I've spoken to has told me that Timber Talk is a vital part of what we do. It keeps us up to snuff on what's happening and when it's happening. But because of the cost involved, the board has been discussing ways to reduce the cost. One thing is for sure, we don't intend to give it up.

There are two ideas on the table and we want the membership to know what they are. The first idea is to reduce the number of issues from three a year to two a year. Obviously, this would result in a 1/3 savings of the money spent to print and mail Timber Talk. The second idea is the one that gets the most discussion. We would like to send Timber Talk out by e-mail rather than by snail mail.

We know that some people don't have e-mail and that others object to having their e-mail address where they don't feel secure. We asked on the renewal forms this year if members were willing to receive their issue by e-mail on an individual basis. We would then snail mail only to those who don't receive it by e-mail. Over time, we believe the majority of members would opt for e-mail distribution. One of the issues we would address is that we would promise not to distribute e-mail addresses to third parties. This would add to record keeping but it is probably doable.

At present we don't have a volunteer to edit and publish the newsletter. As an interim step, the board has decided to pay our membership secretary, Cathy Wilkie, to edit and publish the January/February issue. This would give us a

**TimberTalk**  
*Newsletter of the Iowa Woodland Owners Association*  
**February 2011**

benchmark to know how much it will cost to hire Cathy for these additional duties.

Currently we budget \$1250 for mailing Timber Talk and \$1800 to print it. We are reimbursed by Tree Farmers \$1800 for their share of the cost. As you can see, Tree Farmers have a say in this as well. If we can save 1/2 of the mailing costs, we should be able to pay Cathy to edit and publish it. Some of us think we could save even more.

Thanks for your interest and we hope to see you at the Summer Field day.

**BEWARE THE BIG FOUR**

*By Paul Tauke, State Forester/Chief, Iowa DNR Forestry Bureau*

Woodland owners always have a good number of things about which to be to be concerned. In 2011, they can add watching out for the "big four" exotic invasive pests: Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), Gypsy moth, bur oak blight (BOB) and thousand cankers disease of walnut. What do the big four mean for Iowa's woodland owners, tree farmers and communities?

**EAB** – EAB, found in Allamakee County in 2010, is near 100% fatal to ash trees of all sizes and ages. It is capable of attacking healthy ash trees, although it prefers to make its home in stressed or declining ash.

All of Iowa's 52 million rural and 3.1 million urban ash trees are at risk of mortality. According to US Forest Service projections, EAB will spread throughout the eastern half of Iowa to about Interstate 35 by 2019.

*(continued on page 2)*



**TimberTalk**  
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**(The Big Four, con't from page 1)**

The economic losses to Iowa woodland owners and Iowa wood industry over the next twenty years will be approximately 27 million dollars. Iowa communities will face 2.5 billion dollars in tree removal and replacement costs and loss of urban tree-derived benefits such as energy savings, loss of property value, storm water retention, and carbon sequestration.

**Gypsy Moth** – In 2010,

trappers captured 2,260 male gypsy moths in 31 Iowa counties, three times more than the previous record. The most serious potential problem areas are in Jackson, Winneshiek and Allamakee counties. Approximately 73,000 acres are slated for treatment with pheromone flakes to disrupt mating patterns and slow the spread of the moth in these areas.



The economic loss attributed to gypsy moth in Iowa will be approximately 551 million dollars over the next twenty years. The impact to Iowa communities will be 4.1 billion dollars in loss of urban tree benefits and in tree removal and replacement costs.

**Bur Oak Blight (BOB)** – The symptoms of bur oak blight were observed in western Iowa in 2001. At that time, forest health experts assumed it was a benign form of the fungus Tubakia. However, as the disease progressed both in geographic area and severity, it was reexamined and found to be a much more aggressive fungus. In 2010, DNR Foresters observed pockets of bur oak blight and individual tree mortality throughout the entire state. Trees with BOB exhibit browning of leaves, branch dieback and eventual tree mortality.



The estimated economic impact of bur oak blight is 19 million over the next 20 years. The impact to Iowa communities will be a 1.5 billion dollar loss of urban

tree benefits and tree removal and replacement costs.

**Thousand Cankers Disease of Black Walnut** -

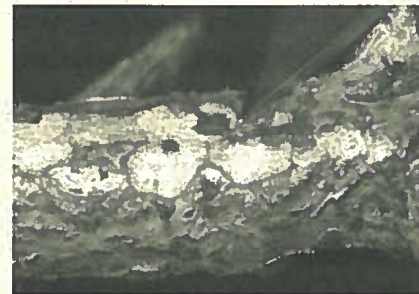
Thousand cankers disease has not yet been found in Iowa. Its recent discovery in Tennessee; however, has created new cause for concern regarding the range

of this pest. Thousand cankers is a disease complex that is initiated by a fungus that is vectored by the walnut twig beetle. Once infected the bark and cambium are colonized by fungi, which leads to cankering of twigs and eventual tree mortality.

The economic impact of thousand cankers disease to Iowa is substantial due the value of black walnut lumber. The projected loss to Iowa landowners and wood industry is 1.8 billion dollars over the next twenty years. The loss of urban tree benefits and urban tree removal will cost communities economic impact is 859 million dollars.

**The Upshot** – The Big Four obviously have the potential to wreak havoc with Iowa's rural and community forest resources. Unchecked they will combine to cost Iowa landowners and wood industry 2.4 billion dollars over the next twenty years and \$120,000,000 in lost economic opportunity annually thereafter. They will cost Iowa communities almost 9 billion dollars in lost benefits and tree removal and replacement costs. There are things that you can do to prepare for these unwelcome visitors and; with the exception of EAB, limit their potential impact.

- Limit or eliminate movement of firewood or any other untreated wood products or wood waste. Movement of these materials will aid and abet the spread of the big four pests and numerous other native and exotic pests. *(Continued Page 3)*



**(The Big Four, Continued from Page 2)**

- Keep your eyes open for the signs and symptoms of the big four. If you are seeing issues, contact your district forester. You will probably be asked to take some digital photos of the suspect tree or trees as a first step to determining if an on-the-ground inspection is warranted
- Take care of your woods. This means following a written management plan developed by a professional forester to meet your goals and objectives. It also means maintaining proper spacing, stocking and diversity of trees within your woods. If your woodlands and trees are healthy and vigorous, they will be much more likely to be resistant to both exotic invasive and native pests and to survive exposure to these pathogens. To the extent that your woods are overstocked, overgrazed, and under managed, they will be much more susceptible to all pests including the big four.
- Get involved. Become an advocate for the protection and care of rural and community woodland and tree resources. Become active in the Iowa Woodland Owners Association (IWOA), the Tree Farm Program, Trees Forever and/or, the newly formed Coalition for Iowa's Woodlands & Trees. The key to protecting your woods is convincing your neighbors to keep their woods healthy and protected.

**Our current board members:**

- |                                |                          |
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**IWOA Support Staff**

- Cathy Wilkie, Membership Secretary  
Joanne Mensinger, Treasurer

**A Word from Jesse Randall**

**Asst. Prof. & Ext. Forester, Iowa State University**

The spring tree planting season is just around the corner so if you have not ordered your seedlings, now is the time! It also means that our spring forestry field days are not too far off. ISU Forestry Extension has eight field days planned throughout Iowa and information will be posted online at [www.forestry.iastate.edu](http://www.forestry.iastate.edu) as it becomes available. We have also planned the 17<sup>th</sup> annual Tri-State Forest Stewardship conference to be held on March 12<sup>th</sup> 2011 at Sinsinawa Mound, WI. Participants can choose from over 25 different presentations and two workshops. We are also running two of our most popular programs in central Iowa this year: The **Master Woodland Managers (MWM) program** will be based out of Marshalltown in May and the **Community Tree Stewards Program (CTSP)** will run out of Eldora every Tuesday night in May and the first part of June. Both of these programs highlight the shift in Extension programming with an emphasis on small group hands-on learning. In the MWM course, groups consisting of 3-4 participants will be paired with a District Forester to learn about implementing several of the most common forestry practices in use today. Information that was once taught in a lecture format will be delivered in the field using real-world forestry examples. The same small group approach will be used in the CTSP to teach or enhance participant's tree ID, tree inventory, and community planning skills. These courses begin to show the change in thinking that has, and will continue, to occur at ISU Forestry Extension.

**Know someone who you think would be interested in the Iowa Woodland Owners Association and the networking opportunities that come with membership? Direct them to our website at [www.iowawoodlandowners.org](http://www.iowawoodlandowners.org) and have them click on the Membership Link. Better yet, buy them a one-year gift membership!**

## ***Non-Native Tree of the Quarter***

### ***Maclura pomifera***

**By Tom Brady, IWOA Member**

Osage-orange may seem like a native tree being fairly common in Iowa and elsewhere in the Midwest. It's usually seen in fence rows and overgrown pasture land, but it is not native. It was originally native to east Texas, south-east Oklahoma and Arkansas at the southwest corner. This region was inhabited by the Osage Indians, thus the common name.

The tree had many uses so it was widely planted first by Indians and later by pioneers. The Indians used the inner bark and roots to make a yellow dye and the wood is highly flexible and was used for making bows. (the common names bois-d'arc and bodark, which I had never heard before, are French for "bow wood" and an Americanized pronunciation of the French). The pioneers, in addition to the dye, found the tree useful as a living fence. Before the invention of barbed wire in the late 1800's, it was widely planted as a hedge. The wood is highly resistant to rot and therefore makes good fence posts also.

Osage-orange makes a great hedge because it stays branched close to the ground. It is densely branched and its needle-sharp spines are about 1" long. The tree usually does not exceed 40', although larger specimens are known.

The leaves are egg-shaped, rounded at the stem with a pointed apex. They are dark green on the upper surface and lighter below. They have no ridges or teeth on their edges, but are smooth. They are approximately 5" long by half as wide. They turn yellow in the fall.

The mature bark is orange-brown and shreddy and is irregularly divided in deep furrows. The flowers occur male and female on separate trees. They are inconspicuous and open shortly after the leaves.

The fruit is huge! They are the size and shape of a grapefruit. Despite this appearance, the tree is not related to citrus. It is instead closely related to mulberries and like mulberries, its fruit is compound. Each of the little bumps represent an individual fruit all fused together in a large (sometimes over 1 lb) ball and inside are dozens of

small seeds. All parts of the tree, including the fruit, have a milky sap, which is irritating to some. Osage-orange (we called them hedge apples) are one of the trees I have loved from my youth, and like two others I remember in particular, Buckeyes and Catalpa. I think I was fascinated by the seeds.

As an adult (and I've lost track probably about 1995), I bought 100 trees from the state nursery. Like the pioneers, I wanted to make a living fence between my neighbor (which happens to be SE Polk HS) and me. Where the trees lived (many died), no sane person would try to pass through.

I later learned (from fellow member Larry Krotz) that you can easily grow osage-orange from seed. You just place the fruit in water and let them rot. (You can help by mashing them a little.) The seed float to the surface (there are many) and all you have to do is plant them. They germinate readily.

### **CAN ANYONE IMAGINE AN IOWA WITHOUT TREES?**

***By David W. Bartemes, IWOA President***

In the 1830's Iowa had more than 7 million acres of woodland. Today, the state has slightly more than 3 million acres. As people moved in, the woodlands were cleared for agriculture, homes, and eventually; highways, cities and shopping centers. Moreover, the woodlands that survive are radically different from the woodlands that the settlers found as they broke the sod and erected their buildings. These differences aren't necessarily improvements, and that's what prompts the question: Can anyone imagine an Iowa without trees?

Different people think of trees in different ways. A family living in the city or suburb might think of the trees in their neighborhood as trees to provide shade to cool their homes or the beauty that a tree contributes to their lawn. A family living in the countryside might think of trees as a way to break the wind, or to provide shade for the children to play in. Another family, whether living in the city or the country, might think of trees as providing food and shelter for wildlife, or as a means to cool the water in a stream that  
***(Continued on Page 5)***

### ***(Without Trees, continued from page 4)***

flows through their property. Trees do all these things and much more. Trees provide space for camping, hunting, fishing, nature study, bird watching, and many other activities.

Trees also provide economic benefits to all Iowans: Logging, wood products, fruit and nut production, Christmas trees, and wreath production. Farmers use wood chips for cattle bedding and people have been using wood for centuries as a fuel. Future uses for trees include biomass for energy generation. Trees are major contributors as a way to store carbon and clean the air.

What is the worth of Iowa's trees? The Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry has estimated that the wood products industry alone employs 18,000 people and has an annual payroll of 913 million dollars. The Division of Forestry also estimates that, in total, our woodlands contribute nearly 6 billion dollars to the economy. With so much at stake, how could we possibly imagine an Iowa without trees?

The bottom line is: Iowa's woodlands are threatened by a number of woodland pests, invasive species and a general lack of care. Our most valuable tree species are being attacked and are dying because these invasive species and destructive insects have come into our state or have moved close to our borders over the past several years. Black walnut, our most valuable timber tree is threatened by thousand canker disease. This disease, which had been confined to the west of the Rocky Mountains, has now been reported in Tennessee. Trees afflicted by thousand cankers disease often die within three years. At present there is no known treatment for this disease.

Other diseases include: Oak wilt, a disease that primarily attacks red oaks and has been known to wipe out 30 year old stands of red oak. Juniper mortality was reported in Iowa in 2009. Eastern red cedar and white cedar are both affected by juniper mortality and can succumb quickly once the disease is observed. Hickory mortality has been observed in Iowa since 2008. At present it is unclear if this fungus will prove fatal to the

affected trees. The pine shoot beetle was discovered in 2006 in Scott and Dubuque Counties. The USDA issued quarantine on all pine nursery stock, wreaths, garlands, trees, lumber and logs originating in these two counties.

Bur oak blight has infected 25 counties in Iowa. Bur oak is an important tree for timber and for wildlife. The acorns of the bur oak are a primary source of nutrition for deer and wild turkeys. Bur oak is the dominant species in southern Iowa where some of the best deer and turkey hunting in the United States exists. The loss of our bur oaks would have a disastrous effect on hunting and the tourism that hunting provides.

Perhaps the most destructive insect pest in Iowa today is the emerald ash borer. This insect has been reported in Allamakee County. The insect lays its eggs under the bark of an ash tree and the hatched larvae feed on the cambium (layer just beneath the bark of the tree), effectively girdling the tree and killing it within just a few years. At present there is no affordable preventive or treatment for this pest. Many cities and communities in Iowa have a large proportion of their lawn and park trees in one of the several varieties of ash. Some communities in Michigan and Ohio have been forced to spend millions of dollars to remove and destroy dead ash trees.

Invasive plant species are also threatening Iowa's woodlands. These species crowd out native plants and rob both native plants and trees of the nutrients they need to be healthy. Multi-flora rose, garlic mustard, black locust, tree of heaven, buckthorn, autumn olive, and bush honeysuckle are just some of the most destructive invasive plants. Bush honeysuckle has literally taken over the understory of the bur oak, white oak, and red oak stands of trees at Living History Farms, in Urbandale. This can easily be observed from I 80/35 each fall after the oaks have lost their leaves and the bush honeysuckle remains green.

There is no question that Iowa's woodlands, both rural and urban, are threatened. If we are going to continue to enjoy the benefits provided by our trees, then we must take action to stem the tide of invasive diseases, pests, and plants.