

# Timber Talk



**Newsletter of the Iowa Woodland Owners Association**  
**December 2013**      **Editor: Steve Meyer**

## EMERALD ASH BORER QUARANTINE

Due to finding Emerald Ash Borers in Iowa, IDALS established a quarantine on transportation of Ash and hardwoods in 25 Iowa counties on November 1, 2013. Full details and requirements of the quarantine can be found at the website <http://www.iowadnr.gov/Environment/Forestry/ForestHealth/EmeraldAshBorer.aspx>.



## SECRETARY VILSACK HIGHLIGHTS FIRST-EVER REPORT ON USDA EFFORTS TO EXPAND AGROFORESTRY PRACTICES ON FARMS, RANCHES AND WOODLANDS

WASHINGTON, October 28, 2013 - Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today released the first-ever report on USDA's role advancing agroforestry. *Agroforestry: USDA Reports to America* details how agroforestry practices are helping farmers, ranchers and woodland owners enhance agricultural productivity, protect the environment and increase profits.

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"USDA has invested less than one percent of its budget into tree-based practices. Yet that small investment allows us to help create private goods and public services that reap great rewards, including reduced greenhouse gas emissions and more resilient agricultural lands," Vilsack said. "However, much work remains to promote and sustain agroforestry practices, which have great potential to promote economic growth and job creation in rural communities."

Agroforestry is a management approach that intentionally combines agriculture and forestry to create more sustainable land-use systems. Over the last five years, USDA has assisted landowners financially and with technical guidance to establish roughly 336,000 acres of windbreaks, riparian forest buffers and alley cropping; about 2,000 acres of silvopasture; and about 500 acres of forest farming. Those acres represent less than 1 percent of the potentially suitable land for applying those practices, suggesting there is an opportunity to significantly expand the application of agroforestry in the United States.

"Agroforestry provides benefits beyond rural areas," Vilsack said. "In suburban areas, agroforestry practices can improve wildlife habitat, mitigate the movement of odors and dust, serve as noise barriers and act as filters that help keep water clean."

*Agroforestry: USDA Reports to America* is a cross-Departmental effort from eight agencies serving on the

Agroforestry Executive Steering Committee: Agricultural Marketing Service; Agricultural Research Service; Farm Service Agency; National Agricultural Statistics Service; National Institute of Food and Agriculture; Natural Resources Conservation Service; Rural Development; and U.S. Forest Service. These agencies work closely with the USDA National Agroforestry Center to advance the science, practice and application of agroforestry, and guide implementation of the USDA Agroforestry Strategic Framework. A longer version of the report will be posted by USDA soon.

With the release of this report on agroforestry, USDA wants to start a national conversation about agroforestry with producers, landowners, communities and young people - America's future farmers.

"Our goal is and always has been to help landowners understand that trees - and other permanent vegetation - planted in the right place for the right reason, will add value to their lands," said Wayne Honeycutt, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Deputy Chief for Science and Technology, who chairs USDA's Agroforestry Executive Steering Committee. "Through the report, we are able to show landowner successes. In some cases, family farms have been saved and woodlands spared from development. We hope by showing these stories, more landowners will see the potential for their operations."

To access the report, visit [www.usda.gov/agroforestry](http://www.usda.gov/agroforestry). Send comments and questions about the report and USDA's role in agroforestry to [agroforestry@USDA.gov](mailto:agroforestry@USDA.gov)

## IWOA Spring Field Day 29 March 2014 in Iowa City

Nancy and Paul Millice will be hosting the Spring Field Day. We will start out at the Johnson County Extension office and conduct a number of Round-Robin learning sessions, have lunch and travel to the Millice's acreage which adjoins the DNR's 500 acre Red Bird Wildlife Area. We have a number of Extension, DNR and Wildlife experts lined up.

Paul and Nancy moved in January of 2003 and started converting this Lama/Alpaca farm into a tree farm. In a very short time they discovered that they had very high deer pressure and that if they wanted to have any seedlings survive they would have to provide protection. So, come see a number of examples of deer protection methods. We will also demonstrate seedling planting with a hand earth auger and may be able to bring a tree spade into move some stock out of the nursery.

Registration is \$15 per person. If you are interested in attending the apple grafting workshop there is an additional fee of \$35 per person or \$60 per couple. Checks should be made out to the IWOA and sent to Paul Millice, 2254 Black Diamond Rd SW, Iowa City, IA 52240

### TREE FALLING AND BUCKING TRAINING SERIES ON YOUTUBE

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# LEGISLATIVE REPORT

## Support Needed For Farm Bill Provisions

A Congressional conference committee is finally starting to resolve differences between the House and Senate to complete a Farm Bill. The stakes for soil and water conservation in Iowa are very high because the House and Senate disagree about including two key provisions needed to protect Iowa's natural resources.

Your action is needed to encourage Iowa's conference committee members to stand up for conservation. Please contact Senator Harkin or Representative King to ask them to support conservation compliance and a national sodsaver provision. A suggested message to send is below.

As 278 organizations nationwide including the Iowa Environmental Council told Congress in a letter this week: "Both of these provisions, included in the Senate bill, ensure that taxpayer dollars are not used to incentivize risky or environmentally destructive practices."

We wrote that "without these key protections, billions of taxpayer dollars spent on crop insurance over the coming years will subsidize soil erosion that will choke our waterways, increase the cost of water treatment and dredging, and reduce the long term productivity of farmland. [A farm bill without these protections] will also allow for the destruction of tens of thousands of acres of valuable wetlands, resulting in increased downstream flooding, loss of wildlife habitat and decreased water quality."

Senator Harkin has supported these conservation actions in the past, and Representative King could be an important voice for them in the House. Please contact Senator Harkin or Representative King to ask them to support conservation compliance and a national sodsaver provision. A suggested message to send is below.

Last year, Iowa Environmental Council supporters together with sustainable agriculture advocates across the country succeeded in convincing the U.S. Senate to include these protections in its version of the Farm Bill. Now, these important protections need to be in the final bill.

### SAMPLE MESSAGE TO COMMITTEE MEMBERS

To contact your elected officials, we suggest copying and pasting the sample message below into their online contact forms.

Dear Senator Harkin and Congressman King,

As the House and Senate begin conferencing the final 2013 farm bill, I urge you to protect wetlands, healthy soil, and clean water by supporting a national sodsaver provision and re-coupling basic soil and water conservation measures to premium subsidies for crop insurance. Both of these provisions, included in the Senate bill, ensure that taxpayer dollars are not used to incentivize risky or environmentally destructive practices.

Thank you for your efforts to pass a final farm bill. I hope you will help ensure the final bill includes these important protections that will save money while protecting long-term farm productivity and Iowa's natural resources.

Sincerely,

YOUR NAME.

To contact your elected officials, we suggest copying and pasting the sample message above into their online contact forms.

Online contact for for Senator Harkin can be found at:

<http://www.harkin.senate.gov/contact.cfm>

Online contact form for Representative King can be found at

<http://steveking.house.gov/>

## Safety Corner

By Larry Wiley

As I write this article we are experiencing a significant snow event. Mother Nature seems to be blessing us with more and more weather extremes. Many of these can be hazardous. Today's snow storm will obviously create slippery conditions. When in the woods it will hide elements that cause tripping as well as uneven ground with humps and bumps. It will also cause snow to build up on tree limbs and branches which can fall on you without warning causing a reaction that may be unhealthy, especially if running a chain saw or other equipment. Also, beware of the extreme cold. Hands can get very cold when handling snow covered wood. Gloves get wet and further chill fingers. Wind chills below zero can cause frost bite to bare skin in a short time.

On the other extreme are very high temperatures in summer along with severe storms including high wind and hail. Being in the woods when the wind is blowing hard is very dangerous, especially in old growth woods. Limbs break off and come crashing to the ground. Serious injury can be inflicted if you happen to be in the way. Lightening can also be a threat. Last summer lightning struck a tall cotton wood tree on our property. There were pieces the size of 8 foot 2 X 4's blown as far as forty paces from the tree when it exploded. Splinters were everywhere. Unbelievable, an extreme hazard!

Heat exhaustion can sneak up on you when working in extremely high temperatures. Symptoms of heat exhaustion include profuse sweating, weakness, nausea, vomiting, headache, lightheadedness and muscle cramps. Heat exhaustion can progress to heat stroke when the body's temperature regulation fails. You may become confused, lethargic and may have a seizure, the skin stops sweating, and the body temperature may exceed 106 F. This is a life-threatening condition and emergency medical attention is needed immediately.

Beware of Mother Nature's extremes and be safe while enjoying the woods. Larry

## Non-Native Tree of the Quarter

European Hornbeam *Carpinus betulis*

We have a couple of native trees we collectively call "ironwood". The American Hop Hornbeam *Ostrya virginiana* with bladder-like fruit (seeds) in clusters and shaggy bark and American Hornbeam *Carpinus caroliniana* with its nutlet seeds surrounded by a 3 winged, assymetrical bract also in clusters and smooth, gray, often fluted bark. Both trees are typically found in the understory and are rarely over 30' tall. European Hornbeam closely resembles our American Hornbeam. It differs slightly in bud size and shape, in the sharpness of the teeth on the edge of the leaves, and also the bark, which is smooth and gray on young trees, but shows fissures on older, mature trees. The biggest difference is in mature size. There are 80' trees in Europe. The tree is native to most of Europe touching Asia Minor and SE England. It is fully hardy here in Iowa. Like our American Hornbeam, the wood is hard, heavy, and close grained. They don't call it "ironwood" in Europe, but considering its former uses they could have, for it was used where metal would be used today like the moving or load bearing parts of machinery. Examples would be cogs, wheel spokes and axles. Today it is still used in the inner workings of pianos.

The leaves are dark green, 2" - 4" long and half as wide. They are pointed at the tip and are doubly serrate (in other words, the notches on the leaf edges have notches). The bark is, as mentioned, smooth, steel gray.



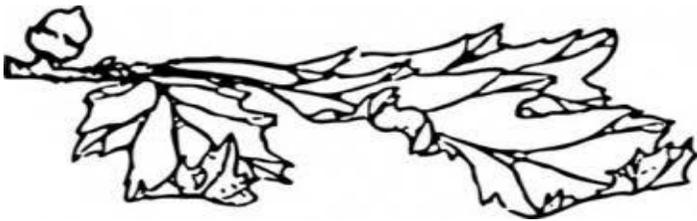
The trees are generally pyramidal when young and rounded at maturity. Their growth rate is slow to medium, about 12" - 18" per year. The flowers are catkins and are not showy. The yellowish males are

on old wood. The green females are at the tips of the new growth. They are wind pollinated. The fruit is, as mentioned, a 4" cluster of 3 winged bracts with a 1/4 " ribbed nut enclosed. This aids in wind dispersal. The seeds often stay on the tree well into the winter. The Europeans like to use this tree for hedges and screens since it requires little trimming and grows its leaves so densely that you can't see through the trees. It can be held in check by a little shearing. They sometimes let it grow to the ground or trim off the lower limbs to show off the attractive bark.

I bought 10 trees in 2003. I was interested mainly because of their larger potential size. Also, even though I didn't have either one of our native "ironwoods" growing on the golf course, they seem too "common". I can count only 5 survivors in my head. I could go out and check, but come on, it's winter. I know I lost one because I transplanted it where it was too wet. I don't know why I lost the others.

They vary in height from 10' to nearly 20'. The largest produced a few seeds this year. The trees stand out because of the dark green leaves which are so densely held that you can't see through them even without trimming. I would recommend this tree if you can find it.

Tom Brady  
IWOA Board Member



## **Sept. 2013 IOWA Board Meeting Report**

### **Toad Valley, Pleasant Hill, IA**

Present: Wagner, Semler, Jefferson, Ann, Kelly Millice, Bartemes, Brady absent Rathje, Rouse, Pres Wagner called the meeting to order at 6:45 pm and introduced Sarah Roelfs Director of Development for ISU who explained scholarship options

Semler made a motion seconded by Dave B to persue the expendable scholarship option. Motion Carried.

Dave B made a motion to form a committee of three to develop criteria, how much, what we want and what we expect from a Forestry student. Seconded by Semler motion carried.

Dave, Chuck, Tom Brady to report back to the board at Jan board meeting.

Minutes of the July Board meeting were read. Dave moved and Ann second to approve as amended.

The election committee announced that Tom Brady, Al Rathje and Chuck Semler were all elected to fill three year terms.

Election of Officers: motion by Millice and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Brady to keep Officers as last term. Wagner Pres., Semler VP, motion carried.

Discussed Deer study committee. IWOA will put forth a rational position.

Dave B. shared information about IWOA having a float in the State Fair Parade. Thanks to all who helped out and to Kelly Tree Farm for loaning us some live potted trees.

Field Day advance planning. The sooner we get field days planned the better things will flow/work. We need some arm twisting

Name tags/badges Since Tom Rosenberger was not able to attend Millice made name tags and asked to be reimbursed. Ann moved and Al seconded motion carried.

Millice will also investigate the cost of 100 lanyards with IWOA printed on them.

Recognitions/awards. Dave moved, Ann seconded, motion carried to have executive committee set criteria for awards and recognitions

At 8 pm Dave B moved that we adjourn.

### The IWOA Board

Al Wagner, IWOA President  
e-mail: wagneraj@netins.net

Chuck Semler, IWOA Vice President  
e-mail: chucksemler@gmail.com

Paul Millice, IWOA Secretary  
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Allan Rathje  
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Kevin Kelly  
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Ann Schneckloth  
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### IWOA Support Staff

Cathy Wilkie, Membership Secretary  
Joanne Mensinger, Treasurer

## A First Timers Perspective on the Tri States Forestry Conference

Last year I had the opportunity (again) to attend the Tri States Forestry Conference, only this time I couldn't find a reason not to go. I was literally blown away and left wondering why I hadn't attended sooner. I will be a regular attendee as this is a "Must See."

It is held in a Monastery, which itself is worth the drive. The conference is loaded with experts from all over the country. Some of last year's subjects were: Timber Marketing, Hardwood Diseases, Grafting, Tree ID, Planting, Pruning, Vegetation Management, and Erosion Control to Crop Tree Release.

To check out the complete list of topics as well as the presentations go to the Iowa State Extension Forestry web site.

They also had a number of vendors and Larry Wiley was there with the IWOA booth.

The 2014 Conference is scheduled for March 9<sup>th</sup> so mark your calendars. Watch ISU Ext Forestry web site for announcements and registration information.

Paul Millice, Iowa Woodland Owners Assn.

## FREE PUBLICATION

### SILVICS OF NORTH AMERICA

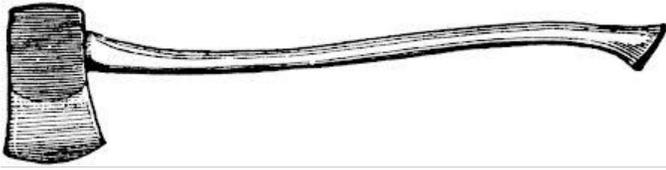


**Silvics of North America** describes detailed characteristics of about 200 conifers and hardwood trees in the United States, Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico. Species articles were researched and written by knowledgeable Forest Service, university, and cooperating scientists. This is a major tree reference for virtually all commercially grown, native trees of North America. The project took 10 years to complete. Below is the website for a free download.

[http://forestry.about.com/gi/o.htm?zi=1/XJ&zTi=1&sdn=forestry&cdn=education&tm=44&f=11&su=p284.13.342.ip\\_&tt=3&bt=5&bts=9&zu=http%3A/www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/silvics\\_manual/table\\_of\\_contents.htm](http://forestry.about.com/gi/o.htm?zi=1/XJ&zTi=1&sdn=forestry&cdn=education&tm=44&f=11&su=p284.13.342.ip_&tt=3&bt=5&bts=9&zu=http%3A/www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/silvics_manual/table_of_contents.htm)



## “LIKE” US ON FACEBOOK!



## At the Woodpile



I'm diverting my expose' this issue to District Forester Joe Herring who provided me this excellent contribution to the newsletter. Before I turn this over to Joe, if there is any IWOA member who could use 300-400 used Blue-X tree tubes please get ahold of me, I've got a deal for you.

*Editor Steve Meyer*

## What Walleyes and Your Woods Have in Common

Joe Herring, Marshalltown DNR District Forester

I remember having a conversation once with a Fisheries Biologist about the poor water quality in Iowa's rivers and how it affects the natural reproduction of game fish such as walleye, smallmouth bass, and northern pike. "Oh, natural reproduction is essentially non-existent," he said with conviction. "Without a stocking program, none of those fish populations would sustain themselves."

It's interesting to compare this situation to that of Iowa's woodlands and the challenges we face in perpetuating desirable tree species such as oaks & walnuts (I suppose our "crop trees" are what they would consider "game fish"). Like the walleyes in a river ecosystem forced to deal with

extreme and unnatural flow rates, pollution, bank erosion & siltation of the stream bed, etc., our oaks & walnuts certainly have a hard time sustaining themselves in woodlands that have been repeatedly high-graded, pastured, and overrun with invasive species. Without restocking and catch limits, our anglers would probably spend their days sorting through carp, bullheads, and suckers...although they'd probably still lie about the sizes. Similarly, without active management and restocking of many of our forests, mushroom hunters and bird watchers of the future will be resigned to wandering in woodlands of mulberry, boxelder, honeysuckle, and locust.

If you own a woodland that's had a rough past and you think it might need some restocking, talk to your forester to learn what your options are. A patch clearing with replanting is one of the best things you can do to diversify your wildlife habitat, restock unproductive areas with desirable crop trees, and invigorate growth. A new, young stand emerges in contrast to other parts of the property, improving the overall resiliency and health of your forest.

And when you get ready to order your trees, I highly encourage you to check out the latest "hatch" of seedlings from the State Forest Nursery. If you haven't ordered any trees or wildlife shrubs from them in awhile, I think you'll be very satisfied with the quality and health of what you receive. The staff there has been diligently making improvements to their product in a variety of ways, including seedbed fumigation, better grading techniques, improved cultural practices, some new species to choose from, and even experimenting with better ways of growing hickory seedlings. And, now you can go online to see what's currently available and place your order with the click of a mouse. See for yourself at: <http://www.iowadnr.gov/Environment/Forestry/StateForestNursery.aspx>

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If you are an ITF member, and would rather receive your copy of Timber Talk via e-mail rather than receive a paper copy in the mail, please e-mail Cathy Wilkie, IWOA Membership Secretary at [cat\\_wilkie@yahoo.com](mailto:cat_wilkie@yahoo.com), and put “ITF MEMBER REQUESTING ELECTRONIC COPY” in the subject line of your e-mail. Include your current mailing address in the body of the e-mail so I make sure I get the right person signed up for the electronic mailing.

We appreciate the Iowa Tree Farm folks taking the time to read Timber Talk, and we would also like to ask you to consider becoming more involved in IWOA by becoming a full-fledged IWOA member.

If you’d like to join, please fill out the form on the right, and send in with your dues payment.

## **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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

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**



Timber Talk  
Allen Wagner  
914 Elbow Creek Rd.  
Springville, IA 52336  
IWOA Website: [www.iowawoodlandowners.org](http://www.iowawoodlandowners.org)

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