

# Timber Talk

*Newsletter of the Iowa Woodland Owners Association  
and Iowa Tree Farmers*

**March 2026**

**Editor: Steve Meyer**



## **IWOA SPRING FIELD DAY TO BE HELD MAY 19 IN EDGEWOOD**

Mark your calendars for the IWOA Spring Field Day. The annual event is scheduled for Tuesday, May 19 in Edgewood. IWOA Special Events Committee is finalizing plans and details for the event at this time. Keep your eye out for e-mail's and snail mail notification of the final details.

## **IWOA TO CONDUCT LEGACY PLANTING WITH BENTON COUNTY CONSERVATION**

By Editor Steve Meyer

IWOA will conduct a Legacy Planting at the Atkins Roundhouse Area Park near Atkins that is managed by Benton County Conservation. Planting dates will be April 24 from 9 AM to Noon and 1 pm to 5 PM. 350 native trees and shrub seedlings will be planted by volunteers. Rain date is Friday May 1.

Once home to a historic train roundhouse, this unique 85-acre property was heavily impacted by the 2020 derecho. Benton County Conservation received a two-phase grant to revitalize the area. Phase one—tree removal and site clearing—is now complete and Phase two—tree replanting—is underway. This area is located on the northeast corner of the City of Atkins.

The planting project is being conducted in conjunction with the America 250 Iowa Agriculture Tree Planting initiative in commemoration of our nation's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The Benton Community FFA and Vinton-Shellsburg FFA Chapters along with IWOA Board, Benton County Conservation and Atkins Community Club volunteers will conduct the tree planting activities.

If you can come help, please bring a shovel!

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## **PAST PRESIDENT RUSS GLIME HONORED**



IWOA President Steve Meyer (L) recently presented Past-President Russ Glime with a plaque honoring for his years of service on the board. Russ served as President from 2019-2022.

# TREES FOREVER GETS GRANT TO EXPAND AGROFORESTRY

Workshops, field days to show how agroforestry  
can protect soil, water

By Olivia Cohen, The Gazette

*This article is reprinted with permission of the  
Cedar Rapids Gazette*

The Marion-based nonprofit Trees Forever has been selected for a federal grant to accelerate tree conservation work across Iowa.

Trees Forever has received one of six Land Scale Restoration grants — which fund projects tackling large-scale forest threats like wildfires and invasive species — from the U.S. Forest Service.

Jeff Jensen, director of community programs with Trees Forever, said the grant will fund outreach to landowners, local governments and land management agencies to help strengthen agroforestry practices statewide.

Agroforestry includes combining agriculture and forestry practices to create more “integrated, diverse, productive, profitable, healthy and sustainable land-use systems,” according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Agroforestry can entail forest farming, where crops can be grown under an existing forest canopy; alley cropping, where crops are grown in “alleys” between rows of trees or shrubs; and creating windbreaks, riparian forest buffers and living snow fences.

“More than 24 million acres — roughly 70 percent of Iowa’s land area — are devoted to crops, and over 90 percent of that land is used for corn and soybeans. This intensive production system leaves fields bare for much of the year, increasing soil erosion and nutrient runoff,” Trees Forever stated in a news release announcing the grant project. “Agroforestry offers a practical and proven way to address these challenges by integrating trees and shrubs into agricultural systems to protect soil, water, and wildlife while maintaining or even increasing productivity.”

Jensen said the grant is an avenue to implement more agroforestry practices around the state.

“We see this as a great opportunity to continue the momentum of landowners learning and doing

agroforestry where it fits on their farms,” he said in an initial news release from Trees Forever on Jan. 21.

## ABOUT THE GRANT

Jensen said Trees Forever applied for the Service’s Land Scale Restoration grant twice — once in 2023 and was not selected — before being chosen in 2024.

He said that both proposals were focused on agroforestry.

“We were very pleased that it came home to roost, so to speak,” Jensen said.

In total, the national Forest Service is supporting the nonprofit’s agroforestry work by funding \$367,788 over the course of three years, ending in the first half 2028.

Jensen said the funding will go toward “promoting agroforestry and getting the word out there about the practices and some of the crops,” such as fruits, vegetables and grains, mushrooms and nuts.

With the funding, Jensen said it also will go toward workshops and training for farmers, producers and landowners to attend to learn more about agroforestry.

He said there will be nine workshops in 2026 and another round in 2027.

Jensen said Trees Forever also will coordinate field days and farm crawls, so landowners can learn about agroforestry in person.

“Field days are an opportunity for folks to get up close and personal and just see how the practices and the crops are growing from the landowners that are doing it,” Jensen said. “They can ask all sorts of questions.” On top of outreach and increasing education around agroforestry, Jensen said Trees Forever will put forth some of their grant funding toward planting trees in various rural communities across the state.

He said the nonprofit still is working to identify which rural communities will receive trees to plant, but that they will be smaller towns, where more green infrastructure is needed, such as tree windbreaks to slow wind speeds.

“Agroforestry is a lesser-known land management strategy, but certainly with the practices, it's got a lot of potential to get roots in the ground all year long, which is so important for

water quality and those types of things,” Jensen said.

Jensen said that the grant project is not connected to ReLeaf Cedar Rapids — the city’s multi-million-dollar tree replanting effort after the 2020 derecho that knocked out much of Cedar Rapids’ tree canopy — but that the two programs “complement each other.”

We’re “obviously really excited to get started,” Jensen said.

Olivia Cohen covers energy and environment for The Gazette and is a corps member with Report for America, a national service program that places journalists in local newsrooms to report on under-covered issues. She is also a contributing writer for the Ag and Water Desk, an independent journalism collaborative focusing on the Mississippi River Basin. Sign up for our curated, weekly environment & outdoors newsletter. Comments: [olivia.cohen@thegazette.com](mailto:olivia.cohen@thegazette.com)



## IWOA REPRESENTED AT ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCACY DAY

Members of the Iowa Woodland Owners Association took part in the annual Environmental Advocacy Day at the Iowa State Capitol on February 25. Topics such as forest health, invasive species, tree planting and the economic impact of trees and forests were discussed with lawmakers. Board members attending included VP Tim Meyer, Past-President Phil McCune; board members Paul Millice, Jim White and Ray Lehn.



## THE HARDEST PART

By Tim Meyer, IWOA Vice-president

Mark Twain said “The secret of getting ahead is getting started. The secret of getting started is breaking your complex, overwhelming tasks into small manageable tasks, and then starting on the first one.”

Getting started in managing our Iowa woodlands can be overwhelming. There are so many things to know about, invasives, sunlight management, desirable species and many other things that make us anxious about doing forest stewardship. Do I have the expertise to do all of this? I don’t, but my team of DNR foresters, private foresters, mentors and other resources do.

We all need a mission, a team and a scoreboard. Our mission is to improve our forest and grow better trees to meet our goals, (sawlogs, wildlife enhancement, diversity, etc.). Our team is the great professional foresters and mentors along with the NRCS, government programs and others that can financially support our efforts. We also need a “scoreboard” to give us a goal to shoot for and keep us motivated.

For me getting started was signing up for some REAP cost share programs on Timber Stand Improvement (TSI). Each of these projects were hard to get myself to start, but after more than a dozen now I can see so much good that has been done in our forests.

Planting trees is similar. You can talk yourself out of it very easily. But I am glad I committed to plant trees. It is so rewarding to see 40-year-old walnuts, pines and oaks that we planted.

I would encourage you to “get started” on your forest stewardship plans and goals. With a good mission, a good team of supporters and goals to shoot for, you can accomplish a lot of worthy objectives in your Iowa woodland. Remember “the closest thing to immortality is planting a tree.”

*“Gold is a luxury. Trees are necessities. Man can live and thrive without gold, but we cannot survive without trees.”*

*Paul Bamikole*

# PLAN BEFORE YOU PLANT

By Steve Lekwa

Retired Story County Conservation Director

A successful tree planting project needs significant planning. Don't wait until planting time to get that done! A number of things need to be considered prior to ordering trees from a mail-order nursery or shopping for a special tree at a local garden center.

Trees, like all living things, thrive best when they're comfortable in their environment. Some are tolerant of wet soils while others are not. White oak would be a poor choice for a flood plain site, but swamp white oak might be just the thing. White oaks might thrive on a nearby well drained ridge top, but struggle on a hot, dry west facing slope. Some, like maples, can tolerate shade while others, like oaks, need full sun. A few species are generalists that can grow on a wide variety of sites while others are quite specific in their needs. Trees may not thrive if planted too far outside their native range. That's not to say that any given tree won't grow where you want to plant it, but it's more likely to thrive when site conditions match its needs, and less likely to do so when they don't.

It is important to evaluate the proposed planting site prior to deciding what to plant. Soil conditions and light are important, but so is the actual space available. Reforestation projects typically don't have space issues, but ornamental plantings on home lots can face significant space limitations. How big will the tree get? Will the mature growth of the tree still fit the site, or might it interfere with buildings or overhead power lines? Many urban lots and some rural areas have extensive buried utilities that must be avoided. "One call" may be needed to know where they are. Some open-grown old oaks are wider than they are tall, while some columnar varieties and forest-grown trees may grow quite tall but spread very little. Leave enough room for a tree to grow to its normal size, or face problems and significant pruning a few years down the road.

You may want to consider what kinds of seed the proposed trees will produce. Nuts are wonderful for wildlife and even some human's patient enough to crack them out. White oak acorns are highly sought by a wide variety of birds and animals, while red oak acorns aren't as preferred. You may not like picking up golf ball sized walnuts or hickory nuts prior to mowing. It's good to remember that walnuts are allelopathic, and produce a chemical called juglone in their leaves, nut husks, and roots that poison pines, tomatoes and other plants. It is advisable to keep walnuts well away from gardens and flower beds. Some trees retain their fruit well into the winter while others drop it as it ripens, covering

sidewalks and driveways with messy and sometimes staining squashed fruit. Some trees, like hard maples, create such dense shade that it's hard to grow turf grass under them.

Newly planted trees often need several years of help to become well established. Will it be possible to mow around them to reduce weed and brush competition, or will chemical weed control be an option? Will watering be possible when dry spells occur before root systems are well established? Will you be able to mulch around each new tree to help subdue weeds, retain moisture and reduce heat around tender new root systems? Mulch can also reduce "mower blight" on tender young bark.

Once these questions, and possibly others, are answered it's time to select your tree or trees. Some non-native trees like Bradford pears or buckthorns are known to be invasive, and can spread rapidly crowding or shading out native plants. Even trees of the same kind can have very different genetic ancestry. Find out where nursery stock came from if possible. Local ecotypes (parent stock from nearby) and locally grown native varieties are more likely to thrive and less likely to cause problems.

Plan well and have a great planting season!

Steve Lekwa is a Story City native who graduated from ISU in 1971 with a degree in Fisheries and Wildlife Biology. He retired after 38 years with Story County Conservation in 2011, but continues to pursue a variety of outdoor activities (among them outdoor writing). He is married to Susan, a retired music teacher. They have two grown children and three grandchildren.

## KNOW HOW MUCH RAIN YOUR TREES ARE GETTING

**Want to know if your tree seedlings need watering? Yes, you can always stick your finger in the ground near your trees. However, there is an easier method. Try the RainDrop app on your phone. This app allows you to select up to two different locations for nearly instant readings of past rainfall amounts. For other locations just go to the satellite map that pops up on the app and click on a specific location. It will give you the rainfall amount in various timeframes such as last 24 hours, 48 hours, 7 days, etc. For a subscription fee you can also add more locations. Great information at your fingertips! The app charges \$30 per year. You may want to try other apps that may be free such as: Rain Viewer, Rain Alarm, Rain Tracker(android), etc.**

**Ed Kocal, IWOA Board Member**

# IOWA MASTER WOODLAND STEWARD PROGRAM

The **Iowa Master Woodland Steward Program (MWSP)** is primarily intended to serve woodland owners, stewards, and land managers, but may also be of interest to school teachers, loggers, and government employees. The overall goal of the program is to develop a community of highly motivated and knowledgeable woodland stewards, to act as champions of forests and forestry within the state of Iowa, and work with management professionals in improving and expanding woodland resources.

Watch the Master Woodland Steward Program promo video at: <https://vimeo.com/802866660/b9bceb94ac>

The MWSP is held twice annually - one offering in spring and a second offering in fall (see below for schedule through 2026). The MWSP features 30 hours of intensive forestry training focused on managing woodlands for multiple benefits. The MWSP consists of 7 modules, spread across 6 weeks. Each module entails approximately one hour of self-paced online prework, followed by a three-hour in-person field/classroom session. Class/field sessions are held in-person, at a variety of locations within and adjacent to respective host counties. You do not need to be a resident of host counties to participate.

In both classroom and hands-on field sessions, you will be provided basic information on: tree identification, tree biology, land and tree measurements, woodland inventory, silviculture, forest economics, tree planting, wildlife habitat, pest management, timber marketing, government assistance programs, and stewardship planning. The program is sponsored by Iowa State University Extension and Outreach and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, often in cooperation with County Conservation Boards.

Cost for each program varies on location, but generally runs between \$125-\$150 per participant. Registration includes a forest management textbook and complimentary forestry gear. Instructors include experts from Iowa State University, ISU Extension and Outreach, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, private forestry consultants and contractors, and a range of other natural resource professionals. The provided networking

opportunities with forestry professionals and forest stewards are unparalleled within the state of Iowa!

“This program is a great way to help Iowans know the true value of their woodlands, not only in terms of timber, but also the many other benefits forests provide,” said Billy Beck, assistant professor and extension forestry specialist at Iowa State. “My hope is that participants will become better informed on how to ask the right questions, of the right people, at the right time. This includes having intelligent conversations with their forester.”

Module synopses and general in-field/classroom schedule may be seen below:

- **Module 1: Overview of Iowa’s Forests and Forestry.** Become knowledgeable on Iowa’s forest resources, and be able to communicate the value of Iowa’s forests and forestry to our state.
- **Module 2: Planning and Goal Setting, the Foundation of Woodland Stewardship.** Know the incredible range of what’s possible with forestry – and how to start the planning process.
- **Module 3: How Trees Grow (physiology and silvics).** Be able to relate key concepts of tree growth to a wide range of forest management practices.
- **Module 4: How Woodlands Grow (forest ecology).** How to know your site, and what that means for species growth and management potential.
- **Module 5: How Woodlands Change (stand dynamics and silviculture).** Forests change through time – we’ll discover drivers of this change, and how we can influence change to meet management goals.
- **Module 6: Putting it Together: Woodland Management (achieving your management goals).** We’ll explore specific management goals of timber, wildlife and water quality. In-field case studies.
- **Module 7: Program Wrap-up and Skills Recap field day.** Recap of key concepts and skills, and graduation celebration!

## 2026 MWSP

**Spring (April-May)** - Washington, Louisa County co-hosting. Contact Andy Miller (ISU Extension and Outreach, Washington County, [andrewm4@iastate.edu](mailto:andrewm4@iastate.edu), 319-653-4811) for registration inquiries. [Pre-register for this offering at:](#)

<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/2eqx7ya/lp/95c02393-f793-426b-a8d7-30418d2d367b>

**Fall (September-October)** - Central Iowa (Hamilton, Webster, Boone County co-hosting). Contact Sue Schmitz (ISU Extension and Outreach, Hamilton County, [sschmitz@iastate.edu](mailto:sschmitz@iastate.edu), 515-832-9597) for registration inquiries.

**General questions regarding program content, format, and/or future MWSP offerings** should be directed to **Billy Beck** (Extension Forestry Specialist, ISUEO, 515-294-8837, [wjbeck@iastate.edu](mailto:wjbeck@iastate.edu)).

*We'll see you in the woods!*



## SPONGY MOTH ALERT FOR IOWA

Provided by Tivon Feeley, IDNR Forest Health Program Leader



Spongy moth (*Lymantria dispar*), formerly known as gypsy moth, is one of North America's most destructive forest pests, and it is now approaching Iowa's northeastern border. Introduced to Massachusetts in 1869, the pest spread steadily through the northeastern U.S. and into the upper

Midwest, causing repeated and sometimes severe oak defoliation. For more than a century, coordinated regional management has been required to protect forests, parks, and communities from its impacts.

The caterpillar stage feeds on over 300 species of trees and shrubs—especially oaks. Heavy feeding can weaken or kill trees, and outbreaks can create significant nuisance issues. During peak years, falling caterpillars and frass (excrement) can disrupt outdoor activities, and the caterpillar's hairs may cause skin irritation in sensitive individuals.

Every year, more than 4,000 pheromone traps are placed across Iowa by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), USDA-APHIS, and the Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship (IDALS). These traps allow for early detection of new introductions and help track population movement across the Midwest.

### Iowa's Role in the Slow the Spread (STS) Program

Iowa partners with the Slow the Spread Foundation, a multistate effort designed to reduce the rate at which spongy moth expands into new areas. Through STS, Iowa conducts intensive trapping along the advancing front in Wisconsin, Illinois, and Minnesota. Early detection, targeted treatments, and coordinated data sharing have significantly slowed the westward spread, protecting millions of acres.

### New Concern Near Iowa's Northeast Border

Spongy moth populations in southwest Wisconsin are now less than 10 miles from the Allamakee County border. Residents, landowners, and visitors in northeast Iowa should remain vigilant. If traveling into Iowa from quarantined states, inspect vehicles, campers, firewood, outdoor gear, and trailers for egg masses before entering the state. Human-assisted movement is one of the most common ways this pest spreads long distances.

### What to Watch For

- Tan, fuzzy egg masses on outdoor surfaces, firewood, vehicles, or buildings
- Caterpillars with pairs of blue spots followed by red spots down their backs
- Noticeable defoliation in late spring and early summer

Early detection is essential to protect Iowa's forests. Report any suspected spongy moth sightings to IDNR or IDALS immediately.



**Spongy Moth Egg Masses**



## **HOW DOES IOWA COMPARE IN FOREST COVER TO OTHER STATES?**

The following is according to Wikipedia

Have you ever wondered how Iowa compares to other states in percent of land covered by forest? Iowa ranks 46th out of the 50 states in forest cover percentage at about 8.4%. Maine is the most forested state with almost 90% of its land covered in forest. The state with the lowest percent of forest cover is North Dakota at 1.72%. The other lowest states are Nebraska at 3.2%, South Dakota at 3.93%, and Kansas at 4.78%. Many states fall into the mid-range of forest coverage, typically between 40%-60%. Why is this important? As our group advocates for woodlands and forests, water and air quality, it is important to recognize where we stand comparatively. Maintaining and growing our forests should be a goal we all strive for.

## **BOOK REVIEW**

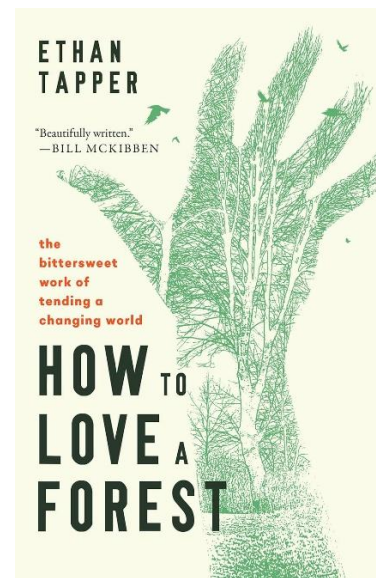


### **How to Love a Forest**

By Ethan Tapper

<https://ethantapper.com/>

*One cannot read the works of Jake Tapper without becoming all the more immersed in the wonders of our woodlands and our obligation to preserve what is left of them. District Forester Joe Herring tipped me off about this book. Tapper has a very engaging style and is one of those people like all of us, who truly embraces the principles of preserving our woodlands' heritage through TSI work and sound forestry conservation practices.--Editor*



"How to Love a Forest" is a thought-provoking book by Ethan Tapper that explores the complexities of caring for forests in a changing world, emphasizing the need for active stewardship and understanding of ecosystems.

## Overview of the Book

In "How to Love a Forest: The Bittersweet Work of Tending a Changing World," Ethan Tapper, a forester, delves into what it truly means to love and care for forests amidst ecological decline and the challenges posed by human activity. He poses critical questions about our relationship with nature, urging readers to consider how we can heal rather than harm the ecosystems that sustain us.

### Key Themes

- 1) **Active Stewardship:** Tapper argues that genuine love for forests involves taking action to protect and manage them, rather than adopting a passive approach of leaving them untouched. He discusses the paradox of loving trees while also recognizing the necessity of responsible logging and management practices.
- 2) **Complex Interactions:** The book introduces readers to the intricate relationships within forest ecosystems, including the roles of various species and the impact of human intervention. Tapper emphasizes the importance of understanding these dynamics to foster healthier forests.
- 3) **Bittersweet Realities:** Tapper acknowledges the emotional weight of caring for forests, highlighting the bittersweet nature of conservation efforts. He illustrates how actions taken in love for the environment can sometimes lead to difficult decisions, such as culling deer populations to protect young trees.

The book has been well-received, praised for its poetic prose and insightful reflections on environmental stewardship. It is seen as a call to action for readers to engage with their natural surroundings thoughtfully and compassionately.

Broadleaf Books



## WHAT IS "ASPECT" IN FORESTRY MANAGEMENT

Aspect refers to the compass direction a slope faces (eg North, South, East, etc.). This influences microclimate, vegetation and soil moisture. It also affects the amount of sunlight and heat a site receives. South and west slopes are drier and hotter and north/east slopes are cooler and wetter.

Aspect can impact species selection and growth. South facing slopes often favor drought tolerant species while north facing slopes support species requiring more moisture. South facing slopes may be drier and have a higher fire danger. Aspect can also affect species composition and growth rates, impacting timber yield and diversity. Understanding slope direction assists in identifying optimal planting times, harvesting techniques, site preparation and species selection.

As a general rule white oaks favor south and west facing slopes because they are drought tolerant and love sun. Red oaks tend to favor north and east facing slopes.

I really notice these things when I walk our Davis County farm. We are in the process of doing a timber harvest of mostly red oak. Most of them are on the north and east facing slopes.

Don't forget to consider "aspect" in your planting plans. Your DNR forester can help you pick the right species for your site and its "aspect". We are blessed with great foresters to help us match our goals and sites for the best outcomes. Forestry management can be complex and often requires professional help. This is just one more "aspect" to consider.

Tim Meyer, IWOA Vice-president



## IWOA AT DEER CLASSIC AND TRI-STATES CONFERENCE



IWOA board member Paul Millice staffed a booth for us all three days of the Iowa Deer Classic in Des Moines March 6-8. He had some welcome help from past board member Craig Semler (L) along with IWOA members Matt Kaufman, Melissa Murphy and Matt Bredeson. IWOA board member Ray Lehn and President Steve Meyer also assisted over the weekend.

IWOA board members present and past also staffed a booth at the Tri-States Forestry Conference in Dubuque the same weekend. Staffing the booth were VP Tim Meyer, board members Jim White, Ruth McAndrews and Linda Haugen and Larry Wiley from the Tree Farmers.

## DISTRICT FORESTER SPOTLIGHT

### ARON FLICKINGER--FORESTRY PROGRAM SPECIALIST



Aron Flickinger has served as the IDNR's Forestry Program Specialist since 2005. He started working with the IDNR in March, 1997, at the State Nursery in Ames as a Technician. He had just graduated from ISU with a degree in Forestry the previous year. In 1999 he was promoted to Assistant District Forester under Gary Beyer in Charles City for three months, then had an opportunity to work at the State Nursery in Montrose. He was there for five years and then moved into the Forestry Program Specialist position in Des Moines.

Born in Monterey, California, Aron went to high school in Colfax-Mingo before going to college at ISU. He became interested in being a forester from his interactions with Randy Goerndt on his family farm "I was really impressed with his knowledge," says Aron. During his childhood, Aron's love of trees developed from helping his grandfather, Aron helped him plant trees on the family farm, inspiring him to pursue a career in forestry.

As a Forestry Program Specialist, Aron works on a variety of interesting projects and fulfills multiple responsibilities, including:

- Butternut Conservation Project—trying to isolate seedstock that is resistant to canker for repopulating canker-resistant butternut.
- Native White Pine Conservation Project—collecting seed which is challenging. The seed is released while the pine cone is still high up in the tree. Someone has to climb

into the tree to collect the seed before the pine cones open. The project aims to preserve native Iowa White Pine.

- He is a grant writer for the IDNR. One grant he administered dealt with urban wood use--getting trees that come down in cities to a sawmill to be turned into lumber rather than just pushed into a pile and burned.
- He administers the Forest Legacy Program—a federally funded program that the State administers to protect forest properties from being developed in the future. This is done through a conservation easement.
- He administers the Bonded Timber Buyer Program. This program results from a law passed in Iowa in 1980 that anyone who wants to be a logger and buy logs from anyone in Iowa has to be a bonded timber buyer.
- He administers the State Forest Action Plan which provides goals and strategy guidance for managing Iowa's forest resources. The plan is posted on the IDNR website.

Aron says one of the most enjoyable things he has done with the IDNR is growing conservation seedlings at the nursery for Iowa landowners. "I took a lot of pride in producing high-quality seedlings at a very affordable price. I love the challenge of growing 30 or 40 species and trying to get them tall enough to sell in one to three years. I always enjoyed my work there at the nursery and working with my hands. The other things I've really enjoyed is the Forest Legacy Program and seeing some of these really cool forest properties as being worthy to receive recognition on a national scale. I think that's something we can be proud of here in Iowa."

Moving forward, Aron states that priorities need to be getting people to appreciate the woodlands and forests that we have: "Outreach to people to appreciate the woods that we have for the benefits they retain for our wildlife and water quality. It would be nice to have a booklet that goes to anyone buying woodlands that describes the benefits their woodlands provide to society and that particular parcel of land."

Aron and his wife Brandy live in Winterset along with their two cats.

# WOODLAND CRITTERS

## GROUNDHOG

*Marmota monax*



By Editor Steve Meyer

Here is a rather fascinating animal that I feel is much maligned and come into conflict with we humans mostly due to their burrowing activities and their appetite for our garden produce. So, I always feel a little sorry for them. After all, they were here before we were and all they are trying to do is go about living their lives the only way they know how.

The groundhog (*Marmota monax*), also known as the woodchuck, is a rodent of the family Sciuridae, belonging to the group of large ground squirrels known as marmots. A lowland creature of North America, it is found through much of the Eastern United States, across Canada and into Alaska.

Groundhogs are considered one of the most solitary of marmot species. They are an important contributor to the maintenance of healthy soil in woodlands and plains; as such, the species is considered a crucial habitat engineer. The groundhog is an extremely intelligent animal, forming complex social networks and kinship with its young; it is capable of understanding social behavior, communicating threats through whistling, and working cooperatively to accomplish tasks such as burrowing.

Male groundhogs are slightly larger than females on average and, like all marmots, they are considerably heavier during autumn (when engaged in autumn hyperphagia) than when they emerge from hibernation in spring. Adult males average year-around weight is 8 pounds 7 ounces, with spring to fall average weights of 6 pounds 13

ounces 11 pounds 3 ounces while females average 7 pounds 13 ounces, with spring to fall averages of 6 pounds 13 ounces to 10 pounds 9 ounces.

Groundhogs have four incisors, which grow 1/16 inch per week. Constant usage wears them down by about that much each week.

Groundhogs dwell in lowland habitats, unlike other marmots that live in rocky and mountainous areas. *Marmota monax* has a wide geographic range. They prefer open country and the edges of woodland, being rarely found far from their burrow entrance. They are typically found in small woodlots, low-elevation forests, fields and pastures, and hedgerows.

Despite their heavy-bodied appearance, groundhogs are accomplished swimmers and occasionally climb trees when escaping predators or when they want to survey their surroundings. They prefer to retreat to their burrows when threatened; if the burrow is invaded, the groundhog tenaciously defends itself with its two large incisors and front claws. Groundhogs are generally agonistic and territorial toward each other and may skirmish to establish dominance. Outside their burrow, individuals are alert when not actively feeding. They whistle when alarmed to warn other groundhogs.

Mostly herbivorous, groundhogs eat primarily wild grasses and other vegetation, including berries, bark, leaves, and agricultural crops, when available. An adult groundhog can eat more than one pound of vegetation daily. In early June, woodchucks' metabolism slows, and while their food intake decreases, their weight increases by as much as 100% as they produce fat deposits to sustain them during hibernation and late winter. Instead of storing food, groundhogs stuff themselves to survive the winter without eating. Thought not to drink water, groundhogs are reported to obtain needed liquids from the juices of edible plants, aided by their sprinkling with rain or dew.

Groundhogs are excellent burrowers, using burrows for sleeping, rearing young, and hibernating. Groundhog burrows usually have two to five entrances, providing groundhogs their primary means of escape from predators. The volume of earth removed from groundhog burrows in one study averaged 6 cubic feet per den. The burrow is used for safety, retreat in bad weather, hibernating, sleeping, mating, and nursery. In

addition to the nest, there is an excrement chamber. The hibernation or nest chamber is lined with dead leaves and dried grasses. There are typically two burrow openings or holes. One is the main entrance, the other a spy hole. Description of the length of the burrow often includes side galleries.

Groundhogs are one of the few species that enter into true hibernation, and often build a separate "winter burrow" for this purpose. This burrow is usually in a wooded or brushy area and is dug below the frost line and remains at a stable temperature well above freezing during the winter months. In most areas, groundhogs hibernate from October to March or April, but in more temperate areas, they may hibernate as little as three months. Groundhogs hibernate longer in northern latitudes than southern latitudes. To survive the winter, they are at their maximum weight shortly before entering hibernation.

Groundhogs do not form stable, long-term pair bonds, and during mating season male-female interactions are limited to copulation.

In the wild, groundhogs can live up to six years with two or three being the average life span.



## WOODLAND FLORA

### RAMPS

*Allium tricoccum*



*Here's a plant that is quite noticeable and grows abundantly in one of my woodlots. I've heard a lot about how edible ramps are and tried eating some myself once but was not*

*overly impressed. I'm told that the flavor depends upon when they are harvested and of course, how they are prepared. Perhaps just plucking them out of the ground, washing them and eating them raw like a small onion isn't the thing to do.* Editor

*Allium tricoccum* (commonly known as ramps, ramson, wild leek, wood leek, or wild garlic) is a bulbous perennial flowering plant in the amaryllis family Amaryllidaceae. It is a North American species of wild onion or garlic found in eastern North America. An edible plant, *Allium tricoccum* is used in a variety of North American and indigenous cuisines, and has also been used by Native Americans in traditional medicine.

*Allium tricoccum* is a perennial growing from an ovoid-conical shaped bulb that is 1–2 inches long. Plants typically produce a cluster of 2–6 bulbs that give rise to broad, flat, smooth, light green leaves, that are 8–12 inches long including the narrow petioles, often with deep purple or burgundy tints on the lower stems. The bulbs are white and surrounded by brownish to grayish sheathing. Each cluster of bulbs gives rise to one flowering stem. The flowers are arranged into an umbel that has an erect scape that is typically 4–16 inches long.

Ramps grow in close groups strongly rooted just beneath the surface of the soil. Flowering occurs in June or July into August. The flowers have white, cream or yellowish tepals which are 1/8–1/4 inches long. After flowering and fertilization green fruits are produced that are three-lobed and open by way of three valves. The seeds are round, black, and shiny.

The species is widespread across eastern Canada and the eastern United States.

*Allium tricoccum* is found in woods with rich soils with moist ground in depressions, and along streamside bluffs, and on colluvial slopes.

*Allium tricoccum* is popular in the cuisines of the rural uplands of its native region. Both the white lower leaf stalks and the broad green leaves are edible. It is regarded as an early spring vegetable with a strong garlic-like odor and a pronounced onion flavor. Ramps also have a growing popularity in restaurants throughout North America.

Ramps are highly sought after by foragers. The plant's flavor, a combination of onions and strong garlic, is adaptable to numerous cooking styles. In

central Appalachia, ramps are most commonly fried with potatoes in bacon fat or scrambled with eggs and served with bacon, pinto beans and cornbread. Ramps can also be pickled or used in soups and other foods in place of onions and garlic. It takes seven years for a plant to reach maturity so selective harvesting is advised to protect populations.

From Wikipedia



## PRESIDENTS COLUMN

### Steve Meyer, IWOA President

I'm happy to report we are moving forward with several things that will enhance our organization and what we do on behalf of Iowa Woodland Owners. First let me say that I have basically three priorities: outreach to our membership, increasing membership, and legislative action. It's hard to improve on our outreach with all of the great things our current board members are doing and previous board members have done to provide educational and networking opportunities. And, our legislative involvement is keen thanks to the efforts of our board members. Fortunately, at this time it does not sound like there is anything at the boiling level with our legislature, so at the present I'd say we're good there.

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Steve Meyer—Timber Talk Editor  
[gfdchief@netins.net](mailto:gfdchief@netins.net)

In regards to increasing our membership we have seen some great gains in the past couple months. The most dramatic thing we have done to attract more people to our organization is our One-Year Free Membership offer. With this offer anyone who is not a current member can get a free membership for one year. At the end of their first year of membership they get billed for the next years membership. Under the free membership offer they receive an electronic version of our newsletter plus all of the other membership benefits for one year. We have already signed up over 80 new members with this initiative! Hopefully a good share of them

will remain with us after their first year. We have an application that new members must complete in order to qualify. If any of you know someone that may want to join, please contact me or another board member and we will get a form to them. I included one of these applications at the end of the newsletter—please share with someone who isn't a member.

One thing that is sure to impact IWOA in many ways is our efforts to improve our social networking through some changes to our website and Facebook. These are works in process.

I hope everyone noticed the announcement on Page 1 that we are doing another Legacy Planting on April 24. This activity will involve a lot of people and promises to get the IWOA some great exposure and most importantly restore some woodlands to Iowa.

I thank everyone for their support and input and hope to see you in the woods!

Steve Meyer, President

**Founded in 1987, the Iowa Woodland Owners Association is a private non-profit organization that welcomes anyone with an interest in woodlands to join our membership ranks. IWOA is committed to advancing the interests of woodland owners, developing public appreciation for their importance, encouraging wise use and management of woodlands and related resources in Iowa, and promoting both conservation of natural resources as well as the practice of sustainable forestry.**

## **IWOA MEETING MINUTES HELD AT AMANA 12/3/2025**

The meeting was called to order by president Phil McCune at 10:00 A.M. Other board members in attendance were Tim Meyer, Steve Meyer, Paul Millice, Ruth McAndrews, Craig Semler with both Ed Kocal and Linda Haugen via Zoom. Also attending was newly elected board member Jim White.

Minutes from the 10/15/2025 Grinnell meeting--motion by Millice/ 2nd T. Meyer to approve. Carried

Financial report - motion by S. Meyer/ 2nd T. Meyer to approve. Carried.

Board member election by general membership--votes were tallied and as a result Steve Meyer, Ed Kocal and Jim White were chosen. Motion to approve as

elected members made by T. Meyer/ 2nd Semler--Motion carried.

Officer election - Motion by Semler/ 2nd Millice to elect S. Meyer as president, T. Meyer vice president and Ruth McAndrews secretary. Motion carried.

Consideration was given to have a booth at the Practical Farmers meeting but the opinion was that it would not be cost effective. However, consideration will be given in the future.

Iowa Deer Classic is scheduled for March 6-8, 2026 in Des Moines. Millice has already reserved a small booth at no cost. This will be good for IWOA exposure and a way to discuss the Forest Reserve with those attending.

Tree Day on the Hill is scheduled for 02/25/2026.

Legislation--Forest Reserve SF633 will most likely go to the House for consideration at the start of the next session in 2026. Water quality should be one of the main topics of discussion.

McCune offered to contact Neil Harrison about the possibility of him getting together with the IWOA board to share his expertise.

Free One-year membership--motion by S. Meyer/ 2nd Haugen to offer a free one-year electronic (email subscription) membership to interested non-members with the hope that these new members would continue as paying members. This would be offered by board members or district foresters. Carried.

501c3 tax exempt status--McAndrews and Semler agreed to pursue this further.

S. Meyer expressed his concern for the dramatically decreased federal funding affecting agricultural, forestry and environmental related programs.

Publicist--motion by T. Meyer/ 2nd Kocal to authorize S. Meyer to spend up to \$450 (which would be two press releases) for a mass press release with the topic at his discretion. Carried.

Field Day on a Saturday--district foresters are not typically available for a Saturday field day, so the alternative might be an informal Saturday mentoring program.

IWOA Scholarship--McAndrews and Haugen will get this up and running again.

The general consensus was to establish five standing committees:1) legislation 2) membership 3) special events 4) communications 5) scholarship

The meeting was adjourned at noon.

Craig Semler, secretary

**TAX TIPS FOR FOREST LANDOWNERS 2025**

**CAN BE FOUND AT**

<https://research.fs.usda.gov/download/treesearch/80000.pdf>

# IWOA MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

By Ed Kocal, IWOA Board Member

Last Fall, members were mailed a voluntary survey form. The IWOA Board was and is looking for ways to increase membership and try to get younger folks involved in our organization. We had about a ten percent return rate. We are currently using this information to try to better and grow us. Thank you to those that filled out and returned the form. Here is a summary of the results.

## How did you hear about IWOA?

- Master Woodlands Owners/Stewardship Program/Manager Course (11)
- Forrester (7)
- Field Days (3)
- Family/Friend/Other Members (5)
- Publications (2- Iowa Outdoor Magazine, Cedar Rapids Gazette)
- College/Work (2)
- Google Search (2)
- INGA (1)
- Conservation Booth (1)

## How long have you been a member?

- 1-5 years- 13
- 6-10 years- 5
- 11-20 years- 5
- 20+ years- 14

## What is your age? Average age is 71

## What do you like best about IWOA?

- Timber Talk Newsletter (15)
- IA Forestry Updates/Learning Opportunities (14)
- Timber management/Protecting Iowa's woodlands (11)
- Legislation Updates/Being a voice at the statehouse (9)
- Field Days (7)
- Feel of community/dedicated leadership and members (4)

## What can we do to improve our organization?

- One Member's suggestions:
  1. Create more partnerships such as FFA, 4-H or YSS and other organizations such as urban beautification groups and involve young people. (2)
  2. Distribute, "Did You Know THIS?" Sheets at county fairs which give information about trees, value of forests, what is threatening forests and timber, etc.
  3. Sponsor a contest to draw pictures or submit essays to be selected and hung up at county fairs.

4. Have each IOWA member display a weather-proof banner at the end of their driveway or on a fence to ask, "What is IWOA?"
  5. Each IOWA member to deliver the newsletter to a non-member neighbor with timber?
- Get younger people involved. Invite ISU Forestry students to IWOA field days.
  - Increase electronic communication and social media presence. Send "mini-subjects" online between newsletters.
  - More in-person activities
  - Booths at events/Educate public on what IWOA does to benefit people in cities and rural areas/Place ad in Iowa Outdoors/Be more visible in IA.
  - More thorough, timely and specific information about legislative actions (2)
  - Take our message to schools and community groups
  - More information for small acreage owners managing for habitat.
  - Increase dues to make more \$ available for lobbying, etc.
  - Provide more information on getting started with timber management 101
  - Provide more educational programs- fighting invasive Japanese stilt grass, for ex.
  - Expand out of southeast IA.
  - Field Days on Saturdays for those who work during the week. (2)
  - Reach out to country conservation offices and support forestry related initiatives they have.

## How can we increase membership?

- Create a flyer or pamphlet for District Foresters, USDA offices, ISU extension offices to distribute.
- Social Media presence
- Reaching out to property owners/those who have land in the forest reserve and invite them to the field days.
- Booths at events.
- Partner with other organizations such as farm/ag organizations and Environmental Groups such as Sierra Club, Audubon Birding, local and county park boards. Work with county conservation offices.
- More effective voice in the IA Legislature.
- Have membership include a discount at the state nursery.
- Offer free membership for one year to Master Woodland MGR students

- Consider name change. Maybe some would like to join but aren't "owners." Suggestion- Iowa Woodland Advocates.
- Appeal to the younger generations through:
  - FFA/4H members/Woodshop
  - High School student/teachers. Reach out to schools through field days at the city, county and state parks.

**Positive Comments**

- "TWOA is doing a great job. I appreciate the efforts. Keep up the field days, Timber Talk and emails with Forest Reserve updates!"
- "My only experience is the Woodland Stewardship Program. It was outstanding. Overwhelming (SO much information!), but outstanding. And the Field Days- I applaud those of you that plan and execute these."
- "I think it's well run!"
- "Appreciate the dedicated leadership group and members devoted to explaining our Iowa woodlands."

**Iowa Tree Farmers Officers**  
 Billy Beck, Chairman  
[wjbeck@iastate.edu](mailto:wjbeck@iastate.edu)

Frances Main, Vice-Chairman  
[francesmain34@gmail.com](mailto:francesmain34@gmail.com)

Lisa Louck, Treasurer  
[l.louck@yahoo.com](mailto:l.louck@yahoo.com)

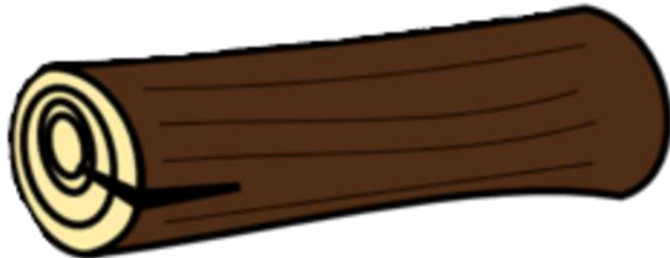
Sabrina Keiper, Secretary  
[skeiper@amanas.net](mailto:skeiper@amanas.net)

The Iowa Tree farm system is affiliated with the American Tree Farm System and recognizes the efforts and accomplishments of individuals as related to their woodlands. If interested in becoming a Tree Farmer please contact your Iowa DNR District Forester for more information, help with creating a management plan, and filing an application to join.



**WOODLAND STEWARD VIDEO SERIES HELPS EXPLAIN CONCEPTS OF FOREST MANAGEMENT**

Forest management is a broad science that includes everything from timber to wildlife, vine and weed management, conservation and more. To help woodland owners understand each task, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources has produced 31 YouTube videos known as the [Iowa Woodland Steward Toolkit](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLyDHx-rmZpCIVwD_Sca7OVW7zVZp9k517). The playlist highlights Iowa's woodlands by showcasing videos that are succinct, Iowa-centric, innovative and humorous, while also providing educational value. The playlist is found at [https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLyDHx-rmZpCIVwD\\_Sca7OVW7zVZp9k517](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLyDHx-rmZpCIVwD_Sca7OVW7zVZp9k517)



**WHAT'S THAT TREE WORTH?**

By Gretchen Cline  
 Consulting Forester in Iowa

Prices for standing timber have remained steady since the last update. Walnut and White Oak are still the species with the most demand, but Silver (Soft) Maple has also been pulling in steady prices, especially if it is not wormy. It is estimated that Silver Maple loses up to 50% of its value when stain from worm is seen in the butt end of the log. That stain is in the sapwood and runs all the way up the length of the tree. While it does not affect the structural integrity of the board, the aesthetics suffer greatly.

*"Time spent amongst trees is never wasted time."*

*Katrina Mayer*



Wormy maple



## AT THE WOODPILE

### IOWA'S TIMBER RESERVE

By Paul Millice, IWOA board member

The White Oak stave market has shown some weakness due to overproduction of barrel staves, but the demand remains for large diameter White Oak logs in the quarter sawn markets, so we have not seen any weakness in prices.

We have had a good stretch of weather that has been favorable for logging, so most sawmills have a good supply of logs in their yard, which they want to have going into spring breakup as the frost comes out of the ground and spring rains start.

The following are woods run prices on all sizes and grades of trees standing in the forest. This range in price/board foot can vary greatly depending on the quality of trees being sold. For an accurate assessment of a tree's value, it is best to consult with a professional forester who can properly evaluate its species, quality and board foot volume.

#### Species Prices/Board Foot

- Black Walnut \$3.00-\$4.50
- White Oak \$0.90-\$1.20
- Bur Oak \$0.60-\$0.80
- Sugar Maple \$0.35-\$0.45
- Silver Maple \$0.30-\$0.40
- Red Oak \$0.30-\$0.35
- Black Cherry \$0.25-\$0.40
- Hickory \$0.30-\$0.35
- Black Oak \$0.20-\$0.25
- Ash \$0.35-\$0.45 (healthy)
- Basswood \$0.15-\$0.25
- Elm \$0.20-\$0.50
- Hackberry \$0.15-\$0.25
- Cottonwood \$0.15-\$0.25

If I were a good prognosticator, I think I would have better odds at winning the lottery than trying to figure out what our Legislators are thinking. Having said that at this point we have not seen any action in this Legislative session to move on the Forest Reserve Act. Rest assured if anything appears as though they are going to take any action, we will let everyone know.

While we are busy sitting around pondering the future of our woodlands, I would like to suggest we take stock.

In 1840 Iowa contained 7 million Acres of Forests, today there are 2.9 million Acres of forests left in Iowa, of which 86% are owned by private landowners.

Delving into this decline I also need to share that in the last 25 years the number of Bur, Red and White Oaks have declined by 18%, 50% and 49%. So, you see at this rate the Oak's may not survive in Iowa!

Sorry, but I do not know what's going on nor what the cause or causes are. But this issue like many other "Iowa" problems need to be addressed! The sooner the better for everyone's sake.

#### YOUR IWOA MEMBERSHIP

- MEMBER--woodland owner (voting) \$25
  - ASSOCIATE MEMBER--non-woodland owner (nonvoting) \$25
  - CONTRIBUTING MEMBER--woodland owner (voting) \$50
  - CONTRIBUTING ASSOCIATE MEMBER--non-woodland owner (nonvoting) \$50
  - FRIENDS OF IWOA-- (nonvoting) \$100
  - IWOA FOREST STEWARD-- (nonvoting) \$250
- Memberships and renewals are for one year from signup date. Please look for the appropriate category to check in your 2024 dues notice. Our website has a Paypal option for those who wish to join electronically. All members wanting a print copy of the newsletter add \$5.

## TIMBER TALK CLASSIFIEDS

### INVASIVE TREE REMOVAL SERVICE

I will do removal of Invasive/Unwanted species. I will cut, pile and treat. Contact Luke's Brush Management for an estimate at 641-330-6675, or email: [lucassis@live.com](mailto:lucassis@live.com) (Insured)

WANTED in spring 2026: Pruning & shaping of 8 or 10 fruit trees ranging from 1 to 3 years old. Cambridge 515.460.2869

[kathleenzimmerman22@gmail.com](mailto:kathleenzimmerman22@gmail.com)

IWOA members can place a free classified ad in Timber Talk for tree/timber related items. These want ads will be limited to business card size and must not be for commercial or business purposes. One should email your requested want ad to Steve Meyer 60 days before the publish date. We currently are publishing three times a year. April 1, Aug 1 and Dec 15th. Please note there are no guarantees on this free offer, if there is not space your request may have to wait for the next issue. Send want adds to the IWOA editor at [gfdchief@netins.net](mailto:gfdchief@netins.net). Please be sure to state IWOA WANT ADD in the subject line.

## IOWA'S TIMBER MARKET: GROWTH, PROTECTION, AND SUCCESS

By Aron Flickinger, IDNR Forestry Program Specialist

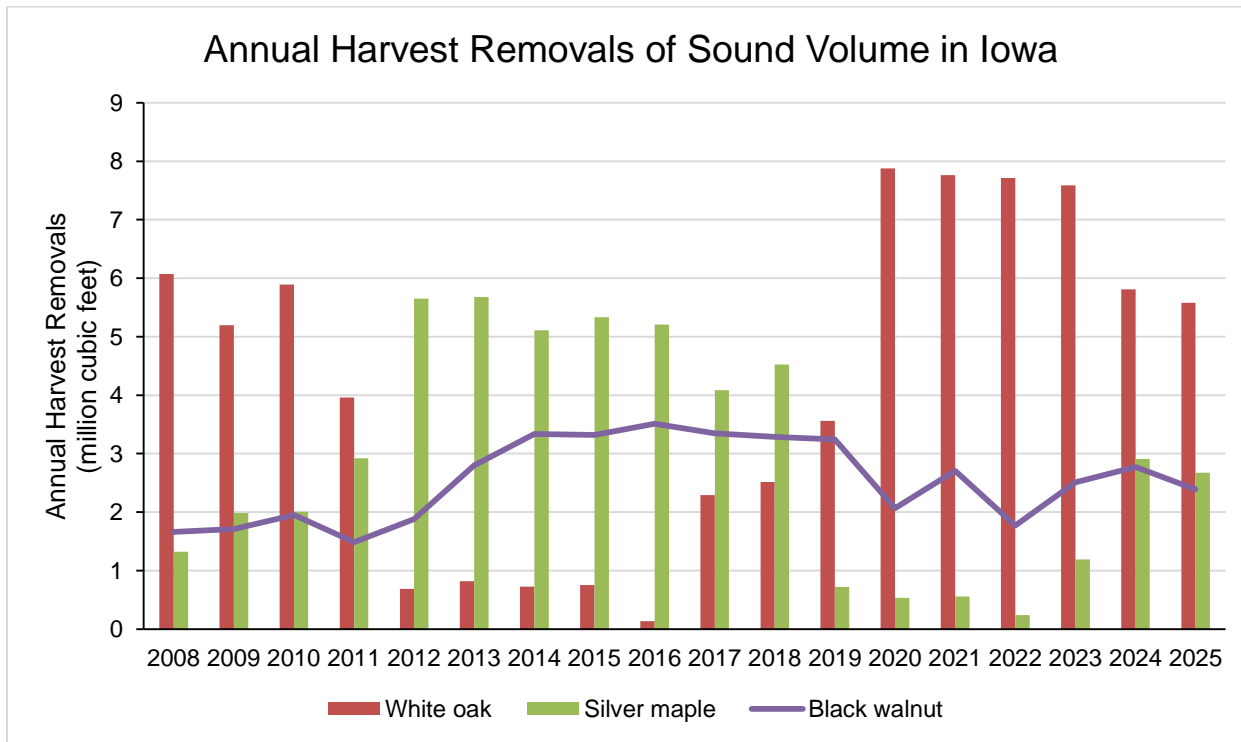
It's an exciting time for Iowa's forest landowners! According to the latest data from the Iowa DNR Forestry Section, our timber market is demonstrating strong growth and resilience.

The timber market in Iowa is reaching new heights. In 2025, the reported timber purchases by Bonded Timber Buyers to Iowa landowners hit a record-breaking **\$37.7 million**, marking the highest value ever reported. This achievement is part of a consistent three-year upward trend in purchase values.



While it remains a point of interest whether this growth is driven by a higher volume of harvested timber or an increase in market prices, the result for Iowa landowners is clear: the value of our forest resources is more significant than ever.

The chart below displays the top 3 species harvested in Iowa’s forests during the last 18 years. Notice the white oak category has risen over the last 6 years, representing 28% of the total volume of timber harvested in 2025, or as much as the next two species (silver maple and black walnut) combined.



USDA Forest Service, Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) Program

The Iowa DNR is committed to a fair and secure marketplace. Since 1980, the **Bonded Timber Buyer Law** has served as a safety net for landowners. This law ensures that anyone defined as a bonded timber buyer maintains a surety bond to provide financial protection for "timber growers" (landowners).

**How the Surety Bond Works:**

- **Purpose:** Provides a recovery mechanism for landowners if a buyer defaults on a payment and a court judgment is made in favor of the landowner.
- **Standard Coverage:** Every timber buyer must carry a minimum of **\$25,000** in coverage, with a maximum of **\$50,000**.
- **The 10% Rule:** When purchasing falls between \$250,000 and \$500,000 in a year, the required surety bond coverage is 10%. For example, a business that buys \$300,000 of timber in a year must have a \$30,000 surety bond.

Iowa’s timber industry is supported by a diverse group of approximately **140 bonded entities**, including sole proprietors, partnerships, LLCs, and corporations.



**IWOA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION  
MEMBERSHIP LEVELS—NOTE CHANGES**

**Please check one**

- Member, \$25/yr.  
    Woodland Owner, Voting
- Associate Member, \$25/yr.  
    Non-woodland Owner, Non-Voting
- Contributing Member, \$50/yr.  
    Woodland Owner, Voting
- Contributing Associate Member \$50/yr  
    Non-Woodland Owner, Non-Voting
- Friends of IWOA \$100.00
- Forest Steward \$250.00 +

*All members wanting a printed copy of the newsletter add \$5.00*

**Member Information:**

First Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Last Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_  
Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Home Ph. \_\_\_\_\_  
Business or Cell Ph. \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Forest Acres Owned \_\_\_\_\_  
Acres in Forest Reserve \_\_\_\_\_  
Which county Forest Reserves located?  
\_\_\_\_\_

County that you vote in? \_\_\_\_\_  
Are you a Certified Tree Farm? YES--NO  
Are you a member of the Iowa Tree Farmers? YES--NO  
Are you a member of the National Tree Farmers? YES--NO  
Have you taken a Master Woodland Manager (MWM) course? YES--NO  
Year completed MWM course \_\_\_\_\_  
Would you prefer to receive our newsletter via e-mail? YES--NO

*Note: we collect this information to better serve our members. We do not share this information with any persons or organizations not affiliated with IWOA.*

**SEND FORM AND CHECK PAYABLE TO  
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