

# Timber Talk

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

*June 2026*

*Editor: Steve Meyer*



## IWOA ARBOR DAY LEGACY PLANTING COMMEMORATES OUR NATION'S 250TH



IWOA Legacy Plantings are conducted to honor past board members, people who have made significant contributions to woodland's conservation in Iowa and to commemorate special events. In 2024 and 2025, IWOA conducted Legacy Plantings in Polk County to honor past board members Tom Brady and Dave Bartemes. Those two projects were organized and spearheaded by Polk County Conservation and resulted in planting around 1,000 native tree seedlings.

IWOA sponsored planting 325 trees in our third Legacy Planting on Arbor Day, Friday, April 24. The planting was held at Benton County Conservation's 85-acre Roundhouse Park on the northeast corner of Atkins. All trees planted were native hardwood seedlings. The park was devastated in the August 10, 2020 Derecho windstorm which destroyed or damaged nearly all of the trees in the once forested area. Over the past four years Benton County Conservation has removed the damaged trees and initiated a re-forestation effort.

This Legacy Planting was conducted as part of Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship's America 250 Tree Planting Initiative in honor of our nation's 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Over 50 people participated in the planting which was completed in three hours. Volunteers came from the Benton Community FFA Chapter, Vinton-Shellsburg FFA Chapter and City of Atkins. Employees of Benton County Conservation organized the planting. IWOA board members President Steve Meyer, Vice-president Tim Meyer and Ed Kocal were on hand to assist also. Elementary students from Benton Community Schools were also transported to the site and given tree planting and tree care demonstrations.

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# IOWA WOODLAND OWNER OF THE YEAR HOSTS FIELD DAY IN CLAYTON COUNTY

By Emma Kerns

Northeast Iowa Forestry Field Specialist  
Iowa State University Extension and Outreach

Just a few miles north of Edgewood, IA, Scot and Jane Christensen have spent many decades actively managing their forest, earning them the IWOA Woodland Owner of the Year award. On May 19th, they opened their property to over 80 attendees during the IWOA spring field day.

The day's agenda featured visits to various forest stands and a tour of the Kendrick Wood Products sawmill, just a few miles south in Edgewood. The sawmill tour provided visitors with a firsthand look at the intricate process of transforming raw logs into high-quality wood products. Many were impressed by the scale and quality of the wood flowing through the mill, reflecting the timber industry's importance to local economies.

At the Christensen farm, three forest stands were showcased, demonstrating the successful techniques Scot and Jane have implemented over the years. Direct tree seeding in 2004 allowed visitors to hear about the trials and determination required to turn former bare ground into the oak-hickory timber it is today. Additionally, two clear-cut areas illustrated how this method can effectively promote high-quality oak regeneration. One of the more captivating aspects of the day was the discussion about the Christensens' use of the "Plantskydd" product as a deer deterrent, as well as the homemade solutions that Scot has experimented with.

When Scot and Jane first acquired the property, they were relatively inexperienced in woodland management, unaware that timber required careful stewardship. With guidance from neighbors and collaboration with local foresters, they have since completed numerous projects, including clearcuts, direct seeding, underplanting, and many more. Scot has even utilized a home sawmill, demonstrating their commitment to maximizing the resources from their forest.

Foresters from the Iowa DNR and ISU Extension participated in the event, providing insights and answering questions from attendees. Following lunch, participants received updates on legislative matters, IWOA business, and educational opportunities, culminating in a Q&A session with Scot and Jane. The event concluded with the presentation of the Woodland Owner of the Year Award to Scot and Jane, honoring their hard work and achievements. The spring field day not only showcased the Christensens' remarkable

journey in woodland management but also served as an inspiration for others in the community. Their commitment to sustainable forestry practices and knowledge sharing is a testament to the positive impact woodland owners can have on the environment and future generations.



Scot Christiansen telling about his land.



IWOA Board Member Ed Kocal (right) presents Scot and Jane Christensen with the Woodland Owner of the Year award.



IWOA Board Member Ed Kocal (left) presents Andrea Harbaugh with an award to Kendrick Forest Products for their contribution to forestry in Iowa and assisting IWOA.



## THE CASE FOR MORE TREES IN IOWA

By Tim Meyer, IWOA Vice-president

Each year for the past 10-15 years the Iowa Woodland Owners have been advocating for preserving the Forest Reserve Tax Exemption. Indirectly we have been advocating for more trees in Iowa. A principle of economics is the more you tax something, the less of it you will have.

What are the key arguments for expanding Iowa's tree canopy? Agricultural resilience is certainly a strong one. Trees act as natural windbreaks, prevent soil erosion, stabilize stream banks and help filter nutrient runoff from reaching waterways. With Iowa's cancer rate increasing this seems to be an obvious benefit to Iowans.

Both rural and urban forests slow runoff by intercepting rainfall, which reduces the strain on municipal sewer systems and mitigates flooding. Shaded asphalt prolongs pavement life, saving cities much money.

Trees are linked positively to health and wellness benefits and increased physical activity. There are many intangible benefits trees provide.

Trees provide economic benefits through jobs and recreational spending in Iowa. These are billion-dollar industries.

Forests provide biodiversity benefits by being more resilient to invasive pests. Hundreds of pollinators use oak trees. Oaks are a foundational species and are not regenerating at a sustainable pace.

The 2020 derecho destroyed nearly 25% of Iowa's tree canopy. When we manage, plant more, and advocate for more and better trees with all their benefits, we are helping our state in many ways.

Thanks for all you do in managing your woodland, forest or prairie. You are making Iowa a better, stronger state for today's generation and future generations.

**"To both use and conserve nature requires complex knowledge and practices, far more complex than leaving nature alone."**  
M. Kat Anderson, *Tending the Wild*

Walnut logs being processed at Kendrick Forest Products.



## NO ACTION TAKEN ON FOREST RESERVE

Paul Millice—IWOA Board Member

The Iowa Legislature has adjourned for this session.

The House Ways and Means committee did not take up SF 633 which would increase Forest Reserve property taxes for woodland owners. I presume that 633 will be "unfinished business" for the next legislative session.

Please note that in the final budget debate that the Governor and the Legislature admitted that Iowa has a water quality issue and pledged to put some effort/resources toward the problem. Whether this will be enough or impactful remains to be seen. The tipping point is that they are owning up to their problems, and it will be much more difficult for the Ag lobby to attack the Forest Reserve program in light of the science that says trees help with water quality.

As a side note, I think that the last-minute attention to water quality by the legislature is a direct result of the democratic candidate for the Sec of Ag job, seems like all he talks about is water quality and cancer rates.

High fives all around, we need to keep everyone involved.

## FOREST RESERVE FEES WOULD UNDERCUT ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDS (OPINION)

*We need policies that support good stewards who maintain trees. Undercutting the Forest Reserve Program by adding fees would do the opposite.*

**By Sylvia Spalding**

Guest columnist--April 19, 2026, 8:02 a.m. CT

*Editor's note: The following editorial appeared in the Des Moines Register and is reprinted with permission of the Des Moines Register and Sylvia Spalding. I find Spalding's comments quite relevant to IWOA's efforts to maintain the Forest Reserve. One thing that really caught my attention is that Olivia is from Honolulu but even from so far away still has strong feelings about Iowa and a connection to our land here.*

A legislative subcommittee has supported establishing a fee structure for the Forest Reserve Program, through Senate File 633 which would increase property taxes for woodland owners. Certain organizations voiced wanting to eliminate the program entirely, claiming it “squeezes the balloon,” forcing neighbors to pay more taxes. This argument ignores the benefits that woodlands provide, which are well worth the “lost” Forest Reserve revenue, representing on average 4/10 of 1% of county budgets.

This small monetary gain risks destabilizing the 1906 Forest Reserve law established to “reduce or eliminate property taxes to induce landowners to hold their poorer lands in timber not only as a source of farm income but also for erosion control, watershed protection and game cover.” The appraised value of Forest Reservations fluctuated between \$1 an acre in 1907 and \$14.82 an acre in 1974 and has been at \$0 an acre since 1986. The proposed fee structure would tax landowners based on where they live in relation to their woodland.

As a seventh-generation Mahaska County manager/co-owner of a multigenerational family farm who currently lives out-of-state, I see the need for Iowa to maintain now more than ever the current incentive of \$0 an acre appraised value. Iowa has lost half of its topsoil since it opened to non-Native settlers, and the current erosion rate is unsustainable. Trees build soil, prevent soil loss and

slow runoff and pollution into Iowa's waterways. Trees support pollinators, produce oxygen, absorb carbon and provide ecosystem resilience<sup>3/4</sup>benefits enjoyed freely by the entire community.

Yet, Iowa forest acres have decreased by half since the Forest Reserve law was passed. The number of acres with oak (the state tree) is plummeting, with red and white oak decreasing by 50% and 49% in the last 25 years.

Maintaining woodland takes a great deal of time and energy (regardless of where the owner lives) and doesn't produce an annual harvest. To keep our Forest Reserve designation, we must maintain at least 200 growing trees per acre and ban farm animals and leased hunting and other recreational activities on these acres, among other requirements. We are one of the 22.5% of Iowa Forest Reserve owners who have a written forest management plan prepared by a forester. We have engaged in numerous federal, state and private grant programs for timber stand improvement and invasive species control. We have planted thousands of oak and black walnut trees, removed acres of undesirable trees and engaged in multi-year prescribed burns and brush removal to eliminate invasive species that are harmful to the forest.

We need policies that support good stewards who maintain trees. Undercutting the Forest Reserve Program by adding fees would do the opposite.



*Olivia Spalding serves on the Climate Land Leaders board and is an Iowa Woodland Owners Association member. She lives in Honolulu and has boots on the ground annually in Iowa to oversee REAP, EQIP, Trees Forever and CRP grants to manage 50 acres of Forest Reserve and 54 acres of cropland on their ancestral family farm. Email: [feetrodgers@gmail.com](mailto:feetrodgers@gmail.com).*

## CRP, THE FARM BILL & FORESTRY

By Joe Herring, IDNR District 3 Forester

To Iowa woodland owners, Tree Farmers, Northeast Iowa Forest Advisory members:

You may be aware that the House recently passed an update to the Farm Bill for the first time since 2018. The Senate is now reviewing it and working on their own version, expected to be released later this month.

Another item you may (or may not be aware of) is that back in 2018, for the first time in the 33-year history of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), statutory language was included in the Farm Bill and provisions in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) that significantly discriminated against the planting of hardwood trees. In that Farm Bill and ever since, the CP3A Hardwood Tree Planting CRP practice has been limited to just a single re-enrollment, or a maximum of two contracts. All other commonly-used CRP practices in Iowa, including Introduced Grass Plantings and Legumes (CP1), Grassed Waterways (CP8A), Filter Strips (CP21), Pollinator Habitat (CP42), and even Field Windbreaks (CP5A) and Softwood tree plantings (CP3) have no limits on future re-enrollments.

The CFR also contains provisions that disallow the re-enrollment of tree practices when a contract expires, such as in a year when there is no general CRP signup.

As many forest owners and tree growers already know, the CP3A Hardwood Tree Planting practice is one of the most impactful conservation tools available to agricultural producers in Iowa. It helps convert highly erodible and environmentally sensitive cropland into long-term forest cover that protects water quality and restores critical wildlife habitat. Hardwood plantings reduce soil erosion, improve groundwater infiltration, and help reduce nutrient and sediment losses to streams and reservoirs in agricultural landscapes. These plantings also provide essential habitat and food sources for pollinators, songbirds, wild turkey, deer, and other wildlife species that depend on hardwood forests and mast-producing trees.

The current limitation of a single re-enrollment after the initial 10 or 15-year contract undermines the long-term environmental and economic benefits

of the program. Hardwood forests require decades to fully develop their greatest water quality, carbon storage, and wildlife habitat value. Forcing productive acres out of the program after only 20-30 years often creates pressure to convert these lands back into row crop production before the public receives the full return on its conservation investment. Removing the re-enrollment limitation would provide producers with greater long-term certainty and financial stability while ensuring lasting benefits for downstream communities, hunters, outdoor recreation economies, drinking water systems, and the overall health of Iowa's natural resources.

Please consider contacting your elected representatives and asking them to eliminate the single re-enrollment limitation on CRP Hardwood tree plantings (CP3A) in the next Farm Bill. We should incentivize hardwood tree plantings, the most durable and longest-lasting of conservation practices, at least equally to other practices that offer shorter-term benefits.

Note that Senator Joni Ernst serves on the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry committee and the Subcommittee on Conservation, Forestry, Natural Resources, and Biotechnology. Senator Grassley also serves on the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry committee.



## TSI CAN MEAN MANY THINGS

By Steve Lekwa

Retired Story County Conservation Director

TSI, an acronym for Timber Stand Improvement, is often thought to mean grooming a timber stand to supply the most board feet of salable lumber at some point in the future. Synonyms for timber include woodland and forest. A timber stand may be thought of as a future crop, but a forest is far more. It's a current home for an entire ecosystem of plants, birds, and animals. The health and diversity of those residents can be another measure of how "improved" a forest might be. There are many things we can do today, or even skip doing, that can improve a forest toward that end.

One of the first things people often think of is to “clean the forest up” by removing unsightly brush piles and dead or dying trees. Brush piles offer homes for many forest birds and animals, and are often used as cover to ride out a winter storm or hide from a hunting Cooper’s hawk. There may be reasons for removing dead or dying trees such as trying to slow the spread of a disease like oak wilt, but there are many other reasons to leave at least some of them as they are. A dead tree can offer home sites for many forest birds and animals. Woodpeckers seldom excavate nest holes in anything but dead trees or at least dead limbs of living trees. Only our largest woodpecker, the pileated, has enough power to excavate in firm, living wood, and even they prefer a dead standing tree if one can be found. Downy, hairy, red headed, and red bellied, woodpeckers, as well as flickers always choose dead trees for nest sites. Woodpeckers are important to have around because they feed on harmful insect larvae that live just under the bark of living trees.

Woodpeckers are primary cavity nesters that create a new nest cavity each year. A host of birds are considered as secondary cavity nesters that can’t excavate their own nest cavity. They require a woodpecker or something else to create a cavity for their nest. Birds like wood ducks, chickadees, tufted titmice, bluebirds, nuthatches, wrens, tree swallows, and great crested flycatchers are secondary cavity nesters. Even barred owls prefer a cavity to nest in rather than a more open site. Cavities also serve many of these birds as night roost shelter during the winter season and for early and late migrants that may be caught in cold winter storms. A forest without cavity nesters, both primary and secondary ones, is a forest in great need of improvement!

A timber stand may focus on one or two species as future crop trees, but a forest is composed of a variety of trees, shrubs, flowers, ferns, and sedges. Some provide forage and cover for animals like deer, rabbits, squirrels, deer mice, and turkeys. They, in turn, provide “forage” for predators like foxes, weasles, and hawks. The gray fox, the only member of the dog family to regularly climb trees, will often den in a larger cavity well up in an old hollow tree. Keep in mind that old basswood and boxelder trees often have more hollow spots than other species. Consider including some plants that provide soft mast like berries rather than just the nut

bearers like walnut and oak that are most often thought of as crop trees. Black cherry, choke cherry, and hackberry trees, and shrubs like vibernums, dogwoods, gooseberry, elderberry, wild plum, and hazel provide food for a wide variety of birds and animals. Vines like wood ivy (Virginia creeper), wild grape, and even poison ivy provide berries that many birds relish and depend on; especially those that hold on to their fruit all winter.

While you’re out doing your summer TSI consider leaving some standing dead and old hollow trees. Inventory what you have in terms of species diversity of plants and animals. You could plan to add things that your stand may lack for wildlife values. Perhaps your stand is too young to provide natural cavities, but you could “improve” it by adding human made cavities in the form of nest boxes. Plans are available for everything from song birds to squirrels and owls. You could girdle a few trees that you might otherwise cut down during thinning operations and leave them standing to become future homes for cavity nesters. Even a hollow, rotting log lying on the ground will serve the needs of a variety of creatures.

Although it’s not a summer TSI activity, consider how a prescribed fire might improve your timber stand. Prescribed fire can help to clear the forest floor of unwanted invasive plants like garlic mustard, buckthorn, honeysuckle, multiflora rose and more. Native plants tend to survive well timed fire quite nicely and may use the temporary setback of invasive plants to increase in number. It’s not unusual to see blooming wild flowers that haven’t bloomed in years the spring following a good prescribed fire! Prescribed fire isn’t something you can do by yourself, though. Your state forester and some county conservation boards may be able to help you plan or conduct a prescribed fire.

Your timber stand may include many crop trees that will one day lead to a profitable timber sale. With planning and effort your growing stand will become a forest of great value to wildlife and people, as well as a place of beauty and enjoyment for many years after the crop trees are gone.

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.

## MWSP UPDATES

Spring 2026 Master Woodland Steward Program (MSWP) was hosted by Washington and Louisa County offices of ISU Extension and Outreach and graduated 20 students. This course was instructed by Dr. Billy Beck, Assistant Professor and ISU Extension Forestry Specialist.



Spring 2026 MSWP Graduates

### FUTURE CLASSES

Due to high demand, there will be two offerings of MWSP this fall.

A MWSP hosted by Clayton & Delaware Counties and will begin at 4:30 PM on August 13 at Backbone State Park. This course will be instructed by Emma Kerns, Forestry Specialist (515-294-0714). Registration opening soon. For inquiries, contact Jade Schneider, Delaware County (563-927-4201), Holly Loan, Clayton County (563-245-1451).

A MWSP will be held in September-October hosted by Hamilton, Webster and Boone Counties. Pre-registration is now open - contact Sue Schmitz for inquiries (ISU Extension and Outreach, Hamilton County, [sschmitz@iastate.edu](mailto:sschmitz@iastate.edu), 515-832-9597).

In 2027 MWSP course offerings are planned for Lucas County (spring) and Adair-Guthrie County (fall).

For information on MWSP course offerings and registration go to <https://naturalresources.extension.iastate.edu/programs/forestry/education/woodlandmg>

## DISTRICT FORESTER SPOTLIGHT

### HANNAH HAGEMAN

IDNR District 9 Forester

By Editor Steve Meyer



Hannah Hageman just started her position as IDNR District 9 Forester in May of this year. She graduated High School at Lawton-Bronson near Sioux City. While attending college she worked four seasonal internships at Lewis and Clark State Park, and also at Woodbury County Conservation Board. She spent one year at Western Iowa Tech Community College and then transferred to ISU where she graduated with a BS in Forestry in 2025. After graduating she was an Urban Forestry Intern in Sioux Falls SD and then a Field Assistant for Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation West Hills Region.

Hannah says she was motivated to get into forestry because she grew up outside: “My family were not big hunters but they spent a lot of time outside. I’ve always had a lot of interest in foraging and I’m interested in everything that is around me—all the different things that work as one to make an ecosystem. I just really liked trees. I’m very interested in their biology and how they work in a system with everything around them. I reached out to District Forester Sarah Bell who let me follow her around for a few days while I was in High School. From there on I knew that forestry was what I wanted to do. I love what I do!” She says one of her special areas of interest is individual tree biology. “I try to learn as much as I can about how each individual tree works. The succession of trees is also very interesting to me—how trees regenerate

in an ecosystem--what is the overstory and what occurs over 100, 200, 300 years. I really find the silviculture of it all very interesting.”

She also states that the benefits of trees in urban areas are also something very interesting to her—something she gained in her work as an urban forester. And, controlled burns are something she is particularly passionate about. “Prescribed burns if done well can be very safe and a great management tool. When we do one, make sure we have more than enough equipment and people so we keep the burn within our unit.”

Hannah hopes to spread more information about trees and their importance and help people understand what they can do to help the ecosystem meet their goals. She looks forward to communicating with the public and creating plans to meet their goals.

District 9 in southwest Iowa is one of Iowa’s largest districts and includes Pottawattamie, Cass, Harrison, Shelby, Audubon, Crawford, Monona, Woodbury, Ida, Plymouth, Cherokee, Sioux, O’Brien, Lyon and Osceola Counties.



## WOODLAND CRITTERS

### EASTERN SCREECH OWL

*(Megascops asio)*



This robin-sized nightbird is common in Iowa Woodlands, city parks and shady suburbs, where many human residents are unaware they have an owl for a neighbor. The owl spends the day roosting in holes or in dense cover, becoming active at dusk. Despite the name, screech-owls do not screech; the voice of this species features whinnies and soft trills.

Eastern Screech Owls measure seven to nine inches in length and have a wingspan of six to eight inches. They have short ear tufts, yellow eyes, and a light-colored beak. Their plumage comes in two main color morphs: gray and rufous (reddish), with streaked and spotted patterns on the breast and belly for camouflage. Males and females look alike, though females are slightly larger and less agile in flight.

These owls are common east of the Rocky Mountains, from Canada to Mexico. They prefer areas with trees for nesting and open spaces for hunting. Eastern Screech Owls are non-migratory, maintaining home ranges year-round, though they may move locally during severe weather.

Eastern Screech Owls are strictly nocturnal, though they may be active at dawn or dusk. They roost in tree cavities, nest boxes, or dense foliage during the day. Their flight is rapid with a steady wingbeat, rarely gliding, and they often tuck their head in, giving a stubby appearance. They are solitary except during the breeding season, and males patrol multiple cavities to attract females.

These owls are opportunistic predators with one of the most varied diets among North American owls. They feed on insects, earthworms, crayfish, small mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and occasionally bats. Hunting is typically done from a perch, swooping down to capture prey, and they may cache uneaten food in tree cavities.

Eastern Screech Owls form monogamous pairs, with breeding season from late January to mid-March. Males court females by bowing, raising wings, clicking their bill, and bringing food. Females select nest sites from cavities defended by males, often reusing successful sites from previous years. The female incubates eggs while the male provides food.

Despite their name, they do not screech. Their calls include descending trills and whinnies, which are most often heard at night. These vocalizations are used for territory defense, courtship, and communication between mates.

In the wild, Eastern Screech Owls can live up to 14 years, while in captivity, they may reach 20 years. Their small size and nocturnal habits help them avoid many predators, though they are vulnerable to larger raptors and human-related threats.

Eastern Screech Owls are a fascinating example of a small, adaptable raptor that thrives in both natural and human-altered environments, making them a common yet often unnoticed presence in Eastern North America. They readily use manmade nest boxes and birdbaths.

*Editor Steve Meyer*

# WOODLAND FLORA

## WILD GOOSEBERRY

*(Ribes hirtellum)*



*Ribes hirtellum* is a species of gooseberry commonly known as wild gooseberry or swamp gooseberry. It is native to Canada and the northern United States. Cultivated gooseberries are derived from this species and from *Ribes uva-crispa*.

*Ribes hirtellum* is known by several other names, including American gooseberry, hairy-stem gooseberry, hairy gooseberry, low wild gooseberry northern gooseberry<sup>1</sup>, smooth gooseberry, and wedge-leaf gooseberry.

*Wild gooseberry* grows in a variety of habitats, including wetlands such as fens, sedge meadows, river bottom forests, and swamps, shorelines of streams and lakes, and rocky openings in forests and along cliffs. It grows throughout much of eastern north America and it would be hard to find any woodlands in Iowa that doesn't have any. It's among the earliest of plants to start budding out in the spring. Size of the berry varies from pea sized up to (rarely) the size of a dime. The larger sized ones are great for picking and eating. If you've never had a gooseberry pie you don't know what you're missing. They are tart for sure, but quite tasty in my opinion.

*Editor Steve Meyer*



## PRESIDENTS COLUMN

Steve Meyer, IWOA President

### CHANGES COMING

Greetings to our members!

What a glorious spring it has been in my 'neck of the woods'. After five years of drought, it looks like we are swinging out of it finally and the woods are sprouting lushness and vibrancy I haven't seen for years. Though I am seeing one disturbing thing, many of my oaks have cupped leaves with some wilt along the edges. I noticed a little of this last year also. I've heard some talk that attributes this to ag chemicals in the air. Nothing has been proven about this and this isn't something I'm going to go into a rant about but it certainly is thought provoking. See the article I mention at the end of my column for more about this.

### WHAT'S IN STORE

Getting to the heart of what I've got to say this newsletter, some changes will be coming to the IWOA. This is a little difficult to explain, so hopefully I can do this with some clarity and in such a way that our members understand what is happening and why. A couple of years ago I asked some questions about our status as a non-profit organization which we portray ourselves as. I've been involved with organizations that were federally registered non-profits before. Most of them are organized under 501c3—the federal regulation that allows them to exist and function and exempts them from federal income taxes while allowing people who donate to them to deduct their donations from their income taxes. I know from dealing with these in the past that there is annual reports and filings that needed to be done but I was not aware that IWOA was doing anything like that. Basically, what we figured out is that some time in our early history the appropriate filings with the IRS for non-profit status never occurred. Why this

happened is lost to time. We are recognized by the State of Iowa as a non-profit, but this not at the same level as the Federal 501c3 recognition. I'm not interested in pointing any fingers or playing a blame game, I'm only interested in setting things right and that's the direction the board has decided to go. Hence, we are pursuing establishing our organization as a 501c3. One of the things we have been advised we need to do is change our name. The board discussed this and what we have come up with is Iowa Woodland Owners Alliance. This way we can keep the same acronym (IWOA) that we have been identified with since our beginning.

Though filing for a 501c3 is a rather cumbersome process and we will incur some legal fees, there are distinct advantages to having non-profit status. One being, as I already mentioned, donors can legally deduct their contributions from their taxes. Another huge one is that most private and foundation grants require the entity applying for the grant to have 501c3 status. I know we have not actively pursued grants in the past. What many of our members probably don't know is that the larger part of my occupation as an Emergency Management Consultant is grant writing. I have done a little probing around and there are grants available that we could be eligible to apply for, all with the intent of enhancing Iowa's forestry resources.

Board member Ruth McAndrews has put a lot of time into figuring out all of the 501c3 dynamics. She has sought legal counsel for advice and what we should do and this is what it has come down to.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT POSITION**

Another thing the board has decided to do is to combine our treasurer position and our membership secretary position into one position—administrative assistant. We are in the process of developing a job description now. The board feels this will bring us a more efficient manner of administration.

### **VOTING ON CHANGES**

Forming the 501c3, changing our name and creating the administrative assistant position will require changes to our by-laws. Changes to our by-laws require a vote of our membership. Everyone one of you will have your chance for a say-so about what we are doing. My hope is that we will have all

of this ready to go for a vote during the general membership meeting I intend to hold at our fall field day.

### **FREE MEMBERSHIPS**

We've started a new promotion to help entice more people to join IWOA. For anyone who is not a member they get their FIRST YEAR OF MEMBERSHIP FREE! We have a free membership coupon you fill out and return to our membership secretary, then you're in! Anyone reading this who is not a member, please feel free to e-mail me at [gfdchief@netins.net](mailto:gfdchief@netins.net) or any board member and we will e-mail you a coupon. Or, any of you who know someone interested in becoming a member, we'll send you or them a coupon also. There is also a free membership coupon included on the last page of this newsletter. This is one of the many efforts we are undertaking to boost our membership numbers and increase our outreach.

### **UPCOMING ELECTION**

IWOA board member positions occupied by Linda Haugen, Phil McCune and Paul Millice will be up for election this fall. I don't know what any of these three dedicated board members intend to do yet, but if there is anyone out there interested in serving on the board, please let us know. We can get your name on the ballot.

### **OUR COMMITTEES NEED HELP**

Earlier this year we established five committees for the purpose of spreading the workload out and focusing attention in major areas of emphasis. Our committees need help—more volunteers. The committees are: Membership, Communications, Legislative, Special Events and Scholarship. If you've got some time and some desire to help us, we'd love to have you help our committees! Just let us know.

### **OTHER NEWS**

What a great field day we just had! Board member Ed Kocal and the special event committee did a great job putting this together. As reported elsewhere in this newsletter, we also Just completed our third legacy planting, this one in Atkins. This is

an event which really showcases what we're all about—enhancing Iowa's forestry resources.

Something new we are trying is mini field days. Check it out what we're doing on page 13. Board member Paul Millice is spearheading this effort.

I welcome any ideas any of you may have to help further our outreach to Iowa's 130,000 woodland owners. Feel free to contact me—I'd love to hear from you.

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

Steve Meyer, President

### **RECOMMENDED READING!**

#### **What's Killing These Oak Trees in The Midwest?**

By Christian Elliott

The Smithsonian December 9, 2025

See this article at:

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/whats-killing-these-oak-trees-in-the-midwest-conservationists-believe-drifting-herbicides-are-to-blame-180987817/>

### **IWOA BOARD MEETING APRIL 16, 2026**

Amana, Iowa

The meeting was called to order by President, Steve Meyer at 9:57 AM.

Board members present were: Steve Meyer, Jim White, Ray Lehn, Phil McCune, Ed Kocal, Linda Haugen, Ruth McAndrews, Paul Millice, and Tim Meyer.

R. Lehn moved to approve the agenda. Second was by J. White. Motion carried.

T. Meyer moved to approve the January 14, 2026 minutes of the meeting in Amana. R. Lehn seconded. Motion carried.

T. Meyer moved to approve the February 25 minutes of the meeting in Des Moines. Seconded by P. McCune. Motion carried.

E. Kocal moved to approve the treasurer's report. Second was by R. Lehn. Motion carried.

### **Old and Ongoing Business:**

Linda has had some training and can now update some of the website items.

Membership is increasing, partly due to free ones for new members. E. Kocal will bring a supply of membership applications to the field day in May. The effectiveness of the free initial memberships will not be known until the renewals are due next year. S. Meyer will check with Cathy to see that renewal reminders are being sent to current members by electronic or postal mail. President Meyer will also write an explanation of the free membership experiment for the existing general membership.

Cathy sent a report to S. Meyer with the breakdown of membership by county.

P. Millice suggested that we include a member's legislative district in our membership data base which would be helpful in sending out legislative bulletins and notices for contacting their representatives and senators.

The Iowa Tree Farmers are going to try to hire a student from Iowa State to update their data base with emails for all tree farmers regardless of membership.

R. McAndrews moved to change name from Iowa Woodland Owners Association to Iowa Woodland Owners Alliance. P. Millice seconded the motion. Motion carried. The name would encourage membership and participation by those interested in preserving woodlands, but do not have ownership. It would also reflect our collaboration with other like-minded forest conservation groups. P. Millice moved for Ruth to proceed to apply for the 501c3 status under the name of Iowa Woodland Owners Alliance. L. Haugen seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Lobbyist, Jim Obradovich, joined the meeting by phone with an update on the status of SF633. Representative Gearhart has presented an alternative that would administer the forest reserve more like the CRP enrollment process.

The amount of funding for the lobbyist was tabled until the next meeting.

President Meyer had sent a letter regarding Federal funding for forestry and conservation to each of Iowa's two senators and four representatives in Washington, D.C. The only

response received was from Senator Grassley who expressed support for conservation.

The scholarship opportunity was sent to all colleges and universities in Iowa who had natural resources programs. We received one inquiry but no completed applications. There is concern that the requirement to have a family member belong to the IWOA may be a barrier. E. Kocal moved we remove the requirement. T. Meyer seconded. Motion carried.

L. Haugen reviewed how Facebook is structured for an organization. Having a profile allows us to have a page on which to post to the community. We do have a group, but posts are internal discussions that stay within the group. It is important to post regularly and these can be scheduled in advance. L. Haugen moved that she set up a new Facebook profile. P. Millice seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The Tristate Forestry Conference in Dubuque March 7 was attended by T. Meyer, J. White, L. Haugen, and R. McAndrews. The maximum registration of 300 was reached. It will stay in Dubuque for the next few years due to its central location.

We received a free booth at the Deer Classic in Des Moines. It went well despite being the same day as the Tri-State Forestry Conference. 90 free one-year memberships were given out. Discussion was held on ideas to encourage attendees to stop and chat at our booth. Ideas included a state map show where their woodlands are, "Guess the number of acorns in the jar" with a prize, and a screen with videos playing.

We were represented on Tree Day at the Capitol with the Environmental Alliance.

The spring field day is May 19 at Edgewood, Iowa. The two sites are about 10 minutes apart. 21 people are already registered. E. Kocal will add the on-line registration link to the poster. Cathy will send out the fliers. S. Meyer will order plaques for Christiansens and Kendrick Forest Products.

### **New Business**

Cathy Wilkie has been membership secretary for 25 years. L. Haugen moved that we work toward combining the membership secretary and treasurer positions into one administrative assistant position. P. Millice seconded the motion. Motion carried.

President Meyer wants to have a general meeting at both the spring and fall field days. Spring is a good time to inform members of updates and get input. The by-laws require a general meeting in the fall and provide an opportunity to finalize agenda items.

Practical Farmers may ask for help on a field day such as a place to host or providing speakers. Their events are usually only a half-day or an evening. If it works, we will try to collaborate with them in the future.

Larry Wiley needs someone to take over handling the display. He is willing to mentor them for the next couple years. J. White and L. Haugen can help.

We had previously discussed having a short mentoring session or mini-field day. P. Millice submitted a list of potential topics and offered to host the first one. It would be on Saturday, September 19 at 9AM to noon on his property near Iowa City. Donuts and coffee would be provided by IWOA. As it would be on a Saturday, DNR personnel would not be available. Registration would be limited to 20 people, but he would consider a second afternoon session if there was enough demand.

The next newsletter will contain a call for help on committees.

The Legacy Tree planting in honor of our nation's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary will be on Arbor Day, April 24. 350 hardwoods will be planted at the Roundhouse County Park in Atkins, IA. In addition to local Vinton-Shellsburg and Benton Community FFAs and Benton County Conservation partners, 45 students and some elementary classrooms will be coming to learn about trees and tree-planting.

The next meeting will be a short board meeting after the general meeting at the field day.

The next regular meeting will be July 16 at the Ronnenberg in Amana.

E. Kocal moved to adjourn the meeting. P. McCune seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:22 P.

*Ruth McAndrews, Secretary*

Steve Meyer, President  
[gfdchief@netins.net](mailto:gfdchief@netins.net)

Tim Meyer, Vice-President  
[davisdeer@gmail.com](mailto:davisdeer@gmail.com)

Jim White  
[jwwhite050760@gmail.com](mailto:jwwhite050760@gmail.com)

Ed Kocal  
[edkocal@yahoo.com](mailto:edkocal@yahoo.com)

Ray Lehn  
[rayclehn@gmail.com](mailto:rayclehn@gmail.com)

Ruth McAndrews  
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Paul Millice  
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Linda Haugen  
[lhaugenmn@gmail.com](mailto:lhaugenmn@gmail.com)

Phil McCune, Past-president  
[arcadiafarm2000@yahoo.com](mailto:arcadiafarm2000@yahoo.com)

**IWOA Support Staff**  
Cathy Wilkie, Membership Secretary  
[CAT\\_Wilkie@yahoo.com](mailto:CAT_Wilkie@yahoo.com)

Sherri Sisson, Treasurer  
[Sherri227th@gmail.com](mailto:Sherri227th@gmail.com)

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

## **SOMETHING NEW—MINI FIELD DAY**

By Paul Millice, IWOA Board Member

The board has been tossing around the idea of having a number of mini field days, so here is our first cut.

I have volunteered to host the first one of these and since we have not been here since 2013 it is about time. The main reason is that parking is limited and we will shuttle attendees from the DNR's main parking lot at Red Bird Wildlife area.

This will be a free field day with doughnuts from Golden Delight Amish bakery and coffee.

This will be a three-hour session, and we hope to talk about: Natural Oak regeneration, Invasives, Forest health to include oak tatters, tree protection, nuisance trapping, pruning and shaping and the importance of the Forest Reserve Act, Water Quality, Cancer rates and the upcoming elections, as well as anything else that comes up.

This will be limited to 20-25 people. Session will be 0900-noon and if necessary, we may try to do a session at 1300. To request a spot email, me at [deertreehugger@gmail.com](mailto:deertreehugger@gmail.com) or if you don't have email try to call me at three one nine 331-1238. Please ensure that you have a confirmed reservation prior to attending. The date will be Saturday September 19<sup>th</sup> and the location will be 2254 Black Diamond Road SW, Iowa City, 52240.

**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.**

**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.

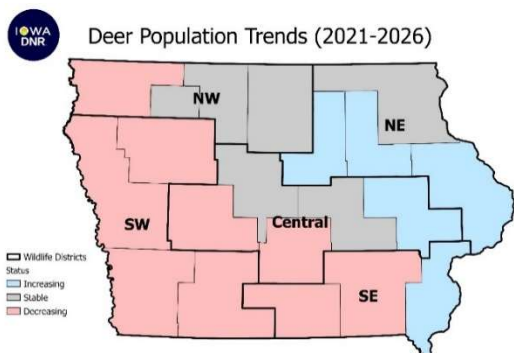
# The State of Iowa's Deer

Written by Jace Elliott, State Deer Biologist for the Iowa DNR

## Rumors, Reality, and Regional Trends

If you spend enough time around rural coffee shops, hunting camps, or online forums, one topic keeps surfacing: Iowa's deer population. Familiar concerns often follow: *Where did all the deer go? EHD really took a toll on my herd. I'm not seeing the numbers I'm used to.*

If you live anywhere in western, central, or southern Iowa, you're even more likely to encounter these conversations—and for good reason. As of 2026, over half of the state is experiencing a deer population decline over the last few years. For some regions, like far-western Iowa, serious deer declines have been a reality for over a decade. In other regions, like south-central Iowa, populations remained relatively strong and stable until just a few years ago. Of course, this all begs the question: what's causing these declines, and why are some regions affected more than others?



In many areas, hemorrhagic disease (which includes both EHD and Bluetongue viruses) appears to be the most visible and immediate cause of lower deer numbers. This disease is spread by biting insects called midges (commonly referred to as “no-see-ums”) that can add sudden and sometimes severe mortality in deer herds during the late-summer and early-fall months. Based on DNR data, both 2023 and 2024 rank among the top three

most severe hemorrhagic disease outbreaks documented in Iowa's history. The timing of these outbreaks closely aligns with when deer population and harvest trends began declining in central and southern Iowa, while further intensifying long-standing declines in western portions of the state.

While deer populations across much of Iowa appear to be trending downward, it's necessary to recognize the regional differences that exist across our diverse state. It's easy to understand how passionate hunters and landowners can drift into overgeneralization—especially given recent attention to the collapsing deer herd in western Iowa. On top of that, we live in an internet era where local trends can quickly become a statewide narrative. But wildlife biology is rarely simple, and deer dynamics are no exception.

## What's the Difference?

While hemorrhagic disease helps explain recent declines across much of the state, it does not fully account for the differences in how deer populations have responded across Iowa's diverse landscapes. To understand this, it's important to remember that hemorrhagic disease is not an entirely new phenomenon in Iowa. While the Midwest has a far shorter history with the disease compared to most southeastern and mid-Atlantic states, Iowa's first major outbreak occurred in 2012. Although severe, that event was more geographically restricted than recent outbreaks, primarily impacting the Missouri River-adjacent counties, as well as within and around Madison and Warren counties.

With hindsight on our side, the 2012 outbreak provides a useful reference point for comparing how different regions responded over time. Both the Missouri River counties and the Madison–Warren area saw noticeable declines in hunter harvest and population trends in the wake of the outbreak. However, Madison and Warren counties largely rebounded by 2015, with most metrics returning to pre-outbreak levels.

Out west, the story has been different. Many Missouri River counties have still not returned

to pre-2012 harvest or population levels more than a decade later. While Madison and Warren counties went on to set new buck harvest benchmarks over the following decade, many Missouri River counties continue to report indices well under 50% of pre-2012 numbers.

If these regions experienced significant mortality from the same disease in the same season, why were their recovery trajectories so different?

Some might assume that disease impacts were more severe in western Iowa, which would explain the slower recovery. While that could be possible, Iowa DNR reports indicate county-scale mortality was actually 5–10 times higher in Madison and Warren counties than in Missouri River-adjacent counties during the 2012 outbreak.

Others might suggest that western Iowa simply experienced repeated hemorrhagic disease outbreaks, preventing recovery from ever taking hold. There is some truth to that—Missouri River counties did report notable outbreaks again in 2021 and 2024. However, Madison and Warren counties have also experienced multiple documented outbreaks over the same general period.

Of course, the most logical explanation for why these two regions have experienced such different trajectories is also the answer to so many pressing wildlife issues—habitat.

In western Iowa, much of the landscape is dominated by large-scale row crop agriculture, with more limited and fragmented pockets of timber, brush, and prairie. One exception is the Loess Hills, a unique geologic formation that spans much of the western edge of the state, running roughly parallel to and within several miles of the Missouri River. However, despite the Loess Hills providing relatively strong habitat where it occurs, it represents only a narrow portion of the broader county landscapes.

In contrast, Madison and Warren counties feature more abundant forested ridges and river bottom habitat, providing substantially more suitable deer cover than much of their Missouri River counterparts. That habitat is also more evenly distributed across the

landscape, rather than being concentrated in a relatively narrow, island-like band such as the Loess Hills. While greater habitat availability supports higher deer abundance, it also contributes to greater population resilience over time by providing greater nutritional availability and more secure escape cover, both of which improve reproductive success and survival.

Taken together, these differences help explain why similar disease events can produce such different long-term outcomes across Iowa. Hemorrhagic disease may be the spark behind many recent declines, but habitat often determines how severely a region is affected—and how quickly, or whether, it recovers. That reality is worth remembering anytime statewide deer conversations begin to center around a single cause or a single region. Iowa's deer herd is not one uniform population, but a patchwork of local herds shaped by very different landscapes, pressures, and opportunities.

## Evolving Strategies

The Iowa Deer Program has learned a great deal about hemorrhagic disease since 2012. In the early years, it was more difficult to fully understand and appreciate how localized the impacts could be. Because outbreaks often occur late in the summer, after fawns are born but before fall hunting seasons begin, the immediate effects are not always obvious. In some places, deer numbers can appear relatively stable until harvest trends, field observations, and population indices begin to reveal a clearer picture over the following seasons.

Over time, repeated outbreaks across different regions have reinforced an important lesson: recovery does not occur at the same pace everywhere. In areas with abundant and well-distributed habitat, deer populations often have greater capacity to absorb short-term losses and rebound. In areas where habitat is more limited or fragmented, even a single severe outbreak can create population setbacks that linger for years. That

understanding has gradually shaped how deer management is approached across Iowa.

One of the clearest examples of that shift can be seen in western Iowa. As evidence accumulated that many counties were not recovering from disease-related declines as quickly as expected, management strategies became more conservative. Since 2021, several thousand county antlerless tags have been removed from this region, with most western counties currently offering zero additional doe tags. Additionally, special buck-only restrictions were implemented during the first gun season. These adjustments were not based on a single year of poor numbers, but on the recognition that some local herds were experiencing longer-term downward trajectories.

More recently, the widespread hemorrhagic disease outbreaks of 2023 and 2024 brought similar concerns to additional parts of the state—namely central and southern Iowa. In response, the Iowa Deer Program is working to bring county antlerless quotas down to more appropriate levels in effort to offset actualized disease mortality and encourage a quicker recovery.

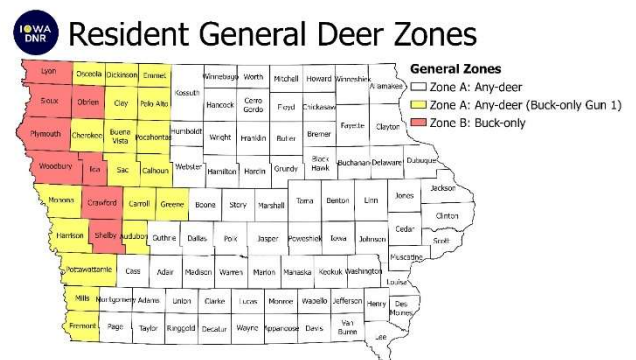
Perhaps many of these counties, particularly in southern Iowa, may have recovered to previous levels without management intervention within 3-5 years. However, the future is never certain, and this shift toward a more responsive, pragmatic strategy reflects an important principle of wildlife management: when credible evidence points to meaningful population decline, managers should use the tools available to promote responsible stewardship and recovery.

## The Paradigm Shift

The upcoming 2026 deer hunting season will mark the greatest shift in Iowa's deer management framework in more than four decades: the end of the statewide general license. As discussed throughout this article, our state's landscapes and deer populations are not created equally. Yet, our resident general licenses, which account for over 50% of total deer harvest annually, were historically

issued on a statewide basis. Across most of the state, this framework has worked well—offering both recreational flexibility and harvest opportunity for Iowa's resident hunters. However, if the past few years have taught us anything, it is that when Iowa's deer population is managed according to the statewide average, we may fail to manage populations on the margins.

Under the new framework, general deer licenses will no longer function as a one-size-fits-all statewide tool. Instead, Iowa will be divided into two general zones, Zone A and Zone B, with regulations tailored to regional deer populations and conditions.



For most of the state, Zone A will function much like the current general license structure and will continue to provide broad hunting opportunities across counties with relatively strong or stable deer populations. Zone B reflects a more targeted approach. In these counties, general deer licenses will be restricted to antlered deer during most seasons, while a limited number of county-specific any-deer licenses will be available to provide more direct control over antlerless harvest. Zone B will also prohibit party hunting, also known as tag sharing, across all seasons.

These new regulations are a result of a multi-year process referred to as the Western Iowa Deer Initiative, which involved over 12 public meetings across the western third of the state. Ultimately, these specific zone-based regulations were highly supported by local hunters, with surveys indicating over 95% support. While these changes are inherently restrictive, western Iowa deer hunters made their position loud and clear that opportunity

and flexibility are worth trading for a better resource for future generations.

## Bringing it Full Circle

Taken together, the past decade of deer population trends, disease outbreaks, and habitat-driven regional differences points to a simple but important conclusion: Iowa's deer herd is not a single, uniform system. It is a collection of local populations, each shaped by distinct landscapes, habitat suitability, and exposure to environmental stressors. While statewide narratives are often used for simplicity, they can obscure the conditions that matter most on the ground—those at the county and regional scale where deer are actually living and responding to pressure.

Hemorrhagic disease has clearly played a significant role in recent population declines across much of Iowa, particularly in the most recent outbreak years of 2023 and 2024. However, disease alone does not fully explain the differences in long-term population trajectories observed across the state. The contrast between regions that have previously rebounded and those that still struggle to recover underscores the importance of habitat as a stabilizing force. Where quality cover, forage, and landscape continuity are present, deer populations demonstrate greater resilience. Where those elements are limited, recovery can be slower, less consistent, or prolonged.

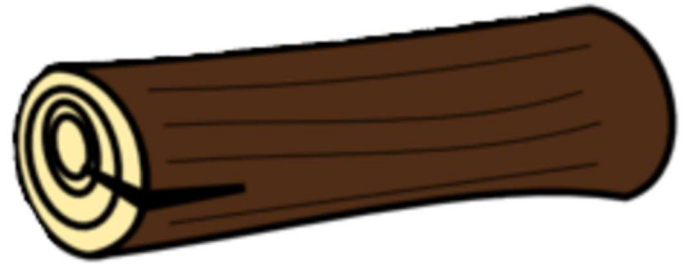
This distinction carries direct implications for management. It reinforces that deer populations cannot be effectively managed using a statewide-level perspective. Instead, the resource requires a framework that recognizes biological reality at a finer scale. The evolution toward more regionally responsive management, whether through adjusted antlerless quotas or the new zone-based framework, reflects an effort to better align regulatory tools with the conditions that actually shape population outcomes.

At the same time, it is important to recognize that deer management is inherently adaptive. Conditions will continue to change, whether through future disease cycles, habitat shifts, or

land use trends. No framework is permanent or perfectly predictive. What matters is the ability to respond with clarity when evidence indicates that population conditions are shifting in meaningful ways.

Despite all the talk about low deer numbers in Iowa, there still may be local areas with deer numbers teetering on overabundance. For these situations, we still offer several options of harvest-based tools, including our depredation program, special deer management zones, and county antlerless quotas.

Ultimately, the future of Iowa's deer herd will not be determined by a single factor or a single season. It will be shaped by the interaction of disease, habitat, harvest, and time. Understanding that complexity is essential not only for effective management, but also for maintaining perspective in a landscape where short-term observations often drive long-term conclusions. The challenge moving forward is not simply to recognize change, but to ensure that management continues to reflect the diversity and nuance of the resource itself.



## WHAT'S THAT TREE WORTH?

By Gretchen Cline  
Consulting Forester in Iowa

Prices for standing timber are still consistent. The biggest factors affecting the sale of trees are trucking costs and proximity to mills or export yards. Diesel prices are well up over \$5.00/gal. which has been hitting mills' and operators' profit margins. They are much less likely to move pallet grade any farther than necessary and often prefer not to cut it to begin with.

We had good logging conditions late winter and into early spring. Things are beginning to slow down now due to timber being locked in by crops, concerns over spreading oak wilt, disrupting vital

bat habitat, staining logs and overall miserable working conditions in the woods.

Keep an eye on your oaks as we have been seeing a lot of mortality. Look for rapid leaf discoloration, flagging branches, canopy thinning or overall dieback. If you are noticing a lot of mortality, you may want to consider a salvage harvest, the sooner the better.

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 (much higher for veneer grade)

White Oak \$0.90-\$1.20

Bur Oak \$0.60-\$0.80

Sugar Maple \$0.45-\$0.55

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

### 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.

## Gov. Reynolds signs Executive Order 19 establishing Office of Outdoor Recreation

DES MOINES—On June 8 Governor Kim Reynolds today issued an executive order establishing the Iowa Office of Outdoor Recreation during a press conference at Lake Ahquabi State Park near Indianola. The office will be an extension of the Iowa Tourism Office, a division of the Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA).

“Outdoor recreation contributes nearly \$6 billion annually to Iowa’s economy and supports nearly 50,000 jobs across the state, and opportunity exists for further growth, said Governor Reynolds. “By fostering relationships among public agencies, private businesses, and community partners, we can promote and expand what Iowa has to offer for outdoor enthusiasts, families, and visitors, elevating our state’s image as an outdoor recreation destination.”

Executive Order 19 aims to support, enhance, and expand Iowa's outdoor recreation sector while ensuring the responsible stewardship of its natural landscapes for future generations. It also creates a centralized structure for public and private stakeholders which actively invest in outdoor recreation to work together, expanding strategic partnerships and promoting cohesive growth.

During the press conference, Kayla Lyon, Director of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, also announced the launch of the 2026 Iowa State Park Passport. Now in its seventh year, the passport has been a popular way for Iowans and visitors to explore state parks and track outdoor adventures.

The Parks Passport is a partnership between Travel Iowa and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, and it is one of several passports Travel Iowa offers to explore destinations across the state.

### IOWA WILDLIFE ACTION PLAN

The Iowa Wildlife Action Plan (IWAP) is a 25-year strategy to conserve all wildlife in Iowa, focusing on proactive measures to protect species and habitats before they become rare. To see the plan just Google Iowa Wildlife Action Plan.

# 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 WOODLAND OWNERS ASSOCIATION

FREE 1 year Membership Application (\$25 Value)

(New members only, includes e-version of Timber Talk Newsletter)

Do you own woodland \_\_\_\_\_  
Total forest acres owned \_\_\_\_\_  
Acres in Forest Reserve \_\_\_\_\_  
County(s) of Forest Reserve Acres \_\_\_\_\_  
Are you a Certified Tree Farm? \_\_\_\_\_  
Are you a member of the *Iowa Tree Farmers*? \_\_\_\_\_  
Have you taken a *Master Woodland Manager Course* \_\_\_\_\_  
If so, year completed \_\_\_\_\_  
Referred by \_\_\_\_\_

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

Mail completed form to: IWOA Membership Secretary  
PO Box 334  
North Liberty, IA 52317

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_  
Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

**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

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