



WOODLAND OWNERS NEWSLETTER

No. 53

February, 1998

Forestry Meetings Scheduled

Several different types of educational meetings considering a variety of forestry topics will be offered between February and June.

- February 19, Black Hawk County: An indoor evening forestry meeting focusing on *Establishing Trees on Farms and Acreages* will be held at the County Conservation Board's All Seasons Lodge, Rotary Reserve facility. Topics will include reasons for planting trees, using trees and shrubs to provide wildlife habitat and streambank stability, establishing trees with seedlings and with seed, controlling grass competition, training and pruning trees, and available services and cost-share programs. Contact the Black Hawk County Extension Office for more details.
- March 14, Southwestern Community College, Creston: An all-day *Nontraditional Forestry and Agriculture Opportunities Workshop* will be held at the College. Background information and program details are discussed under the topic "From Rag(weed)s to Riches" which follows this listing of meetings.
- March 25, Des Moines County: An indoor evening forestry meeting focusing on *Stewardship of Woodlands and Wildlife* will be held at the County Conservation Board's Starr's Cave Park and Preserve facility in Burlington. Topics will include reasons for planting trees, using trees and shrubs to provide wildlife habitat and streambank stability, establishment methods and competition control, managing existing trees along waterways, and available services and cost-share programs. Contact the Des Moines County Extension Office for more information.
- March 28, Sinsinawa, Wisconsin: The fourth annual Tri-State Forestry Stewardship Conference involving Illinois, Iowa, and Wisconsin is being offered. This all-day conference has a program offering a variety of forestry and related topics with both general sessions and concurrent workshops. Instructors from several states will be presenting information; the program coordinator is Mike Bolin, University of Illinois Extension Forester. Contact Forestry Extension at Iowa State for more information.
- April 16, Fayette County: An afternoon Forestry Field Day will be held at Volga River State Park northeast of Fayette. Topics will include managing tree plantations (controlling competition and pruning), improving young woodlands (identifying and releasing crop trees), and designing and establishing buffer strips along streams. Contact the Fayette County Extension Office for more information.
- April 25, Tama County: The Ten-Year Reunion of Master Woodland Managers gradu-

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...and justice for all

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Iowa Department of Natural Resources

Division of Forests and Forestry -- "Serving the People by Caring for the Forest Resource"

ates will be held at the Tama County Nature Center, Otter Creek Lake & Park. The all-day program will include a technical information update on status of Iowa's forest resources, income taxes, and cost-share programs and training sessions on public service activities focusing on advocacy, youth education, and assisting professional resource managers. The Iowa Tree Farm Committee and the Iowa Woodland Owners Association will provide financial support for this program. Graduates of the Master Woodland Managers Program will receive program information in a special mailing in late February.

- May 12, Henry County: A Forestry Field Day is planned for Geode State Park. The program will run from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Topics under consideration include tree identification, tree planting methods, woodland wildflowers, growing mushrooms, and pond management. A mailing of the program to Henry, Des Moines and Lee County newsletter recipients two or three weeks before the event is anticipated.
- May 21 to June 25, Madison County: The 23rd session of the MASTER WOODLAND MANAGERS Program is scheduled for Pammel State Park southwest of Winterset beginning on Thursday, May 21. The program will be primarily targeted at woodland owners, public land managers, and other interested people in Adair, Clarke, Dallas, Guthrie, Madison, Polk, Union and Warren Counties, but individuals from other locations are invited to apply. A variety of forestry topics will be covered both in the classroom and in the field. Application forms will be sent to interested individuals in late March. If you are interested or know of others who might be interested in this intensive, 32-hour forestry educational program, please advise your District Forester, your county extension office, or Forestry Extension at Iowa State University.

From Rag(weed)s to Riches

During 1996 and 1997, five workshops on *Non-traditional Forestry Products* were held in Iowa and Missouri. The workshops were sponsored by the local Resource Conservation and Development Areas (RC&Ds) and other resource agencies to inform the public about potential income from special forest products. Dave Goering, plant manager of Pharmacia Upjohn (Allergon Division), presented information on the collection of pollen to be used in allergy-related medicines. He also conducted a training workshop on the collection of giant ragweed and cocklebur pollen. This proved to be very successful for some southwest Iowa residents because Pharmacia Upjohn paid out almost \$10,000 for pollen collection in the fall of 1997.

A Nontraditional Forestry and Agriculture Opportunities Workshop will be held on March 14, 1998, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at the Southwestern Community College in Creston, Iowa. The sponsors of the workshop include the Southern Iowa RC&D, Southwestern Community College Adult and Continuing Education, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (Forestry Division), the USDA Forest Service, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. The workshop will be designed for people who want to learn more about special forest and agricultural products and want to generate more income from both their woodlands and their croplands. The topics will include medicinal plants, pollen collection, wild seed collection, lease hunting, organic farming, and timber stand improvement and management. The instructors will explain how to grow, harvest, and market specific products. Registration fee for the workshop will be \$10.00 per person (which includes lunch) and will be processed through Southwestern Community College, Adult & Continuing Education, 1501 West Townline, Creston, IA 50801 (phone: 515/782-7081). Deadline for registration is March 2, 1998. [Contributed by Dennis Michel, Rural Development Forester, Iowa Department of Natural Resources]

Tree Farm Committee Changes

After serving five years as Chair of the Iowa Tree Farm Committee, Dean Prestemon is passing the gavel to Paul Tauke, Forester, Pathfinder RC&D, 1805 West Jefferson, Fairfield, IA 52556 (515/472-6178). Paul has served as Secretary-Treasurer of the committee for the past three years. Steve Jungst, Professor of Forestry at Iowa State, has been selected to replace Paul as Secretary-Treasurer of the 21-member Iowa Tree Farm Committee. Three new members joined the 1998 Iowa Tree Farm Committee at the January 9th meeting in Ames: Greg Twedt, Marshall County Tree Farmer; Bill Schneeberger, Iowa Walnut Council representative; and Rod Marlatt, Director-Fayette County Conservation Board.

Survey of Iowa Tree Farmers

During the last quarter of 1997, the Iowa Tree Farm Committee surveyed the 977 Tree Farmers in the state in order to improve the committee's understanding of Tree Farmer goals, interests, attitudes, and needs and to provide guidelines for future activities. The 347 Tree Farmers that responded provided interesting and useful information.

- Iowa Tree Farms are generally modest in size. Based on the sample reporting, 45 percent of the woodlands were 50 acres or less in size, and 42 percent of the Tree Farms were between 51 and 200 acres.
- The respondents generally placed a high value on their land, but did not expect a high rate of economic return. The value per acre was placed at \$1,000 or higher by 38 percent of those responding, and another 28 percent valued their property at between \$500 and \$999. Almost one-third expected zero percent rate of economic return from their Tree Farm, while only 10 percent expected a rate of return of 10 percent or more.
- Slightly more than one-third of the landowners indicated that they and their family spent less than 100 hours per year managing their property, while 12 percent reported investing more than 500 hours each

year.

- Iowa Tree Farmers were asked to select the five most important reasons for owning their Tree Farm from a list of 14 different items. The top six reasons ranked in order of importance by 343 Iowa Tree Farmers were: 1) *best use of my land*; 2) *preserve the woodland*; 3) *provide wildlife habitat*; 4) *enjoy working with trees*; 5) *improve the environment*; and 6) *legacy for my family*.
- Almost 60 percent of the sample reported having a Tree Farm Management Plan for their woodland; 36 percent indicated that they had a Forest Stewardship Plan.
- More than a third of the respondents reported membership in the Iowa Woodland Owners Association, but a much smaller percentage reported membership in other state forestry organizations.
- Almost 60 percent reported attending Forestry Field Days or other forestry educational meetings during the past two years. Almost a third of those responding had graduated from Iowa's Master Woodland Managers Program.
- More than 80 percent of the sample reported applying timber stand improvement practices during the past two years, and more than 60 percent reported planting trees.
- Only 16 percent of the respondents had sold any standing trees or logs during the past two years, but almost a fourth of the landowners had cut trees and converted the logs to lumber for their own use.
- When Iowa Tree Farmers were asked in the survey to identify the single most important political issue affecting their property, 57 percent of the respondents volunteered a specific issue. The top four general issues or topics identified by at least 18 respondents were: 1) *cost-share programs*; 2) *taxes in general*; 3) *protecting private property rights*; and 4) *income tax/capital gains treatment*
- More than 80 percent of the sample felt that Iowa Tree Farmers should actively respond

to critical issues affecting: 1) *private property rights*; 2) *Iowa's forest resources*; and 3) *forest management*. Over 40 percent of those responding indicated a willingness to attend a training session designed to improve their effectiveness as an advocate.

- Only three percent of the respondents felt that the Iowa Tree Farm Committee should continue to make landowner recognition the primary focus of the program, about a third felt the committee should continue landowner recognition and become a sponsor of forestry educational programs, and more than 40 percent recommended that the committee continue landowner recognition, cooperatively sponsor educational programs, and encourage grassroots advocacy.
- Almost 80 percent of the responding Tree Farmers indicated satisfaction in their dealings with their Inspecting Forester; 21 percent of the respondents indicated an interest in serving on the Iowa Tree Farm Committee.

New & Revised Extension Publications

The following Forestry Extension pamphlets and notes have been written or revised during the past two years; these are all available from Forestry Extension at Iowa State University, 253 Bessey Hall, Ames, IA 50011-1021.

Buffer Strip Design-Establishment & Maintenance, Pm-1626b
Community Tree Planting and Care Guide, Pm-1591
Consulting Arborists Providing Services in Iowa, F-366b
Farmstead Windbreaks-Establishment, Care, & Maintenance, Pm-1717
Farmstead Windbreaks-Planning, Pm-1716
Firewood Production and Use, F-370
Firms & Individuals Providing Forestry Services in Iowa, F-361
Forestry Contacts & Organ. in Iowa, F-340
Information & Assistance for Iowa Wood Businesses, F-369
Marketing Iowa Timber, Pm-413
Paint Problems on Exterior Wood, Pm-363
Riparian Buffer Systems, Pm-1626a
Sample Tree Ordinances, Pm-1429c
Tree Care Services for Iowa, F-366a
Tree Ordinances for Iowa Communities, Pm-1429b
Tree Planting-Establishment & Care, Pm-1676

Sincerely,

Paul H. Wray
 Extension Forester

Dean R. Prestemon
 Extension Forester



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Address Correcton Requested