

TIMBER TALK

Newsletter of the Iowa Woodland Owners Association

Fall 2005

Volume 15 Number 3

Forestry Field Day at Wiley's Blends Fun with Learning

by Mildred Grimes, Marshalltown

In the shadow of the Nuclear Energy Power Plant at Palo and on the banks of the flooding Cedar River, the Iowa Woodland Owners had an outstanding Field Day last July 9th. Hosted by Larry and Twila Wiley, fifty-one folks registered and enjoyed an outstanding day of information, entertainment, good food, and fellowship!



Larry & Twila Wiley



Under the guidance of the always amiable and professional Paul Wray (Extension Forester, ISU), Larry Wiley "showed us around". He had four low-boys loaded with bales of straws for easy riding as we toured from the high ground where the wide band of riparian prairie grasses and flowers gave Leroy Haeffner, an NRCS specialist, an opportunity to point out the wide variety of species of forbes which were blooming at that time.

But soon we left the high ground and down we went to the lowlands along the Cedar River which had flooded out of its banks just the day before!!

The great



hayride transportation was tested to its fullest as we toured among generations of old as well as newly planted trees.

Larry amazed us all as we took a lengthy riverbank ride along acres and miles of riverbank, which was "manicured" by years of intense work to maintain and develop a near park-like area. He actually awed us by showing and telling us about a quarter of a mile of riprap (over 500 loads) which he had hauled in to be the retaining wall for the Cedar River!!



While on the banks of the Cedar, John Flannigan, a logger from Coggon, had an opportunity to point out trees which would be considered by a buyer. He indicated those points which make for the quality needed to provide the best selling price.

And also along that same low lying, flood prone area, Larry Wiley had clear-cut a woodlot area where he had planted seedlings this year!!



With the old generations and the new generation succeeding so well, we were inspired to pursue tree farming with new vigor!

Mildred Grimes lives near Marshalltown with her husband Leonard. She is a walnut woodland owner, a life-long learner, a seeker of adventure, and talented writer.



- Calendar of Events –

October 13, Thursday, 9:30-3:00

Tree Farm/Decatur County

Sibylla and Bill Brown's Tree Farm

Topics: Savannas? What and Why? soils and plants; oak regeneration and the savanna; savanna restoration-management for savanna plants; identification of woodland savanna plants; recognition of Iowa's Tree Farmers of the Year – Bill & Sybilla; cost share assistance and management help; thinning for savannas; burning as a management tool, tour of vineyard and winery.

Directions: From Leon, East on Hwy 2, 4 miles to Pony Farm Road; south 2 miles on Pony Farm Road to 21675 Pony Farm Road.

Cost: \$12 for coffee, lunch and materials

October 18, Tuesday, 12:45-4:00

Chickasaw County

Denise Straw Tree Farm and Pine Acres

Topics: Identification of woodland trees; marketing timber-quality and value, options for marketing; walnut and fine hardwood improvement-crop tree ID and release, pruning for quality, Christmas tree culture-species, pruning and shearing; marketing, insects and disease.

Directions: from News Hampton, two miles east on Hwy 24 to Panora Ave (Golf Course Corner); south 1 mile on Panora to field day site. **Cost:** None

Mills County

October 27, Thursday, 1:00-4:00

Otha D Wearin Trust Tree Farm

Topics: Management of bottomland hardwoods-volume and value, regeneration of the new forest; planting large seedlings-weed control for success, success using tree shelters; deer management and control; marketing high value timber; black walnut as a part of bottomland forests.

Directions: from the junction of Hwy 34 and M16 in Hastings, west one mile to 350th St; north on 350th St, to 57947 350th St. **Cost:** None

January 11, Tuesday, 7:00 pm

Campbell Center, Mt Carroll, IL

Tom and Janis Sleeter will present financial management ideas for protecting and enhancing the value of timberland in an estate, as well as strategies to reduce tax liability.

January 19, Saturday, 10:00 – 2:00

IWOA Board of Directors Meeting

Location: Ames, State Forest Nursery

All IWOA members are welcome to attend and join the Board for lunch. Agenda is always interesting. If you have questions about the meeting or if you would like to see an agenda, contact Ace Hendricks, IWOA President.

Phone: 515 961-8157 Email: judenace@fbx.com

New IWOA Board Members Elected



Ace Hendricks of Ackworth, Tom Woodruff of Davenport, and Steve Hanson of Des Moines were elected to the IWOA Board of Directors at the IWOA Annual Meeting and Field Day, September 17.

Ace and Steve were re-elected to the Board after serving as Board Members from 2002-2005. Steve was IWOA President and Ace was his Vice-President for 2 years, 2003-2005. Ace Hendricks was elected President and Bev Brink of Elkader, Vice-President of IWOA for the 2005-2006 year.

WANTED

Volunteers to host future IWOA Forestry Field Days.

Please consider this opportunity to support forestry in Iowa by making possible a day of training and outdoor enjoyment for fellow woodland owners, or others who want to learn how to grow and manage trees. Usually about 50 people attend. The IWOA Board and forestry professionals from ISU and IDNR will provide lots of help for presentations and arrangements.

If you may be interested, please contact IWOA Director: Larry Wiley, 4370 Comp Road, Palo, Iowa 52324
Phone: 319 851-3371 Email: wileyfam@netins.net

Individuals who would be willing to serve on the IWOA Board of Directors to make a positive difference for Iowa forests and woodlands, Iowa wildlife, and Iowa woodland enjoyment/recreation. Requirements: Must be a voting member of IWOA; willing to attend 4 3-hour meetings per year and participate in discussion and events; commitment to Iowa woodlands and a desire to help tree owners learn how to grow, manage, market, and enjoy their woods.

Contact IWOA Director:

Ace Hendricks, 10530 207 Lane, Ackworth, IA 50001
Phone: 515 961-8157 Email: judenace@fbx.com

HUSH as a Deer Management Tool

by Michael Schaffer, DNR

Through the cooperation of the food Bank of Iowa, lockers, hunters and the DNR a program is available statewide to help reduce the deer population and feed the needy. Help Us Stop Hunger has 95 lockers where donated venison is ground and frozen and given to local social service agencies for distribution to the needy. There are several options to reduce the deer population and protect woodlands.

1. Encourage local hunters and guide services to hunt your property, shoot does and donate the venison to HUSH
2. Talk to lock owners and encourage them to become a HUSH locker. If a locker in your area is a HUSH locker there is a greater likelihood deer hunters in that area will continue to hunt after their freezer is full because they now have a convenient place to donate the unwanted venison.
3. Let conservation officers, Farm Bureau offices and others know that your property is available for hunting and that you support HUSH.

Thanks, Gary Harman... from IWOA

When IWOA needed a new easel and brochure/literature display board at the Iowa State Fair and at the Two-State Forestry Conference in Davenport, Gary Harman, IWOA Board Member from Indianola, stepped up to the plate, and volunteered his talent. Out of oak and walnut, he created the items shown below. The wood is beautifully crafted and attracts the attention of everyone around. Thank you, Gary!



It's time to start thinking about taxes

It's not too early to start thinking about how to handle your woodland expenses and profits for your taxes this year. What's the difference how you figure it? The difference is how much you pay in taxes or deduct now, and how much later when you sell your lumber. Will you pay income or can you take the lower capital gains tax rates? Don't wait to talk with your accountant in the heat of tax time. Do it now so you can have all the info ready when it is time to do taxes. A good website: www.timbertax.org



Let's Get to Know Cathy Wilke-Tomes: IWOA's Membership Sec'y

Shortly after my daughter, Sarah, was born in 2001, I was looking for some part-time work that I could do at home. I got connected with the Woodruff's, and we decided IWOA and I would be a good match.

Who am I? I'm my daughter's Mom. I take Sarah on an after-school adventure everyday.

We spend two uninterrupted hours together, sometimes we go to the library, sometimes the rec center, or the mall.

Sometimes we just go off in search of a park we have never been to before. My husband's name is C.P. and works for the Univ. of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics as a computer systems administrator. He's gotten into woodworking, building stereo speakers, and aviation lately.

Besides my work for IWOA, I am a freelance writer, editor and proofreader, mostly doing work for a magazine out of Cedar Rapids called "The Woman Today." I've edited a couple of novels for some beginning Cedar Rapids novelists, and I also work at my daughter's preschool helping out over the lunch hour. All my part-time jobs give me great satisfaction, as they are all things I enjoy very much.

The most interesting part of working for IWOA is learning the stories of the people that I've met. I like to find out how people acquired their woodlands, how they view it, and how they manage their woodlands. Their stories are fascinating to me--especially about the woodlands that have a family history behind them. I like the advocacy part of the job, too--putting members in touch with each other so that they may network. It's satisfying to me to be able to help.

Jerry's Mother's Turnips

by Tom Woodruff

The Editor presented a fine recipe in our last issue entitled *Nutty Apple Muffins*.

I then prevailed on her to let me share the recipe so listed as it would make turnip eaters out of even the most skeptic woodsperson. ***I guarantee it!***

Note: This is a very, very old recipe we got from a former neighbor to use in a recent historic recipe cookbook.

Recipe

Jerry's Mother's Turnips

Peel and slice several turnips, cover with water and boil for 2-3 minutes. Drain them and cover again with water and boil until tender. Add a tablespoon each of sugar and oleo (this is a very old recipe), and enough canned milk to make juicy. Salt and pepper to taste.

IWOA Annual Meeting and Field Day: Focus was on Deer, Nut Crops, Forest Reserve Status, Amana Timber Operations

Over 50 IWOA members attended the IWOA Annual Meeting and Field Day September 17, Saturday, at the Pioneer Building near Middle Amana. The beautiful fall-like day put everyone in a mood to learn from many knowledgeable and interesting presenters, talk with their woodland friends, and tour a small corner of the vast 7000-acre Amana timberlands.

Tom Rosenberger did a wonderful job organizing the day with an interesting morning program including a brief membership meeting, presentations including woody crop plants, forest reserve status, and legislative topics. The displays used at the Iowa State Fair and the Two-State Forestry Conference were set up for all to see, as well as a display My Favorite Tree, nut wizards, and a display of various finished wood pieces to show the difference in color and grain. Green IWOA caps, and Summer and Winter Tree Identification books were for sale.

Ace Hendricks, newly elected IWOA President, led the Annual IWOA Membership Meeting. Tom Woodruff, IWOA Secretary, reviewed the minutes from last years annual meeting and provided a treasurer's report. IWOA is financially solid, and the number of members is up to 520. Dues income is up \$860, and expenses related to our postage/supplies are down due to more efficiency. The organization appears to be stable and moving forward with opportunities for members to learn about forestry, to affect legislation, to get out in the woods at field days, and to meet others interested in forestry and woodlands.

Tom Wahl of Red Fern Farm in Wapello provided very interesting information about nut crops that are hardy in Iowa and financially feasible, including chestnuts, heartnuts, paw-paws, and persimmons. For more info, go to his website at www.redfernfarm.com

Jeff Vonk, Director of the Iowa DNR, made a surprise visit and provided the group with the opportunity to ask many questions and voice concerns about the deer population, deer damage to young trees and crops, safety issues related to the high powered rifles now legal for deer hunting, and vehicle-deer collisions on the roadways. Vonk said the IDNR is having positive results in limiting the deer population in many parts of the state, but have not been able to reduce it much in the two southern tiers of counties (below Hwy 92) and the tier of counties bordering Minnesota. When asked what the deer population goal for Iowa is, Vonk gave no numbers, but responded it would be related to the number of deer that would be needed to support the sale of at least 120,000 deer hunting licenses.

Representative John Whitaker, House District #19, member of the Natural Resources Committee, spoke to IWOA members about the process of passing a bill, and about conservation legislation being discussed at the state level. John is a farmer and woodland owner himself, so understands the need for state support for its forests and for



House District 81
Hillsboro, Iowa

wise solutions of forestry and conservation issues. Iowa woodland owners are fortunate to have legislators such as John who understand the importance of woodlands to Iowa and advocates for their well-being. He knows what they contribute to our quality of life, including the economic benefits to our communities as well. Rep. John Whitaker as the for us, the woodland owners. Contact John at 319-796-4618 John.Whitaker@legis.state.ia.us

Forest Reserve Issues

John Walkowiak of the Iowa DNR and State Forest Nursery shared issues relating to the Forest Reserve. Those issues center on the following:

1. Closing Forest Reserve loopholes for developers and land speculators but encouraging forest retention and incentives for private forestland owners.
2. Encouraging expanded forest management on new Forest Reserve applications and Forest Reserve lands changing ownership.
3. Dealing with the County Tax Loss due to Forest Reserve status
4. Dealing with Leased Hunting on Forest Reserve

John's PowerPoint presentation revealed interesting facts about the Forest Reserve, the counties with the most and least Forest Reserve acres, and the beneficial economic impact of Iowa forests. John pointed out that the property tax lost to counties in Iowa due to the forest reserve exemption at \$7 per acre for the 587,000 acres in the forest reserve is approximately \$4.1 million.

On the other hand, The Journal of Forest Economics article *Assessing the non-timber value of forests* completed in 2000 reports that a typical private Wisconsin hardwood forest provides \$49.42 to \$59.30 per acre in non-timber values per year. Based on this, the non-timber benefits Iowa receives annually can be figured to range from \$29,009,000 to \$34,809,000.

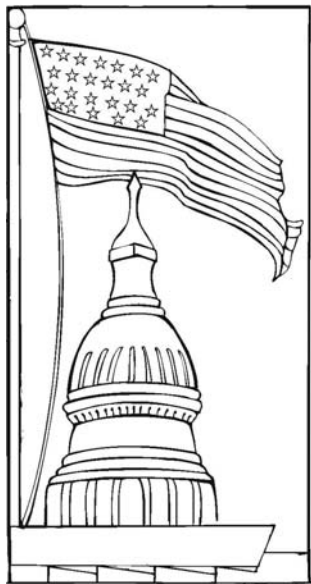
This information should be shared with your County Board of Supervisors if you are in a county with significant property tax loss due to forest reserve. They need to understand how their support of woodlands through the forest reserve exemption benefits their county economy by the jobs it creates and the forestry supplies/equipment sales it supports, as well as the sales tax collected from timber sales. Check your county's forest reserve acres situation on the DNR website:

<http://www.iowadnr.com/forestry/reserve.html>

Tom Rosenberger donated two Nut Wizard nut-gathering tools that were given away in a drawing. The lucky winners were Marilyn Miner of Corydon and Jane Harmon of Indianola.

After lunch, people car-pooled out to the Amana woods for a tour that highlighted the timber burning efforts to create timbered pastureland in one area and to improve forest reserve timber in another area. The Amana wood drying/storage facility was also toured.

In an effort to increase attendance at the Fall Annual Meeting, the Board will discuss hosting the IWOA Annual Meeting and Field Day on a weekday rather than a Saturday. If you have any thoughts or suggestions on this, please contact Ace Hendricks, 10530 207 Lane, Ackworth, IA 50001 515 961-8157 judenace@fbx.com



More Effective Conservation Advocacy for Iowa

From Iowa Native Plant Society newsletter, article by Cathy Mabry McMullen (mabry@iastate.edu), DNR Ecology and Management, ISU, dated March 28, 2005. Thanks to IWOA member Dave Novak for submitting this article. While it's written for a prairie-oriented audience, it resonates for all of us who work for conservation in Iowa.

Since returning to Iowa from the east coast 10 years ago, I've become aware of a contradiction among Iowa conservationists.

On one hand, there are many, many good people in our state who are passionate about natural areas, wildlife, land use, and preserving a landscape capable of producing an abundance of healthy food. On the other hand, as a group we are virtually absent from the political process, where much of the fate of conservation is determined, and largely without clout when we are there.

Yet, the entities that push for practices counter to sustainability are deeply enmeshed in politics. For example, regulars of the legislative "lobby" help write bills they want, and thwart bills they oppose; they are a source of information and advice on complex topics, and legislators rely heavily on them. Much of this occurs below the radar, where access comes from a deep knowledge of the political process and players.

If we are to ever increase our influence and effectiveness at preserving what we love, we must be better organized, and we must get politically smart. Fortunately, not all politics is dirty, especially local politics.

There are two ultimate public powers in shaping and running America: votes and money. Neighborhoods are too small to have clout, but if groups of neighborhoods organize into effective districts, they then possess the power of votes. Our many small conservation organizations are the equivalent of small and powerless neighborhoods. We are not likely to match others in money, but if we would form the conservation equivalent of an effective district level organization, we would be large enough to be a force, through our ability to shape public opinion and to have a voting block that counts.

I suggest that we take a fresh look at how we advocate for conservation in Iowa. Why not energize the many small conservation groups by pooling and sharing resources, particularly by reducing the competition among ourselves for funds, for good active board members, for staff, office space, office equipment and other overhead costs? Why not include in our annual meetings short workshops on the political process, and how to be an effective advocate? Why not create a new structure or process that allows us to act as the political force that we should be, but are not because our conservation community is fragmented among many small groups, each with little political clout?

Note: The IWOA Board of Directors is discussing strategies for increasing our political effectiveness. It involves collaboration with peer organizations on common issues that will 1) enable us to be large enough to be a force, 2) give us the ability to speak to legislators with one voice, 3) position us to shape public opinion, and 4) demonstrate to legislators that we have a voting block that counts.

The Iowa Horticulturist Magazine free trial version online

by Greg Twedt, IWOA member, past IWOA President, and current President of The IA State Horticultural Society

The Iowa State Horticultural Society is offering a free trial version of the award winning "The Iowa Horticulturist" magazine on the Internet at:

<http://www.iowahort.org/SummerMag3.pdf>

The magazine will come up in seconds or minutes depending on your Internet connection speed. For those of you with dial-up Internet service, click on the above link, go grab a cup of coffee or favorite beverage, and then allow five minutes for the magazine to appear. This magazine has many color graphics that require a longer download time, but it will be worth your short wait. You can continue to read "The Iowa Horticulturist" as long as you save this link.

Of special interest is the Current Events section, the Garden Calendar, and upcoming seminars. Articles are timely, interesting and educational. (Send your note of appreciation to gtwedt@lisco.net)

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319 364-3711

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Christmas Tree Recall Expanded over Beetle Fears

Article from Cedar Rapids Gazette
12/20/04

Submitted by Tom Rosenberger

WASHINGTON - The Agriculture Department has expanded a recall of artificial trees from China with real-bark trunks after concluding that wood-boring beetles found in shipments in Illinois and Michigan pose a significant threat to trees.

The department's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has contacted retailers nationwide and sent investigators to stores in hopes of tracking down thousands of the imported trees.

The service announced the expanded recall on its Web site last week. "We know that the product is in the country and widely distributed. We found that it did not meet (safety) standards and that some bugs hitchhiked in," said a spokesman for the service, Claude Knighten.

The government is acting out of fear that the insect, a brown fir long-horned beetle, might establish colonies in the United States that devastate swaths of trees. Related species, among them the Asian long-horned beetle and the emerald ash borer, have caused tens of millions of dollars in damage.

Iowa's Promise Youth Grants

submitted by Bev Brink

Here may be an opportunity for you to get community youth involved and interested in forestry.

The information below was printed in the Clayton County Register, 1/19/05. The grants will be awarded again in 2006.

Last year more than 500 youth and adult volunteers contributed more than 3,000 hours to their communities through the Iowa's Promise Youth program. Their projects with a total cost of more than \$41,000, ranged from filling and distributing back-to-school backpacks to running literacy programs at libraries.

To be eligible, two or more local groups must cooperate in a community improvement or community service project. One group must be a youth group such as a 4-H club, Scouts, church group or school groups.

Applications and grant descriptions are available at Iowa State University Extension offices and may be downloaded from <http://www.volunteriowa.org/promise.html>.

Grant applications are due Feb. 1, 2006. For more information, contact Sue Bogue at (515) 294-1533.

Ash Tree Seed Stocking

submitted by Tom Woodruff

Federal officials are preparing for a "doomsday" scenario of the Ash tree by collecting and safekeeping tree seeds in case they have to reintroduce the tree years from now.

The NRCS, a division of the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, started this collection this year at their Rose Lake plant in East Lansing, MI. There they will be collected, inventoried and sent on to the National Center for Genetic Resources Preservation in Fort Collins, CO. Their WEB site provides more details.

Their goal is to save these seeds for future cloning, direct planting or some other method to begin restoring the general Great Lakes Region should the Emerald Ash Borer decimate the existing grove.

The Emerald Ash Borer was discovered in Michigan in July 2002 and has already killed an estimated 15 million of the 700 million ash trees. It is believed the borer came here from southeastern Asia in packing materials. Other states are monitoring its progress.



Useful Website

www.treefarmssystem.org

All the information on The American Tree Farm System. Press releases, publications, information on certification, etc. Stays current with government policies as it relates to forestry. Contains photos and information about outstanding Tree Farmers.



Chestnuts: A Delicious, Nutritious, and Valuable Nut Crop

*Submitted by John & Betty Wittrig,
J & B's Chestnut Farm, Winfield, IA. Tom
Wahl, Red Fern Farm, Wapello, shared some
of this same information in his presentation
on Woody Crop Plants at the IWOA Annual
Meeting, September 17 at Amana.*

Chinese Chestnut and Hybrids

The Chinese chestnut is a medium sized tree related to beeches and oaks, with a mature height and spread of 35'-40'. It produces a nut with a thick, leathery shell (kind of like an acorn) enclosed in a spiny bur. When ripe the bur opens up and the nuts (usually 3 to a bur) drop out. Trees with good genetics, if grown well on a good site usually begin bearing within 3-5 years from planting. Chestnuts with poor genetics may not bear even after 10 years. Mature production may range from 1 to over 4 tons per acre depending on soil, climate and management. Wholesale market value for chestnuts may range from \$1/lb to over \$4/lb depending on nut size, quality, and season. Although chestnuts are a worldwide commodity in high demand, the highest profit potential would be from local niche markets. The potential for expansion in the chestnut industry is very high. The U.S. continues to import over 40 million lbs of chestnuts annually, mostly poor quality nuts from Italy and Korea. There are very few domestic commercial growers and they have no trouble selling their crops at profitable prices.

In the Midwest, chestnuts have no known serious insect pests, although there are problems in the East and Southeast. Chestnut blight and oak wilt may kill chestnut trees, though most Chinese chestnuts are resistant to the blight. Pruning or spraying is not needed, but some varieties need their trunks painted with white latex paint to prevent bark splitting in winter. Most chestnuts around the world are harvested by hand, and no automated machinery designed for chest harvesting exists. To stay fresh, chestnuts must be harvested promptly after dropping, kept cool, and kept from drying out.



Chestnut seedlings may be planted at 5'x20' or 10'x20' spacing to allow the selection of the best individuals, and later thinned to 20'x20'. After 20 or 30 years, they would need to be thinned again for a final spacing of 40'x40'.

Production and Profit

John & Betty's trees each bear about 3000 lbs of nuts per year, with a market value of over \$1.60/lb.

Organic Chestnut Spread

Recipe

1 c. cured, boiled, peeled, chestnuts
½ c. mayonnaise
Blend or process and serve on crackers, chips or toast, etc.
Optional: ¼ tsp. sea salt and/or
2 or 3 T. of chestnut or whole wheat flour for better texture.

A superb, award-winning holiday party hors d'oeuvre!

How to Store chestnuts

Refrigerate fresh chestnuts and keep them from drying out by placing them in (2) double paper sacks, filling the sacks about half full, folding the top snug. They will keep many months this way.

About Chestnuts

- Chestnuts are perishable. Fresh ones need to be kept refrigerated, best if in double paper bags, in the colder part of the fridge. This will keep them fresh and from drying out for at least a couple of months. They may also be frozen or dried (peel them and cook like dried beans).
- Chestnuts are more like potatoes or grain than most nuts. They have very little oil, and have a very high quality, complete protein (better than eggs and with no cholesterol).
- Chestnuts are popular in a wide variety of dishes throughout the temperate zones of the world. Besides roasted, there are dozens of recipes in *The Chestnut Cookbook** for chestnuts in soups, sauces, with vegetables, fruits, meats (chestnut stuffing was a pioneer staple for Thanksgiving), as flour in breads and pastas, and in desserts, like chestnut pie and chestnut ice cream.

How to Roast Chestnuts

Cut a slit in the bottoms of every nut and toast them in a mini-toaster oven about 5 minutes.



To order *The Chestnut Cookbook*, contact:
John & Betty Wittrig, IWOA Members
J & B's Chestnut Farm
Certified Organic Chestnuts
307 N Locust St, Winfield, IA 52659-9519
Ph: 319 257-3377



Timber Talk

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IWOA Website
www.iowawoodlandowners.org