

TIMBER TALK

Newsletter of the Iowa Woodland Owners Association

Volume 16 Number 2 May 2006

McCoys vs. the Hatfields

IWOA vs ITF

by Ron Fullenkamp, President of ITF, and IWOA Board Member

Since I am on the Board of Directors of both the Iowa Tree Farm System (ITF) and the Iowa Woodland Owners Association (IWOA), I've been asked to write an article describing the differences and likenesses of the two organizations. If I make a mistake in this article remember this is a volunteer job.

Organization

Both organizations are governed by a Board of Directors, IWOA has nine Directors with three-year terms. ITF has no time limit on terms and relies on volunteers to be on the board at the invitation of the existing Directors.

Purpose of Organizations

IWOA Mission Statement

The Iowa Woodland Owners Association strives to maintain and grow a woodland presence in Iowa. They are committed to developing an appreciation for the value of Iowa woodlands, to their vital importance to the economy of the state, and to the welfare of its citizens. They foster and encourage wise use and management of woodlands and related resources in Iowa. They are dedicated to providing education and sharing opportunities and support for our members in their efforts to plant, grow, and harvest their trees, etc.

Iowa Tree Farm Mission Statement

The American and Iowa Tree Farm Programs give public recognition to those private woodland owners who are doing outstanding jobs in the management of their forest lands. The basic aim of the ITF is to place more of Iowa's woodlands under management practices that will bring continuing benefits to the owner and produce more and better forest products and service for the American People.

Membership

ITF requires ownership of land for at least one year. The tree farm must be inspected by an inspecting forester. It cannot be grazed. Timber sales are allowed. Minimum acreage is five acres of hardwoods. There are no dues but the farm must be available for periodic re-inspection to see that the owner is keeping up to the standards set out in the TF

guidelines. As you can see, the groups almost look like twins. ITF has approximately 1200 members and IWOA has around 500. IWOA membership is open to anyone with an interest in and support of the goals of IWOA. Voting rights go to woodland owners only. Annual dues \$10.00 (cheap).

Field Days

Both organizations put on or co-sponsor several field days in various parts of Iowa each year for the education of their members and the general public. Both have members who watch the legislative issues affecting us as woodland owners.

Resources/Publications

IWOA has available a library of books for members to borrow. IWOA also publishes a quarterly newsletter that is very informative. This newsletter is currently being mailed to ITF members under a joint agreement with IWOA made in January 2006.

Why not be a member of both organizations?

Many members belong to both organizations. I personally think if you are a woodland owner in Iowa, you would not spend \$10 any wiser than to join IWOA. A membership application is on page 5.

Also, if you are willing to have your forest inspected, you can call your district forester and he will be more than happy to assist you and answer questions about becoming a certified tree farmer. Once certified, you're automatically a member of the Iowa Tree Farmers (who require no membership fee).

I am available to answer any questions you may have. I believe there is no "versus" for the two groups, but an "and", for a stronger voice for woodland owners in Iowa because of them.

I hope more of you become dual members. It is a great opportunity to promote good woodland practices in Iowa. _____

Ron and Carol Fullenkamp live 6 miles north of West Point in far SE Iowa and were name the Outstanding Iowa Tree Farmers of 2002. Their 160-acre certified tree farm will be the site for the summer IWOA Field Day, July 20. See article with more info on page 3. You may contact Ron at 319 837-6178 ron_fullenkamp@iowatelecom.net

**Tree Improvement Program:
Genetically Superior Black Walnut in
Iowa** *by Aron Flickinger, Iowa DNR*

Iowa’s fertile soils grow some of the best black walnut trees in the world. In an effort to maximize the Iowa climate that produces such beautiful wood, the Iowa Forestry Bureau of the DNR initiated a black walnut tree improvement program in 2003. So far, 2 full years of tree selection, planting seed and tree measuring has been completed.

Foresters across the state have been finding the “best of the best” walnut trees to have the seed from those trees tested for early vigorous growth as seedlings. The goal of finding a black walnut seedling that will demonstrate precocious growth to get above the weeds is a goal of the Iowa black walnut genetic program.

Most black walnut trees are being selected on public property, so easy access can be obtained in collecting seed. Some landowners have volunteered their tree seed for our tests to determine how their tree(s) measure up. To date, 312 trees have been selected in 64 counties across Iowa. The better phenotypes were located using all recognized methods of genetic selection based on their mature characteristics of bark pattern displaying fast growth, a straight trunk, comparison to surrounding trees and having at least one saw log to the first branch. During the Fall 2003-2005 seasons about 160 of these trees have produced enough seed to be tested.

After two growing seasons seed collected from a mature tree in Polk County has outperformed the rest of the trees tested by growing on average 22% higher than the average tree tested for that year.

The test was replicated on two sites in 2003 with one being at the Loess Hills and the other being on private property in Fayette County. The Fayette site is planted on top of a hill and the Loess Hills site is situated on an east-facing valley. This would probably provide better growing conditions for black walnut at the Loess Hill site compared to the Fayette site.

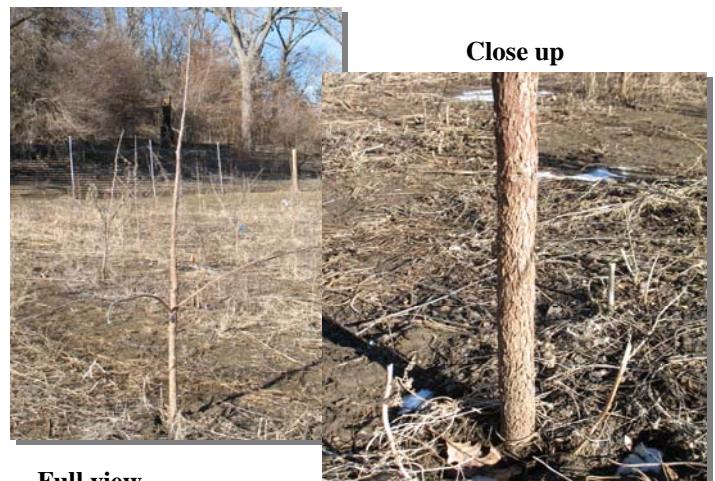
Several replications were performed on each of the progeny sites to average out the soil variability the seeds were tested in. The best tree (clone) of all the Polk County tree seeds has a height of 106 inches after two growing seasons and has a diameter of 1.74”. The average height of the Polk County tree at the Loess Hills was 77” and the diameter averaged 1.36”. The Polk County seedling outgrew the average tree height at the Loess Hills, which measured 59.9” and 1.1” in diameter.

Tree	Diameter	Height
Best Polk County tree	1.74”	106”
Ave. Polk County tree	1.36”	77”
Average tree	1.1”	59.9”

At the Fayette County site the Polk County tree averaged 39.2” in height compared to the average tree of 29.2”. The tallest Polk county tree (clone) was 51” tall. Although the Polk County tree was not as tall on both sites it was still on average the tallest tree at both sites. This shows this tree will perform well in both geographical regions.

Statistical analysis of the data by ISU also tells us with 99.9% confidence that this tree will outperform the average tree on these sites in both height and diameter.

**The fastest growing Black Walnut seedling.
After 2 years: Height = 106” Diameter = 1.74”**



Full view

Close up

Results from the 2004 plantings on three sites have not yielded a clear leader after one growing season like we had in 2003. Two of the progeny sites were planted in the same counties as 2003 and an additional site was added in Winneshiek County.

Field studies are underway in the spring of 2006 to determine how difficult our fastest growing clone will be to graft. In February of 2006, scion wood was retrieved from the best clone and the average clones at the Loess Hills. This will allow us to compare how well the best tree performs compared to the average tree in the “field”.

The Forestry Bureau is also working with Mark Dungan, Polk County CCB, to obtain scion wood from the parent tree in Polk County that produced the seed that grew into the best clone. The superiority in height growth could be coming from the pollen of an

unknown tree or the tree that produced the seed, which I am calling the “mother” tree that we collected seed from in 2003. Grafting from the parent tree’s branches will tell us if this tree has the gene that is displaying height growth in its seed. If the tree in Polk County is the “mother” tree, then we would expect the seed it produces to be supplying superior seed for growing seedlings as well. If it is not the “mother” tree then it would require being fertilized by the same male trees to produce the same seedling results- a chance of nature that we cannot control.

So what does all of this mean to IWOA folks? If the grafting and field trials continue to show that this clone has superior growth traits, then we can begin producing more of these trees by grafting and offer them for sale to the public through the State Forest Nursery. Landowners would be able to purchase these genetically superior seedlings in the establishment of future tree plantings. Although the height and diameter growth of this tree will vary depending on soil, climate and weed control, landowners can be confident that this tree will outperform average seedlings 99.9% of the time. Best of all it will be a native Iowa seedling with the genetics that have evolved here in Iowa.

We are now selecting red oak and butternut trees to add into our tree improvement program. Testing will be similar for the red oak as has been done for the black walnut. The butternut will be tested for disease resistance to the canker that is rapidly diminishing the presence of this valuable species in Iowa’s woodlands. If you have a butternut that is less than 25% infected with canker please contact Aron Flickinger at (515) 233-8067 or by e-mail at aron.flickinger@dnr.state.ia.us. If you feel you have some superior mature walnut or red oak trees growing in your woodland and would like to donate the seed for our test, please let Aron know as well.

Raisin Bread Pudding with Nuts

This is an old traditional recipe. I’ve heard that some folks add apple slices. It’s easy. People love it’s wholesome, lightly sweet goodness. And the nuts make it really special.

4 eggs	1/2 c. sugar
1 ¾ cup milk	1 tsp cinnamon
a pinch of salt	1 cup raisins 1 c pecan or walnut pieces
4-5 day-old cinnamon rolls with brown sugar glaze	

Mix together the eggs, sugar, milk, salt, raisins. Break up the cinnamon rolls and drop in mixture. Allow to sit for a couple of minutes to soak up liquid. Pour into 9x13 pan. Place nuts over top. Cover pan. Bake at 350 40 minutes.

IWOA Summer 2006 Field Day July 20, 2006, Thursday, 9 – 3:30

Co-sponsored by:

Iowa Woodland Owners Association
Lee County Extension Service
Iowa Tree Farmers Association

Location:

Fullenkamp Tree Farm
2445 110th Street, West Point, Iowa
6 m. N. of West Point on Co. Blacktop X23
and then ½ mile E. on 110th St

Schedule for the Day:

- 8:00** Registration
- 9:00** Introduction and history of the Tree Farm by Ron and Carol Fullenkamp
- 9:15** Explanation and showing of TSI work done 2004 and 2005
- 10:00** Basil area demonstration. How to calculate population and species in existing forest.
- 11:00** Fish shocking and count at farm pond.
- 12:00** Lunch
- 12:45** Short topics:
Financial Assistance Programs
Land title transfer options
Ash borer and oak wilt
- 1:30** Managing growth in 16 year-old planting. What to do
- 2:20** Mature forest evaluation after TSI 15 yrs ago.



Instructors:

DNR: Ray Lehn, John Byrd, Stan Tate,
Paul Tauke, Don Klein

Foresters: Bob Petrezelka, Gretchen Klein

ISU: Paul Wray, Dean of Ext. Forestry (retired)

Questions: Contact Ron Fullenkamp
(319) 837-6824 ron_fullenkamp@iowatelecom.net

This Field Day will be held at an operating tree farm, so you will be able to see the results, good and bad, from TSI and other management plans as they have developed. Our goal is to have you leave with ideas you can take home and implement in your own forests.

----- Letter to the Editor -----

Utilization of Renewable Forest Growth

Every year in this country there are over 4 billion tons of wood of wood produced by our forests. Of these 4 billion tons, less than 1 billion ton is used for lumber, particle board and other uses. This leaves 3 billion tons to kindle forest fires, resulting in the terrible tragedies they produce, or to rot on the ground.

Now, wood is an extremely versatile commodity. It consists of approximately 80% cellulose and 20% lignin. First the cellulose. Cellulose is a polysaccharide similar to ethanol. We use over 130 billion gallons of gasoline in this country every year from non-renewable oil. Ethanol is a high-energy fuel, similar to gasoline, but with some improved properties, i.e., cleaner burning, higher octane, more power from our engines, and it is made from a renewable feedstock. Using less than one third of the unused wood grown in this country every year, now causing forest fires or rotting away, we could replace 60% of the gasoline seen every year in this country obtained from foreign oil and return to energy independence. We would no longer have to send over 90 billion dollars to foreign countries every year for their oil – we could keep that huge amount of money here at home – more jobs, improved roads and bridges, rejuvenated small towns, reduced property taxes, and knowing that when we fill our gas tanks, that money will all stay in this country and not go to some terrorist countries who are bent on our destruction.

And there is more. The lignin, which makes up 20% of wood, is also a high-energy solid fuel containing no sulfur, which can be pressed into briquettes and used to produce electricity, replacing coal which produces high amounts of pollutant sulfur dioxide.

No longer do we have to barter our country a piece at a time for foreign oil.

Part of the \$90 billion can be used to develop the infrastructure for large-scale conversion of wood to ethanol and lignin to produce electricity, part to buy back the IOU's the U.S. assigned to foreign countries for past oil purchases, and the rest to reduce our own budget deficit. And this can be done each and every year.

After all, if cows can convert wood chips to sugar, we intelligent humans should be able to do this conversion in spades.

Congress needs to take the lead in providing grants to entrepreneurs immediately. Many of us paid too high a price defending this country in World War II

right to the present war against terrorists to sit idly by while our country is being traded to foreign countries for their oil. We don't have any time to lose.

Donald E. Dvorsky
IWOA/NWOA member
Cedar Rapids, IA

Bioenergy

by Tom Woodruff, IWOA Director, Davenport

The NWOA's spring magazine, "National Woodlands", just arrived and of significant mention were the articles on bioenergy by publisher Keith Argow and Ron Bell. They are highly recommended and timely reading.

There are a myriad of changes going on in the energy field that will have a significant impact on one of the best kept secrets of the energy business – energy from wood. (At least, secret to most of you under 60). An example quoted by Bell is the joint study in 2005 by USDA/DOE referred to as the "Billion Ton Study. This study estimates the nations forests could supply up to 370 million tons of biomass without compromising other economic and environmental uses of our forest lands.

We've seen these energy-interest source cycles come and go in our lifetime but one has to believe the current one has a much longer and permanent life. Logically, we know federal and state legislation will follow whatever biomass products are used and that will make the future even more interesting for woodland owners.

IWOA Badges

IWOA now has 30 badges available for members to wear to forestry related events, etc., to help promote IWOA. If you need to borrow one or more badges for an occasion, please contact IWOA President, Ace Hendricks.
judenace@fbx.com
515 961-8157 or 563 382-2643



"The great French Marshall Lyautey once asked his gardener to plant a tree. The gardener objected that the tree was slow growing and would not reach maturity for 100 years. The Marshall replied "In that case, there is no time to lose; plant it this afternoon!"

- John F. Kennedy

Join IWOA, or tell a friend about IWOA

IWOA membership brochures are available from the IWOA website or by contacting Cathy Wilke-Tomes, IWOA Membership Secretary, at the address below.

- Member** \$10 - woodland owner, voting
- Assoc. Member** \$10 – non-woodland owner, non-voting
- Contributing Member** \$50 – woodland owner, voting
- Contributing Assoc. Member** \$50+, non-woodland owner, non-voting

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Home phone: _____

Email address: _____

Number of forest acres you own: _____

Is your land in the forest reserve program? _____

Are you a certified tree farmer? _____

I am interested in volunteering for IWOA committees and/or events in the future

I am interested in serving on the IWOA Board of Directors and/or learning more about the Board of Directors' responsibilities.

Return form and check payable to IWOA to:
IWOA Membership
3415 Twin Lake View Dr NE
North Liberty, IA 52317

Western Canadian Beetle Infestations

submitted by Tom Woodruff, IWOA Director, Davenport

Most forest infestations are serious and some are more serious. The Mountain Pine Beetle is of the more serious variety having infested an area in British Columbia three times the size of the state of Maryland, reports Ron Mahoney the regional director of the NWOA.

Scientists fear the beetle will cross the Rocky Mountains and sweep across the northern continent into areas where it used to be killed by the severe cold. A Canadian official reports that the generally warmer temperatures may be contributing to its attacking younger trees and timber in high altitudes that have never been effected before.

“Plant trees until you are planted!”
- Steve Rasmussen, NE Forest Service District Forester

SAFETY CORNER

by Larry Wiley, IWOA Board Member, Palo

Topic: Safety Equipment

Many types of safety equipment and apparel are available for use when working in the woods. Protection from head to toe is available.

Safety glasses will help prevent eye injuries. Ear protection, either in the form of earmuffs or earplugs, will help prevent hearing loss due to noise from chain saw, splitter and other noisy equipment. Hard hats equipped with earmuffs and face-shield protect head, eyes and ears and are an economical means to protect these areas of the body.

Apparel can be worn to protect the body from chain saw cuts. These are made from special fabrics with many small fibers designed to plug or clog the chain sprocket, stopping the saw before significant damage is done. These come in the form of jackets, gloves, chaps and pants.

Steel toe shoes or boots are available to protect feet from falling items or a slip of the chain saw cutting into a foot.

Safety helmets cost between \$40 and \$70 (some higher) and are available at most places that sell chain saws. At least I have seen them at Stihl and Husqvarna dealers and places like Theisen's. There are also web sites that make these items available. For example, the Southwest Trading



site with Husqvarna Chainsaw and Chain Saw products and safety apparel:

http://www.portable-electric-power-generators.com/p_husqvarna_chainsaw_main.htm

Cut resistant chaps range from \$50 to \$100 (more if you buy fitted clothes). Again, these are available at chain saw dealers, etc.

Steel toe shoes or boots are available where ever work shoes are sold. The price will vary widely depending on brand, insulation, waterproof, etc. \$60 to \$200 Also available at places like Cabella's.



I'm not sure who is best to talk to. I recommend and wear all of these items. I rarely start my saw unless safety glasses, helmet (with shield and ear muffs), safety chaps, and steel toe boots are on. These items don't work well laying in the shop or in the back of the truck.

Using safety equipment is highly recommended. However, it is not a replacement for good safety practices and the use of common sense. Be safe and enjoy the woods!

2006 IWOA Annual Meeting

September 23, 2006, Saturday
Swiss Valley Nature Center
Dubuque, Iowa

- 7:30 Registration & Continental Breakfast
- 8:30 IWOA Business Meeting
- 9:15 Informational presentations, including Forestry Coalition report, IWOA/ITF partnership, DNR report, Walnut Council 2007 National conference, Legacy Planning, Financial Assist Programs
- 10:30 Legislator or Conservation representative
- 11:15 Intro to Swiss Valley Nature Center, New Melray, Abby preview
- 12:00 Lunch
- 1:00 Tours: managed timber, casket facility, Abby

Registration information will be mailed out later.

Questions? contact Tom Rosenberger 319 364-3711

Criteria for Green Tag Forestry

From NWOA's National Woodlands Magazine

A Green Tag Forest is a woodland whose stewardship has been certified as incorporating good forestry practices that assure a balance of natural



diversity and sustainable forest productivity. Green Tag certification is available in all fifty states. The program provides recognition to landowners who practice responsible and sustainable woodland stewardship. This recognition may bring a market premium as a “green-certified” forest product.

1. Comprehensive forest plan with clear objectives
2. Forest soils, health, inventory and natural diversity are addressed
3. Logging plan, reforestation program, post-harvest follow-up and certified loggers used
4. Road construction, special stream crossings and special sites
5. Product utilization and aesthetics
6. Product chemical use
7. Social considerations
8. Stability of enterprise
9. Record keeping and tracking
10. Landowners commitment to sustainability

Woods - by Wendell Berry

I part the out-thrusting branches
and come in beneath.

Though I am silent there is singing around me.

Though I am dark there is vision around me.

Though I am heavy there is flight around me.

Herbicide Application Tool for Stumps

by Tom Rosenberger, IWOA Board Member, Cedar Rapids

This is a tool to apply herbicides, such as Tordon, when cutting woody plants, such as honeysuckle. I learned it at a field day at Kent Park.

The top 12-16” is the reservoir, and by opening and closing the valve quickly a small amount of chemical is allowed to flow to the sponge to dap on the cut stump.

I put a small bend in the pipe close to the bottom to make it easier to dap the stump squarely without being on top of it.

By drilling 4 small holes in the bushing you can secure the sponge inside with screws.

Have you looked at the IWOA website lately for information and links? It's worth your time.

<http://www.iowawoodlandowners.org>

Contact information for TimberTalk:

Bev Brink, Editor, 563 245-2044

Please let us know your thoughts, ideas, suggestions. Timbertalk is published 3 times a year. Next issue will come out in October or November.

Do you have an idea for an article IWOA and ITF members will find of interest? How about an editorial on an issue or philosophy close to your heart? Please send articles or ideas by October 1 to Bev Brink, 106 High St NE, Elkader, IA 52043
bbrink49@hotmail.com

Paul Wray Retires from ISU

By Brian Meyer, ISU, Director of College Relations,
College of Agriculture Communication Service

For more than 30 years, Paul Wray has been the “Go to” guy for statewide answers in forestry management and urban and community forestry. Now an effort has been organized to raise \$25,000 to establish a Paul Wray Endowment Fund at ISU that will support future extension forestry programs.



“Paul Wray’s name is practically synonymous with forestry extension and education in the state of Iowa,” said David Engle, chair of the Department of Natural Resource Ecology and Management. “Paul’s philosophy has been that education will improve the stewardship of Iowa’s natural resources. Through this endowment, we hope to help ensure a strong extension program that continues this philosophy and honors a long, distinguished career at Iowa State.”

Earlier this year ISU’s College of Agriculture honored Wray, who has been a faculty member since 1975, with the Outstanding Achievement in Extension Award. He provides valuable expertise in forestry management, biology, windbreaks, urban and community forestry. He coordinates forestry field days, woodland stewardship conferences, Master Woodland Manager’s Programs, and countless forestry education programs.

Paul’s plans for retirement include participation with the Tree Farm Program, teaching a forestry course in the ISU course for seniors, as well as presenting at future shade tree short courses and Iowa community tree steward reunions. He will also remain active with the Tree Farm Program and the Iowa Woodland Owners Association.

To make your contribution to the Paul Wray Endowment Fund, please make your check payable to: Iowa State University Foundation and note in the memo section: Paul Wray Endowment Fund. Mail to: Iowa State University Foundation, 2505 Elwood Drive, Ames Iowa 50010-8644.

Conducting a Successful Timber Sale

From a 4-page article in the Spring 2006 issue of NWOA’s National Woodlands Magazine www.woodlandowners.org

- Mark boundaries and identify trees to be cut
 - Appraise the value of the timber in the area to be cut
 - Locate roads, trails and landings
 - Solicit bids and select a winning bid
 - Prepare a timber sale contract
 - Monitor the sale
 - Complete post-harvest administration and activities
- (Editor’s note - I would add before step 1: Involve your district forester.)

IWOA Membership Report

Current Members: 471

Membership category Breakdown:

Members (IA Woodland Owner, Voting)	394
Assoc Member (Non-Woodland Owner, Non-Voting)	25
Contributing Member (IA Woodland Owner, Voting)	19
Contrib Assoc Mem (Non-Woodland Owner, Non-voting)	1
Complimentary Memberships	32

Total Forest Acres Owned by IWOA Members:

48,598 forest acres in 75 Iowa counties, 2 Illinois and 1 Missouri county. This is up 1,194 acres since 1/19/06

Forest Reserves:

304 of our 471 members have land in forest reserve.

Certified Tree Farmer:

190 of our 471 members are certified tree farmers.

Report submitted April 19, 2006 at IWOA Board Meeting
by Cathy Wilkie-Tomes, IWOA Membership Secretary.

Tax Aspects of Conservation Easements

From a 3-page article in the NWOA National Woodlands Magazine Spring 06, by William C Siegal, an attorney specializing in timber tax law and forestry estate planning.

A woodland owner may wish to guarantee that his or her forest land always remains as forest. Persons in this situation sometimes consider placing a conservation easement on the property to achieve that goal. A qualified conservation easement is defined as a transfer of a qualified real property interest to a qualified organization exclusively for conservation purposes. A conservation easement on woodland can be created by either selling or donating the interest.

A conservation easement on woodland can insure that the woodland will always remain as such and not be commercially developed. At the same time, if the easement is donated rather than sold, it can provide significant tax benefits. However, careful thought should be given to the granting of an easement. The transfer must be in perpetuity and is not reversible. With a donated easement, unless the donor’s estate is large enough to be subject to the federal estate tax, there will be no estate tax benefit. Legal fees and appraisal costs will reduce the income tax deduction. In summary, a conservation easement may be ideal for certain woodland owners but something that others will want to avoid.

The criteria necessary to qualify for a conservation easement charitable deduction need to be carefully evaluated. These are discussed in IRS Publication 526. Charitable Contributions.

Two basic criteria must be considered. 1) the contribution must be made to a qualified organization 2) the contribution must be made only for preservation or protection conservation purposes.



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and the Iowa Tree Farmers Association