

TimberTalk

Newsletter of the Iowa Woodland Owners Association and the Iowa Tree Farmers
Volume 17 No. 3 November 2007

Forestry Carbon Credits

IWOA members are asking what carbon credits mean for them as woodland owners. The following article, taken from the National Farmers Union website, provides information that may help you understand what it is all about and learn how to participate, if you want.



**National Farmers Union
Carbon Credit Program**
North Dakota Farmers Union
www.ndfu.org

Farmers Union's Carbon Credit Program allows ag producers and landowners to earn income by storing carbon in their soil through no-till crop production, long-term grass seeding practices, native rangeland enhancement, forestry, and methane capture projects.

Forested acres, planted or regenerated after 1990, can earn up to several tons of carbon credits annually, if the trees are managed in a sustainable manner.

(continued on page 2)

Tree-Named Towns in Iowa

By Tom Woodruff, IWOA Board member

I was reading through Natural Inquirer, the USDA magazine for kids, to see how many of the school woodland work sheets I could master - a smarter than a fifth grader thing. It occurred to me that a good IWOA test would be for you readers to name the Iowa communities named after trees. I'll list them and their populations and I'll betcha someone will find an omission.

Burr Oak (pop.?), Charter Oak (527), Larchwood (801), Laurel (268), Linden (251), Magnolia (200), Mapeleton (1256), Osage (3492), Red Oak (5976) and Walnut (856).

Close but no cigar to all the Groves, Orchards, Fields and those ending in Wood except one - Packwood. Packwood (pop. 232) has listed the population, elevation, and date the community was founded on their two village signs - and totaled them. Maybe it's the number of trees in town? That total, by the way, is 2837.

Attendance up at 2007 IWOA Annual Conference and Field Day



Seventy-five IWOA members attended the 2007 IWOA Annual Conference and Field Day held September 18, at the Wickiup Learning Center near Toddville.

In the past, the Iowa annual meeting has been held on Saturdays. With life as busy as it is on weekends, i.e., family activities, sports games, or other special events, IWOA board members decided to try moving the 2007 annual meeting date to a weekday. This year's attendance was up by 15-20 people, but it is not clear if the change from weekend to weekday was a contributor. What do you think? Tom Rosenberger, IWOA President, would like to know. Contact Tom at tomdr4trees@msn.com

1724 12th St NW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52405. Ph: 319-364-3711

The 2007 Annual Conference morning sessions included presentations on the Wickiup Learning Center, oak tatters update, worst Iowa invasive plants count down, woodland fires vs prairie fires, and legislative update from Senator Rob Hogg.

A give-away of several valuable donated gifts included a weedwacker, donated by Gregg Redlin, Air Cooled Engine Services, Iowa City.

The outdoor afternoon program focused on timber burns. See the Timber Burns article on pg. 3.

More pix from the Annual conference in IWOA Photo Gallery:

www.iowawoodlandowners.org



Though it may look like fire and brimstone, President Tom Rosenberger gives a warm welcome to attendees



Senator Rob Hogg provides insight on legislative issues

Forestry Carbon Credits *(continued from page 1)*

Carbon Credits Basics

Carbon storage or “sequestration” helps reduce carbon dioxide emissions. Carbon dioxide is one of six “greenhouse gases” that trap heat in the atmosphere, producing an increase in the temperature of the earth or “global warming,” according to scientists.

Farmers Union has earned approval from the Chicago Climate Exchange to aggregate carbon credits. Farmers Union enrolls producer acreages of carbon projects into blocks of credits that are traded on the Exchange, much like other agricultural commodities are traded.

Large companies and other entities purchase credits daily on the Exchange to offset their own carbon emissions into the atmosphere. Some have signed on to the Kyoto Treaty and are required to reduce emissions or buy offsetting credits. Once the credits are sold, producers earn income based on the acres they have enrolled.

This program is entirely voluntary, but once a contract is signed, the terms are legally binding on all parties.

About the Eligible Land and Credit Earning Potential

All contracts run through December 31, 2010.

No-Till: Carbon credits are issued at the rate of .2 to .6 metric tons of carbon per acre annually to participants who commit to continuous conservation tillage on enrolled land from 2007 through 2010. In most cases, credit can be earned for the 2006 year. Enrolled acres may be planted in pulse crops (i.e. beans, peas, lentils) no more than three of the contract years. Alfalfa or other planted forage will be considered as no-till for these contracts.

Seeded Grass Stands: Carbon credits are earned at a rate of 1.0 metric tons per acre annually, even if enrolled in CRP. Grass stands seeded prior to January 1, 1999, are not eligible for enrollment in the program.

Native Rangeland: Grassland with a grazing plan, may earn up to .52 tons/acre annually.

Forestry: Forested acres, planted or regenerated after 1990, can earn up to several tons of carbon credits annually, if the trees are managed in a sustainable manner.

Methane Offset: Methane captured and/or destroyed can earn tons of carbon credit. Animal

waste systems, including anaerobic digesters and covered lagoons, can be enrolled. Each ton of methane captured earns 18 tons of carbon credits.

Credit Pricing and Selling

Each fall, a random spot check of land tracts is conducted by the CCX or its designee. At the end of the year, all of the database information is submitted to the CCX and carbon credits issued to North Dakota Farmers Union’s aggregator trading account.

Farmers Union then sells the credits on the Exchange on behalf of program participants. The transfer price is the net sales price (less Exchange fees) minus a ten percent (10%) service fee to North Dakota Farmers Union.

Twenty percent (20%) of the carbon offsets are retained by the CCX in a carbon bank and if no contract violation occurs, the tons are sold at the end of the contract (2011).

Payment Schedule

After each calendar year, the earned credits are sold on the Exchange and the proceeds, less fees and escrow, are sent to the producer or landowner.

Generally, the credits are sold after January 1 after they have been earned. This allows participants to receive current prices for credits each year, even though the contracts cover multiple years.

Payments are made to the land manager; namely, the person who receives crop proceeds and is on file at FSA as the farm operator. In share-rent agreements, contracts are split or signed separately.

Penalties

Enrollees who do not complete the terms of the agreement are subject to penalties and loss of carbon bank tons. If land fails to meet contract specifications, all credits earned from such land are null and void and all payments for credits delivered shall be repaid subject to interest and penalties.

Chicago Climate Exchange (CCX)

The Chicago Climate Exchange (CCX) is North America’s only, and the world’s first, greenhouse gas emission registry, reduction and trading system for all six greenhouse gases – carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide, methane, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons and sulfur hexafluoride.

CCX (www.chicagoclimatex.com) is a self-regulatory, rules-based exchange designed and governed by CCX members. Members make a voluntary but legally binding commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Farmers Union's Role

As aggregator, North Dakota Farmers Union:

- registers individual acreages into blocks
- maintains a database of credits
- provides data to CCX as needed sends annual certifications to the Exchange
- manages the sales of blocks of credits
- distributes sale proceeds to participants

A 10 percent service fee is collected by Farmers Union from annual sale proceeds to cover administrative expenses associated with managing the program.

How to Enroll

For no till and seeded grass or forage stands:

- Go to www.ndfu.org
- Click on the Carbon Credit Program logo and follow the directions for the on-line enrollment.

For native rangeland, forestry and methane offsets:

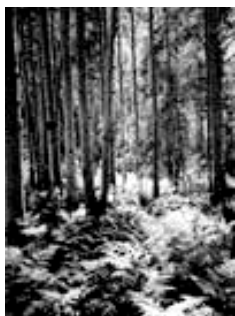
- Go to www.ndfu.org
- Click on the Carbon Credit Program logo
- Download the contract and complete worksheet and submit information via mail.

Producers **MUST** complete and submit a signed contract, FSA 578 form, and Farm Service Agency map(s) of enrolled land.

For more information call 800-366-8331 or write PO Box 2136, Jamestown ND 58402

Carbon Credit Forestry Offsets Contract:

<http://carboncredit.ndfu.org/pdfs/FORESTRY/2003-2010FORESTRYCONTRACT.pdf>



Your Woodland's Name

by Tom Woodruff, IWOA Board Member

Our readers may find the name of your woodlands interesting, and especially why you gave it that name. For example, one member has

named their woodlands **Ganderhawk**, another **Sherwood Forest**, while another calls theirs **Cummings Glen**, no doubt for a proud Irish heritage. If you'll send that interesting info to me about your woods, we'll share some of them with our readers. Tom Woodruff, 4115 Rodeo Rd, Davenport, IA 52806 apwood70@aol.com

Timber Burns: a hot topic among woodland owners

Controlled fire has captured the interest of woodland owners for the past couple of years as it has been shown effective for encouraging the growth of desirable tree species, eliminating undesired trees and shrubs, and destroying invasive plant species.



Ryan Schlater begins his presentation on timber burns by identifying necessary tools, supplies, clothing.

At the IWOA Annual Conference and Field Day, September 18, Ryan Schlater, Fire Specialist for the Iowa DNR, demonstrated how to do a timber burn on a portion of woods. He explained if a fire for forest management is to be successful and safe, it takes expertise, experience, adequate equipment and supplies, enough trained people, and the right weather conditions.



IWOA members close in on DNR Fire Spec. Ryan Schlater to get answers to their timber burn questions

For information about resources and support:

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

Or contact at the Iowa DNR:

Gail Kantak, Fire Supervisor
IDNR Forestry Bureau phone: 515/233-1161
2404 South Duff Ave. fax: 515/233-1131
Ames, IA 50010 e-mail: Gail.Kantak@dnr.state.ia.us

FEPP Equipment Assistant
Karl Harris phone: 515/233-1161
e-mail: Chief480@hotmail.com

Cooperative Fire Specialist
Ryan Schlater phone: 515/233-1161
e-mail: Ryan.Schlater@dnr.state.ia.us

To Plant a Tree *By Aldo Leopold*

Acts of creation are ordinarily reserved for gods and poets but humbler folk may circumvent this restriction if they know how. To plant a tree, for example, one needs to be neither a god or poet; one need only a shovel. By virtue of this curious loophole in the rules, any clod-hopper may say, "Let there be a tree!" - and there will be one. If his back be strong and his shovel sharp there may eventually be 10,000. And in the seventh year he may lean upon his shovel and look upon his trees, and find them good.



IWOA invites SW Iowa Master Woodland Managers Program participants to join IWOA

This spring in May, Judy and Ace Hendricks, Past President of IWOA, traveled into the Loess Hills of SW Iowa to represent IWOA at one of the class sessions for the Master Woodland Managers Program held at the recently acquired Nature Center in Fremont County.

They spoke to the group about IWOA and answered questions from the 17-member class. One participant, Richard Hester, Walnut, Iowa, told the group that he was already a member of IWOA and really enjoyed the listserv and newsletter. He offered his woods as a location for a field day.

The IWOA Board of Directors will be discussing the possibility of working with district foresters and county conservation boards in western Iowa to host a field day.

Any input on this from IWOA and Iowa Tree Farmers will be appreciated. Send your comments to Tom Rosenberger, IWOA President, at Tomdr4trees@msn.com or 1724 12th St NW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52405 (319) 364-3711

John Walkowiak takes new job in Washington State

John Walkowiak, Former Forestry Bureau Chief with the Iowa DNR, is moving with his wife Elly for new careers in the State of Washington.

John will be the new Forest Tax and Audit Manager with the Washington Dept of Revenue located in Olympia.

John worked for the Iowa DNR for almost 18 years, and had been the Land Protection Leader with the Conservation and Recreation Division before he left. John's new address is: 5437 N 42nd St Tacoma, WA 98407



IWOA Library - Forestry Resources for you to Borrow

IWOA has forestry materials available for loan to IWOA members and Iowa Tree Farmers.

Materials range from books, field guides, and brochures, to videos and posters.

The list of available materials and an order form are posted on the IWOA website:

www.iowawoodlandowners.org > Resources

Materials are checked out for about 3 weeks. They are mailed to you free, and you pay to mail them back.

You may request a hard copy list and order form by sending your request to Tom Rosenberger, IWOA President, along with a self-addressed stamped envelope (SASE), at 1724 12th St NW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52405 319-364-3711

A Letter from the editor....

It's about those darn deer

By Bev Brink, IWOA Board Member and TimberTalk Editor

The last straw has been tossed. My son now owns a motorcycle and I just learned that deer/vehicle collisions have killed 10 people – all motorcyclists. My young oak trees, planted 4 years ago and still trying to survive, have no choice but to be offered up as deer cuisine again this year. I'm more afraid than ever to drive at dawn and dusk. And now... a doe ran into the side of my car 2 weeks ago and I'm looking at a \$500 deductible, or else three permanent dents and a mirror forever unadjustable, but fortunately fixed at approximately the right place for me to see in my blind spot if I hunch down a little. I used to like deer... when I was a kid and it was an unusual, exciting event to spot a bambi.

I tend to believe that knowledge is powerful and it enables people in leadership roles to come to reasonable, wise decisions. And then there is the "follow the money" principle that gnaws at my mind and causes me to be just slightly cynical.

Maybe it is time for us complainers to do something that will effect change. We could become squeaky wheels by making it a point to be informed, and then talking with our Iowa Senators and Representatives, asking them to decrease the Iowa deer population to a level more like we had in the 1970's, when it was fun to see a deer.

Below are some facts I have learned in the last couple of weeks of watching IPTV's Iowa Journal and listening to KUNI programs, that could help us talk with our legislators about the deer problem in Iowa, and why the number of deer needs to go way, way down from its current 350,000-450,000.

Facts:

- Deer collisions have killed 10 Iowans this year, as of 11/7/07; all were motorcyclists
- Annual property damage due to deer, as reported

by State Farm Insurance claims: \$1.1 billion nationally

- Iowa's economic benefit from deer hunting: \$137 million, according to a new study by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- Each 109th car on the road is going to hit a deer this year. There are 4 million cars on Iowa roads.
- The number of deer/car collisions is up about 14% over last year, from 7300 up to 8300
- Hunting/fishing licenses fund 1/4 of IDNR's annual budget of \$23 million, and help fund Iowa government in general

Additional considerations:

- Many folks are injured in deer/vehicle collisions, but if they are not killed, just maimed, their experience is unreported
- If a farmer's livestock gets on the roadway and there is a collision, that farmer is liable for damages. But if a deer causes a collision, the victim is liable for damages. Deer are wild, yes. But there is an entity that is responsible for controlling the deer population for the welfare of Iowa and Iowans. Who benefits when there are lots of deer? Do I smell conflict of interest??
- Our vehicle insurance costs are higher because of too many deer that are causing too many collisions - costly collisions
- State Farm's figures are startling, but are only a portion of insurance claims since there are many other insurance companies that also pay out on deer damage, and many minor collisions are not reported
- Most crop damage, including tree and garden damage, are not reported
- Expenses to prevent damage are unreported

The quote below bothers me. How about you?

"What we (IDNR) try to do is listen to all the constituents' interests in Iowa that have a stake in Iowa's deer herd and balance it the best we can. Our current strategy is to reduce deer herd numbers throughout the state back to the mid '90s level. At that time surveys showed that most farmers felt good about deer numbers."

- Tom Litchfield, DNR State Deer Biologist, from IPTV program transcript, Iowa Deer Collisions, aired 11/7/07 Find the full transcript on the IPTV website

<http://www.iptv.org/iowajournal/story.cfm/98>

If you have additional facts, conflicting information,

or further considerations or insights on this issue, please email/mail me. Bev Brink, 106 High St NE, Elkader, IA 52043 bbrink@alpinecom.net

I'm building a folder of fodder and would like to turn it over to someone or some group who feels like leading a battle. Interested??

Think Safety

Especially in Fall and early Winter, when you are spending lots of time in the woods

by Larry Wiley, IWOA Board Member

Fall is here, the time of the year when many of us will be spending more time in the woods; perhaps doing timber stand improvement, cutting fire wood or hunting our favorite game. It's time to think seriously about safety. Remember, safety begins with adopting an attitude of doing things in a safe manner.

We have all heard the old saying "haste makes waste". Haste can also lead to dangerous situations. Don't take shortcuts that can lead to an accident. Take the time to wear all safety apparel even if you are only doing a small task. A short cut could take several stitches to close! Safety glasses, hearing protection, hard hats, safety chaps and steel toe shoes can all help avoid injury.

Keep equipment organized and in good repair. Using a sharp saw takes less effort and is much easier to control than when it gets dull. Take the time to keep equipment in shape.

Pay attention to your surroundings, including what's above. If felling a tree, check for falling hazards and take time to clear escape paths. Move the truck to a safe distance! That's a joke. Safety is not!

Whether working or playing, think about what you are doing and how safe your actions are. Many of our tasks are somewhat dangerous. However, these tasks can be accomplished safely if you have a plan. Hasty decisions and actions can lead to disastrous results.

Be safe and enjoy the woods.

Non Native Tree of the Quarter

Blue Ash *Fraxinus quadrangulata*

by Tom Brady, IWOA Member

I've decided I should write about my non-native ash trees before



the emerald ash borer gets here and kills them.

I have all of the Iowa natives (black, green and white ash), plus one from Europe, one from Eurasia, and one from Asia. These are in addition to the quarter's subject tree: blue ash. These trees are all "fraxinus", not fake ash like "prickly", "mountain", or "wafer".

Blue ash is an American native with a limited range centered around the lower Great Lakes. There is absolutely no reason why they won't grow in Iowa, other than why would anyone plant an ash nowadays? They grow near enough to Iowa that if you live in Keokuk and have binoculars, you might be able to see one in Illinois.

Blue ash resembles black ash from a distance and I think I can best describe the tree by comparing them. If you closely examine blue ash, you will see that they have red/brown buds, not black buds as black ash have. If you were to cut across a twig, you would see that the end



would appear more or less square (thus the scientific name *quadragulata*). The twigs lose this characteristic after three years or so. Black ash prefers moist bottomland. Blue ash

can tolerate these conditions, but thrives on dry upland better than other ashes. Blue ash has a compound leaf with 7-11 dark green leaflets with toothed edges, as black ash does, but its leaflets have short stalks while black ash has no stalk (except for the terminal leaflet). Black ash has little or no fall color, blue ash turns pale yellow. The winged seeds (samaras) are similar. Blue ash seeds are slightly smaller (1 1/2") and more egg-shaped. The tree is not plentiful anywhere, probably because of unreliable seed production. The flowers are unisexual while every other ash I can think of requires a pollinator. The bark is light gray and scaly and is sometimes described as uniquely shaggy for an ash. There are varying estimates for its typical height at maturity, but 70' sounds about average. Sometimes it can reach as tall as 120'.

Blue ash is called "blue" because its sap turns blue when exposed to air and was used by pioneers as dye. They were amazingly inventive people, weren't they?

I bought 5 blue ash in 1997. They all lived. I planted them in one of our "no mow" areas where they had to compete with volunteer green ash, which they did. I bought them mainly because of their unique "square" twigs. They are about 15'-20' tall. None has produced seed yet. The limbs are unusually short, giving the tree a narrow, tall appearance.

If (when?) the emerald ash borer gets here, I estimate I will lose 15-20% of my trees. I know that the blue ash does not have any resistance. I'm hoping that some of the "exotic" foreign trees will have resistance, since at least one of them came from the same locale (NE Asia) as the nasty little invaders.

IWOA Membership Application

IWOA invites you to become a full-fledged Iowa Woodland Owners Member. There are many benefits of IWOA membership, from this newsletter and legislative influence, to educational opportunities, information about conferences and field days, and a progressive leadership that is working to help woodland owners in Iowa better manage and more fully enjoy their woods. Dues are only \$10 per year, and the rewards are great.

To join, just complete and mail this form to Cathy Wilke along with your check (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.

Send your completed application to: Cathy Wilkie, IWOA Membership Secretary, 204 Park Rd, Iowa City, IA 52246
cat_wilkie@yahoo.com



Oak Tatters

Oak leaf tatters has been observed only on white oak and related white oak species. Red oak does not seem to be affected by tatters. Winter injury, frost, insect attack, and herbicide drift were all thought to be possible causes of leaf tatters.

Iowa District Foresters Mark Vitosh and Bruce Blair have been documenting their observations for tatters on oak trees over the past 6 years. They hypothesized that leaf tatters on white oak may be due in large part to herbicide drift from herbicide applications on corn and soybean fields. Their observations are backing that up. A tatters research report that supports this hypothesis is online.

“Abnormal Leaf Development on White Oaks Linked to Drift of Chloroacetamide Herbicides”:

http://www.nres.uiuc.edu/uploads/files/facultyresearch/oak_herb_drift.pdf

For a hard copy of this report, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to Bev Brink, 106 High St NE, Elkader, IA 52043

Paving Paradise

*from AARP Magazine May/June 2007 issue
written by Christy Finley, submitted for Timber Talk by
Dave Novak, IWOA Member*

Bill Schmidt likes to tend his trees after breakfast. In the cool quiet of the Vermont morning, the 71-yr-old shapes his fir, spruce, and pine with a knife in one hand and pruning shears in the other. “It’s a meditative practice he says, and it’s one of his favorite things about Elysian Hill, the 138-acre tree farm he owns with his wife, Mary Lou.

Some upkeep is getting rough, though; scoliosis limits the work Mary Lou can do. The couple knows it will soon be time to turn over the pruning shears to the next generation – but their five kids don’t want the responsibility. It turns out the Schmidt’s situation is not uncommon. People 55 and older own more than

30 percent of all forestland in the United States.

When they sell, a staggering 186 million acres will be vulnerable to development or logging.

“It is a true crisis,” says Thom McEvoy, extension forester at the University of Vermont. “We’re all going to be appalled in 10 or 15 years by how little we’ve done.” Picture this: you’re taking a fall road trip to see the leaves in New England – and arriving to find the land barren.

Though the feat of paving paradise is nothing new, experts are only beginning to understand how the shift will affect everyone, not just rural landowners. New York City realized one of its key water sources, the Catskills, was threatened by increasing development. “Private forest owners provide water purification, wildlife habitat, recreation, and scenic beauty – and they do all that for free,” says former USDA Forest Service chief Dale Bosworth.

Chuck Reger, 46, understands that – which is why his current situation is so difficult. When Chuck’s grandfather died, he left his 150-acre West Virginia cattle farm to be divided among six relatives. Chuck wants to rebuild the family business on his 40 acres, but his aunt and uncle plan to sell to developers. “I’m trying to piece the farm back together,” he says. “But every generation you get further away from the original owners, it makes it harder.”

One solution available to landowners’ conservation easements – legally enforceable agreements, run by land trusts, stipulating that land may not be developed. As of 2006, owners who choose easements may qualify for tax breaks. Even folks who don’t own land can be part of the solution: more than half of all land trusts are staffed by volunteers. Visit www.lta.org to learn more. Or, get involved in your area’s planning activities. Agencies often seek public input on development projects.

Ultimately, the Schmidts decided that a conservation easement was the best answer for them. They found a young couple – he’s a forester, she’s studying to be a vet - who share their love of Elysian Hills. Bill and Mary Lou are teaching them to farm the land and hope to sell them the forest at an affordable price.

“I like to see the natural land stay open,” says Mary Lou. “I think that’s what it was created for.”

Today’s Quote

In an orchard there should be enough to eat, enough to lay up, enough to be stolen, and enough to rot on the ground.- James Boswell



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