Iowa’s Tree Farmer of the Year Field Day & Iowa Woodland Owners Association’s Annual Meeting

October 27th 2015 – Louisa County

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Richard and Bobbi Stoneking are the 2015 tree farmers of the year. They have reforested 180 acres of timber in Louisa county. They have completed so many different forestry practices that this will be a great show and tell day. We will start the day in a 12 acre 12 year old CRP tree planting of mixed hardwoods discussing weed control, proper pruning, proper coppicing, managing deer damage with chemical deterrents and then stop at two 20+ year-old tree plantings that have had various understory and pruning treatments resulting in different stand densities and stem quality. We will also discuss pruning / thinning too early and too often which is becoming a problem in many tree planting around the state.

12:00pm   Lunch, IWOA Annual Meeting, Tree Farm Annual Meeting

1:30pm
After lunch we will visit a site that showcases a stand conversion in progress. The Stonekings will take us to a stand where they used various understory mechanical treatments to control invasive shrubs (forestry mower, brushhog). At the first location we will demonstrate how to move trees with a 44” tree spade as Richard has actively been moving in desirable tree species to “speed up” the conversion!
Finally we will tour a similar stand conversion area that has regenerated naturally to desirable tree species so tree moving was not needed. Along the way we will pass some high coppice walnut trees and the youngest tree planting acres that the Stonekings protect with chemical deterrents.

4:00 pm   Head home

Lunch will be provided by A Guy and A Grill Caterer. The fee for the meal and refreshments is $12.00/ person (payable the day of the event). Please call 319-523-2371 or email vancek@iastate.edu to register for the meal! (leave your name, phone number, and # of attendees you are registering

Instructors
Richard and Bobbi Stoneking – Landowners
Lisa Louck, District Forester
Ray Lehn, District Forester
Gretchen Cline, Geode Forestry
Jesse Randall – Extension Forester, Iowa State University

Directions
From HWY 92-Travel west of Columbus Junction about 2 miles to County Road X17, Travel north on X17 about 1.5 miles to 165th street. Travel east/right on gravel 165th street to address. There will be field day signs at several intersections!