Upcoming Events

**Master Woodland Managers Field Day**
March 11, Lake Miami Park, Albia
This is an update for Master Woodland Managers in southern Iowa. Registration is required.

**Tri-State Forest Stewardship Conference**
March 18, Sinsinawa, WI
This annual Woodland Owners Conference has 30 concurrent workshops to choose from. Cost is $35. Registration is required before March 1.

**Shade Tree Short Course**
March 14-15, Ames, IA
This annual shade tree workshop is the premier educational event for shade tree care and maintenance. Choose from more than 30 workshops. Cost is $80.

**Forestry Field Day**
April 26, Decorah

**Master Woodland Manager Program**
May 11, 18, 25, June 1, 8, 15
This 32 hour course will be offered near Dubuque this spring. Enrollment is limited and application is required.

**Community Tree Steward Program**
Mason City May 22, 30, June 5, 12, 19, 26
Davenport May 23, 31, June 6, 13, 20 and 27
This 24 hour course on the care and maintenance of our urban forest resource is in great demand. Enrollment is limited and application is required.

For additional information and/or application forms for programs, please contact Forestry Extension by mail, phone (515-294-1168) or e-mail (phw@iastate.edu)

**Iowa’s Forest Health**
Each year, the Forests and Prairies Division of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources evaluates our woodlands and forests to determine the overall forest and tree health conditions.

The Gypsy moth continues to be the greatest potential threat to our forests. The pheromone trapping by the State Entomologist’s Office continued during the past summer. Adult male gypsy moth catches were down to 135 in 1999 compared to 371 catches in 1998. This represents a significant reduction in catches in NE Iowa. This drop may be attributed to either the extremely wet spring of 1999 or the reduced blow of ballooning larva from neighboring central and southwestern Wisconsin.

We continued to receive infested nursery stock other states. Eighty of the 135 total moths caught in Iowa are the result of infested nursery stock. Work continues to identify the outplantings of infected stock and take appropriate action.

During 1999, oak wilt was reported by DNR foresters on woodlands and urban forests in 63 of Iowa counties. Aerial surveys estimated that 1,719 acres were impacted by new oak wilt during 1999. Although all species of oaks are susceptible, the red oak group (black, red, northern pin and pin oaks) often die within a few weeks of infection. The white oaks (white, bur, swamp white and post oaks) are less susceptible to the disease, and the progression of the disease is much slower. Oak wilt is spread via root grafts and sap feeding beetles. Although there is no cure for oak wilt, control strategies such as...
Iowa Taxes

As tax time begins to come upon us, remember that even though forestry products are a minor product from our lands, Iowa has some of the best tax laws in the United States for the forest land owner.

Iowa’s Forest Reserve Law provides for zero property tax for qualifying forest properties in the state. The major requirements for this tax advantage are: at least two acres in size; not grazed by domestic livestock; have at least 200 growing trees per acre; and not providing any “non timber” income to the property owner. Application for Forest Reserve status must be filed with the county assessor’s office prior to April 15 of the year for which the exemption is claimed. Once the application is filed, it will remain in “Forest Reserve” status until the land use is changed. If the area is not maintained or if used for non-forestry economic gain for any of the exemption years and any of the five years following the exemption, the assessor shall assess the property for taxation at its fair market value. In addition, the area shall be subject to recapture tax for up to five years for which the area received tax exempt status.

Iowa income tax provisions also provide preferential treatment for timber income which qualifies for capital gains. Iowa’s income tax law provides for a 100% deduction of qualifying capital gains for tax year 1999. Qualifying capital gains from timber held for at least six years and those timber sales which qualify for capital gain treatment under section 123 of the Internal Revenue Code are eligible for this treatment.

Spring Cleaning

It is a bit difficult to think about “spring cleaning” with snow on the ground and temperatures hovering near zero. Why, my thoughts are just now turning toward maple sugaring time, which will no doubt be upon us by the time that you sit down to read this tip. But, the flow of the maple sap is a sure harbinger of spring, so maybe this isn’t such a bad time to think about springtime projects.

One of the most frequent questions that I get on the forest products help line is “how do I remove mold and mildew from my siding?” Although they do not really harm your wood, wood composition (e.g., hardboard) or vinyl siding, their grayish-black, sooty appearance definitely does detract from the beauty of your home. Certainly, the removal of unsightly mold and mildew from exterior siding is a spring cleaning chore, and a real must if your plans include painting. Paint simply doesn’t stick very well to dirt, grease, mold, or mildew.

There are quite a number of commercial siding-cleaning products on the market, available at your local hardware store or home center. For the cost-conscious, however, a simple home-brew solution will neatly do the trick for only pennies. Here’s a sure-fire recipe: mix 1/3 cup household detergent (dishwashing soap will do fine), 1-2 quarts of 5% sodium hypochorite (better known as liquid household bleach), and 2-3 quarts of warm water. CAUTION: Never mix bleach with any cleaner or detergent that contains ammonia, as deadly toxic gasses will be generated. Scrub the surface to be cleaned with a bristle brush or sponge, and then rinse with clean water. If you plan to paint, let the surface dry thoroughly before you proceed.

Doug Stokke, Assistant Professor of Forestry and Extension

Oak Tatters

Oak Tatters is a leaf condition, which has been observed throughout the Midwestern United States, including Iowa. This disorder was first reported as early as 1979 in Iowa. In 1999, a general survey had 38 Iowa counties reporting this disorder.

This condition affects primarily oaks of the white oak group, including white, bur, and swamp white. Red oak group (such as red, black and shingle oaks) are only occasionally affected. Hackberry and other tree species may show similar symptoms in some years in some areas. Newly emerged leaves of affected trees have reduce interveinal tissues, which gives leaves a lacy or tattered or “chewed” appearance. The damage appears at the time of leaf emergence, generally mid to late May. Within 2 or 3 weeks, heavily affected trees will usually produce a new flush of leaves that do not have tatters symptoms. It may affect all sizes and ages of scattered individual trees and whole stands of trees in woodlands or urban landscapes. Adjacent trees may be unaffected.

Oak Tatters appears to be caused by damage to leaf tissue in the bud, prior to leaf expansion in the spring. The actual cause is unknown, but some possibilities include injury by low temperatures, certain leaf-feeding insects, or herbicides. At this time it is not known if this disorder will have long term impacts on affected trees.
With the appointment of the new State Forester, Mike Brandrup, and retirements within the Forests and Prairies Division of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, there have been several changes in the personnel and in the areas of responsibility for the District Foresters.

**Forests and Prairies Division, Iowa Department of Natural Resources**

**Headquarters: Wallace State Office Building, Des Moines, IA 50319**

- Mike Brandrup, State Forester (Phone: 515/281-8657)
- James Bulman, Bureau Chief-State Forests and Nursery Bureau (Phone: 515/281-5441)
- John Walkowiak, Chief-Forestry Services Bureau (Phone: 515/242-5966)
- Dennis Michel, Rural Development Forester (Phone: 515/281-4924)
- Randy Cook, Urban Forester (Phone: 515/281-5600)
- Jean Eells, Prairies Specialist (515/832-1771)

**State Nursery: 2404 S. Duff, Ames, IA 50010 (Phone: 515/233-1161 or 800/865-2477)**

- Jerry Grebasch, Forestation & Nursery Forester
- Roger Jacob, State Lands/Forest Health Forester
- Gail Kantak, Wildlands Fire Supervisor/Conservation Education Forester
- Jerry Kemperman, Forestry Services Supervisor

**District Foresters**

- **District 1:** Bruce Blair, Box 662, Elkader 52043 (Phone: 319/245-1891)
- **District 2:** Gary Beyer, Box 4, Charles City 50616, Phone (515/228-6611)
- **District 3:** Robert Hibbs, 2501 S. Center St., Ste. I, Marshalltown 50158 (Phone: 515/752-3352)
- **District 4:** Steve Swinconos, Box 46, Anamosa 52205 (Phone: 319/462-2768)
- **District 5:** Stan Tate, 515 Townsend Ave., Wapello 52653 (Phone: 319/523-2216)
- **District 6:** Ray Lehn, Box 568, Fairfield 52556 (Phone: 515/472-2370)
- **District 7:** Duane Bedford, Box 119AA, Suite 4, Chariton 50049-9209 (Phone: 515/774-8733)
- **District 8:** George Warford, 1918 Greene St., Adel 50003 (Phone: 515/993-4133)
- **District 9:** Paul Tauke, Loess Hills State Forest, Box 157, Pisgah, IA 51564 (Phone: 712/456-2175)
- **District 10:** Joe Schwartz, 1100-12th St. SW, LeMars 51031 (Phone: 712/546-5161)
- **District 11:** Randy Goerndt, 500 E. Taylor, Creston 50801 (Phone: 515/782-6761)
- **District 12:** Wayne Fuhlbrugge, P.O. Box 232, 723 Seneca St., Webster City 50595 (Phone: 515/832-3585)

**Area Foresters**

- Jeff Goerndt, Stephens State Forest, RR 3, Chariton 50049 (Phone: 515/774-4559)
- Mark Tranmer, Shimek State Forest, Route 1 Box 95 Farmington 52626 (Phone: 319/878-3811)
- Brent Olson, Loess Hills State Forest, Box 158, Pisgah 51564 (Phone: 712/456-2924)
- Bob Honeywell, Yellow River State Forest, 729 State Forest Rd, Harpers Ferry 52146 (Phone: 319/586-2254)
Trees For Kids

Thanks to a successful ten-year private-public partnership, Trees for Kids and Trees for Teens programs continue to thrive across the state of Iowa. Since the program's beginning in 1990 (as part of the Earth Day 20th Anniversary celebration), Trees for Kids and Trees for Teens have assisted in the planting of over 530,500 trees, involving more than 300,000 students and teachers.

“The opportunity to be involved in the planning and caring of planting a tree is a wonderful experience that builds a real sense of responsibility (in students),” said Glen Lohman, Spencer Community Schools Superintendent. “Once a class plants a tree on the Spencer school grounds” said Lohman, “that class is responsible for its care until the end of the school year. When they come back the next year, they remember the tree and kind of protect it.”

Every spring teachers receive educational packets (designed by the TFK/TFT committee members) containing information about planting trees, a variety of in-class lessons and activities for students, and an educational poster.

The unique partnership between INLA nurseries and garden centers, local Iowa Bankers Association members and local Trees Forever committees provides participating teachers and their classes with landscape-size trees or shrubs at no cost.

Ron Herndon, of Herndon's Des Moines Seed & Nursery, supplies discounted trees and shrubs to schools participating in Trees for Kids/Teens. According to Herndon, “teaching kids how to properly plant and care for trees increases business.” “We are sending out a lot of ambassadors,” said Herndon. “There is a lot more to plant-

Trees for Kids and Trees for Teens are tree planting programs designed to educate elementary and secondary school students about the importance and value of trees. The program’s continuing mission is “to promote the value of trees to Iowa's youth by providing educational information with opportunities for tree planting and care.”

Funding and support for TFK and TFT is made possible by a cooperative partnership between the DNR Forests & Prairies Division, the Iowa Nursery & Landscape Association (INLA), the Iowa Bankers Association (IBA), Mid-American Energy, Peoples Natural Gas, Alliant Energy, the Iowa Wood Industry Association, the Iowa Conservation and Education Council (ICEC), Iowa Society of American Foresters (SAF), Trees Forever and Iowa State University Extension Forestry.

For additional information on TFK or TFT, contact Alicia Held, Trees for Kids coordinator at (515)281-4915, or John Walkowiak, Chief of Forestry Services 515)242-5966, or write to TFK, Forests & Prairies Division, Iowa DNR, Wallace State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0034.