Forestry Volunteers
Forestry Extension at Iowa State University and the Division of Forests and Prairies, Iowa Department of Natural Resources offer extensive training sessions in both urban & community forestry and traditional woodland management. Cooperators include Trees Forever, county conservation boards, and county extension offices.

The Community Tree Steward Program offers 24-hours of training over a six week period in urban and community forestry. Some of the training sessions include: selection, planting and care of landscape trees, care and maintenance of urban trees, pruning, community tree organization, community tree ordinances, inventory of community trees, assessment of hazard trees and many other urban and community forestry topics.

The Master Woodland Managers Program offers 32 hours of training over a six week period in management and care of woodlands in Iowa and the midwest. Some of the training sessions include: tree identification, biology and growth, inventory practices, wildlife management, insects and diseases, development of management plans and many other woodland management topics.

Participants of these programs receive materials and notebooks. There is no charge for either of these educational programs, but participants are expected to return service hours equal to the course hours to promote and improve the tree resources of the state. So far, the participants in 16 Community Tree Steward Programs have returned almost 11,000 hours of documented service and the Master Woodland Managers with 28 sessions, have contributed almost 17,000 hours of service.

For information about offerings for 2001, see “Upcoming Events” in this newsletter.

Upcoming Events

Tri-State Forest Stewardship Conference March 10, Sinsinawa Conference Center, Sinsinawa, WI
This annual Woodland Owners Conference for woodland owners in Iowa, Illinois and Wisconsin has 33 concurrent workshops to choose from. Cost is $35 ($30 for additional family members). Registration is required before March 1.

Tri-State Forest Stewardship Conference March 24, Quincy Holiday Inn Quincy, IL
This annual Woodland Owners Conference for woodland owners in Iowa, Illinois and Missouri has 15 concurrent workshops to choose from. Cost is $35 ($25 for additional family members). Registration is required before February 23.

Shade Tree Short Course March 13-14, Ames, IA
This annual shade workshop is the premier educational event for shade tree care and maintenance. Choose from more than 30 workshops Cost is $85.

Master Woodland Manager Program- May 10, 17, 24, 31, June 7, 14.
This 32 hour course will be offered in the Howard County area. Enrollment is limited and application is required.

Master Woodland Manager Program- August 14, 21, 28, September 4, 11, 18.
This 32 hour course will be offered in the Washington-Iowa City area. Enrollment is limited and application is required.

Community Tree Steward Program: Ft. Dodge Area (May 14, 21, 30, June 4, 11, and 18) and Washington-Iowa City Area (May 15, 22, 29 June 5, 12, and 19)
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.

**Community Tree Workshop** April 21, Nevada

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)

**New Extension Staff**

Chris Feeley is our new Extension Associate in Forestry. Chris has his B.S. degree in Forest Management and M.S. in Forestry with an emphasis in forest pest management from Iowa State University. Chris worked in the Plant Health Clinic as a diagnostian before joining forestry extension.

Chris’ responsibilities will include coordination of all urban and community forestry programs and youth education programs. Chris will oversee the Iowa Community Tree Steward Program, Iowa Community Tree Workshop, the Tree Steward Program for Youth, and respond to any other requests for programs and information.

Chris may be contacted at 228 Bessey Hall. Iowa State University, Ames, IA 50011-1021 Phone 515/294-6739; FAX 515/294-2995; e-mail: cfeeley@iastate.edu

**Southwest Iowa Forestry District Moves**

Effective February 1, 2001 the Southwest Iowa District Forester’s office will be moving from Pisgah, Iowa to Oakland, Iowa. The office will be located in the Golden Hills RC&D building. The District Forester will continue to serve Audubon, Cass, Pottawattamie, Mills, Montgomery, Page, Fremont, Monona, Harrison, and Shelby Counties.

The office will also be getting a new District Forester. Dave Asche has been assigned as District Forester for the Oakland District. Dave graduated from Iowa State University with a B.S. in Forest Management in 1993. Dave has formerly worked for Wright Tree Care, the Hamilton County Conservation Board, and as the City Forester for Burlington. He has also worked a private forestry consultant in Southeast Iowa.

Dave’s work responsibilities will include assisting private landowners in the management of their woodlands and prairies, providing forestry related information and education programs, and assisting communities with their urban forestry related problems. Dave will start his new assignment on February 1, 2001. He can be reached at 712 South HWY 6 Oakland, Iowa 51560. He can be reached by phone at 712/482-6245.

Paul Tauke, Forestry Supervisor, Iowa DNR

**State Forest Nursery has Seedlings Available**

The State Forest Nursery in Ames, Iowa has ample quantities of bottomland hardwoods, conifers, and shrubs available for your reforestation or wildlife plantings. Species still available include eastern red cedar, white spruce, jack pine, Scotch pine, red pine, green ash, black walnut, silver maple, willow, hybrid poplar, common lilac, gray dogwood, redosier dogwood, choke cherry, Nanking cherry, ninebark, elderberry, and Siberian crab.

There are also wildlife packets, songbird packs, and riparian buffer packets available for sale. Wildlife packets contain two hundred seedlings that are suitable for wildlife habitat. Songbird packets contain twenty seedlings that will make excellent songbird habitat. The riparian buffer packets contain trees and shrubs suited to bottomland riparian areas. Each riparian buffer packet contains enough seedlings to plant one acre of riparian buffer. For more information or to order seedlings contact the State Forest Nursery at 515/233-1161.

Paul Tauke, Forestry Supervisor, Iowa DNR

**Featured Shrub-Serviceberry**

The serviceberry (shadblow) genus (Amelanchier) comprises about 25 species of small trees and shrubs native to North America, of which, five are native to Iowa. The native species are *A. alnifolia* (Saskatoon), *A. sanguinea* (Roundleaf), *A. arborea* (Downy), *A. interior* (Inland) and *A. laevis* (Allegany). The range of their distribution varies: Allegany serviceberry is native to the eastern three fourths of the state; Downy is native to far SW, eastern counties along the Mississippi river and the southeastern tier of two counties; Saskatoon is native to the extreme NW counties; Roundleaf is scattered in far northern Iowa and Inland serviceberry is scattered in the counties near the Mississippi River. Serviceberries are
not uncommon in Iowa woodlands, but are normally not an abundant species.

The leaves are alternate, simple with fine-toothed margin and 1 1/2 to 2 inches in length. Leaves of Downy serviceberry are almost woolly, while other species have less hair. Twigs are slender, reddish brown to gray in color with sharp pointed buds. Bark is light gray and very smooth.

They grow in a variety of sites, although best growth is obtained on cool, moist woodlands. They usually grow as small multi-stemmed trees or more often as clumps of large shrubs or small trees. They are shade tolerant and often can be found in the under-story of other trees. They are one of the first woody plants to bloom in the spring, blooming before emergence of leaves in the wood-land. The first signs of spring are winter appearing forested hillsides with scattered under-story plants with a great display of white blooms. The small reddish colored fruit is prized by many species of wildlife including man for fresh eating or tasty preserves. Fall color varies a great deal, but ranges from shades of orange to rusty reds; in good seasons fall color can be outstanding.

The serviceberries have many common names, some with some interesting origins. Shadbush or shadblow may have originated from its blooming at about the same time that the shad run upstream to spawn; Juneberry because the berries are ripe in June; Serviceberry because of the timing of preachers visiting remote hollows for spring church and memorial services.

**America’s National Tree**

Iowa and the other 49 states and the District of Columbia have officially designated a State Tree. Iowa’s tree designated in 1961 is “oak”. Some suggest that the Iowa legislature in 1961 was indecisive in their decision making process.

Joe and the other 49 states and the District of Columbia have officially designated a State Tree. Iowa’s tree designated in 1961 is “oak”. Some suggest that the Iowa legislature in 1961 was indecisive in their decision making process.

The United States has several “Nationals”, including the emblem (bald eagle), anthem, motto, flower (rose), but does not have a National Tree. You now have an opportunity through the National Arbor Day Foundation to help designate the National Tree.

Voting for the National Tree will take place from January 1, 2001 through midnight, April 27, 2001. You may vote on line at <arborday.org> or by mail using a 3 x 5 card with your name, address and the tree of your choice. Mail the card to The National Arbor Day Foundation, Nebraska City, NE 68410.

**Wolf Tree**

Dr. Lawrence Mills of Pells, Iowa Woodland Owners Association member and director, wasn’t satisfied with a simple “wolf” tree definition provided by his local forester— a very large and wide spreading over-mature tree. Dr. Mills felt that such an interesting term deserved research into its origin.

Country Life (December 23/30, 1999), states “The proliferation of grey wolves in the 10th century is evident in
the English language. Wanted men on the run were declared ‘wulvesheafod’ and hung from a wolf’s-head tree, a term still used to describe one that overwhelms its neighbors.” Dr. Mills adds that wulvesheafod (wolf’s head) is of Old English or Saxon origin.

The next time you see a large, gnarled old bur oak with low, spreading limbs, consider the English highwayman and he origin of the term “wolf tree”.

Bob Hibbs, District Forester

Heating With Wood
High energy prices are beginning to increase interest in using wood for heating our homes. It can be a very viable option, but may not be a good choice for everyone.

In Iowa, 5 to 10 acres of well stocked woodlands has the potential to produce a continuous supply of firewood to heat the average, well insulated home. Remember when using wood, you must plan at least six months ahead, use good management practices with the woodlands, burn wood in safe, efficient wood burning equipment designed for the intended function, have the necessary processing equipment and have the time and labor to produced a supply of firewood.

Firewood production and woodland management do not necessarily conflict. Cultural practices to favor sawlog crop trees or a wildlife den tree or mast producer offer opportunities for secondary production of firewood. Removal of trees interfering or slowing growth of crop trees will result in firewood and increased growth and vigor of crop trees. Be careful to not overcut in the stand; mark the trees before cutting. Try to maintain full tree cover on the land; this will result in greater growth per acre and better utilization of the woodland. Contact your DNR District Forester for on site assistance in harvesting firewood and woodland improvement.

Retrieving firewood safely demands good judgement and an adequate awareness of potential hazards. Falling trees, removing limbs, bucking to firewood length and splitting requires skill and experience. Don’t work in the woods alone. Wear the proper clothing, and use protective gear. A hard hat, eye and ear protection, chainsaw chaps, protective gloves, and steel toed boots are the minimum for cutting firewood.

After felling and bucking, firewood may require splitting. Wood may be split with a splitting maul, maul and wedges or hydraulic splitters. Before use, wood should be air seasoned for at least the summer months. Stack the processed wood in an open area with good exposure to the sun and wind. Use a foundation to keep it off the wet ground and if possible cover the top of the pile to reduce wetting by rain and snow.

For more information of firewood production, contact Forestry Extension and ask for F-338 Firewood Volume Tables for Oak and F-370 Firewood Production. These publications are also available at Forestry Extension’s Web Site: http://www.ag.iastate.edu/departments/forestry/ext/pubs.html

Forestry Extension Staff
Iowa State University Forestry Extension Staff
Chris Feeley, Extension Associate, Urban and Community Forestry and Youth Programs
515/294-6739 e-mail cfeeley@iastate.edu
Doug Stokke, Extension Forester, Wood Products and Housing
515/294-2115 e-mail dstokke@iastate.edu
Paul Wray, Extension Forester, Woodland & Plantation Management
515/294-1168 e-mail phw@iastate.edu