Iowa Forestry Field Days
Forestry Extension, Iowa State University and the Division of Forests and Forestry, Iowa Department of Natural Resources in cooperation with County Extension Offices and County Conservation Boards, the Iowa Tree Farm Program, Iowa Woodland Owners Association, and others are providing educational Forestry Field Days at seven locations throughout Iowa this fall. The following is a listing of field day locations by dates, county, directions and topics to be covered. Some field days are provided without charge and some have a charge to recover our costs for lunches, refreshments and materials when provided. For most of you, this newsletter will be your only information about forestry field days.

SAVE IT AND POST IT

FLOYD COUNTY
August 21, 2003, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Lee & Darlyce Zimmer Tree Farm
Topics: Riparian Buffers-species, layout & design; Maintenance of Tree Plantings-weed control, gophers & deer; Woodland Renewal-recovery after grazing, under-planting, weed tree control, succession; Plantation Management-thinning, & crop tree release; Invasive Plants in Iowa Woodlands
Directions: From Floyd, take First Ave., west to Adam; North on Adam (becomes Quarry Road and the River Road) 2.5 miles to 1446 River Road
Cost: No Cost

WARREN COUNTY
September 19, 2003, 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Walnut Ridge Tree Farm
Topics: Production of Christmas Trees-species, shearing, planting & weed control, marketing retail & wholesale; Management of Black Walnut Plantations-sites and site selection, thinning and growth rates, pruning for timber quality; Viticulture: Grapes for Iowa-selection of varieties, trellis system pruning, cost of production, marketing; Tour and Tasting of the Wine at Summerset Winery
Directions: North of Indianola, from the junction of Hwys 69/65 and G36, east 3/4 mile on G36
Cost: $5.00 for refreshments and materials

TREE FARM/MONROE COUNTY
October 4, 2003, 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Soap Creek Tree Farm
Topics: Bandsaw Milling Farm Lumber-Iowa species, lumber quality; Prairies-plant ID, management; Cost Share Update; Marketing Timber; Forest Health and Invasive Plant Update; Iowa’s Tree Farm of the Year for 2003; Management of Pine Plantations; Hardwood Management-thinning, pruning, stocking, weed trees, crop trees
Directions: From Blakesburg, 1/4 mile south, turn right on gravel 255th Street, 3 miles; turn left on 710th avenue 1 mile; turn right on 264th Street, 1/2 mile to the Tree Farm.
Cost: $10 for coffee, lunch and materials

LEE COUNTY/SHIMEK STATE FOREST
October 7, 2003, 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
The Barn Shelter
Topics: Small Group Woodland Management-woodland prescriptions, woodland improvement, tree identification; CRP Update; Market Update; Seed Identification; Forestry Power Equipment; Pathology Update-oak wilt, tatters, ash decline; Direct Seeding: Rows and Broadcast-site preparation, seed collection techniques, seeding methods, weed control
Directions: From Farmington, east on J56 approximately 3 miles to Forest Road; south on Forest Road 1 mile to the Barn.
Cost: $8.00 for donuts, coffee, lunch and materials

ALLAMAKEE COUNTY/YELLOW RIVER STATE FOREST
October 9, 2003, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Headquarters, Yellow River State Forest
Topics: State Forest and Management-history and plan, trails, campgrounds and facilities; Grouse Management in Iowa; Woodlands and Non-Game Birds; Invasive Plants and Their Control; The Big Tree Program in Iowa; Chain Saws-safety, operation, felling; Log Quality and Log Grades; Marketing Timber.
Directions: 5 miles SE of Rossville on Hwy 76 to B25; 4 miles NE on B25 to the Headquarters.
Cost: $7 for coffee, lunch and materials
UNION COUNTY
October 14 2003, 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Dan and Vicki Fogle Tree Farm
Topics: Riparian Tree Plantings-tree planting, hand and machine; plantation maintenance; Management of Pine Plantations-thinning, diseases of pines; Management of Hardwood Plantations-thinning, pruning for log quality, crop tree selection & release
Directions: From Creston, west on Hwy 34 approximately 3.5 miles to Clover Ave; south on Clover Ave to 240th St; east on 240th St to 1254-240th St.
Cost: No Charge

JOHNSON COUNTY
October 17, 2003, 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Bob & Carolyn Howe Tree Farm
Topics: Planning for Plantations-soils and species, layout and species mix; Caring for Hardwood Plantations-crop tree thinning, crown competition thinning, pruning for quality; Health Issues in Plantations-oak wilt, pine wilt; Invasive Plants in Woodlands; Woodland Ponds and Watersheds; Deer Damage and Fencing
Directions: In Iowa City from the intersection of I-80 and Hwy 1; north on Hwy 1 to Newport Rd NE; west on Newport Rd NE to Sugar Bottom Rd; north on Sugar Bottom Road to 2284 Sugar Bottom Rd.
Cost: No Charge

DNR/Wagner/Wenger Field Day
Wenger Tree Farm
September 13, 9:30-12:30
Topics: Ponds and Wetlands; Federal and State Cost Share Programs; Thinning in Tree Plantations; Pond Management-stocking, aquatic weed control, managing for habitat and recreation.
Lunch Will Be Provided at 12:30
Directions: From the Hills exit on HWY 218 south of Iowa City; west and south on Observatory Ave SE to 540th; west on 540th to the first drive on the south.
Cost: No Charge

2003 Iowa Outstanding Tree Farmers
Irv and Marilyn Faber from Moravia have been selected as the Outstanding Tree Farmer for Iowa in 2003. They were nominated for this award by District Forester, Duane Bedford. They will be recognized and honored at the Iowa Tree Farm Field Day at their Tree Farm on October 4, 2003. For more information, see “Field Days” in this issue of the WON.

The first 80 acres of the 284 acre Tree Farm was purchased in 1967 by Irv and Marilyn. This tract was initially purchased by Irv’s grandparents in the 1930’s. The remaining parcels of the tree farm have been added over the years.

The Fabers have been active in the management of their Tree Farm since its acquisition. They have been growing Christmas trees since their first planting in 1968. From their 100 acres of Christmas trees, they wholesale more than 1500 and retail more than 400 Christmas trees each year. Other forest management activities have included: Walnut plantation establishment; pruning some of the 1978 plantings of white and red pine and Norway spruce; crop tree release and pruning in the native woodlands;

Irv and Marilyn work hard with nature. They have worked to improve some native prairie on their Tree Farm, through burning and the addition of local ecotype prairie forb seed. They purchased a Corley circular sawmill in 1990, and have over the years cut most of the lumber needed for the addition and remodeling of their home. Their four daughters have benefited from Dad’s interest in wood and woodworking and continue to present him with projects from dressers to tables. They recently purchased a Wood-Mizer sawmill, and continue to add to the lumber stockpile.

The Faber’s are contributors to their community. During the past ten years they have contributed trees for planting...
at the Moravia schools and the city park. Irv takes time each year to work with the high school class with tree plantings and care and maintenance of the shade trees at the school. Irv has been recognized twice with the City of Moravia’s, Good Citizen Award.

The Faber’s are outstanding promoters of wood natural resource management. They recently hosted the joint Iowa-Missouri Christmas Tree Growers Association annual summer meeting. They have been hosts for a Forestry Field Day in 2001. Irv is a member of the Trees Forever Committees in both Moravia and Blakesburg and is a graduate of the Master Woodland Manager’s Program at Lake Miami in 1999.

Irv and Marilyn Faber are indeed Outstanding Tree Farmers for Iowa. **Congratulations Irv and Marilyn**

Central Region Woodland Stewardship Conference
The Fourth Annual Woodland Stewardship Conference for Landowners in Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska, and Kansas will be November 8, 2003 at the Lied Conference Center, Nebraska City, Nebraska. Cost for the conference is $30 and includes the buffet lunch. Concurrent workshops in the following areas will be presented: Woodland Management, Wildlife and Prairies, Working Trees, and Tree Health and Care. There are also optional Pre-Conference tours on Friday, November 7.

For registration materials contact Forestry Extension, 251 Bessey Hall, Iowa State University, Ames, IA 50011 phone (515-294-1168) or e-mail (phw@iastate.edu). Registration materials may also be obtained at: [http://www.ag.iastate.edu/departments/forestry/ext/fep.html](http://www.ag.iastate.edu/departments/forestry/ext/fep.html)

10th National Tree Farmer Convention
This years National Tree Farm Convention is October 16-19 in Columbus, Ohio. The Ohio Tree Farm Committee has assembled a great meeting including concurrent educational sessions and a tour of the award winning Lawhon Tree Farm in Knox County. In addition there are optional pre and post meeting tours of lumber and veneer processes and an opportunity for individual tours with Ohio Tree Farmers.

For more information and registration information visit the Tree Farm Web Site: [www.treefarmsystem.org](http://www.treefarmsystem.org).

Featured Shrub-Prickly Ash
Prickly ash or toothache tree (*Xanthoxylum americanum*) is a small, 5-9 feet tall woodland and woodland edge shrub. It may be the most common woodland shrub in Iowa, found throughout the state in native woodlands. Its natural range is from Canada to Virginia and Nebraska. It typically is found as mostly a single stem shrub, and may form very extensive thickets because it reproduces both from seed and from root sprouts.

Prickly ash leaves are pinnately compound, with 5-11 leaflets, which are ovate in shape, softly hairy below, with an obtuse apex. The lateral leaflets are with out a stalk while the terminal leaflet has a short stalk or petiole. Twigs are brown and covered with pairs of thorns at each node. Buds are rounded, red in color, and covered with wooly hairs. The small greenish flowers appear in April before the leaves emerge. The fruits form a very dense cluster along the twig, maturing in August. The fruit is a follicle, red when mature, very aromatic with one or two shiny black seeds.

Prickly ash is very tolerant of a wide range of soils conditions. It grows on moist sites as well as hot, dry locations. It is shade tolerant, often occupying a significant portion of the understory of our native woodlands.
As a member of the citrus family, when the leaves or fruit is crushed, the released oils are very aromatic and smell like citrus fruits. The fruits and bark contain alkaloids and other compounds making the useful in herbal remedies for various problems. The name “toothache tree” is because the fruits numb the mouth and lips when chewed, and was used by early settlers to relieve the pain. Caution is advised with this use, because of adverse reactions may occur in some individuals.

**Marketing Timber**

Late summer and early fall is an ideal time to consider marketing timber. This is the time of the year loggers and sawmills want to purchase timber for winter harvesting. Each year many landowners receive substantial earnings by properly marketing mature trees from their woodland. However, many other woodland owners receive only a fraction of the real value for their timber because they do not follow recommended marketing guidelines. Iowa State University has an extension pamphlet available which provides appropriate guidelines for marketing timber which should assist the landowner in securing full value for his product. “Marketing Iowa Timber” is available at County Extension Offices as extension pamphlet, Pm-413.

First, secure the services of a professional forester to help manage your woodland and market your timber. In Iowa, the Department of Natural Resources has District Foresters stationed at 12 locations across the state to provide on-the-ground assistance to landowners interested in managing their woodland resources. In addition, there are several private consulting foresters doing business in the state who provide professional services for a fee.

Second, maintain control of your woodland during the harvesting and marketing process. Make sure that you, in consultation with your professional forester, select the trees to market; don’t allow timber buyers to choose the trees to be harvested. Selling young, small diameter, rapidly growing, high quality trees is not recommended. For example, high value species such as walnut or oak can earn a very rate of return as they grow from a diameter or 16 inches to 22 inches or larger. In the process of adding six inches in diameter, the volume of the first 16-foot log will double and the value per unit of volume may triple or quadruple; this growth may increase the value of the larger tree by a factor of six or eight. Walnut and oaks growing on high quality sites may be expected to increase in diameter at the rate of one-half inch per year.

Third, sell your timber as standing trees, and secure competitive bids from bonded timber buyers. Advertise the trees that you have marked to as many bonded buyers as possible, and invite sealed bids for the timber. Reserve the right to reject any or all bids. Iowa State University Extension has a sample “Notice of Timber for Sale” available at County Extension Offices as Pm-413a.

Fourth, sign a legal contract with the successful bidder, and make sure that full payment is received before harvest begins. Iowa State University Extension also has a sample “Timber Sale Contract” which is also available from County Extension Offices. Monitor the logging operation, and make sure the logger understands that your woodland is important to you and that minimal damage will be appreciated.

*Contributed by Dean Prestemon, Professor Emeritus, Iowa State University*

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The Electronic Woodland Owners Newsletter

Postage and paper cost continues to rise, making it more difficult for us to provide this newsletter. It is available on our Forestry Extension Web Site at: [http://www.ag.iastate.edu/departments/forestry/ext/nletter.html](http://www.ag.iastate.edu/departments/forestry/ext/nletter.html)

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