Upcoming Events

Shimek Forestry Field Day
This full day event is being held on October 3, 2006. The topics and speaker have not been set. Registration starts at 8:30-9:30. For more information on this event, or to be added to a mailing list, please contact:
Bob Dodds (Director)
Iowa State University Extension, Lee County
PO Box 70
Donnellson, IA 52625-0070
319-835-5116
redodds@iastate.edu

Yellow River Forestry Field Day
This full day event is being held on October 3, 2006. The topics and speaker have not been set. Registration starts at 8:30-9:30. For more information on this event, or to be added to a mailing list, please contact:
Gary Beyer
Iowa DNR District Forester
621 Beck St
Charles City, IA 50616
641-228-6611
gary.beyer@dnr.state.ia.us

Master Woodland Manager Program 2007
Spring 2007 will be hosted in Fremont, Montgomery, Mills, and Page Counties.
The dates will be May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 and June 7. The classes are from 6:00-10:00 pm.

Fall 2007 will be hosted in Davis, Jefferson, Van Buren, and Wapello Counties.
The dates will be August 21, 28 and September 4, 11, 18, and 25. The classes are from 6:00-10:00 pm.

Please check the Forestry Extension web page for more information as the meeting sites are set http://www.forestry.iastate.edu/ext/mwm.html or call 515-294-1458 for more information after the first of the year.

2006 Iowa Tree Farmer of the year
Chuck and Marian Edelen have been named Iowa’s Tree Farmers of the Year by the Iowa Tree Farm Committee. They will be recognized at a forestry field Day at their Tree Farm on September 14. Their farm is located east of Forest City, three miles south of Pilot Knob State Park and in the north part of Hancock County.

The Edelen Tree Farm is a 131 acre farm. Twenty acres of walnut and pine seedlings were planted by Chuck’s father Walter Edelen in 1986. In 1991 Chuck inherited the farm and has continued to plant trees and improve the conservation practices on the land.

Chuck and Marian, Master Woodland Managers, have hosted several forestry field days and annually partner with the Forest City High School for Arbor Day education and tree plantings. Edelen also continues to promote good forest practice by speaking to service clubs and groups in the area.

Edelen works closely with his Iowa DNR District Forester, Wayne Fuhlbrugge of Webster City, the Natural Resource Conservation Service, the Farm Service Agency and John Olds, private forester to enhance the property. “It’s a partnership that is very important to me. The people that I work with are all concerned with long term forest development, wildlife management and proper land usage. Managing a young Tree Farm is a lot like making a long term investment,” Chuck said, “it takes patience and time to see the results, but the rewards are very satisfying.”

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
University Extension

Ames, Iowa
FUNDRAISING EFFORT PLANNED TO HONOR ISU’S PAUL WRAY

For more than 30 years, Iowa State University professor Paul Wray has been the “go to” guy for statewide answers in forest management and urban and community forestry.

On June 1, Wray retired. Now an effort has been organized to raise $25,000 to establish a Paul Wray Endowment Fund at Iowa State that will support future extension forestry programs. Wray’s academic home, the Department of Natural Resource Ecology and Management, is leading the effort.

“Paul Wray’s name is practically synonymous with forestry extension and education in the state of Iowa,” said David Engle, chair of the department. “Paul’s philosophy has been that education will improve the stewardship of Iowa’s natural resources. Through this endowment, we hope to help ensure a strong extension program that continues this philosophy and honors a long, distinguished career at Iowa State.”

Although he’s officially retired, Wray still plans to maintain ties to extension programs in the Department of Natural Resource Ecology and Management. And this fall, he’ll teach a forestry course in ISU’s College for Seniors, an educational program for people age 50 or older.

Earlier this year ISU’s College of Agriculture honored Wray, who has been a faculty member since 1975, with the Outstanding Achievement in Extension Award. He has provided valuable expertise in forestry management, biology, windbreaks, urban and community forestry. He has coordinated forestry field days, woodland stewardship conferences, Master Woodland Manager’s Program and countless forestry education programs. Wray earned his bachelor’s degree in forestry and Ph.D. in forest biology, both at Iowa State.

Here’s how to contribute to the Paul Wray Endowment Fund: Send your check made payable to the Iowa State University Foundation, 2505 Elwood Drive, Ames, IA 50010-8644, and reference the Paul Wray Endowment Fund in the memo section. For more information, contact Kim Peter, (515) 294-1118.

Iowa Forestland Acres Increase but Oak Forest Acres Continue to Decline

The recently released US Forest Service forest inventory data had mixed news for Iowa. The good news is that Iowa’s forested acres reached 2.7 million in 2003 – the most since 1954. The bad news is that even though there was an increase in forested acres, the number of acres of oak forest has continued to decline.

“The comeback of Iowa’s forested acres has really been amazing when you consider that we have gained over one million acres in just thirty years,” said Paul Tauke, forestry supervisor with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. He said much of the increase is due to changes in the cattle industry.

“In the late 1970s, Iowa’s cattle industry contracted, resulting in fewer cattle grazing Iowa’s pastures and woodlands. Without the cattle eating and trampling young tree seedlings, these areas have converted back to woodland,” he said.

But this increase in forested acres has not included an increase in the acres of oak forests.

The 2004 inventory data showed only 927,000 acres of oak remain in the state, down nearly 300,000 acres since 1954. On average, Iowa has lost about 5,800 acres of oak annually since 1954. Historically oak-hickory forests have made up the largest single forest type throughout the state. If current trends continue, a combination of mixed upland hardwood and maple basswood forests will eclipse oak as the predominant forest type in the state. Within the next 15 to 20 years the oak, Iowa’s state tree, will no longer be the king of the woods.

The loss of acres is primarily due to the lack of forest management practices to regenerate and perpetuate oak forests. According to Tauke, most woodland owners do not realize their forests need to be actively managed. This neglect is responsible for the continuing loss of oak forests.

Oak forests need to be managed because oak seedlings will not survive in the shade of other trees, while species such as hard maple, ironwood, bitternut hickory and elm are very tolerant of shade. Prior to eastern-European settlement prairie fires swept into woodland areas eliminated or reduced shade tolerant species within the woods and gave oak a competitive advantage. When Iowa’s fire disturbance cycle was broken and the fire driven ecosystem was replaced with agriculture, oaks were in a position to dominate many woodland
sites. These sites eventually grew up to be today’s oak forests and it is these sites that are now converting to shade tolerant mixed hardwoods. In the absence of disturbance, when larger oak trees are harvested or die, the smaller shade tolerant trees occupying the forest’s mid-layer and floor layer take over and eventually become the dominant trees in the forest.

Iowa foresters are concerned about the steady loss of oak woodlands because oak trees provide a number of benefits. Oak acorns are feed deer, turkey, squirrels, blue jays and other wildlife. Oak forests provide cover and roosting habitat for wildlife. Oak logs are highly prized around the world for furniture, cabinets and veneer. The oak forest ecosystem is home to dozens of species of woodland wildflowers and forbs which stabilize hillsides and improve our water quality.

“If the oak resource continues to shrink there will be significant negative impact on our wildlife populations, our water quality, and our economy. I would also expect an increase in crop damage as acorn dependent wildlife species seek other food sources to supplement their diet,” Tauke said.

The positive news is that it is not too late to reverse the trend, but it will take action and the application of scientific based forest management principles that reintroduce disturbance into Iowa woodlands.

“Perpetuating oak forests will take a commitment from our woodland owners. It may also take the political realization that oak forests provide societal benefits that extend beyond the borders of the woodlot and that society, as well as the individual landowner, need to invest in that future oak forest,” Tauke said.

To get assistance in assessing and stewarding your forest resources contact your Iowa DNR District Forester. To locate your forester on the web log on to www.iowadnr.com/forestry/district.html or call 515/242-6898.

2006 Emerald Ash Borer Update for Iowa
By Mark Shour, Extension Entomologist, Iowa State University

Iowa State University Extension is in its third year of a collaborative effort to survey the state of Iowa for a destructive, exotic insect pest. The emerald ash borer, Agrilus planipennis, was first discovered in Detroit, MI in 2002, and has killed more than 15 million ash trees in Michigan. Scientists estimate that emerald ash borer has been in the United States for 10-15 years, quietly acclimating to its new home and building up populations. Pockets of damaging activity for this exotic beetle have also been found in Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and Windsor, Ontario, Canada. Cost to affected municipalities, property owners, plant nurseries, and forest products industries are in the tens of millions of dollars.

Other collaborators in this project include the Iowa Department of Natural Resources – Forestry Bureau, the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship – State Entomologist Office, the United States Department of Agriculture – Forest Service and the United States Department of Agriculture – Plant Protection Quarantine division.

2005 Survey Results
During summer 2005, visual surveys were conducted in each of Iowa’s 99 counties. More than 1300 ash trees in 238 sites (cities, towns, near sawmills or other wood products industries, and in various recreational areas) were observed for the signs and symptoms of emerald ash borer activity. Although several instances of native boring insects were recorded, emerald ash borer was not found.

Also in 2005, sentinel/“trap” trees were established at 12 sites across central and eastern Iowa before Memorial Day. Approximately half of these were 2” caliper green or white ash trees in containers. They were planted in campgrounds where natural stands of ash trees were limited. The trees were removed from their plastic pots and put in the ground, but in a shallow hole to mimic drought stress. Other trap trees were created by double girdling ash trees (4 – 13” diameter) where native ash stands were plentiful. Because sex pheromones (‘perfume’) are not known for the emerald ash borer, an intentionally stressed tree is thought to be more attractive to insect borers.

During October 2005, the 48 sentinel trees were cut down, bark peeled following the USDA Forest Service protocol for this insect, and any borer larvae were preserved. Approximately two-thirds of the trap trees displayed evidence of destructive insect activity. Fortunately, only native borers were found. The insect
species found included the redheaded ash borer, the ash/lilac borer, two types of bark beetles, and a native flatheaded borer.

2006 Efforts Underway
The survey team for 2006 is in the process conducting visual surveys in federal, state, and county campgrounds in Iowa and of revisiting sawmills and wood product sites. Emerald ash borer posters have been placed on bulletin boards in major highway rest areas and campgrounds. Sixty-eight trap trees were established by Memorial Day at campgrounds easily accessible from major highways. Campgrounds are considered the highest risk sites in the state because the emerald ash borer moves long distance in firewood.

Concern about interstate movement of firewood into Iowa was confirmed this past summer. Campers bringing firewood from MI, IN, and OH were observed at a federal campground in Iowa; the park managers exchanged the firewood for local wood. The author examined 5 bundles of firewood from the aforementioned states and, fortunately, emerald ash borer was not found.

How You Can Help
There are several things you can do to assist in looking for the emerald ash borer in Iowa:

- Know the signs and symptoms of emerald ash borer activity.
  - Emerald ash borer adults are dark, metallic and emerald green beetles, measuring one-half inch long and one-sixteenth of an inch wide.
  - White larvae feed under the bark of ash trees and produce “S-shaped” tunnels.
  - Adults leave “D-shaped” emergence holes on ash tree trunks. Native borers leave round or oval holes.
  - Symptomatic trees display thinning and dieback of the upper one-third of the crown. Root and stem suckers (“water sprouts” or epicormic shoots) are produced by affected ash trees directly below borer activity.
  - A photographic gallery for the emerald ash borer can be found at [www.insectimages.org](http://www.insectimages.org)

- Obtain an emerald ash borer poster and post it on a bulletin board in your workplace. Posters as well as wallet-size cards are available through Iowa Department of Natural Resources – Forestry Bureau and Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship – State Entomologist Office.

- Bookmark your Web browser and keep up with current research and survey findings in MI, IN and OH: [http://www.emeraldashborer.info](http://www.emeraldashborer.info)

- Report suspected sightings of emerald ash borer adults or symptomatic trees to the State Entomologist’s office, any local Iowa State University Extension office, or any district forester with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. Remember, there are native insect borers that colonize declining or dying ash trees and are not of special concern. There are also several insects that can be mistaken for the emerald ash borer. Check out: [http://www.emeraldashborer.info/files/e-2939.pdf](http://www.emeraldashborer.info/files/e-2939.pdf) for more information.