New ISU Extension Forester

I am pleased to introduce Dr. Jesse Randall as the new ISU Extension Forester. Jesse will be continuing to teach many of the same programs that Dr. Paul Wray has taught over the years, in addition to many new programs. Jesse will officially start at Iowa State University on February 2, 2007. Keep checking the Forestry Extension webpage to learn more about Dr. Jesse Randall and his upcoming programs.

Upcoming Programs

Master Woodland Manager Program Spring 2007 will be hosted in Fremont, Montgomery, Mills, and Page County. The dates will be May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, and June 7.

Master Woodland Manager Program 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.

Society of American Foresters Legislative Breakfast Tuesday February 6, 2007 at 7:00 am in Legislative Dining Room. Contact John Walkowiak at 515-242-5966 for more information.

Please check the Forestry Extension web page for more information on all of our upcoming programs at http://www.forestry.iastate.edu or call Dr. Jesse Randall at 515-294-1168.

TAUKE NAMED NEW STATE FORESTER

In November 2006, Paul Tauke was named State Forester by then Iowa Department of Natural Resources Director Jeff Vonk. According to Ken Herring, Division Administrator for the DNR’s Conservation and Recreation Division, as Iowa’s State Forester, Tauke’s most important duties will be to act as an advocate for Iowa’s forestry resources, for the Department and for the Forestry Bureau. “His role will be one of advocacy, technical knowledge, and policy level decision making for the DNR,” said Herring.

Tauke will be the Conservation and Recreation Division’s representative to the Iowa Natural Resources Conservation Service’s State Technical Committee where he will serve with other policy level representatives from a wide variety of commodity and conservation interests. Tauke will also work to coordinate the private landowner assistance programs within the DNR.

Tauke will continue to supervise Iowa’s 16 District Foresters and as State Forester will serve on the staff of Forestry Bureau Chief John Walkowiak.
2007 National Black Walnut Council Meeting Coming to Dubuque

The 2007 National Black Walnut Council Meeting will be held in Dubuque on July 29th through August 1st. The meeting will be held at the Grand Harbor Resort in Dubuque with a field tour and forestry fair to be held at New Melleray Abbey south of Peosta.

The meeting kicks off on Sunday with a welcome from John Walkowiak, Chief of the Iowa DNR Forestry Bureau, Barbara Luchsinger, National Walnut Council President, and Calvin Gatch, Iowa President of the Walnut Council. The evening continues with a presentation from Mark Wagner, Iowa River History Museum Curator, on the historical impact of the Mississippi River on the Dubuque and the surrounding area.

Monday morning’s field day at New Melleray includes a direct seeding tour, a field discussion on the natural history of oak in the driftless area and a field lesson in black walnut grading. The highlight of the morning will be a live field demonstration of the newest tree harvesting technology from John Deere’s Forestry Equipment Division. Following the live demonstration, field day participants will be able to get up close and personal with the biggest and best timber harvesting equipment that John Deere has to offer. For those that want to test their skill operating the harvester, John Deere will have their harvesting simulator running in the exhibit room back at Grand Harbor.

Following lunch, provided by the ladies of Holy Family Parish, there will a brief history of the Abbey and Forestry Fair. At the Forestry Fair, field day participants will be able to tour Trappist Caskets, take a self guided tour of Brother Placid’s nut orchard, watch a Lucas Mill Demonstration, tour the Monastery, and/or see an invasive species equipment demonstration. After that it’s back on the busses and back to the motel for supper on your own and a landowner show and tell hosted by Larry Krotz.

Tuesday’s agenda includes concurrent sessions on the history of Iowa’s forest resource, hardwood insect and disease problems, wildlife protection, walnut grafting, Iowa’s walnut improvement program, backyard woods, crop tree release, timber sale advice, stave production, and woodland IRAs. Business meetings and a banquet finish off the evening.

Wednesday concludes the meeting with sessions on the latest wood technology updates from the Forest Service Forest Product Lab, exotic invasive species management, hardwood tree improvement, and state chapter reports.

To register for the meeting contact Liz Jackson at jackson@purdue.edu or 765-583-3501 or snail mail Liz Jackson Walnut Council Inc, West Lafayette, Indiana 47906-9431. Registration before June 15, 2007 is $110 for adults and $60 for children. Late registration is an additional $25 and an additional $50 at the door. For motel reservations contact the Grand Harbor at 563-690-4000 or toll free at 1-800-690-4006. Room rates are $80 for a single or double. Ask for the Walnut Council rate when making reservations.
Greetings From New DNR District Forester

Hello, my name is Lisa Hoffmann and I am the new district 5 forester, replacing Stan Tate after his retirement. I am happy and excited to continue the great relationship that Stan had with the landowners and their resource, and I am eager to involve new people in my areas of Louisa, Henry, Des Moines, and Lee counties. I am from Moline, Illinois and I received my forestry degree from Southern Illinois University. I have had the opportunity to work in both non-profit and municipal positions before joining the DNR. I worked at the State Forest Nursery for over a year before transferring to this new position. In my free time I am hiking or spending time on the river. I’ll look forward to meeting Iowa Woodland Owners Association members, hopefully out in the woods!

Retired District Forest Stan Tate and New District Forester Lisa Hoffmann

Plants From Communities Invading Many Iowa Woodlands

Iowa’s woodlands are a place to pick morel mushrooms, a place to see beautiful wildflowers, a variety of wildlife, and a place to see an array of fall colors. Currently, the beauty and quality of Iowa’s woodlands is being threatened by a variety of exotic (non-native) plants such as exotic honeysuckle, barberry, buckthorn, burning bush euonymus, privet, and Norway maple (in some eastern Iowa locations). Many of these plants are common ornamental plants that are planted in landscape projects throughout the state. Exotic plants such as the ones listed above are a threat to our woodlands because they are very invasive (aggressive), and they out-compete the native vegetation for space. The reduction of native plants within our woodlands can negatively impact wildlife that depends on specific habitats, and it can also reduce the overall quality and balance of native woodlands.

For example, exotic honeysuckle is a shrub that can be introduced into a forested area by birds. This multi-stemmed shrub can grow 8 to 15 feet tall, and it can have a spread up to 10 feet wide. This plant can be so aggressive that invaded woodlands are often very difficult to even walk through. Two common exotic honeysuckles found in Iowa’s woodland include Amur (Lonicera maackii) and Tatarian (Lonicera tatarica). Both of these plants leaf-out early in the spring before most of the native shrubs. Flowers on different selections of these two plants can be white, pinkish-red, or yellow while fruit colors can be red or yellowish-orange.

When trying to eliminate woody invasives such as exotic honeysuckle in woodlands, pulling is a good technique on plants smaller than 3 feet tall. The best control method for larger plants is to cut the plants in the fall, and treat the stumps immediately with a registered herbicide to prevent re-sprouting. A good way to prevent invasive plants such as exotic honeysuckle from over-taking Iowa’s woodlands is to select plants for your next landscape project that are native or are not known to be invasive.

Mark Vitosh, District Forester, Iowa DNR
Mark.Vitosh@dnr.state.ia.us
EQIP AND IOWA FORESTRY

The Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) is the flagship conservation program for the Iowa Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Iowa Agricultural producers. The 2002 Federal Farm Bill clearly states that sixty percent of EQIP funding must be made available to address practices relating to livestock production. The Farm Bill also expanded the definition of “eligible lands” to include “private, nonindustrial forest land”.

Iowa NRCS receives about twenty million dollars annually in EQIP cost-share dollars. In 2006 Iowa’s 138,000 forest landowners have received about four-tenths of one percent of the State’s EQIP allocation.

According to Larry Beeler, Assistant State Conservationist in charge of Programs, the distribution of EQIP dollars is a locally led process. When asked how forest landowners might better access EQIP funding, Beeler added, “My suggestions would be for landowners to contact the local NRCS office and make sure they are invited to the next public meeting to discuss resource conditions/concerns in the district. Usually this meeting is referred to a local work group (LWG) meeting, the purpose of the meeting is to discuss forestland issues and get “buy in” from commissioners. They may also write the commissioners or attend a regular SWCD meeting which may be a very good alternative to the LWG meeting”.

The implications of Beeler’s message are clear. If forest landowners want to access and receive EQIP dollars it is incumbent upon them to get organized, get involved, and get vocal at the local level to raise the awareness of the importance of the forest resource within their county.

When raising the issue of EQIP and forestry, landowners need to keep in mind that each county does have the option of directing a portion of their county EQIP allocation to specific resource concern areas. Jones County, for example, earmarked over $25,000 of their county EQIP allocation to forestry practices in 2006 and has indicated that they will reserve $25,000 to $50,000 in 2007.

The take home message is that while the meek may inherit the earth, they will not be inheriting any EQIP dollars. If forest landowners want EQIP dollars to improve the condition of their forest resource, they are going to have to be a bit wilder and a whole lot less mild.

Paul Tauke
State Forester