TAUKE NAMED FORESTRY CHIEF

On July 13 2007 Paul Tauke was named Chief of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources Forestry Bureau. Previous to being named Chief of Forestry, Tauke served as the Supervisor of Iowa’s sixteen private lands field foresters. Tauke has also worked as a District Forester in southwest Iowa’s Oakland Forestry District, as a consulting forester in Southeast, as an assistant District Forester in the Charles City and Elkader Forestry Districts and as a Service Forester in western Oklahoma. Tauke graduated from Iowa State University in 1988 with a degree in forestry and a minor in biology. He currently lives in Desoto, Iowa with his wife Colleen and their four children Joe, Andy, Caitlin and Leo.

Upcoming Meetings & Forestry Field Days
Further details related to each field day will be posted on the ISU Forestry Extension website when they become available.

Jefferson County
April 29th – 8:45a.m. to 4 p.m.

Cass County
May 6th – 1p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Fayette County
May 21st – 1p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Boone County
Iowa SAF meeting & Field day with National Wild Turkey Federation
May 23rd – 9a.m. to 4:30p.m.

New Marshalltown District Forester

Greetings everyone! My name is Joe Herring, and in August I took over for the recently retired Bob Hibbs as District Forester in Marshalltown. I am both honored and excited to begin this tremendous new journey.
I grew up in Earlham, Iowa and received a B.S. in Forestry and M.S. in Water Resources from Iowa State University. Although the Western U.S. can be tempting to a forester just out of school, I’ve always preferred the diverse natural resources and people of my home state. My wife Emily is also from Iowa and is a naturalist with the Hardin County Conservation Board in Iowa Falls.

For the past 14 months I have been working in the Watershed Improvement Section in DNR’s central office. This experience has provided me with a unique perspective on managing Iowa’s landscape for water quality objectives, but has made me more eager than ever to get out in the field and work with landowners one-on-one. My other experiences include working as a Research Associate and Instructor in the Natural Resource Ecology and Management Dept. at ISU, managing our family’s 110-acre timber in Ringgold County, and private woodland consulting.

In District 3, I will cover Jasper, Poweshiek, Iowa, Story, Marshall, Tama, Benton, Grundy, Blackhawk, and Buchanan counties. This is a large and diverse district with four great river valleys spanning it. I look forward to getting started and if you’re a landowner in my area, I hope to hear from you soon!

Emerald Ash Borer Update

Emerald ash borer (EAB) continues its stealthy infestation of the United States. In June an EAB infestation was positively identified in Pennsylvania for the first time. The detection in west central Pennsylvania and four counties have been quarantined. Closer to home, in late July EAB was detected near Peru, Illinois, approximately an hour from the Quad Cities.

With all the previous eradication, and now containment, work, why is EAB still infesting new areas?

When EAB was first identified in Michigan in 2002, the only literature that existed in the world totaled about a page and a half - and was written in Chinese. Most everything we now know about EAB has been established since 2002. Originally, it was theorized that the beetle was a weak flyer and maybe moved, at the most, a quarter to half-mile a year. Thus, the half-mile, clear-cut eradication zones were initiated in the epicenter of the infestation. Since then, it’s been determined that the beetle has the physiological capability of flying up to six miles in a 24-hour period. Note that studies were carried out in the lab with the use of flight mills, whereas in the field, it appears that EAB spreads at a much slower pace.

However, the real key to the swift movement of EAB is human assisted movement. As long as man continues to haul infested firewood hither and yon, we will not be able to slow the spread of EAB. Unregulated firewood, mulch and pallets are the culprits.

2007: What’s happening in Iowa?

Two-hundred and fifty trap trees have been installed throughout Iowa, with a focus on campgrounds that recorded visitors in 2006 from the known infested states. In addition, 100 experimental EAB traps have been placed in 10 communities (2 locations/communities) around Iowa. The experimental trap, although marginally successful at discovering EAB, is the primary man-made detection method available. Research is ongoing to find a superior method to detect the insect. Iowa is thrilled to try out this new experimental trap.

The To-Treat or Not-To-Treat Discussion

Currently, there is no need for preventive insecticide treatments for emerald ash borer anywhere in the state of Iowa. As EAB moves closer to Iowa – and into Iowa, this recommendation may change based on known infestation areas and the ever-changing status of effective chemical and biological control mechanisms. Entomologists working in EAB infested areas are strongly recommending preventive or curative treatments only when EAB is confirmed within a township. At this point in time, I believe this is a good rule of thumb.

Furthermore, chemical management regimes are not one-treatment wonders. The landowner must be committed to yearly or biyearly treatments for an interminable number of years. Further, landowners must evaluate the value of their ash trees versus the cost and effectiveness to determine if a treatment regime is in their best interest.

Iowa is not promoting removing healthy ash trees to prepare for the EAB infestation. Instead, landowners should enjoy their ash resources while they can, but need to be conscious of declining ash trees. If an ash tree is exhibiting more than 50% of crown dieback, accompanied with trunk injuries, then the tree is at high-risk for potential infestation of EAB, as well as severe impact from our native wood borers. Such trees should be considered for removal and replacement.
And finally, when replacing ash trees, you should keep in mind tree species diversity and specific site conditions when choosing your new shade tree. Contact your local Extension office or ISU Forestry Extension for a list of ash alternatives.

There are an estimated 70 million ash trees in the state of Iowa. If you have questions about your ash tree, or other suspicious-looking ash trees, please contact your local nurseryman, arborist, IDALS, DNR or ISU Extension resource! And remember – when it comes to firewood, it’s best to buy local and burn local.

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Robin Pruisner
State Entomologist & Ent. and Plant Sci. Bureau Chief

**Forest Management on State Wildlife Lands**

The Wildlife Bureau is partnering with the Forestry Bureau on a new initiative to inventory, develop, and implement forest management plans on IDNR Wildlife Management Areas that will apply proper techniques for wildlife and tree species.

There are 3 primary factors emphasizing the need for forest management plans on state wildlife lands:

1) The continued succession of many forest stands past the mast producing oak-hickory stage to the shade tolerant stands of maple and basswood.
2) The loss of early successional forest stands and associated wildlife species.
3) The lack of proper management to secure mature forest stands with proper overstory and understory tree species for associated forest-interior wildlife species.

Some wildlife species use all the forest age classes but others have very specific needs where one or two of particular forest age classes are needed to survive. Although the over-all change in forest succession is relatively slow, changes in the early stages of forest succession occur relatively fast. For example, some populations of indigenous and migratory bird species, dependent on these short-lived forest age classes, are experiencing dramatic declines.

In Iowa, they include the indigenous game bird, the ruffed grouse and the migratory game bird, the American woodcock. Nation-wide declines of both species have been detected. Many migratory non-game birds including the gold-winged warbler, blue-winged warbler, black-billed cuckoo, yellow-billed cuckoo and eastern towhee are also dependent on this early stage of forest growth. Each of these species is also showing populations declines. Both adult wild turkeys and their broods will benefit from this management for the soft mast, herbaceous plants, and seeds produced.

Conversely, some species of Neotropical migratory birds are dependent upon mature undisturbed woodlands. The Acadian flycatcher, Cerulean warbler, and the Veery are some examples of bird species needing mature forests. Management objectives will attempt to either protect these types of sites or include needed management to secure these necessary habitats for the future.

The IDNR Wildlife Bureau’s Wildlife Action Plan identifies the wildlife species of greatest conservation need. This approach not only manages for the declining species but also provides the proper habitat and management to keep our common species common.

As was mentioned above, the loss of oak and hickory forest stands to maple and basswood through succession is an important concern to the IDNR. Whether these oak/hickory stands are important to rare species or wild turkeys, the Forest Wildlife Stewardship Plans will guarantee this important habitat type long into the future. There are tremendous areas of oak currently on wildlife management areas, but it is essential that plans are in place to properly manage the habitat for our grandchildren and beyond.

As you are walking the state wildlife areas, you will notice several forest management practices implemented to benefit wildlife species. Edges of the woods will be cut to develop early successional growth and feather the woodland edges. This provides excellent habitat for ruffed grouse, woodcock, turkey, deer, and many migratory bird species.

Young stands of trees will be thinned to favor the health and growth of the most desirable species. These young stands hold the greatest potential for maintaining oak on the landscape. There is room for 50 trees per acre in a mature forest. In young stands, the best tree every 30 ft. apart is selected. On the state wildlife lands, oak is given top priority. Those trees with crowns overtopping or touching the crowns of the selected trees are removed. This creates space for the crowns of the selected trees to expand, resulting in healthy, more vigorous trees that produce acorns at a younger age.

Selected areas will be clearcut and planted with oak. Oak requires full sunlight to grow and the only way to establish young oak to replace the older oak is to clearcut small areas. The majority of these sites will be planted with a variety of oak species. The clearcuts also provide early successional habitat and great nesting sites for turkeys.

The forest management work may look “messy” in the short term, but will leave treetops on the ground that will create excellent nesting locations for hen turkeys. Forest stands that have been thinned will develop a multilayered canopy that will benefit many wildlife species including wild turkeys. The increased sunlight to the forest floor will also provide super brood rearing plants.

Public lands account for only 8% of the forest land in Iowa. 92% of woodlands are owned by private individuals. State lands can affect very small, local populations of wildlife, but wildlife populations in the state depend on private owned woodlands. The state lands will provide examples of what private landowners can accomplish on their lands. If you would like to implement some of these wildlife management and forest improvement projects on your property, contact the wildlife biologist and forester for your area.
For More Information Contact:
Gary Beyer, Iowa DNR District Forester
Terry Haindfield, Iowa DNR Wildlife Biologist

Past Master Woodland Managers: I need your Volunteer Hours!

To all past Master Woodland Managers,

I need to update our database so that I have your current mailing address and the hours of community service that you have contributed since last reporting. It is critical that I receive your service hours, as this helps to justify the program and I encourage you to continue to offer community service activities once your 32 hours of service are completed. There are several ways that you can provide this information:

1. Enter your volunteer activities and hours online at our newly revamped Forestry Extension Website (www.forestry.iastate.edu). Follow the link for the Master Woodland Managers course that scrolls across the top of the screen. There is a link that allows you to access the survey tool and enter the information.

2. You can email me (randallj@iastate.edu) or send me a hard copy letter with your name, mailing address, hours of community service, and a short description of the types of activities that you were involved with.

My mailing address is:
Jesse A. Randall
Iowa State University
339 Science II
Ames, IA 50011