Iowa Tree Farmer of the Year

Buchanan Tree Farmers, Rod & Karen Swinton, have been named the 1998 Iowa Tree Farmer of the Year. Rod and Karen were nominated by Bob Hibbs, District Forester, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, located in Marshalltown.

The Swinton family (son-Daniel and daughter-Sheena) purchased their Tree Farm in 1993. The 100 acre parcel on the north bank of the Cedar River in SW Buchanan county near Brandon consists of 10 acres of the Cedar River, 6 acres of open land and 80 acres of woodland. Running through the woodland along the Cedar River is the Cedar River Natural Trail used by hikers, bicyclists and cross country skiers.

When purchased, the Swinton Tree Farm had been abused through long-term grazing and high-grading and early harvest of the trees. They have and are continuing to work at bringing their Tree Farm back into a productive state. A 10 acre stand was first cleared of bitternut hickory, honeylocust, hawthorn and multiflora rose and planted with walnut, white oak, red oak and ash. Another stand of 26 acres has been improved by killing the multiflora rose and undesirable trees; mixed hardwood seedlings were established beginning in 1996. The bottomland stand of 32 acres received weed-tree control and crop tree release in 1996.

The Swintons continue to improve their Tree Farm for multiple uses: Hawthorns have been managed for wildlife; 4-acres of native grasses have been established; wildlife nesting structures have been installed; and interior fences have been removed.

Rod is a graduate of the Master Woodland Managers course in 1995. His public service has been to host the Hawkeye Community College Conservation class for annual work-study experiences at the Tree Farm. He is promoting the conservation and stewardship ethic of good woodland management to his students.

The Iowa Tree Farm Committee sponsors this recognition effort in cooperation with the American Forest Foundation. Currently, there are over 1,000 Tree Farmers in Iowa practicing sustainable forestry on their woodlands. The average Tree Farm in the state is about 80 acres.

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<th>FORESTRY FIELD DAYS</th>
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<td>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 and others are providing educational Forestry Field Days at eight locations throughout Iowa. The following is a listing of field day locations by county, dates, directions and topics to be covered. For most of you, this newsletter will be your only information about forestry field days.</td>
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...and justice for all

The Iowa Cooperative Extension Service's programs and policies are consistent with pertinent federal and state laws and regulations on nondiscrimination. Many materials can be made available in alternative formats for ADA clients.
FIELD DAYS-FALL 1998

HANCOCK COUNTY

Thursday September 10, 1998  1:00 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Edelen Tree Farm

Topics: Introduction to the Edelen Tree Farm; Planting Trees in Iowa-species selection, soils, aspect and tree growth; Controlling Weeds; Thinning and Pruning Walnut Plantations; Options for Tree Planting-using seedlings, planting with seed; Optional Tour of Small Woodlands with Jim Cherry and Bob White; How to Work with Small Woodlands; How to Harvest and Grow New Trees; Management of Native Woodlands.

Directions: From Hwy 18 and R64 in Garner, North on R64-5.5 miles; 1/2 mile east on 290th St; 2 miles N on Taylor; 1/2 mile east on 310th St.

CLAYTON COUNTY

Thursday September 24, 1998  1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Seedorff Farm

Topics: Planting Woody Plants for Wildlife-species selection, design for wildlife, control of competition; Native Grass Establishment-species selection, site preparation, establishment techniques, maintenance of native grass plantings; Wildlife Management Techniques-phasenat habitat improvement, shrubs and wildlife, the deer dilemma; Trees with Seed-controlling competition.

Directions: From Strawberry Point east on E. Mission Rd. 2.7 miles to Delta Ave; north on Delta Ave. 1.2 miles to Crystal Rd; west on Crystal Rd .2 miles.

ALLAMAKEE COUNTY

Tuesday October 6, 1998  9:00 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Headquarters, Yellow River State Forest

Topics: Using Seed to Establish a Forest; Seed Collecting-collection, care and maintenance of seed, establishing seed collection areas; Getting Ready to Seed-selecting species, site preparation; Seeding Techniques; Seeding Equipment Demonstration; Minimizing Pest Problems with Trees-IPM; Direct Seeding in Woodlands; Getting the Most from Natural Seeding; Tips and Techniques for Marketing Timber in Iowa.

Cost: Lunch

Directions: 5 miles southeast of Rossville on Hwy 76 to B25; 4 miles north east on B25.

MONROE COUNTY

Thursday October 8, 1998  12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Lake Miami

Topics: Knowing Trees in Your Woodland; Obtaining Increased Growth on Woodlands-identifying crop trees, thinning around crop trees, eliminating honeylocust; Oak Wilt and Other Diseases of Woodlands; Evaluation of Trees for Harvesting-marketing strategies, size of trees to harvest, quality of trees (what makes a good tree), working with loggers; How to Regenerate Your Woodland.

Cost: $5.00 Registration Fee

Directions: From Albia, 2 1/2 miles north on 137; west 1 1/2 miles on H33; North 2 miles on T31; 1/2 mile west; 1 1/2 miles North.

POLK COUNTY

Friday October 9, 1998  12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Jester Park, Shelter #5

Topics: Salvaging Trees-sawlogs, firewood, chips; Making Decisions about Storm Damage-which trees to save, which trees to remove, identification of hazard trees; Tree Repair-removing future hazards, proper pruning for tree health; How to Select an Arborist; Species for Replacement Trees; How to Prune Young Trees for Strength.

Cost: $5.00

Directions: Northwest side of Saylorville Lake

LEE COUNTY

Tuesday October 13, 1998  9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Croton Park

Topics: Food Plots for Wildlife-layout, establishment and care, species to plant; Riparian Management-bank stabilization, design and planting a buffer strip, managing natural vegetation along streams; Prairies-native grass establishment, tools for management of prairies; Help and Assistance for Landowners; Trees for Shade-care and maintenance, how to make a good shade tree; Plantation Management-thinning, pruning for log quality; Insects and Diseases of Woodlands

Cost: $8:00

Directions: North side of Croton, Iowa

BUCHANAN COUNTY (Tree Farm Field Day)

Monday October 19, 1998  9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Tama Hall, Room 107, Hawkeye Community College, 1501 East Orange Rd., Waterloo

Topics: Recognition of Iowa’s 1998 Tree Farmer of the Year; What is a Tree Farm; Grass Root Forestry Organizations; Riparian Areas; Storm Damage; Tree Farmer Field Days; Global Positioning; Wildlife Management; Stand Conversion; Prairie Establishment; Lyme Disease; Collection, Storage and Care of Tree Seed; Wetland Management.

Cost: Pre-registration is $5.00; at the door registration is $8.00.  Send registration information to Paul Wray, 253 Bessey Hall, ISU, Ames, IA 50011-1021  515-294-1168.

CHEROKEE COUNTY

Thursday October 22, 1998  1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Fulton Tree Farm

Topics: Selecting Crop Trees—selection for species and form, eliminating undesirable trees; Wood Duck Habitat Management—habitat requirements, nest structures; Forest Plantation Design and Layout; Plantation Main-
tenance-pruning, coppicing trees, thinning in plantations; Controlling Deer in Tree Plantations.

**Directions:** From Cherokee, east on Hwy 3-3.3 miles to M-10; north on M-10, 5 miles; east 1/4 mile on 480th; north 1 mile on Smith Rd.

**Up-Coming Meetings**

**Master Woodland Managers Program** The 24th session of this 32-hour training course is scheduled for August 25, September 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29 at the Wapsi River Environmental Education Center near Dixon in Scott County. Some room still exist for this program. If interested, please contact forestry extension at 515-294-1168.

Shade Tree Care and Maintenance October 8, Monroe County, 6:30 p.m., Trinity United Methodist Church, Albia; Topics to be covered include: Dealing with storm damage; pruning shade trees; new tree care; shade trees for Iowa; planting landscape trees and plant health issues and concerns. Registration fee is $5.00.

Central Region Woodland Stewardship Conference November 21, 1998, 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Lied Conference Center, Nebraska City, Nebraska. Woodland owners and managers from Iowa, Nebraska, Missouri and Kansas will meet and attend a forest management conference at the Arbor Day Farm Conference Center. Topics to be covered are: Identifying goals of woodland ownership; chain saw operation and safety; establishing and maintaining a prairie; developing and improving wildlife habitat; agroforestry applications; control of wildlife damage to trees; basic timber management; proper pruning techniques; woodland and prairie wildflowers; managing insects diseases and pests; and others. For a program and registration information contact Forestry Extension, 253 Bessey Hall, Iowa State University, Ames, IA 50011-1021 (515)294-1168. Registration and Lunch fee is $25 before November 16; late registration is $35. Enrollment is limited to 250. Register Early.

The Storms Over Forest Trees
Iowa’s spring and summer storms have caused widespread damage to the tree resources of Iowa. Damage to forests have been scattered, but often fairly severe in some locations. Some forest trees have been bent over, suffered broken branches and tops, structural failure of the main trunk and in some cases uprooted. In most cases, woodland owners should not rush into efforts to correct damage or salvage trees from their woodlands.

Before beginning corrective action or salvage, work to evaluate the damage done in the forest. In most cases, it may be appropriate to work with a professional forester to evaluate damage. For small areas, assessment of the complete area may be possible; for larger areas a sample of the area may be more appropriate. Trees with less than 50% crown loss will most likely recover; trees with more than 75% crown loss are at high risk to die, will grow slowly and may be a greater risk for both insects and diseases; trees with 50% to 75% crown loss should be maintained but may develop some stain and decay loss to the wood and should be reevaluated in 4 to 6 years. Trees with structural damage to the main trunk including splits and fractures should be removed. Trees which have been uprooted or those which have their root ball lifted will not be viable growing stock for the forest and should be considered for harvest.

If the salvageable trees are still standing and green, they will not degrade significantly in the next year. Standing trees will have minimal loss during the next one to two years. Trees which have blown over or are not standing should be salvaged before next spring if possible. Wood on the ground begins to degrade immediately; there are some differences in species as to how fast stain and decay enter the wood. Walnut, red elm, white oaks are more durable than maple, red oaks, white elm and cottonwood.

Don’t abandoned good forestry practices when working with damaged woodlands. Don’t remove too many trees; keep the stocking up in stands even if this means leaving some damaged trees to occupy the sites. Reducing stocking levels below 80 square feet of trunk basal area per acre may result in epicormic sprouting from higher value trees. Storms often cause damage in areas. If damage is severe in small patches, consider small group clearcutting to both remove the damage vegetation and provide sunlight for seedlings to grow and reoccupy the site. Work with your forester to evaluate reproduction and reproduction potential before harvesting. Initially, work first in sawtimber stands for salvaging; often young pole sized or smaller stands will recover better from storm damage.

The storms may provide some opportunity to improve wildlife habitat in woodlands. Small clearings may benefit some species. Trees with broken tops and little economic value will probably develop into good den or snag trees during the next few years.

Wind storm damage may result in casualty loss for woodland owners. However, the deductible loss is limited to the lesser of the reduction in fair market value or the cost basis that the taxpayer has in the asset that has been damaged, less any income from salvage, insurance, or other payments. Unless the forest land was acquired within the past few years, established cost basis of the forest, and damage was so severe as to limit salvage
opportunities, a tax deduction for casualty losses is highly unlikely.

For more information, contact Forestry Extension or your DNR District Forester and ask for publications: F-371 Managing Storm Damaged Woodlands and F361 Firms & Individuals Providing Forestry Services in Iowa.

**New Weed Control Brochure**
The DNR Forestry's “Grass & Weed Control for Tree and Shrub Seedlings” has been revised. Both chemical and non-chemical competition control methods are described. Also included are new herbicides that have been recently approved for weed control in tree plantings. To obtain a copy, contact your District Forester or call the State Forest Nursery (1-800-865-2477). Control of weed and grass competition is essential for plantation survival and early growth.

**Tree Farm Forestry Field Day**
A special Forestry Field Day focusing on the Iowa Tree Farm program and on Iowa Tree Farmers will be held at the Tree Farm of Rod and Karen Swinton, Iowa's 1998 Outstanding Tree Farmers, on Monday, October 19. Participants can register for this educational session beginning at 9:00 a.m. at Tama Hall, Rooms 107A & B, Hawkeye Community College, 1501 East Orange Rd, Waterloo. The morning program presented by Tree Farmers will cover riparian areas, storm damage, Tree Farm Field days, and global positioning. After lunch, the afternoon tour of the Swinton Tree Farm will include wildlife management, stand conversions, prairie establishment, Lyme disease, collection of tree seed, and wetland management. The Iowa Tree Farm Committee and the host Tree Farmers wish to make this a family event so bring the spouse and the children. **Promotional Tree Farm items will be available.**

Cost per person including lunch and materials is $5.00 per person. Please sent registration information to Paul Wray, 251 Bessey Hall, Iowa State University, Ames, IA 50011, 515-294-1168. Registration at the door is $8.00.

Sincerely,

Paul H. Wray        Dean R. Prestemon
Extension Forester  Extension Forester

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Woodland Owners Newsletter

Forestry Extension
253 Bessey Hall
Iowa State University
Ames, IA 50011-1021

Address Correction Requested