Upcoming Meetings & Events

- **WINDBREAK SEMINAR**, Wednesday, February 17, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at Wright County Extension Office in Clarion. Topics include: species selection, design and layout, planting techniques, care and maintenance and rehabilitation of windbreaks.

- **TIMBER MARKETING SEMINAR**, Tuesday February 23, 6:45 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at Wilder Auditorium, Northeast Iowa Community College (NICC) in Calmar. Topics to be covered are: “Logging”-When things go wrong, who is to blame; are your trees ready to harvest; marketing techniques-pros and cons of each; marketing trends, past and present; what can a forestry consultant do for you; is timber a good investment; economic benefits of timber stand improvement; tax considerations on timber sales.

- **WOODLAND GOALS AND MANAGEMENT**, Wednesday, February 25, 12:45 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Hardin County Extension Office (525 Lawler St.), Iowa Falls. Topics include: Identification of woodland goals and objectives, why grazing and woodlands don’t mix, how to improve your woodland, attracting the wildlife you want and controlling the rest, landowner assistance/cost-share programs.

- **SHADE TREE SHORT COURSE**, March 9 to 10, 1999, Scheman Continuing Education Center, Ames Iowa. Registration cost is $80 before or $100 after February 22. For more information contact Mark Vitosh, Forestry Extension at (515) 294-6739 or e-mail (mvitosh@iastate.edu)

- **TRI STATE FOREST STEWARDSHIP CONFERENCE**, Saturday, March 13, 1999 at Sinsinawa Mound Center, Sinsinawa, WI. Conference participants choose from 30 sessions. Preregistration is required. Contact Forestry Extension for registration materials at (515) 294-1168 or e-mail (phw@iastate.edu)

- **FORESTRY FIELD DAY**, Thursday, April 8, at Tim Friday’s and Jerry Zehr’s Tree Farms in Hardin County. Topics include: Knowing trees in your woodland, identifying woodland wildflowers, what good are woodlands, what is forest succession, making woodlands better, and how do woodlands reproduce. For more information contact Forestry Extension or the Hardin County Extension Office.

- **FORESTRY FIELD DAY**, Wednesday, April 14, at Louis Christen’s Tree Farm located 1 1/2 miles north of Wadena on W-51 in Fayette County. Topics include: Direct seeding of tree seed, management of black walnut, harvesting techniques for woodlands, wetland management, and small sawmills and dry kilns. For more information contact Forestry Extension or the Fayette County Extension Office.

**Community Tree Steward Program**

The Iowa Community Tree Steward Program will be offered in the Council Bluffs and Waterloo/Waverly areas in the summer of 1999. The purpose of the program is to develop a network of highly motivated, well-trained volunteers to assist in the improvement and expansion of community tree resources in Iowa.

The Program is 24 hours of intensive training in community tree management. It consists of six 4-hour evening training sessions over a six week period. In both classroom and field settings (hands-on), participants will learn: basic tree identification, species selection, tree planting, tree care and man-
tenance, pest management, inventory techniques, program planning, funding, and implementation, and much more.

This program is intended to serve citizen volunteers, Master Gardeners, community forestry and parks staff, tree care professionals, utility company representatives, county conservation board staffs, community administrators, and anyone interested in the topic of trees. This program's only “fee” is that graduates will be expected to contribute 24 volunteer hours focused on improving and expanding community tree resources in their community or region. Participants must attend all six sessions in 1999 to complete the course.

Dates and locations of the program are:

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<tr>
<th>Waterloon/Waverly</th>
<th>Council Bluffs</th>
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<td>Session#1 May 24</td>
<td>May 25</td>
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<td>Session#2 June 1</td>
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<td>Session#6 June 28</td>
<td>June 29</td>
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For registration information contact Mark Vitosh, Program Assistant at (515) 294-6739 or Write to: Community Tree Steward Program, Iowa State Univ., 253 Bessey Hall, Ames, IA  50011.

Master Woodland Managers Program

Two Master Woodland Managers Programs are scheduled for 1999.

- The 25th session of this highly successful educational program will be held in Monroe County this spring on six successive Thursdays beginning May 27 and concluding on July 1. Headquarters for this program will be the Lake Miami State Park Shelter, north of Albia.
- The 26th session of the Master Woodland Managers Program is currently scheduled for northeast Iowa beginning on Tuesday, August 17, and finishing on September 21. This session will meet at the Gilbertson Nature Center, east of Elgin.

These educational programs involve a total of 32 hours of intensive forestry instruction consisting of four 4-hour evening sessions and two 8-hour afternoon plus evening sessions. No registration fee is charged to participants, but graduates of the program are expected to contribute at least 32 hours of public service after completing the program. Anyone interested in receiving an application form for either of the 1997 sessions should contact Forestry Extension at Iowa State University at (515) 294-1168 or e-mail (phw@iastate.edu)

Extension past, present, and future - Observations by Dean R. Prestemon

I will retire on March 3, 1999, after 33+ years in the Department of Forestry with a continuous, major responsibility for forestry extension programming. My upcoming retirement has prompted me to look back over my long career at Iowa State, to note changes that have occurred over the years, and to speculate on what may happen in the future.

I was hired in September of 1965 to develop a forest products extension program coupled with an applied research effort that focused. Much of my early extension and research programs emphasized housing, and I worked closely with extension specialists and professors in agricultural engineering, architecture, economics, home economics, landscape architecture, and sociology in developing and delivering a multidiscipline educational program to target clientele. Educational conferences were sponsored for home builders, material suppliers, and homeowners related to energy efficiency, building durability, and maintenance of structures. Research was focused on improving acoustical privacy and on housing preferences and attitudes.

In 1976, Paul Wray joined the department with a 75 percent appointment in extension and a 25 percent appointment in research; the year previous, my ex-
The appointment was increased to 75 percent. After an in-depth evaluation of the forestry extension program, the decision was made to focus on woodland management and plantation establishment and on the proper use of wood in building construction. Since that time, 270 Forestry Field Days have been sponsored with an average attendance of 40, a very successful Master Woodland Managers program has provided 32 hours of instruction to 610 volunteers, some very successful community forestry programs have been provided, and important educational programs for youth have been offered. Forestry extension has developed and maintains almost 100 extension pamphlets and notes, regularly produces radio tapes and news releases, and publishes the Woodland Owners Newsletter.

Cooperation in program delivery has always been a trademark of forestry extension in Iowa and must continue in the future. Forestry extension and District Foresters of the Iowa Dept. of Natural Resources work together on most educational programs, and cooperation with other agencies and organizations has expanded over the years. Sources of operating funds have expanded beyond conventional state appropriations in recent years; currently two-thirds of the operating funds in forestry extension come from outside sources and this is likely to continue. The search is underway for a new faculty member in forestry extension. Securing a quality, dedicated faculty member to work with Paul Wray and Mark Vitosh is obviously critical to the continuation of an active forestry extension program. The challenges for forestry extension in the future will be to adapt to a dramatically modified working environment, to keep pace with changing client needs, to maintain close ties with current cooperators and identify other partners, and to deliver program information in an effective and efficient manner with limited resources.

I have enjoyed being an Extension Forester at Iowa State University. The organization and delivery of meaningful extension programs was an enjoyable challenge. Interacting with appreciative clientele and working with helpful colleagues and cooperators almost always “made my day” during my long career. I will miss the stimulation, but I know that I will enjoy retirement. We plan to headquarter in Ames, do a lot of traveling, perhaps some consulting, and a substantial amount of relaxing.

Finally, my wish for you would be that your planted trees all survive and thrive and that your walnut trees always be veneer quality!

**Tips on marketing timber**

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.

Landowners are more likely to receive fair compensation for timber sold and their woodlands will be in better shape after the logging, if a professional forestry consultant is materially involved.

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 residual damage will be appreciated.

Proper use of native hardwoods
Woodland owners may elect to process standing trees on their property for personal use. Cutting, milling, drying, and machining native lumber may or may not save money compared to buying from commercial sources. But individuals just may prefer to use their own resources for specific applications. If native hardwoods are to perform satisfactorily, definite guidelines should be followed.

First, match the species to the intended use. Become familiar with the characteristics of the different woods on your property, and select the right one for the job. Don’t use low strength, soft woods where a strong, hard wood is required. If the application calls for a wood with low shrinkage and good workability, choose the right species.

Second, make sure the wood is dried to the correct moisture content. Wood used outdoors needs to be dried to 12 to 15 percent moisture content. This level of moisture content can be realized by thoroughly air drying lumber using recommended stacking methods and exposure conditions. However, wood used indoors for furniture, paneling, or trim must be dried to a moisture content between six and eight percent. The lower level of moisture content cannot be achieved by air drying no matter how long it is exposed. Special lumber dry kilns that control temperature, humidity, and air movement are typically used to achieve this lower level of moisture content.

Third, a finish or treatment will generally enhance the performance of hardwood lumber. When using hardwoods outside, consider applying a water-repellent treatment or an oil-base, semi-transparent exterior stain. For interior applications where a high level of durability is required and a clear finish is desired, several coats of polyurethane varnish is recommended.

More information processing and using Iowa hardwoods is contained in extension pamphlet Pm-329, Properties and Uses of Iowa Hardwoods, which is available from county extension offices.

Sincerely,

Paul H. Wray 
Extension Forester

Dean R. Prestemon 
Extension Forester