

# Northwest Illinois Forestry Association

Minutes of November 15, 2005

In the absence of President Tom Arnold, Dick Pouzar called the regular meeting of the Northwest Illinois Forestry Association to order at 7:05 pm at the lower level meeting room of the Church of God in Mt. Carroll.

Ralph Eads moved to accept the February 8<sup>th</sup> minutes as mailed. Lee Freedlund seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Treasurer, Keith Arnold, was not present so no Treasurer's report was given.

## OLD BUSINESS

Ralph Eads talked about his experiences with the Plotmaster seeder. (The Plotmaster seeder is a small tillage and seeder tool designed to be pulled by a 4 wheel drive all terrain vehicle to plant wildlife food plots. The NIFA contributed funds along with the Wild Turkey Federation to purchase this implement.) Ralph said the machine pulled hard and caused his ATV to overheat. He thought it would be necessary to use a larger ATV than the 400cc machine that he had. He encouraged those present to make use of the Plotmaster for small wildlife food plots.

Ralph also reported that the Forestry Development Act funds that were not committed were taken back in August. So at present, there are no available FDA funds for any forestry work. However, the 4% harvest fees are still being collected. Those present thought this was a grave injustice to the Illinois Forestry Program.

Jerry Misek passed around a thank you note from the Envirothon Committee for the money the NIFA gave for the 2005 Envirothon held in April .

Ralph Eads brought in the Garmin Global Positioning System that the NIFA helped pay for. He also demonstrated how he uses the GPS unit. Ralph said it is very useful in identifying boundaries and in calculating acreage for tree plantings. The GPS points can also be downloaded in his computer and used to overlay digital aerial photos with ArcView software. However, he needs more training to be proficient with it.

## NEW BUSINESS

Ralph Eads passed around photos of a "homemade" tree pruner. This pruner was a battery powered DeWalt reciprocating saw fastened to a 1/2 inch metal pipe that was about 10 feet long. A rope was used to turn the saw on and off. The "inventor" said this setup works well on limbs up to 3 inches in diameter.

Ralph also had photos of his new office location in the Palisades State Park north of Savanna. Ralph's new address is:  
IDNR Forestry  
16327 Il. Rt. 84  
Savanna, IL 61074

His new phone number is 815-273-2737 and his fax number is 815-273-2773. He moved on September 7<sup>th</sup>.

Dick Pouzar directed the attention of the group to program planning. After much discussion , the following proposals for meeting and tours for 2006 was agreed upon and members were assigned to follow up on the proposals:

\* Tree Identification and Timber Stand Improvement --- Ralph Eads will line up location and set dates

- \* Heritage Horse Logging and Lumber Co. --- Jerry Misek will contact and set dates
- \* New Melleray Abby --- Dick Pouzar will arrange
- \* Plotmaster and possibly tree planting demonstration --- Ralph Eads will select site and dates
- \* Heartbilt Homes --- Lee Freedlund will contact and set dates
- \* Keith and Gale Arnold's home --- Tom Arnold will make the contact

Also discussed was the Tri State Forestry Conference to be held at Sinsinawa Mound on March 11, 2006. The NIFA has been requested to register participants on the day of the conference. Carol McPhillips will take the lead in this effort.

The NIFA Annual Dinner Meeting was tentatively set for March 28, 2006 with Dave Gillispie as the main speaker. Blackhawk Hills RC&D Coordinator, Dave Dornbusch, will also be on the program.

A discussion followed on where to hold the winter meetings. All agreed that the Church of God facility was good. However, it was decided to move the location around a bit to see if new members would attend. So the December meeting will be in Ralph Eads new office in Savanna and the January Meeting will be in the Stockton Library.

Tom Arnold (who joined the meeting later) moved to adjourn. Dick Pouzar seconded the motion. Motion Passed. The meeting was adjourned at 9:20pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jerry Misek

NIFA Secretary