



Northwest Illinois
Forestry Association
Woodland Owners
Sharing Ideas on
Forest Productivity

Northwest Illinois Forestry Association

Minutes of February 10, 2015

President Tom Arnold called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm in the meeting room of the Stockton Public Library.

Board members present were; Tom Arnold, Dick Pouzar, Lee Freedlund, Ralph Eads, Dave Harrison, Alvin Wire, and Jerry Misek.

President Arnold asked if there were any additions or corrections to the December 9th minutes. Hearing none, Dave Harrison moved that the minutes be approved as sent. Ralph Eads seconded the motion. Motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer, Keith Arnold, was not present, so no report was available.

OLD BUSINESS

President Arnold asked if NIFA members had agreed to help with the registration at the March 14th Tri-State Forestry Conference. Jerry Misek replied that Lee Freedlund, Ralph Eads, Alvin Wire, Bill Hawes and himself will help with the registration.

President Arnold then asked about arrangements for the NIFA Annual Dinner Meeting scheduled for March 24th. Dick Pouzar responded that Dr. Jim Angel, Illinois State Climatologist, will speak on future weather trends and how it will affect woodlands. Mr. Pouzar continued saying that IDNR Forester, Jeff Harris, will speak briefly on 2 new invasives that may come to our forests; Kudzu and Stiltgrass. Ralph Eads confirmed that the Naaman Diehl auditorium in Mt. Carroll has been reserved for the meeting and the Carroll County 4-H group will serve the meal with the menu being similar to last years. Keith Arnold will take the reservations for the meeting and the registration deadline will be March 17th.

Continuing on with the 2015 tour agenda, a "Living on the Edge" workshop will be held April 25th. It will start with a meeting in Mt. Carroll and then proceed to the Scott Schaffer property. The importance of forest edge management will be the focus of the program.

On May 9th, a tour of the Shimer Arboretum will be held in Mt. Carroll. The Arboretum advisory Board will lead the tour and will feature a wide variety of mature tree species. Dick Pouzar will purchase Tree ID booklets to provide to the tour participants.

There will be 2 tour sites on June 20th; Bob Evans firewood operation and Scott Elsasser's sawmill and lumber kiln. Both sites are in rural Orangeville and only a few miles apart.

Bob Scholl will host the July 18th tour of his Plum River Log Bed business. The operation is south of Stockton.

On August 8th, Duane Mitch will lead a tour of his furniture restoring business in Schapville.

IDNR Forester, Jeff Harris, will put on a series of chain saw safety demonstrations titled "Kicking Bad Habits". The first one will be held August 25th in Jo Daviess County. Two more demonstrations will be scheduled on the following two days in other counties if there is enough interest.

The Mississippi Palisades Park will be the location of the October 17th tour on autumn tree identification. IDNR Forester, Jeff Harris will lead the tour and use tree buds and bark for identifying tree species.

Weather permitting, a prescribed forest burn will be held at the Dufford farm southeast of Stockton on November 14th.

NIFA business meetings will be scheduled in November, December, January, and February. At either the January or February meeting, President Tom Arnold will discuss his new Forest Management Plan.

NEW BUSINESS

Dick Pouzar stated that Jeff Harris had asked him if the NIFA should start a Facebook page. None of the members present were knowledgeable of how it would work. After discussion, it was decided to wait on this item until more is known about it.

Jerry Misek said that the annual organizational report is due in the Illinois Secretary of State's office by March first. There is a \$10.00 filing fee. Since the NIFA Treasurer was not at the meeting, Mr. Misek will send in a personal check with the report and ask the Treasurer for reimbursement.

Dick Pouzar mentioned that since we will be reducing the mailing costs, NIFA should add an additional \$500 to the treasury annually. Mr. Pouzar continued that NIFA may be in a position to offer a grant for some Forestry related action. He did not ask for any action on this idea, just that it may be considered in the future.

President Arnold asked the group to brainstorm on more ideas that NIFA could do in the future. Ideas that surfaced are:

***Getting FFA Advisors interested in some Forestry program.

***Having an all-day Forestry related program with vendors and educational speakers, similar to what the RC&D Programs did several years ago.

***Using the Boy or Girl Scout properties for demonstrations or meetings

***Encouraging people to enlist in the "Master Naturalist" Program.

***Touring the Natchusa Grasslands and woodlands.

***Promotion biomass operations on a small scale that could provide power and or heat for a school, library, etc.

***Utilizing more wood burning furnaces to reduce other energy demands.

***Discussing alternative forest products that could provide an economic return.

***Exploring what is needed for a successful Ginseng plantation.

President Arnold asked if there was any more business for this meeting. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to adjourn.

Dave Harrison moved to adjourn the meeting. Ralph Eads seconded the motion.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jerry Misek

NIFA Secretary