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In the Department …

Ames Forestry Club

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IN THE DEPARTMENT...

by Dr. Dean R. Presteman

FORESTRY extension focuses its efforts on seven primary program areas: management of natural woodlands and plantations; community tree programs; forestry conservation education for youth; shade tree management for individuals; continuing education for professionals; conferences for housing suppliers; and housing-energy meetings for individuals and families. Staffing consists of two professionals (¼-time extension) and one graduate assistant (¼-time).

During the most recent program year (October 1, 1978 to September 30, 1979), forestry extension was involved with a total of 80 educational meetings involving 5,222 clientele. In addition, 600 individual inquiries for information were handled, 8 radio programs were presented, 4 TV programs were generated, 8 news releases were written, 7 news extension publications were published, and 4 displays were constructed.

The most active forestry extension programs currently are: heating with wood, energy-efficient wood construction, and tree planting and maintenance. Extension workload has increased substantially in recent years; projections indicate continued upswing in interest in forestry related programs in the years to come.

by Carl Mize

DURING the summer of 1979 I took a leave of absence from the University and worked for Weyerhaeuser at their Southern Forestry Research Center in Hot Springs, Arkansas. My assignment was to examine the effect of forest fertilization on various stand parameters. I worked with data from four studies in loblolly pine in North Carolina. While I was there, I was exposed to the very applied nature of industrial research, met a number of people in forestry research, and learned a lot about southern forestry.

I very strongly support the idea of university faculty taking leave and working for the forest products industry or the Forest Service to get a first hand exposure to the orientation of research in other organizations and to gain an appreciation for the strengths and weaknesses of different institutions.

by Dr. Fred S. Hopkins, Jr.

IN the Fall of 1981, the transition from an academic year of three quarters to the semester system will be implemented at Iowa State. As with most major changes, both advantages and disadvantages are anticipated for the Forestry program. The semester system will mean building essentially the same structure (curriculum) with fewer and larger building blocks.

Among the gains which will be realized is the opportunity for more substantial development of individual courses.

There will be negative impacts on the Forestry curriculum. Some worthwhile courses will be deleted from the curriculum as others are expanded. There will be some loss in flexibility. An adverse effect on summer employment is possible as the Fall semester will begin late in August.

In general the semester system will require more careful planning on the part of students.

Performing Arts Lottery

by Dr. David W. Countryman

DAVID W. Countryman, Denise M. Sofranko, and several other authors are writing a book, Guiding Land Use Decisions, based on research carried out within a regional research effort, "Guidelines for More Effective Regional Development of Forest and Recreation Resources in the North Central United States". The book is a capstone document that provides a synthesis of the research work completed in the regional research effort by more than 50 scientists, lawyers and other experts. The book is planned for completion in 1981.

by Dr. Fred S. Thomson

Money for these tickets comes from the estate of Dr. and Mrs. Julius A. (Skipper) Larson. Dr. Larson was appreciative of the classical arts.

Why does the department offer the tickets? Forestry is both an art and a science. Dr. George W. Thomson said, "This must mean there are creative and imaginative and disciplined elements in our profession that need to be stimulated in every way possible."

by Kim Coder

IN mid-February the forestry department displayed a photographic exhibit entitled "The Natural Forest Communities of Iowa: A Resource in Trouble."

Dr. Hightshoe of the ISU Landscape Architecture Department produced this display to show the variety and limitations of Iowa's forest communities.

The display was composed of ten large picture frames with a collage format that showed both the tree species of each forest type and the typical understory plants.

The large photographs, taken from planes in various parts of the state, were especially beautiful and showed the delicate nature of the forest resource.