

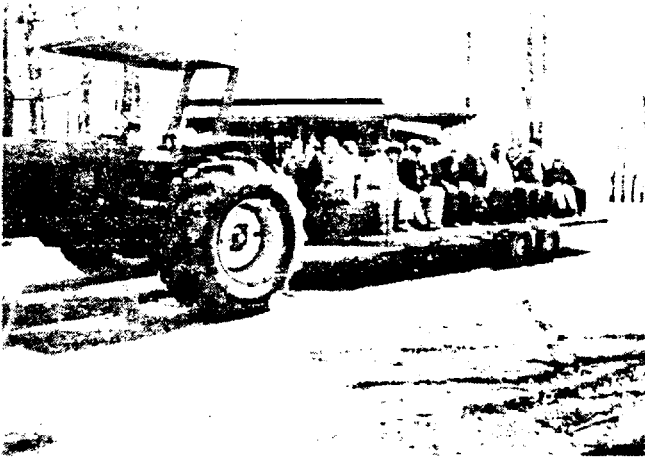
Ozark Woodland Owners Association



Issue 7

July 1996

Woodland Association Holds 4th Field Day



Participants were treated to a hayride as they toured two CRP pine stands and a hardwood timber stand at Charles Osborne's farm at Cord, AR.

It was a bright, sunny day just east of Cord on the Charles Osborne farm on April 6, but it sure was windy and cold. Even as cold as it was, I would brave the weather again to attend a field day which was as good as that one was. Anyone who owns forestland could have learned a bunch of things that would help them. We looked at several pine stands and also a beautiful stand of hardwood timber.

This field day was the fourth one conducted by the Ozark Woodland Owners Association. The objective of the field day and the Association is to help private forest landowners learn how to do a better job on managing their forestland, or rather, how to make more money off your forestland now and in the future.

Believe me, there is a right way and a wrong way to manage your land. And, with the high prices paid for good hardwood timber, it's in your best interest to manage your timber the right way. Sure, timber will grow if you just leave it alone, but it will grow faster, bigger and better if you do some basic management practices and make good management decisions.

These management decisions are especially critical when you are selling timber. If you make the right management decision when you sell some timber, you can make money off the timber and also have a good stand of trees left to grow so you can harvest again and make more money. But if you make the wrong decision, you can make some money now, but it may be 50 to 100 years before more money could be made off your forestland. If hardwood prices keep going up as they have in the last years, there is no telling how much hardwood timber will be worth in another 10 to 20 years.

The point that I am trying to get to is that your forestland is probably more valuable than you think. And if you're not really up to date on forest management and markets, then you need to get some professional help. Call the Arkansas forestry Commission, Natural Resources Conservation Service or the Cooperative Extension Service to get an idea on what to do. You can also call on private forest consultants. There are several in our area. These people know what they're doing and they're ready to work for you.

Also, come out to the next field day that the Association has. If it is like the last one, you will come away knowing a lot more about your forestland.

Douglas Butts
RC&D Coordinator
Ozark Foothills RC&D Council

OZARK WOODLAND OWNERS ASSOCIATION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: President - Jim Barnett
Vice-President - Vacant
Sec.- Edgar Schoenike
Past President - Robert Craig

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS: County Extension Agent
AFC County Supervisor
NRCS District Conservationist



The Ozark Woodland Owners Association officers met May 21 and decided to develop a program to offer free forestry consultant services to Ozark Woodland Owners Association members. The Ozark Foothills RC&D Council has some grant funds available to provide this service, which should be available by the end of July.

Any Association member with 20 acres or more of forestland is eligible for this assistance. A private, certified forestry consultant (of the landowner's choice) will provide up to one-half day to make an evaluation of the landowner's forest resources and give some suggestions on management alternatives. This service will be paid for by the Council after the consultant delivers a written report of the evaluation to the landowner.

The Council has a limited amount of funds available at the present time, but it is in the process of applying for additional grant funds for forestry consultant services.

For more information about this upcoming program, or to get professional help in making management decisions, call Lori Spiering, Natural Resources Conservation Service; Stan Carter, Cooperative Extension Service; or Marc Phillips, Arkansas Forestry Commission.



TICKS



Vampires of the Bug World Transmitters of Dangerous Illnesses

Lyme disease is transmitted primarily via certain species of deer ticks. It is primarily a summer disease, and an individual is most likely to be bitten by an infected deer tick between May and August. In the eastern United States, white-tailed deer are the primary host of the adult tick.

Lyme disease is difficult to diagnose. Symptoms vary greatly from person to person. However, three general phases have been identified.

PHASE ONE. Usually within 30 days of being bitten, a small, red bump appears at the site of the bite surrounded by a rash that gradually enlarges for several weeks and then disappears. The rash may have a firm center area, feel warm to the touch and diminish briefly, only to reappear elsewhere on the body. At the same time, flulike symptoms (fatigue, chills, headache, muscle and joint aches, fever, and stiff neck) may develop. Remember that you may not develop a rash, just the flulike symptoms - or you may have none of these symptoms. Lyme disease does not progress beyond this phase in some people. However, if Lyme disease is left untreated, more severe symptoms may develop.

PHASE TWO. Approximately 20 percent of untreated individuals develop neurological or cardiac disorders weeks or months after the bite. These disorders range from heart rhythm abnormalities to impaired motor coordination and partial facial paralysis.

PHASE THREE. Approximately half of the untreated persons develop reoccurring or chronic arthritis after a dormant period of up to two years.

Diagnosis of Lyme disease must be made on the basis of your symptoms and whether you've spent time in an area with a high infection rate.

Treatment for Lyme disease is antibiotics. Patients with advanced Lyme disease frequently take antibiotics intravenously or intramuscularly.

Whether you're hiking in the woods or walking in parks in Lyme affected areas, take these precautions to protect yourself from ticks.

☉ Cover your body. Wear long pants and a long-sleeved shirt with buttoned cuffs. Tuck your shirt in your pants and your pants into your socks, shoes, or boots. Wear light-colored tightly woven fabrics. also, a hat or cap may be helpful.

☉ Stay near the center of hiking trails.

☉ Check yourself frequently for ticks. Later do a thorough check over entire body. Shower and shampoo to remove ticks that haven't begun to feed. Wash clothing and inspect your gear.

☉ Check your children daily for ticks.

☉ Inspect pets after they've been outdoors.

☉ An insect repellent containing the active ingredient DEET helps to ward off ticks. Spray your clothing and apply sparingly, if at all, to your skin.



Marketing Tips

Knowing when and how to market your timber can be complicated, frustrating and even a bit intimidating. Make it easier by keeping some basic guidelines in mind.

The most important marketing decisions start at the beginning by establishing long-term goals like whether you want to grow timber for pulp, sawtimber or non-timber purposes.

Next, choose an appropriate species for your purposes. Make sure your seedlings have good genetics and that they were lifted and handled carefully. Plant properly and use good management techniques consistently throughout the growth years. Understanding the value of the basics can mean more money at harvest time. Here are more basics to keep in mind.

Be a Watchdog

Keep an eye on your timber - especially in the first few years after it's planted. If a tract has a poor survival rate and isn't replanted quickly, a lot of value can be lost. If you're an absentee landlord, make the effort to personally inspect your young tree farm, or get a trusted and knowledgeable substitute to do it for you.

Mark Your Territory!

Well marked boundary lines are important. Every two to five years, check your boundary lines and keep them well maintained. That helps a buyer know exactly what he's buying. (It also helps your neighbor's buyer know where to stop!)

Can You Get There from Here?

Good access to your timber makes it more salable. If your hundred-acre tract requires that the buyer build access to it, you'll be offered less. Establish and maintain reasonable access to your tract.

Know When to Sell

Many factors affect when you choose to sell your timber.

- **IS YOUR TIMBER READY?** If the growth rate has slowed considerably since the last thinning, it may be time for harvest. Insect and other damage can also dictate harvest.

- **WHAT ARE YOUR PERSONAL NEEDS - INCOME FOR COLLEGE, VACATION, AN ILLNESS, OR OTHER INVESTMENT POSSIBILITIES?** If investment is your priority, you'll need to calculate how much the additional volume will be worth if left on the stump against what you would earn with your harvest income at current and predicted interest rates. (Got your crystal ball handy?)

- **CURRENT MARKET CONDITIONS ARE A MAJOR FACTOR.** The short term market outlook (what's the current market price?) vs. the long term (what kind of products will be in demand 15 years from now and how will product substitution and technology change the value of my trees?) must be considered. "One of the nice things about timber is that it stores well on the stump," says Al Weller, Weyerhaeuser Company Landowner Assistance Forester.

- **OF COURSE, YOU WILL ALSO WANT TO CONSIDER THE TAX IMPLICATIONS OF A HARVEST,** which may differ according to how you receive payment for the sale.

- **CHECK THE AVAILABILITY OF A RESPECTED HARVESTER** for the time you will need one. Also consider that buyers are often looking for "wet weather timber" - tracts that will be accessible during the wet seasons - and time your sale accordingly, if possible.

Remember...You're Not Alone

There are experts available to help you make decisions about the readiness of your trees for harvest, the current market and future trends, the details of actually selling your timber (sealed bids, pay - as cut vs. lump sum deals, etc.). Consult with an independent forestry consultant or with a forester from your state forest service. Talk to other timber growers about their marketing experiences, too, but keep in mind all the differences in your situations.

Now that you've harvested and sold your timber for the maximum profit, you'll soon be ready to start over. Remember, getting your new forest off to a good start will pay large dividends at harvest time!

Article from: Weyerhaeuser
TREE Growing Times
Summer 96

Results of Questionnaire

39 Responses

QUESTION	YES	NO
1. Have you done any T.S.I. in the last year?	7	27
2. Do you plan to do any T.S.I. during the coming year?	15	18
3. Have you conducted a timber sale in past year using a consultant?	5	27
4. Do you plan a timber sale in coming year using a consultant?	6	25
5. Have you planted seedlings in the past year?	5	28
6. Do you plan to plant seedlings in the coming year?	10	20
7. Are you concerned about low value hardwood chips?	24	6
8. Are you concerned about stewardship of the Ozark Forests?	30	4
9. Are you concerned about government intrusion?	27	4
10. If the Association could secure a forester, would you use one?	23	4
11. Should this Association continue to exist?	31	1



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