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March 2016 Newsletter

A Few Updates

There are a few changes to the Iowa Chapter's means of communication.
- The email address has been changed and is dedicated to the chapter.
- There is a Facebook page up and running.
- There is a chapter brochure. If you would like a few copies, let me know and I’ll send them.
- There is a chapter business card. Again, if you would like some of these, let me know and I’ll send them.

Email: iowa.walnut.council@gmail.com
Facebook: www.facebook.com/iowawalnutcouncil/
Phone: (563)940-3654
Address: 2437 Arlington Ave., Davenport, IA 52803

If you have suggestions, questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.
Cindy Heisdorffer—chapter president

Are you interested in the American Chestnut:  http://www.acf.org/

THE AMERICAN CHESTNUT FOUNDATION®

Restoring the American chestnut tree to our eastern woodlands to benefit our environment, our wildlife, and our society.

The goal of THE AMERICAN CHESTNUT FOUNDATION® is to restore the American chestnut tree to our eastern woodlands to benefit our environment, our wildlife, and our society. The American Chestnut Foundation is restoring a species - and in the process, creating a template for restoration of other tree and plant species.

In 2005, we harvested our first potentially blight-resistant chestnuts. We are now in a phase of rigorous testing and trial, in both forest and orchard settings. It is our confident expectation that we will one day restore the chestnut to our eastern forests. The return of the American chestnut to its former niche in the Appalachian hardwood forest ecosystem is a major restoration project that requires a multi-faceted effort involving 6,000 members & volunteers, research, sustained funding and most important, a sense of the past and a hope for the future.

National Office
50 North Merrimon Avenue, Suite 115
Asheville, NC 28804
Phone: (828) 281-0047
Fax: (828) 253-5373
chestnut@acf.org

North Central Regional Office
Penn State University
206 Forest Resources Lab
University Park, PA 16802-4704
Phone: 814-863-7192
Spring 2016 Field day . . . Saturday, April 23

Northeast Iowa has a wealth of forestry resources. Join the ICWC in April for a field day at Lynn and Dean Sorensen’s property between Waukon and Waterville, IA. This property demonstrates distinctly different forestry management techniques. Lynn’s father, Bill Schneeberger, planted a black walnut plantation via seedlings approximately 40 years ago and heavily managed it for many years. Right next to that plantation is a plot that Dean and Lynn direct seeded about 10 years ago, and it has been minimally managed. Nearby is a 3rd plot direct seeded approximately 15 years ago and has had no management at all.

In addition, we will be touring Dave’s Custom Services Woodworking Shop, about 8 miles away in Waukon. This small business produces hardwood butcher blocks, countertops, cabinets and other custom products.

Schedule:

10:00 am . . . Meet at 1468 Elon Dr, Waterville, IA 52170 to carpool to Dave’s Custom Services Woodworking shop. If you prefer to drive directly there, the address is 1650 Allamakee Street, Waukon, Iowa 52172, and it’s at the back of the building. (We should be there before 10:30.) Tour for approximately 1 hour, though we could take longer if needed.

11:30 am (approx.) . . . Lunch back at the Sorensen’s. Sandwiches, chips, dessert and beverages provided.

12:30 pm (approx.) . . . Walking tour and discussion of the history/issues/interests of the 3 plots. 1.5-2 hours. It isn’t particularly difficult or extensive walking.

There is no cost.

If you plan to attend, please contact Cindy Heisdorffer prior to the event. Thanks.

iowa.walnut.council@gmail.com or 563-940-3654
MEETING OVERVIEW
July 31-August 3, 2016
DoubleTree by Hilton
Lawrenceburg, Indiana

The annual meeting will include field trips, indoor presentations and our always popular Landowner Show and Tell plus the annual awards banquet on Tuesday.

Full program information and registration will be available in May.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

The meeting hotel will be the Doubletree by Hilton Lawrenceburg (1-812-539-8888) at 51 Walnut Street in Lawrenceburg, Indiana. Register by July 16th for the special “Walnut Council” group rate of $99 city view and $109 river view, rate includes a hot breakfast buffet.

This brand new hotel in downtown Lawrenceburg has beautiful views of the Ohio River and is within walking distance to bars and restaurants. It is located just a few minutes from Hollywood Casino.

NORTHEAST IOWA FORESTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
SPRING FIELD DAY ~ APRIL 19TH 2016
Louis Christen Property

9:00 am.
Registration (Louie’s House) 18292 D Ave., Elgin, IA 52141.

9:30 am.
Northeast Iowa Forestry Advisory Committee (NIFAC)
Who are we and what do we do.
Legislative update

Louie’s Wood Shop-
Bowl-making and more

12:00 pm.
Lunch (Louie’s Cabin) Catered by Edgewood Locker

1:00 pm.
West side walking tour-
Direct Seeding, Even age management, thinning
East side walking tour-
Walnut quality and value, uneven age management, weeding

3:30 pm.
NEIFAC meeting (for those who wish to stay)

Please RSVP to Jesse Randall by April 15th so we can get a head count for the noon meal prepared by the Edgewood Locker. There will be a small fee to cover the cost of the meal. randallj@iastate.edu [515-294-1168]

Instructors
Louis Christen- Landowner and Wood shop extraordinaire
Jim & Jody Kerns- NEIFAC Co presidents
Todd Jones- Log buyer (Jones Logging)
Gary Beyer – Consulting Forester (Beyer Forestry Services)
Jesse Randall – Extension Forester, Iowa State University
Jason Walker – District Forester, (Charles City) Iowa DNR
Greg Heidebrink – District Forester, (Charles City) Iowa DNR

Directions: Meet at Louis Christen home (18292 D Ave., Elgin, IA 52141). From West Union Iowa, take Hwy 56 (Filmore Rd.) east to D Ave. Turn south and travel ½ mile to Louie’s home (East side of the road).
Disturbing the picturesque scenery of Midwestern forests is an army of garlic mustard (Alliaria petiolata). An invasive herb, it has been in North America since 1868. Being quite tasty, it was likely brought as food. It does make a good pesto. Since its arrival, however, it has become one of the most invasive plant species of the eastern U.S. and Canada. It is pervasive because it is allelopathic, releasing chemicals that inhibit the growth of surrounding plants, allowing it to spread quickly and blanket a forest understory with seeds that can remain dormant for over a year. Its seeds germinate in early spring and each plant can produce thousands of seeds. Yikes!

How do you battle this enemy? Well, a couple of Ames crews, including my own, became soldiers in the effort at Effigy Mounds in Harpers Ferry, Iowa and got to experience applying chemicals to the herb. Wielding back-pack sprayers, we attacked with glyphosate (Round-Up). We swathed the forest, marking our trail with slappers that leave a chalk circle on whatever you hit. Sometimes the work was tedious, slowly walking in search of microadults (unusually small but seeding versions of the plant) and sometimes it was interesting as we moved along uneven terrain, through valleys and ditches and near rock edges. One has to go where the garlic mustard has gone.

There were equipment casualties over the course of the battles and people were stained a little blue from the dye used in the chemical mix (no harmful exposure), but it felt worth it to reduce the population of this invasive. We also learned that another effective way to remove a garlic mustard plant is to hand-pick it, shake off all of the dirt, remove the seed-head and hang it up off the ground for the other garlic mustard to see and be frightened by, or so that the roots don’t retake. This is what they do on the mounds at Effigy as it is not permitted to use chemicals or machines on the site.

The experience we had at Effigy Mounds wasn’t just about the Garlic Mustard Wars, though. We learned a lot from our project hosts about other species of plants and animals in the area and even some about the cultural history of the park. Our team birder was right in it with the park folks, pointing out the variety of great species of birds in the area and discerning their calls. We were allowed to check books out of the office’s small library, and those who worked with us were a wealth of information pointing out this and that as we walked our swaths.

On a rainy day, when we couldn’t spray, we put our time to educational use watching a video about a disease called white-nose that is effecting bat populations in caves across the country, and another video about the builders of the mounds. We even got to play with atlatls: the precursor to the bow and arrow, it’s a long narrow spear that is launched with a hooked stick. So much fun!!

I might close my eyes and see garlic mustard for a week or two but the experience was worth it; it felt good to put a dent in an invasive attacker and to learn as much as we did.
Lee Aldrich, a long-time Walnut Council member, is also a Christmas tree farmer in Belmond, Iowa. (The picture is from the field day this past fall in on the Krotz farm in Washington.)

“In 2006, I planted white pine 7 feet apart in 8 foot rows. That same spring, I planted a mix of fine hardwoods in 1/4 of the spaces in the rows. That consisted of about equal black cherry, red oak species, white oak species, or hard maple. They have been growing at about the same rate as the white pine (2 to 3 feet per year). Then after waiting several years for the white pine and hardwoods to get to be about 6 feet tall, I planted a walnut nut in each of the other 3/4 of the spaces. Since walnut grow so fast, they are now often toping the other trees.

In most cases, I have had to coppice the black cherry to get a straight truck. I have also coppiced oak and walnut very successfully.”

**Emerald Ash Borer:** Central States Forest Health Watch

Current forest health information for land managers in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, and Missouri

Website: [http://www.na.fs.fed.us/](http://www.na.fs.fed.us/)

By the end of 2015, 29 Iowa counties have been confirmed to have EAB. The map below shows known locations, with 15-mile radius circles in tan, indicating the areas where protective treatments are recommended for high-value trees. A statewide quarantine, issued in 2014, restricts the movement of hardwood firewood, ash logs, wood chips, and ash tree nursery stock out of Iowa into non-quarantined areas of other States. Iowans are urged to be vigilant in reporting suspicious symptoms in counties that are not yet known to be infested. More information for Iowa landowners can be found at [http://www.iowadnr.gov/Conservation/Forestry/Forest-Health/Emerald-Ash-Borer](http://www.iowadnr.gov/Conservation/Forestry/Forest-Health/Emerald-Ash-Borer).
The Importance of Membership

**Members** are absolutely the core of organizations like ours. Each of us plays a role, somehow, in ensuring that a group like ours will accomplish its purposes/goals.

The purposes/goals of the **Iowa Chapter of the Walnut Council**:
- Encourage sustainable forest management
- Advance cultural practices and help transfer science and technology from the research community to actual field practice
- Encourage new plantings of valuable hardwood species
- Assist landowners in keeping current with the latest research and industry information
- Sponsor chapter meetings, field days, and other events of interest to tree growers
- Provide networking and mentoring opportunities between generations of tree growers

Do you know someone who could benefit by being a part of the Walnut Council community?
Do you know someone who could contribute by being a part of the Walnut Council community?
Are you interested in inviting them to attend events/become members?
Is the Iowa Chapter of the Walnut Council meeting your needs? If not, would you be willing to pass on some ideas, complaints or suggestions?

Thanks so much for being a member and I hope each of you is able to achieve your personal forestry goals this year. I would absolutely love to learn about any of your achievements or experiments, especially with pictures, to pass on to others. I’d love to visit your property to see what you’re doing and hopefully provide a report to share with others in this group.

Cindy Heisdorffer

Wildcat Den State Park . . . 3/19/16