Updates

- We had a very successful spring field day in April and the fall field day has been scheduled. Please check out the information included in this newsletter.
- The Facebook page has been accumulating a little bit of a following!!! I would certainly welcome pictures and ideas for future posts.
- There are currently 34 members in the Iowa Chapter of the Walnut Council.
- If you can’t attend the Iowa Chapter fall field day, consider field days from Missouri, Wisconsin, and Illinois. One of them may actually be closer to you.

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

Iowa’s Oaks

(From Iowa State Forestry Extension: www.extension.iastate.edu/forestry/)

The "oak" is Iowa’s official state tree. Twelve different species of oaks are native to Iowa, although only a single species (bur oak) is found throughout the state. Iowa oaks are separated into either of two groups - red oaks or white oaks.

The **white oaks** (white, bur, chinkapin, swamp white, post and dwarf chinkapin) have lobed leaves with rounded lobes, acorns which mature in a single growing season and germinate in the fall sending down a root system, and have plugs (tyloses) in the water conducting tissue of the wood or vessels, making oak containers such as whiskey barrels waterproof.

The **red oaks** (red, pin, black, Northern pin, blackjack, and shingle) have mostly lobed leaves with bristle tips at the ends of the lobes, acorns requiring two growing seasons to mature and do not germinate until the following spring, and vessels without plugs.

**Germinating acorns**

- Acorns should be collected as soon as they fall to the ground. Viable acorns can be separated from damaged or unfilled acorns by placing them in water. Sound acorns sink. Most floating acorns are not viable and can be discarded.

- The acorns of white oak and swamp white oak should be planted in fall. They will germinate immediately after sowing.
- Acorns of bur oak, pin oak, and red oak will not germinate until they have been exposed to cool temperatures and moist conditions for several weeks. Winter weather in Iowa normally provides the necessary conditions to break dormancy. The cold-moist requirement can also be accomplished through a process called stratification. Acorns can be stratified by placing the seeds in a moist mixture of sand and peat moss and then storing them in a cool location.
Why might you want to distinguish between red and white oak?

From The Wood Database: www.wood-database.com - Check out this site!!!!

- White oak is much more resistant to rot, and is suitable for water-holding applications, boatbuilding, outdoor furniture, etc.
- Red oak should only be used for interior pieces such as cabinets, indoor furniture, etc.
- White oak tends to be more dense, while red oak is a bit lighter and has a more porous and open grain.
- White oak is usually slightly more expensive than red oak.

**Oak Regeneration**

Regeneration is a practice used for the establishment of new trees as older trees mature and are harvested. Techniques to obtain regeneration are done either before, during or after the final harvest, depending on the characteristics of the woodland. The techniques used will be determined by the condition of the woodland; consideration should be given to soils, topography, species present in the woodland, woodland density, and owner objectives.

Oak species are found on a wide range of soils and topography and are generally most successful on moist well-drained soils on a mid-slope position. White oak acorns will germinate in the fall after seed fall while red oak acorns will not germinate until the following spring. Oak is considered somewhat intolerant of shade; this means that oak seedlings can tolerate some shade, but will eventually need full sunlight and release from competition to become fully established.

Because of their requirement for sunlight, two regeneration techniques which appear to work best are the "clearcut" and "shelterwood" methods. Clearcutting involves the removal of all trees larger than 1-2 inches in diameter. The use of clearcutting as a regeneration procedure requires either adequate seedlings (at least 450 per acre) established prior to harvest or that the harvesting must be timed with a good acorn crop. Acorn germination is usually enhanced with soil disturbance which will place more acorns in contact with bare mineral soil. Oak regeneration must become established immediately or other less desirable species will take over the site. In the shelterwood system, a new stand is established under the shelter of a portion of the older trees. This usually involves removing most of the understory competition as well as some of the mature trees to open the area to more sunlight and causing some soil disturbance for the stimulation of greater acorn production and acorn germination. Once the seedlings are well established, the remaining overstory is removed in the final harvest. Three to seven years may be required between initial harvest and final harvest to ensure that the seedlings are well established.

With all methods of oak regeneration, it may be important to control understory vegetation as the seedlings are becoming established. This may require controlling both herbaceous and woody weeds.

For the full article, see: www.extension.iastate.edu/forestry/timber_management/oak.html

Another resource: www.extension.umn.edu/environment/trees-woodlands/managing-oak-in-the-driftless-area/
Oak Wilt

Oak wilt, the most damaging disease of oak trees in Iowa, has killed many forest and landscape oaks in the Eastern and Central United States. Oak wilt has not devastated its host species, however, mainly because its spread from diseased to healthy trees has been relatively slow and sporadic. Nevertheless, local outbreaks of oak wilt can kill or injure many trees. Good management practices can help minimize the risk of losing oaks to this disease.

Oak wilt was first identified in Wisconsin in the early 1940s, though survey records suggest that it had been present there since at least 1912. By 1951, oak wilt was recognized as the major disease of oak throughout the Upper Mississippi Valley. Virtually all counties in Iowa have reported the disease.

The fungus that causes oak wilt, *Ceratocystis fagacearum*, invades the water-conducting tissues (xylem) of oak trees. The trees respond to this attack by plugging the xylem vessels with tyloses, which are outgrowths from cells next to the vessels. The tyloses block the normal upward flow of water through the vessels, causing the foliage to wilt and die.

All oaks are susceptible to oak wilt. However, species in the red oak group are more susceptible than species in the white oak group. Trees in the red oak group often die within 1 to 4 months after infection. Trees in the white oak group typically develop symptoms more slowly. For example, bur oaks typically die after 1 to 7 years, showing progressive dieback during the process. White oaks may take up to 20 years to die, and some white oaks survive the disease.

In the red oak group oak wilt symptoms first appear in late spring or early summer. Leaves discolor, wilt, and fall at the top of the tree first, and later at the tips of the lateral branches. Leaves turn a dull, bronzed brown at the tips and along the outer margins, with a sharp line separating discolored from normal green tissue. The discoloration progresses toward the leaf base and the midrib. Infected trees often wilt completely within several weeks after the first symptoms appear. The heavy defoliation that accompanies wilting includes leaves at all stages of discoloration, even completely green leaves. Oak wilt sometimes turns the outermost ring of sapwood a dark brown or black.

(continued on next page)
(Oak Wilt continued . . .)

Symptoms are more variable in the white oak group. Although symptoms may develop in a sequence similar to that of the red oak group, they often begin in mid- to late summer and progress more slowly. In a given year, only a few branches of an infected tree, scattered through the crown, may show symptoms and die back. Trees infected for two or more years commonly develop isolated dead branches in the crown.

Oak wilt is easy to confuse with other disorders. Anthracnose, drought, insect borers, waterlogged soil, nutritional imbalances, chemical injury, and lightning can cause browning of leaves and wilt-like symptoms resembling oak wilt.

Oak wilt can spread from infected trees to healthy trees in two ways: through root grafts connecting nearby oaks, and by insects that carry spores of the fungus from one locality to another. Roots of oaks form natural grafts with roots of adjacent oaks of the same species up to 50 feet apart and this links together the vascular systems of the trees, forming a common network through which the oak wilt fungus can move. The oak wilt fungus can survive for at least three years in the root systems of red or black oaks killed by the disease and can be drawn through root grafts to nearby trees throughout that time. Root graft transmission can spread the disease outward from an initial infected tree to kill all the same-species oaks in a stand.

Oak trees wounded between April 1 and July 1 are at high risk for oak wilt infection because sap flows freely from wounds made during this period. The wounds are attractive to sap-feeding beetles that can transmit the oak wilt fungus. Sap beetles can be abundant during this period, increasing the risk of oak wilt infection. If pruning, logging, or other wounding is unavoidable during this high-risk period, wounds should be treated promptly (within several hours). The risk of insect transmission is lower from July 1 until the first hard frost, but some risk still remains. Wounds made during the dormant season, from the first hard frost until April 1, do not require wound dressing. This is the safest period for making any type of wound on oaks, whether from pruning, logging, construction activity, or other causes. An estimated 80 percent of new outbreaks of oak wilt result from wounding during construction activity. Special care should be taken before and during site clearance and construction to protect high-value oaks from wounding and apply wound dressings where these trees have been damaged.

For further information, check out the following site . . .

TOP TEN THINGS NOT TO DO WHEN SELLING TIMBER

Trees are a valuable product; some woods can be worth several thousands of dollars per acre and if managed properly can earn you hundreds of dollars per acre per year. If you own woods, you should manage them properly. Part of management is selling timber; these are the basic things you should know if you ever sell timber.

1. DON’T SELL TO A TIMBER BUYER THAT IS NOT BONDED. Iowa has a bonded timber buyer’s law that requires anyone that buys timber to be bonded. This may not mean that all bonded buyers are reputable but it gives you a good starting point.

2. DON’T SELL UNLESS EVERYTHING IS IN WRITING. A good timber contract can go a long ways to ensure that you have a good experience selling timber. The contract should state how the trees are marked, how many trees, the purchase price, time period to remove the timber, what logging conditions are acceptable (dry or frozen), and who is liable for damage to the property, etc.

3. DON’T SELL UNMARKED TREES. If the trees to be harvested are marked there is no question as to which trees should be harvested. It is also advisable to solicit comparable bids on the timber when each company is bidding on the same item. After the sale is done, don’t add or exchange trees, remember trees vary considerably in value, by changing things the whole bid process can be ruined.

4. DON’T SELL TIMBER ON THE SPUR OF THE MOMENT. Think about what you are doing. Once you sign the contract or accept the money there is no going back. The deal will more than likely be there tomorrow, so take time to check it out. Timber varies considerably in price—know what you are selling.

5. DON’T SELL TREES ON A DIAMETER LIMIT. The size of the tree shouldn’t dictate if that tree should be harvested, the condition or potential of the tree should. The woods contains many different species, each maturing at a different age and size, when selling on a diameter limit you often will over-cut the woods selling many trees that would increase significantly in value in the near future.

6. DON’T SELL ONLY YOUR BEST TREES. Trees vary considerably in value, often only from a few dollars to hundreds or on occasion thousands of dollars. Selling only the best trees is called high grading and can hurt the long term productivity of the woods. When selling timber sell the trees that are declining in value, sell the less desirable or weeds trees and mix in the best trees when they've reached their peak value. The best trees are probably earning you at least 10% per year and you will always find a buyer who wants them.

7. DON’T SELL CUT AND SCALE OR ON SHARES. Unless you know how to cut and scale trees you are relying on the buyer to determine what trees are worth and to maximize the yield from the tree. Some buyers may not want to mess with the lower grade logs at the tops of the tree even though there may be value in those logs. Sell your timber on a lump-sum, up-front payment and “take it or leave it” for only the marked trees.

8. DON’T ACCEPT CASH. Accepting cash may not be a problem, but it often may entice you into acting too quickly to sell. Don’t forget once you accept the money and sign the contract it’s a done deal—there’s no going back.

9. DON’T ENTER INTO A MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT GIVING A COMPANY EXCLUSIVE RIGHT TO YOUR TIMBER. A management agreement may sound good, but there is usually a cost. The buyer has a conflict of interest if he works for the timber company and they want your timber.

10. DON’T INCLUDE TREES DAMAGED DURING THE LOGGING. This may sound like the logical thing to do the problem is trees can be damaged on purpose. When the trees are marked care should be taken to make sure the trees can be harvested without damage to the remaining trees.
Fall 2016 Field day . . . Saturday, October 22nd
Please note that the date has been changed from an earlier announcement!!!!

**Time:** 10 am to 3 pm

**Location:** 18337 Eby’s Mill Road, Monticello, Iowa

**Directions to the property:** Travelling on 136, turn west on county road E17, 3.7 miles to Ebys Mill Road (there will be a sign for Scotch Grove Coon Hunter’s Club/Ebys Mill Road). Turn north (right) onto EMR (X73) and drive about another 3 miles. At this point there will be some corn field to drive over, so vehicles with higher ground clearance are needed. We can car pool from here.

**The Event:** We’ll visit a direct seed plantation planted in 1976 that is now owned by the Jones County Conservation Board, formerly owned by Arnold Bruggeman. This property was a mature oak stand that was cleared of all the understory leading up to a fall harvest when the acorn crop was plentiful, then all the merchantable trees were harvested. The rest was cleared, pushed into piles and burned after which it was assumed the land would be farmed. Instead, the Bruggeman Reforestation Technique, as it was to be called, resulted in a really nice black walnut plantation. Ben Bruggeman is a 4th generation timber buyer and will be conducting the tour. While there, we will participate in a hardwood harvest including on-site sawing of the harvest by Ralph Manternach.

**Lunch:** This will be pay-as-you-go at a “The Grove”, a local bar and grill. The menu options will be burger, tenderloin, or chicken and fries.

There is no cost for this field day other than lunch.

Please let one of us know if you plan to attend.

Cindy Heisdorffer or Ben Bruggeman
iowa.walnut.council@gmail.com 563-543-8293
563-940-3654
BLACK WALNUT AS AN ORCHARD CROP

Hammons Products Company Headquarters, 414 North St. Stockton, MO 65785

Friday, September 16th, from 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

Hosted by Hammons Products Company and the University of Missouri Center for Agroforestry, the event will focus on establishment, management and economic considerations for black walnut as an orchard crop and agroforestry practices that integrate black walnuts in Missouri and the Midwestern United States.

The event is free and open to the public. Advanced registration is requested.

To register, please contact Caroline Todd at the Center for Agroforestry: Tel: 573 884 2874 or email: toddcs@missouri.edu

Field Day Schedule

8:00–9:00 AM  Registration and Tour of Plant Facility

9:00–9:20 AM  Commercial Aspects of Black Walnut Nuts - Brian Hammons, President, CEO, Hammons Products

9:20–9:50 AM  Site Selection, Establishing and Managing Black Walnut – Dr. Hank Stelzer, Extension Forester, Department of Forestry, University of Missouri

9:50–10:10 AM  Financial Support for Planting and Managing Black Walnut - Dr. Nate Goodrich, NRCS State Forester

10:10–10:30 AM  BREAK

10:30–10:55 AM  A Case Study of Black Walnut Nut Production Using Known Cultivars – Andy Thomas, Assistant Research Professor, University of Missouri Southwest Research Center

10:55–11:30 AM  Genetic Enhancement of Black Walnut for Nut Crop Production - Dr. Mark Coggeshall, Assistant Research Professor, Center for Agroforestry

11:30–12:00 PM  Black Walnut as a Health Food – Dr. Chung-Ho Lin, Research Assistant Professor, Center for Agroforestry

12:00–12:45 PM  LUNCH

12:45–4:00 PM  Field Trip to New Grafted Black Walnut Orchard and Sho-Neff Plantation where Orchard Management and Agroforestry will be discussed – Dr. Gene Garrett, Former Director, Center for Agroforestry

4:30 PM  ADJOURN
The Missouri chapter of the Walnut Council Fall meeting is scheduled for September 30th and October 1st in Blue Springs and Pleasant Hill, MO. The meeting will cover several diverse topics to help you manage your forest resources.

**Highlights of the field days include:**
- Controlling Invasive Species
- Our Declining Pollinator Population
- Agroforestry in a Walnut Plantation
- Edge Feathering
- Room to Grow for Valuable Hardwoods
- How much is Your Tree Worth?
- From Logs to Lumber
- Demonstration of Timber Stand Improvement
- Impact of Soil Types on Tree Growth and Management
- Walnut Buying Station

A full copy of the agenda can be viewed [here](#). Please RSVP via e-mail (mowalnutcouncil@gmail.com) or call Aaron Twombly at 913-704-5210 by September 25th. Please note which days you plan to attend and if you will attend the Friday evening meal.

The program has been approved by the Society of American Foresters for continuing education credits. The SAF will award 9.9 hours for attending the conference.

**We encourage you to invite your friends and neighbors to attend!**

Dennis Evans
Chapter President
Wisconsin Walnut Council Fall 2016 Field Day
Saturday October 8, 2016 starting at 9:30 AM and ending at 3:00 PM

Larry Severeid Farm, 19315 Jackson Rd, Sparta, WI
(If you plug that address into google maps it will pin point the location)

The theme for the day is pruning and thinning walnut plantations. Walnut Council members and attendees will have the chance to practice actual pruning in the Severeid plantation; the plantation will have crop trees marked so pruning will be done on crop trees only; pruning and crop tree selection can be discussed as there will be several professional foresters on site to work with participants. Release of crop trees will be done by Severeid Tree Farm at a later date.

The theme of our last field day was practicing forestry on a property with little history of management for walnut or hardwoods. This field day will provide the chance to see a property that has benefited from many years of forest management.

PLEASE RSVP TO PROVIDE A COUNT FOR LUNCH AND INDICATE IF YOU CAN BRING A PRUNING SAW. SEE BELOW.

START 9:30 - 10:00 Meet and greet with coffee and snacks provided

MORNING PRESENTATION
10:00 - 10:15 Chapter business meeting - Manfred Mielke, Chapter President
10:15 - 10:45 History of the property and review/discuss management plan - Brent Severeid and other land managers at the field day. Opportunity to see chestnut blight, butternut canker, oak wilt and Fusarium canker of walnut.

MORNING FIELD SESSION
10:45 - noon Hands-on pruning and discussion of crop tree selection

NOON to 1:00 - Lunch provided by the chapter

AFTERNOON SESSION
1:00 - 3:00 Continued opportunity for pruning and discussion of walnut management; self-guided walking tours; discussion with Brent and foresters
3:00 Adjourn and head for home.

Portable bathrooms will be available; Terrain is varied but there is no formal walking tour.

RSVP to Manfred Mielke: mmielke@fs.fed.us
Illinois Walnut Council

Annual Field Day/Meeting

September 10th, 2016

Meet @ Nystrom Homestead
14293 IL Route 17
Altona, IL  61414

9-9:15 AM  Registation/ coffee & donuts
9:15-9:25  Travel to Torbert’s Tree farm
9:25 AM -3:00 PM Torbert’s Tree Farm (lunch on site)

Topics to discuss/demonstrate:

- Crop tree selection
- Crop tree release
- Vine removal
- Pruning
- Weeding
- Site preparation
- Planting container stock
- Tree felling
- Invasive species control
- Herbicides

Registration: $15 payable to Illinois Walnut Council
Steve Felt
522 Roberts Lane
Sherrard, IL  61281
309-373-0506 (cell)