A perfect day for the fall event

Iowa’s fall event was held Saturday, Oct. 17 in Washington, Iowa and attracted 14 participants. The first portion was a presentation by Joseph L. McConnell, lawyer, about estate planning (in particular, LLC’s) for woodland owners. Participants learned the function and advantages of Limited Liability Company formation in Iowa, how to form the LLC, how taxes are affected, the difference between LLC and Sub Chapter S Corp, and about the roles of members and managers. Discussion following the presentation focused on buy/sell fair value determination, gifting and estate tax issues, examples of liabilities (e.g. attractive nuisances), and capital improvements.

The presentation was followed by lunch and then a field day at the Krotz farm, a few miles northeast of Washington. Two state foresters provided information, Mark Vitosh and Ray Lehn. Mark identified and discussed invasive species, in particular bush honeysuckle, bittersweet, buckthorn, garlic mustard, multiflora rose, barberry, and euonymus (burning bush), and various ways of dealing with them. Special attention was paid to how to maintain environmental integrity while managing the different species. Ray has been involved with the direct seeding efforts on this property for nearly 30 years and he identified/discussed many of the successes and problems encountered over the years. The weather for this field day was absolutely perfect and the whole event was very well received by all the participants.
The Hardwood Tree Improvement and Regeneration Center

An important resource for tree farmers

The Hardwood Tree Improvement and Regeneration Center (HTIRC) located at Purdue University is a collaborative regional research, development and technology transfer effort between industry, university, private, state and federal entities to advance tree improvement of central hardwoods for increased forest productivity in hardwood restoration and reforestation programs.

One of the more valuable products from HTIRC is a listing of publications on tree identification and management and the pruning and care of fine hardwood seedlings. Click on Information for Landowners, under the Publications link available on the left hand side of the HTIRC website.

Iowa Tree Pests: Iowa’s Invasive Insects and Disease Watch List

The Iowa Tree Pests Website was designed to be an up-to-date source of information for Iowa, and for any person who wants to learn more about invasive tree pests. There currently are several invasive insect and disease pests on the horizon, not only of great concern for Iowa and the Midwest, but also the entire United States. The following information is an excerpt from the website:

**Thousand Cankers Disease of Black Walnut** - Thousand cankers disease (TCD) threatens the entire United States walnut industry, and is caused by a recently described fungus, *Geosmithia morbida*, that is vectored by the walnut twig beetle, *Pityophthorus juglandis*.

TCD has not been found in Iowa to date. The disease occurs in nine western states, and was found for the first time in the native range of black walnut in Tennessee during July 2010. The disease has also been found since then, in isolated locations of Virginia, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and North Carolina.

TCD is a recently recognized disease of walnut. Death or decline of walnut trees have been noticed for a decade in several western states (California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Utah, New Mexico, Colorado and Arizona). It wasn’t until 2008 when the fungus was first identified in Colorado, and it was also determined that the walnut twig beetle was vectoring the fungus.

The walnut twig beetles carry *Geosmithia* fungal spores to uninfected trees. As the beetle feeds on the tree and constructs galleries under the bark, the fungus infects the surrounding tissue near the beetle’s gallery. The fungus kills the phloem tissue causing a small darkened area of dead tissue around the beetle gallery. This small area is called a canker.

Size comparison of walnut twig beetle

The walnut twig beetles carry *Geosmithia* fungal spores to uninfected trees. As the beetle feeds on the tree and constructs galleries under the bark, the fungus infects the surrounding tissue near the beetle's gallery. The fungus kills the phloem tissue causing a small darkened area of dead tissue around the beetle gallery. This small area is called a canker.
The cankers caused by the *Geosmithia* fungus are small, but multiple attacks by walnut twig beetles may result in many cankers on the same tree. These cankers collectively girdle and kill branches, and can kill the entire tree. Essentially the tree is killed by thousands and thousands of cankers.

This is very different from Dutch elm disease or oak wilt. These insect vectored diseases only require one introduction of the pathogen, where the fungus spreads through the whole tree, and will even spread to neighboring trees through roots that have grafted together.

The first symptoms to appear are flagging leaves (leaves wilting and yellowing mid-summer). This is followed by thinning of the canopy from twig and branch dieback.

Natural spread from the beetle flying to new trees occurs mostly on a small scale, as the beetle cannot fly very long distances.

Similar to other tree pests, long distance movement of thousand cankers disease is primarily by people transporting walnut wood and logs, firewood, wood packaging material, nursery stock, and scion wood. Nuts are not a concern, since TCD does not move systemically through the tree and is not seed-borne.

. . . Please refer to the article for further information.

Got rabbits that aren’t welcome? Want a trap that works? Try out the following . . . [http://www.trap-anything.com/live-trap-plans.html](http://www.trap-anything.com/live-trap-plans.html)

These plans can be modified for smaller or larger animals.
Walnut Council: Benefits of Membership

Our members receive a subscription to the quarterly “Walnut Council Bulletin,” access to the walnut information “Hot Line,” national and chapter websites, notices of new publications of interest, the “Iowa Chapter News,” frequent technical articles on key topics in woodland management, and the availability of free mentoring assistance from fellow members proficient in management activities ranging from plant selections, writing timber management plans and completing a timber tax basis.

- What do you expect from this organization in return for your membership dues?
- What do you want to learn or hear about when attending the meetings, field tours and receiving correspondence?
- Do the topics discussed at our meetings pertain to your operation?
- Can you suggest topics that would interest you and others?
- What would you change about our chapter newsletter and other correspondence we send you?
- Can you offer suggestions in how to attract new members?
- Your assistance is also requested in helping grow our membership. Our strength is in members with broad technical skills and expertise together with industry representatives and woodland landowners who share a common passion for growing quality timber. If you need membership brochures we will gladly provide them.

Upcoming Events

2016 Tri-State Forestry Conference: This event is held in March. Registration opens in December 2015.

http://www.extension.iastate.edu/forestry/tri_state/introduction.html

* There will be information on the spring event in Iowa in the next newsletter as well as information about field days in surrounding states. (Suggestions are very welcome!)

A few more resources you might like to try out:

Forest Landowners Guide to Internet Resources
This listing of internet resources was developed to provide you, the Non-Industrial Private Forest (NIPF) landowner, with a better understanding of the information and resources available on the internet relating to forest stewardship.

The Forestry Forum
Discussion board with topics including forestry, logging, sawmilling, chainsaws.

About.com Forestry
General information on forestry topics and a discussion forum.