

# The Juglans

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www.WalnutCouncil.org



Prez Says  
Jeremy Parish

I've been hearing that this year's corn crop could be a bin-buster. The conditions responsible for this mean that it should turn out to be a better-than-average year for tree growth as well (at least for

those that survived the wind). Unfortunately, that also means it's been a better-than-average year for all the weeds competing with our fine hardwoods. Take a few moments and walk your tree farm to assess how well, or not so well, your weed control efforts are holding up. It's not too late to make some adjustments.

Many thanks to the Illinois Forestry Development Council for funding the Safety in Forestry Demonstration day held back on June 21st. Those who attended were treated to world-class instruction that has made them better equipped to work safely in the woods. Thanks also to Dan Schmoker for hosting this event at his tree farm in Green County.

Don't forget to register for our upcoming annual fall field days September 20 in Knox County. More information on this can be found on page 8-9 in this issue, including a registration form. It's shaping up to be a good one, so don't miss it. We hope to see you there.

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# Case Study in Champaign County

“As you know, benign neglect is not a food management scheme.” Those words were spoken by Dan Schmoker in 2013 to a walnut plantation owner. Trees were planted on 4 acres over a three year period. The average diameter measured at breast height (DBH) is approximately 6 inches, with a range of 4 to 10 inches and a height of 35 to 40 feet. The original spacing was 12 x 12 resulting in 302 trees per acre. At final harvest, there will only be 35 to 40 trees per acre after repeated thinning. The trees were planted in Catlin silt loam which is a good soil for walnut since it is deep and moderately well drained (internal drainage).

## Recommendations:

First, the best crop trees should be selected and marked with paint. Next, prune the crop trees in stages to a height of 17 feet. Remove only up to 30% of the live limbs during a single growing season. Dead limbs can be removed any time. Limbs larger than 3 inches should not be pruned due to the long time required for closing the wound and risking fungi and disease. Prune a few other good quality trees as insurance. The third step is to remove crown competition from the crop trees. The objective is to have 3 to 4 sides of the crop trees released and free to grow. This allows the food factory to expand and for the trees to maintain an even rate of growth. A second crop tree release needs to happen when the tree crowns begin to touch. Then a third thinning... etc. By the fourth and fifth thinning, the trees to be removed will have some commercial value.

A fourth treatment is to help the trees obtain more of the most lacking soil nutrient, nitrogen. Brome grass sod is most efficient in extracting soil moisture and the naturally fixed nitrogen in precipitation. If the trees can obtain more moisture and nitrogen, then the growth will be better. Alleviate this problem by killing the brome grass by spraying glyphosate in strips 3 to 4 feet wide between the rows. This needs to be done annually. The thick bark of the trees prevents harm from the herbicides. Mow only once per year in late fall. Frequent mowing only renews the grass and makes it more competitive. Walnut trees cast a very light shade and do not inhibit the grass.

The future is uncertain but here are some estimates and comments for your consideration. I estimate the present diameter growth rate to be 1/2 to 3/4" per year. Growth rings are 1/4 to 3/8" wide. If on average the tree grows 1/2" per year, than in ten years it will grow 5" in diameter. The average size at 6" DBH will be 11 inches. If growth is 3/4" then that 6" tree becomes a 13.5 inch tree. In 20 years the tree diameter would be 16 inches or with the faster growth, 19 inches. Had it not been so bitterly cold on December 9th, I would have examined the growth rings. I will do so when I mark the crop trees.

The goal for growing walnut is to maintain the current rate of growth, not allowing a slowdown or a big gain in diameter growth. An even growth rate produces the best quality wood. There are many things which can change this goal, things we cannot control. We can influence the amount of sunlight each tree obtains, thereby improving quality and shortening the rotation.

Current prices for walnut range from \$0.40 to \$1.00 per board foot, and for veneer the range is \$1 to \$5 per board foot (a board foot is a piece of wood about 12"x12"x1") and is the standard unit for measuring volume of wood in a tree or log).

Trees will be marked by the end of February. Meanwhile, here are some tips: Buy a really good pole pruning saw- Silky and ARS are good brands. The closer you are to the branch you are pruning, the better the wound will seal. When you fell trees, use a notch of 70° to 90°. Get a helper and a forked pole or spike (wedges and pry bars are helpful) to help push the trees where you want them to go.

Story Continued on Page 4

# Case Study in Champaign County

Continued from Page 3

On March 11, 2013 Dan Schmoker selected and marked 48 crop trees with blue paint, 79 trees to be removed were marked with orange spots. There were many trees with no markings- these trees should be kept as trainers and as insurance trees which could substitute as crop trees should any of the crop trees be damaged in future years. In addition, 10 representative crop trees were numbered and their DBH measured as a record for growth in future years.

The Illinois Walnut Council offered to thin and prune crop trees for a donation to the Chapter. The landowner accepted this offer so four IWC members assisted one of the plantation owners and their farm manager with thinning and pruning.



John Torbert removing low quality walnut.



Wade Nystrom pruning high quality (crop tree) walnut with potential 14 ft. veneer log

Judging from the picture, killing grass would help trees grow faster especially in the early stages of growth.

# Safety in Forestry

Thanks to a grant from the Illinois Forestry Development Council, the Illinois Walnut Council co-sponsored a one day workshop at Dan Schmoker's Greene Tree Farm, dealing with chainsaw maintenance and tree felling safety. According to Joe Glenn, logger and Game of Logging instructor, here is a 5 step plan for felling trees safely:

Step 1: Look for hazards both on the ground, and in the tree you are going to cut, and the surrounding trees.

Step 2: Check for lean and select the good side (most of the canopy) and the bad side.

Step 3: Plan your escape route – the angle of escape should be about 45 from the line direction from the tree you are cutting and make sure the path is clear

Step 4: Cut the notch at 70-90 degrees- the length of the hinge should be about 80% of the DBH, hinge thickness not more than 10% of DBH.

Step 5: Bore cut behind the hinge to establish thickness, then cut back- on small diameter trees, continue to cut out of the tree, on larger trees, leave the back side of the tree left intact; then when you drop the tree, cut from the back side (pulling the trigger”).



# Market Report

Here's an update on the Lumber Market (IN), 4/4 green, \$/ thousand board feet- Reported 8/22/2014

	Average (all lumber grades)	Best grade
Ash	\$808.75	\$1122.50
Basswood	\$463.33	\$707.50
Black cherry	\$944.38	\$1335.00
Hickory	\$899.79	\$1112.50
Sugar maple (hard)	\$1052.50	\$1682.50
Silver maple (soft)	\$834.17	\$1400.00
Red oak	\$918.75	\$1331.25
White oak	\$943.50	\$1466.88
Tulip poplar	\$611.88	\$853.75
Black walnut	\$1787.50	\$2848.75

What's hot---Hickory ; What's not ---Red oak

### IWC Membership:

We would like to welcome the following new and renewing members to the Illinois Walnut Council who have joined the Walnut Council within the past year. We encourage you to participate in field days (and even host a field day), comment on newsletter articles, or make suggestions how we can make your membership worthwhile.

Phil Dixon, Princeville, IL  
 Keith Etheridge, Taylorville, IL  
 Carles Brown, Geneseo, IL  
 Eric Anderson, Chicago, IL  
 Philip P. Braswell, Washington, DC  
 Bob Trimble, Monticello, IL

Mike Peterson, Port Byron, IL  
 Trent Seaman, Alvin, IL  
 Dick Breitenstein, Lynn Center, IL  
 Melanie Grove, Champaign, IL  
 Bill Taylor, Monticello, IL

Master Nut Cracker  
 Gerald Gardner  
 5365 Blackberry road  
 Sarcoxie, MO. 64862



If interested in nut growing, join the:  
 Illinois Nut Tree Association  
 Arletta Bundy Secretary  
 23547 N. Baldrige Ln  
 Centralia, IL 62801  
 Phone:618-249-6624  
 E-mail: labundy5@hotmail.com

# Member News and Information

## FINANCIAL REPORT July 15, 2014

Checking Account		
Beginning Balance (March 5, 2014)		\$5,377.09
Revenue:		
None		
TOTAL REVENUE:		\$0
Expenditures:		
24 pruners		\$371.52
National Meeting Sponsorship		\$500.00
Wildlife Prairie Park Donation		\$100.00
Juglans Newsletter (VCCD and Stamps)		\$99.00
Illinois Dept. of Revenue (Sales Tax)		\$8.00
Safety in Forestry Seminar*		\$1,866.29
- Joe Glenn - \$1,100.00		
- Food, Supplies, etc. - \$766.29		
TOTAL EXPENDITURES:		\$2,944.81
Expenditures over Revenue:		(\$2,944.81)
Subtract from Beginning Balance:		\$2,432.28
(agrees with bank statement)		

\*The IWC will be reimbursed for this Seminar by the IFDC

### 2013-2014 Annual Audit

The 2013-2014 Annual Audit for the Illinois Walnut Council has been approved by the IWC Audit Committee as submitted by the IWC Treasurer Ken Konsis. Committee members include Harold Winship (chair), John Torbert and Jeremy Parish (IWC President). The completed audit has been submitted to the Walnut Council National Office. Note: The Illinois Walnut Council is the only state chapter of the National Walnut Council that is independently incorporated.

# IWC Annual Field Day

Mark your calendars!

The annual Walnut Council field day/meeting will be held September 20th north of Galesburg. Plans are to meet at the Pilot Truck stop (car side) on I-74 near Woodhull (Exit 32) at 9AM Saturday morning. From there we will carpool to a large (50+ acres), young walnut plantation just north of Woodhull; from there we will visit a 15- year old CRP hardwood plantation w/ pine near Swedona; we will have a catered lunch and our business meeting at the covered bridge park at Fyre Lake near Sherrard, IL. After lunch we will move a few miles north and visit a woodland to observe logging, heavy site preparation, and planting of container grown trees.

**STOP 1:**  
The managers of this walnut plantation will be on hand to discuss the establishment of this stand and future management activities.



**STOP 2:**  
This planting has two distinct areas: the bottomland area was planted to walnut and swamp white oak; the upland area was planted with a mixture of white pine and hardwoods. Thinning and pruning will be demonstrated.

# IWC Annual Field Day

**STOP 3:**  
An improvement cut has been marked. Mature, defective, and undesirable trees that are merchantable will be harvested. Several trees will be cut and open areas will be created where container-grown trees will be planted.



Registration Form	
Name _____	
Address _____	
_____	
Phone _____	
No. of People _____	Cost: \$15/person (Payable to Illinois Walnut Council)
Send to: Steve Felt 522 Roberts Lane Sherrard, IL 61281	
or: Phone: 309-373-0506 (cell)	
or: E-mail: feltfam3@mchsi.com	

Illinois Walnut Council  
*The Juglans*  
c/o Forest Glen Preserve  
20301 E 900 North Road  
Westville, IL 61883



Please keep your IWC membership address and dues current. Payment of \$50.00 should be sent to IWC Headquarters at Forest Glen at the address listed on the return label. You can also pay online at [www.WalnutCouncil.org](http://www.WalnutCouncil.org).

## Upcoming Events

- September 20** Illinois Walnut Council Field Day - see Page 8-9 Inside for Information  
E-mail [Stephen.Felt@illinois.gov](mailto:Stephen.Felt@illinois.gov)
- September 20** Field Day at Luebke Tree Farm, Stockton, IL  
Contact [www.ilforestry.org](http://www.ilforestry.org)
- September 26-27** Illinois Forestry Association Annual Field Day, Springfield, IL  
Contact [www.ilforestry.org](http://www.ilforestry.org)
- October 8** Fall Field trip Weiland property in Dodge County  
Contact [www.wiscwalnutcouncil.org](http://www.wiscwalnutcouncil.org)
- October 18** Chestnut Roast at Forrest Keeling Nursery, Elsberry, Missouri  
Contact [www.fknursery.com](http://www.fknursery.com)
- October 18** Illinois Tree Farm Annual Field Day  
E-mail: [Kurt.Bobsin@illinois.gov](mailto:Kurt.Bobsin@illinois.gov)

