

The Juglans

March 2015

www.WalnutCouncil.org



Prez Says
Jeremy Parish

I don't know about all of you, but I sure am glad to have that winter behind me. With warmer temperatures on the way, it's time to prepare for another round of management activities.

If you have a plan, take a look at the schedule of practices to determine which should take priority this year. For tasks you'd rather not tackle yourself, contact a forestry contractor in your area. A list of all known contractors in the state can found online at dnr.state.il.us/conservation/forestry. If you have any questions about your plan, or if you don't have one, call your District Forester or a professional consulting forester for assistance. On November 7th, we will host a management plan workshop just outside of Danville at Kennekuk County Park. We will have it in the new Environmental Education Center, which features unique woodwork cut from trees that were felled at Forest Glen during the 2012 national meeting. The workshop will be geared toward those who don't have a plan, those who do but have questions, and those who write plans. Until next time, take care and be safe out there!

In this Issue

Prez Says	Page 1
Council Contacts	Page 2
Save your Ash Trees	Page 3
Annual Field Day	
Highlights	Page 4,5
2014 Forest Health	
Highlights	Page 6,7
FY14 Financial	
Report	Page 8
2014 Inventory	Page 9



Illinois Walnut Council Board of Directors



Jeremy Parish, President
Vermilion County Conservation District
P.O. Box 951
Catlin, IL 61817
(217)918-3032



Wade Nystrom, Vice-President
14293 IL HWY 17
Altona, IL 61414
309-932-2842
nystrom@speednet.com



Steve Felt, Secretary
IDNR District Forester
522 Roberts Lane
Sherrard, IL 61281
(309)593-2561
Stephen.Felt@illinois.gov



Ken Konsis, Treasurer
Vermilion County Conservation District
234 Walnut
Westville, IL 61883
(217)267-3570
kkonsis@vccd.org



Carolyn Kleven, Eastern Region
1317 N. 300 East Road
Monticello, IL 61856
(217)669-2369



Dave Asbury, Western Region
Asbury Sales & Service (Stihl)
1522 Highway 150 E
Gilson, IL 61436
(309)289-2929
patriciaasbury@yahoo.com



John Torbert, Northern Region
P.O. Box 74
Bishop Hill, IL 61419
(309)337-0879



Wayne Wildy, Southern Region
7718 Wildy Road
New Athens, IL 62264
(618)475-2839



Dan Schmoker, Central Region
#5 Greencastle Circle
Springfield, IL 62707
(217)416-1587
danwalnut1@gmail.com



Member-at-Large:
Kate Scott
12288 Friends Creek Park Road
Cisco, IL 61830
(217)795-2104
prairie.sky83@gmail.com



Member-at-Large:
Wil Thielemann, Central Region
254 County Road 2500 E
Carlock, IL 61725
(309)726-1365



Melanie Grove
Facebook Page Manager



How to Save Your Ash Trees

Reprinted from Illinois Country Living

by David Robson, Extension Specialist, Pesticide Safety for the University of Illinois

Since 2006, the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) has spread throughout the state, usually following interstate highways or rail lines, though there have been a few exceptions. Left on its own devices, the EAB flies about 1-5 miles a year, usually more on the lower end of the scale. With that, it would have taken an average of 300 years for the insect to populate the state.

Sadly, this isn't the case. The creature is a great hitchhiker on firewood and vehicles. EAB is one of the prettiest creatures, but it goes to show that beauty is only skin deep. However, in the insect's defense, it is what it is. It was imported, most likely to Canada from China on packing material, and found a welcome source of food in the native ashes. Most of the feeding is on native ash trees such as white, green, blue, black, and pumpkin ashes. Mountain Ash is not a true ash, but a member of the rose family, so it is not affected.

Identifying your tree is the first step. There are several trees including walnut, hickory, pecan, and box elder that can look like ash to the untrained eye. And not every problem with the ash is caused by EAB. While ashes are native, it doesn't mean they aren't immune to other insects and some diseases. In other words, EAB causes ash some problems, but not all ash problems are caused by EAB. While we thought the insect was strictly an ash problem, recent findings indicate the native White Fringetree (*Chionanthus virginicus*) can harbor the larva. That can also be a problem.

Since the early 2000s, reputable nurseries, garden centers, and landscapers have avoided recommending or selling ash trees. We knew eventually there would be a problem. Essentially, we have compounded the problem by planting lots of ash trees in the last 50 years since Dutch Elm Disease devastated the overplanted American Elm. Ashes are native and well-adapted to a wide range of soil types and weather conditions. There are a few disease problems, but most are associated with poor care. Some of the selections on the market focused on the male seedless forms as well as those with outstanding fall color such as the Purple Ash.

The majority of the state is under an Illinois Department of Agriculture quarantine which is supposed to prevent the movement of hardwood firewood from an infected county into a non-infected. The USDA has quarantined the entire state preventing movement of wood products into other states. In both cases, if the firewood or lumber products go through a certification process, usually involving heat or chemical treatment, it can be moved.

Many of the southern counties have not shown positive for EAB, but most of us think it's present in just about every county. There is just too much movement of vehicles and illegal firewood. If you are in a quarantine area and have an ash tree you consider beneficial, you may want to treat the tree. If you look at the tree and think, "gosh, it's not that great looking" you may not want to do anything and take your chances. Many communities are facing the issue of treatment costs versus removal costs. The University of Illinois does NOT recommend treating trees unless you are within five miles of a confirmed identification. While that's my official position, I'd go for presence in your county or an adjacent county.

Treatment is best in the spring. DO NOT treat in the fall, as the chemicals won't be absorbed by the tree, and research shows the tree actually will ward off the uptake of the product when applied late in the season. Unbiased research has shown the best products are either injected into the tree or absorbed by the roots in the spring. The websites listed below have the latest in chemical recommendations.

DO NOT move firewood unless you strip off all the bark and 1/2" of the sapwood. Most of us won't do that. If you go camping, check out the campgrounds first; they may have stockpiles of wood. While it's usually prudent to say keep the tree healthy, EAB isn't discriminate and will attack healthy and weak trees with equal abandon. However, a healthy tree may not exhibit the symptoms as fast, so keep the tree fertilized, and watered during droughts.

For the latest information, check out the following websites: www.illinoisEAB.com
extension.illinois.edu

Illinois Walnut Council's Annual Field Day & Meeting 9/20/2014 Here's what you missed!



Jim Daniel (left) and Butch Harrison (right) explain the philosophy that American Forest Management is applying to walnut plantations they are managing. You would know what they said if you were there!

One of the best things about field days are the small group discussions. You have to be there to know what was being discussed!



Illinois Walnut Council's Annual Field Day & Meeting 9/20/2014

Here's what you missed!



Cutting a tree stem in half lengthwise on a "cat face" exposed the pruned branch. Initially, the wound is sealed with bark, then new, clear wood is produced.

Lunch was prepared by High Noon Barbeque, Galesburg, and delivered by Pat Asbury to the Fyre Lake covered bridge park. Featured was beef brisket which was excellent!



Billy Wiezorek, timber buyer/logger, explains his felling technique to Mark Ullrich. Directional felling combined with safety were featured. Where and how to make your cuts, when and where to use wedges were as important as trying to get the most out of the tree.

The Illinois Walnut Council gives a special thanks to:

Jim Daniel & Butch Harrison
Ron & Linda Nalevanko
Pat Asbury

Dick Breitenstein
Billy Wiezorek

2014 Illinois Forest Health Highlights

The following is a brief summary of the “2014 Illinois Forest Health Highlights” report by Dr. Fredric Miller. Dr. Miller is Professor of Horticulture and teaches Entomology, Pathology, Soils, Arboriculture and Sustainability at Joliet Junior College. He is also a Senior Research Scientist (Entomology) at the Morton Arboretum. He is currently Chairman of the Protection Committee for the Walnut Council. He is also a Board Certified Master Arborist (BCMA).

Over all, the 2014 growing season was relatively quiet with no serious insect pest outbreaks-the one exception was the on-going infestations of gouty oak gall on pin and shingle oaks. Galls can be physically removed on small trees in the northern part of the insect’s range (northern Illinois), but in southern Illinois, galling can be quite heavy and pruning may not be practical especially on large trees. Heavy galling can cause death of twigs and branches, but generally does not kill a mature, healthy tree. Overall, disease incidence was more typical for 2014. Near normal spring temperatures and abundant summer precipitation was favorable for most common foliar diseases. Stress related diseases were at normal levels. Root rots were present probably due to overwatering, poor drainage, and wrong plant siting. Tip blight of juniper and arborvitae was observed statewide.

Ash Decline and Dieback. Considerable ash decline (both green and white ash) continued to be observed along the I-57 corridor south of I-70 to extreme southern Illinois. Declining ash were also observed later in the season (July-August) along the I-64 corridor from south central Illinois west to the East St. Louis, IL. Most trees showed thinning canopies and dieback. Death was also a common symptom. Trees were examined periodically throughout the summer, but there was no evidence of EAB. This trend has been going on since 2008 and may be caused by ash decline and/or ash yellows. Ash is also subject to verticillium wilt, anthracnose (fungi) and host to lilac borer and ash borers. The **emerald ash borer (EAB)** continues to spread throughout Illinois particularly to the west and south. Seven (7) new positive finds for 2014 include Logan, Menard, Peoria, Perry, Sangamon, Tazewell, and Williamson counties. Five (5) additional counties are considered “at risk”, Christian, Franklin, Fulton, Jefferson, and Mason counties. In addition, EAB has been confirmed in three state parks (Rock Cut, White Pines, and Shabbona).

Oak Decline. In addition to oak trees infested with gouty oak gall, drought effects were spotty. Chronic oak decline and some mortality was reported in central and western Illinois. Western Illinois has been under an extended drought for the last number of years. Drought stressed oaks will be susceptible to Armillaria root rots, oak borers and bark beetles. Missouri has also noticed what is described as “rapid white oak mortality”.

Oak Wilt: The dreaded oak wilt is found in every Illinois county and has become a major urban and forest disease. Reports for 2012 by the UIPC indicate that 2 OW disease incidence was higher compared to previous years (11). It is very likely, that the 2012 drought contributed or even accelerated the development of oak wilt disposed trees.

Dutch Elm Disease: This vascular wilt disease (fungus) has been with us for decades and continues to kill white (American) and red (Slippery) elms throughout Illinois.

Verticillium Wilt: This vascular wilt fungus was common in 2014 and at levels seen in previous years. Flooding and drought over the last seven years including the severe 2012 drought has and will continue to pre-dispose woody plants to this disease. Sugar maple, red maple, ash, smoketree, Japanese maple, saucer magnolia, and three-flowered maple are just a few examples of susceptible hosts.

Bur Oak Blight (BOB): Bur oak leaf blight is a fungal disease that attacks bur oak. BOB is caused by a fungus resulting in blighting of the tree over a period of years. It starts in the lower portions of the tree and moves upward. Leaf symptoms usually do not show up until late summer. Severely affected trees may die after protracted years of defoliation. Bur oaks growing in established savannahs and upland areas appear to be more vulnerable.

Needle cast disease: Two very common diseases affecting conifers, Rhizosphaera needle cast and Diplodia (i.e. Sphaeropsis) were present in 2014. Both of these fungal leaf diseases attack the needles of cone-bearing tree species causing premature needle cast or a browning and/or death of the growing tip, respectively. While not outright fatal, they stress the trees and reduce overall ornamental qualities and growth rates. Coupled with chronic drought, a deadly combination may result.

Hickory Decline. In recent years, reports of dieback and mortality of hickory have been reported in areas of the upper Midwest. Bitternut hickory and shagbark hickory appear to be most affected. Symptoms include thinning canopies, dead branches, and eventually tree death. Historically, death of hickory trees was attributed to the hickory bark beetle following droughts. Recent research seems to indicate that hickory decline may include a complex of biotic and abiotic factors such as bark beetles and borers, and the fungus *Ceratocystis smalleyi*. In some cases, *Armillaria* root rot fungus has been found and is associated with recently dead trees. Hickory decline and dieback is most common in overstocked stands. Current management practices include sanitation by removing dead and dying trees to reduce bark beetle breeding habitat and insecticide applications to the trunk of individual trees.

Thousand Cankers Disease of Walnut (TCD). To date, neither the walnut twig beetle nor Thousand Cankers Disease has been found in Illinois. Beginning in early summer, 2014, four funnel traps were deployed along with a newly developed pheromone for detection of the walnut twig beetle. Traps were placed at sites including 60 state parks, forests, natural areas, county forest preserves, private woodlots, and wooded areas near mills. In addition to trapping, visual assessments of declining walnut trees, and documentation of walnut plantings and walnut natural stands were conducted and developed.

Stress-related canker diseases. *Cytospora* canker of spruce is definitely a stress related disease particularly of Colorado blue spruce. Spruces are a common urban forest and landscape species. The cankers are initially found on the undersides of the branches and result from some type of stress. Spruce trees growing in urban environments are very prone to this canker. While not fatal, the cankers cause branches to die distal to the canker resulting in a loss of ornamental quality and landscape function (1). In addition, there has been an increase of *Thyronectria* canker on honey locust and the honey locust borer in areas of northeast Illinois. It is anticipated that other cankers will make their appearance for some time into the future.

INSECTS:

Bark Beetles (BB) and Wood-borers (WB). Bark beetles attack primarily stressed trees including both hardwoods and conifers. Prolonged drought or a variety of abiotic and biotic stresses may pre-dispose trees to bark beetle attacks. Based on field observations and in conversations with green industry members and foresters, 2014 appeared to a “normal year” for bark beetle activity. No major bark beetle outbreaks were observed or reported. Due to extremely dry conditions in some regions of the state, trees are still stressed and may be attacked by bark beetles and/or borers. Weakened trees may lack the ability to fight off these attacks and succumb.

In addition, engraver beetles and the Zimmerman pine moth continue to be chronic problems for many of our urban forest conifer species particularly Scots, Austrian, and mugho pines. As above, both of these insect pests tend to attack stressed conifers growing on poor sites (poor drainage) along with drought stress, soil compaction, construction damage, etc.

Expanding on 2011 trapping efforts, funnel traps for EAB were placed in 60 state parks, forests, and natural areas, on private land, and near wood mills during the 2014. Identification of trap specimens are still being processed and identified at this time.

Eastern Tent Caterpillar and Fall Webworm: Small scattered pockets of eastern tent caterpillar (springtime) and fall webworm nests were seen at state parks and forests in southeastern and southern Illinois. Populations were comparable to previous years.

Japanese Beetle: Japanese beetle was evident throughout the state, but defoliation was sporadic and not nearly as extensive as in previous years. Minor Japanese beetle feeding damage (<20% defoliation) was observed in most locations.

Weather and abiotic factors affecting tree health:

The 2014 winter was characterized by much below normal temperatures with temperatures 6-10°F across most of Illinois. The winter started with near to above normal precipitation, but December was rather dry for much of Illinois (<75% of normal). Above normal precipitation prevailed from January to March with above normal snowfall. Most areas of the state experienced a severe winter with unusually deep frost. Soil compaction, soil grade changes, physical damage to roots and trunks by tractors and skidders and overstocking often lead to the demise of trees in the forest.

Member News and Information

FINANCIAL REPORT

Fiscal Year 2014

Checking Account
Beginning Balance (January 1, 2014) \$5,463.00

Revenue:

Illinois Forestry Development Grant	\$2,250.00
IWC Annual Meeting (Registrations)	\$320.00
Donations (Camp Farms Management)	\$200.00
Tool Sales: Pruning Saw (1)	\$20.00

TOTAL REVENUE: \$2,790.00

Expenditures:

Seminars:

Safety in Forestry	
Joe Glenn (Chainsaw Safety)	\$1,100.00
Misc Expenses	<u>\$766.29</u>
	\$1,866.29

IWC Annual Meeting	
Banquet Dinner	\$260.00
Lunch	<u>\$57.78</u>
	\$317.78

Juglans Newsletter:	
Stamps	\$98.00
VCCD (Staff)	<u>\$100.00</u>
	\$198.00

Tool Purchases:	
Pruners (24)	\$371.52
Misc	<u>\$85.91</u>
	\$457.43

Donations/Sponsorships:	
WC National Meeting	\$500.00
Wildlife Prairie Park	\$100.00
Allerton Park	<u>\$40.00</u>
	\$640.00

Misc:	
Display at Illinois State Fair	\$174.25
Sales Tax (Illinois Department of Revenue)	<u>\$8.00</u>
	\$182.25

TOTAL EXPENDITURES: \$3,661.75

Expenditures over Revenue: \$871.75
Subtract from Beginning Balance: \$4,591.25
(agrees with bank statement on December 31, 2014)

No Certificates of Deposit or Accounts Receivable

Member News and Information

2014 Inventory

Tools:

Felco Wooden saw scabbard (\$10 each) (9)	\$90.00
Felco leather pruner sheath (\$8.95 each) (1)	\$8.95
Stihl pruning saws (\$20 each) (1)	\$20.00
Stihl hand pruners (\$14.95 each) (23)	\$343.85
Corona folding saws (\$19.95 each) (2)	\$39.90
Total Tool Inventory:	\$502.70

Equipment:

Power pruner (depreciated at 88%)	\$94.00
-----------------------------------	---------

Misc:

IWC Hats (\$11.33 each) (34)	\$385.22
IWC Signs (\$8 each) (73)	\$584.00
IWC Hat Patches (\$0.80 each) (47)	\$37.60
IWC Member Stickers (\$0.50 each) (194)	\$97.00
Stihl chainsaw chaps and shirt	\$174.25
WC refrigerator magnets (\$1.00 each) (16)	\$16.00
Total Misc:	\$1,294.07

Total 2014 Inventory: \$1,890.77

Grand Total Assets with Checking Account: \$6,482.02

Market Report

2/27/2015

Average green lumber prices 4/4 (1 inch thick) per M bd.ft.

Hardwood Review Weekly

Ash	\$821.67	Basswood	\$450.00
Cherry	\$1,015.08	Hickory	\$1,122.67
Hard maple	\$1,030.69	Soft Maple	\$881.08
Red oak	\$812.25	White oak	\$902.75
Walnut	\$1,927.00		

Comments from timber buyers: Still wanting to buy walnut, white oak (staves)

Comments on export markets: Ash lumber is in demand

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.

Mark Gannon, Port Byron, IL

Barbara Koch, Galena, IL

Kent Wisecup, Newcastle, IN

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.

Upcoming Events

- April 11** **Tree planting workshop @ Greene Tree Farm**
Contact Dan Schmoker for details
- April 18** **Shiitake mushroom workshop @ Nystrom's near Altona, IL**
Contact Steve Felt for details
- May 16** **Grafting workshop @ Green River Hardwoods near Geneseo, IL**
Presented by Gary Fernald, Contact Steve Felt for details
- July 11** **Pruning workshop @Kowalczyk property near Hennepin, IL (Putnam Co.)**
- Sept 12** **IWC Annual Field Day & Meeting near Decatur**
Details in June newsletter
- Nov 7** **Forest Management Workshop @ Kennekuk County Park**

