

Missouri Chapter News

Walnut Council: Growing Walnut and Other Fine Hardwoods



Missouri Chapter, Walnut Council

Website: <http://www.walnutcouncil.org/state-chapters/missouri.html>

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Welcome!

Welcome to "Missouri Chapter News" distributed to members of the Missouri Chapter, Walnut Council. The newsletter is intended to keep you informed about timely events while also distributing general information about the management of fine hardwoods. Members are encouraged to provide feedback about this outreach approach and suggest topics for future issues. Comments and suggestions can be emailed to [Dennis Evans](mailto:Dennis.Evans@walnutcouncil.org), Chapter President.

During the year we will also distribute "technical articles" on specific topics of interest to woodland landowners. Both the newsletters and technical articles will be archived at our [chapter website](http://www.walnutcouncil.org/state-chapters/missouri.html).



The Walnut Council Fall Tour and Meeting attracted 30 people October 9-10, to central Missouri. The Walnut Council chapter sponsors fall and spring meetings to educate woodland landowners about ways to efficiently and profitably grow quality hardwoods.

Activities began Friday afternoon at Van Meter State Park with park interpreter Eric Fuemmler describing pre-settlement conditions and vegetation and the historical management of the park's natural resources.

During a walking tour through the park, Consulting Forester Fred Crouse explained how to determine if a tree is growing aggressively, described how tree volumes are calculated and provided an estimate of the market value of several trees.

Fuemmler and Consulting Forester Scott Brundage assisted Crouse in answering questions from the group.

The group convened Friday evening at the J. Huston Tavern in Arrow Rock for an excellent family-style all-you-care-to-eat fried chicken dinner that has made the tavern famous. Joseph Koennen, Agriculture Business Specialist from University of Missouri Extension gave a presentation on property easements, surface rights, eminent domain and monetary damages from easements. Dow Chemical Representative Scott Flynn assisted chapter members Jim Ball and Harlan Palm in discussing effective herbicides for managing invasive species and killing undesirable trees through timber stand improvement. Flynn provided a handout from Dow

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on “Hardwood Management.” [Dow AgroSciences product recommendations for the control of woody plants](#)

Saturday morning began at the Howard County Fairgrounds south of Fayette with a welcome from Chapter President Dennis Evans. Missouri Department of Agriculture Farm Programs Manager John Knudsen talked about the “Agricultural Stewardship Assurance Program” (ASAP). If a Missouri woodland landowner practices sustainable management in the “forestry” category on their operations, they can become ASAP-certified.

Kristen Goodrich, Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) Forester, highlighted several financial assistance programs available to woodland landowners from the state agency. MDC can assist with costs of using a Technical Service Provider in cases where a MDC Field Forester is not available. Kristen emphasized that they have a waiting list by April and funds are allocated by July. Nate Goodrich, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) State Forester, described financial assistance programs attractive to landowners from the USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) and NRCS. FSA administers the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) while NRCS administers the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP), Conservation Stewardship Program (CStP) and the Wetland Reserve Easement (WRE) program. Most of NRCS’s funding for woodland practices is obligated to the Forest Stand Improvement practice.

The slides on financial assistance for forestland owners that were presented by Nate and Kristen Goodrich are available for review using these links:

[MDC Programs Presentation](#)
[Federal Programs Presentation](#)

“Potterosa,” the Potter family farm, south of Fayette was the location for the morning field tour. The Potter family participated in the Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) by planting a mixture of hardwoods and bald cypress trees to improve wildlife habitat at their tree farm.

Wayne Lovelace, President/CEO of Forrest Keeling Nursery in Elsberry, described the benefits of their patented root production method (RPM) production stock in comparison to more common bare root seedlings. Potter used both RPM and bare root when the family established its hardwood plantation.

Following lunch the group traveled to a nearby black walnut plantation of varying ages and site conditions.



Local Arrangements Chair Dennis Potter (left) and Chapter President Dennis Evans (right) admire one of many stately black walnuts in Van Meter State Park.



Consulting Forester Fred Crouse explains how to determine if a tree is growing aggressively, describes how tree volumes are calculated and provides an estimate of the market value of several trees.



Wayne Lovelace, Forrest Keeling Nursery, discusses benefits of their RPM stock.

Walnut Council: Benefits of Membership

Let's Grow our Membership!

The Missouri Chapter has hosted several Walnut Council national and state meetings attracting experts in establishing, managing and marketing fine hardwoods. 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, a new member packet, the quarterly "Missouri 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.

We want to continue assisting our members. The leadership of the Missouri Chapter wants to hear from YOU. Please take time to email newsletter editor, Bob Ball at bob_ballosu@hotmail.com and let us know what you need and expect from membership in Walnut Council. Your input is very important to us!

- What do you expect from this organization in return for your membership dues?
- What do you want to learn, hear about and get out of attending the meetings, field tours and correspondence?
- Do the topics discussed at our meetings pertain to your operation? If not, why?
- 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. We ask that you invite at least one person who may benefit from joining the Missouri Chapter Walnut Council to attend a meeting or share your email correspondence with them so they can see the value of 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.

Hardwood Tree Improvement and Regeneration Center

[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.

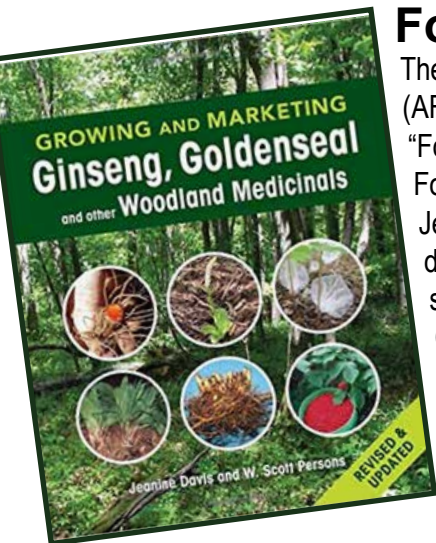
One of the more valuable products from HTIRC is a [listing of publications on tree identification and management and the pruning and care of fine hardwood seedlings](#). Click on Information for Landowners, under the Publications link available on the left hand side of the HTIRC website.

Integrated Pest & Crop Management

A new article, [Weed of the Month: Bush honeysuckle-an ornamental gone wrong](#), is available on the University of Missouri Integrated Pest and Crop Management (IPCM) newsletter website. Full PDF monthly issues of the newsletter are available [here](#).



Forest Farming – Non-Timber Forest Products



The American Forest Foundation (AFF) sponsored a webinar titled “Forest Farming – Non-Timber Forest Products” featuring Dr. Jeanine Davis. Davis has a doctorate in Horticulture and serves on the faculty at North Carolina State University. Davis is an associate professor and extension specialist at the Mountain Horticultural Crops Research and Extension Center near Asheville. Scott

Persons, co-author with Dr. Davis of “Growing and Marketing Ginseng, Goldenseal and other Woodland Medicinals” has a doctorate in Educational Psychology from Emory University. He has supplied planting stock, advice and counsel to ginseng farmers all over the world.

In the webinar, Dr. Davis emphasized the fact that consumers want natural and organic solutions to medical illnesses. The herbal markets are huge. Sources are readily available for seeds and planting stock or you can harvest woodland botanicals that may be either “wild simulated” or “woods cultivated.” These plants include: Ginseng, Goldenseal, Black Cohosh, Blood Root, False Unicorn, Wild Yam, Boneseti and numerous wild vegetables, fruits and nuts. Woodland landowners can also harvest mosses and other decorative plants, produce syrups from trees, harvest pine straw and firewood, and sell hunting leases to generate additional income from their woodland.

A relatively new, and unique source of income is through “Edutainment” where people desirous of learning more about the environment pay you to visit your property to learn about soils, water, air, plants and animals either from you or instructors you invite to teach in your open classroom!

Selecting Seed for Logging Trails

One practice not to overlook following a timber harvest is seeding your logging trails. This practice is important enough that you may want to include language within your harvest agreement requiring the logger to fertilize and seed immediately after harvest. Regardless of who does this work, an effective seeding mixture is critical to success. Too often

Kentucky 31 Tall Fescue becomes the default. Tall Fescue is excellent for erosion control in sunny areas. From purely wildlife and shade tolerance perspectives, KY31 is a poor choice. So what should you use?

Table 3 on pages 22 and 23 of the Missouri Department of Conservation publication “Missouri Woody Biomass Harvesting – Best Management Practices Manual” provides the information you need to evaluate seed options. One attribute not included in these pages is shade tolerance. A mix to consider is creeping red fescue, Potomac orchardgrass and Virginia wildrye with the wildrye comprising 50 percent of the mix. To enhance the wildlife value, include red or ladino clover while adding warm season flowering forbs will benefit pollinator species. The basic mixture costs \$4.42 per pound at Ernst Conservation Seeds Inc. plus a five percent custom mix charge. A suggested seeding rate is 15-20 pounds per acre. Several buying sources and their specialists can advise you about shade tolerance. Dealers typically offer conservation mixes that work for your needs and can be shipped quickly.

The [USDA Plants Database](#) is an excellent planning resource. Once you’ve found the species you are investigating within the database, search for the Plant Guide or Fact Sheet for more details. Be sure the seed mix you are buying will flow through your seeder! Some grasses and legumes sown together can be problematic because of differences in seed weights, sizes or appendages. Ask the dealer if any additives are necessary to help distribute if you’re using a broadcast seeder to include pet litter, pelletized lime or sawdust, for example. Legumes may need to be inoculated unless you purchase pre-inoculated seed, which is advisable.

A critical factor to consider is the timing of your seeding operation. Because a lot of timber is harvested during the fall, remember that October 15 is the latest recommended seeding date. You may need to use a temporary cover like winter wheat or cereal rye (Aroostock variety would work best) or forage triticale. Seed two bushels per acre. For broadcast seedings drag the area to improve seed-to-soil contact.

A \$5.7 Billion Industry

Missouri was a leader in lumber production at the turn of the century when the Ozarks’ pine forests were logged. Through forest protection and management, Missouri is once again a leader in forest products, including charcoal, barrels, walnut nutmeats and shell products, and red-cedar gift items. These businesses employ more than 32,000 people and contribute \$5.7 billion each year to Missouri’s economy.