Welcome!

Welcome to the second issue of the “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, 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.

2015 Walnut Council National Meeting and Chapter Business Meeting, June 14-17

The Missouri Chapter Walnut Council and the Missouri Chapter, Society of American Foresters are co-hosting the 2015 Walnut Council National Meeting, June 14-17, at the Hampton Inn and All Occasions Banquet Center in St. Charles. The theme for this year’s meeting is “Managing Fine Hardwoods: Seedlings to Certification.” The Missouri Chapter business meeting will be held during the conference.

Included in the meeting are field trips, indoor presentations, the annual awards banquet on June 16 and our always-popular “Landowner Show and Tell.” Tours include Mueller Brothers Sawmill, Creech Landmark Farm, which utilizes several agroforestry practices, Beckmann Tree Farm, Malinmor Hunt Club, forest lands managed for wildlife, USDA-NRCS Plant Materials Center and Forrest Keeling Nursery near Elsberry, where lunch will be served.

Spouse events include tours of the Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis and the Lewis & Clark Boat House and Nature Center in St. Charles combined with shopping in historic St. Charles.

An optional post conference tour to Cuivre Island in the Missouri River bottomlands to see a hard mast restoration site showing a planting comparison of container versus bareroot stock may be available for attendees if there is sufficient interest. Participants will meet at the restaurant in Old Monroe for lunch, then car pool to the planting site.

Watch for details and registration information on the Walnut Council website. Members will receive a direct mailing from Walnut Council about the national meeting, so watch your mail. Contact: Liz Jackson at (765) 583-3501 or walnutcouncil@walnutcouncil.org for more information.

This promises to be an excellent technical meeting and opportunity to talk with landowners and industry representatives about black walnut and other hardwoods. Plan to attend!

Renew Your Membership Online

Benefits of Membership

• Opportunity to attend Annual Meetings
• Subscription to Walnut Council Bulletin
• Notice of new publications of interest
• New member packet of information
• Access to walnut information “Hot Line”
• Opportunity to belong to State Chapter
Where’s the Label?
We should all know to use only approved herbicides and to read the label before applying herbicides. Obviously, the label is on the container, but have you ever tried reading the product label on a 2.5 gallon jug of chemical? It’s suggested that you read the label before purchasing the product to ensure it will get the job done and to ensure that it is approved for your intended use.

Where can you find product labels? Get into the habit of reading two labels. The first and most commonly referred to label is the Specimen Label. The lessor referred to label is the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS). (Note: Effective June 1, manufacturers will switch formats from MSDS to SDS “Safety Data Sheet”.) Both labels can easily be found on the internet.

This link takes you to the CDMS agrochemical database which is widely used and a trusted resource for critical agronomic, regulatory, and common use criteria. A listing of supporting agri-chemical manufacturers is displayed on the home page. Look for a block at the top right of the page where you can type in brand name and follow the prompts from there. Remember to view both the “specimen label” and the MSDS which provides important safety information when using this product. Print both labels and keep them where you mix your herbicides.

Black Walnut Field Day
Plan now to attend the Black Walnut Field Day Saturday, September 19 at the University of Missouri’s, Southwest Center near Mt. Vernon. This field day is co-sponsored by the University of Missouri’s Center for Agroforestry and the Southwest Center together with Hammons Products Company. Technical sessions will be indoors and outdoors emphasizing walnut management for lumber and nut production. Specialists will cover the cultural aspects of establishing and managing walnut to include agroforestry practices like silvopasture in plantings of walnut, pecan and pine. Additional topics may include improving black walnut for nut production and the financial aspects of growing black walnut or other nut species.

This event will interest private woodland landowners, nut growers, and forest products industries. For details, contact Gene Garrett at the Center for Agroforestry, (573) 884-2874 or Andy Thomas at the Southwest Center, (417) 466-2148.

Educational Opportunities
Missouri Chapter, Walnut Council members will have three opportunities to learn about managing hardwood trees for lumber and nut production:

1. Walnut Council National Meeting, June 14-17
2. The Black Walnut Field Day, September 19
3. The Missouri Chapter field day and business meeting in northwest Missouri (yet to be scheduled, but will likely occur on a Friday/Saturday on one of the first two weekends in October.)

We hope you take advantage of these opportunities and attend all three activities since they offer unique settings and agendas.

State & Federal Funding Available for Woodland Landowners
A new MDC incentive program to apply forest harvesting best management practices (BMPs) is available. Under MDC’s Landowner Assistance Program docket this program provides:

1. $10 per acre to the logger to implement BMPs as prescribed in the Missouri Watershed Protection Practice booklet.
2. An additional $5 per acre paid to the landowner for meeting the conditions of No. 1 above, and additionally having a pre-harvest, MDC forester-approved BMP plan.
3. An additional $5 per acre paid to the landowner for meeting the conditions of both No. 1 & No. 2 above, and additionally having a forester (either MDC or a private consulting forester who is a member of the Missouri Consulting Forester Association) mark the timber harvest in accordance with the Missouri Sustainable Forest Management Guidelines. The timber must be harvested as marked by the forester.

Contact your local MDC forester for details.
NRCS funding opportunities
A new Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP), Restoring Glade and Woodland Communities for Threatened Species in the Ozarks of Southeast Missouri, will impact 10 counties. Also, the Chief’s Joint Landscape Restoration Partnership focuses on the Missouri Ozark Highlands. The Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) and the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) are both available statewide and offer opportunities to apply numerous woodland management practices and enhancements. Interested landowners can inquire at their local USDA-NRCS field office and monitor the USDA-NRCS website for details about these programs.

Tree Farm Certification
The value of having a certified tree farm is often debated. What you may not know is some of the history behind certification. The following information comes largely from the winter 2015 issue of “National Woodlands” magazine under the “The Readers Respond…..” feature. Keith Argo, President, NWOA, offers the following history.

“When your tree farm was registered many years ago with the American Tree Farm System you were likely given a tree farm sign which you display proudly. It was indeed a recognition program for good forestry practices. Displaying that sign was an indicator of good forestry, but your trees were not yet “certified”.

However, that began to change in the early 1990s when the European-based Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) established its international certification program in the United States. It was not long before the American forest industry responded with a certification program of its own, the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI). Tree Farm members were also temporarily grandfathered into SFI. In 1999 the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) was created as an alternative to FSC. SFI worked quickly to meet the PEFC certification standards, and by 2008 the Tree Farm program successfully met the PEFC standards. Technically, only Tree Farms designated as “certified” actually are, but sometimes buyers are not too fussy.

Will you receive a premium for your certified trees? Only the buyers know that for sure, and they do not often confide that to the landowner. A special feature on that question will be addressed in a future issue of National Woodlands.”

What is Certification?
Forest certification is the certification of land management practices to a standard of sustainability. A written certification is issued by an independent third-party that attests to the sustainable management of a working forest. Forest certification gives consumers assurance that products they purchase originate from sustainably managed forests that protect economic, social and environmental benefits.

The American Tree Farm System certifies forest management to eight standards of sustainability. The “2015-2020 Standards of Sustainability for Forest Certification” serve as the basis for the American Tree Farm System® (ATFS) certification program. These standards promote the vitality of renewable forest resources while protecting environmental, economic and social benefits and work to increase public understanding of all benefits of sustainable forestry. The included Guidance language provides further clarification and examples to guide implementation of the Standards for landowners, ATFS trained inspectors and third-party auditors. These standards can be found at the ATFS website which you can review to get some idea if your trees can be certified.

University of Missouri Extension Publications
University of Missouri Extension Publications has released “Weed and Brush Control for Forages, Pastures and Noncropland (IPM1031)”. Woody shrubs, vines and brush species can plague woodland landowners trying to do the best they can to manage their woodlands. Annual broadleaf and grass weeds can become a serious problem in pastures and forages unless proper weed management is practiced. This publication, based on University of Missouri research, is a guide for identifying weeds and selecting and comparing herbicides. Although the primary focus is forage crops, thirty-five pages of this 164 page publication includes color photos, descriptions and herbicide recommendations of interest to woodland landowners. Color photos of 75 weeds in various stages of development are included to aid in weed identification. Five tables provide details on weed response Continued on page 4
to herbicides, herbicides currently labeled for control of various weeds, and crop replant restrictions.

Note: IPM1031 replaces MP581 Weed and Brush Control Guide for Forages, Pastures and Noncropland. To order online with a credit card see http://extension.missouri.edu/p/IPM1031. You can also call 1-800-292-0969. The cost for one copy is $15.00 plus $7.25 shipping/handling plus $1.77 tax for Missouri residents.

Purdue Tree Doctor App

The Purdue Tree Doctor app, part of the Purdue Plant Doctor series, has been developed by experts at Purdue University to help people better identify and manage tree problems caused by a variety of factors, including insects and diseases. Landscape professionals, arborists, garden center personnel homeowners and woodland landowners can use this app to:

- Identify tree problems by matching damaged plant parts to over 1,000 high-resolution photos;
- Check diagnoses with detailed descriptions of damage and stages of problem development linked to each photo.

Get the latest unbiased recommendations from Purdue University experts on how to manage over 175 tree problems on over 60 kinds of trees. Search information by tree or by pest. This app is available from the Google Play Store.

Steps in Using the NRCS’ Black Walnut Soil Suitability Index

1. Access the website.
2. Click on green button “Start WSS”.
3. Under “Quick Navigation”, click “State and County” and complete.
4. Click “View” button.
5. Under “Area of Interest Interactive Map”, click on “Zoom In” button (magnifying lens with the plus symbol). Then, click the area you want to magnify or form a box around area you want to zoom into.
6. Click the “hand-symbol button” and pan as needed.
7. Click on the first “AOI” (Area of Interest) button that is on the toolbar just above the map and to the right of the blue “i”.
8. Click on the “Soil Data Explorer” tab (near the top of screen).
9. Find the yellow table in the left margin titled “Suitabilities and Limitations Ratings”. Near the lower left of that table, click on “Vegetative Productivity”.
10. Click on “Black Walnut Suitability Index” (MO)
11. Click on “View Rating”.
12. After the map is made, note the soil map unit symbol numbers of interest where you intend to plant black walnut.
13. Scroll down to find the “Summary by Map Unit” table. Search for your Map Unit Symbol, Map Unit Name, and Rating of suitability for walnut. Review additional information to the right and below.
   - The six levels of suitability for growing walnut are: Very Well Suited; Well Suited; Moderately Suited, Somewhat Suited, Poorly Suited, and Unsuited.
14. If you want to change your “AOI”, click on the brown AOI tab at the upper left then pan the image to where you want. Click on “AOI” button and define your new area.

Visit Big Tree Madness and vote for your favorite trees.

Missouri is one of the few states with this suitability feature for black walnut included within Web Soil Survey. White oak is being added as well. Web Soil Survey offers many other features to include printing your map products. Check out the “Shopping Cart” feature and generate a custom soil resource report. Note: Pop-Up blockers must be disabled to generate reports.