

Walnuts in Indian Country

Walnut Council National Meeting Tour Highlights

Optional Pre-Conference Event: Walnut Masters Golf Tournament

Sunday afternoon, June 16

Be sure to register for the first Walnut Masters, a fun golf tournament hosted by State Forester, Larry Biles on Sunday afternoon. See registration to sign up, \$80 per person!

Featuring 18 beautiful holes of the Firekeeper Golf course, designed by four-time PGA winner Notah Begay III. Awarded as “One of the Best Casino Courses,” “Best Resort Courses,” and the “#1 Best Course you can play in Kansas” by Golf week.

Forestry Field Tour Highlights

Barrow Ranch—Monday morning, June 17th

The Barrow Ranch introduces participants to beautiful Kansas hardwood forests. Danny Barrow, of Barrow Logging Company, and his son Charlie will assess the value of standing timber and provide a harvest demonstration. Several black walnut logs will be on-hand for log grading and a discussion of market trends on the western range of this valuable hardwood. Jamie Gose from Gresco Tech Solutions will provide live drone demonstrations and their application to natural resource management. David Boyt, with Pottershop Hollow Tree Farm and Sawmill, will demonstrate the versatility that a portable mill can offer processing crotches for burl, creating tree cookies and how to handle large logs. Fisheries biologists will discuss pond management.



Copperhead Hill Ranch—Monday afternoon

John and Karen Buchanan have planted thousands of oaks, black walnut, pecan and even black cherry at a wide 25 foot by 25 foot spacing allowing the harvesting of native grass hay crops between tree rows. This alley-cropping system produces annual income while long-range forest products are growing. The system provides important conservation and wildlife benefits.

What is unique to the Buchanan Tree Farm is the level of detail and attention associated with site preparation, tree planting, fertilization, weed and grass control, and other follow-up maintenance that earned them the Kansas Agroforestry Award. Meticulous record keeping for each tree is documented and mapped with a geo-spatial reference point that identifies the location of each tree.

John will provide an overview of the establishment and management techniques that has made the alley cropping system so successful. Dusty Walter, Director of Natural Resource Management, University of Missouri, will lead sessions on agroforestry along with colleagues from University of Missouri's Center for Agroforestry. Hugh Pence, of Pence Select Walnut/Pence Tree Farm, will be on-hand to offer his knowledge and experience designing and managing black walnut alley cropping systems in Indiana.

Kickapoo Reservation, Riparian Forests—Tuesday morning, June 18th

Beautiful, diverse bottomland forests provide the backdrop for Tuesday morning's sessions. The Kansas Forest Service has been working with the Kickapoo Tribe to encourage management of their forests and woodlands. Ryan Neises, Ecotone Forestry, will share the results of forest inventory and assessment of the reservation's forests. Birds of the Forests, will be led by Dr. Alice Boyle, ornithologist and evolutionary ecologist with Kansas State University. Phil Balch with Wildhorse Riverworks will describe stream processes and riparian forests role in stabilizing streambanks.



Silviculture of bottomland working forests

will be lead by Kansas Forest Service forester Ryan Rastok. Dr. Charles Barden will plan to provide a plant identification tour giving participants' hands-on understanding of riparian plant communities in Kansas. Bill Busby, Associate Scientist, KS Biological Survey will explain the types of forest ecology that supports a diversity of mammals in riparian woodlands.



Spouse Tours Offer a Taste of Kansas

Monday, June 17: Kansas State Capitol and Ted Ensley Gardens



Construction on the Kansas State Capitol began in 1866 and took 37 years to complete. Recent renovations were completed in 2014. Ornate stenciling throughout the rotunda and the ceremonial Governor's office are highlights of the tour. The spectacular Senate Chamber, Representative Hall and State Library are not to be missed. Participants will view murals by David H. Overmyer, John Steuart Curry, and Lumen Martin Winter.

The 37 acre Ted Ensley Gardens on Lake Shawnee feature over 1,200 varieties of annuals, roses, trees and shrubs, water and rock gardens and numerous trails.

Tuesday, June 18: Old Prairie Town and Mulvane Art Museum

Old Prairie Town at Ward-Meade Historic Site, located on the Oregon Trail in Topeka, Kansas, is a 6-acre historic site that includes the Ward-Meade Botanical Garden, preserving the family history of one of the earliest settlers in the area. It includes the 1880 Everest Church building, a Santa Fe Train Depot and historic one-room schoolhouse.

The Mulvane Art Museum engages, inspires and builds community through the arts. As a vital partner in the educational and cultural life of Washburn University, Topeka, and the region, the Mulvane's collections, exhibitions, and programs foster an environment where people of all ages and backgrounds gather and explore the visual arts and cultures of the world.