A Word from the President:  
David Boyt  

“Don’t worry, it isn’t all that much work. Besides, you’ll be vice president for two years, so there will be plenty of time to learn the ropes.” It sounded pretty reasonable to me, since I’d been a member for a while. With the support and experience — and encouragement — of the other members, I thought it would be a piece of cake. With the past two years as vice president now in my rear view mirror, I’m finding out how much goes on behind the scenes. Just keeping up with all of Bob Ball’s emails would take a full-time secretary! There is also a lot of thinking ahead, with the fall event already in the planning stages.

We have a lot of opportunities and issues before us, with field trips, working with other forestry groups such as FWAM, the Walnut Initiative and dealing with the threats to our native hardwoods, including Thousand Cankers Disease, invasives, urbanization, policy changes and potential overharvesting. We also have a diverse membership with expertise in forestry, computers, herbicides, politics and education. I look forward to working with the Walnut Council, and appreciate the input from all members. If you know of people who might be interested, or just happen to drive by a grove of walnut trees, I hope you’ll spread the word so that we can reach out to more people.

And, of course, the Walnut Council supports education about other fine hardwoods, too. As a sawyer who works directly with woodworkers, I have high demand for other woods, including sycamore, elm, eastern red cedar, and sassafras. My No.1 request? Boxelder, of all things (if you’ve seen a boxelder slab, you’d know why)! With the strong whiskey market (both the whiskey and the market are strong), the demand for quality white oak for barrels is also soaring.

With the publications and communication about issues, plus the field days and seminars, the Walnut Council fills a need to ensure a continued supply of hardwoods. The networking with other members is icing on the cake! Although an occasional glance in the rear view mirror helps remind us what we’re doing and why, anything we can do to prepare for the road ahead will help get us to the goal of being good stewards of the land and setting an example for others to do the same.

Again, let me know what ideas, concerns or questions you have so that we can all learn from each other. And, if possible, I hope you’ll be able to attend the National Walnut Council meeting June 16-18 in Topeka.

Fall Event Announcement

Date: Saturday, October 19, 2019; 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Details available this summer.

Location: “Mockingbird Hill Farm” (Norm Stucky Tree Farm); 3215 Zion Road, Jefferson City, Mo 65109.

Events: Woodland Management Learning Stations, Guest Speakers; and our Chapter Business Meeting.
2019 MNGA Spring Grafting and Scion Exchange Meeting

Again this year you can learn how to do field grafting and then try it yourself as part of the traditional Missouri Nut Growers Association (MNGA) Grafting Demonstration and Scionwood exchange on Saturday, May 4 at the Phil and Jeanne Moore Farm. The address is 22015 S Riffle Road, Pleasant Hill, MO. To reach the property, travel MO 7 Highway south of Pleasant Hill or North of Harrisonville, turn East on 219th St for about 1.5 miles and then right on S. Riffle Road. Watch for the MNGA signs. If you get lost, Phil’s cell phone number is (816) 804-8063. If you have questions, email him at pecan-man@centurylink.net.

Phil has enough "scrape trees" close by if you want to try your hand at a grafting, and is willing to tag your tree and send you a picture if the graft takes. He’d appreciate the donation of several pieces of Neel Black Walnut to use for practice.

The meeting will open at 9 a.m. with casual conversation, coffee, and donuts followed by a sit down session at 9:30 before we go to the field. Phil and Jeanne have arranged for lunch, which will be included in the $9 registration fee for the meeting. Please RSVP by May 1 to Merlin Ring (913) 660-6337 or Sara Jean Peters (417) 275-4422 so that our host can anticipate food needs for lunch. Our usual incentive, a free registration drawn from those who pre-register, is offered!

Following lunch we will have the annual scionwood exchange. Bring wood if you still have some to share, as well as a handful of Ziploc bags, damp paper towels, a magic marker and a cooler with ice for carrying that precious material home. Phil and Jeanne Moore manage two adjacent farms and use a number of different agroforestry practices. Phil has offered to demonstrate how to use sheep and goats to clean up in a nut orchard. Merlin Ring will also demonstrate making biochar. The meeting should conclude by 3 p.m.

Members Recognized for Meritorious Service

Bob Ball, Chapter Past President, (center) presents Meritorious Service Awards to Harlan Palm, left, and Scott Brundage, right, during the Missouri Chapter Walnut Council business meeting March 1, 2019. Their plaques read: Meritorious Service Award for Outstanding Achievement in Support of the Mission of the Missouri Chapter Walnut Council, March 2019.
Coming Events

May 4, 2019. Missouri Nut Growers Association (MNGA) Grafting Meeting, Phil Moore Tree Farm, Pleasant Hill, MO. For details monitor: https://www.missourinutgrowers.org/

October 19, 2019. See announcement on Page 1. Missouri Chapter, Walnut Council Fall Event, Closer to the event, monitor our website at: http://walnutcouncil.org/state-chapters/missouri/

HERBICIDES FOR MEMBERS!

Members can purchase herbicides for timber stand improvement at our actual cost by contacting Scott Brundage, member and consulting forester: (brundage1934@gmail.com). For example, we have 2.5 gallon containers of Generic Roundup (Glyphosate Pro 4 - 41% glyphosate) for $40.35 and Pathway for $91.12; and one gallon of crop oil.

We will email you our current herbicide order form closer to our October 19 meeting.

Missouri Chapter Charter — 35 Years Ago!

George Trial, right, receives the Charter for the Missouri Chapter Walnut Council from Richard Schlesinger, Chairman-Elect, Walnut Council in February 1984 in Columbia, Mo. George was the first President of the Missouri Chapter and served for several terms. He also served as the national President of Walnut Council.

The following article appeared in Vol. 11, No. 3 of the Summer 1984 issue of the “Walnut Council Bulletin.”

Missouri is Newest State Chapter
The second state chapter of the Walnut Council has now been formed. The Missouri Chapter was formally organized and recognized February 7-8, 1984, at its first meeting in Columbia. Jim Jones, Landowner Representative (SW), initiated the plans to form the Missouri Chapter in cooperation with other Walnut Council members at the University of Missouri and the Missouri Department of Conservation as well as private individuals throughout the state.

Officers of the Chapter were elected at the first meeting. These include President, George Trial, Treasurer, Dana Houkal, and Secretary, Ed Masters. By-Laws of the Chapter were reviewed and unanimously accepted. The Charter to the Missouri Chapter, signifying recognition by the national Walnut Council, was presented to President, George Trial, on Wednesday, February 8, 1984, by Richard Schlesinger, Chairman-Elect of the national council. The goals of the Missouri Chapter are to promote growth and use of black walnut within Missouri and to provide a statewide forum to facilitate better exchange of ideas and experiences. Goals will be accomplished through meetings and workshops for walnut growers.
The “Missouri Black Walnut Initiative” is a promotion by the Missouri Chapter, Walnut Council to encourage establishing and managing black walnut growth on idled acres of well-suited soils. Black walnut trees could become a significant source of income for your family and future generations, managed walnut trees area savings account when there is need. The long-term outlook for future market value of walnut products is very good.

Black Walnut (Juglans nigra L), a valuable fine hardwood tree, may be growing voluntarily on your best soils in small, isolated areas that once produced excellent row crops. Walnut trees can be established in recently idled areas to produce a cash crop for future generations growing a “woody portfolio” for your heirs.

Soil Suitability is Critical
The growing site is the most important factor in establishing and managing black walnut.

Refer to the Web Soil Survey “Black Walnut Soil Suitability Index” before planting walnut. You can easily produce a map for your farm online to determine if your soils are suitable.

Growing Quality Walnut Trees -- Manage the competition!
Look for walnut saplings on recently idled land; plant nuts or seedlings in open areas -- Exclude livestock from the site -- Deaden trees like fast growing sycamore and soft maple so the young walnuts are taller than competing trees and brush for at least 15 years -- Use herbicides to control grass and broadleaf vegetation 4’ around the base of walnut trees for 3 or more years -- Use herbicides to control grapevines and invasive species -- Prune during the dormant season to a central leader; ideally, remove lateral branches 1.5’ or less in diameter -- Thin the stand to reduce crown competition -- Use crop tree management to periodically release the best trees.

What makes black walnut so famous and unique of all hardwoods?
Wood color and texture
Strength
Steam bending
Easily air or kiln dried
Minimal shrinkage during drying
Decay resistance
Commercial use, grading, & value
These criteria keep black walnut veneer and saw logs demand high and world market prices strong.

$$$ What’s Your Walnut Worth?
The value of your timber depends on species, grade, location, market prices, and the harvest season. Using the services of a professional forester when selling your timber can pay big dividends. Always advertise for bids, use a timber sale contract, and schedule harvests according to your woodland management plan.

To learn more about the Black Walnut Initiative and identify sources for Technical or Financial help
Phone: (573) 340-9688
Email: mowalnutcouncil@gmail.com
Web: Initiative.MoWalnutCouncil.org

Funding for this Initiative provided by the Conservation Federation of Missouri’s David Risberg Memorial

Walnut Council “Black Walnut Initiative Promotion
Offered By: Forrest Keeling Nursery
88 Forrest Keeling Lane, Elsberry, MO 63343
Office: (573) 898-5571, Toll Free: (800) 356-2401, Fax: (573) 898-5803, email: info@fknursery.com

This promotion is available to landowners planting black walnut trees within the framework of the “Black Walnut Initiative” throughout all chapters of Walnut Council.

Forrest Keeling Nursery is offering:
• a 15% discount on 3-gallon RPM walnuts; the regular price is $12.20 each and with the discount the price is $10.37. These container trees will not be available until Fall 2019. Landowners are encouraged to order well in advance as they often sell out.
• Additionally, FKN is offering 18” bare-root black walnut seedlings for $.75 each (regular price $.99 ea.). They must be purchased in increments of 25.
• FKN is looking at the possibility of offering Step 2 Walnuts for those landowners interested in trees larger than bare root seedlings, but smaller in size than the 3-gallon container stock. No details on this offer are available at this time.

Regular shipping and box charges apply to these offers.
To receive this special pricing, a promo code is required to place your order. That code is available from Bob Ball, Missouri Chapter, Walnut Council: Email: bob_ballosu@hotmail.com; Phone or Text: (573) 268-7262.
The Tree Farm Program was established in 1941 to educate and support forest landowners in managing their forests. Many forest landowners are actively managing their forests, but thanks to Tree Farm standards and certification, Tree Farmers are among Missouri’s best forest managers and stewards.

The Tree Farm Program recognizes forest landowners who are actively managing their forest land for wood, water, wildlife and recreation. To become a Tree Farm, a property must meet the following minimum standards:

- At least 10 acres of trees or forest;
- Have a written forest management plan for the property that addresses water quality, soil conservation, wildlife habitat and timber;
- Must be protected from wildfire, insects, diseases and destructive grazing, and;
- Have completed some management activity(s).

Missouri Tree Farms are all certified under the American Tree Farm System (ATFS) certification program. The ATFS certification program is internationally endorsed by the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC). This indicates Tree Farm standards are based on international sustainability metrics and North American guidelines for sustainable forest management. The certified ATFS sign tells your community that you stand among the best woodland stewards in America.

To maintain this certification the national and state Tree Farm Programs undergo regular third-party audits to ensure the standards are being followed. Tree Farms are randomly inspected by trained Tree Farm Inspecting Foresters to ensure landowner practices remain compliant with the standards. We are fortunate in Missouri to have a large cadre of state and private consulting foresters to assist landowners with forest management and Tree Farm compliance.

Why should you become a Tree Farmer? Your woods are part of your family legacy. You’ve worked hard to ensure that your family can continue to enjoy the many benefits that come with woodland ownership. As a woodland owner, you want to do right by your land. Yet, you face more challenges than ever: pests, weeds, drought, catastrophic fire, severe weather and development pressures. Meeting those challenges requires ongoing information, tools, and on-the-ground assistance to help make the best decisions. As part of ATFS, you will have the tools and support to help keep your woods thriving for generations to come.

Forest certification gives consumers assurance that products they purchase originate from sustainably managed forests that protect economic, social and environmental benefits.

If you are a Missouri forest landowner, we hope you will consider becoming a Tree Farmer. For more information about the Tree Farm Program in Missouri or to sign up to become a Tree Farmer visit www.forestandwoodland.org.

### Spacing Hardwood Trees to Grow Veneer Quality Timber

Missouri Chapter members with electronic mail received this publication recently. He was not copied and mailed to our members who do not have electronic mail. Those non-email members who would like a copy can contact Bob Ball at (573) 340-9688 and a copy will be mailed.

One section of the guide is asking this question:

**How will you establish this tree planting?**

Here are five options for establishing hardwood trees. Which of the following methods best describes your intentions?

1) Direct seeding by broadcasting hardwood seeds into tilled soil
2) Direct seeding by planting nuts
3) Planting tree seedlings
4) Planting container stock
5) Managing Natural Regeneration
6) Hybrid - combination of one or more of the above.

You are encouraged to review this publication for more tree planting guidance.
Missouri Invasive Forest Pest
Stakeholder Meeting
Harlan Palm, Missouri Chapter Representative

I represented the chapter at the Missouri Invasive Forest Pest Stakeholder Meeting, Friday, March 15 at the Missouri Department of Conservation Central Region Office. Other chapter members attending were Sara Jean Peters, Chris Lohmann and Bob Ball.

Agenda topics were: Emerald Ash Borer, Collin Wamsley, State Entomologist, MO Dept. Agriculture; Gypsy Moth, Sarah Phipps, Forest Pest Program Coordinator, MO Dept. Agriculture; Thousand Cankers Disease, Natalie Diesel, Forest Pathologist, MO Dept. Conservation and Collin Wamsley, State Entomologist, MO Dept. Agriculture; Rapid White Oak Mortality Update, Natalie Diesel, Forest Pathologist, MO Dept. Conservation; Invasive Plant Issues, Nate Muenks, MO Invasive Plant Task Force and Missouri Department of Conservation; and Emerging Forest Pest Threats, Christopher Pierce, Pest Survey Specialist, USDA-APHIS-PPQ.

The updates relative to monitoring for Thousand Cankers Disease (TCD) focused on the fact during 2018 there was no observed evidence of Thousand Cankers Disease affecting black walnut trees in Missouri. Monitoring for TCD in this state began in 2012. Currently, there are 1200 large, black funnel traps distributed around the state with more being added each year.

The mycelium and spores of the fungal organism, Geosmithia morbida, that causes the cankers in walnut tree branches, have been observed on various insects in pheromone traps in many counties in Missouri. However, no Walnut Twig Beetles (WTB) have been trapped or found in Missouri. The WTB has been the proficient vector of the Geosmithia morbida spores in Tennessee and other states to the east (Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, North Carolina, and Maryland that experienced severe damage to walnut trees a few years ago. Various bark beetles and weevil species have been found to carry the Geosmithia morbida spores, however, it seems they are not significant vectors. The WTB can build huge numbers quickly, overwhelming black walnut trees. Apparently, other insects that also carry the spores do not build populations rapidly enough to impact walnut trees.

Read the Label!
Bob Ball

We 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? Instead, it’s suggested that you read the label before you purchase the product to ensure it will get the job done and it is approved for your intended use.

But, where can you find product labels? Actually, you should get into the habit of reading two labels. The first and most commonly referred to is the Specimen Label and the lessor referred to is the MSDS or Material Safety Data Sheet. Both labels can easily be found on the internet by clicking on this link: http://www.cdms.net/LabelsMsds/LMDefault.aspx?

This link takes you to the CDMS agro-chemical database which is widely used and trusted resource for critical agro-nomic, 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 that 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.
“Woes of a Tree Farmer”
Ellen Lebold
Written for Tree Farm Day
February 25, 1995

‘Tis the middle of winter and all through our wood,
The wild creatures’ food supply has been very good.

The voles are fat from the expensive nuts they have eaten.
I have found NO way these varmints can be beaten.

The big buck and his does are all fat and so sleek.
They have browsed the corn and beans along our creek.

Those deer-rubs are awaiting the sharp pruning saw,
But the people who prune are awaiting a thaw.

The trees with the numbers of X’s have all been cut;
The loggers were careful, there’s not even one rut.

The seedlings are ordered, and the circles are sprayed.
When the ground thaws a bit, we’ll pick up our spade.

Eco-system management? – Private property rights?
Should give us all cause for a few sleepless nights.

GAP, MoRAP, CRM – it’s an alphabet maze,
TSI, BMPs, FIP and SIP – I’m in a daze.

Mark, you know your profession, we thank you a lot.
Without state foresters, we’d not be in this spot.

We appreciate this honor you have given to us.
Growing the only renewable resource is really a trust.

In spite of the headaches, backaches, and darn sore knees,
For pleasure and profit – We are Farmers of Trees.

Note: Ellen B. Lebold, 91, a Past President of the Missouri Chapter, Walnut Council, and a longtime resident of Lawson, MO, died on March 2, 2019, in Tucson, AZ.
Tree Farmer of the Year

“I am very excited to announce that the 2018 Tree Farmer of the Year is Mike Trial!” said Lisa Allen, State Forester. Mike’s family Tree Farm is located in Boone County, Missouri and it is a special place because it has been enrolled in the Tree Farm Program for more than 50 years with continuous care of a 50-acre black walnut plantation. But also, special because this is place where a man named George purchased the property in 1957 and nine years later begin planting trees for not only himself and his wife but for future generations.

This is the place where George Trial passed on his love of trees, particularly walnut trees, to his son Mike. So, 50 years later we gather to celebrate the legacy of George Trial and the recent accomplishments of Mike Trial, his son, who carries on the important business of Tree Farming. For the last 50 years George and now Mike have almost annually planted trees (mostly black walnut); pruned trees; controlled weeds in their tree plantation with mowing and herbicides, mulched trees, thinned trees, used deer protection wiring to protect walnut seedlings, and battled invasive species in the tree plantation with both mowing and herbicides! Whew—the work never ends, does it?

Mike carries on the spirit of his father George in continuing active management of the walnut plantation. And like George, Mike is interested in helping others learn about tree farming as he cooperates with the University of Missouri and allows the forestry faculty to bring students to the farm to learn hands-on tree planting and pruning. In addition, he has produced YouTube videos of tree thinning and harvesting that provides an educational opportunity for those interested in growing black walnut.

Mike is an active conservationist remaining engaged in the both the Missouri and national Walnut Council, the Tree Farm program, and turns out his conservation interest goes beyond trees to the prairie as he is an active member of the Missouri Prairie Foundation. Learn more at: https://www.treefarmsystem.org/north-central-nominee-trial

New Pests and Diseases Webpage

The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is launching a new “Pests and Diseases” webpage. The new page lists all pest and disease programs managed by APHIS as part of its mission to protect American agriculture and natural resources.

On the new page, users can search by type (plant, animal), keyword (avian, fruit fly, cotton), or by the specific pest or disease (coconut rhinoceros beetle, brucellosis). You can also scroll through the page, which lists the pests and diseases alphabetically and includes a corresponding image. Information on Thousand Cankers Disease, Sudden Oak Death, Emerald Ask Borer and Gypsy Moth are included.

APHIS created the webpage to make it easier for its customers to find critical information on pests and diseases of concern. With this tool, members of the public will have the information they need to report pests and diseases and together we can protect America’s agriculture and natural resources. To visit the page, go to www.aphis.usda.gov/pests-and-diseases.

About Missouri Chapter News

Missouri Chapter News is distributed to members of the Missouri Chapter, Walnut Council and selected guests. The newsletter is intended to keep members 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 Bob Ball, Newsletter Editor. During the year we will also distribute “technical articles” on specific topics of interest to woodland landowners. Both the newsletters and technical articles are being archived at our chapter website.