**A Word from the President: David Boyt**

With the 2019 Walnut Council national meeting in nearby Topeka, KS, members of the Missouri Walnut Council had a great opportunity to meet with members from across the Midwest, swap stories, and attend a series of seminars and informational field trip sessions. Unfortunately, I was only able to come up on Monday to do a sawmill demo, but the weather held, and I was impressed by the way the field sessions were arranged and that the coordinators kept everything moving along. My thanks to Liz Jackson, Bob Atkinson, Tom Hogard, and all the other folks from the national council and Kansas chapter—and everyone who presented and shared their experiences—for all their hard work in making this meeting a success. I regret that issues in the care of my father (93) made it impractical for me to be gone for more than a day.

For someone who has no idea what’s for lunch (or what I had for breakfast), the fall meeting and the 2021 National meeting seem pretty far away, but they can sure creep up quickly, and I appreciate Past President Bob Ball’s emails with gentle, yet ever more urgent reminders that we need to keep moving forward with planning. While we will keep people up to date with emails, this is a good time to note that the Fall 2019 meeting is scheduled for **October 19, 2019, at Norm & Beth Stucky’s Mockingbird Hill Tree Farm** (just west of Jefferson City). We are planning a half-mile walking tour with learning stops along the way. Some of the topics we’re considering are Crop Tree Release, Tree Fertilization, Corrective Pruning, Tree Growth Measurement, Planting Nuts/ Natural regeneration, Preparing a Forested Area for Walnut, TSI/Consulting Foresters, Soils, and Tree & Shrub Identification. This is more than we can do in the tour, so let us know what your preferences are.

**Congratulations to Mike Trial for being selected as “Tree Farmer of the Year in the Central Region”!** See the article on page 2 of this newsletter.

Finally, the Walnut Council web site: [http://walnutcouncil.org/](http://walnutcouncil.org/) provides an easy way to connect with Walnut Council members, find out more about our activities, read previous Walnut Council Bulletins, and renew your membership (or join). Check it out when you get a chance!

**Walnut Council Factoids:**

- Walnut Council has 692 dues-paying members, of which 116 are Life members and 51 are New members. The Missouri Chapter is now the largest chapter in the Council with 138 paid memberships. When you include our one-year “guest” memberships, the Missouri Chapter stands at 170 members.
- Life members can also become “State Chapter Life Members” for an additional fee.
- Walnut Council consists of 12 chapters: IL, IN, IA, KA, KY, MD, MI, MO, NE, OH, OR and WI.
- Walnut Council also includes members from other countries.
Coming Events

**July 28-31;** Northern Nut Growers Association 110th annual conference in conjunction with the North American Fruit Explorers in Iowa City, IA. Complete details at: [https://nutgrower.org](https://nutgrower.org).

**September 12th;** Forrest Keeling Nursery “Fall Field Day”. Visit their website for details [https://www.fknursery.com](https://www.fknursery.com).

**October 12th;** MNGA Fall Meeting. Monitor the MNGA website and Facebook pages for details.

**October 17 and 18;** Missouri Consulting Foresters Fall Meeting. Locations are in Carter and Shannon Counties: Peck Ranch Conservation Area, the three Missouri Forest Eco-system Project compartments, Twin Pines Educational Facility and Pioneer Forest. Contact Lynn Barnickol [actuallywood@gmail.com](mailto:actuallywood@gmail.com) or call 573-230-6248 for meeting details.

**October 19;** Missouri Chapter Fall Event.

**American Tree Farm System** inspectors Dennis Galway and Salem Saloom visited with Mike Trial June 11 to view the tree farm and talk with him in connection with his candidacy for North-Central Region Tree Farmer of the Year. Mike, a life member of Walnut Council, is the Missouri Tree Farmer of the Year for 2019, AND he has just been notified he was selected as **Central Region Tree Farmer of the Year!** Other participants in this review included Laurie Coleman, FWAM and Missouri Tree Farm Committee; Matt Jones, Missouri Tree Farm Committee; and Harlan Palm, Fred Crouse and Bob Ball, Missouri Chapter Walnut Council.

**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](mailto:brundage1934@gmail.com). You can get 2.5 gallon containers of **Generic Roundup** (Glyphosate Pro 4 - 41% glyphosate) for **$37.50** and **Pathway** (Tordon RTU) for **$92.13**, plus Remedy Ultra (Triclopyr 4) for **$68** per gallon (2.5 gallons = **$170** or in a case of 4 —1 gallon jugs = **$272**). Compare prices with: [https://chemicalwarehouse.com/](https://chemicalwarehouse.com/)

This herbicide offering will be included in our October 19 meeting registration form so you can order through Scott and pick up your herbicide then.
NRCS Payment Schedules
Doug Wallace, Member

NRCS provides financial assistance for selected conservation practices. The availability and amount of financial assistance can vary between states. Download the Missouri payment schedules below to see which activities qualify, and how much financial assistance is available. Practice scenarios show examples of how financial assistance payments are calculated.

Payment Rates
Each year, NRCS reevaluates the amount of financial assistance available for each practice in each state. These evaluations consider the current costs for material and labor within the state, and also the fair marketplace compensation for opportunity costs that may arise (e.g. conversion of productive land). If necessary, the amount of financial assistance is adjusted to keep pace with actual costs.
The updated payment schedule is released in the first quarter each Fiscal Year (Oct-Dec). To view the Payment Schedules for Missouri click on this link:

https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/programs/financial/?cid=nrcseprd1328247

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Insurance Opportunities to Protect Your Land & Investments
Bob Ball, Newsletter Editor
I often hear questions from landowners regarding where they can purchase liability insurance for their timber. More rarely, there are also inquiries about coverage for fee hunting. Outdoor Underwriters, Inc. provides liability insurance to landowners and hunt clubs for both woodland liability and hunting lease liability.

New 2019-2020 liability insurance applications are available below. Click the links to download the pdf. The decision to purchase additional peace of mind with Woodland Liability and Hunting Lease Liability insurance is a personal choice. Many woodland landowners believe they are already covered by their homeowners or other insurance.

Leasing land to hunters is very widespread and accepted among woodland landowners. Woodland Liability and Hunting Lease Liability Insurance for Hunt Clubs are designed to protect the risks that landowners and or Hunt Clubs can encounter. If you are a member of a Hunt Club or a Woodland Landowner involved in leasing property, the Outdoor Underwriters, Inc. simple hunt club liability policy can provide you with peace of mind at a very affordable price. Everyone can enjoy the hunting experience knowing that you are covered by liability protection from a solid hunt club liability policy.

Woodland Liability Insurance Application for Landowners
- General liability protection for owners of woodlands who do not lease land to a hunting club

Hunting Lease Liability Insurance Application for Hunt Clubs
- General hunting lease liability protection for hunt clubs and their members

Combined Woodland and Hunting Lease Liability Insurance Application

To obtain this coverage, the landowner must be a member of the National Woodland Landowner’s Association (NWOA) as well as the Hunt Club if you are wanting the Hunting Lease Liability coverage. Their combined policy has a minimum premium of $210 or 40 cents per acre for a Limit of Liability: $1,000,000 each occurrence; $2,000,000 aggregate.

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.
Direct Seeding A Forest

Dennis Evans, Past President

I had an epiphany on a summer evening of 2003 when I realized there are naturally planted walnut seedlings along the derogated highway right-away growing better than my genetically superior walnut seedlings! And, my trees are planted on a high-quality site with proper nutrition and weed control. After that experience, I decided to mimic nature by planting seeds in place of seedlings on a 9-acre plot.

The labor requirements to maintain a plantation are high and require years of commitment by the owner. As a member of the Missouri Walnut Council, I have viewed more abandoned plantations than plantations that were managed for the length of their rotation. Nature has been doing regeneration for thousands of years. Why should I reinvent the wheel? I just needed to improve the wheel.

This was my start on the journey of direct seeding. My thought process was: If I provided the proper site, improve genetics, control weeds, eliminated any nutrient deficiencies my trees should excel in their performance. I wanted a forest setting, not a savanna or a mowed field of a monoculture walnut trees planted in rows. I increased the number of seeds per acre to close the canopy for weed control, provide vertical competition, hoping the trees would be naturally taller with straight boles and a reduction in the diameter of the limbs to promote self-pruning or easier mechanical pruning. In my opinion, it is easier to kill excess stems per acre than to control weeds and prune larger limbs. Nature will also assist in the excess stem and limb removal process as it has been doing for thousands of years.

Grass and broadleaf herbicide control were initialized two years prior to planting the seeds. I wanted the weed seed bank in the soil to be depleted as much as possible. I had intended to plant seedlings on 9 acres, so herbicide treatments were started prior to my decision to try direct seeding. I tested the soil on the site for the macro nutrient levels. I applied lime to increase the pH factor and commercial fertilizer to increase the amount of phosphorus and potassium to the recommended levels. I did not want nutrient deficiencies to be my limiting factor for growth.

I was not confident on the number of seeds per acre that I should plant, because this type of regeneration has not been widely utilized as a recommended practice. I was not sure of the germination rate or survival rate of the seedlings after competing with the broadleaf weeds. I wanted to error on the side of having too many trees, versus having an insufficient number of seedlings. In nature, a site is inundated with thousands of acorns or other tree seeds, and a very small percentage of the seeds will germinate and survive to become trees.

My germination rate must have been very high. At the second year of growth I already had a young forest!

It takes a lot of seeds and nuts to carryout a direct seeding operation!
With this observation in mind, I planted the following seed mixture per acre: 500 white oak acorns, 1,333 chinquapin oak, 1,688 walnut, 200 bur oak, 944 red oak, 7,777 ash and 22,465 of other seeds such as sugar maple, cherry, yellow poplar and swamp white oak. Today, this stand averages 260 trees per acre from an average seed count of 34,907 seeds per acre or a seed per 1.25 square feet of area.

During the summer of 2005 an inventory was completed by the Natural Resources Conservation Service. At that time the stand had 1,493 trees per acre which is a survival rate of 4.00%. The walnuts averaged 260 trees per acre and the oaks totaled 73 trees per acre. The other 1,160 inventoried trees per acre included seeds I did not plant, such as sycamore, hackberry, mulberry and boxelder.

I purchased my oak species from a commercial seed dealer, but I located veneer quality walnut trees with anthracnose resistance for the walnut seed source. I had the soil tilled to provide a good seedbed, manually spread the seed and the seed was covered by farm tillage equipment. The smaller seeds such as ash and cherry were frost planted during the first winter. Again, my goal was to inundate the land with tree seedlings for weed control and vertical competition.

The first couple of years were challenging because I had a field of broadleaf weeds with small trees trying to survive under the canopy of the weeds. I used preemergent herbicide for the broadleaf control and post-emergent grass herbicide for any escaped grasses for first several years. The broadleaf weeds did not appear to affect the growth of the trees. In fact, the broadleaf weeds help in the tree establishment with protection from predators, shading and reducing the soil temperature. The weeds also provided a wildlife food source during the winter. I admit, during the first several years, I questioned my thought process! My neighbors also questioned my husbandry abilities of the land. I had to reassure everyone, including myself, that I was starting a hardwood forest and that process takes time.
As the years progressed, I noticed the best-suited trees for that soil series excelled in performance measured by growth of the height, diameter and tree form. The best-suited tree may not be a walnut or an oak in all cases. Nature will select the best species for that soil series. More concentrated thinning is necessary on sites where the soil is less-suited for walnut growth, in order to release the walnut and other desirable trees. If walnut is the best-suited tree for that series, the walnut trees did not have a problem of competing with the less desirable tree species. Oak establishment proved to be the most difficult because the oak seedlings could not compete with the other species of trees and predation is a problem.

The growth rate on the direct seeded trees are very acceptable. The walnut trees average 4/10 inch in diameter breast height growth. In calculating the growth rate, the years where the trees were less than 4 feet tall were included in the numerator. The height of the clear stems is a result of the competition and manual pruning. The trees will continue to naturally self-prune allowing for a second or third walnut log to be harvested from each tree. Each year I practice crop tree release on my selected crop trees which may even be an oak tree. My goal is to reduce the trees that are competing with the growth of the crop tree but not to the extent that vertical competition is eliminated.

In closing, I feel direct seeding to establish a forest setting is an excellent method of growing walnut trees and other fine hardwoods. I encourage you to give this method a try.

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**Fall Event Reminder**

**Date:** Saturday, October 19, 2019; 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Details will be available closer to the event.

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

**Events:** Woodland Management Learning Stations, Guest Speakers, and our Chapter Business Meeting.

“Mockingbird Hill Farm” is southwest of Jefferson City. This tree farm will provide a terrific center of the state Fall tour opportunity. Learning stops throughout his property will cover a broad range of topics from pruning to tree growth analysis and an onsite meeting/wedding converted barn will make for a unique and comfortable venue for topic discussions. Make plans to join us and put it on your calendar NOW! Guests are welcome!

**Potential Topics to be Covered:** Crop Tree Release, Tree Fertilization, Corrective Pruning, Fast and Accurate Tree Growth (measurements with Dendrometers), Strategically Placing/Planting Nuts vs. Natural Regeneration, How best to clear/prepare a forested area to plant walnut trees? Timber Stand Improvement (TSI) & Utilizing Consulting Foresters, Soil Capabilities and Limitations (Right Species on the Right Soils), and Identification of Common Trees, Shrubs and Invasive Species.
Using Oust Herbicide to Control Tall Fescue & Other Grasses at Black Oak Ranch, Caldwell, County

Jim Ball used Oust through a tractor-mounted boom sprayer applying herbicide over the top of little trees to kill tall fescue. The spraying was done during the dormant season when glyphosate would not have been effective. **Oust kills fescue even when it is dormant**, and it is safe to spray over the tops of little trees before bud break. For Jim Ball, using over the top or side delivery application of Oust during fescue dormancy is routine.

Jim said this site is an over-farmed, severely eroded, sloped patch that is never going to be a good site even for oaks. But it is close to their lake. He would like to have a stand of timber on it for erosion and sediment control, but also because a maturing stand of oaks will look nice there. There are quite a few replants going back to 2018. Even with a few failed plantings, Jim said he keeps trying to establish the oaks. Since it is highly erodible soil, he is only killing the fescue in a band around the trees until the trees attain more growth. As the tree canopies increase in size the zone treated with Oust will be increased as well. Also, these rows have been fertilized for the last few years. By the looks of last year's seedlings (terrible drought year in Caldwell County), Jim feels he may finally be getting a stand of oaks above their lake.

**We plan to give you a more complete story about using Oust including application methods and economics in an upcoming newsletter. Send any questions you would like to have addressed to the Newsletter Editor.**

The **dosage when using Oust is very small**. Follow the label rates, and use a calibrated sprayer to ensure you are applying the correct volume of herbicide per acre.
Missouri Chapter Members & Guests Registered for the Walnut Council National Meeting - Mayetta, Kansas, June 16 - June 19, 2019

Photo (L—R): Bob & Lenore Ball, Jennifer Morganthaler, Dusty Walter, Squirrel Lovelady, Jim Ball, Jeanie & Phil Moore, Sara Jean Peters, Fred Crouse and Tom Schmidt.

Others Registered Included: Josh Abercrombie, Bill Altman, Dave Boyt, John Buchanan, Youlanda Ciolli, Mary Gibler, Michael & Rhonda Lucas, Lupe Rios, Tom Rutledge, and Mike Trial.

Left: Dusty Walter recognized as outgoing Walnut Council National President.

Right: Fred Crouse, Chapter Treasurer, and Mary Gibler, Exhibitor, Forrest Keeling Nursery.
Scenes from the Walnut Council national meeting

David Boyt, Missouri Chapter President, demonstrating his Norwood portable band saw.

How we manage our growing timber directly impacts the quality of the veneer sliced from those logs.

John Buchanan, center, Copperhead Hill Ranch & Tree Farm, discusses his use of agroforestry to produce grass hay and black walnut trees together. John is a member of both the Kansas and Missouri chapters.
Protecting Yourself from Ticks and Diseases
(Drawings Courtesy of Brian Herrin, KSU Vet Medicine)

Critical First Step: Identify the tick, then remove and save it in case you become infected.

Note: Watch for a special technical article coming by email with more information about ticks and their diseases.
Repairing a Storm-Damaged Tree

Jerry VanSambeek and Harlan Palm

Severe winds broke out the top 14′ of this 30′ yellow poplar also causing an 18″ tear in the bark in a Walnut Council member’s lawn. (Left photo). We advised the following actions:

Yellow poplar is a fast-growing species, which makes them prone to suffer storm damage. Since the existing tree is a sprout from the original tree, that sprout was growing even faster than normal because it had such a large root system to support rapid growth. Rapid growth produces elongated limbs that are prone to suffer storm damage. Coppicing the tree flush with the ground is one option. If you are determined to keep the tree, prune it back to a point below where the bark was ripped off and also prune back the taller branches so none of them become dominate leaders.

Locate the lower end of the stripped bark. Determine where the next lowest set of branches are below the end of the stripped bark. Most trees form a whorl of branches associated with the bud at the end of the growing season. Cut off the stem at a 45-degree angle near the mid-region between two sets of whorls because it will produce the fewest epicormic sprouts or the new sprouts will be more spaced out. Make the high side of the 45-degree cut on the side from which the strongest or prevailing winds blow through the yard. If you can see a mark on the bark where there is a dormant bud on that side of the stem, make the cut a half inch above the bud.

When the sprouts are around six inches long or longer, remove most of the sprouts keeping the topmost sprout and, if necessary, recut the 45-degree angle so it is on the high side of the cut.

The sprout will form a callus that will wrap around the old stem and leave a very short “frost crack” susceptible to future breakage. If you do not cut off the main stem, it will form callus along the tear that will not fully close leaving an 18-inch long ‘frost crack’ highly susceptible to breakage again. Try not to make the 45-degree cut near the dense set of branches associated with the apical buds at the end of the growing season. Those sprouts are too dense to pick out a good one to form the new terminal and there is already too much going on with the cambium around the branches.

You may need to tie or tape an 8-foot long 2”x2” stake to the side of the tree that sticks up 4 feet above the cut so you have something to tie and stabilize the new terminal to until the wound calluses over. We suggest using duct tape that can stretch a little as the main stem puts on diameter growth. Non-reinforced electrical tape is an option because it will stretch. Masking tape decomposes too quickly.

Do not try to make the existing branches form the new terminal unless the tree does not produce epicormic sprouts. Complete the corrective pruning as soon as possible, so the selected new terminal has time this fall to go dormant properly. You do not want a bunch of epicormics in the top 18 inches you are going to cut off in the dormant season.
Market Facilitation Program (MFP)

Bob Ball, Newsletter Editor

As a woodland landowner I am disappointed all the talk about farmer aid seems to focus largely on corn and soybeans. What about those of us with stands of timber ready to harvest? China drives much of the timber market in the U.S. More than 80% of all veneer logs are shipped to China.

My suggestion for woodland producers...USDA could provide more financial assistance funds to NRCS for EQIP, CSP and CRP contracts as a means of supporting our delayed payments from timber harvests. It's true we have the opportunity to hold over our product where row crop producers have major challenges with storage and cash flow. But woodland producers need cash, too, and without those dollars we put off managing our timber. Our delays hurt professional foresters, loggers, truckers and timber mills. Indirectly, timber growth is somewhat slowed because forest stand improvement practices are not being applied. In the future I suggest USDA include forestry professionals and the forest industry in these discussions about aid to farmers impacted by tariffs.

I received a reply from J.R. Flores, State Conservationist, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Columbia, Missouri. He said, “I understand your concern and the impact the tariffs are having on the wood products industry in Missouri and across the nation. To date, the Administration has approved direct payments to farmers and ranchers for annually produced crops and to dairy producers. The announcement on May 16th outlining the 2019 program to provide assistance and relief to America’s producers did include tree nut producers, with payments based on 2019 acres of production.

Offering Farm Bill program financial assistance support to woodland owners, as you suggest, is a means to provide federal financial assistance dollars to offset management costs that might normally be covered via timber sale revenues. As you know, Missouri NRCS has allocated 7% of our general EQIP dollars annually over the last 5 years to our forestland fund pools ($1.1 million to $1.3 million) and will do so again this year ($1.4 million). We have funded 100% of eligible forestland applications each year 2014 through 2017 and almost all in 2018. If interest and demand for funding for forestry practices exceeds funding distributions in the future, then we would welcome stakeholder input and discussion at future State Technical Committee meetings regarding allocations for the forestland fund pools.

Further, NRCS also offered: In regards to your comment related to black walnut not being eligible, I suggest any future questions be direct to the USDA Farm Service Agency who administers the Market Facilitation Program. The issue may be wild grown black walnut with incidental nut harvest versus plantation grown trees for nut harvest.

Below is a clip from a USDA news release on May 23rd that makes reference to tree nut producers:

- **Market Facilitation Program (MFP)** for 2019, authorized under the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) Charter Act and administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA), will provide $14.5 billion in direct payments to producers.
  - Producers of alfalfa hay, barley, canola, corn, crambe, dry peas, extra-long staple cotton, flaxseed, lentils, long grain and medium grain rice, mustard seed, dried beans, oats, peanuts, rapeseed, safflower, sesame seed, small and large chickpeas, sorghum, soybeans, sunflower seed, temperate japonica rice, upland cotton, and wheat will receive a payment based on a single county rate multiplied by a farm’s total plantings to those crops in aggregate in 2019. Those per acre payments are not dependent on which of those crops are planted in 2019, and therefore will not distort planting decisions. Moreover, total payment-eligible plantings cannot exceed total 2018 plantings.
  - Dairy producers will receive a per hundredweight payment on production history and hog producers will receive a payment based on hog and pig inventory for a later-specified time frame.
  - Tree nut producers, fresh sweet cherry producers, cranberry producers, and fresh grape producers will receive a payment based on 2019 acres of production.
These payments will help farmers to absorb some of the additional costs of managing disrupted markets, to deal with surplus commodities, and to expand and develop new markets at home and abroad.

Payments will be made in up to three tranches, with the second and third tranches evaluated as market conditions and trade opportunities dictate. The first tranche will begin in late July/early August as soon as practical after Farm Service Agency crop reporting is completed by July 15th. If conditions warrant, the second and third tranches will be made in November and early January.

In conclusion, I really appreciated the detailed response by NRCS to my basic inquiry. From a dozen similar messages to my contacts throughout the state, NRCS was the only reply I received.

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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 members of Walnut Council planting black walnut trees in the spirit 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.