

A Slight Shake-up in Officers

(Check out the nepotism!)

Cindy Heisdorffer
President

Larry Krotz
Vice-President

Don Smith
Secretary

Bob (Spook) Brown
Treasurer

I'm Cindy Heisdorffer, recently retired high school science teacher in Davenport, Iowa and have been involved with the Walnut Council since 2001. Being the oldest child of Larry Krotz who is one of the founding members of the Iowa Chapter of the Walnut Council, I grew up watching my dad plant millions of trees on a farm in southeast Iowa, primarily by direct seeding. I've assisted with a few of his field days, and for many years I've been privy to excellent conversations near and dear to most people interested in growing walnuts and other crop trees. Invasive species, preventing deer damage, pruning, spraying, mowing, and high vs. low density planting are concerns our family has been attending to for a long time. More recently has been the Thousand Cankers Disease and its effects around the country. I've assisted with the National Walnut Council Annual Meetings since 2002. My personal property is about 1 millionth of an acre (!) and I own 3 trees. It used to be 6 but I had to save room for my house. So it surprised me to no end when Don Smith of Crawfordsville recently asked if I would consider taking on the position he has been filling as president – I guess he figured I've inherited the necessary requirements for the job. Don, Bob, and Larry have been managing the leadership of this chapter for a number of years by themselves and seriously wanted to recruit some new blood. **(At this point, I'd like to urge other members to consider taking on one of these roles for a year.** As motivation I want to report that the involvement has been thoroughly motivating.)

2015 National Walnut Council Annual Meeting

This year's annual meeting is in St. Charles, MO, June 14-17. If you can't take enough time to attend the whole event, you could consider participating in just a portion. Watch for the next national newsletter for more specific agenda items.

Using GPS and GIS to monitor a plantation

A project with a steep learning curve.



The Garmin Montana 650T GPS

On the Krotz farm, we are attempting to learn how to use GPS and GIS to monitor locations, growth, and factors contributing to the quality of trees. Neither of us has any real expertise in this endeavor, but we're researching, talking to as many people as possible, and have gone as far as choosing, purchasing, and carrying out the initial set up of the Garmin Montana 650T handheld GPS. We've practiced a bit with taking pictures, marking waypoints and checking out maps. If any of you have attempted or accomplished something like this, we'd love to hear from you.

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Most of you are probably familiar with Larry Krotz and Don Smith, but you don't know Bob Brown, a.k.a. Spook. He joined the Walnut Council about 20 years ago and has been retired from US Gypsum, where he was a maintenance foreman for 27 years. Bob owns a farm about 10 miles SE of Yarmouth that has been in his family for over 100 years. About 60 of his 250 acres are in trees which he started planting in '92. He plants primarily by direct seed, and a few of us had the chance to visit 20-25 acres of absolutely beautiful white oak plantings in February of this year. Below you'll see a picture of the second direct seeder he designed and built – Don Smith is on the left and Bob on the right. The picture below that is Bob with some of his 10-year old direct seed white oak.



Ideas for Field Days/Events

One of the purposes of the Iowa Chapter of the Walnut Council is to provide opportunities for learning about growing the highest quality walnuts and other hardwoods. Another is to arrange forums for meeting other woodland owners to share ideas and information.

In order to accomplish these objectives we'd like to ask this group for ideas or input on ideas already out there.

1. Meet for brunch, lunch or dinner with a forester. Topics would be determined by the expertise of the forester and interests of the participants.
2. Visit/tour a saw mill such as Bruggeman Lumber in or River City Hardwoods in Muscatine.
(<http://www.rivercityhardwoodsinc.com/>)
3. Visit/tour a wood products business such as JK Creative Woods in Kalona
(<http://jkcreativewood.com/>)
4. Learn about estate planning specific to woodlands. It would be possible to invite an expert to provide information helpful in making decisions along these lines. As an introduction, the following website might be useful.
(<http://www.na.fs.fed.us/stewardship/estate/estate.shtml>)

In the future, I'm going to send information via email if I have your email.

If you would give a few moments of thought to these and any other ideas for a fall meeting, please contact me in whatever manner is most convenient for you. Remember that field days are always a possibility and if you know of a plantation people would like to check out, pass on the information and we'll see what we can do. Thank you.

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