

**INDIANA WALNUT COUNCIL NEWSLETTER**

**Fall 2016**

**THE WALNUT COUNCIL IS A SCIENCE-BASED ORGANIZATION THAT ENCOURAGES RESEARCH, DISCUSSION AND THE APPLICATION OF KNOWLEDGE ABOUT GROWING HARDWOOD TREES.**

**FALL MEETING OF THE  
INDIANA CHAPTER OF THE WALNUT COUNCIL  
OCTOBER 1, 2016**

**Kirklin Tree Farm, SR 38 near Kirklin, IN, Lenny Farlee, Owner**

The Tree Farm is located on the north side of SR 38 a little less than 7/10<sup>th</sup> of a mile west of US 421 in Kirklin, IN. Going west on SR 38 from Kirklin, cross the McClamrock Ditch Bridge and the lane is immediately to the right. There is a Walnut Council and Tree Farm sign at the lane gate. Coordinates: 40.192126, -86.373361

Map: <https://goo.gl/maps/Vc1MNH6jHK2> Look for the Walnut Council field day signs. Follow the lane for ¼ mile to the picnic area and parking on your right.

The Kirklin Tree Farm was acquired by Lenny Farlee in December 2010 with the help of Hugh Pence, who actually bought the property sight-unseen at an auction and offered to resell it to Lenny if he was interested – which he was! This is an undeveloped property that serves as an investment, learning lab, and recreation property for Lenny, who is an extension forester at Purdue University. There has been a lot done and there is a lot left to do, so you will see a work-in-progress property that is gradually being brought into a managed condition. Walnut of all ages can be found on the property, plus many other hardwood species.

9 - 9:30 am Registration, coffee, juice and donuts courtesy of Don Greene, Past President

9:35 - 11:45 am Introduction to the property, inventory and management planning, managing property and income tax, invasive species identification and management

11:45 - 12:45 Lunch

12:45 – 3 pm Native mixed hardwood management, plans for future harvests and management, tracking walnut growth on the property, wildlife and recreation uses

3 – 3:15 pm Closing comments and thanks for coming! If you have some waterproof boots, we can cross the creek after the regular program for a quick tour of the east half of the property for those interested – a couple of native butternuts are in this area.

We will be walking in brush and woodland areas, so come prepared for off-the-trail conditions.

**See Page 7 for reservation details. Please register early so we know how many lunches to prepare.**

## 2016 SPRING FIELD DAY WRAPUP

April 9<sup>th</sup> turned out to be a chilly but nice day. Overnight in the northern part of the state the cold did not bode well for a spring field day. In fact a number of people had to drive through some pretty slippery roads to get to Hugh and Judy Pence's farm in Darlington, IN. But for the 75 or so people who did make it, it was worth the effort. The coffee, hot chocolate, pastries, the car shuttle, the wood fire, and the sun breaking through upon arrival made everyone forget the rigors of the trip.



Our day began with Hugh (the guy in the middle with the light colored hat) giving us the history of the farm. He said he had a consultant analyze the soil and advise him about controlling weeds in new plantings.



Our first stop on the tour began with Raoul Moore holding forth from the back of his pickup truck about all the tools you will ever need to do tree work – and a few that you really shouldn't try, and how to fix some that you have that have broken.

It is obvious from the picture that Raoul has tried quite a few. And if I am remembering correctly, he still has all of his fingers and toes.

From this stop, we divided into two teams and did some tree pruning in some young trees in a plantation.



Team One was led by Hugh and Raoul. They were very analytical and cautious in their approach.



Young Drew Mandeville got a chance to do some pruning while his parents watched.



Team Two was led by Jim McKenna, Lenny Farlee, and Perry Seitzinger



They were much more aggressive pruners. And they spent some time discussing which soap, Irish Spring or Dial, was better at deterring deer damage.

We then discussed picking out crop trees and thinning stands of trees. There were differences of opinion as there always are when dealing with this contentious topic.

Then we had a luscious lunch. Following lunch we had a short business meeting. Don Greene, our treasurer, was not deterred and used his temporary all-terrain walker to assist him in giving the treasurer's report.



The final stop on the field day was a look at some bottom ground that had recently had a timber harvest. It looked rough. But when you looked closer you could see that 200 two-year-old pecan and oaks had already been planted. They were potted seedlings from Forrest Keeling Nursery in Missouri.



At this stop, Lenny Farlee took the opportunity to tell us the benefits of having a consulting forester handle a timber sale – such things as tree selection, marketing, contract, tax treatment, and inspection during and after harvest. He reminded everyone to make sure to know their property lines.

Lenny pointed out that you want to have your invasives and grape vines under control before harvest, because they will go wild after the forest is opened up. And he let everyone know that regeneration clearing is good for a diversity of animals and birds. Indiana bats love the open areas.

## STUDENT REPORT FROM NATIONAL WALNUT COUNCIL MEETING

Dear Indiana Walnut Council Chapter,

Last week, I had the opportunity to attend my first annual Walnut Council meeting in Lawrenceburg, Indiana. First of all, I want to express many thanks to the Indiana chapter for generously offering a sponsorship to make my trip possible. The meeting was an excellent opportunity to learn a lot about black walnut and meet many interesting, good people. I also want to thank the Missouri chapter for an interesting and tasty whiskey, which was widely enjoyed in the hospitality room one evening and continues to provide cheer at my home. I am lucky to have met so many good people, all generous with information, advice, and company.

I am a Ph.D. student studying the details of walnut physiology: I am exploring the uptake of carbon and nitrogen in black walnut seedlings. I am also studying how these elements are stored during the dormant season and how they are utilized for growth in the spring. Coming from a purely academic background, I had hoped to access the wisdom of those who have worked with walnut for years as well as the challenges that still need resolution. My experience at the meeting was invaluable in helping me understand how future research might aid in optimizing growth of mature walnuts. I also learned that, even in the relatively controlled environment of a timber plantation, there are variations in the responses and successes of walnuts, depending on the site. For example, inter-planting black locust can actually work quite well, as long as there is frequent flooding to knock back the locust.

Coming from a purely biological and ecological education, I learned a great deal about the operational side of walnut forestry that I had not been previously exposed to. From the nuances of proper pruning (*Thank you, Mr. Pence!*) to the importance of timely thinning (which I discovered, from conversations with some landowners, is a frequently-missed target); I feel more qualified to call myself a student of forestry having had this experience. I was especially interested to learn about timber and veneer grading and pricing—this was a subject I had never been exposed to previously. There were also discussions with a more familiar, academic feeling: using naturally-occurring ailanthus wilt to fight the invasive “stink-tree” and the status of and efforts to stay ahead of thousand cankers disease in Indiana and Ohio. Finally, I learned things that straddle the line between purely industrial and more ecological interests, especially proper ways to apply herbicides for the control of exotic, invasive species. After my experiences this year, I look forward to future trips and getting to know more of the great people who are members of the walnut council!

Sincerely,

Mike Szuter

### PRESIDENT’S LETTER

We just had a very successful national meeting in southern Indiana and southern Ohio. Lenny, Bill, and Liz did a great job of getting it organized and the setting on the Ohio River was very nice. I am always impressed with how the different state chapters can pull together these national conventions. I urge you to consider attending one in the near future. There is always a great wealth of knowledge and opinion that you can tap into at these meetings.

Several months ago Liz Jackson received an unusual request from a farmer in Ukraine. He wanted to do some research on planting walnut trees on his family’s farm in Ukraine. They did make several stops in Indiana, and had a nice sit down visit with Liz and Lenny Farlee at Purdue. It was interesting that they were planning on planting 500 acres of walnuts this year and another 500 acres next year. I found out they have a very large farm. The English of the father was a bit rough but his son was very fluent having attended Penn State for his college education. We visited three plantings while they were with me. It was somewhat eye opening with the questions they had. We also had some side conversations on politics, corn fields, and our well-manicured lawns.

I wished them good luck with their plans, and of course they invited me and, I am sure, most other people they talked to to come visit their farm and country. Ukraine is not known for their hardwood tree production, but I was told that part of the reason is that the Ukraine government controls much of the forested land, and there is much corruption there. If you want woodland, you have to plant your own.

I think another thing we can do is educate our fellow Americans about walnuts and other fine hardwoods. There have been several occasions where I mentioned to a group of people that I raise black walnut trees. Almost every time questions and comments start up. I think there is a genuine curiosity about growing walnut trees and even harvesting the nuts. I suggest that you do some research on walnut products, you never know, you might end up being the life of the party at a gathering. I was with a group from New Jersey recently, and I was somewhat surprised that many of them did not know what a walnut tree looked like nor the fruit. We were on a trip, and I spotted a walnut tree at one of our stops and mentioned it and had a gathering around the tree with people asking many questions. Later several people thanked me for sharing with them about the walnut tree even though it had nothing to do with our trip. Never pass up the chance to be an ambassador for walnuts and other fine hardwoods. People living in cities in New Jersey are just as eager to learn about our passion as farmers from Ukraine.

Dan Warkentien  
Indiana Chapter President.

**FROM THE EDITOR**

If you are still getting this newsletter by mail and not over the internet, please consider sending me your email address if you have one. Email saves trees, money, and time.

If you have announcements or suggestions about things to include in the newsletter, please send them to Ray Wilson, 6448 Blossom Lane, Indianapolis, IN 46278 or [rwwilson@iquest.net](mailto:rwwilson@iquest.net).

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Please clip/print registration form for the meeting and return to the address below:  
INDIANA WALNUT COUNCIL FIELD DAY, October 1, 2016

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Registration fee \$15/per person  
(Includes lunch)  
\_\_\_\_\_ @\$15 \$\_\_\_\_\_ (total)

Make checks payable to Indiana Walnut Council  
Mail or email registration by September 25th to:  
Email: [dgreene43@comcast.net](mailto:dgreene43@comcast.net) Email registrants may pay at the event  
Mailing Address:  
Don Greene  
6177 E. State Road 54  
Bloomfield, IN 47424-6024  
Don Greene's Home Phone: 812-384-8921 Cell Phone: 812-381-3711