

Walnut Council

Maryland Chapter Newsletter

Fall/Winter 2015

Volume 22, Issue 1

President's Message: Fall Workshop Postponed, but Not To Be Missed

David Robbins

We all know how the best laid plans often go.

While planning the 2015 annual Fall Workshop, we encountered numerous problems, pitfalls, and scheduling conflicts. As a result, we have moved the Fall Workshop to early 2016.

Our 2015 Maryland Chapter Fall Workshop is now scheduled for **February 4, 2016**, from 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. at the Holly Hills Country Club. It may no longer be a Fall Workshop at that point, but it will still be a Workshop, and very much worth attending.

This year our guest speaker will be Dr. Michael Raupp, an entomologist with the University of Maryland. Dr. Raupp is a leading authority on insect and disease management for plants, and is co-author of the book, "Managing Insects and Mites on Woody Plants."

I have had the privilege of attending several presentations by Dr. Raupp, and I can assure you

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that this opportunity is not to be missed. His knowledge of entomology is nothing less than encyclopedic. He is versed on all aspects of the complex world of Integrated Pest Management. As such, his expertise extends well beyond entomology, and into the realms of botany and chemistry. And on top of it all, his talks are as entertaining as they are informative.

Dr. Raupp will give a presentation on the latest invasive insect species that are here and/or heading our way. The talk will include identification, impacts, prognosis, and treatment options. And, of course, we will discuss our latest invasive threat – Thousand Cankers Disease of Black Walnut. We

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Furniture Forest - Growing Trees Into Furniture

These molded trees grow into fully-formed chairs, tables, and lamps.

U.K.-Based Company "Full Grown" offers a simpler, more eco-friendly way to manufacture wooden furniture with their forest of chairs and tables.

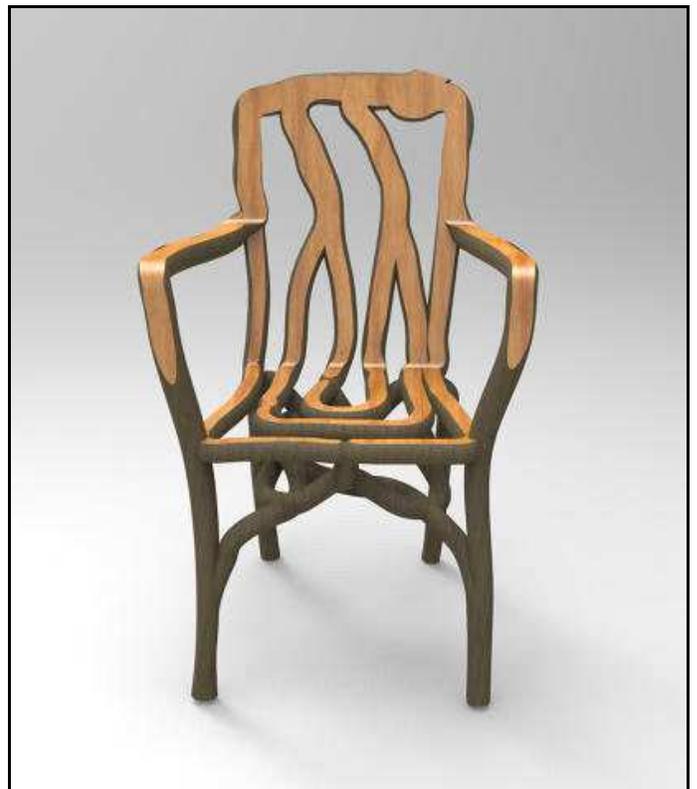
Making wooden furniture from scratch is a complicated process: you grow a tree for 60 or more years, only to chop it down, peel off its bark, cut it up into little pieces, and then finally join it all back together into a whole new shape. When such furniture is mass-manufactured, the process is hard on the environment. It wastes wood, and uses lots of energy for powering trucks, chainsaws, and factories.

Gavin Munro, a furniture designer based in Derbyshire, England, has found a simpler and more eco-friendly way to create wooden furniture: he uses specially designed plastic frames to mold young willow, oak, ash and sycamore trees into the shape of chairs, tables, frames, or lamps as they're growing. Once they've matured, each tree has morphed into a fully functional furniture item made from a single piece of wood, no sawing or assembling necessary. Munro's company, called Full Grown, aims to "rethink our relationship with trees and time," as the designer writes in an email.

Full Grown is currently tending a small furniture forest of 400 trees in a field north of Derby. "If we want the beauty of wood in our furniture, why do we bother growing trees for more than 60 years, only to chop them up into little bits?" Munro says.

After studying furniture design at university, "I was left with the desire not just to make things as beautifully as I could, but to make the whole manufacturing process—from acquiring the raw material to finished piece—as simple and elegant as possible, too," Munro says. Inspiration came when he was making driftwood furniture on a beach in San Francisco, and realized "it makes more sense to grow trees directly into objects." He remembered noticing the shape of a throne in an overgrown bonsai tree as a child, and then having to learn

Furniture Forest (Continued on page 4)



A chair manufactured by Full Grown, by shaping trees as they grow.

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will also include plenty of question and answer time, when you can ask Dr. Raupp any questions you have about what's eating your trees or landscape plants.

Trust me – You do not want to miss this Workshop. So make sure to keep **February 4th** open on your calendar, and plan to attend a great evening of food, fun, socializing, and learning. The official announcement and registration flyer will be mailed and e-mailed to you sometime in January. Until then, feel free to contact me with any questions, at david.robbins1@maryland.gov.

Note: Even though this workshop is taking place in February of 2016, it is our 2015 Fall Workshop. We will still be having a Spring Workshop in 2016; when we will be meeting at WMREC to prune the trees in our plantations. There will be more information coming on this—but for now, start sharpening your pruners and saws!



Got E-mail?

Occasionally we have timely information to share with you. If you have an e-mail account, but have not received any e-mails from us this year, that means we don't have your current address. If you would like to be included in the e-mail news list, please send an e-mail to David Robbins at: david.robbins1@maryland.gov.

We promise not to clutter your inbox!

Black Walnut Scammers Lying About Tree Disease

Editor's Note:

The following article regards a Black Walnut scam that is occurring in Michigan. While this scam has not yet been reported in Maryland, it is easily conceivable that it could happen. Thousand Cankers Disease has been identified in Maryland, currently in one isolated location. However, given the slow-moving nature of this disease, we should not see any wide-spread effects for several years to come. Anyone offering cut-rate prices for Black Walnut at this time should be considered suspicious.

The best defense is to know the signs and symptoms of TCD, to help ward off would-be grifters.

LANSING, MI — Attention woodlot owners: Be wary if someone shows up on your doorstep or calls offering to buy your black walnut trees because of the recent detection of a tree-killing disease.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Agriculture and Rural Development issued a notice this week, saying the Thousand Cankers Disease (TCD), which targets walnut trees, has not been detected in Michigan.

Black Walnut Scam (Continued on page 5)



Young trees being trained and pruned as they grow. These trees will eventually become lamp bases.

Furniture Forest (Continued from page 2)

patience while sitting in a metal frame, waiting for a spinal fusion graft to heal. These memories formed the seed for Full Grown.

Using this method, growing an individual tree into a complete chair, takes anywhere from four to eight years. "In essence, it's an incredibly simple art," he says. "You start by training and pruning young tree branches as they grow over specially made formers. At certain points we then graft them together so that the object grows in to one solid piece." He likens the process to "a kind of organic 3D printing that uses air, soil and sunshine as its source material." After the tree has grown into the shape they want, they continue to nurture it as it

thickens and matures before harvesting it in the winter. It's then planed and finished to show off the wood and grain inside. Each piece is as utterly unique as an individual tree.

Even though the basic process is simple, neatly organizing a small forest is not without its challenges. Munro is only making 50 or so pieces a year, but for every 100 trees you grow, there are a 1,000 branches you need to care for and 10,000 shoots you have to prune at the right time. "It's an art-form in itself keeping track of everything," Munro says.

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Black Walnut Scam (Continued from page 3)

The state said officials have received "reports of log buyers pressuring Michigan woodlot owners" by lying about the disease presence to trick owners into selling the valuable timber, which is used for fine furniture, gun stocks and other products because of its grain and color.

If the disease were detected, "it would be announced by the state identifying the affected areas, outlining the response plan and quarantine restrictions would apply to the affected area," MDARD spokesperson Jennifer Holton said.

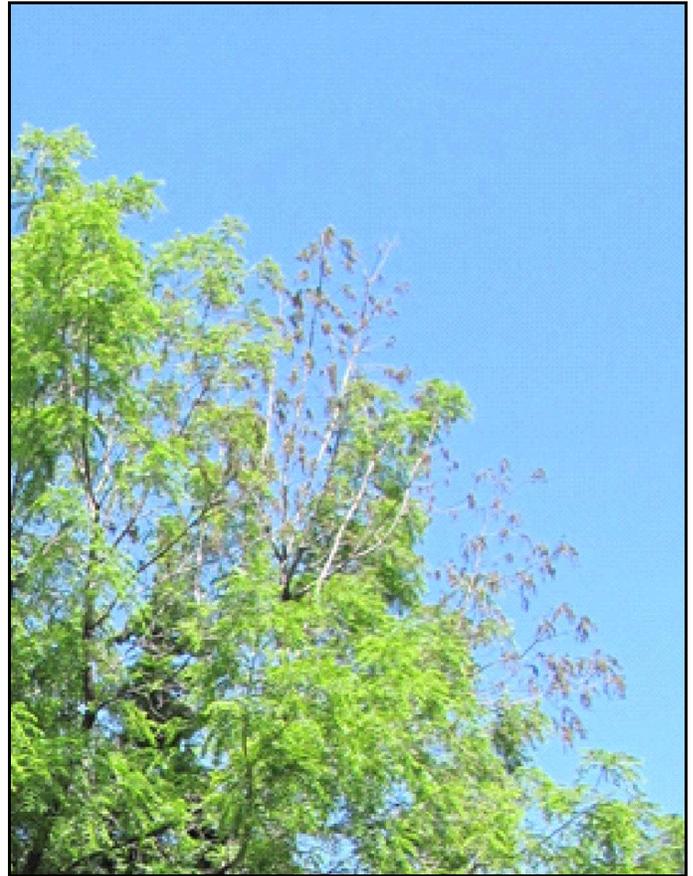
"This is often only a small portion of one county."

Thousand Cankers Disease is caused by a combination of small beetles boring into walnut branches and a fungus introduced by the beetles. The crowns of affected trees begin dying and the tree eventually dies.

Black walnut trees in many western states, and in Tennessee and Pennsylvania, are already being hit by the disease. The beetle and fungus can be transported into new areas in walnut logs, firewood and slabs used for woodworking.

"Although TCD does present a real threat to black walnut, to date it hasn't rapidly spread and impacted walnut on a large scale," Holton said. "It is nothing like an Emerald Ash Borer or Dutch Elm Disease."

Identifying the tiny walnut twig beetles and confirming the presence of TCD requires specialized expertise. If black walnut trees have wilting leaves



Leaf bronzing and wilting, and branch tip dieback in a tree infected with Thousand Cankers Disease. This is typically the first symptom of an infected tree. TCD does not negatively impact the quality or value of Walnut lumber, until the tree is completely dead.

or dying branches during the summer, check the tree carefully. If there is no obvious cause of the problem, such as a broken branch, note the location of the suspect tree and report it [to the Maryland Department of Agriculture – Forest Pest Management, by calling 410-841-5870].



Furniture Forest (Continued from page 4)

They're still growing now, but when harvested and finished, Munro claims the chairs will be not just fully functional and ergonomic, but actually more durable and longer-lasting than current wooden furniture. Since they're grown, grafted and fastened into one solid piece, there are no joints that loosen over time. "These could last for centuries," Munro says. "We hope and trust that this will eventually become an improvement on current methods." Still, it remains to be seen whether the model could be scalable as a method of mass-manufacturing furniture—it doesn't sound like furniture forests will be replacing IKEA factories anytime soon.

The first chairs will be ready for purchase mid-2017, for about \$3,700 each (Munro expects potential customers to be looking for unique art pieces), and the geometric pendant lamps and mirrors frames will be ready late Spring 2016. Full Grown has a handful of pieces left for pre-order at fullgrown.co.uk.



These blue plastic molds are used to shape the trees into the desired furniture form, as they grow.

Walnut Council Membership - Spread the Good Word

As with any organization, we need a constant influx of new members in order to thrive. So we are calling on all of our current members to **help recruit new members**.

If you have any friends, family members, colleagues, or neighbors who you think would like to learn more about any and all aspects of quality hardwood tree management, please tell them about the Walnut Council.

To help you with this, we will be happy to send you copies of the Maryland Chapter brochure. If you would like brochures, simply send an e-mail request to david.robbins1@maryland.gov. A PDF version of the brochure is also available at: www.walnutcouncil.org/state-chapters/maryland.html



ATTENTION MEMBERS:

Don't forget to renew your dues for 2016!

Upcoming Events:

Sustainable Soil Management for Urban Growers

December 14, 2015

Location: Baltimore UMD Extension Office

Contact: Naima Jenkins

410-856-1850

naimaj@umd.edu

Advanced Landscape Plant IPM PHC Short Course

January 4-7, 2016

Contact: Gerard Boulin

301-405-3912

gboulin@umd.edu

Reforestation Your Neighborhood

January 16, 2016

Location: VFW Post 467,

Westminster, MD

Contact: Donna Davis

410-848-9290

www.carrollcountyforestryboard.org

Maryland Chapter Workshop

February 4, 2016

Location: Holly Hills Country Club

Ijamsville, MD

Contact: David Robbins

301-791-4010

david.robbins1@maryland.gov

Hagerstown Flower & Garden Show

March 12 & 13, 2016

Location: Hagerstown Community College

Hagerstown, MD

Contact: Kim Hamburg

www.hagerstowncc.edu

Walnut Council Annual National Meeting

July 31—August 3, 2016

Location: Lawrenceburg, Indiana

Contact: Liz Jackson

www.walnutcouncil.org

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