

Missouri Chapter News

Walnut Council: Growing Walnut and Other Fine Hardwoods



Missouri Chapter, Walnut Council

Website: <http://www.walnutcouncil.org/state-chapters/missouri.html>

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Welcome!

Welcome to the third issue of the “Missouri Chapter News” distributed to members of the Missouri Chapter, Walnut Council. The newsletter is intended to keep you 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 [Dennis Evans](mailto:Dennis.Evans@walnutcouncil.org), Chapter President.

During the year we will also distribute “technical articles” on specific topics of interest to woodland landowners. Both the newsletters and technical articles will be archived at our [chapter website](http://www.walnutcouncil.org/state-chapters/missouri.html).



Walnut Council Annual Meeting a Success

The Missouri Chapter Walnut Council and the Missouri Chapter, Society of American Foresters co-hosted the 2015 Walnut Council Annual Meeting, June 14-17, at the All Occasions Banquet Center in St. Charles. The theme for this year’s meeting was “Managing Fine Hardwoods: Seedlings to Certification.”

Missouri Chapter President, Dennis Evans, chaired the chapter business meeting Monday morning. Evans reported 173 meeting participants with 65 people representing Missouri.



The Missouri chapter is very active both within the state and at the national level. Five of our members have served as President of the parent organization over six terms with Jerry VanSambeek serving twice, along with Scott Brundage, Harlan Palm, and

Mark Coggeshall. Fred Crouse (*photo, lower left*), consulting forester from Columbia, was inducted as Council President during the annual awards banquet Tuesday evening!

John Tuttle and Mike Morris, Missouri Department of Conservation, Forestry Division, reported Missouri has the largest inventory of black walnut trees of any state. The U.S. has an estimated 306 million black walnut trees. Missouri has over 110 million walnut trees that are 1” or larger and 39 million 5” and larger in diameter. Some might say we may not have the best walnut the country, but we have a lot of it! The majority of our black walnut trees are located in the west half of the state. The volume of black walnut in Missouri has increased by steadily since 1989, and today Missouri has more forested areas than in 1900.

Missouri’s black walnut wood industry accounts for \$39.7 million dollars annual income, plus the black walnut nut industry accounts for \$38.6 million dollars for a combined

Continued on page 2

annual income in the state from black walnut of \$78.3 million.



This annual meeting was an excellent technical session and a great opportunity to talk with landowners, foresters and industry representatives about black walnut and other fine hardwoods. A tremendous “Thanks” goes to the Planning Committee for their tremendous efforts in helping make this meeting a great success. See the photo of

Walnut Council Executive Director, Liz Jackson presenting Jerry VanSambeek with a walnut plaque as a token of appreciation for chairing the planning committee.

[View photos taken during the annual meeting, field tours and the spouse’s tour by clicking here, click on the color photo then select “slideshow” or scroll through the photos.](#)

NRCS funding opportunities

A new Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP), Restoring Glade and Woodland Communities for Threatened Species in the Ozarks of Southeast Missouri, will impact landowners in 10 counties. Also, the Chief’s Joint Landscape Restoration Partnership focuses on the Missouri Ozark Highlands. The Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) and the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) are both available statewide and offer opportunities to apply numerous woodland management practices and enhancements. Interested landowners can inquire at their local USDA-NRCS field office and monitor the [USDA-NRCS website](#) for details on these assistance programs.

Rockler’s “Slab-O-Rama”



Maybe you too have concerns with Rockler’s [recent promotions](#) of their “Slab-O-Rama” selling hardwood lumber slabs with bark through their nationwide stores and national website.

Their promotions caused me to question if shipments of black walnut slabs could transport walnut twig beetles across the country and possibly into Missouri triggering an outbreak of TCD.

Liz Jackson, Executive Director, Walnut Council has made several contacts with Rockers, but they continue selling slabs! Well, other states have been concerned about this also. Kathy Kromroy, Research Scientist, Plant Protection Division, Minnesota Department of Agriculture describes how Minnesota is handling this.

“We have been working with Rockler and their walnut suppliers in Minnesota, Indiana and Michigan the past several weeks. Without exception, everyone has been very cooperative in doing what is required to move walnut wood into Minnesota. Because products like “live-edge” slabs do have bark, they are regulated by our state exterior quarantine and if coming from or through a state where TCD, the walnut twig beetle, and/or *Geosmithia morbida* has been found, such as Indiana, can only enter the state with a phytosanitary certificate issued by that state documenting that the material was inspected and found to be free of the insect, the pathogen, and the disease.

In addition, the supplier is required to enter into a compliance agreement that requires a description of the treatment applied to the wood and an SOP for safeguarding it after treatment. Regarding treatment, we have been communicating with some of the researchers who are working on heat treatment of walnut for eliminating TCD. Based on temperature/time regimes required to eliminate the insect and pathogen in research experiments, we are confident that most kiln drying treatments are also effective, though we require the schedule from the supplier and review it. Because there is question about the possibility of re-infection after treatment, we require that the treated wood be safeguarded during shipping as well as once it is received here. Rockler is entering a compliance agreement with us stating that the wood will be safeguarded upon arrival. We are clear with Rockler in that we can only regulate what is coming into MN, not what leaves MN once it is here. Rockler is responsible for working with other states to receive their wood.”

We have been talking with Collin Wamsley, Missouri Department of Agriculture, and he has had similar contacts with Rocker. The company is now claiming all of their slabs are kiln dried before being shipped. Let’s hope so!

Coming Events for Woodland Landowners

“BLACK WALNUT FIELD DAY”

Plan now to attend the “Black Walnut Field Day” Saturday, September 19th at the University of Missouri’s, Southwest Center near Mt. Vernon. This field day will be co-sponsored by the University of Missouri’s Center for Agroforestry and the Southwest Center together with Hammons Products Company. Technical sessions will be indoors and outdoors emphasizing walnut management for lumber and nut production. Specialists will cover the cultural aspects of establishing and managing walnut to include agroforestry practices like silvopasture in plantings of walnut, pecan and pine. Additional topics may include improving black walnut for nut production and the financial aspects of growing black walnut or other nut species.

This event will interest private woodland landowners, nut growers, and forest products industries. Contact Gene Garrett at the Center for Agroforestry by calling (573) 884-2874 or Andy Thomas at the Southwest Center (417) 466-2148 for details.

Missouri Chapter, Walnut Council members and guests have two terrific opportunities to learn about managing hardwood trees for lumber and nut production: 1) The Black Walnut Field Day; and 2) the Missouri Chapter fall field day and business meeting. Read the adjoining article MISSOURI CHAPTER FALL MEETING for preliminary details. We hope you will take advantage of these opportunities and attend both activities since they offer unique settings and agendas.

MISSOURI CHAPTER FALL MEETING

You are encouraged to reserve Friday October 9th and Saturday October 10th for the Chapter’s Fall Field Day and Council Business Meeting. These events will be held in Saline and Howard County near Marshall and Fayette respectively.

Tentatively, we will meet at Van Meter State Park, north of Marshall to see maturing black walnut trees in native stands and some plantations dating to the 1950’s. The Park Interpreter will provide a brief overview of the pre-settlement vegetation of the area plus general history of the park. A short hike through the park will allow us to view several magnificent trees. National Walnut Council President, Fred Crouse, will evaluate two large walnut trees along our walk. A Missouri Indian Cultural Center is nearby for those wanting to explore local history. Friday evening we gather in Arrow Rock for dinner, our business meeting and evening program at the J. Huston Tavern, a historic stop on the Santa Fe Trail and a very old eating establishment.

Folks needing lodging should make reservations in Boonville, plus there are several bed and breakfasts in Arrow Rock. A fall Heritage festival (music, crafts and displays) begins the next day, so those wanting to stay in Arrow Rock need to make reservation soon.

Saturday we will meet near Fayette at the Howard County Fairgrounds for registration and technical presentations followed by local tours still being finalized. Chapter members will receive the official meeting notice closer to the meeting date.

MISSOURI Forest Health UPDATE

White oak is important in Missouri due to its longevity, mast production for wildlife and total saw timber value (two billion dollars). Since 2011, the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) has received numerous reports of white oak mortality in southeast, central and east central Missouri. Unlike other common oak decline patterns in Missouri, mortality appears to be rapid and affects white oak on high quality sites. Consequently, the phenomenon has been described as rapid white oak mortality (RWOM) to separate it from other oak decline patterns. As of summer 2014, RWOM reports were received from 43 Missouri counties and 2.6 million board feet of affected timber had

been salvaged from lands managed by MDC and the privately held Pioneer Forest in southeast Missouri. Many more affected trees are too small, in areas too remote for salvage, or were salvaged on private land without MDC involvement. RWOM is also occurring on Mark Twain National Forest lands.

Depending on the location, white oak has been subjected to many stressors in recent years. Several extreme weather events include a severe freeze in early April 2007, the wettest back-to-back years in state history during 2008-2009, and drought in 2010, 2011, and 2012. Extensive defoliation has not been reported for more than a decade, however a jumping oak gall infestation turned many white oak canopies brown in 2010. Limited tree ring analysis

Continued on page 4

suggests some trees may have been affected by various stressors over several decades.

A team of University of Missouri researchers, including Dr. Sharon Reed, Dr. Jim English, Dr. Rose-Marie Muzika, and Dr. John Kabrick (USDA-Forest Service) received USDA-Forest Service Forest Health Protection Evaluation Monitoring and MDC funding for a one year study to describe the regional extent of the mortality and associated pathogens and insects. A survey was completed by professional foresters and landowners in Missouri, Iowa and Arkansas at 87 locations.

Survey results indicate white oak mortality consistent with RWOM is occurring in pockets in central, east central and southeast Missouri. More limited pockets of mortality are also occurring in northeast Missouri and southeast Iowa. Mortality in north central Arkansas is consistent with traditional oak decline patterns. Mortality in Missouri is occurring on state, federal and private lands with and without active management. Tree mortality is most frequent on lower slopes of all aspects and next to ephemeral or seasonal drainages. Large overstory white oaks are affected most often, but other sizes, crown positions, and species including post oak and some species in the red oak group are also affected. Some healthy white oak remains in most affected stands.

A detailed investigation of pathogens and insects associated with RWOM at two research sites in the Missouri Ozarks is ongoing. So far, scientists have detected the following pathogens and insects thought to contribute to mortality: *Armillaria*, *Biscogniauxia* (*Hypoxyylon*), *Phytophthora cinnamomi*, two-lined chestnut borer and a wood boring ambrosia beetle *Xyleborinus gracilis*. All except *P. cinnamomi* and *X. gracilis* are commonly associated with oak decline in Missouri. *P. cinnamomi* is a root rotting organism that has been associated with oak decline in Europe and similar white oak mortality patterns in Ohio (Nagle et al., 2010). *P. cinnamomi* causes plant diseases world-wide, was introduced into the southeast US in the late 1700's or early 1800's and disproportionately affects susceptible species on lower slopes and along drainages.

Additional research may help determine RWOM risk and improve forest management. If funding is available, researchers will further examine site and stand characteristics, the influence of extreme weather events, and the role of insects and diseases associated with RWOM and similar patterns of mortality in Missouri and other

eastern states.

Nagle, A. M., Long, R. P., Madden, L. V., and Bonello, P. 2010. Association of *Phytophthora cinnamomi* with white oak de-cline in southern Ohio. *Plant Dis.* 94:1026-1034.

Thousand Cankers Disease Kills Black Walnut Trees! Help Monitor Missouri

Missouri's Department of Conservation and Department of Agriculture will once again be evaluating black walnut trees in midsummer for symptoms of thousand cankers disease, which has not yet been detected in Missouri.

How you can help:

- View photos of thousand cankers disease on black walnut at MU Extension's TreePests website (treepests.missouri.edu).
- Find information about other diseases that affect black walnuts.
- Use the online form to report black walnut trees with symptoms that look like thousand cankers disease.
- Please do not take any samples because it could spread pests.

The Monarch Butterflies Need Our Help!

Their numbers continue to decline because of the loss of food and habit. The Missouri Department of Conservation and others recommend planting or maintaining milkweed plants (the primary food source of Monarchs) around the yard or farm.



WHY WE ARE CONCERNED

Milkweeds and nectar sources are declining due to development and the widespread use of herbicides in croplands, pastures and roadsides. Because 90% of all milkweed/monarch habitats occur within the agricultural landscape, farm practices have the potential to strongly influence monarch populations.