

# Missouri Chapter News

Walnut Council: Growing Walnut and Other Fine Hardwoods



## A Word from the President:

### Bob Ball



Unlike the 115<sup>th</sup> United States Congress which just passed the first major modification to our federal tax policy in 31 years, my administration opted to raise our taxes...or dues! This should not be a complete surprise since we've mentioned this previously, however, this is a gentle reminder that our

chapter dues are now \$10 per year rather than the previous \$5. Maybe the savings by Congress to our federal income taxes will be generous enough to help offset the \$5!

My more serious message is a call for your assistance to please not let this small increase dampen your spirits about

the benefits of being a member of Walnut Council. I certainly hope our value to you far exceeds the cost of your annual dues, but if you feel that is in question, I want to hear about it! What can we be doing better? On behalf of the Executive Council, we do want to hear from you about how we are doing or what changes are needed to better meet your needs as a woodland landowner.

Speaking a little further about membership, I encourage you to develop a New Year's resolution to recruit at least one new Walnut Council member in this new year. You can do it!

Our intent here is more than growing our numbers. Rather, the primary purpose is to identify woodland landowners who can benefit from networking with our members having expertise in virtually every aspect of growing fine hardwoods. Take advantage of our "Member Mentor"

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## Save these Dates

**Friday & Saturday, April 13-14, 2018**

Our recent online *event planning survey* revealed a strong preference for activities that begin on Fridays that carry over to Saturday, scheduled in central Missouri in April in the spring and September or October in the fall. With your preferences in mind, **hold the dates of April 13/14<sup>th</sup> for our spring event!**

Tentative activities for Friday, April 13<sup>th</sup> include touring the University of Missouri's Horticulture and Agroforestry Research Center (HARC) near New Franklin, Missouri-Pacific Lumber Company near Fayette as well as visits to two member's tree farms to discuss walnut planting, pruning, thinning and options for controlling invasive species.

In addition, we are also considering an informal "*woodland management forum*" in Columbia designed to give you every opportunity to ask questions of and interact with numerous specialists and your fellow members willing to assist in managing your hardwoods. Details regarding both days will be announced in early March.

On *Saturday, March 24<sup>th</sup>* you are also encouraged to attend a "**woodland conference**" held in Troy sponsored by the Lincoln, Pike, Warren, & Montgomery county soil and water conservation districts. Watch for details about that event posted at our website soon.

# Killing Grapevine

## *The Wrong Approach!*

By Bob Ball

This past spring my consulting forester treated several acres of grapevines in two of our timber stands enrolled in a forestry EQIP contract. My practice deadline was fast approaching, and rather than modify the contract, I opted to proceed killing grapevines during heavy sap flow. The plan was to cut all vine segments using a chainsaw, wait two weeks to allow sprouts to form on those vines then treat the sprouts with Glyphosate Pro. We also wanted to treat large patches of garlic mustard, an invasives species, that is common on my farm in Ohio. We realized delaying the treatment of the vines even more would make the foliar spraying more effective, but the garlic mustard would be dormant by then. Well, the garlic mustard died quickly; the vines did not!

Once I realized our failure, I contacted fellow Walnut Council member, Harlan Palm, to get his insight into what we did wrong. Why didn't our vines die as they have before? Harlan said:

"I would say spraying grapevines two weeks after cutting them was too soon. Consider all the dormant buds and energy pent up in the short stump. I bet you killed all the short sprouts, but there was not yet enough green leaf tissue to absorb enough Glyphosate to translocate the herbicide into the short stump to kill all the tissue and dormant buds."

Early spring (late February – May) is the worst time to make stump treatments to kill grapevines, soft maple, box elder, autumn olive, ironwood and quite possibly any tree or perennial vine. That is because the turgor pressure or sap flow is highest at that time. It literally flushes some of the herbicide off the freshly cut stump or girdled tree. Not enough of the herbicide is absorbed into the vascular system to translocate down (via the phloem tissue) to kill dormant buds and meristematic tissue all the way internally down to and including the root crown.

In contrast, the fall and winter months are the best time to treat freshly cut vines, tree stumps and girdled trees. There is still turgor pressure, but much less than during the early spring flush of growth. (There is and has to be some turgor pressure even during the frozen winter months to prevent the buds, twigs, branches and limbs from desiccating.)

A couple years ago, I had to do medium TSI on my hills where I favor white oak for stave log production. It was late March and the inspection was scheduled for late April. A significant portion of what I was wanting to kill was ironwood (some up to 30 feet tall) which tends to produce multi-stems anyway. Well, I created a worse mess than what I had to begin with. At least 90% of the cut stumps of ironwood survived and they produced umpteen times as many stems. If I had done the TSI effort in the fall, I think my results would have been much better.



Killing grapevines must be a priority when carrying out Timber Stand Improvement. Vines rob trees of valuable nutrients and water, break out the tops of trees, and create unsafe tree felling situations.

# Killing Grapevine

## *The Correct Approach!*

*By Scott Brundage, Certified Forester*

Many years ago, I bought a farm in Howard County that had many nice black walnut trees. But, there were also lots of grapevines growing in those walnuts. I had access to student labor, so I formed a crew, and we did timber stand improvement (TSI) focusing initially on grapevine control.

We began working in the spring. I knew the sap was flowing big time, so I switched herbicides. I used Garlon 4, plus diesel. I cut all vines at each loop into the ground and sprayed all sections of vines between cut loops. If the vine

was attached (rooted into the ground at 8 locations), we cut the vines 16 times and sprayed each section with herbicide. Garlon 4 is expensive, and so is diesel, but this mixture worked very well. In later years I've learned to add some blue coloring dye into the mix to remind us which vines were treated.

The crew traveled to the work site on ATV's, so we could bring in lots of diesel and herbicide. I believe we used a 10% solution (so long ago, I don't remember). Do not use water based herbicides for grapevine control! Make lots of cuts using a lightweight chainsaw. This approach worked well with our vines. This method was expensive, but very effective. Each team consisted of one person with chainsaw and one with backpack sprayer.

If a 10% + mix of Garlon 4 and diesel seemed to kill my vines, we surely did not try a 20% to 25% mix although I believe those percentages are closer to label rates. I have always done the extra work and cut the vines, however, I know some people feel that's excessive effort relying entirely on the herbicide mix to do the job. When you cut it, if a vine does sprout, at least the top is dead. Cut and sprayed vines with this herbicide mix never sprouted for me. "A dead grapevine is a good vine."



Cutting grapevines and NOT using the correct herbicide guarantees sprouting that explodes from stored nutrients in the plant's root reserves.

## Manage Your Timber Portfolio Too!

*By Bob Ball*

Do you manage your timber with the same zest and intensity you devote to your financial portfolio? If not, you may be disappointed in your returns when you sell.

Over the years I have enjoyed reading financial publications, attending money management seminars and just listening to the advice of investors savvier than me explain their process for tracking and managing their investments. A few years ago, I was fortunate to be invited to join a local, yet somewhat prestigious, stock club. I quickly learned to talk less and listen more to my fellow members of the "Second Guessers Syndicate". Most of our members were senior citizens, well educated, retired

from prominent careers who had done well managing their personal investments. While my purpose for joining the club was to make more money, the others simply enjoyed sharing their investment strategies with one another. It was a social event that they all took very seriously.

Maybe the best lesson I came away with during my stint in the 'syndicate' was the fact that making money is more work than luck. Growing a portfolio doesn't just happen. Instead, you monitor each of your holdings, learn what influences the rate of growth and know when it's time to sell that commodity, stock, bond fund, stock fund, or certificate of deposit. Buying into an investment instrument

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# Callaway Co. Wild Walnut

By Joe Akers

Every once in awhile (awhile being 50 years or better), a Black Walnut harvest pays off. A friend asked Joe if he could help with a timber harvest on some property he recently acquired. It was 300 acres of mostly creek bottom with a lot of Black Walnut and soft woods where the hills were grown up fields and brushy. The Walnut average size was three foot to 42 inches on the stump, very tall trees, but low quality. They had a lot of limbs, stump worms and

scars. In 3 days this first time, 35 trees were cut, that yielded 126 logs, varying from 8 feet to 14 feet. A buyer from the area came to scale the logs, which measured out to 10,900 board feet. The total for the sale was \$21,508.00, The sale was completed, with the buyer furnishing the trucks, that took 3 semi loads,



and a tandem straight truck. If the numbers are broken down, the average tree was \$614.51. There are still several more large Black Walnuts standing, to be harvested soon, but more importantly, there are hundreds of these natural, young, healthy trees growing wild.



*“Manage Your Timber Portfolio...” —Continued from Page 3*

then forgetting about it for several years is not wise! The growth in value you are hoping for may not be there!

Following one of our club meetings, I realized I also have a timber portfolio. The trees my wife and I own have a basis, they are growing in volume, but that volume may be increasing or decreasing in value depending on many factors. Plus, I can influence that rate of gain in volume by managing our stands of timber using lessons learned from fellow Walnut Council members. In essence we are an investment ‘syndicate’ too! The lessons I have learned from attending our stock club meetings are being applied in our timber, growing our trees and growing their value.

There comes a point in time when some trees are mature

and should be sold. Hanging on to trees once they are near maturity is risky. Cash out and either reinvest a portion of those capital gains back into new planting stock or increase your level of management in your maturing stands so they will begin growing at a faster rate. Consider, too, the need to remove some competing trees that are bringing down the value of your portfolio. If you have lots of ash, hickory, silver maple, box elder, iron wood, and hackberry in your woody portfolio and likely have no market for those species, consider killing them to release your more valuable trees like red and white oak, black walnut, black cherry and possibly even a few hard maple. Removing crown competition will allow those more valuable trees to release and begin growing at a more rapid rate. Your shares of timber stock will be increasing at a faster rate!

## A Word from the President—Continued from Page 1

program to find a buddy willing to offer you planning and technical assistance not available elsewhere and at NO cost! Years ago, USDA's "Neighbor to Neighbor" campaign was hugely successful in identifying landowners needing assistance in applying conservation practices. Reach out today to a neighbor, relative or friend now and let them know about Walnut Council. You are encouraged to invite them to join you at our spring and fall events, AND you can nominate three of them for a one-year, email only free membership!

Thanks to everyone who responded to our informal survey through *Survey Monkey* titled "**Walnut Council Event Planning**". With 55 respondents replying so far here is what we have learned: 44% of you prefer our meetings be held in Central Missouri, however, the northeast and southeast regions each received 16% of the votes while

the northwest received 15%. You prefer our Spring meetings to be held in April (41%) and September in the Fall (46%). There is overwhelming interest in events held Friday afternoon that continue through Saturday. Finally, 92% of the respondents are interested in attending a woodland conference provided they find the program to their liking. It looks like someone needs to be planning another state woodland conference!

We encourage members to share their woody stories with us. Be sure to read "**Callaway County Wild Walnut**" by member Joe Akers in New Bloomfield in Callaway County. Joe has a sawmill operation, and he shares news about a recent timber sale he assisted with. Thanks Joe!

Elsewhere in this newsletter look for "**Save these Dates**" announcing our Spring event April 13/14 in the Columbia area. Plans are still being finalized, but we have excellent ideas to further our woodland education. Also, the Agroforestry Symposium is coming up **January 25th**.

## Remembering Charlie

Charles W. Lebold, 90, a longtime and still active member of Missouri Chapter Walnut Council, died December 20, 2017. Charles was born March 20, 1927, to A. R. Lebold and Georgia Brown Lebold. He graduated in absentia from Lawson High School after he enlisted in the Navy on his 18th birthday to serve in WW II. Charlie married Ellen Buckley on June 25, 1948. To this union were born three children, Gingy, Shirley and Greg. He also has four grandchildren and two great-granddaughters. Charlie served as the Commander's yeoman in the South Pacific. His command built the infrastructure for the Able and Baker Atomic bomb tests at Bikini Atoll. He was proud of his service as a Navy SeaBee. He was in the 75th Navel Construction Battalion and 53rd Construction Battalion. Charlie was

the 5th Generation farmer on his family's Clinton County farm. In 1980, he and Ellen established Jen-De-Le tree farm specializing in quality timber



Charlie at the Chapter's 2016 fall field day



Charlie Lebold, Dennis Potter, and Doug Wallace while attending the 2015 Walnut Council annual meeting.

production. They were recognized state wide for their conservation practices and timber management. They often participated in educational demonstrations on their Century farm. Many WC members knew Charles for his humor, welcoming spirit, and willingness to share his experience in timber management.

You will be missed Charlie.

## About Missouri Chapter News

Missouri Chapter News is distributed to members of the Missouri Chapter, Walnut Council. 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 [Aaron Twombly](mailto:Aaron.Twombly), Chapter Secretary. 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](#).