



## A Word from the President: David Boyt



The world is a different place than it was just two years ago when I became president of the Missouri chapter of the Walnut Council. The Covid 19 pandemic has changed the way we interact. I miss the in-person Walnut Council meetings, but not the 10 hours of windshield time to get to Columbia and back. The convenience of Zoom is one of the outcomes that will likely stay with us. Not the same, but we still managed to conduct business. There will never be a substitute for state meetings, field days, and the pleasure of meeting with our fellow tree farmers and swapping stories and ideas, though. We had to make some tough calls about whether to hold our regular meetings, with caution prevailing.

It has been a rough year for many of us and our families. The Walnut Council has lost a number of its members, some of who have devoted a large part of their lives to working in forestry and

silviculture and have made their time and resources available to assist others who shared their passion.

It has said that *“Society becomes great when old men plant trees, under the shade of which they will never sit.”* We not only have the benefit of many such people, but also the energy and enthusiasm of younger (my definition of “younger” keeps getting older!) members who are learning from the seniors, and teaching us old folks some new ways of doing things. One piece of advice to them--never offer to carry my chain saw for me!

It has been a hard couple of years on the trees, as well, with the continued challenges of competition from land development, invasive species, droughts, and the third 500-year flood in less than a decade. But some of that is changing for the better. Instead of a national meeting, the national Walnut Council is holding three regional meetings this year, in order to keep the numbers at each meeting down. One of these will be July 24th, near St. Louis. Watch for the information in their newsletter. Hopefully, by Fall, we will be able to hold our regularly scheduled field day, as well—does anyone remember whose turn it is?

Finally, the gavel of the president (we don't have an actual gavel) has unceremoniously been passed on to **Dusty Walter**. I hereby assume the role of “past president”, and will do my best to assist with any planning or duties that come my way. It has been an honor to serve as the chapter president, and I've made some good lifelong friends through my association with the Walnut Council. **Thank you for that opportunity.**

### **2021 Annual Walnut Council Meetings**

**July 17: Near Beloit, Wisconsin**

**July 24: Forrest Keeling Nursery, Elsberry, Missouri**

**July 31: Southeast Purdue Ag Center, Butlerville, Indiana**

## Dusty Walter: Incoming Missouri Chapter President

I wanted to take a moment and introduce myself to many of you, to other friends this is just a 'hello'. My name is Dusty Walter, although some have called me 'Dr. D' or 'Dr. Dusty', I prefer Dusty, though I have also been known to answer to Rusty. I am pleased to serve as the next President of the Missouri Chapter Walnut Council.

During my time at the University of Missouri I was privileged to earn 3 degrees, all in forestry. While there is no question that I learned a great deal about forestry while earning my degrees at the University, it is equally true that I have been pleased to learn a great deal about forestry from friends in the Walnut Council. While at the University a gentleman named Scott Brundage introduced me to the Missouri Chapter of the Walnut Council. One of the first meetings I attended was in 2000 and was hosted by Larry Harper, a long-time writer with the *Missouri Ruralist*. As a young forester I also got to know and value Fred Crouse's knowledge of forestry practices. As a result of these influences, I served as past secretary of the Missouri Chapter from 2004-2008, the University Representative on the National Board, and was President of the National Walnut Council during 2019. I continue to serve on the National Walnut Council Board of Directors.

I am an employee of the University of Missouri. After my PhD (2011), I began working as Superintendent of the MU Wurdack Research Center (located by Cook Station, MO) and Director of Natural Resource Management for the MU Agricultural Experiment Station. Since then, I have also taken on the role as Co-Superintendent of the MU Land of the Osages Research Center (outside of Gravois Mills, MO). I am a believer in science and passionate about its application and practice.

I'm happy to renew my activity at the state level and look forward to making new acquaintances. I hope each of you are excited about the opportunity to manage healthy trees that are also of high quality. The Walnut Council tag line, **Growing Walnut and Other Fine Hardwoods**, is very germane. In terms of bring forest science, management, production, and processing together, there is no better organization in the USA than the Walnut Council! This is a learning opportunity for all members, and together we will produce better forests for the future!

I believe forestry is a hands-on practice and look forward to our in-person meetings this coming year.

## COMING EVENTS

- **"A New Carbon Program for Hardwood Landowners";** Webinar with NCX;  
Date & Time: Jun 15, 2021; 11:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)  
See details in this newsletter on Page 6.
- **"Walnut Council Regional Meeting"**  
July 24: Forrest Keeling Nursery, Elsberry, Missouri  
See details in your email message from WC or visit their website.
- **"Missouri Tree Farm and Missouri Chapter Walnut Council";** Joint Meetings; September 24-25; Marvin and David Emersons' Douglas County tree farm, near Ava, Missouri.

### About Missouri Chapter News

Missouri Chapter News is distributed to members of the Missouri Chapter, Walnut Council and selected guests. 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 [Bob Ball](#), Newsletter Editor. During the year we will also distribute **"technical articles"** on specific topics of interest to woodland landowners. Both the newsletters and technical articles are being archived at our [chapter website](#).

# Pottershop Washouts

Dave Boyt, Past President

We thought we had considered all potential threats to our tree farm. We were well aware of the predictable problems with invasive species, drought, wind, and floods. My parents had dozens of small ponds built to catch water from heavy rains. “Those ponds that don’t hold water are the best ones,” my father used to say. “They raise the water table and feed the springs.” But the one-two punch of changing land use and three historic floods in less than a decade are changing the face of Pottershop Hollow.

In the half-century our family has lived here, our neighbors have bulldozed and burned thousands of acres of trees to clear the land for fescue pastures and hay fields. By late winter and early spring, every square foot of pasture has been grazed to bare ground and, in several places above us in the watershed, cows waded through ankle-deep muck to get to their feed. Satellite images show our tree farm as an island of lush green amid a sea of pallid green and brown pastures. It very narrowly missed the fate of the surrounding land. About a year after my parents bought the property, a neighbor offered double what they had paid for it. After flatly turning down the offer and making it clear that any subsequent offers would be met with the same refusal, my mother asked him why he was so anxious to buy it. He responded, “Oh, I was going to aerial spray to kill all the trees, burn it off, and use it for pasture”.

Until 2015, our dams held, impounding any surplus of water. That year, a single storm dumped nearly ten inches of rain, cresting one local river over 4 inches above the previous record, set just four years earlier. With the loss of any significant vegetation to slow the movement of water, two dams on the perimeter failed, sending water cascading down the valley, carrying eighty-pound boulders more than fifty yards, cutting four-foot deep ditches, creating washouts, and uprooting several walnut trees that had stood for over 100 years. The largest washout is roughly twenty feet across and eight feet deep, exposing a spring. Without significant vegetation at the head of the watershed or a dam to contain it, the flood waters of 2018 and 2019 flowed unimpeded, cutting



**These photos show only a small fraction of the damage from recent floods. Changing land use on neighboring properties removed most of the vegetation at the top of the watershed. With the loss of buffering vegetation, two dams were destroyed during flooding events further exacerbating the problem. These washouts grow deeper and wider with each heavy rain.**

ever deeper into the valley, muddying the rivers with our rich bottomland soil. As an intermittent stream (or, with enough rain, an intermittent river), assistance from the USDA for riparian corridor maintenance is not likely to be forthcoming.

This is a cautionary tale. The loss of buffering vegetation at the tops of watershed will allow the increasingly frequent heavy rains to cut ever more deeply into the legacy we are trying so hard to leave for generations to come.

## Forest Trails and Landings

Bob Ball, Member

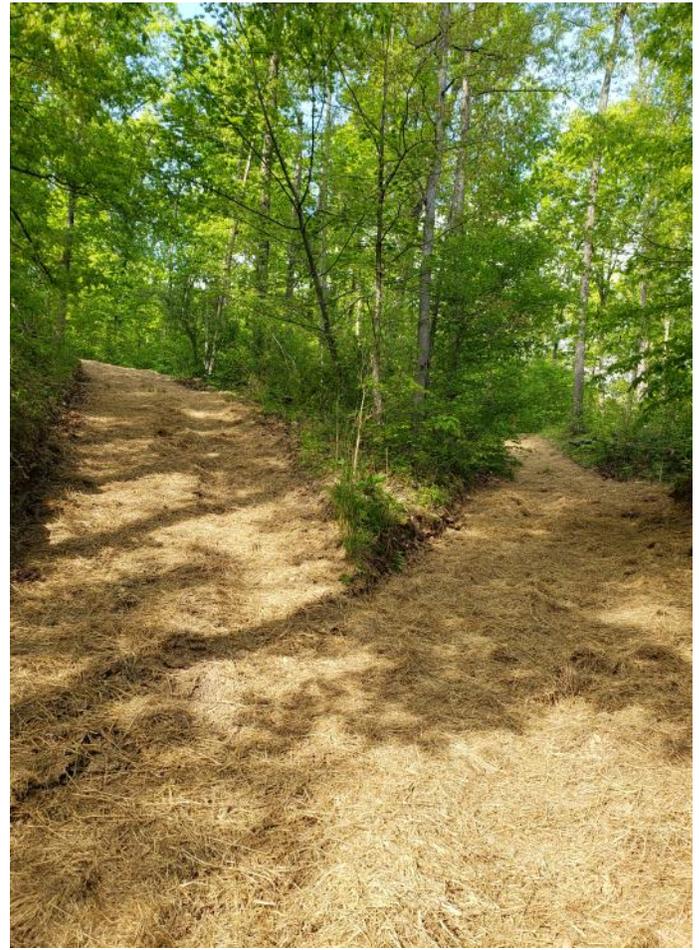
Woodland landowners, by nature, tend to be individuals with long-term outlooks. It takes many, many years to grow trees. However, much of our routine activities focus on short-term impacts such as the act of planting a tree, control grass around those trees, fertilizing, pruning and even thinning of our trees. One event most of us never stop to consider is how will our harvested trees be removed from the woods and where can those logs be stacked so they can be hauled away by the log buyer. Why worry about that now, right?

Over the years we have had several timber harvests on my tree farm. At the conclusion of each harvest, we inherit a series of skid trails and at least one log landing area where the logs were loaded by crane onto trucks. We have opted to maintain what is now several miles of trails and four landing areas which requires a few days of work and some expense each year.

Why bother maintaining trails you may not need again for several years? We have found potential timber buyers show more interest in our sales knowing these trails are already in place, plus keeping those trails active is one indicator we manage and care for our timber. I believe this is reflected in higher timber bids. Secondly, those trails give me, the consulting forester, agency personnel and contractors easy access to the interior of our stands and compartments where the management work usually needs to be done. Thirdly, we lease our hunting rights on the farm, and our hunt club uses those trails to manage food plots, to transport tree stands and ground blinds and to retrieve their game.

This summer we are renovating one of our two primary logging trails that is roughly 2600 feet in length broken into two segments: north of the ridge and south of the ridge. The elevation difference is about 100 feet in height from the lower ends of both segments up to the ridge making this trail highly erosive and difficult to maintain.

Careful planning and locating your logging trails can save you a lot of headaches, plus the time and expenses in maintenance. Although it may be many years before you will harvest your trees,



**Two logging trails join in Stand C on our tree farm. Both trails were graded to include water bars and turnouts, then limed, fertilized and seeded to a trail mix.**

take time now to layout your logging trails based around the best location for loading the harvested logs onto logging trucks. Why manage trees that will one day be removed to build those trails? Plus, last minute decisions in managing timber are rarely good decisions.

When possible, layout logging trails on the contour trying to minimize climbing steep grades. Avoid springs, hillside seeps and other wet areas that challenge log skidders. Realize too that most log skidding operations will damage a few “bumper trees” while extracting the logs. If you are careful in laying out your trails you can minimize the number of bumper trees reducing the damage to unharvested trees.

Water bars and turnouts are usually needed on most logging trails. The key is reducing the number

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of those sites because they come with some expense and they need to be maintained. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has a practice standard and a corresponding job sheet to help plan your trail layout. Visit your local field office and ask for a copy of:

- [Conservation Practice Standard Forest Trails and Landings \(Code 655\)](#)
- [655 MO IR Forest Trails and Landings 2013](#)

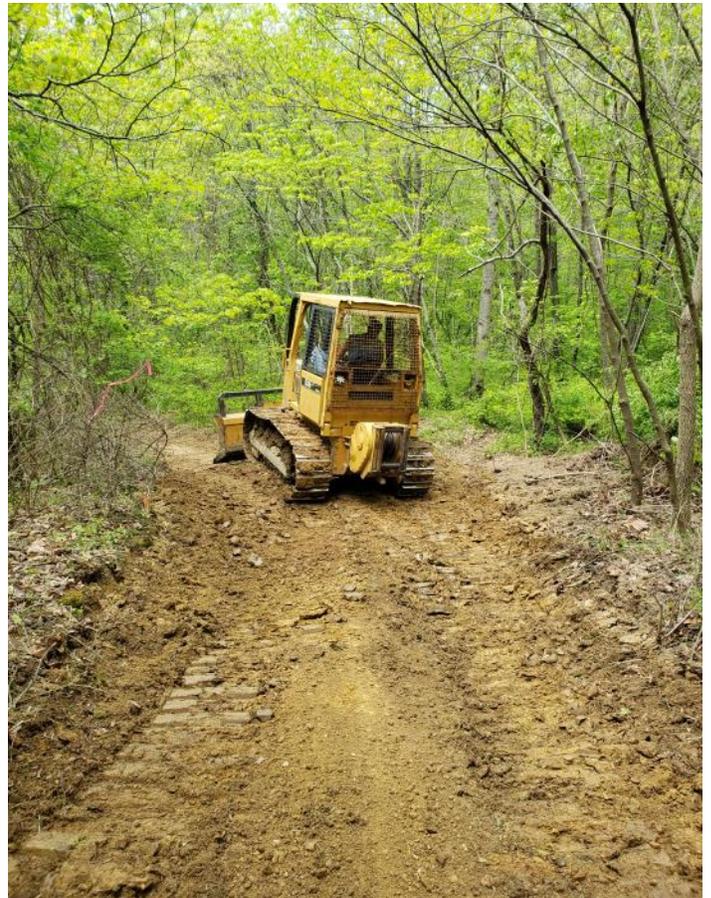
Plus, there may be financial assistance to install your logging trails through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Check with your local NRCS field office to determine if funds are available and your eligibility.

**“Forest Management for Missouri Landowners”**

published by the Missouri Department of Conservation is an excellent resource for all woodland landowners. One chapter focuses on **“Best Management Practices”** and they discuss *“Stream Crossings”*, *“Access Roads”*, and *“Timber Harvesting”*. I suggest you read all you can about laying out the best locations for your logging trails, then grab a roll of plastic flagging tape and head to the woods with a topographic map in hand to mark the tentative location for your trails. Study your locations over time before starting to clear trees and locate needed erosion control practices. This planning is time well spent. Although your logger will come prepared to do that work, it is my recommendation that you at the very least locate your trails and possible log landing sites well before the logger arrives.

**Grading:** The D4 dozer (shown in the two photos to the right) is ideal for grading logging trails, but you also need an experienced operator — someone who knows how to properly construct water bars located by you, your forester or someone from NRCS or the local SWCD well in advance of the equipment arriving.

**Seeding:** I applied 400 pounds of pelletized lime and 200 pounds of 14-14-14 fertilizer per acre, a seeding mix that included annual ryegrass, orchardgrass, red clover and perennial rye completing the seeding by applying 2.5 bales per 1000 sq. ft. of straw mulch over the 12' wide trail width and turnouts.



# “A New Carbon Program for Hardwood Landowners”

## Webinar

**When:** Tuesday, June 15, 2021 - 11:00 PM to 12:00 PM CT

**Format:** *Live Online via Zoom*

Alex Macintosh, Director of Landowner Success at NCX (Natural Capital Exchange — formerly SilviaTerra), and his colleagues, Lillian Hogan and Jeff Wright, will share information on their data-driven forest carbon marketplace and how owners of woodlands of all sizes can participate now.

[Register now for the free webinar](#) (Note: Insert your name & email.)

This program is approved for 1 Cat. 1 credit from Society of America Foresters

HOSTED BY NATIONAL WOODLAND OWNERS ASSOCIATION,  
WALNUT COUNCIL, AND INDIANA FORESTRY & WOODLAND  
OWNERS ASSOCIATION.



Walnut Council



### Help Grow Our Membership!

Your help is requested in growing our membership by reaching out to woodland landowners looking for advice and recommendations to help them manage their woodlands. These folks may be family members, relatives, friends, neighbors or work colleagues. If you can provide us with their contact information by sending an email to:

[mowalnutcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:mowalnutcouncil@gmail.com)

we will follow-up with them. **THANKS!**

# Herbicides for TSI

You can purchase herbicides for timber stand improvement at our actual cost by contacting **Fred Crouse**, Consulting Forester, ([fcrouse@centurytel.net](mailto:fcrouse@centurytel.net) or by calling (573) 449-1950 **by noon, Friday, July 16th**. For those planning to attend the WC meeting at Elsberry MO, orders will be available for pick-up at the event. Those unable to attend this event will need to make arrangements to pick up your herbicide order in Columbia MO. **Notes:** The following **prices are approximate**. Actual pricing was not yet available on all items. Prices will be confirmed at the time you place your order. Once finalized these products will reflect actual prices at Van Diest Chemical; tax is included on the following:

**Pathway** is \$92.13 per 2.5-gallon container

A case is 2 – 2.5-gallon containers for \$184.26

**Generic Roundup** (Glyphosate Pro 4 - 41% glyphosate) is \$37.50 per 2.5-gallons

A case is 2 – 2.5-gallon containers for \$75.00

**Remedy Ultra** is \$68/gallon (2.5 gallons = \$170.00)

A case is 4 – 1-gallon containers for \$272.00

**Note:** An agricultural chemical dealer a few members are buying from is:

**“Chemical Warehouse”**

**Contact:** 1-877-272-0244 or via Internet at: [www.chemicalwarehouse.com](http://www.chemicalwarehouse.com)

Monday - Friday - 9AM - 4PM CST

PO Box 1390

Linn Creek, MO 65052

## **Factoid - from Missouri state statutes:**

### **Posting of Real Property in the State of Missouri**

**§ 569.145.** — Posting of property against trespassers, purple paint used to mark streets and posts, requirements--entry on posted property is trespassing in first degree, penalty.

569.145. In addition to the posting of real property as set forth in section 569.140, the owner or lessee of any real property may post the property by placing identifying purple paint marks on trees or posts around the area to be posted. Each paint mark shall be a vertical line of at least eight inches in length and the bottom of the mark shall be no less than three feet nor more than five feet high. Such paint marks shall be placed no more than one hundred feet apart and shall be readily visible to any person approaching the property. Property so posted is to be considered posted for all purposes, and any unauthorized entry upon the property is trespass in the first degree, and a class B misdemeanor.



**Photo Left:** Marvin and David Emerson (center) recognized by the American Tree Farm System as “*Missouri Tree Farm of the Year*” on their Douglas County tree farm.

**Shown, L-R:** Missouri Department of Conservation Forester, Shane Rice, David Emerson, Marvin Emerson and Rick Merritt, chairman of the ATFS Missouri State Tree Farm Committee.

## Missouri Chapter Walnut Council

### - Fall Meeting Announcement -

COVID-19 sure made a mess of 2020 and the first half of 2021. HOWEVER, society is adjusting and we are healing. The **Missouri Chapter Walnut Council** is planning an in-person meeting this Fall held jointly with the **Missouri Tree Farm**. While details of the schedule are still being determined, we wanted to make sure you hold-the-date. Here is what we can confirm for you:

**When:** September 24 – 25th (Friday and Saturday)

**Where:** Marvin and David Emerson Tree Farm, “*Missouri State Tree Farmer of the Year*”; their farm is near Ava, Missouri (SW Missouri)

**Start time:** The meetings will begin early afternoon on Friday, September 24<sup>th</sup> with a field day continuing Saturday morning, September 25th, through mid-afternoon.

**Lodging:** A motel is available in Ava for those wishing to stay locally overnight Friday.

The start time Friday will be after the noon-hour to accommodate those traveling long distances. The event location offers us the opportunity to share with the **American Tree Farm System (ATFS)** in recognizing the “*Missouri Tree Farmer of the Year*”: the **Marvin and David Emerson Tree Farm** in Douglas County. We will also carve out some time on the agenda specifically to hold a business meeting of the Missouri Chapter Walnut Council.

This is an excellent opportunity to see and learn from 20 years of management on a 2,943 acre tree farm. Stay tuned for details as we develop this in-person fall meeting with the Missouri Walnut Council AND the Missouri Tree Farm. In the meantime, for more on the Emerson’s see the link to a news article below and follow this link for [Crystal Lake Fisheries](https://www.crystallakefisheries.com/), a business of the Emerson’s (they have great trout recipes posted at this business website).

<https://www.douglascountyherald.com/2021/05/13/emersons-awarded-missouri-tree-farm-of-the-year/>