Thirty seven growing seasons ago in January of 1980, at 31 years of age, I purchased a 16-acre parcel which included a 4-acre cornfield and 12 acres of woods. My primary purpose was a long-term timber production investment. I also decided to track the growth of the timber and cost and income from sales, so that someday I could write such an article as this. I paid $1,150 per acre for 16 acres. I planted the 4-acre cornfield to trees in the spring of 1981. Of the remaining 12 acres, 1.5 acres was a stand of young elm. I sold the elm as firewood and planted black walnut. These 5.5 acres of tree plantings are doing very well and would be a good topic for a future article; however, this article is about the productivity of the remaining 10.5 acres of woodland.

This woodland is located on rolling glacial till sandy loam soils making this a little better than an average timber producing site for northern Indiana. This woods has a small stream that has water flow only during wet periods. There is a log yarding area of about one-half acre within the woods and next to the county road. Previous owners had high-grade harvested the woods and had periodically grazed livestock in the woods. This resulted in the overstory being dominated by hickory and low quality oak. Hickory is a slow growing and lower value species making it a poor tree to have as your main species in a timber investment woodland. The younger trees were much more encouraging and were the main reason I bought the property. These younger trees were mostly 8 to 12 inches diameter at breast height (DBH), and included many quality black walnut and black cherry. My 100% inventory of all merchantable trees 12 inches DBH and larger showed there to be 5,320 board feet per acre Doyle scale at the time of purchase. I appraised the 1981 beginning volume to have a stumpage timber...
6. The advertising rates for three issues of the same advertisement are $100 for business card, $200 for quarter page, $300 for half page, and $400 for full page.

5. Advertising may be cancelled for (a) non-payment, (b) violation of Indiana law, and/or (c) customer complaints.

3. The Council does not endorse the advertised products or services, nor does the Council make any warranty, expressed or implied.

2. The Council expects the advertiser to be truthful and to guarantee reasonable satisfaction to the consumer.

1. The advertising policy is open to the public.

The Walnut Council attempts to assist in the transfer of technical information pertaining to the growing and harvesting of walnut and walnut products with the publication of the Walnut Council bulletin three times per year.

1. The Council reserves the right to exercise editorial judgment in the products it will accept for advertising.

2. The Council expects the advertiser to be truthful and to guarantee reasonable satisfaction to the consumer.

3. The Council does not endorse the advertised products or services, nor does the Council make any warranty, expressed or implied.

4. All advertisers are subject to Indiana Statutes regarding false or misleading advertising.

5. Advertising may be cancelled for (a) non-payment, (b) violation of Indiana law, and/or (c) customer complaints.

6. The advertising rates for three issues of the same advertisement are $100 for business card, $200 for quarter page, $300 for half page, and $400 for full page.
Welcome to the winter edition of our newsletter. A ‘warm’ welcome to our newest members…our returning annual members…and our life members.

We are now a couple of years into our next 50 years and the work, fun, and learning process continues.

With all the snow and colder weather, it is now time to get the pruning and some thinning started…or…if you have had the chance to start…maybe now you can finish your projects for the season.

As we always mention, please take your time and be safe. All of us on the national board of directors want to see as many of you as possible at our Summer meeting in Carbondale so we can finally celebrate our 50th anniversary. More information on the event will be coming out soon. A chance to see old friends and a chance to meet new ones.

As a last thought, please get your family members and children involved with your tree growing project. Growing trees is a long term, 3 generation project. The Walnut Council will be here and we want you to be along for the long haul.

Be safe.

John Katzke, Walnut Council President
value of $1,010 per acre. The beginning volume included 13 species of which 35% was hickory. This woodland was producing well below its potential because of a poor species mix, low timber quality, and a less than ideal stocking level among over story trees.

My first step in the management of this woods was to have an improvement type timber sale in 1981. This sale included 66 trees, having 19,404 bd.ft., 35 hickory, and over mature and defective oak. After the harvest, I did timber stand improvement (TSI) work to complete the harvest openings, to kill cull trees, to cut grape vines, and to do some crop tree release among the pole sized trees. The income from the sale after deducting consulting forester timber sale and TSI cost was $2,919 or $278/acre.

I conducted my second timber sale in 1995. This was also an improvement type harvest including 99 trees, having 22,396 bd.ft. Doyle. Fifty of these trees were hickory, and the other 49 were again mostly lower quality oak trees. I again did TSI after the harvest completing regeneration openings and doing crop tree release. The income from this sale after consulting forester TSI and sale costs were deducted was $3,934 or $375/acre.

After this second harvest was completed, in 1997 I did my second 100% inventory of all merchantable timber and found 4,923 bd.ft. per acre having a value of $2,277/acre. The beginning 1980 volume had been 5,320 bd.ft./acre with a value of $1,010 per acre. The timber quality, species mix, and timber value were now much better. After 16 growing seasons and two timber harvests I was just 400 bd.ft. per acre below my beginning timber volume, but my timber quality, species mix, and timber value were now much better. Considering 2017 timber values, and the current tree species and timber quality in this woods, the current growth rate of 263 bd.ft. per acre per year works out to $219 per acre per year of timber growth.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Harvest Year</th>
<th>Trees removed per acre</th>
<th>Board-feet removed per acre</th>
<th>After cost income ($)</th>
<th>Percent hickory removed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>1,848</td>
<td>278</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>9.4</td>
<td>2,133</td>
<td>375</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>11.3</td>
<td>3,965</td>
<td>3,199</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

After the 2017 inventory, I conducted my third timber sale. I sold 119 trees having 41,640 bd.ft. The main species in this sale were white oak, black cherry, red oak, burr oak and walnut. Trees were selected based mostly on economic and biologic maturity, and with the idea that the next sale would be in 10 years. I would call this a fairly high-quality sale, which included 3 white oak and 3 black walnut that I estimated to have veneer quality. After deducting the consulting forester sale costs, the income was $33,590, or $0.80/bd.ft. That is a long way from the 1981 sale that got $0.16/bd.ft. That is an increase of 5 times the value per bd.ft. received because of increases in timber prices over time, and an improvement of the species mix and timber quality sold. This is strong evidence that good timber management pays.

This woods has been a good investment. If you factor out the land value and just consider the timber values, my 1980 to 2017 investment has earned an annual compound interest rate of seven percent per year, which I think is quite good. I also think this case study makes a strong statement for the value of good timber management because a 35% stand of hickory and defective oak would not have come close to these earnings.

Bruce Wakeland is retired after over 45 years of professional experience as a forester in Indiana.
Nine Basic Tax Tips For Forest Landowners To Consider

By Yanshu Li, Tamara Cushing, and Greg Frey

Although it may be too late for your 2021 tax filing, these tips are useful year round as you make your management decisions. Reproduced from The Forestry Source February 2022 with permission from the Society of American Foresters.

1. Understand Timber Sale Income and Capital Gains Tax

When a landowner has a timber sale, federal income taxes will be paid on the net income rather than the gross proceeds. Selling expenses, timber depletion allowance, and yield tax can all be subtracted from revenue to get the net taxable gain. In most cases, the income from a standing timber sale is taxed at favorable long-term capital gains tax rates (0%, 15%, or 20%) depending on the taxable income if the timber has been owned for more than one year. Inherited timber automatically meets the long-term holding period requirement.

2. Take Advantage of the Reforestation Tax Incentives

Eligible forest landowners may deduct up to $10,000 in qualifying reforestation expenditures per year per qualified timber property and amortize the rest over 84 months. The deduction is applied against taxable income from all sources (e.g., wages, capital gain, and rental income).

3. Take Advantage of the Qualified Business Income (QBI) Deduction

If the timber business has received ordinary income from selling cut timber products, pine straw, live trees, or other products, the forest landowner may consider taking the QBI deduction. It is available for tax years 2018 through 2025.

4. Recover Operating Expenses and Carrying Charges

If a forest landowner materially participates in the timber business, ordinary and necessary expenses associated with carrying on the business can be fully deducted. For 2018 through 2025, forest landowners who hold timber as an investment are not allowed to deduct eligible operating expenses as itemized deductions but may consider capitalizing (adding to basis) certain forest management expenses and carrying charges with proper tax elections. Timberland property taxes can still be fully deducted if the landowner itemizes.

5. Track Timber Basis

Timber basis is generally the amount of capital investment in the timber. If the forestland was purchased, the original timber basis is the amount of the total acquisition costs allocated to the timber. If the property was inherited, the timber basis generally is its fair market value on the decedent’s date of death. If the property was received as a gift, the basis is generally the donor’s basis plus the gift tax.

6. Claim Timber Casualty Loss Deduction When Natural Disaster Hits

Timber loss caused by a casualty event (e.g., hurricane, storm, fire) may be tax deductible. A forest landowner may deduct the lesser of the basis or the decrease in the fair market value of the affected timber block caused by the casualty.

7. Consider Excluding Cost-Sharing Payments

Some conservation-oriented cost-sharing payments from qualified government programs qualify for partial or full income exclusion.

8. Smooth Out Timber Income Over Years

Forest landowners may consider using an installment sale approach (lump-sum contract) or a pay-as-cut contract to smooth out their timber income over several years, if such arrangement can minimize their total taxes.

9. Know the Classification of Their Timber Holding

A landowner’s timber holding classification is the most important starting point in determining the federal income tax consequences of timber activities. The classification determines which tax rules are applicable. The timber holding normally could be classified as one of the following three types: 1) property for personal use or as a hobby (not-for-profit); 2) property held as an investment; or 3) property held in a trade or business.
Welcome New Members!
The following member made a long-term commitment and show of support to Walnut Council by becoming a Life member. We thank you:
Eric Abernathy, Wellsboro, PA
We are pleased to welcome these new annual members to the Walnut Council since last bulletin:
Algy Arnold, Ashley, OH
Denny Behr, Madison, WI
Mike Behr, Oregon, WI
Larry Beine, Rubicon, WI
Ryan Brown, Avondale, AZ
Patrick Flanagan, Laytonsville, MD
Vafa Furoghi, Chesterfield, MO
Matthew Gagnon, Troy, OH
William Hahn, Bethesda, MD
Jerry Jackson, Eureka, MO
Paul Kelly, Cashton, WI
Kevin Kledehn, Elroy, WI
Ben Koch, Chillicothe, OH
Josh Loggins, West Lafayette, IN
William & Diana MacKentley, Potsdam, NY
Malcolm McCance, Camden Point, MO
Daniel Mega, Downers Grove, IL
Pete Moris, Blacksburg, VA
Curtis & Pam Peters, New Albany, IN
Matt Ransom, McConnells, SC
R. Gary Roop, DVM, Westminster, MD
Anthony Schank, Holmen, WI
Joanna Shows, Columbia, MS
Tony Singh, LeClaire, Iowa
Jimmie Sizemore, Manchester, KY
Brian Sloan, Zionsville, IN
Dave Stephenson, Madison, WI
Mike Trinklein, Grafton, WI
Candice Turner, Muncie, IN
Heather Turns, Muncie, IN
Warren Wilson, Mt Horeb, WI

Walnut Council Financial Reports

Balance Sheet as of 12/31/2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSETS</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current Assets</td>
<td>$45,101.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total investment accounts</td>
<td>$59,166.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL ASSETS</td>
<td>$104,267.13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Profit and Loss
January – December 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total 4000 · Membership dues</td>
<td>$20,355.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total 4017 · State Chapter Dues</td>
<td>$4,995.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total 4031 · Voluntary State Contributions</td>
<td>$725.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4033.1 · WC Operating Contribution</td>
<td>$833.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total 4060 · Annual Meeting</td>
<td>$925.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total 4069 · Sales</td>
<td>$103.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4089.6 · Goetsch property</td>
<td>$172.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dividend Income</td>
<td>$17.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Income</td>
<td>$28,127.45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expense</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5023 · Interest Expense</td>
<td>$13.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5001-Exec Dir Salary</td>
<td>$13,639.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5050 Exec Director Travel</td>
<td>$889.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5018 Postage</td>
<td>$2,016.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5017 Internet Expenses</td>
<td>$1,010.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5016 Office Expense</td>
<td>$683.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5025 Accounting &amp; Bookkeeping</td>
<td>$1,422.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5024-Banking Fees</td>
<td>$11.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5010 Insurance</td>
<td>$2,272.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5020 Bulletin Printing</td>
<td>$2,619.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5059 · Other meeting expense</td>
<td>$116.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5041 · State Chapter Dues Rebates</td>
<td>$4,745.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5042 · State Voluntary Donation Rebate</td>
<td>$725.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5064 BII Wal Ach Award Payment</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6999 · Uncategorized Expenses</td>
<td>$200.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Expense</td>
<td>$31,364.04</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Net Ordinary Income                          | -3,236.59 |

Other Income

| 4033.3 · WC Legacy Fund contribution        | $57,543.46 |

Net Income                                  | $54,306.87 |

www.walnutcouncil.org
Walnut Council Legacy Fund Update

2020-2023 Fundraising Campaign

In celebration of Walnut Council's 50th anniversary and based on our relatively weak financial position the board of directors rolled out the Legacy Fund campaign in November 2020. We are in year 2 of this 3-year outreach and are so thankful for the generosity of our members. With these donations, we can assure a stable future for Walnut Council so that we can assist members to continue their legacy.

Donations will go to:

- Help sustain the Walnut Council to maintain a strong organization
- Continue our commitment to share knowledge about walnut and other hardwood management
- Manage current and future Walnut Council property donations as showcases of walnut management

If you are interested in supporting the fund, please contact the office or visit our website for more info at https://walnutcouncil.org/donate/. We plan on sending out a final annual appeal in the fall.

Total donations and pledges received as of January 31, 2022 = $89,752

Thank you to these generous supporters of the Walnut Council Legacy Fund campaign since the last bulletin (through January 2022). We couldn’t have the great organization we have without your support and enthusiasm!

Hickory Level
Anonymous
Aslin, Raymond G.
Baird, Warren
Braswell, Philip P
Chattha, Mohinder S
Christen, Louis
Doze, Van A.
Ebert Farms
Ehinger, Ronald J
Forgey Family Farms LLC
Heckenberg, Todd or Lori
Holdridge, Anne Patrice
Jenner, Kyle W
Keller, Mary Elisabeth
Kelly, Randall
Kleven, Carolyn
Konsis, Kenneth F.
Korenfeld, Michael
Laake, Cathy
Loberg, Bruce
Maurer, Ford & Christine
McCune, Philip
McGue Family LLC
Missouri-Pacific Lumber Co, Inc
Moore, Philip K
Murphy, Francis Patrick
Pinkerton, Lester R
Polk, Edward M
Porath, Wayne
Sharratt, Tom
Sherman, Gary K
Solawetz, William
Stecker, John
Thielemann, Wilbert G.
Wiley, Christopher T
Woodard, Beverly H
Youngman, TL

Cherry Level
Albertson, William
Carlson, Donald G
Cok, Stuart E.
Halstead, Harry E.
Martinson, Timothy
McCarthy, Mary C
Northrop, Joseph S
Vogel, Greg

Oak Level
Hammitt, Bill
Hoover, Bill
Luchsinger, Peter & Barbara
Michael, John B

Walnut Level
Wilson, Tim & Betsy
2021 Annual Meeting Update

In July of 2021, in lieu of a large national meeting, Walnut Council hosted two regional field days in Wisconsin and Indiana. (Missouri was cancelled due to low registrations) Everyone seemed grateful to be back together after a long break.

A group of 68 met in the Beloit, Wisconsin area Friday night for a social at a local park shelter house. The next morning we met at the Al Goetsch property and toured with local natural resources professionals. We discussed mid-rotation management of the plantations, a recent timber sale, and other management on the property. Al donated this property to Walnut Council in 2019 so this was a chance to showcase this beautiful property, now owned and managed by the Walnut Council, developed over decades with loving care by Al.

A special thanks to Al Goetsch, John Katzke, John Nielsen, Ben Bruggeman, David Gundlach, and Steve Felt and the Goetsch property committee for their time and assistance on this meeting.

Two weeks later we had 51 attendees at the Southeast Purdue Agricultural Center near Seymour, Indiana. There we toured the Purdue University property with a variety of plantation research. Discussions included plantation management and butternut disease resistance. After lunch we had presentations in the barn about forest health and invasive species.

A special thanks to Don Carlson and Joel Wahlman and the staff at SEPAC, John Katzke, Jim McKenna, Shaneka Lawson, Anna Conrad, and Phil O’Connor for their efforts to host this meeting.
Due to reasons of security, and probably COVID, the data has become more challenging to access. Therefore, several institutions have blanks in their data set. Although the data set is incomplete, Southern Illinois at Carbondale and University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point continue to have the highest number of undergraduate forestry students. In general, most enrollment and graduation of students in the forestry emphasis has remained stable. However, the University of Missouri – Columbia and the University of Wisconsin – Madison both have seen reductions in those graduating with a forestry degree. Others, such as Michigan Tech, have seen an increase over the past year. Most programs seem to have relatively consistent enrollment over the years. Statistics collected by Walnut Council University Representative Dusty Walter.

### Yearly Undergraduate Enrollment in Forestry Programs by School For States with Walnut Council Chapters

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>University of Missouri – Columbia</th>
<th>University of Wisconsin – Madison</th>
<th>Southern Illinois Univ. - Carbondale</th>
<th>Michigan State Univ. - East Lansing</th>
<th>Michigan Tech Univ. - Houghton</th>
<th>University of Kentucky - Lexington</th>
<th>Iowa State University</th>
<th>University of Wisconsin - Madison</th>
<th>University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>163</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>323</td>
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<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>149</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>66</td>
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<td>2008</td>
<td>42</td>
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<td>87</td>
<td>41</td>
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<td>351</td>
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<td>2009</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>165</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>357</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>181</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>407</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>54</td>
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<td>2012</td>
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<td>39</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>398</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>182</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>58</td>
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<td>54</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>394</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>184</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>53</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016</td>
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<td>51</td>
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<td>2021</td>
<td>49</td>
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<td>188</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>424</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Resources from the Reforestation, Nurseries, and Genetic Resources (RNGR) Website

The Reforestation, Nurseries, and Genetic Resources (RNGR) program’s goal is to supply people who grow forest and conservation seedlings with the latest technical information and is led by the United States Forest Service (USFS). Southern Regional Extension Forestry (SREF) created and maintains the RNGR website and National Nursery and Seed Directory. The RNGR website includes a database of more 11,000+ technical articles amongst other resources.

And at the same website, the National Nursery and Seed Directory serves as an online source for finding businesses that support the propagation of forest and native plant materials in the US and Canada. Users can search by name, state, product, business type, or keyword, allowing them to find local businesses with specific nursery products. Access the RNGR website (https://rngr.net/) or nursery directory (https://rngr.net/resources/directory).
Editor’s Note: This was originally published in the Land Conservancy of West Michigan Spring 2021 Newsletter and is reprinted with permission. We toured the Cok family property in 2009 at our Walnut Council annual meeting at Grand Rapids, Michigan.

In the latest chapter of a sprawling history on the land, Stu Cok and his family amended their conservation easement to protect an additional 63 acres of Kent County natural land in December 2020. The Coks have protected a total of 187 acres of healthy natural land, streams and lakes that feed the Rogue River, creating an enduring legacy of conservation for their family.

The amendment was completed with the help of a grant from Trout Unlimited, which aimed to protect the water quality of the Rogue River. Combined with the original protected land, this new addition does that in spades. The protected wetlands and lakes promise to be a source of clean water for the Rogue River watershed forever.

The protection of this additional acreage underscores the family’s longstanding commitment to a landscape that has been a part of their story for 66 years.

**Origins**

In 1954, Stu Cok was in college after serving in the Marines. He was itching to buy his own piece of land. He had grown up working on his grandfather’s muck farm in northeast Ohio in a tiny town called Celeryville, and he thought he might try starting his own muck farm, if he could find a parcel within 15 miles of Grand Rapids.

Stu didn’t have much money at the time, but when a realtor showed him a property in Algoma Township with promising features, he knew he had to act. He needed to come up with a $200 down payment.

“I didn’t have $200, but I really wanted to tie this thing up,” Stu said. “I am an impetuous guy, and I wanted to get the deal done.”

So, Stu enlisted the help of his brother, a newlywed at the time, and was met with some reluctance.

“He didn’t even want to look at it with me, but I talked him into it,” Stu said.

Even after seeing the land, his brother remained skeptical. Ultimately, Stu convinced him of the property’s value by betting on the depth of one of its lakes. If it was over ten feet deep, Stu would ask his brother to cover half of the down payment. If not, they would walk away. To his luck, they measured its depth to be 14 feet.

**Growing Up**

Though the property had promise as a muck farm, that would not be its eventual fate. Stu took a job in the trucking industry that kept him away from the land. Stu paid his brother back, and as the years passed, the land became a playground for Stu and his wife Nancy’s growing family. The kids played in mud puddles and completed impressive school projects—one of which involved identifying a bird rarely seen in the region. Nancy and the kids would have picnics with the neighbors on a hill on the property that they named “Picnic Hill.”

For his part, Stu took up an interest in tree farming.

“I was planting trees shortly after we bought the property. I guess it was instinctive. If there was a piece of open ground, I wanted to grow something on it,” Stu said.
Shores of the Rogue River

Stu joined a variety of organizations to further engage with the hobby, including the Michigan Forest Association, American Tree Farm System and the Walnut Council. Stu and his family take pride in sustainably harvesting the trees on their property to support the health of its wetlands, lakes and the nearby Rogue River. He also cherishes the friendships he made as a member of the groups.

Making Connections
Over the years, the family purchased the surrounding properties as they went up for sale. Today, the Cok Family Tree Farm is made up of nine separate land purchases. “People ask, ‘How’d you ever do that?’ and I say, ‘Well, there’s luck and there’s skill. I was lucky,’” Stu said. “I really was—and patient.”

In 2010, the family established the first conservation easement to protect the landscape and ensure it would never be subdivided and developed. Stu said this was important to his children, who grew up on the land and shared a special connection to it. The children worked alongside their parents to determine their roles in the legacy of the property. Stu knows this process can be challenging for families. To his relief, everyone works together amicably. “It’s wonderful how they all get along. I’ve never seen anything like it,” Stu said.

A Refuge for Past, Present and Future
One of the Coks’ children lives in a home on the East side of the property. When Nancy was diagnosed with cancer, the family built a screen house for her on the shore of a lake, halfway between the homes. It was a place she could walk to and spend time with her grandchildren in the comfort of the shade. Nancy passed away in 2013. Stu remembers her love for the outdoors, birds and plants.

Stu still actively participates in the stewardship of his property. He plants trees every year. “I love it out there,” Stu said. “It’s my respite.”

Thanks to the family’s commitment, it will remain a respite for generations to come.


National & State Board Reports
The Walnut Council board of directors holds three quarterly meetings per year. The fall meeting was in Carbondale, Illinois in November 2021, site of our upcoming summer meeting. The next national board meeting is in April in Springfield, Illinois, followed by the July meeting at our national annual meeting.

Nut Culture Report
By Phil Moore, Nut Culture Representative
The black Walnut collection season was poorer in 2021 than in prior years, Hammons Products did not reach their goal of 22 million pounds but collected approximately 20 million pounds. We have not helped at our farm or with our hulling station. We are at about one third of what we consider a good crop.

The Missouri University is accepting applications for some growers, around 10, here in the state to put in a test planting of 72 trees that Mark Coggeshall started developing when at MU. The planting is to be maintained for 10 years and records kept. No scion wood is to be collected for further distribution by the test plot “owner”.

I think it is important to determine if some cultivars are more suited for a region than another. Of the several cultivars I have grafted over the years Kwik Krop has been the best producer. Others in Southwest Missouri speak for Sparrow. I and another grower, Earl Williams, found that the old standard Thomas was a total failure in this area.

It is also important to find how much production may be expected from these cultivars. Several MNGA members have a cultivar that produces a fine nut but so far haven’t proved to produce the quantity to be profitable.

Ohio Chapter Report
By Bill Hammitt, President Ohio Chapter
The Ohio Chapter had a mid-summer field day on June 5 at the Chris Duckworth Farms, located at Greenfield, Ohio. We had about 28 in attendance. Everyone was glad to get into the field, enjoy the fellowship of colleagues, and talk some walnut management.

The Ohio Chapter is holding a Spring Field Day on April 16 Mike Fulton farm near Aurora, Indiana. Mike owns 50 acres of CRP floodplain plantings, including a lot of walnut and swamp white oak. However, the previous owner neglected the CRP trees and Mike wants our advice on restorative management.

Wisconsin Chapter Report
By Manfred Mielke, President WI chapter
Field Days were determined as follows: May 21, 2022 at Roger Krause’s farm near Viroqua; Oct. 1 at Jim Schiller’s farm near Postville (Green Co.) and May 20, 2023 at Randy Kelly’s farm near Cashton.
Annotated Bibliography

**Silviculture at Establishment of Hardwood Plantations is Relatively Ineffective in the Presence of Deer Browsing**


**Description**

Ungulate browsing limits forest regeneration on many reforestation and restoration sites. Silviculture can be used to mitigate the effects of ungulate damage by promoting rapid early growth of planted seedlings, but benefits may depend upon site characteristics and ungulate browse pressure. We studied the interactions among browsing by white-tailed deer (Odocoileus virginianus), use of genetically select seed sources, controlled-release fertilization (CRF) at planting, and site type (harvest openings and plantations) in a nine-year hardwood forest regeneration study. The experiment consisted of paired deer exclosure and control plots, with fertilization and seed source, established at two reforested clearcut sites and three afforested agricultural field sites in Indiana, USA. Our objectives were to examine treatment effects on growth (height and diameter), survival, and stem quality of four temperate deciduous hardwood species (northern red oak, white oak, black walnut, and black cherry). For all species, fencing had the greatest significant positive influence on survival (non-fenced: 50–72%, fenced: 71–75% by year 8) and growth (81–178% greater height and 90–167% greater diameter by year 8), as well as stem quality ratings. Fencing also increased (by 50–78%) the probability that black cherry and black walnut at afforested sites (as well as northern red oak at both site types) would reach free-to-grow status by year 5. We observed gains in height and diameter from CRF only during the first three years for fenced black cherry (11% greater height and 14% greater diameter in year 3), and for white oak regardless of fencing (13% greater height and 10% greater diameter in year 3). Genetically select seed sources had the greatest and most consistent growth benefit for black walnut (81% greater height and 50% greater diameter by year 8). Early growth was improved in genetically select P. serotina vs. non-select sources (11% greater height in year 3) but differences faded by the fifth growing season, while superior growth of genetically select Q. rubra began to manifest only after year 5 (16% greater height 21% greater diameter by year 8). In addition, select northern red oaks had an 8% greater probability of reaching free-to-grow status by year 5 and black walnuts at afforested sites had a 13% greater probability of reaching free-to-grow status. Without protection from herbivory, genetically improved sources did not realize their full potential for enhanced growth. Our results from this nine-year-long hardwood plantation experiment confirm that without browse protection, additional silvicultural treatments are unlikely to improve regeneration performance.

**Fertilization Practices for Bareroot Hardwood Seedlings**

David B. South and Robert E. Cross, Emeritus Professor, School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences, Auburn University, AL; Chief Productivity Manager, Cross Consultants, Shellman, GA. Tree Planters' Notes - Volume 63, Number 2 (2020), https://rngr.net/publications/tpn/63-2.

**Abstract**

Large bareroot seedlings tend to be a preferred stocktype for hardwoods because they typically have larger root systems and are less expensive than seedlings grown in small containers. Fertilization can double or triple the dry mass of hardwood roots. A review of the use of fertilizers to produce bareroot hardwood seedlings revealed the total amount of nitrogen applied to seedlings depends on management objectives. The total annual rates can vary from 50 kg/ha to more than 500 kg/ha. Fertilizer regimes used to produce seedlings include a constant-rate method (i.e., each application contains similar amounts of nitrogen), a stepwise method (where initial rates are low and rates increase over the season), and formula method (where a formula is used to determine fertilizer rate). Due to a higher cost, most managers of bareroot nurseries do not use slow-release fertilizers. Some managers apply endomycorrhizal spores as insurance to prevent a phosphorus deficiency (caused by effective soil fumigation). Because micronutrient deficiencies are more likely to occur in neutral and alkaline soils, many hardwoods are grown at pH 4.5 to 5.5. Most trials in bareroot seedbeds indicate no growth benefit from K fertilization. Documented cases of Mg deficiencies in hardwood nurseries are rare and sulfur deficiencies might be overlooked in some nurseries. At nurseries with less than 1 percent organic matter, a proper fertilization regime will produce a good crop of hardwood seedlings.
The Ideal Wood for Whiskey is at Risk. Can it be Saved?

By Robin Roenker

This article was originally published online February 1, 2022 by Wine Enthusiast magazine (www.winemag.com) and is being used with permission.

Jeff Stringer, PhD, chair of the Department of Forestry and Natural Resources at the University of Kentucky, makes it an annual priority to track wood commodities prices. Around 2012, he started noticing a spike in demand for a very particular product: white oak staves, the thin strips of wood that become the building blocks of barrels in which distillers age bourbon, whiskey and other spirits.

In the last decade, as the bourbon and whiskey industry has boomed, so too has the demand for white oak barrels. To qualify as a bourbon, after all, a spirit must be aged in a new, charred oak barrel. White oak is preferred by many distillers for two reasons. One has to do with flavor, the other is more practical: white oak doesn’t leak.

“The barrel provides all the whiskey color and over half the flavor, since the complex sugars in white oak break down over the aging process to allow the whiskey to pick up its sweet caramel flavors,” says Greg Roshkowski, vice president and director of wood planning, procurement and processing for Brown-Forman. “Other hardwoods, including red oak, do not have the tylosis membrane that white oak has, meaning they would leak extensively if you tried to use them for barrels.”

The bourbon industry uses about 10% of the total white oak harvested annually in the United States, Roshkowski estimates.

Protecting Forests of the Future

Spearheaded by Stringer, along with members of the American Forest Foundation and DendriFund, Brown-Forman’s independent, sustainability-focused foundation, the White Oak Initiative now includes a host of forestry management and spirits industry partners.

Their mission is to help ensure that American white oak forests survive and thrive through targeted forestry management and, when needed, replanting. The initiative currently hosts best practices educational workshops for foresters and landowners. The coursework outlines strategies for selective clearing of competing tree species in the forest, so white oaks can regenerate on their own.

“You have these big white oak trees producing acorns,” says Stringer. “The acorns hit the ground, and the seedlings germinate, but they just can’t grow. There’s too much shade. So, what do you do? You take out that understory of beech and maple to allow light in, and you harvest correctly. It’s all about scientifically proven forest management techniques.”

Because of the key role barrels play in bourbon and whiskey production, industry executives realize securing a long-term source of white oak is essential for their products’ future.

“Sazerac and those members of our industry who are also involved in the White Oak Initiative realize the bourbon industry needs to focus on replenishing one of its most important assets for our industry to survive,” says Wise. “The White Oak Initiative is about the long-term sustainability of America’s white oak forests.”

Barbara Hurt, executive director of DendriFund and a fifth-generation Brown family member, agrees. The spirits industry’s embrace of white oak sustainability helps add momentum to a cause that’s bigger than just whiskey.

“We believe that we can only solve the environmental challenges we face with businesses at the table,” says Hurt. “Industry has an important role to play. This initiative seemed like an incredible opportunity to bring a lot of people together that are dependent on white oak.”

Find the article online at https://www.winemag.com/2022/02/01/whiskey-wood-white-oak/, accessed 2/17/2022.
Effective January 15, 2022, the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Plant Industry, has repealed the Order of Quarantine imposed on the plant pest Thousand Cankers Disease (TCD). The decision rescinds the classification of TCD, the fungus Geosmithia morbida, and the walnut twig beetle (WTB), Pityophthorus juglandis, as a public nuisance and a plant pest, are based on the following information:

- Native populations of Juglans nigra (black walnut) in the eastern United States have been largely unaffected by TCD despite detections of the beetle and/or fungus in nine states (Moore et al., 2019; Seybold et al., 2019).
- Based on survey results in Tennessee and Virginia, the percentages of black walnut trees with slight, moderate and severe TCD remained the same for 3 years (Griffin, 2015).
- The outbreaks of TCD in Tennessee and Virginia appear to be partially a result of drought stress of the trees in 2011-2012 (Griffin, 2015).
- High precipitation levels and high soil water potentials in 2013 were associated with extensive new foliage and stem growth and recovery from TCD (Griffin, 2015).
- It is possible that TCD has been repeatedly introduced into the eastern United States and/or the fungus may be endemic nationwide as suggested by the widespread presence of Geosmithia spp. in other parts of the United States (Huang et al., 2019).
- Castrillo et al. (2017) demonstrated that treatment of logs with the commercially available entomopathogenic fungal pathogens, Beauveria bassiana or Metarhizium brunneum, provided suitable control of WTB populations. Similarly, Mayfield et al. (2019) tested Beauveria bassiana as well as a synthetic pyrethroid against WTB infection of black walnut and found similar results.

The Department will continue to work with the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) to monitor and survey throughout the state for outbreaks of walnut twig beetle and possibly Thousand Cankers Disease.

Response
With the TCD quarantine repealed, businesses in previously quarantined counties are encouraged to continue inspecting their products for walnut twig beetle. Treatment options are available for walnut twig beetle if they are found. There are also treatment options available for logs for commerce that do not utilize methyl bromide.

As a result of the research which has been conducted regarding TCD, many states which have TCD quarantines are in process of or have repealed their state quarantines. Please consult with the National Plant Board webpage for changes in quarantine status for states at [www.nationalplantboard.org](http://www.nationalplantboard.org).

References
Griffin, G.J. Status of thousand cankers disease on eastern black walnut in the eastern United States at two locations over 3 years. For. Path. 45 (2015) 203—214.

This article is located at the PA Department of Agriculture website [https://www.agriculture.pa.gov/Plants_Land_Water/PlantIndustry/plant-health/TCD/Pages/default.aspx](https://www.agriculture.pa.gov/Plants_Land_Water/PlantIndustry/plant-health/TCD/Pages/default.aspx) and was accessed on February 17, 2022.
Walnut Council Receives New Property Donation

Member Ken Walton of Carroll County, Indiana (30 miles NE of our national office) recently donated an 11.9 acre property to the Walnut Council. He contacted us in fall 2021 and expressed an interest in donating the land, which includes 4 acres of mid-rotation walnut plantation and an additional 7.9 acres of native timber, located along State Highway 25 near Delphi.

Ken has carefully tended the plantation since the 1990s and the trees are of very high quality and nice sized. The native timber had a high percentage of Ash so Ken had a timber harvest a few years back to remove those dying trees, and has replanted some oak and walnut in the openings. Due to Ken’s efforts the property will need minimal work for the near future.

Walnut Council’s intent is to continue to manage the property for fine hardwoods and to serve as a demonstration and education area for Walnut Council members and other tree growers. A property committee is being formed to provide regular oversight and organize any work needed with guidance from a forester.

The Walnut Council and Ken look forward to a future field day and will announce it so members can tour the property. We thank Ken and his family for thinking of the Walnut Council and their generosity with this donation.

Black Walnut Achievement Award Winners Honored at 2021 Field Days

Since we didn’t meet in 2020, at our July 2021 field days we honored recipients of the 2020 and 2021 Black Walnut Achievement Awards.

2020 Awardee Bob Chenoweth

Bob Chenoweth is our 2020 Black Walnut Achievement Award winner. He grew up on a farm north of Decatur, Illinois, on the Indiana/Illinois border. He graduated from Purdue in 1955 and from there spent the rest of his active career in the United States Army (reaching the rank of Lt. Colonel), being stationed in various places around the world. He then taught for 7 years at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

For his second career, in the early 1980s, Bob planted a mixture of hardwoods on some substantial acreage of his home farm. He has faithfully and intensively managed this acreage since its inception. Besides that planted acreage, Bob has managed another area of the farm intensively and thanks to his very exceptional management this is truly a beautiful stand of medium sized walnut trees. The biggest tree on his property has a crown span of 120 feet.

More importantly to the Walnut Council, Bob spent a good part of 2 years of his life, driving 20,000 miles gathering the data for a book that was published in 1995, titled “Black Walnut, The History, Use, and Unrealized Potential of a Unique American Renewable Natural Resource.” Besides the original publication Bob has very graciously republished the book in 2021, making it available to the Walnut Council to share with members. Congratulations to Bob on receiving this much deserved award!

2021 Awardee Max Leach

Max E. Leach is our 2021 Black Walnut Achievement Award winner. Max is from Campbellsville, Kentucky and served as a District Forester with the Kentucky Division of Forestry. Max was very active in the Walnut Council in the early days, serving on the board for several terms. Max helped make the Kentucky Walnut Council national meeting one of our best in August 1988. Max served as President in 1985-1986. Max was always very helpful in the challenges we encountered during those early years of the WC. He later produced a large board of the Annual Favors offered at annual meetings. Congratulations Max!

Both awardees will receive a plaque and check for $1000 to recognize their efforts. The award is supported by the WC Foundation.
Spotted Lanternfly Update

Since the last bulletin, Spotted Lanternfly has been found in southeastern Indiana, near Vevay. They are currently found in 11 states: Connecticut, Delaware, Indiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia. It looks certain that spotted lanternfly are spreading along rail and highway corridors, likely insects or egg masses hitchhiking on trains or vehicles.

Wooded properties along major travel corridors should be on high alert for this invasive insect. And if you travel to any of these states, especially during the fall/winter, inspect your vehicle and equipment for signs of egg masses (which look like mud) or insects.

The following information helpful to hardwood growers was Adapted from Spotted Lanternfly Management Guide, by Penn State Extension:

Identification and Life Cycle
There is one generation of SLF per year in Pennsylvania. The eggs are laid in the fall (September to November) and hatch in the spring (late April to June). Egg masses are laid on many surfaces (trees, decks, houses, outdoor equipment, rocks, etc.) and protected with a mud-like covering. Each egg mass contains an average of 30 to 50 individual eggs. After hatching and before reaching adulthood, SLF goes through four nymphal stages called instars. Newly hatched nymphs are small (~1/8 inch) and can be hard to find, often being mistaken for small ticks or spiders. With each molt to the next instar, the nymphs roughly double in size. The first three instars are black with white spots. The last (fourth) instar is red with white dots and black stripes and roughly 1/2 inch long. SLF nymphs and adults are strong jumpers.

In Pennsylvania, SLF adults begin to emerge in July and remain active as adults until they are killed by hard freezes later in the fall. Adults are the most obvious and easily detectable stage because they are large (about 1 inch) and highly mobile. Adults have black bodies. Their forewings are gray with black spots, and the tips are black with gray veins, while their hind wings are red, black, and white. Only the adults have wings and can fly. However, because SLF adults walk more than fly, their wings often remain closed, leaving only the forewings visible. This makes them more difficult to identify in low numbers, from a distance, or when they are high in a tree. See Table 1 for a comparison of nymphs and adults.

Host Range, Phenology, and Damage: Feeding Damage
SLF feed on plant sap using piercing-sucking mouthparts. They acquire nutrients from the plant sap and also rely on associated bacteria in their guts to support their nutritional requirements. The sap they ingest contains high amounts of sugar, which is not completely digested by the insect. They excrete the excess as a liquid waste substance called honeydew, which can build up below the feeding insects. On sunny days, honeydew can be seen falling from trees, resembling a light rain.

Honeydew is attractive to ants, wasps, bees, and other sugar-loving insects. As the honeydew accumulates, it is often colonized by sooty mold (fungi). Sooty mold does not directly harm plants or the surfaces on which it grows, but it does physically block leaves, reducing photosynthesis. With dense groupings of SLF, understory plants may die because of the sooty mold buildup on their leaves. Sooty mold frequently stains objects such as tree trunks, decks, patios, and vehicles that are underneath affected trees. These stains can be very difficult to remove.

Consequences of direct feeding damage by nymphs and adults to the host trees vary greatly by host species,
numbers of SLF feeding, and environmental conditions. While SLF feeding can stress plants and cause localized branch damage, it is not known to kill plants except for TOH, black walnut saplings, and grapevines. SLF feeding is considered a plant stressor and may contribute to the long-term weakening of established plants and trees. High levels of adult SLF feeding can reduce the photosynthetic activity of some trees. It is possible that after heavy feeding, multiple years of sustained damage, or in particularly dry years, SLF may cause significant damage to ornamental and shade trees.

Editor’s note: Although they can be signs of other problems, if you should find high amounts of sooty mold on your plants or excessive numbers of bees or wasps, be on the lookout for spotted lanternfly.

**Seasonal Host Preference**

SLF has an extremely broad host range and has been recorded feeding on over 70 different plant species. Conifers are generally not considered to be good hosts for SLF. Despite their broad host range, some plants appear to be more favorable to SLF than others. Numerous factors may determine the attractiveness of a particular plant, including what plants species are available or absent in the nearby landscape, the health of the plant, time of year, SLF population size, and how long SLF has been present in the area. Nymphs, in particular, have an especially large host range that includes perennials and any new and tender plant growth, whereas adults seem to depend more on certain hosts, primarily woody stems of trees and vines.

Table 2 shows the key plant hosts of SLF and the time at which they are most likely to be found on these hosts; it does not represent a comprehensive list of what SLF feeds on, but rather the patterns of SLF feeding that have been observed through the season. As plants begin to lose their leaves at the end of the growing season, they are less likely to serve as hosts for SLF. The patterns in host use may change with varying weather conditions, by region, and from other factors as yet undetermined.

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<th>Host Type</th>
<th>May</th>
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**Updates on Carbon Markets and Credits for Landowners**

Approximately a year ago, carbon markets were made available to Midwestern landowners with small acreages for free or minimal fees. There are currently 2-3 programs available for consideration by landowners, depending on your acreage, location, and forest age/size class/volume. Landowners outside the Midwest and/or with larger acreages may have access to additional programs.

Markets, rules, and prices are changing rapidly in this arena, and it is often called the “wild west.” Under these conditions we recommend “Buyer Beware:”

• Read and understand your contract, consider having an attorney review it
• Make sure you know exactly what you are signing up for
• Make sure it fits with your woodland management plan and goals
• Consider the tax implications, you may want to contact your accountant
• Consider the long term implications and financial tradeoffs of the commitment, enrollment in one program may exclude you from future programs.
• Consider whether waiting for future carbon programs and changes (yet to be known or not yet in your area) may create a better environment for you and whether you should wait to participate.

If you want to learn more about carbon markets, we recommend the following resources:

• Carbon Storage, Credit Markets, and Forests, a report by Dovetail Partners (9/21): [https://tinyurl.com/4yc3za2f](https://tinyurl.com/4yc3za2f)
• Chart comparing various forest carbon programs (as of 8/21): [https://tinyurl.com/mppjyyxe](https://tinyurl.com/mppjyyxe)
• Webinar describing all the US programs (free but registration required) (10/21): [https://tinyurl.com/59b9ne8w](https://tinyurl.com/59b9ne8w)

Editor’s note: Carbon markets are changing rapidly, this update was correct as of mid-February 2022.
Creative Ways to Protect Seedlings from Deer

By John Ouellette, Landowner NW Representative

About 20 years ago we did a mixed hardwood and white pine tree planting. The land was formerly a cow pasture. All of the trees grew very well, but as they got hip to shoulder high, the buck deer began to use this place as a place to rub the velvet off of their antlers. At one time it seemed that most of the trees had been scraped by those young bucks. We set up a few wildlife cameras to get a good look at the deer population. We took a very close look at the antler formation of the many bucks and were able to identify 28 different buck deer of all sizes. There was much damage of small trees in areas adjacent to our planting to check on the deer rub damage. One area in particular, where in the late winter and spring where we would find many deer antler “sheds”, we noted that the trees were practically torn out of the ground.

We spoke to many people who had experienced similar damage, but found no good ideas of how to prevent such damage. We heard about the use of human hair, soap, etc, but nothing that was practical for this very large job. To this very day, I do not know how I came up with the idea of tying beverage cans on the end of old hay baling twine and with a slip knot. The can was tied to the tree at such a height that the can would dangle in the area where the deer would naturally rub the tree. To make a story short, my 230 acres of trees on our tree farm, has had beverage cans tied to small hardwood trees. I will say this with great conviction, that no deer has ever rubbed a small tree where a can has been tied over a 15 to 20 year period. This system “just plain works” and trees are no longer damaged by deer rubs. Placing the cans on thousands of small trees sounds like a lot of work, but those trees are no longer attacked by the bucks. In that area where the deer had shed their antlers, the trees are healthy, over head high, with no rub scars whatsoever.

One of the other things that we have used to protect our young trees, is the use of our homemade “tree guards”. I have planted trees using thousands of “tree tubes” and have well experienced all of the work that goes with them. Then when the tree emerges from the tube, the battle is on now to have the deer nibble the tree right down to the top of the tube. We have used a six foot stake along with one half of an old tube that would extend over the leader sprout and get the lead shoot up as far as seven feet. That has worked well, but keeps that area above the tube from branching. This is the reason we designed the homemade “tree guard”. We have a few black locust trees on our farm. One of the men who works with me has a saw mill. He is able to make three to four hundred one inch square by six feet stakes in a few hours. We put points on them and then place them in a tight pile that does not allow them to warp. When we need them for our projects such as the deer guards, we usually place two or three of them in a circle around the seedling and wrap plastic fencing around the sticks and steel staple them in place to protect the tree. When the tree grows above the plastic guard, we remove the staples and raise the plastic 2-3 feet higher, the deer will not rub this tree if we add the beverage can. The lead shoot is protected and the tree limbs are able to grow to about eight feet all the time protected by the plastic. The trees need to be protected until they are 7-8 feet tall. Once the tree attains that height, we are able to take the tree guard away and leave only the beverage can to prevent the antler rubs. We are able to use each tree guard several times.

This sounds like a lot of work, but when one sees a stand of young hardwood trees growing undamaged by deer, it has been worth the effort. In addition to this, if there should be a slight breeze blowing, there is the unforgettable sound of the cans clanging against the trees. We call this the “you won’t rub me symphony.” If the use of the hanging cans and tree guards seems like a lot of work, it is a lot of work, but once one gets the system down, the whole process goes very fast and it
is very satisfying to be able to grow healthy hardwood trees where others cannot. It is amazing how many field days I have been to where the problem of deer damage to saplings and seedlings come up and is an over whelming problem for tree growers. I invite some of those folks who really want to grow those seedlings/saplings over to my farm and we explain to them what might be done to prevent rubs and total damage to small trees. One thing we explain to them, is that you do not have to do all of the trees. If you do 50 to 60 trees per acre and you select the best ones that is usually enough. One never gets any more than 30-40 crop trees per acre so hopefully you have chosen what proves to be the best trees for your future forest.

Another way one is able to plant hardwood trees that is said to be quite “deer proof” is to do direct seeding into a plot of land of several acre size. On our six acre plot we worked up the soil and dumped seven pickup truck loads of seeds picked up during what was considered a very good nut year. These are coming up in the way we would have hoped for and will be a real challenge for our children. If one is able to plant this way over a number of years the task is not over whelming. Again we worked up that soil to cover the total area. In spots where there were no seedlings, we planted more the next year. If necessary, we might add some seedlings to that dense plot. The use of proper herbicides has been very important in this area. The burdock weed was our greatest challenge. We have used a number of techniques to battle our large deer population, and so far our side is winning. One thing we know for sure, one size doesn’t fit all when it comes to the battle against the whitetail invasion.

In summary, we have been planting trees on this property for 48 years and we have a good variety of hardwood trees from saplings up to 26 inches in diameter. These trees were planted in a variety of ways on many different size and shape plots. At the moment our heirs will have all the work they can do of pruning for quality and the proper thinning as they proceed. It is important that our heirs will know a few ways to protect young hardwoods from the deer. I guess the next generation will reap the benefits of black walnut and other fine hardwoods lumber sales. This land if properly managed, will more than pay for itself and the deer did not win the battle, we did.

A Family Legacy

By Hugh B. Pence, Walnut Council national board member

Through the years, as fellow members of the Walnut Council, John Kelsey and I have become close friends. John is a multi-talented “man of all trades” - he is a master woods craftsman plus he is computer savvy and has developed some very specialized computer programming for scientifically thinning walnut trees. I’ve had the privilege of having John visit my Walnut Plantation, several times as a consultant, and as a “guinea pig” for applying his computer programs.

Several years ago at one of our annual meetings, John was kind enough to bring one of his custom walnut rocking chairs for the silent auction (I think Bob Chenoweth purchased the chair). It got me thinking what I could do special for my grandchildren, who now own the Pence Walnut Plantation. With that in mind, I commissioned John to build a custom rocking chair for each of my five grandchildren (see picture).

We had a family gathering in Indianapolis and John was kind enough to deliver all these chairs. It was a special and sentimental gathering. John numbers all his chairs, but in this case there was a special inscription on each chair, customizing each rocker to each one of my grandchildren. Thank you John for doing something very special for the Pence Family.
Application for Membership

Please add my name to your membership list and advise me of future activities of the Walnut Council.

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