



A Word from the President: Dusty Walter



As I write this it is the opening weekend of Missouri's deer hunting season for firearms. It also truly feels as though winter has decided to arrive. In Columbia we had overcast skies and an occasional flurry of a snowflake in the air on opening day. I hope everyone is safe and enjoys the shift in the seasons.

This past week I spent two days in board meetings related to the Walnut Council. The first was for the Walnut Council Foundation. The second day was the National Walnut Council Board of Directors meeting. Many of you may not be familiar with the Walnut Council Foundation.

Their specific mission is to provide supplemental financial support to the Walnut Council and, as a non-for-profit, they accept gifts for charitable and educational purposes. Gifts, land, and trees that are given to the WC Foundation are managed and the realized profits then used to offer research grants to individuals or institutions doing research on eastern black walnut, butternut, and associated high value hardwoods (their funds also help support Walnut Council Annual Meetings).

These research grants are available to everyone

and can be used locally for ideas meeting targeted outcomes that benefit high value tree species and their utilization. To learn more about support for ideas you and others might research or demonstrate, visit their webpage and view the application form: <https://walnutcouncil.org/wc-foundation/current-projects/>

At the National Board meeting of Walnut Council discussion focused on next year's Annual Meeting. This joint meeting, based in Columbia, will have opportunities to learn about and link with members of the Northern Nut Growers Association and the Chestnut Growers of America. Likewise, many in those organizations will get to learn about the Walnut Council. Be sure hold **July 23-26 of 2023** and plan now to attend this joint annual meeting.

Leadership at the national and local levels are working to ensure Walnut Council has tours that emphasize walnut management and fine hardwood production. Additionally, there will be opportunities to see genetic research, performance of grafted trees, and nut production at the MU Horticulture and Agroforestry Research Farm.

Three final thoughts/questions:

- Do you have any ideas of Missouri made products that might make great auction items, or gifts, at the 2023 Annual Meeting? Feel free to email me if you do: WalterD@Missouri.edu
- Do you have any topics/ideas that would make good articles for the newsletter?
- Take a moment to be thankful – 'Tis the season for Thanksgiving! You might express this thankfulness by sending Bob Ball an appreciative email. He makes this newsletter happen and we all benefit. *Thank you Bob!*

Thanks Bob and Missouri Chapter Members. We have such a wealth of expertise and experience. Let's bring this to the table at the **2023 Annual Meeting of the Walnut Council**.

Stay healthy and celebrate life,

Dusty

Forestry Field Day

Bob Ball, Newsletter Editor

The Missouri Chapter Walnut Council held their fall forestry field day and business meeting *Saturday, October 29th, 2022, beginning at the Arrow Rock State Park Visitor Center.* This event was an opportunity to learn about and discuss woodland management topics with landowners, foresters, and industry representatives. Following a welcome, brief chapter business meeting and a slide presentation by Harlan Palm covering soil maps, pruning, culling, felling and herbicide applications at our tour sites, the 30 participants traveled to the *Jack Crumbaugh* walnut plantation, then enjoyed a box lunch prepared by the historic *J. Huston Tavern.* Following lunch, we traveled a short distance west of town to the *Whitney Kerr* walnut plantation for our afternoon program. These photos show some of our activities during the field day.



Martin Hummel, left, with Instructor, Matt Arndt, “**Matt’s Healthy Woods & Wildlife**” demonstrating the proper technique for notching a tree in directional felling.



A correctly planned and cut notch (left) allowed Matt Arndt to control the direction of fall with this black walnut tree being thinned out of the Whitney Kerr plantation. The tree came down safely without damaging nearby crop trees.

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](#).



Whitney Kerr, (blue sweater) landowner, provides the history of the Kerr family black walnut plantation.

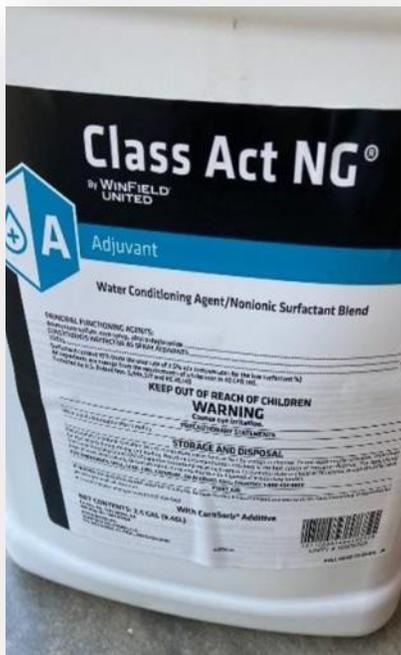
Matt Arndt, (pink shirt) discussed the criteria for selecting cull trees during thinning operations. Harlan Palm provided options for removing those trees from the stand.



Bob Ball (sun glasses) explains the importance of understanding the capabilities and limitations of your soils before deciding which species of trees to plant. See article on page 5.



Click on this link to view photos taken during our Forestry Field Day: <https://bobball.slickpic.com/albums/2022-11-01-2054/?wallpaper&viewer>



Boosting that Herbicide

Sara Jean Peters, Chapter Member

If you purchased agricultural chemicals this spring, you probably suffered from a severe case of sticker shock. How did you respond? We don't spray for the love of it...it's pretty much an essential function if you're going to produce a crop. I attended an MDC workshop this August which focused on controlling invasive plants. One speaker mentioned that using an ammonia sulfate adjuvant improved the effectiveness of the spray by tying up chemicals in the water which might interfere with the herbicide. I was in the process of spraying to control serecia, an invasive I've battled for years. No particular brand name was given and I found a carboy of what seemed to meet the description and mixed it with Pastureguard. I was amazed to see the serecia turning bright yellow just three days later. (See the photo below.)

What was even more amazing was that I had misread the dilution rate for Pastureguard and actually sprayed at one quarter of the prescribed rate.

Class Act (pictured) contains both ammonium sulfate and sugar, which also serves as a surfactant. The 2.5 gallon container cost \$35 and I used about a quart in my 15 gallon sprayer. There is yet another possible explanation as a botanist friend of mine informed me that she had been told the prescribed dilution rate was far in excess of what is actually needed to control serecia. If that is the case, it may be that using the recommended rate actually interferes with controlling this invasive. More is not better when using herbicides as you can top kill a plant before it has time to translocate the active chemical to the roots.

I burned the treated fields in August and will be interested to see if the kill viewed above ground is matched on the roots below next spring. It sure would be nice if, for a few dollars spent on the adjuvant, I could dramatically reduce what I spend on the high dollar chemical!

Editor's Note:

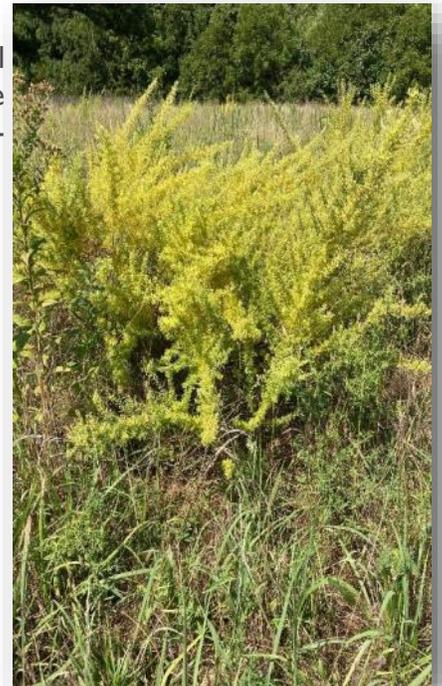
[ChemicalWarehouse.com](https://www.chemicalwarehouse.com) carries two similar products:

1. Novita AMS Plus is the closest to Class Act NG since it is an all-in-one product that addresses the hard water while also serving as a "non-ionic surfactant":

<https://www.chemicalwarehouse.com/products/novita-ams-a-plus>

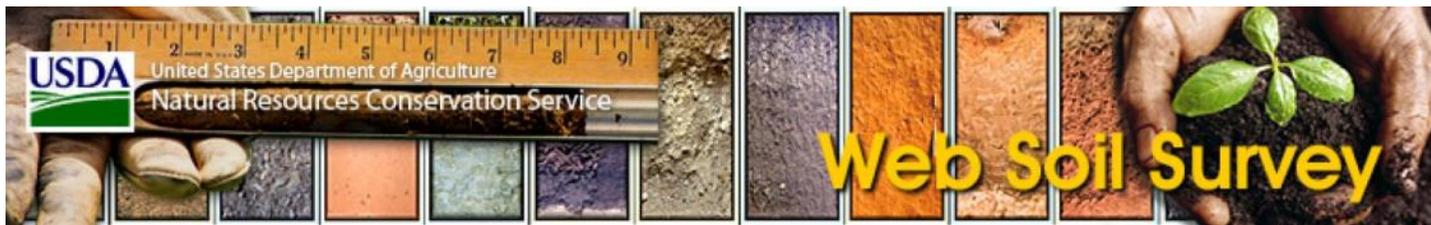
2. Their second product is Liquid AMS that addresses the hard water, but it is not a surfactant:

<https://www.chemicalwarehouse.com/products/liquid-ams>



Please send topics and ideas for future articles in the newsletter to Bob Ball at: bob_ballosu@hotmail.com

Photo by Sara Jean Peters of Serecia lespedeza sprayed with Pasturegard mixed with Class Act surfactant containing ammonium sulfate.



Black Walnut Suitability Index

Bob Ball with Doug Wallace, Members

Missouri is one of the few states with this suitability feature for black walnut included within Web Soil Survey. Web Soil Survey offers many other features to include printing your map products. Check out the **“Shopping Cart”** feature and generate a custom soil resource report.

White oak is being added as well. Note: Pop-Up blockers must be disabled to generate reports.

Steps in Using the NRCS’ Black Walnut Soil Suitability Index:

- Access the website via <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov>
- Click on green button **“Start WSS”**
- Under “Quick Navigation”, click “State and County” and complete
- Click “View” button
- Under “Area of Interest Interactive Map”, click on “Zoom In” button (magnifying lens with the plus symbol). Then, click the area you want to magnify or form a box around area you want to zoom into.
- Click the “hand-symbol button” and pan as needed.
- Click on the first “AOI” (Area of Interest) button that is on the toolbar just above the map and to the right of the blue “i”.
- Click on the “Soil Data Explorer” tab (near the top of screen).
- Find the yellow table in the left margin titled “Suitabilities and Limitations Ratings”. Near the lower left of that table, click on “Vegetative Productivity”.
- Click on “Black Walnut Suitability Index” (MO)”
- Click on “View Rating”
- After the map is made, note the soil map unit symbol numbers of interest where you intend to plant black walnut.
- Scroll down to find the “Summary by Map Unit” table. Search for your Map Unit Symbol, Map Unit Name, and Rating of suitability for walnut. Review additional information to the right and below.
- The six levels of suitability for growing walnut are: Very Well Suited; Well Suited; Moderately Suited, Somewhat Suited, Poorly Suited, and Unsuitable.
- If you want to change your “AOI”, click on the brown AOI tab at the upper left then pan the image to where you want. Click on “AOI” button and define your new area.

The smartphone **SoilWeb** app, available from **“Google Play”** can also give you the BWSI rating on the soil that you are standing on!

While there are 10 factors that go into the Black Walnut Suitability Index, only 3 carry the most weight and therefore have the most influence: **Depth, Texture and Available Water Capacity (AWC).**

Therefore, the deeper the soil the better; the less clay and sand the better; and the higher the AWC the better. There are also 4 critical factors that will make a soil unsuitable for walnut production and they include: **Soil depth less than 20 inches; Flooding duration in May more than 30 days; AWC less than 3 inches; and High water tables less than 6 inches from the surface.**

The BWS Index is just a rating and not a production value which is only as accurate as the soil mapping in the area in question. Onsite evaluations should be made before a final determination on where to plant.

Black Walnut Pruning Guide - Key Points

Bob Ball, Member

Proper pruning of young black walnut trees can potentially increase log value 10 to 20 -fold. Your pruning saw will have the greatest return on your investment over any other woodland management equipment you may purchase. Pruning hardwood trees is a lot of art based on fundamental science.

Pruning is like trading solar panels (leaves) for form (straightness). Pruning for form is trying to grow the highest quality log possible within each tree. With most trees achieving form may stop at the butt log if growth or form is not there for potential second and third logs. The primary objective is to develop a straight, single-stemmed tree with a solid trunk free of side branches up to 9 to 24 feet or more depending on site suitability for walnut.

Do NOT prune all trees in the plantation. Begin making cull tree decisions early in the life of the plantation and largely identify crop trees and cull trees during the pole timber stage of tree growth. Continue thinning out cull trees, as needed, until the stand is mature.

Seedlings (< 1 inch in diameter)

1. Resist unnecessary pruning the first couple years.
2. Prune only to develop a single straight central leader.

Saplings (1-3 inches in diameter at breast height, DBH)

1. Prune to maintain the single straight central leader.
2. If a fork exists, save the shoot that is most vertical. Assuming they are nearly identical, save the one that has a strong lateral branch underneath which will influence the remaining single leader to straighten up. One-year old leaders will straighten up considerably, but two or three-year old wood is too rigid to straighten very much. A splint can be taped to the leader to support and straighten a crooked leader, but this is time consuming.



Harlan Palm applies corrective pruning on this black walnut sapling by pruning from “the top down” to ensure the tree has a dominate central leader.

3. If a tree is hopelessly crooked, coppice or cut it off near ground level and start over. The root collar and strong root system will produce multiple sprouts the following season. After a couple of years, select the straightest and most erect sprout. Gradually, over time, eliminate the other sprouts.

[Continued on Page 7](#)

Continued from Page 6

Pole-Size Trees (3-6 inches DBH)

1. Continue pruning with the same techniques as indicated above. If a tree has never been pruned, prune so it has a single stem and remove the largest branches but limit pruning to no more than 1/3 of the crown area. To prevent tearing the bark down the tree, make an initial cut about 18” from the stem and then cut the stub off at the branch collar. Understand and use the 3-cut pruning technique when appropriate.
2. If the tree is hopelessly crooked, coppice and start over.
3. If planted or volunteer walnut trees are densely populated, start selecting which ones are the best, and spend time on only those that are 25 to 35 feet apart so there is ample space for crown development.

For additional information about proper hardwood pruning techniques, visit our chapter website and scroll down to the section titled:

[Pruning Articles.](#)

Objectives of Pruning Hardwoods **Harlan Palm, Member**

The growth rate of the terminal leader largely indicates whether the site is a well-suited or very well-suited site. On sites undergoing natural reforestation, as well as in plantations, pruning is all about managing the competition. Control what populates the site by helping walnut, oak and whatever else you feel has potential value in the future. Focus on sites still in the formative stage where you can influence the composition by favoring certain species and individual trees by their superior quality. For fast growing sites, the period-of-time you can influence the composition is about **8-12 years**.



Pole pruners (either manual or power units) are needed to reach higher limbs to be removed. Here, a two-cut method is used to drop the bulk of the limb followed by a second cut just outside the “branch collar”. Pruning cuts will soon compartmentalize over and heal the wound. Ideally, remove limbs no larger than 1.5” in diameter with a goal of pruning smaller limbs.



NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Our new website is designed for you – the farmers, ranchers and forest landowners who use NRCS conservation programs, and our partners *who help us deliver the conservation mission*. Click [here](#) to view NRCS’s new website.

Deer Protection Spray Recipe

Skip Easter, Consulting Forester, Member

Missouri Chapter member and Consulting Forester, Skip Easter, mentioned a “deer protection spray” recipe during the recent Walnut Council annual meeting in Carbondale, IL at Southern Illinois University. I am passing along her discovered recipe.

This recipe was recommended to her at the June 10, 2022, Ozark Chinquapin Foundation meeting in Fayetteville, Arkansas. They use it on and around new plantings of Ozark Chinquapin seedlings...even though the seedlings may be protected with tree shelters.

- ⇒ 1 gallon of water
- ⇒ 1 Tbsp. Ground Garlic
- ⇒ 1 tsp. Ground Cayenne Pepper
- ⇒ 1 Tbsp. Chili Powder
- ⇒ 10 drops of Peppermint Essential Oil or Young Living Oil

Heat the ingredients in a sauce pan then let them settle. Pour the contents through cheesecloth to strain. Pour the strained liquid into a spray bottle and head to the field!

Forest Taxes

Andrew Bosserman, CPA

Forest landowners must understand the differences between IRC 631(a) and 631(b) to avoid jeopardizing their capital gain tax treatment.

Why it matters: Forest landowners, even those that operate their forestland as a business, can qualify for capital gain treatment. Capital gain treatment results in **significantly lower taxes on timber sales** than if timber sales are taxed as ordinary income. IRC 631 includes two sections that affect forest landowners: 631(a) & 631(b).

To qualify for capital gain treatment, **forest landowners must ensure they follow all requirements under the applicable section.**

Find out the details by reading my latest article: [Q&A: IRC 631\(a\) vs 631\(b\)](#)

Help Grow Our Membership!

Our nearly 150 Missouri Chapter members take pride in informing and educating woodland landowners, but the leaders of the chapter cannot be everywhere all the time. 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 . You can provide us with their contact information by sending an email to:

mowalnutcouncil@gmail.com

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