



## A Word from the President: Dennis Evans



Yogi Berra, the famous St. Louis, Missouri native and former New York Yankee catcher, once said, “It’s like Deja-vu all over again”. *I’m excited to once again be your Missouri Chapter Walnut Council President.* Past President, Dusty Walter, did an outstanding job during his two-year term and the mark has been set high for me.

2023 will be an exciting year to be a Missouri Chapter member. *The Walnut Council annual meeting will be held in Columbia July 23 through July 26.* I can assure you it will be a great event. One our chapter can be proud of co-hosting with the *National Nut Growers Association and the Chestnut Growers Association.*

Our *Chapter fall meeting will be held October 14, 2023,* at the Jim and Schatzi Ball “*Black Oak Ranch*” tree farm near Braymer, Missouri, in Caldwell County. Jim is our Chapter Northwest Missouri Landowner Representative. They are offering us the opportunity to view and discuss several interesting forest, wildlife, wildflower and water management projects on their 800 acre tree farm. Our hosts have previously been *Missouri and Regional Tree Farmers of the Year.*

In my opinion, what makes the Missouri Chapter of the Walnut Council a great organization is the number of people who are working in the peripheral to ensure you are represented on the various Walnut Council forestry related committees planning annual meetings and Chapter field days workshops, and other information and education activities.

Bob Ball spends hours writing and publishing our newsletter and Facebook page and generally keeping us informed of the latest news that affects our forest. Bob cannot do this by himself. He needs your suggestions for potential articles or postings to include photos that illustrate key points supporting these articles.

We frequently ask our agency, industry and private professional forester members about current timber prices and trends of the market. I would like to have a segment in our newsletters on the timber market. Please feel free to share any information that you have with Bob about timber sales.

We will also try to incorporate wildlife habitat management into the field days and technical articles. Wildlife is one of the major reasons why we own a forest. Wildlife is much more to us than a species with a hunting season.

Our chapter currently has 136 regular, life, and student members. *I encourage you to help me grow our membership* by inviting fellow woodland landowners, forest resources specialists and those representing the forest industries to join Walnut Council by this July and participate in this coming annual meeting. Go to [www.WalnutCouncil.org](http://www.WalnutCouncil.org) and click on **Join** for details.

A special “Thanks” to member *Paul Heggemann in Jonesburg for volunteering to serve as our NE Regional Landowner Representative!*

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any suggestions for improving our Chapter.

Thanks,  
*Dennis Evans*

# Missouri Chapter Spring Planning Meeting

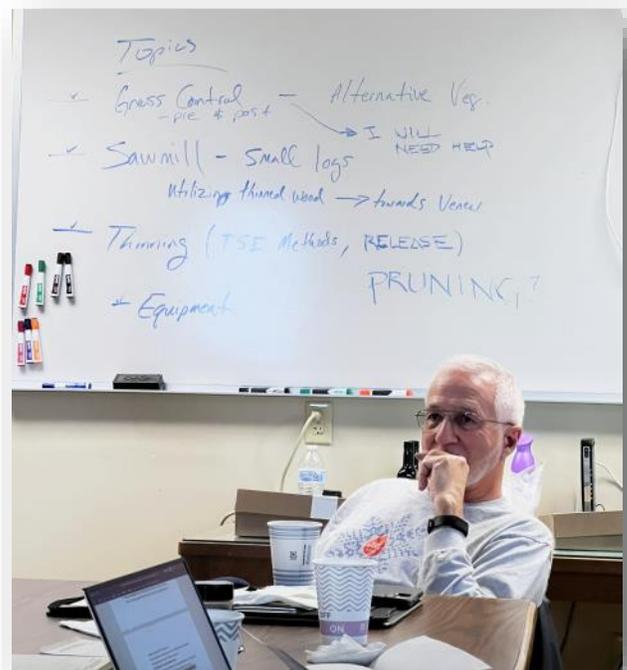
Dennis Evans, President and Dusty Walter, Past-President



**Planning Meeting Participants: Hank Stelzer, Jim Ball, Paul Heggemann, Doug Butler, Fred Crouse, Mike Trial, Harlan Palm, Dusty Walter, John Buchannan, and Dennis Evans.**

Although numbers of attendees were limited the ideas were prolific! Attendees at our spring planning meeting hammered out ideas for the summer annual meeting as well as the Chapter field day and a few administrative details including exchanging the President's gavel from Dusty to Dennis.

**Photo Right:** Hank Stelzer, University of Missouri Extension Forester, ponders ideas from the group displayed on the white board for topics to be featured during the Walnut Council annual meeting forestry field trip at the Mike Trial tree farm.



## 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](#).

# ***Missouri Chapter – Walnut Council Leadership 2023 - 2025***

## **Executive Council**

President - Dennis Evans  
President-Elect - Vacant  
Treasurer - Fred Crouse  
Secretary - Doug Butler  
Immediate Past-President - Dusty Walter

## **Regional Landowner Representatives**

NE Region – Paul Heggemann  
SE Region – Vacant  
SW Region – Matt Renkoski  
NW Region – Jim Ball

**Newsletter & Facebook Editor** – Bob Ball

**Primary Contact on Invasive Forest Pests & Diseases** – Harlan Palm

**Advocacy Committee Chairman** – Jim Ball

## **Key Tasks of the President:**

- Lead the Chapter in accordance with our By-Laws, current goals of the Executive Committee and the needs of Chapter members
- Appoint a Nominating Committee and take appropriate steps to fill vacant officer positions
- Keep in touch with Chapter members to ensure their reasons for membership are met
- Plan and conduct annual spring and fall educational events
- Represent the Chapter, or appoint representatives, to attend:
  - Walnut Council Board Meetings
  - Key meetings of our Missouri forest resource partners.
- Distribute a quarterly newsletter to our members and others
- Maintain our Facebook page
- Ensure our members have access to technical articles, webinars or workshops as appropriate
- Ensure those benefits listed in the membership brochure are available to members:
  - *Green Horizons* electronic newsletters are forwarded to our members
  - Herbicide sales
  - Support Affiliate Memberships
- Keep in touch with the Missouri members of the *American Walnut Manufactures Association*
- Continue to promote and carryout the “*Missouri Black Walnut Initiative*”
- *Grow our Chapter Membership!*

## **Help Grow Our Membership!**

Our nearly 140 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](mailto:mowalnutcouncil@gmail.com)

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

# Late Winter Tent Caterpillar Management

Melinda Myers, Columnist

Start this year's pest control with a stroll through the landscape. As you enjoy the scenery, be sure to look for any unwelcome pests that may be overwintering on the twigs of your young trees.

Look for and remove egg masses of tent caterpillars now through spring. These clusters of eggs remind me of small shiny blobs of mud surrounding the twigs. Each egg mass contains hundreds and in some cases thousands of eggs. The forest tent caterpillar is the most widely distributed tent caterpillar. It attacks a variety of trees within the region. Check sugar maples, aspen, cherries, apples, oaks, birch, ash, alder, elm, or basswood trees growing on your tree farm.

Trees may suffer damage when large populations of these caterpillars devour the majority of the tree's leaves for several years in a row. This can result in reduced tree growth, top dieback, and tree mortality. There are several natural predators of this insect pest so working with nature is a great way to help reduce damage. Remove the egg masses found on small twigs that are more easily reached on smaller trees. After the eggs hatch, look for the caterpillars in a silken mat, not a tent like the other tent caterpillars. Remove the young caterpillars from branch tips or squash those resting on the main stem in the evening or on cool days.

You may also see similar egg masses of the Western or **Eastern tent caterpillars** depending on where you live. Their egg masses look similar to those of the forest tent caterpillar. Remove the egg masses of these tent caterpillars in the spring before the eggs hatch. Once the eggs hatch, the caterpillars begin forming a webby tent in the crotch of the tree. As they feed and grow the tent expands. They remain in the tent during the hot part of the day and rainy weather.

Knock the tents, caterpillars and all, out of the tree when the majority of caterpillars are in the tent. Smash or dump the caterpillars in a can of soapy water. Do not burn the tents. This old practice is hazardous and the fire can severely damage the tree, much worse than the insects.

Control is usually not needed on healthy and established trees. If you decide to intervene, consider using an **organic insecticide with the active ingredient *Bacillus thuringiensis var. kurstaki* (Btk)**. It is effective when applied to the tents soon after they start to form and when the caterpillars are small. Just spray the tent and the surrounding 1.5 feet of leaves. These products only kill caterpillars and will not harm other insects or birds feeding on the pests.

When working with nature, we have help from predatory insects and songbirds when managing these and other garden pests. Taking time now for a bit of prevention can go a long way in reducing damage from tent caterpillars.

**Melinda Myers** has written more than 20 gardening books, including the recently released *Midwest Gardener's Handbook, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition* and *Small Space Gardening*. She hosts *The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything"* instant video and DVD series and the nationally syndicated *Melinda's Garden Moment* TV & radio program.



Eastern tent caterpillars

## Missouri Invasive Forest Pests Committee (MIFPC) Meeting

Robbie Doerhoff, Forest Entomologist, MDC

A virtual meeting of the Missouri Invasive Forest Pests Committee was held recently covering several timely topics of interest to woodland landowners. Missouri Chapter Walnut Council who have participated on this committee include: Harlan Palm, Sara Jean Peters, Jim Ball, and Bob Ball.

The agenda included the following topics and presenters:

- **Emerald Ash Borer** - Collin Wamsley
- **Spongy Moth** - Rosalee Knipp
- **Thousand Cankers Disease** - Rosalee Knipp
- **Laurel Wilt, Asian Longhorned Beetle, & other new threats** - Robbie Doerhoff
- **2022 Early Detection, Rapid Response Survey Results** - Robbie Doerhoff
- **The Next Big Thing – Spotted Lanternfly** - Sarah Phipps
- **Forest Pest Outreach Efforts** - Sarah Phipps



Spotted Lanternfly

For those of you unable to attend, here is a link to the Team's recording: <https://youtu.be/sjujMkLM3Ik>

I am happy to provide PDFs of slides upon request (the files are too big to send in one email!). If you have any questions about the material presented, please don't hesitate to contact the speakers directly:

**Collin Wamsley**, State Entomologist at the MO Dept. of Agriculture: [Collin.Wamsley@mda.mo.gov](mailto:Collin.Wamsley@mda.mo.gov)

**Sarah Phipps**, State Survey Coordinator at the MO Dept. of Agriculture: [Sarah.Phipps@mda.mo.gov](mailto:Sarah.Phipps@mda.mo.gov)

**Rosalee Knipp**, Forest Pest Program coordinator at the MO Dept. of Agriculture:

[Rosalee.Knipp@mda.mo.gov](mailto:Rosalee.Knipp@mda.mo.gov)

**Robbie Doerhoff**, Forest Entomologist at the MO Dept. of Conservation: [Robbie.Doerhoff@mdc.mo.gov](mailto:Robbie.Doerhoff@mdc.mo.gov)

The Missouri Department of Conservation has posted several **forest pest surveyor jobs** mentioned during the meeting. Please spread the word that we are looking for summer help! A PDF file of those announcements can be provided upon request.

If you are interested in other forest health events across the state, the [2022 Missouri Forest Health Highlights](#) document is now available on the MDC website: [Forest Health News | Missouri Department of Conservation \(mo.gov\)](#)



Asian Longhorned Beetle



Emerald Ash Borer



## 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.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



### Missouri Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Announces Additional Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) Funding

**COLUMBIA, Mo., March 21, 2023** – Missouri NRCS has received additional Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) funding through the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) providing more opportunities for agricultural producers and **forest landowners** to participate in CSP. The CSP IRA funds will support implementation of climate-smart activities.

“With the addition of IRA funding, we look forward to providing greater opportunities to address the unmet demand from producers who have sought funding for climate-smart conservation activities in Missouri,” said Scott Edwards, Missouri NRCS State Conservationist.

Targeted CSP IRA funds will provide direct climate-mitigation benefits and will expand access to financial and technical assistance for producers to advance conservation **on their farm or forest land** through practices like cover cropping, conservation tillage, prescribed grazing, nutrient management, **tree planting and more**.

NRCS accepts producer applications for its conservation programs year-round. Program funding cutoff dates for the **FY 2023 voluntary CSP Classic programs offered through Missouri NRCS** are as follows:

- CSP- IRA Classic: April 21, 2023, and June 9, 2023
- CSP-Classic: April 21, 2023, and June 9, 2023

CSP funding is provided through a competitive process. Producers can submit applications at local NRCS offices. NRCS also offers free technical assistance to all Missouri residents.

For more information about NRCS programs and assistance, visit the [www.mo.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.mo.nrcs.usda.gov) or contact the NRCS service office serving your county. NRCS employees in county offices can provide more information about how to apply for benefits offered by NRCS.

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