

November 2, 2009

To the Wisconsin Walnut Council Members:

The year is fast coming to an end and it is time to prepare for 2010!

At this time of year it is customary to send out an invitation asking all of the Wisconsin Walnut Council (WWC) members to consider running for election to the WWC Board of Directors. Whether you're an old or new member or a member that has been on the board before we invite you to send a paragraph or biography of yourself that would support you as candidate to become a WWC board member. Send your biography to the WWC Secretary, Paul Kloppenburg via email, Paul.Kloppenburg@wisconsin.gov, or just send a reply to this letter by November 25. Once we have this information we will have another mailing and we will ask the membership to vote on the various candidates. The three with the highest number of votes will be the new board members. The usual custom is to serve for three years, and each new member will have the opportunity to serve on one of our committees. Those that go off of the board will have the opportunity to stay on as "advisors to the board". The new members will start their term with our January, 2010 meeting.

The past year has been a busy year for Wisconsin Walnut Council. Our members have been at a number of events with our WWC tri-fold which explains the mission of the WWC. We have gained a number of new members, and are always looking for more. Experience has shown that WWC members have the best luck recruiting new members when they make contact with individual woodland owners. Only Illinois was able to add one more new membership to their ranks than Wisconsin.

We had two very good field days this year that were fun, informative and well attended. Our spring field day at Al Goetch's walnut farm allowed us the opportunity to see one of the finest collections of older and huge black walnut trees that were a sight to behold. Many of them were large and very well formed and of excellent veneer quality. Al also has many other trees in all stages of development that have been very well cared for. Our fall field day was at the black walnut wood lot of Hans Morsbach. We had the opportunity to view some walnut trees that were planted in well spaced rows, and also had the opportunity to see walnut trees that were densely planted. We also had the opportunity to view Han's wood working shop and total wood processing capability.

Larry Severeid is the chair for the 2011 National Walnut Council meeting that will be held in the Madison Wisconsin area. The past meeting was in Indiana and next years meeting will be in Michigan. These meetings are informative and fun. The 2011 meeting will be the year for the "academic year", and Larry has already lined up an excellent program. The last meeting that Larry chaired was at Lacrosse and set the all time attendance record for the National Black Walnut Council meetings. We will be asking for volunteers from the WWC to help out with our 2011 Wisconsin meeting.

Larry also continues to be involved with the tree improvement program to include his work with butternuts and chestnuts. Hopefully, the present stock of trees that he is working with will be resistant to the disease conditions that have caused many of them die.

Our WWC members involved with the website have been busy in an attempt to provide a better service to our members, future members, and anyone interested black walnut and other hardwood trees. We invite comments and suggestions from the membership to provide interested people with information relative to black walnut and other fine hardwood trees. We are also inviting short articles and pictures from our membership that we can post on our website. We are also considering a newsletter, but our National Walnut Council bulletin serves as an excellent newsletter.

Don Nichols has been working with the marketing aspect of the black walnut and wrote an excellent paper that is posted on the WWOA website. He makes the case that trees should be allowed to reach the larger diameters before we consider selling them. This is a very informative piece and I highly recommend reading this if contemplating a harvest of black walnut trees.

We are not a political group but a number of our WWC members wearing their WWOA hats have been involved with legislative hearings and conferences that relate to changes in the Managed Forest Law (MFL) which certainly affects all of us. This has been done on both a state and national level.

We are at the moment looking for field day sites for our future field days. If you have a tree farm or walnut tree program that you would like to share with us, we are always looking for future sites.

The recently described black walnut tree disease, the 1000 canker disease has been of great interest, if not anxiety in all black walnut tree growers across the county to include the Midwest. A number of us will be attending the special conference in St Louis on this topic. Much information on this condition will be distributed to our membership through our conferences and publication as time goes on.

Our treasurer reports that our funds are remaining constant in the vicinity of \$5500 despite the economic slow down. We appreciate your paying your dues in a timely fashion and we will do everything possible to make your effort worth while. We have also have heard from the black walnut tree buyers, that large trees with veneer quality are in demand at the present time.

Thank you very much for continuing your membership with the WWC and we are looking for bigger and better things in the future for our organization.

John J Ouellette, President of the WWC.

PLEASE SEND your biography either by email to Paul.Kloppenborg@wisconsin.gov or mail it to me by **NOVEMBER 25, 2009**:

Paul Kloppenburg-WDNR Sauk County Forester
505 Broadway, Room 202
Baraboo, WI 53913

My office phone number is (608) 355-4476

**ALSO, FOR FUTURE MAILINGS, IT SAVES TIME AND MONEY TO SEND VIA EMAIL.
PLEASE SEND ME YOUR CURRENT EMAIL ADDRESS, HOME ADDRESS AND PHONE
NUMBERS.**