

GREEN HORIZONS

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Growing Tomorrow's Future Today

Summer 2007

How Clear is Your Vision?

Kirk Fine and David Watson, Financial Planners
and Missouri Tree Farmers

We have all heard the phrase – “He can’t see the forest for the trees.” It describes someone who does not visualize the big picture. He can only see the trees immediately in front of him, not the way through the woods. Ironically, this is often true of forestland owners with respect to their long-term planning.

Woodland owners are often so focused on the day-to-day tasks of managing their forest – timber stand improvement (TSI),



pruning, tree planting, timber sales (the fun stuff) – they often do not have a clear vision of where they want to take their property in the long run. As important as activities such as TSI are to the future of our

woodlands, it may be more important to have a crystal clear picture of what we are building during our lifetimes, and after. We wouldn’t begin a long trip without a clear idea of where we want to go, and we shouldn’t manage our woodlands that way either... A vision statement is the answer.

A vision statement should be a statement about our dreams. It should capture the essence of our desire for the woodlands that are so important to us. It should be clear and concise. A vision statement does NOT contain specific objectives or strategies nor does it tell how we are going to get there. It simply states where we want to go. It defines why we are in this business, or why we own this woodland. A vision statement becomes a compass.

Examples of a properly designed vision statement could be:

- *To provide hunting and recreational opportunities to our children and their families;*

- *To maximize the long-term revenue potential of the timber resources for current and future generations of our family;*
- *To grow and harvest high-quality black walnut timber in a sustainable manner.*

A properly constructed vision statement should frame the owner’s ultimate goal for the benefit of anyone (**cont. pg. 2**)

Process Has Begun to Revise the Missouri State Forestry Law

Steve Westin

The State Forestry Law was enacted in 1946 as a way to increase the quality of Missouri’s private forests by encouraging management assistance and protection from wildfire. The centerpiece of the State Forestry Law is the Forest Crop Land (FCL) program. Timber tracts larger than 20 acres, valued at no more than \$400 per acre, are eligible for classification as FCL for 25 years. To help landowners partially defer property tax payments, qualifying lands are assessed at a valuation of \$3 per acre. To make up for the loss of tax revenue, the Conservation Department makes an annual payment in lieu of taxes to the counties where Forest Crop Land is located. Landowners are obligated to pay a 6 percent yield tax back to MDC at harvest. But, (**cont. pg. 9**)

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Your Vision (cont. from pg. 1)

making decisions regarding the tree farm now, or in the future. It is the beginning of the blueprint for the operating decisions, as well as the estate planning decisions, later on.

Once a vision statement is in place, goals can be identified. For example, a goal for our vision of maximizing the long-term revenue potential of the timber resources could be:

- *To implement timber management practices that produce sustainable long-term revenues.*

As we become more focused, specific objectives flow easily:

- *Conduct a timber inventory this winter;*
- *Conduct TSI on stands 1, 2 and 3 next year;*
- *Conduct a professionally managed timber sale on stands 4 and 5 in the next five years;*
- *Establish a properly designed trust to manage the farm when we are unable to do so.*

The real value of a vision statement is that it provides a roadmap for the woodland owner when he/she is faced with



complex and difficult decisions. For instance, suppose a husband and wife own 400 acres of prime timberland, which they have managed with care for decades. They want to pass their land, intact, to their three children and grandchildren. When they sit down with their advisory team (CPA, attorney and financial adviser) to make estate plans regarding their tree farm, they may be presented with a confusing array of choices regarding estate taxes, gifting, trust provisions, insurance, easements

and the like. These choices can be complicated, and seemingly contradictory.

It would be easy for this couple to lose their way, unless they are able to keep their eye on the big picture – on what is most important to them. In other words, it would be easy to get lost in the forest, by focusing only on the trees! However, a properly designed vision statement could provide the high-altitude perspective they need to stay on track. It should keep them focused on the ultimate goal, and allow them to sort through the various choices in front of them, selecting the ones that best accomplish their vision.

Hundreds of thousands of acres in this state alone are destined to change hands in the next two decades as the current generation of owners ages and needs to hand the reigns over to the next generation of their family. (cont. pg. 9)

From 'hobby tree' to serious orchard crop

Rachel McCoy, University of Missouri
Center for Agroforestry



Most Missourians have either stooped to collect black walnuts from the woods, or know someone who has taken on this task.

The rich, hard-husked nuts are often collected by hand and delivered to various hulling stations across the state under the management of Hammons Products Company, Stockton, Mo. – the largest processor and supplier of eastern black walnuts for both food and industrial uses in the U.S.

Black walnut enthusiasts may make fewer trips to the woods for nut harvesting in coming years, thanks to a new guide developed by the University of Missouri Center for Agroforestry. While black walnut trees can be grown for timber and/or nut production, the focus of the guide is toward planting, managing and harvesting top-quality black walnut nuts for sale at the retail or wholesale level from an orchard practice, similar to pecan and other nut trees. Titled "Growing Black Walnut for Nut Production," the guide is a collaborative effort of the nut tree research cluster at the Center for Agroforestry and the nut research program of Kansas State University. It is the only one of its kind published in the U.S. and represents a decade of research on growing black walnut trees in an orchard practice.

"Black walnut has always been recognized as one of Missouri's most valuable timber species. With the application of knowledge from this guide, black walnut may soon become known as one of our most valuable orchard species," said Gene Garrett, director, University of Missouri Center for Agroforestry.

The guide offers sections on

- *Nut production vs. wood production*
- *Setting goals for the orchard*
- *Site and cultivar selection*
- *Orchard design*
- *Transplanting walnut trees*
- *Harvest*
- *Marketing nuts*

"Growing Black Walnut for Nut Production" is part of the Center's Agroforestry in Action series, and can be downloaded, printed or ordered from: www.centerforagroforestry.org, Publications link. The guide is also available through MU Extension, publication #AF 1011, by calling (800) 292-0969; or order online from: <http://extension.missouri.edu/explore/agguides/agroforestry>.

Effort Begins to Form a Missouri Woodland Owners Association

MU Forestry Extension, with the help of the Missouri Department of Conservation's Forestry Division, has begun an effort to form a Missouri Woodland Owners Association. Nearly all Midwestern states (IL, IN, MI, MN, OH and WI) have such an organization in place, some of which are quite structured while others are loose associations. Several individual forestland owners here in Missouri, as well as individuals in various organizations and state agencies, have expressed similar desires in seeing an association form.

The proposed association would be for both owners and supporters of Missouri's family forests. Its primary mission would be to encourage sustained forest management on Missouri's 350,000+ family-owned forests. All Missouri Woodland Owners Association (MWOA) members would become members of the National Woodland Owners Association (NWOA) at no additional cost and receive the NWOA's quarterly National Woodlands magazine. For more information about NWOA, go online www.woodlandowners.org.

MWOA would not necessarily be affiliated with existing forestry-related groups, such as Tree Farm, Walnut Council and Forestkeepers.

In an effort to collect more data, we ask our [Green Horizon](#) subscribers who own land in Missouri to fill out the following survey and send it back to us. We will present the results of the survey in the next issue of [GH](#) along with our future plans.

On a scale of **1 (not interested)** to **4 (very interested)**, please indicate your level of interest to each of the following questions.

- | | | | | |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1. What services would you expect from a state woodland owners association? | | | | |
| <i>Periodic newsletters</i> | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| <i>Regional field days / workshops</i> | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| <i>Annual state conference</i> | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| <i>Hands-on training opportunities</i> | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| <i>Coordinate coop workdays where neighbor helps neighbor with activities like tree planting, TSI, etc.</i> | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| <i>Representing your interests in Jefferson City</i> | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 2. If the association provided the information or services you identified above, would you be interested in joining? | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 3. In your opinion, what would be a fair annual state membership fee? | \$20 | \$30 | \$40 | \$50 |
| 4. Would you be interested in a family rate? | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5. Would you become a full-fledged member of NWOA? | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

The \$45 annual National NWOA dues would be in addition to any state association dues, but would entitle you to these additional benefits: subscription to National Forestry magazine, Woodlands Report newsletters, hunter and vacant land liability insurance group rates, and representation in Washington, D.C.

Community Forestry - Do We Need Trees Lining Our Streets?

Trees Forever

If you've attended your community Fourth of July parade or an outdoor music festival on a hot, sunny summer day, you've probably noticed where the most popular viewing spots are – under the trees! People cluster in the shade, while sites with equally good views, but in the bright sun, remain unused. It's the trees that make the difference!

Small towns and large cities across Iowa are becoming increasingly aware of the importance of the public landscape. Street trees – that is, trees that are planted in the space between the sidewalk and the street curb – benefit people and communities in many ways. Street trees can greatly enhance the look of a town: residential tree-lined streets are very appealing visually. The benefits of trees that we enjoy in our private yards – the shade, cooling effects, and increased wildlife habitat – can be extended to a more public venue with the planting of street trees.

Recent trends seem to indicate a decline in the number of street trees in many communities. “We’re seeing fewer trees along streets, and are concerned with the number of communities that are actually banning street trees,” said Trees Forever President and CEO Shannon Ramsay. “The long-term effects will surely be less attractive communities with less shade and poorer air quality.”

The planting of street trees certainly can raise some challenges, since they are usually located on public property and are often subject to local ordinances. Concerns that trees may interfere with utilities, block views of traffic, or have other potentially undesirable consequences have caused many communities to restrict the planting of street trees. To deal with the issues involved in balancing the benefits of trees against these potential problems, many communities have established tree boards to help manage the planting of street trees.

The benefits of street trees are certainly not restricted to residential areas. Downtown business districts can enjoy reduced noise, heat, and pollutants with trees planted strategically along sidewalks. Trees in business districts also have been shown to improve business. Research by Dr. Kathleen Wolf of the Center for Urban Horticulture with the University of Washington has indicated that consumers will spend more time shopping in an urban-forested area, and will spend more money, than those customers making purchases in areas without tree-lined streets. Even though business owners may see drawbacks of having trees in front of their stores – messy leaves, roosting birds, etc. – those potential problems are actually offset by the added aesthetic and emotional appeal to the consumer.

Whether in busy shopping districts or quiet residential neighborhoods, street trees can beautify our surroundings as they benefit the environment. Encourage them in your community!

When planting street trees keep these points in mind:

- *At maturity, the tree should not interfere with overhead utility lines, underground sewers, lighting, or street traffic.*
- *Any unusual maintenance problems, such as messy fruit, should be addressed.*
- *To guard against the potential disaster of having an entire street of trees wiped out (such as when Dutch elm disease ravaged many Midwestern towns in the 1960s), street tree plantings should ideally be comprised of a diversity of species. Lists of recommended species for your area are available from your university extension office.*
- *Minimize problems by choosing species that are durable, placing them in appropriate spots, and providing necessary maintenance on an ongoing basis. GH*

Simple techniques for efficient landscaping: Watering

Sue Winegarden, horticulturist and Trees Forever Cedar Rapids volunteer

Q: How much water do your trees and shrubs really need?

A: I recommend about one inch of water per week. When in doubt, feel the soil for moisture one inch below the surface. If it's dry you'll need to water. Also, on repeated days of high heat and wind, if you notice your new plantings are wilting, listen to them (they're telling you that they're really thirsty) and give them a drink.

Q: How often should they be watered?

A: Generally once a week. Less often in the rainy season, and possibly more often in the dog days of summer.

Q: What are some efficient watering tips?

A: It always helps to place some sort of measuring device near your tree or shrub when you water. It can be as simple as a tin can. I use a rain gauge. Once you know how long it takes your hose to fill the gauge to the one inch level, you can set a timer on your hose so it will turn off at the proper time even if you have to leave.

Promising 'New' Green Technology... or A Tree by Any Other Name

It is with great enthusiasm that I bring to the attention of this forum wonderful news of a technology that I believe may prove to be a primary contributor to the search for long term sustainable energies. While I cannot yet understand or describe this technology in precise detail, on the surface at least, it appears to promise to surpass even the potentials of high-temperature depolymerization and cold fusion.

While some understanding and attempts to utilize this technology are relatively new, its basic principles are ancient. In essence, it relies upon a remarkably complex inter-connection of physics, chemistry and geometry that uses the sun's energy to photo-electrochemically break apart molecules of water and carbon dioxide. It then combines the resulting hydrogen and carbon to produce a myriad of hydrocarbons. The technology combines some of these hydrocarbons to form solids of such great dimensions and strength that they may be used to build sizable architectural structures. Other uses for the hydrocarbons may be found in the manufacture of plastics, adhesives, foods, medicines, solid, liquid and gaseous fuels, and countless other products. Surprisingly, the technology derives its carbon dioxide directly from the air, then releases excess oxygen back into the air.

Certainly, the most remarkable feature of this technology is the advanced development of pre-programmed controls that permit it to build copies of itself, much like a CNC lathe which can be programmed to totally reproduce itself, complete with programming. The structure it builds automatically repairs itself if damaged and thus requires very little maintenance. This structure forms a rigid framework shaped to hold a multitude of solar cells in such a manor as to efficiently collect sunlight, search for the carbon dioxide. It also builds and, if necessary, replaces its solar cells. These cells and, indeed, the entire structure are totally biodegradable.

Admittedly, the support structures are tall and do impose themselves upon the landscape, a bit like windmills. But this may at least be partially forgiven, for in fact, some people find them to be somewhat aesthetically pleasing. In large groupings, they do take up a lot of space, but it can be shown that these groupings can be arranged to actually modify local climates, reducing the extremes of wind, temperature, humidity, and even precipitation. Of particular interest to stovers should be the welcome news that these structures collect and store great quantities of chemical energy that can be released as heat and light when burned. One last, and perhaps most important observation is that this appears to be a technology that promises to be truly long-term sustainable.

Cryptically yours,

Dick Boyt

**Pottershop Hollow Tree Farm
Neosho, MO**



5th Annual Missouri Chestnut Roast

Saturday, October 13, 2007

**Horticulture and Agroforestry
Research Center, New Franklin, Mo.**

10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Free admission

Assistance Dogs Allowed - No Pets

Most activities held inside tents, for comfort rain or shine

- Guided tours of the Horticulture and Agroforestry Research Center
- Educational booths and presentations from Missouri value-added agriculture vendors and University agricultural and environmental research programs
- Showcase for Missouri's outstanding agricultural products including pecan, black walnut, hickory, and chestnut products; locally produced honey; cheeses and meats; wines and beers. Free tasting samples in many booths.
- Free fresh-roasted chestnut samples; fresh chestnuts and potted chestnut trees for sale; native plants and seed packets
- Children's activity area with crafts, storytelling, face painting, straw bale maze
- Live music from Ironweed Bluegrass Band
- Cooking demonstrations by local gourmet chefs featuring Missouri chestnuts.....and more

**For additional information, including driving directions
and a detailed event schedule (available in Oct.), visit:**

www.centerforagroforestry.org

Emerald Ash Borer Found in PA

Hank Stelzer, Extension Forester

Added Pennsylvania to the emerald ash borer's (EAB) hit list. On June 21, 2007, EAB was detected for the first time in western PA by two USDA APHIS surveyors. They collected two adults using a sweep net while conducting visual surveys that are part of the joint EAB taskforce detection effort. State and federal officials are currently working to intensify surveys near the detection site to determine the extent and severity of the infestation.

To date there have been NO confirmed reports of EAB in Missouri.

But, with the vacation season in full swing remember that the transportation of infested firewood has been linked to the long-distance spread of this serious pest. Help prevent the spread of emerald ash borers by buying local firewood when camping, and burning all wood onsite during your stay. If you go camping outside Missouri DO NOT bring any firewood back with you.

If you think you might have an emerald ash borer infestation, collect a sample by trapping the insect in a zippered plastic bag. Place the bag in the freezer for several days to kill the insect, then mail the sample in a sturdy container (35mm film

canisters or empty pill bottles work well) to one of the addresses below. Be sure to include your contact information and the date and location where you captured the sample.

Rob Lawrence

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Missouri Department of Conservation
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Columbia, MO 65201
Phone: (573) 882-9909 ext. 3303
E-mail: robert.lawrence@mdc.mo.gov

Michael Brown

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Phone: (573) 751-5505
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Images, from top: Relative size of adult emerald ash borer. EAB larval galleries underneath bark. "D-shaped" emergence hole of adult.



The Bid Box

(All volumes reported in Doyle Scale)

Callaway County

- 120 acres
- 946 trees
- Estimated volume: 160,880 bd.ft. (40% white oak)
- Consulting forester valued the sale at \$33,000
- **3 bids received**
 - o \$21,690
 - o \$34,000
 - o \$37,570
- **Return: \$313 per acre**

Saline County

- 30 acres
- 231 trees; 53 walnut and 178 mixed species trees (7,400 bd.ft.)
- Estimated volume: 49,420 bd.ft. (walnut 7,400 bd.ft.; mixed hardwood trees 42,020 bd.ft.)
- Consulting forester valued the sale at \$13,300
- **3 bids**
 - o \$11,000
 - o \$12,250
 - o \$18,400
- **Return: \$613 per acre**

Do You Have a Timber Sale for The Bid Box?

If you have competitively sold your timber in the past few months and would like to share the information with other landowners we would welcome your input. All sales will be reported at the county level as shown above and no personal information will be divulged.

Farm Bill 2007 (2008?) Update

Hank Stelzer, Extension Forester

There's still time to sign up to attend the Eastern Redcedar conference

General forestry legislation is within the jurisdiction of the House and Senate Agriculture Committees, and past farm bills have included provisions addressing forestry, especially on private lands. Most federal forestry programs are permanently authorized, and thus do not require periodic reauthorization in the farm bill. Nonetheless, the 2002 farm bill reauthorized one office (international forestry), created a new private landowner cost-share assistance program (the Forest Land Enhancement Program or FLEP) replacing two previously existing programs, and enacted a new Community Fire Protection Program.

A 2007 farm bill may also include forestry provisions addressing various issues. Funding for forestry programs may be discussed, as appropriations have been inconsistent and mandatory spending for FLEP has been cancelled. Protecting communities from wildfire continues to be a priority for some interests, as the program enacted in the 2002 farm bill has not been funded directly. Controlling invasive species is another forestry issue that might be addressed in a new farm bill. Funding and programs to assist forest-dependent communities in diversifying their economies could also be debated in this context, as funding for existing programs has dwindled. Finally, interest has been expressed in trying to create markets for ecosystem services – the values produced by forests that have not traditionally been sold in the marketplace.

The Administration's 2007 proposed farm bill includes a forestry title. It proposes four new programs: (1) comprehensive statewide forest planning; (2) competitive landscape-scale forestry grants; (3) a 10-year, \$150 million forest wood-to-energy technology development program; and (4) financial and technical assistance to communities for acquiring, planning for, and conserving community forests. The Administration's proposal does not include a forest landowner financial assistance program – reauthorizing the Forest Land Enhancement Program, or creating some new alternative assistance program. Other proposals are likely to be offered for congressional consideration from many possible sources.

Other legislation within the new farm bill of interest to forestland owners will be the venerable Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP), Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), and the Conservation Security Program (CSP). All of these are due back in the new farm bill.

With FLEP appearing to be deadlier than a door nail, Missouri forestland owners should pay particular attention to EQIP. The forestry community (**cont. pg. 9**)

Eastern Redcedar: Challenge or Opportunity?

Aug. 9-11, 2007 - University Plaza Hotel, Springfield, Mo.

A collaborative effort by a diverse group of researchers and stakeholders, the "Eastern Red Cedar: Challenge or Opportunity" workshop brings together landowners, foresters and the redcedar industry to learn how to manage and market this often-maligned native tree species. Workshop topics include growth and management; log grading; pruning and thinning stands; insects and diseases; marketing; mechanical harvesting; and a portable sawmill demonstration.

Registration:

A brochure and registration form is available online at: www.centerforagroforestry.org. Send completed registration form by mail with check, cash or money order to: Redcedar Conference, Southwest MO RC&D, 283 US Hwy 60, Republic, MO 65738.



National Tree Farmer Convention

**Oct. 11-14, 2007
Madison, Wis.**

Hosted by the
American Tree Farm

System, the 14th 2007 National Tree Farmer Convention is themed: "Great lakes. Great forests." The convention will be held in Madison, Wis., at the Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center.

Registration: Visit the American Tree Farm Web site at www.treefarmssystem.org for updated conference information, or call: (202) 463-2462.

Lodging: Conference rates have been secured at the Hilton Madison Monona Terrace. Call (866) 403-8838 to make a reservation (be sure to mention the National Tree Farmer Convention) or make lodging reservations online: www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/personalized/msnmhlf_tree/index.jhtml (This is a direct link to the conference lodging reservation site.)

Our Readers Respond

Hank,

Regarding the article about carbon credits in the Spring 2007 issue.

I am not a student of green house gases and air pollution, but do have a question or two about carbon credits.

What little I know tells me that the earth has had green plants since the carboniferous period, some 354 to 290 million years ago. This being the case, one could say that carbon has been circulating in and out of the atmosphere for a long time. This transfer continues to this day, thanks to green plants and the oceans. Inasmuch as carbon can't be destroyed, only changed in form and stored, there is as much carbon in the earth and atmosphere as at any time in the past. Green plants do absorb carbon while they are growing, but when declining or in death, give it back to the atmosphere at a rate similar to when it was absorbed. We can't lose sight of the fact that this occurs over millions of years, and there is no start and stop point that has any meaning to our civilization.

And so it is with Joe Heckemeyer's (or any forest). In the long run, it is in balance absorbing and giving off an equal amount of carbon. This being the case, how will the payment to Joe (or any forest owner) suddenly make his trees absorb additional carbon represented by the money paid? On the other hand, even without monetary payment to Joe, his (or any other trees) will absorb whatever carbon nature programs them to absorb.

It appears to me that carbon credits are a "feel-good" thing, and of absolutely no use whatsoever beyond that. Perhaps someone can explain this to me.

Sincerely,
Donald Bradley

I appreciate you taking the time to write, Don. I have had other people ask me questions along similar lines. So, I thought this would be a good place to answer them and highlight some of the key benefits of this new-found "commodity."

You are correct in your understanding that the overall amount of carbon is a relatively fixed quantity. But, how it is stored, for how long, how it is released, how it is put back into storage (sequestered) and for how long make carbon credits valuable beyond a "feel-good" thing.

It is all about differential rates; release, sequestration, and storage. I can hear my college calculus professor now, "See, I TOLD you differential equations were useful!"

Payments will not make Joe's trees grow faster. But, they do reward Joe for planting trees that will absorb more carbon per acre than a crop field or pasture. Plus, it will store the trapped carbon for a longer period of time than either of those two land uses. Even when the wood fiber is processed into lumber, the carbon will remain sequestered; not as long as the fossil fuels we are consuming today, but long enough to make a difference in a regional ecosystem.

In addition, trees that are vigorously growing (as in the case of young saplings) absorb carbon dioxide at a faster rate than slow-growing trees. This also makes the case for a landowner to actively manage his or her forest. Forest stands will maintain vigorous growth if properly thinned throughout the life of the stand; more so than if all the trees were left to grow at slower rates due to increased competition. Further, the release of CO₂ back into the environment from those trees that would have died in the forest due to the increased competition will now be tied-up in some other form; a pallet perhaps. Finally, the crop trees left after these thinning operations will be healthier, reach financial maturity faster, and contain higher-quality wood products compared to the wood fiber harvested from unmanaged forests.

In my opinion, ecosystem services – clean water, air, carbon sequestration – have been overlooked for too long. The public (you and I) enjoy all of these benefits, but have not helped pay for any of them. By finally placing an economic value to these benefits, perhaps it will slow the rate at which our woodlands across the country succumb to the next strip mall. GH

2007 (2008?) Farm Bill (cont. from pg. 7)

made significant progress this past year in raising the NRCS Missouri State Technical Committee's level of awareness in relation to forestry issues. A BIG thanks goes to the Eastern Ozarks Forestry Council for their yeoman efforts, as well as the consistent presence at all meeting by the MDC Forestry Division, Missouri Consulting Foresters Association, Missouri Forest Products Association, the MU Center for Agroforestry and MU Forestry Extension.

While 60 percent of EQIP dollars are committed (by congressional mandate) to environmental quality issues relating to animal operations, there is still significant money potentially available to forestland owners, particularly in heavily forested counties. Each Missouri county receives approximately \$100,000 in EQIP funds; 35 percent of the points potential contracts are rated upon depend upon that county's priorities.

You say that your heavily forested county does not rate forestry very high? How can you change that? My reply is two simple words... GET INVOLVED! Find out when the county EQIP Board meets and let your interests be heard. Better yet, find out how to get on the committee.

At the June meeting of the State Technical Committee, State Conservationist, Roger Hansen, said that if the farm bill is not finalized before the 2008 fiscal year begins, there might be a brief sign-up period this fall under a continuing resolution of the existing farm bill. Then once the new farm bill is signed there would be another sign-up period late next spring or early summer. That would place extreme pressure on NRCS personnel to get contracts signed before the end of the fiscal year. Our best advice to landowners is to keep in close contact with your county NRCS office for all late-breaking developments. **GH**

How Clear is Your Vision? (cont. from pg. 2)

These children and grandchildren, many times, have different perspectives and different skill sets than the current owners. This makes the task of transferring the tree farm or woodland, in the manner the owner wishes to transfer it, more difficult. The ultimate success of this ownership transfer is crucial to the future of our great woodlands, and it hinges on successfully communicating and transferring the owner's vision, first.

So, how clear is your vision? **GH**

Need Help Seeing Your Forest for the Trees?

Remember... **Woodland Steward** is now available online! This program is a great way to learn basic forest and wildlife management concepts and integrate them in a management plan that will help your vision come to life! Check it out at www.cdis.missouri.edu.

Revising the Missouri State Forestry Law (cont. from pg. 1)

times change and land values and timber prices have increased to the point where the existing statute is extremely outdated.

Late in 2006, the Missouri Department of Conservation's Forestry Division began the process to revise the Missouri State Forestry Law with a series of internal meetings to define issues and possible solutions. The next step in the process was to gather input from external stakeholders. On June 18, representatives from environmental groups, the forest products industry, various state and federal agencies, the Missouri General Assembly, consulting foresters and private forest landowners met with MDC Forestry staff to identify issues that need to be addressed and potential solutions. This session was extremely well attended and was very productive. The framers of the new statute collected everyone's input and were given the charge to develop

several possible statutes covering a range of ideas.

After consideration of all input and feedback, a final legislative proposal will be presented to the Conservation Commission for their approval with a goal of introduction in the 2008 legislative session. **GH**

Comments may be addressed to:

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Stay tuned for updates in future issues of Green Horizons.

Trees Down, Income Up

Tammy Homfeldt, Missouri Forest Products Association

If a tree falls in the woods are income and safety maximized? The Professional Timber Harvester Program, provided through the Missouri Forest Products Association (MFPA) in partnership with the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC), is aimed at making the answer to this question a resounding YES!

Quality logging requires much more than just cutting down trees, and this course provides a holistic approach so that participants, be they professional loggers, professional foresters, forest contractors, or landowners, graduate with a full appreciation of how their different roles must interact to ensure a successful forest harvest.

Safety in logging operations is a major component of the course. Instructor Joe Glenn is an active logger with 30 years of experience. He also studied for three years as assistant instructor under Soren Eriksson, a master logger from Sweden who developed the Professional Timber Harvester program. Joe knows too many of his fellow loggers who have been seriously injured or killed due to misapplication of traditional logging techniques. Therefore, he knows firsthand the importance of safety. Some graduates from the course even experience lower insurance rates.



Proper felling technique is only one lesson Professional Timber Harvester participants learn

Many landowners have taken the course to learn more about how to properly manage their own woodlands as well as safely cut trees on their property. Mr. Glenn notes that very often the landowners taking the course get better marks on their felling techniques than the professional loggers. Joe explains, “Loggers subconsciously bring their old habits with them, but it is easier for a novice to strictly follow the directions given in the course.”

Participants complete the course with an expanded knowledge of how to accurately aim a felled tree to minimize damage to trees tagged to remain standing. Often landowners want only a partial harvest of their timber, so having a “professionally trained” logger that possesses the ability to leave the forest in an undamaged condition will result in both a healthier forest and increased income over time.

Equally important, forest ecology and wildlife considerations are presented. This allows landowners to work with their forester in planning a harvest that will optimize all the benefits their forest can provide.

The course is presented in five days held over a period of five to six months. In addition to the general forest management session the other four sessions cover increasingly complex application of advanced tree felling techniques and equipment care and management. **GH**

For more information or to register for the Professional Timber Harvester program contact Missouri Forest Products Association, 611 East Capitol Avenue, Suite One, Jefferson City, MO 65101-3038, call them at (573) 634-3252, or visit www.moforest.org

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Green Horizons Takes the Gold

The Association of Natural Resource Extension Professionals (ANREP) tapped **GH** as the top newsletter for 2007! Several newsletters from across the country were considered. While we take great pride in this recognition, we will continue to search for ways to improve the publication.



Help Us Save \$\$

We can send **Green Horizons** to your Inbox instead of your mailbox. If you would like to receive the latest issue of **GH** electronically, please send your e-mail address to Hank at stelzerh@missouri.edu.

Welcome Aboard, Michelle Hall!

I am pleased to announce that the MU Center for Agroforestry has found someone to put up with me and serve as co-editor to **Green Horizons**!



Michelle Hall returns to her hometown of Columbia after having earned a degree in journalism from Truman State University (Kirksville, Mo.) and working in the Media Relations and Marketing department at Kansas State University.

Michelle and I look forward to bringing you the most up-to-date information for helping you grow tomorrow's forest today!

- Hank

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GREEN HORIZONS



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Calendar of Events

July 29-Aug. 1, 2007: Walnut Council Annual Meeting, Dubuque, Iowa. For more information, please visit www.walnutcouncil.org or contact Liz Jackson, (765) 583-3501 or Jackson@purdue.edu.

Aug. 9-11, 2007: Eastern Redcedar Conference, Springfield, Mo. For more information, please contact SW Missouri Resource Conservation and Development office at (417) 732-6485. See page 7 for details.

Aug. 12-15, 2007: Northern Nut Growers Association Annual Meeting, Ottawa, Ontario. For more information, please visit www.nutgrowing.org or e-mail icomserve@aol.com.

Oct. 5, 2007: Fall Field Day at Wurdack Farm. The event will be 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the MU College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources' Wurdack Farm, located about two miles southeast of Cook Station, Mo.

Oct. 11-14, 2007: National Tree Farmer Convention, Madison, Wis. Hosted by the American Tree Farm System, the 14th National Tree Farmer Convention features speakers, presentations and more. For registration information, visit www.treefarmssystem.org. See page 7 for details.

Oct. 13, 2007: 5th Annual Missouri Chestnut Roast, MU Horticulture and Agroforestry Research Center, New Franklin, Mo. For more information, please visit www.centerforagroforestry.org or contact Julie Rhoads, (573) 882-3234 or rhoadsj@missouri.edu. See page 5 for details.