

GREEN HORIZONS

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Preserving the Family Forest: Accurately Assessing Your Heirs

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

Professional consulting foresters profess the importance of periodically taking a forest inventory. This step is fundamental to sound stewardship of our forestland. It provides an accounting of our timber and other natural assets; identifies work completed and projects yet unfinished; notes the strengths and weaknesses of our particular tree farm or forestland; and forms a basis for future management decisions.

In the succession planning process, there is a similar step for forestland owners. It is often referred to as an "Heir Assessment" but it can be likened to an "inventory" of sorts. It is an assessment of the abilities and personal situations of the potential heirs.

For most forestland owners, the personal, family and financial issues impacting their children (or other heirs) are difficult to understand and predict. However, these issues have a direct impact on how successful an inter-generational transition will be. Keep in mind, all families have issues and events that challenge (or will challenge) the relationships between parents and children, between siblings, or between the spouses of children.

The purpose of an Heir Assessment is not to necessarily prevent these issues from occurring, but rather to take an honest, objective look at the strengths and weaknesses of your family so that you can plan for these challenges.

Similar to a forest inventory, a forestland owner should not only assess the current family situation, but should attempt to identify issues or characteristics that may present challenges to a successful transition in the future. Here is a partial list of questions/issues that can be used to evalu-

ate your heirs, and their ability to continue your legacy for years to come:

Passion for Forestland

- *Do your heirs share your passion for the forestland?*
- *Do your heirs have a deep level of* **(cont. pg. 9)**

Fruitful Findings: Shiitake

Michelle Hall, MU Center for Agroforestry

Interest in fresh Shiitake mushrooms is increasing with gourmet chefs, farmers' markets and household consumers, as information spreads about their nutritional benefits and rich, versatile taste. Markets for shiitake and other specialty gourmet mushrooms continue to show promising profit potential for Missouri forest landowners. **(cont. pg. 10)**



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Landowner Spotlight: Mark Hadley - A Crew of One

Since 1978, Mark Hadley has been a logging crew of one; not only on his 600-acre forest outside of Annapolis, Mo., but throughout Iron, Madison, Reynolds and Wayne counties. He added a Wood-Mizer band saw mill in 1986, and a Nyle 4,500-bd.ft. electric dry kiln in 1996. The experience he gained operating his Wood-Mizer and his entrepreneurial spirit has led him to provide customer support for Wood-Mizer in forested regions of the Amazon, Eastern Europe, Asia, Indonesia and New Zealand.

Hadley considers his small-scale logging relatively easy work. But, even small-scale logging can be extremely dangerous. Don't try this without proper training and building experience with a logging professional.

He uses a John Deere 5300 4X4 tractor to skid and load his logs at the logging site. Landowners like Hadley's small-scale equipment and the personal attention he gives to felling and skidding timber to the log deck.

Hadley classifies the logs into three categories: top logs, tie logs and grade logs. He sells finished products only to the wholesale markets of flooring, pallet squares and cross ties. The exception is dried lumber which he markets wholesale to local furniture and cabinetry manufacturers. Occasionally, a friend will bring Hadley a log for custom sawing and drying for a personal project.

Top Logs

These are the straight, small-diameter logs from the top of the trees, from 10 down to eight inches in diameter on the small end and 8'8" or 10'6" long. Hadley brings them to his mill and stacks them aside to be used like a savings account in times of bad weather or between harvests.

He can square 50 of these logs into 4"x6" and 6"x6" cants for use in the local pallet mills. An occasional top log might even yield a few 4/4 (pronounced "four-quarter") flooring boards. But don't let sawing 50 logs a day lead you to believe he makes a ton of money processing these small logs. Hadley says it is the worst income per hour, "but in times of bad weather is a nice alternative to being broke."



Mark Hadley practices sustainable forestry on his Iron County property, harvests trees in an environmentally friendly fashion, and processes the resulting logs to yield the most profitable value-added wood products.

Butt Logs

A butt log is the first log above the stump. They are 11+ inches in diameter at the small end and up to 8'8" long. The very best logs are placed in his grade log pile at the sawmill and the landowner is paid an additional premium for those higher-grade logs.

The remaining butt logs are tie logs (as in railroad ties) and are sawn into either 6"x8" or 7"x9" square cants. "This is our money maker," says Hadley. "One person can saw 30 logs in a six-hour day and with good tie logs get several hundred feet of flooring lumber."

Quarter Saw Grade Logs

"These are the logs we paid a premium for to the landowner when we were sorting the tie logs," explains Hadley. They need

to have a minimum diameter of 16 inches on the small end and be perfectly symmetrical with no blemishes.

As the name indicates, these logs are quarter-sawn to achieve the highest value-added product. Hadley's daily board foot production drops significantly, but the value per board foot for kiln dry quarter sawed lumber is remarkable. A grade log 18 inches in diameter scales out 110 bd.ft.; 100 bd.ft. of which is quarter sawed lumber. There are four triangular slabs left from quarter sawing that are processed into 2"x2" turning squares. There are always a few nice 1" square garden stakes from the log as well.

Hadley usually logs one week and then spends the following week processing the logs and marketing his end products.

For more information on quarter sawing, band saw blade sharpening and sawmill operation visit www.hadleysawmill.com **GH**

Forest from the Trees: Even Before We Get Started

Dave Murphy, Missouri Conservation Federation

In October 2007, our farm became certified in the Missouri Tree Farm program. Others have suggested several times that details of this living history may prove useful to some folks and interesting to many more. This is the second installment of this series.

Our story had progressed to us having a management plan for our 240 acres of forest. Unspoken, but important steps in the process involved reviews of all the details of the plan by the consulting foresters we hired, by the Missouri Department of Conservation Private Land Conservationist we worked with, and by me. The final version of the plan, after we all signed off on it, was submitted to the MDC Forestry Regional Supervisor for approval. These formal processes gave me a lot of confidence in the recommendations and decisions made, and actions planned and executed. We had as much confidence as possible that our plan was plausible and would produce the results we desired before we even began implementation. This is a wonderful starting point.

We found ourselves very aware that we now were responsible for decisive management of 23 stands of timber. These stands varied dramatically in acreage, slope (steepness), aspect (which direction the slope faced), soil type and tree species composition. As a consequence, the prescribed treatment for each of the stands was unique, but in some ways similar to those of other stands. We found ourselves ready to prioritize our activities and to get started: almost.

Boundaries and Fences

The purple paint law in Missouri allows us to legally mark our exterior boundaries in a way that will not permanently damage logs. This is money in your pocket as a forest landowner. Look into it, if you don't understand it. Get advice from your MDC Private Land Conservationist.

In the case of our forest, we had one more important need. All of our neighbors have cattle; we need good fences. In our part of the world, business is still done by the right hand rule: as two adjoining landowners face each other at their shared fence, each is responsible for maintaining their half of the shared fence – the half on their right. This of course is my personal summary of the tradition. It varies tremendously across our state. University of Missouri Extension has lots of great information on Missouri's fence law.

Regarding Cattle

For several generations, my family had cattle. On this farm, we usually only had a few head...25 or so cows, their calves and a bull. Most of the time, our cattle were moved between pastures to fresh grazing as needed. Always they had free access to the woods. During the last few years before my wife and I bought the farm, grazing was leased. At times there were lots of cattle on the land. This history has made a significant impact on the forest.

Soil compaction, root exposure and erosion problems worsened during the last few years of intensive grazing. Fencing cattle out of the woods has allowed the healing to begin.

The biggest problem we faced might easily be overlooked by the casual admirer of our beautiful woods. We are missing about 60 years worth of trees. The cattle ate them as seedlings. Much of our woods looked very much like a park with a solid canopy of big, beautiful oaks, hickories and walnuts. There were virtually no seedlings, saplings or small pole-sized oak trees beneath the canopy. To make things even worse, the cows did not eat honey locusts, cedars, prickly ash or multi-flora rose.

If one were to harvest any of the sawlogs and remove big, desirable trees from the canopy, what would grow back? Where would the seedlings come from?

Fortunately for us, we have experienced two excellent acorn crops in the past three years. Now that the cows are eating grass instead of seedlings, the forest floor is carpeted with new growth. Nature abhors a vacuum, they say. Healing has begun.

So get a plan, fence the forest and get the cows out. Next issue we begin timber stand improvement (TSI). **GH**

The Carbon Corner Takes a Holiday

While the carbon markets are still very active, there is not a lot of new 'stuff' to report at the present time. So, the Carbon Corner will take a holiday this summer and be back in the fall with any and all latest developments.



Tree Farm Hosts FFA Teams

Frances Main, Missouri State Tree Farm Committee

This spring the Red River D Tree Farm hosted a workshop for the District winners of the FFA Forestry contest. The 214-acre tree farm in eastern Christian County is co-owned by myself and John Dilsaver. This is the fourth year we provided a “hands on” training area for the FFA Forestry teams who would be going on to the State competition. Fellow local Missouri Department of Conservation foresters, Gary Smith and Greg Cassell, assisted in setting up a Timber Stand Improvement (TSI) plot, Tree ID walk, and a timber cruising plot for the FFA teams to work on.

The unique part of the training is the fact that the trees the teams selected to remove in the TSI plot were actually cut down and a couple of the sawlogs they estimated volume in were felled and measured.

They did not have to use their imaginations to visualize what the TSI plot would look like with the trees gone. And no more guessing where a 16-foot log ends for volume estimates. They actually got to measure out the 16 feet and see how closely they estimated it from 50 feet away while the tree was still standing. The students also had the chance to measure the diameter at the end of the log to see how far up they could consider a log before the diameter became too small to be merchantable.

Schools placing high enough in the district contest that came out to attend the training opportunity were Mt. Ver-

non, Buffalo, Sarcouxie, Forsyth and McDonald County.

Over the years, comments from the students and their advisers about the experience have been very positive. Making the exercises from the contest a reality has helped solidify the experience of doing forestry work to the students. “Using it (the tree farm) for stuff like this is what makes having it and working out here worthwhile,” says Dilsaver.

He and I intend to keep inviting the FFA students out to the property to train them for their contests and deepen their appreciation of forest management. It’s especially satisfying to know National FFA competition winners like Forsyth have been out to our property.

Extra Training Pays Off as Mt. Vernon and Forsyth FFA Forestry Teams Advance to Nationals

All five of the attending school teams placed within the top eight FFA Forestry teams at the State Contest held April 18. Mount Vernon (1st Place) and Forsyth (2nd Place) will represent Missouri at the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis this fall. **GH**



By observing TSI plots before and after thinning, southwest Missouri FFA teams get a better grasp of this forest management practice.

The Bid Box

(All volumes reported in Doyle Scale)

Putnam County

- 110 acres
- 891 mixed hardwoods (50 percent white oak)
- Estimated volume: 128,000 bd.ft.
- Forester valued the sale at \$21,500
- 4 bids
 - o \$22,151
 - o \$19,682
 - o \$19,301
 - o \$12,877
- **Return: \$195 per acre**

Randolph County

- 35 acres
- 290 mixed hardwoods (>50 percent pin oak; some swamp white and white oak)
- Estimated volume: 42,800 bd.ft.
- Forester valued the sale at \$5,250
- 3 bids
 - o \$5,650
 - o \$3,951
 - o \$2,800
- **Return: \$161 per acre**

Boone County

- 37 acres
- 187 mixed hardwoods (pin oak, white oak, walnut, black oak, soft maple and sycamore)
- Estimated volume: 39,400 bd.ft.
- Forester valued the sale at \$7,430
- 3 bids
 - o \$8,800
 - o \$7,619
 - o \$5,328
- **Return: \$238 per acre**

Despite what the consulting forester called ‘low value’ sales, it is clear that knowing what you have to sell and seeking competitive bids is the only way to ensure top dollar for your trees!

Do you have a timber sale for The Bid Box? We would love to hear from you!

Learning to ‘Manage What You Have’

The National Walnut Council will meet in our own backyard this summer. The annual meeting and tours will be Aug. 3-6. Indoor events will be held at the Holiday Inn Select Executive Center, Columbia, while field tours will be in adjacent Callaway and Howard counties.

All landowners with walnut and other fine hardwoods will have an opportunity to see and hear information relevant to their forest, woodlot or plantation during the field tours, said Harlan Palm, one of the conference organizers. Attendees also will get to tour one of the largest walnut mills in operation in Missouri. In addition to seeing logs being milled by modern technology, the tour will include discussions on log and lumber quality.

The theme of this year’s event is “First Manage What You Have.” This will be evident especially in the field tours, as attendees can ride trailers to view managed native and planted walnut stands as well as native mixed hardwood stands now benefiting from timber stand improvement and crop tree selection procedures, Palm said. During tours, experts will discuss site suitability, appraise current value of existing walnut and white oak and provide advice on deciding when to harvest and how to manage a timber harvest following competitive bidding. Buses will be available



to transport attendees to all of the field tour sites.

The vast majority of landowners in Missouri have some walnut and other fine hardwoods in their wooded areas. The purpose of this event is to inform such landowners to recognize what is already out there, Palm said. If the site is well suited for walnut and there are already walnut there, the landowners

will learn what can be done to improve the health and production of the trees with the highest potential value.

Other conference activities include a kick-off mixer, Landowner Show and Tell, an Evening with the Experts, the annual banquet and awards program, exhibits, posters, a silent auction, speakers discussing recent innovations and introduction of newly elected board members. Spouses’ tours and a post-conference tour of the Hammons Products Company’s facilities also are available.

Full registration for Walnut Council members is \$145; registering at the door will run \$165. Non-members can add \$15 to their registration or join the organization. For more details, head to <http://www.walnutcouncil.org/> and click on “Annual Meeting.” The site includes agenda and registration information. For more information, contact Palm at palmh@missouri.edu. **GH**

Walnut Farm Tour: ‘Forgotten Woods Along the Creek’

Another chance to learn about benefiting from the walnut already on your land is through an upcoming farm tour.

The Kent and Lori Deimeke family in eastern Callaway County is inviting other farmers to see what might be growing in their woods along the creek. Tours will start as soon as there are a couple of wagon loads after 8 a.m. Saturday, July 26.

There are literally hundreds of native walnut of all sizes growing on 98 wooded acres of a quarter section of land where the Batchelor Creek and a small tributary flow. Tour stops will include demonstration of timber stand improvement; discussions over soil pits; and discussions about available cost-share programs for timber stand improvement. Appraisals will be given on current value of an excellent immature walnut versus a larger walnut and in comparing their future values.

RSVP by July 24 and let organizers know how many are in your party, by e-mailing palmh@missouri.edu or leaving a voice message at 573-882-1402. A \$5 charge at registration will cover morning refreshments, bottled water, trailer ride and a snack at the end of the tour (about noon) July 26. The tour location is 3/4 mile down the gravel road west of Shamrock, Mo., which is on Hwy B between Auxvasse and Montgomery City in Auxvasse County. **GH**

Good Fences Make Good Neighbors

Part 1: General Fence Law

Hank Stelzer, MU Forestry Extension

Time and Mother Nature (particularly over the past winter and spring) can wreak havoc on fence lines. If you are faced with repairing or replacing a boundary fence line, now is a good time to review Missouri's current fencing and boundary laws, particularly if you are new to the Show-Me State.

In Part I of this three-part series, we will look at fencing and boundary laws in "general fence law counties." Part II will look at the differences in "optional fence law" counties. Part III will deal specifically with liability for trespass by livestock and boundary line disputes.

More information can be found in MU Guide G810: Missouri Fencing and Boundary Laws. Do not rely upon this series or G810 for legal advice. This information is a general statement of the law. Direct your questions to an attorney. Your attorney can get relevant facts and act on them in your best interest.

General vs. Local Option Fence Law Counties

Missouri's first fence law was enacted in 1808 while Missouri was still within the Louisiana Territory. Since that initial law there have been many changes to the "general" fence law of the state.

In 1963 the Missouri Legislature enacted major changes in the fence law by authorizing the "local option" fence law. Adoption of the local option for a county required a majority vote at a county election. The issue could be put on the local ballot either by motion of the county court or upon the petition of 100 real estate owners of 10 or more acres in the county. Currently, 18 of Missouri's 114 counties have adopted the Optional County Fencing Statute (Figure 1).

The latest major revision to the State's fence law came in 2001. These changes pertain only to "general fence law counties," not those counties that have opted (or will opt) by local election into the "optional county fencing statute."

Modified Forced Contribution and Maintenance

This is a major change. Only if your neighbor has livestock placed against the division fence can he/she be forced to pay for half the cost of construction, as well as be required to maintain the right-hand half. If the neighbor doesn't have livestock against the fence, you will have to put up the entire cost of the division fence and maintain the entire fence.

A landowner building the entire division fence must report the total cost to the associate circuit judge, who will authorize the cost to be recorded on each neighbor's deed.

If your neighbor later places livestock against the division fence, then you can get reimbursed for one-half the construction costs.

Under the prior law, either neighbor could force the other neighbor to pay for half of both the construction and the maintenance of a division fence, regardless of whether the reluctant neighbor had livestock against the fence. This continues to be the fencing law in most Midwestern states.

The Right-hand Rule

Most of us assumed there was a "right-hand rule" as a custom, but there was no such language in the former statute. Now the statute clearly says neighbors who cannot agree on who is to build and maintain which portion of a fence shall apply the right-hand rule. Each neighbor stands on his or her land looking at the common boundary, finds the midpoint, and is responsible for the half to his/her right.

This assumes each neighbor has livestock against the division fence. Where your neighbor doesn't have livestock against the fence, then you will have to build and maintain the whole fence until such time as your neighbor places livestock against it. And you can enter upon your neighbor's land to build and to maintain your share of the division fence.

Under the prior law, you would have to take your neighbor to court if you and your neighbor couldn't reach an agreement as to which fence portion was whose responsibility to build and to maintain.

What is a "Lawful Fence"?

Some may think the new statutory definition of "lawful fence" is still too cumbersome and confusing, but you should have seen it under the prior law! Basically, as the law now reads, a "lawful fence" is any fence consisting of posts and wire or boards at least 4 feet high (and mutually agreed upon by adjoining landowners or decided upon by the associate circuit court), with posts set firmly in the ground not more than 12 feet apart. (cont. pg. 7)

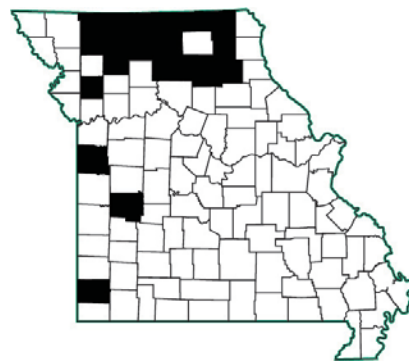


Figure 1: Counties possessing "local option" fence laws (will be covered in next issue).

Good Fences (cont. from page 6)

A question occurs when both neighbors have livestock against the division fence but one neighbor wants a more costly fence, probably because his livestock require a stronger or higher fence. The associate circuit court for your county will be the ultimate decider on that issue. The new statute states that you can build the neighbor's portion in excess of the lawful fence required (but presumably at your own expense).

Actual vs. Double Damages?

Under the new statute, if your neighbor's right-hand division fence is in need of repair and his/her animals trespass onto your land then your neighbor is liable for the actual damages done to your crops or livestock, but no longer for double damages. What is interesting to note here is the term, "crops." Are your trees considered a crop? They might not be if you do not have a management plan or you have not been actively managing your woodland before the damage occurred.

Existing Division Fences under the New Missouri Statute

Any validly recorded written fencing agreement in existence before Aug. 28, 2001, will continue to be enforceable

under the new fencing statute. If no valid written and recorded fencing agreement exists before that date, the fencing rights and duties will be defined under the new statute.

Novel Division Fences

In both the new and the old statutes, neighboring landowners are free to bind themselves contractually to fencing provisions different from those in the statute. And this includes agreeing that no division fence is needed.

When you and your neighbor reach an understanding about what type of division fence to build and who is to build and maintain which portion, put it down in writing, sign it, and record it against the land title (county recorder's office) of all neighbors signing the fencing agreement.

Verbal agreements won't work, as they violate the statute of frauds, which requires that agreements dealing with land and those taking longer than one year be in writing to be enforceable in court. Furthermore, only recorded written agreements will bind successor owners (buyers, gift recipients and heirs). **GH**

Mo.'s Purple Paint Statute: A Simple Way to Post your Property

Hank Stelzer, MU Forestry Extension

The Purple Paint Statute (RSMO 569.145) allows Missouri landowners to mark trees or posts with purple paint as a warning to would-be trespassers. It fulfills the same function as a "No Trespassing" sign, a fence or telling someone not to come onto your property. Since they can't be taken down, destroyed or stolen, purple paint marks are cheaper and more economical to maintain.

The law does not require that property marked with the purple paint also be fenced; unless, of course, you or your neighbor(s) raise livestock along the property line(s) in question.

Under Missouri's law:

- Any owner or lessee of real property can post property with the purple paint marks.
- Purple paint marks must be placed on either trees or posts (the statute does not specifically allow the option of placing paint marks on buildings).
- Vertical paint lines must be at least 8 inches long (the statute does not mention a maximum length).
- The bottom edge of each paint mark must be between 3 feet and 5 feet off the ground.

- Paint marks must be readily visible to any person approaching the property.
- Purple paint marks cannot be more than 100 ft. apart.

The statute provides that any person trespassing onto property marked by purple paint can be found guilty of a first-degree trespassing charge. Any unauthorized entry onto property marked with the purple paint is considered a trespass. First-degree trespassing is a Class B Misdemeanor, with potential punishment of a maximum \$500 fine and/or a maximum of 6 months in jail.

Other violations which would subject a trespasser to first-degree trespass are: (1) entering a property posted with "No Trespassing" signs; (2) refusing to leave property once told to do so; and (3) coming onto land fenced against intruders.

Landowners can purchase purple boundary posting paint at hardware stores across the state. Several paint companies formulated a latex semi-paste product for the specific purpose of marking property. The paint can be applied in semi-paste form or sprayed once thinned. **GH**

What Can You Do About Timber Trespass?

Hank Stelzer, MU Forestry Extension

Timber trespass is the term commonly used in forestry circles to describe the unapproved cutting of trees and removal of timber. This crime occurs for three primary reasons.

First, it is highly profitable. A single, high-quality veneer tree can bring more than \$5,000 at the sawmill.

Second, it is very difficult to catch and convict thieves. Well-developed public roads offering access to remote and sparsely populated areas often surround forestland and are out of sight of surrounding landowners. The hauling of logs is a common sight in many areas. Thus, once it is removed, stolen timber is easily concealed within the traffic of legitimately harvested timber. Also, in many regions, the relative abundance of small sawmills makes disposing stolen timber relatively easy.

Thirdly, timber trespass commonly results from improperly marked or located property boundaries. Trees are often taken accidentally when landowners and loggers do not check the apparent locations of property lines with adjacent landowners.

The legalities of timber trespass can be very confusing. It actually encompasses two distinct violations: a property trespass and a timber trespass.

In Missouri, first-degree trespassing is a Class B Misdemeanor, with potential punishment of a maximum \$500 fine and/or a maximum of six months in jail. First-degree implies willful intent; such as ignoring fence lines, “No Trespassing” signs, or purple paint (see Purple Paint Statute, pg. 7).



Even though this silver maple had a rotten base, it did not stop this timber thief in taking what usable wood he could (as shown by shaded area).

Missouri has two timber trespass statutes that award two levels of damages. MO. ANN. STAT. § 537.340 awards treble damages plus costs for any taking of timber. However, MO. ANN. STAT. § 537.360 awards only actual damages plus costs if it is shown that a defendant had probable cause to believe that the timber was his or her own.

How to Protect Yourself

So, what can you do? Remember, the best defense against timber theft is a good offense.

If you are a woodland owner who is getting ready to cut timber, you should:

1. Clearly mark all timber sale boundaries.
2. Make sure your timber contract clearly states the sale boundaries and make sure everyone involved in the harvest knows the

boundaries.

3. Notify your neighbors that have property adjacent to the timber sale of the impending harvest.

If you are not planning a harvest in the immediate future, you should:

1. Make a copy of your deed and keep it handy.
2. Have boundaries clearly marked so that they can be readily seen from adjacent properties.
3. Contact your neighbors and let them know you have interest in managing your woodlands and do not plan on harvesting any timber in the foreseeable future.
4. Walk your woodlands frequently throughout the year. In addition to keeping an eye out for illegal activities, it will also give you the opportunity to spot developing insect and disease outbreaks before they become major headaches.

Timber Trespass (cont. from page 8)

5. *If you are an absentee landowner, ask your neighbors to keep an eye on your woodlands. Be sure to provide them with your contact information. Ask them to contact you if they see any harvesting activity on your property, and ask them to inform you if they are planning a harvest.*
6. *Contact your MDC Forester. He or she can advise you whether you have valuable timber and whether it is at risk for theft.*
7. *Contact a consulting forester and have him or her inventory your woodland to determine timber value. In addition to advising you on your risk of a potential timber theft, the inventory they perform can be used to determine basis for capital gains when you sell timber in the future.*

Unfortunately, timber trespass is all too common in Missouri. And while laws do exist, law enforcement is often ill-equipped to investigate timber trespass, and law enforcement and the courts do not pursue timber trespass aggressively. In addition, it is the landowner who must bear the financial burden in proving a case of timber trespass. Unfortunately, these conditions mean that timber trespass and timber theft will continue to occur unless something changes to treat timber trespass as a serious crime.

Despite the heavy workload of law enforcement officers, if you do discover an active timber theft do not try and take matters into your own hands. Contact authorities and let them confront the thieves. Property, even if it is a walnut tree, is not worth a human life. **GH**

Timber Trespass Can Happen to Anyone... Even a University!

In the summer of 2006 the MU Horticulture and Agroforestry Research Center (HARC) became a victim of timber trespass. Just out of sight of the office and along the old railroad spur laid a narrow sliver of woods that contained large silver maples interspersed with several large walnuts and oaks.

While the majority of the farm personnel was revamping the flood control lab on the other side of the farm, a logger took advantage of an heir to the neighboring farm who did not know where the property line lay, crossed the line and harvested 67 HARC trees. It was purely by accident that farm personnel discovered the theft...but, it was long after the fact.

Preserving the Family Forest (cont. from front page)

respect for wild places and wild things, or do they value the comforts of modern society more?

- *Do the heirs see the family forestland as an heirloom, or just another financial asset?*

Involvement in the Tree Farm/Forestland

- *Do the heirs understand the management issues involved in owning a woodland?*
- *Do they understand your management strategies?*
- *Are your heirs capable and willing to do the manual labor required to manage the property?*
- *Are they involved today?*
- *Do they enjoy it?*

Personal Issues

- *Do your heirs get along with each other?*
- *Can they work together in a business relationship?*
- *Are the various marriages likely to last?*

- *Are there health issues?*
- *Are there any psychological, emotional or chemical dependency issues?*
- *Where do they live? Do the lifestyles allow for forestland involvement?*

Financial Issues

- *Are the heirs on a solid financial footing?*
- *Do they understand money?*
- *Are there future financial pressures that may arise (i.e. divorce, bankruptcy, nursing home expenses)?*

The key is to be as honest as you can be in evaluating all of your heirs (children, spouses, grandchildren, etc.). Anticipating what obstacles may develop is the first step to designing a plan that is good for the family and good for the forestland. The goal is to create a plan that minimizes family conflict, while preserving the family forest. **GH**

Fruitful Findings (cont. from front page)

Cultivating shiitake mushrooms allows forest landowners and home gardeners an opportunity to utilize trees thinned from woodlots as well as branch-wood cut from the tops of larger trees. When the mushrooms are harvested and marketed, the result is a relatively short-term payback for long-term management of wooded areas.

The practice of intentionally managing shade levels in a forest to favor the production of certain crops represents the agroforestry practice called forest farming. Properly applied, forest farming can enhance and diversify income opportunities, while at the same time improving the composition and structure of the forest for long-term stand health and economic value. By developing an understanding of the interactions between the overstory trees and the understory environment, forest management activities can be used to create understory sites ideal for growing profitable shade-loving crops like shiitake mushrooms.

University of Missouri Center for Agroforestry experts have been working since 1999 to determine the best logs, strains and spawn for growing shiitake in Missouri.

UMCA mushroom studies were quite “fruitful” in 2007 as numerous research questions were answered to help growers, including:

- *Sugar maple logs outperform oak as mushroom hosts (especially when sugar maple are harvested in February).*
- *Wide-temperature shiitake strain outperforms warm- and cold-weather strains.*
- *Sawdust spawn outperforms dowel or thimble.*
- *Fruiting is most abundant in years two and three after logs are inoculated. Although fruiting will continue for about six years, gradually declining, contaminant wood-decay fungi will become increasingly prevalent.*
- *Chilled immersion water improves mushroom yield; well water is recommended over surface water when force fruiting (soaking logs in water to simulate natural rainfall and encourage mushrooms to fruit).*
- *Force fruiting compresses and increases production of logs to three years (spawn run plus two).*
- *The efficacy of force fruiting depends on ambient temperatures and the spawn strain used. Cold-weather strains respond poorly to force fruiting.*

A completely updated version of UMCA’s Agroforestry in Action: Growing Shiitake Mushrooms in an Agroforestry

Practice, is now available online at <http://www.centerforagroforestry.org/pubs/index.asp#mushguide>

This guide, authored by MU’s Johann Bruhn, research associate professor, Division of Plant Sciences, takes landowners step by step through the growing process, from managing shade levels for production to marketing the fresh mushrooms. New findings are incorporated throughout the publication.

The printed version of the revised guide is coming soon – contact Michelle Hall, senior information specialist with UMCA, at hallmich@missouri.edu or 573-882-9866, to be placed on the list for a copy. In the meantime, view and/or print off a copy at the site above. **GH**

**6th
Annual!**



- *Missouri chestnut, pecan and black walnut producer booths with free tasting samples.*
- *Educational presentations and exhibits.*
- *Musical entertainment by the Ironweed Bluegrass Band.*
- *Children's activities.*
- *Guided bus and walking tours of the chestnut orchards and agroforestry research areas at the Horticulture and Agroforestry Research Center.*
- *A chestnut roasting booth with free samples of fresh roasted chestnuts.*
- *Value-added food producers will provide free tasting samples and products for sale, including Missouri wines, meats and nuts. Food concession stand will feature Missouri-produced grilled elk, buffalo, pork and beef products for sale.*

6th Annual Missouri Chestnut Roast
Horticulture and Agroforestry Research Center
New Franklin, Missouri

October 18, 2008 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Free Admission and Open to the Public
Assistance Dogs Allowed - No Pets

Most activities held inside tents for comfort rain or shine!

For additional information, including driving directions and a detailed event schedule (available in October), visit www.centerforagroforestry.org

The Back Page

Deadlines for Newsletter Submissions

Spring Issue:	March 15
Summer Issue:	June 15
Fall Issue:	September 15
Winter Issue:	December 15

MOWOC 2009 Moves to April

Okay Mother Nature, you win! Since we have been expanding the Friday Field Day portion of the conference over the past few years we knew we were tempting fate. So, in order to avoid a repeat of this year's last-minute decision to postpone, the 2009 MOWOC Conference will be held April 3-4. That is the week after Easter (we didn't want to get the Easter Bunny mad at us, too!). Plus, we will be back at our old digs at Stoney Creek Inn.

Regional Christmas Tree Grower Conference/Workshop in the Works

Plans are underway for a four-state Christmas Tree Grower Conference/Workshop to be held in February 2009. Oklahoma State University is spearheading the effort along with MU Extension, Kansas State University Extension and University of Arkansas Extension. Chances are good the event will take place in Springfield, Mo. We hope to have much more information in the fall issue of GH and also at www.snr.missouri.edu/forestry/extension

GH Online: Find Green Horizons on the Internet at <http://agebb.missouri.edu/agforest/index.htm> or <http://snr.missouri.edu/forestry/extension/>

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Walnut Council



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Calendar of Events

July 24-26, 2008: Missouri Christmas Tree Association Summer Meeting, Daniken Tree Farm, Pocahontas, Ill. This year the meeting is in conjunction with the Illinois Christmas Tree Association. To register or for more information, contact Joey Daniken, (618) 410-9720 or admin@midamericachristmastree.org.

Aug. 3-7, 2008: Walnut Council Annual Meeting, Columbia, Mo. See page 5 for details.

Aug. 10-13, 2008: Northern Nut Growers Association Annual Meeting, College Station, Texas. See www.nutgrowing.org for details.

Sept. 10, 2008: Forrest Keeling Open House, Elsberry, Mo. For more information, contact Annie Carl, (800) 356-2401 or acarl@fknursery.com.

Oct. 18, 2008: 6th Annual Missouri Chestnut Roast, University of Missouri Horticulture and Agroforestry Research Center, New Franklin, Mo. See page 10 for more information.