

# ACTION IN AGROFORESTRY

monthly newsletter of the University of Missouri Center for Agroforestry

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Michael Gold and Michelle Hall, editors

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## Symposium Brings Together Friends of Agroforestry from Across U.S.

The University of Missouri Center for Agroforestry presented current topics in agroforestry research to a wide audience last week.

The Center invited interested parties from across the country and around the globe to access its Inaugural Agroforestry Research Symposium online, via a Webstream. Anyone could view the video, in real time. Records show 65 unique locations logged on from coast to coast. This is in addition to the dozen landowners, natural resource professionals and university officials who attended the symposium along with UMCA researchers. And just what did those viewers and attendees hear and see at the inaugural symposium?

Presenters included Andy Mason, interim director of the USDA National Agroforestry Center, who spoke on "Agroforestry in America: New Opportunities for a Sustainable Future"; David Burner, Dale Bumpers Small Farms Research Center, USDA-ARS, Booneville, Ark., "Regional Collaborative Research on Diverse Biofuel Grasses"; Ranjith Udawatta and Stephen Anderson, MU department of soil, environmental and atmospheric sciences, "Agroforestry's Environmental Services: Drawing the Big Picture";



*Above: A camera crew films David Burner's talk to stream online. Right: Andy Mason speaks on the many opportunities of agroforestry.*



and Mike Gold and Larry Godsey, MU Center for Agroforestry, "Specialty Crop Industries for the Midwest."

Dr. Marc Linit, Associate Dean, College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources, introduced Andy Mason, the keynote speaker. Mason made the case for agroforestry's role in mitigating climate change, producing biomass energy and restoring ecosystem health.

"The mix of presentations on national, regional and local agroforestry research demonstrated the exciting possibilities agroforestry holds for this country," said Shibu Jose, director of the MU Center for Agroforestry.

The symposium was followed by a day and half of UMCA program review. The Center plans to make the research symposium and its accompanying Webstream an annual event each January.

*The complete video of the 2010 event will be available soon at <http://www.centerforagroforestry.org>. Check the "What's New" box for details in the coming week.*

### BUILDING THE MISSOURI CHESTNUT INDUSTRY, STEP BY STEP

The MU Center for Agroforestry is offering a series of chestnut production workshops in 2010. Four daylong workshops will span the chestnut growing season, from site selection and planting to harvesting and sales.

Each workshop costs only \$10. The Missouri Department of Agriculture's Specialty Crop Block Grant program is helping to sponsor the series. The workshops, which will be at the MU Horticulture and Agroforestry Research Center, New Franklin, are aimed at current and prospective growers, extension agents and students.

Forty landowners signed up for the entire series in 2009 – the first year it was offered – and post-workshop feedback was overwhelmingly positive. Every attendee rated

the workshops either "excellent" (91 percent) or "good" (9 percent) in a survey administered at the final meeting.

Course dates and topics for 2010: March 23: Site selection, planting, graft planning and pruning; May 4: Grafting; Aug. 17: Orchard maintenance, weed control, insect scouting, pest management and disease control; Sept. 14: Harvest, marketing and sales.

Instructors include **Mike Gold**, associate director, UMCA; **Ken Hunt**, research scientist; **Mark Coggeshall**, tree improvement specialist; and **Michele Warmund**, professor of plant sciences. Outside experts and veteran growers also will contribute.

*Fees include materials, lunch. Space is limited. Contact Julie Rhoads, 573-882-3234 or [rhoadsj@missouri.edu](mailto:rhoadsj@missouri.edu).*

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## OUTREACH

**Larry Godsey** has created two new Financial Decision Models to help those thinking about planting trees make decisions about spacing, fertilizing, buying equipment, harvesting, etc.

Right now the Chestnut model is going through “sensitivity testing” to make sure all of the bugs are worked out. A test version will be available online at <http://www.centerforagroforestry.org/profit/index.asp#edible>

The new Black Walnut model is available online at <http://www.centerforagroforestry.org/profit/index.asp#black> (This model is in addition to the existing one – the new model focuses on nut production while the older version is for those more interested in timber production.)



**Johann Bruhn** delivered a three-hour presentation and workshop at the Missouri State Master Gardeners’ Conference on “Shiitake mushroom cultivation in agroforestry.” The event was held Sept. 18 in Jefferson City.

## RESEARCH

**Warmund, M.R.**, J. Elmore, M.A. Drake, and M.D. Yates. 2009. Descriptive analysis of kernels of selected black and Persian walnut cultivars. *J. Sci. Food and Agric.* 89 (1): 117-121.

*Two types of walnuts are valued for their nuts, the Persian (or Eastern) walnut and eastern black walnut. However, their kernel sensory characteristics as well as their unique attributes have not been explored. Twenty-two terms were used for descriptive analysis of walnut kernels. All but two attributes (fruity and painty/rancid) were common to black and Persian walnut kernels. Black walnuts were distinguished from Persian walnuts by their overall*

## COMING SOON...

**Jan. 29-30** Missouri Farmers Union Convention, Springfield

**Feb. 17** MU Grantsmanship Training for faculty, staff, postdocs and students  
“Tips and Tricks to Make Your Proposal Shine”  
Attendance free, but space limited  
Sign up online at  
<http://orcsweb.missouri.edu/Grantwriters/workshops.html>

*aroma and fruity and musty flavors. Overall aroma, fruity, woody, musty and sweet flavors also varied among the kernels of some black walnut cultivars. Kernels of Persian walnuts generally had higher ratings of nutty, woody and astringent flavors than those of most black walnut cultivars. This study demonstrated that Persian and black walnut kernels share common sensory attributes, but also have unique characteristics. The aroma and fruity flavor of black walnuts can be promoted in the marketplace, which will distinguish them from Persian walnuts.*

## KUDOS

The **UMCA** exhibit display was awarded a USDA Certificate of Appreciation for “2nd place” – out of 61 exhibitors – at the 5th National Small Farm Conference, Sept. 15-17, Springfield, Ill. The conference was sponsored by the United States Department of Agriculture. To see a list of additional exhibitors, go to [http://www.conferences.uiuc.edu/resources/20033/Exhibitors\\_description.pdf](http://www.conferences.uiuc.edu/resources/20033/Exhibitors_description.pdf)

## IMPACT

**Andy Thomas** has been working to determine the feasibility, practicality and profitability of converting a mature (trees up to 25 years old) ungrafted black walnut orchard to a grafted, productive orchard of improved nut-producing cultivars. Researchers believe this technique may “rescue” non-productive seedling-based orchards and convert them into productive cultivar orchards. The project was initiated at Hammons’ Sho-Neff plantation in May 2009. Grafting success was excellent and the project will be evaluated for yield in the coming years.



*It might be cold, but nothing warms you up like chestnuts roasting on an open fire! Friday, Dec. 4, the MU Center for Agroforestry roasted chestnuts for the Columbia Downtown Living Windows Festival. This annual event really gets everyone in the holiday spirit, and the hot roasted chestnuts are no doubt a big part of that spirit!*



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