

ACTION IN AGROFORESTRY

monthly newsletter of The Center for Agroforestry at the University of Missouri

June 2011

Michael Gold and Paige Pritchard, editors

Vol. 2, No. 6

Elderberry Conference Offers Educational Workshops to Interested Growers

This past weekend elderberry farmers from throughout the U.S. met in Hartsburg, MO to attend comprehensive workshops presented by River Hills Elderberry Producers.

(<http://www.riverhillsharvest.org/>)

Attendees were given a tour of Terry Durham's elderberry farm and sampled products ranging from elderberry cordial to elderberry lemonade and tea.

This was the sixth year Durham's farm hosted the workshops, with attendance doubling in size each time.

"We started out with just two people," Durham said. "The researchers would come in and educate people about agroforestry and elderberries. The past three years it's really grown."

Thursday's workshops covered different methods for commercial elderberry production. Topics ranged from the conservation benefits of planting elderberries, alternative growing methods, greenhouse propagation and value-added products.

Friday the workshops moved outside to the Eridu Farms (top photo).



Grower Gary Littrell prepared greenwood cuttings and offered hands-on instruction for first-time elderberry growers (middle photo). Another station featured different farm equipment used on the Eridu Farm.

Darrel Durham, Terry Durham's brother, showcased the initial designs for his elderberry harvester and an elderberry de-stemmer. He hopes to have a prototype for the harvester by next season, and plans to build a prototype for the de-stemmer by this season's harvest. He will then prepare to have the de-stemmer available for purchase by next season.

Terry Durham directed tractor rides out into the elderberry fields where he answered questions about commercial elderberry cultivation and discussed his high-density planting method (bottom photo).

The conference ended with a presentation by Dr. Larry Godsey of The Center for Agroforestry on an elderberry financial decision support tool that he developed for elderberry farmers. Jenny Brooks, a marketing specialist from the Missouri Dept. of Ag. marketing program, also discussed potential economic opportunities in Missouri for elderberry growers.

Center for Agroforestry Hosts Nuffield Scholar

On June 3rd, visiting Nuffield Scholar Stephen Briggs discussed "Agroforestry in the EU and UK," a case study from Whitehall Farms, England, in an open seminar on the MU campus.

Briggs had previously contacted the Center with an interest in viewing research in temperate zone alley-cropping and discussing policy related to adopting agroforestry practices.

Along with Dusty Walter, Briggs visited with Missouri landowners who have active agroforestry production. Dr. Gene Garrett gave Briggs a tour of the research at the MU Horticulture and Agroforestry Research

Center, New Franklin, MO. He then visited the Greenley Center to observe Dr. Ranjith Udawata's work on utilizing contour buffer alley-cropping and talked about the results in terms of soil, water and nutrient movement.

Briggs plans to visit Pennsylvania next to further his studies in temperate agroforestry. He will then return to his farm in the UK to research agroforestry practices with apples and organic grains. He plans to continue his research abroad in Europe and China in the fall.



ACTION IN AGROFORESTRY

KUDOS

Bodh Paudel defended his MS thesis in May and is beginning a Ph.D. program at Washington State University in June. He has published a manuscript in Applied Soil Ecology and another manuscript is in review in Agroforestry Systems. He is currently working on a third manuscript on a soil quality index for grazed pastures with agroforestry buffers. His advisors were **Dr. Ranjith Udawatta, Stephen Anderson, and Robert Kremer.**

Please welcome **Paige Pritchard** to our staff as the new Information Specialist Intern. Paige will assist with the Action in Agroforestry, The Chestnut Grower newsletter, and Green Horizons. She will graduate from the University of Missouri in August with a Bachelor of Journalism degree in Magazine Journalism. She is interested in environmental and agricultural journalism and is very excited to be working with The Center for Agroforestry.

IMPACT

Members of The Center for Agroforestry presented the following talks and posters at the 12th North American Agroforestry Convention in Athens, GA:

Mihaela Cernusca - "U.S. Consumers' Preference for Chestnuts: Post-purchase Evaluation," and "Using the Porter Model to Analyze the U.S. Elderberry Industry."

Larry Godsey - "Comparison of Bare Root and RPM Seedling Production Technologies: Implications for Agroforestry," and "A Preliminary Economic Analysis of a Small-Scale Mechanized Chestnut Harvester in Missouri."

COMING SOON...

- June 16** Agroforestry In-Service Workshop
LaFarge and Viola, WI
http://conservation-training.wisc.edu/course_listing/list_sections?course_id=59
- June 24-26** Chestnut Growers of America Annual Meeting
Louisiana, MO
<http://www.wcga.net/>
- July 17-21** Northern Nutgrowers of America Annual Meeting
Utah State University (USU) in Logan, Utah
<http://www.nutgrowing.org/meetinfo.htm>
- Aug. 16, Sept. 13** Chestnut Workshops
contact rhoadsj@missouri.edu for info

Michael Gold - "An Interdisciplinary Online Certificate and Master's Program in Agroforestry."

Jason Holderieath - "Exploring Landowners' Connections to Carbon Markets in Rural Missouri - Interest, Feasibility and Transaction Costs."

Chung-Ho Lin - "Using Vegetative Environmental Buffers to Mitigate the Environmental and Economic Effects of Odor Emission"; "Reducing Organic Pollutant Losses from Agroecosystems Using Vegetative Buffers"; "Screening and Isolating Bioactive Phytochemicals in Eastern Redcedar (*Juniperus virginiana*) for Developing Potential Entrepreneurial Opportunities," and "Introducing Biological Agents to Enhance Rhizodegradation of Atrazine in Vegetative Buffer Strips."

Phillip Mohebalian - "Consumer Preferences for Elderberry Juice Products."

Bodh Paudel - "Soil Quality Parameters for Row-Crop Systems and Grazed Pastures with Agroforestry Buffers."

Anoma Senaviratne - "Long-Term Assessment of Runoff and Sediment Transport from Grass and Agroforestry Buffers in Corn/Soybean Watersheds Using APEX."

Terrell Stamps - "Economics and Ecology of Alley Cropping in the Mid-Western United States."

Andrew Thomas - "Effect of Rootstock on Nutrient Uptake in Young Grafted Black Walnut Trees."

Ranjith Udawatta - "Agroforestry Buffer Effects on Non-Point Source Pollution Reduction from Row-Crop Watersheds: A Paired Watershed Approach."

OUTREACH

The Center for Agroforestry recently hosted a presentation by guest speaker **Doug Wallace**, lead agroforester with the USDA National Agroforestry Center and former NRCS state forester in Missouri. He presented "Finding Agroforestry Treasures in the USDA Farm Bill."



Eleven members of The Center for Agroforestry's faculty and staff recently attended the 12th North American Agroforestry Conference in Athens, GA. The conference, sponsored by the Association for Temperate Agroforestry (AFTA), ran from June 4-9 and was held at the University of Georgia. In addition to leading and attending daily sessions, they visited a number of farms in southern Georgia such as biodiesel facility Down To Earth Energy, LLC (left). Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Kathleen Merrigan delivered the keynote speech.

Other plenary speakers included Dr. Dennis Garrity, Director General of the World Agroforestry Centre, and Jamshed Merchant, Assistant Deputy Minister, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada



The Center for Agroforestry at the University of Missouri

203 ABNR 573-884-2874
www.centerforagroforestry.org
Shibu Jose, Ph.D., Director

 The Center for Agroforestry
University of Missouri
A Global Center for Agroforestry, Entrepreneurship and the Environment