

ACTION IN AGROFORESTRY

monthly newsletter of The Center for Agroforestry at the University of Missouri (UMCA)

July 2011

Michael Gold and Paige Pritchard, editors

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The Chestnut Growers of America 2011 Annual Meeting

This past month from June 24-26, Missouri hosted the 2011 Chestnut Growers of America Annual Meeting (<http://www.wcga.net/index.htm>). Held at various locations along the Mississippi River, the meeting featured a welcome party, presentations by CGA officers and members, and tours of a variety of chestnut orchards and nurseries.

The Friday night welcome party was held in Pittsfield, IL at the Historic Grimshaw Home. Built in 1847, the house was home to William Grimshaw, a Pike County local attorney who participated in several court cases with Abraham Lincoln.

The welcome party was a great opportunity for members to catch up on the past year and sample a variety of chestnut recipes, including the "Wing Nut" chestnut beer from St. Louis's Urban Chestnut Brewing Company, chestnut wine, chestnut-crusted pork loin and chestnut cheesecake.

Attendees viewed presentations at the Elsberry Plant Material Center (PMC) in Elsberry, MO on Saturday morning. UMCA faculty Dr. Ken Hunt, Dr. Larry Godsey and Ina Cernusca each gave presentations on chestnut-focused research efforts.

CGA member Sandy Anagnostakis of the Connecticut Agriculture Experiment Station in New Haven, CT,

gave a presentation on the Ozark Chinquapin and CGA Vice President Dr. Dennis Fulbright discussed his efforts in applying for USDA specialty crop grants. Senator Kit Bond was also in attendance and took a moment to talk about his orchard in Mexico, MO.

CGA members visited Wayne Lovelace's Forrest Keeling Nursery (FKN) (<http://fknursery.com/index.cfm/fuseaction/home.home/index.htm>) next to PMC where they were able to take a tour throughout the nursery's multiple orchards and greenhouses. FKN production manager Lupe Rios also demonstrated cultivar grafting while Wayne Lovelace explained the nursery's innovative root production method® (RPM).

After the tour of the FKN, CGA members Dale and Linda Black hosted a tour of their chestnut orchard in Rockport, IL where they viewed a number of different grafting techniques performed by Dr. Ken Hunt.

On Sunday, attendees had the option to travel to HARC in New Franklin, MO and walk throughout the chestnut orchards as Dr. Ken Hunt discussed the different varieties of trees as well as how to approach growing issues such as chestnut blight and cicada damage.

Although the location for next year's annual meeting is yet to be determined, the meeting's hosts in both Illinois and Missouri should be proud of a weekend well spent.

Burgundy Black Truffle Cultivation Agroforestry in Action Guide Published

The University of Missouri Center for Agroforestry recently published "Burgundy Black Truffle Cultivation in an Agroforestry Practice." It highlights information about the Burgundy truffle (*Tuber aestivum* Vitt., syn. *T. uncinatum* Ch.) and the Perigord black truffle (*T. melanosporum* Vitt.), which have been determined to be the two best candidate species for truffle cultivation in the south-central U.S.

The guide not only informs readers about why these truffles are a preferred species to cultivate in the U.S., but also how to choose a plantation site for the truffles and prepare, establish, maintain, harvest and cook with the truffles you plant. The guide also includes an extensive list of additional resources that would be

helpful for any grower interested in truffles.

The Burgundy Black Truffle guide was written by Dr. Johann Bruhn, Ph.D., Research

Associate Professor, Division of Plant Sciences, University of Missouri & Michelle Hall, Senior Information Specialist, the Center for Agroforestry, University of Missouri.



A PDF of the guide can be found at <http://www.centerforagroforestry.org/pubs/Trufficulture2011.pdf>.

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KUDOS

On July 8th, UMCA Research Specialist **Dusty Walter** presented his dissertation defense seminar titled "Silvopasture's Effect on Growth and Development of White and Black Oaks in an Intensively Managed Upland Central Hardwood Forest."

M.S. Candidate **Stacey Smith** presented her master's defense seminar "Early-age Genetic Parameter Estimates for Diameter, Height and Volume in *Pinus echinata* Mill. and implications for Breeding" on July 18th. Her thesis supervisor was **Dr. John Dwyer**.

M.S. Candidate **James Wagner** also presented his master's defense, "Suitability of Cold-Hardy Loblolly and Pitch X Loblolly Hybrid Pines for Commercial Pine Straw Production in Missouri," on July 18th. His advisor was **Dr. Christopher J. Starbuck**.

RESEARCH

The Journal of the American Pomological Society recently published a new elderberry cultivar release 'Bob Gordon' developed by **Patrick L. Byers**, Horticulture Specialist with the MU Extension Center and **Andrew L. Thomas**, Research Assistant Professor at the MU Division of Plant Sciences. The cultivar was developed through the Elderberry Improvement Project, which released its first cultivar 'Wyldewood' in the fall of 2010.

"'Bob Gordon', a selection of the American elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis* L; syn. *Sambucus nigra* ssp. *canadensis* (L.) R. Bolli), is a productive, adapted cultivar that has outperformed the standard 'Adams II' and other genotypes in multiple studies. 'Bob Gordon' has been under continuous evaluation since 1999, most recently in a cultivar trial conducted at two sites in Missouri and one in Oregon, and a pruning trial conducted at two Missouri sites. In the cultivar trial 'Bob Gordon' had a greater overall mean yield (2.75 kg/plant) and larger berry size (92 mg) compared with 'Adams II'; (1.78 kg/plant and 60 mg, respectively). In the pruning trial 'Bob Gordon'

also had a greater mean yield (1.86kg/plant and larger berry size (86 mg) across multiple experimental variables compared with 'Adams II' (0.65 kg/plant and 63 mg, respectively)."

-abstract on 'Bob Gordon' Elderberry from Journal of the American Pomological Society 65(2); 52-55 2011.

OUTREACH

UMCA Director Dr. Shibu Jose gave a presentation at a conference entitled "Bioenergy from Wood (Benwood): Role of Short Rotation Woody Crops and Agroforestry" held in Barolo, Italy, June 20-22. The title of his conference presentation was "Short Rotation Woody Crops: Water and Nutrient Use and Water Quality Concerns."

The following presentations were given by UMCA faculty at the Chestnut Growers of America Annual Meeting on June 25th at the Elsberry Plant Materials Center:

Dr. Ken Hunt presented research on the "Overview of Chestnut Nut Yields and Orchard Management at the Horticulture and Agroforestry Research Center."

Dr. Larry Godsey discussed his research performed at HARC with Michele Warmund on "Low-Cost Harvest Equipment for Chestnuts."

Marketing Specialist Ina Cernusca presented the results of the 2010 Annual CGA Market Survey.

The following photos were taken at the Chestnut Growers of America Annual Meeting. (Top) A demonstration of a small-scale chestnut peeler built by CGA members Auzzie Jackson and Gerald Whitmer. (Bottom Right) CGA members watch a chestnut grafting demonstration at Dale and Linda Black's chestnut orchard. (Bottom Left) CGA Vice President Dr. Dennis Fulbright discusses an example of chestnut blight at the MU Horticulture and Agroforestry Research Center (HARC).



COMING SOON...

Aug. 16, Sept. 13 Chestnut Workshops
Contact rhoadsj@missouri.edu for info.

Sept. 24 CAFNR South Farm Showcase
MU South Farm off of New Haven Rd.



The Center for Agroforestry at the University of Missouri

203 ABNR 573-884-2874

www.centerforagroforestry.org

Shibu Jose, Ph.D., Director

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