

ACTION IN AGROFORESTRY

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

June 2012

Michael Gold and Laura Orozco, editors

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UMCA sponsors elderberry workshop in Hartsburg, Mo.

The Center for Agroforestry, in conjunction with ongoing UMCA NCR-SARE Research and Education grant funding, co-sponsored the 2012 Comprehensive Elderberry Workshop and Farm Tour on June 7 and 8 in Hartsburg, Mo. Approximately 145 visitors attended the workshop, 24 of whom were from out of state.

A number of speakers presented research on a variety of topics, including the management of elderberry weeds and pests, the economics and marketing of elderberry production and elderberry value-added products, and a review of elderberry cultivars. Presentations by University of Missouri faculty and staff included:

- *The Elderberry Crop Improvement Project*, Andrew Thomas
- *2012 Elderberry Pest Research and Meet the Bugs – Field Research*, Michele Warmund
- *The Economic Assessment Tool*, Michael Gold
- *Elderberry Market & Market Potential*, Ina Cernusca
- *Consumer Preferences for Elderberry Products*, Phillip Mohebalian
- *Elderberry Cultivars, Past, Present & Future*, Patrick Byers

In addition to the presentations given at the American Legion Hall, workshop guests also toured Eridu Farms, the largest elderberry farm in the U.S. In the evenings, folk and blues musicians from around the state entertained attendees at the Elderberry Festival, an annual concert in Hartsburg that coincides with the workshop.

For more information on growing and marketing elderberries in Missouri, view or print the newly released UMCA guide at <http://www.centerforagroforestry.org/profit/ElderberryGuide.pdf>.



Terry Durham speaks to workshop attendees at Eridu Farms in Hartsburg



Darrel Durham demonstrates how to operate a second-generation prototype machine that will mechanically de-stem elderberry fruit

Visiting Scholar Dr. Azmy Mohamed

Dr. Azmy Mohamed (B.S., Iowa State University; M.S., University of Central Missouri; Ph.D., University of Wales) is a Visiting Scholar with the Center for Agroforestry for three weeks in June 2012. He is an Associate Professor with the Faculty of Forestry at the University of Putra Malaysia. He is interested in forest farming, particularly with medicinal plants. His visit is funded by a fellowship from the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), Japan.



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Kudos

In May, Benjamin Moore successfully defended his thesis “Land use effects on greenhouse gas production in lower Missouri river floodplain soils” and graduated with his Master of Science. His thesis adviser was Dr. Peter P. Motavalli.

Jie Gao, a student of Dr. Carla Barbieri, was awarded the 2012 Boeing Masters Student Research Award for her thesis on Perceptions of Agroforestry Landscape Attributes for Agritourism Development. This competitive award is granted to the best Master’s thesis in Tourism and will be presented at the 43rd Annual International Conference of Travel and Tourism Research Association, Virginia Beach, VA, June 17-19, 2012.

Outreach

As members of the MU Global Scholars Program, Chung-Ho Lin and Carla Barbieri visited Costa Rica and Panama from May 18 to June 2. The mission of their trip was as follows:

Objective: Establish collaborative projects and joint programs with partnering institutions in the areas of: Agroforestry Research/Policy, Riparian Buffer/Watershed Management, Biofuel, Biosensor, Air Quality Monitoring/Forecasting, Odor Abatement, Residue Analysis, Natural Product Research, Agritourism and Specialty Crops.

Research

An article by Drs. Michael Gold and Shibu Jose has been published online in the Agroforestry Systems journal. “Gold, M.A. and S. Jose. 2012. An Interdisciplinary Online Certificate and Master’s Degree Program in Agroforestry. Agroforestry Systems DOI: 10.1007/s10457-012-9522-8.” The Center for Agroforestry at the University of Missouri has created a web-based, asynchronous, online graduate certificate and master’s degree program in agroforestry. Initial student evaluation data reveals that online agroforestry courses compare favorably with face-to-face courses. The article and abstract can be found online at <http://www.springerlink.com/content/r74k023870r784t4/>.

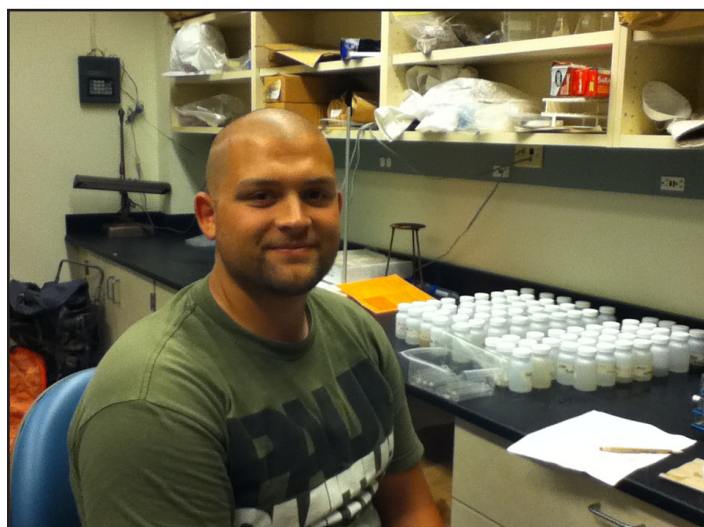
COMING SOON...

June 30

HARC Field Day
Horticulture & Agroforestry Research Center
New Franklin, MO
For more information visit:
[http://www.centerforagroforestry.org/
events/120630fieldday.pdf](http://www.centerforagroforestry.org/events/120630fieldday.pdf)

Technology Transfer

MU officially filed a patent application for the invention “Nanostructured Carbon Based Biocatalyst for Remediation of Environmental Pollutants” (US Application: 13/448,065) in May 2012. The invention utilizes an innovative approach to conjugate bioactive enzymes onto the surface of functionalized mesoporous carbon. The invention has a wide range of commercial applications ranging from the development of biocatalysts, biofilters, fuel cells, biofuel production, drug delivery systems, other medical therapeutics and biosensors.



Welcoming a new agroforestry intern!

The Center for Agroforestry would like to welcome Joshua Crego as the new agroforestry intern. Josh will be assisting a number of Center scientists with both field and laboratory research throughout the summer.

Josh graduated in May of this year from Paul Smith’s College in northeastern New York with a Bachelor of Science in ecological forest management. He has a background in carpentry and mechanics and enjoys spending time outdoors, especially camping and snowboarding.



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