



Action in Agroforestry

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Michael Gold and
Taylor Wanbaugh, editors

7th Annual UMCA Symposium draws in large crowds

The Center for Agroforestry 7th annual symposium: “The Future of Pollinators: Why Agroforestry Matters” was a great success, filling Monsanto Auditorium with over 300 people. The symposium was held on January 28 from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. in the Bond Life Sciences Building at the University of Missouri. Over 1,700 people tuned in for the live-streaming of the event.

Pollinators have been a hot topic in the agroforestry realm, so it was the perfect subject for this year’s symposium.

“We know that pollinators account for a third of the food we have globally through pollination,” said Dr. Thomas Payne, dean of the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources.



Scott Hoffman Black, director of the Xerces Society, keynote speaker at the symposium, spoke about the importance of pollinator conservation.

The symposium featured a panel discussion about public-private partnerships for pollinator conservation



“The recent declining trends of wild pollinators has caused concern,” said Dr. Shibu Jose, director of The Center for Agroforestry. “Agroforestry has been suggested as one of the solutions.”

The symposium featured speakers from the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources; the Xerces Society; the National Agroforestry Center; UC Berkeley; Missouri Department of Conservation; Lincoln University; the St. Louis Zoo and more. The event also featured a panel discussion about public-private partnerships for pollinator conservation.

“We cannot conserve animals unless we understand them and what their needs are,” said Scott Hoffman Black, director of the Xerces Society. “We work with agencies and private landowners to basically understand the habitat and management needs for invertebrates.”

Fall 2015 HARC Chestnut Harvest

With an increase in personnel, researchers were able to re-initiate data collection (using the “nut wizard”) in the chestnut ‘cultivar trial’ during the 2015 chestnut harvest at the MU Horticulture and Agroforestry Research Center (HARC). The majority of the harvest tonnage was collected using the newly acquired FACMA commercial chestnut harvester. The cultivar trial was established by Dr. Ken Hunt in 1999 as a replicated study consisting of 5 individuals per cultivar scattered across the orchard.

Overall, at age 16 from graft impressive yields and nut sizes were noted in the following cultivars: ‘Qing’ averaged 94 lbs per tree, with an average nut size of 14.6 grams (g); ‘Peach’ 70 lbs /14.9g; ‘Sleeping Giant’ 66 lbs/13.7g; ‘Mossbarger’ 59 lbs/15.1g; ‘Gideon’ 48 lbs/12g; ‘Auburn Homestead’ 46 lbs/14.5g; and ‘Hong Kong’ 39 lbs/11.8g.

Note: At the 30’x30’ orchard spacing used at HARC, or roughly 50 trees to the acre, a cultivar averaging 40 lbs/tree will yield ~2,000 lbs (1 ton) per acre; An average yield of 60 lbs/tree equals 3,000 lbs/acre, etc.



Upcoming Events

Missouri Natural Resources Conference: Balancing Economics, Conservation and Adaptive Management in a Changing World

February 3-5, 2016

Tan-Tar-A Resort, Osage Beach, Mo.

<http://www.mnrc.org>

Missouri Organic Association Annual Conference

February 4-5, 2016

Springfield, Mo.

<http://www.moaconference.org/>

The Science Supporting Changes in Soil Health Webinar: Presented by USDA NRCS Soil Health Division

February 9, 2016

2-3 p.m. EST

<http://www.conservationwebinars.net/webinars/the-science-supporting-changes-in-soil-health>

Contact Holli Kuykendall, Ph.D., National Technology Specialist, for more information

Farm Profitability Boot Camp

February 10, 2016

11:30 a.m.-4 p.m. CT

Holiday Inn Executive Center, Columbia, Mo.

<http://www.missourifarmersunion.com/index.cfm?show=10&mid=39>

Please RSVP by Friday, February 5, 2016 to Richard Oswald at mofarmersunion@gmail.com

MOSES Organic Farming Conference

February 25-27, 2016

La Crosse, Wisconsin

<https://mosesorganic.org/conference/>

UFWH 11th Annual Summit: ‘From Poverty to Promise’

February 26-27, 2016

Columbia, Mo.

<http://ufwh2016.org/>