



# Action in Agroforestry

February 2020 Vol. 12, No.2 Hannah Hemmelgarn & Michael Gold, editors

## Innovative Value-Added Potential for Farm & Forest Products

On January 30<sup>th</sup>, agroforestry entrepreneurs shared their experiences and successes at the University of Missouri Center for Agroforestry's Annual Agroforestry Symposium. The event highlighted innovative value-added approaches that advance the market potential for specialty crops and forest products, a central focus of the Center for Agroforestry's work.

Farmers and producers, including Nicola Macpherson of Ozark Forest Mushrooms and Brian Hammons of Hammons Products, showcased inspiring opportunities for creative niche products at the Symposium. Their stories are a testament to the promising future of Missouri's value-added agroforestry products. Nicola Macpherson's list of specialty mushroom products was mouthwatering to say the least, from diverse mixed boxes of wild and cultivated fresh and dried mushrooms, mushroom-infused sauces, dry mushroom soup and meal kits, powdered mushroom spice mixes, and much more. Brian Hammons' enthusiasm for the bold flavor of black walnuts was also clear. Missouri is the nation's largest producer of black walnuts and black walnut products, including shelled nuts, ice cream, nut butters, health bars, craft beers, oil, shell abrasives and filters.

Presenters at the Symposium also addressed the market and economic analyses and approaches that add value to farm and forest products. MU faculty Dr. Randall Westgren and Dr. Kiruba Krishnaswamy supported the charge offered by keynote speaker Lt. Governor Mike Kehoe, who shared about the new release of the Missouri Food, Beverage and Forest

Products Initiative. This economic feasibility study, conducted with agriculture and forestry partners from academic institutions to industry, explores the potential for growing the Missouri economy with investments in food and forest product manufacturing enterprises.



The initiative highlights three primary recommendations: 1) to enhance food value chains at a regional and local level across the state; 2) to build a research and innovation driven food industry rooted in advanced nutritional sciences, expanded food science capabilities, and applied clinical and translated research program; and 3) to develop enhanced value-added processing activities for commodity products. Given the rich potential for development of regional food systems that deliver healthy, local appropriate foods, this initiative will direct the strengths of our university, state and federal governments, commodity groups and other

agricultural stakeholders toward a common goal – an enhanced food entrepreneur assistance program centered on job growth. The initiative's stakeholders will also determine the factors, such as transportation infrastructure, government agencies, trade and international policies, that must be addressed for Missouri to thrive as a food, beverage and fiber products manufacturing destination.

Recordings of the livestreamed Symposium presentations will be soon be available at [www.CenterforAgroforestry.org](http://www.CenterforAgroforestry.org) (stay tuned for announcement of availability).

## The Agroforestry Podcast: *Community Food Forests and Edible Landscapes*

Check out the most recent episode of the Agroforestry Podcast, featuring Dr. Sarah Lovell, Director of the Center for Agroforestry and author of several research publications on urban agroforestry applications and landscape ecology; Catherine Bukowski, PhD candidate at Virginia Tech University and co-author of *The Community Food Forests Handbook*; and Matt Lebon, owner and operator of the St. Louis-based perennial edible landscaping company Custom Foodscaping. You can listen to this episode, and all others, on any podcast app, or at [www.CenterForAgroforestry.org/podcast.php](http://www.CenterForAgroforestry.org/podcast.php). To receive updates when new episodes are released, subscribe to the podcast on your preferred podcast app.

## Job Announcements

**The Center for Conservation and Sustainable Development (CCSD) at the Missouri Botanical Garden** seeks to hire two full-time postdoctoral scholars. The candidates will 1) develop and implement collaborative research project(s) that advance restoration science in woodlands, grasslands, and glades at MBG's Shaw Nature Reserve and the broader region; 2) train and mentor undergraduate and graduate students; 3) assist MBG scientists with coordinating grant-funded activities including recruitment and mentoring of students, organizing and participating in outreach events and workshops, and presenting lectures to professional organizations and the general public; 4) prepare and submit manuscripts for publication; 5) build relationships with SNR staff and collaborative partners; and 6) actively participate in events with the St. Louis Ecology, Evolution, and Conservation community. The position will be based in St. Louis, where a vibrant community of ecologists, conservation practitioners, and evolutionary biologists interact through partnerships among MBG, Washington University, the University of Missouri-St. Louis, Saint Louis University, and other area institutions. For more information and to apply: <https://usr57.dayforcehcm.com/CandidatePortal/en-US/MBG/Posting/View/471>

There are currently 137 open positions in USAjobs.gov for the **USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), and Risk Management Agency (RMA)**.

**The Savanna Institute** is recruiting mentor farms, as well as apprentices, for the second year of the Agroforestry Apprenticeship program (details at <http://www.savannainstitute.org/apprenticeship.html>). Do you know of any amazing farms or organizations currently engaging in perennial, regenerative agriculture that might be interested in hosting a learner for 10 weeks this year? Contact Kaitie Adams at [kaitie@savannainstitute.org](mailto:kaitie@savannainstitute.org) to help raise a new generation of agroforestry farmers.

The Savanna Institute is also currently hiring for TEN open positions, with deadlines right around the corner. For details and to apply, visit <http://www.savannainstitute.org/jobs.html>.

## KUDOS

## Recent Publications

Rosa de Moraes, M., Ryan, S.M., Godoy, H.T., Thomas, A.L., Maia, J.G.S., Richards, K.M., Tran, K., Smith, R.E. 2019. Phenolic compounds and metals in some edible Annonaceae fruits. *Biological Trace Element Research*. 10.1007/s12011-019-02005-w.

Thomas, A.L., Kallenbach, R., Sauer, T.J., Brauer, D.K., Burner, D.M., Coggeshall, M.V., Dold, C., Rogers, W., Bardhan, S., Jose, S. 2019. Carbon and nitrogen accumulation within four black walnut alley cropping sites across Missouri and Arkansas, USA. *Agroforestry Systems*. 10.1007/s10457-019-00471-8.

## Recent Graduate

Congratulations to Donna Davis upon completion of her online MS in Agroforestry in December, 2019. Her Final Project was entitled "*Urban Biodiversity Planning and Monitoring For Smaller or First Time Communities – An Exploration*". Her committee included Michael Gold, Charles Nilon and Ranjith Udawatta. Donna is the Urban & Community Forestry Program Specialist for Eastern Colorado.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Mid-MO Expo

*February 29, 2020 | 9:00am-3 pm | Battle High School, 7575 E. St. Charles Rd | Columbia, MO*

The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual *Mid-Mo Expo Small Farm To Backyard Garden* event provides the opportunity to attend educational programs to learn about current gardening and small farm topics, visit with vendors and local organizations, check out raffle and Silent Auction items, eat lunch, see 4-H demonstrations, and find out how the Boone County Extension can help YOU! Doors open at 8:30 a.m. Educational programs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tickets are \$6 without lunch or \$12 with lunch. Registration Required. Register at [midmoexpo.com](http://midmoexpo.com) or call 573-445-9792. Deadline to register is Feb 24th.

## Hometown Habitat: Stories of Bringing Nature Home

*March 5, 2020 | 7:00pm | MU School of Natural Resources | Bond Life Sciences Center, Columbia, MO*

*Hometown Habitat* is a “call to action” environmental documentary focused on how and why native plants are critical to the survival and vitality of local ecosystems. Renowned entomologist Douglas Tallamy narrates inspiring stories of community commitment to conservation landscaping, showing how humans and nature can co-exist – with mutual benefits. The screening of this film serves to introduce one of the MU College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources (CAFNR) strategic “Grand Ideas” – Healthy Ecosystems for Life on the Planet. The free event will include the film screening and a panel conversation moderated by filmmaker Catherine Zimmerman.

## Great Lakes Indigenous Farming Conference

*March 5-8, 2020 | White Earth Land Recovery Project | Callaway, MN*

The 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Indigenous Farming Conference is focused on “Living the Good Life through Knowledge and Community” *Mino-Bimaadiziwin-Gikendaasowin-Oodenang*. Early bird registration is open until February 7<sup>th</sup> at <https://www.welrp.org/indigenous-farming-conference/>. Included in the program is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Indigenous Hemp Conference, March 4<sup>th</sup>, also at the Maplelag Resort in Callaway, Minnesota. For IFC questions, call 218-375-2600 or email [IFC@welrp.org](mailto:IFC@welrp.org). There are limited scholarships available for elders, locals, tribal members and students.

## Midwest School for Beginning Apple Growers

*March 6-8, 2020 | UW-Madison Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems | Madison, WI*

This is an intensive three-day course demonstrating what it takes to set up and run a successful orchard business. The unique program combines knowledge from experienced growers and UW faculty, with opportunities to understand a holistic approach, and to network and learn from fellow orchardists and entrepreneurs. More information and registration at <https://www.cias.wisc.edu/midwest-school-for-beginning-apple-growers/>.

## Nutshell Webinar: Business Planning for Agroforestry

*March 10, 2020 | Savanna Institute | Free online webinar*

This live, online discussion will feature Kelleen Wiseman, MFRE Academic Director and Manager and faculty of land and food systems at the University of British Columbia. Wiseman will share the nuts and bolts of business planning for agroforestry. Register for this and other Nutshell webinars at [www.savannainstitute.org/events.html](http://www.savannainstitute.org/events.html).

## Tri-State Forest Stewardship Conference 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

March 14, 2020 | 12:00pm-4:30pm | University of Illinois & Iowa State University | Freeport, IL

The Tri-State Forest Stewardship Conference is a 1-day educational program annually presented by extension educators at the University of Illinois and Iowa State University Extension and Outreach. This conference is designed specifically for forest landowners in the Midwest. Speakers present on a range of topics from traditional woodland management techniques, timber taxes, game and non-game wildlife management, to soils and soil erosion in woodlands. Non-timber forest products such as maple syrup production, raising ginseng, and mushroom cultivation are also presented. For details about this year's agenda, presenters, and registration, visit <https://www.ilforestry.org/event-3722688>.

### Native by Design: Nature at Your Doorstep

March 20, 2020 | 7:30am-12:00pm | Missouri Prairie Foundation, Grow Native! | Edwardsville, IL

Grow Native! celebrates their 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a workshop featuring keynote presentations from Kelly D. Norris and Dr. Sarah Lovell, as well as a panel of native plant experts and backyard gardeners. Norris is an award-winning author and Director of Horticulture and Education at the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden; Dr. Lovell serves as the H.E. Garrett Endowed Chair Professor and Director of the Center for Agroforestry at the University of Missouri. For more information, email [grownative@moprairie.org](mailto:grownative@moprairie.org).

### Nutshell Webinar: Tribal Agroforestry & Indigenous Fire Stewardship

March 24, 2020 | 7:00pm | Savanna Institute | Free online webinar

This live, online discussion will feature Frank Lake, Research Ecologist in the Redwood Sciences Laboratory of the US Forest Service. Lake will share about tribal agroforestry and Indigenous fire stewardship practices in the Pacific Northwest region. Register for this and other Nutshell webinars at [www.savannainstitute.org/events.html](http://www.savannainstitute.org/events.html).

### Fourth Annual International Gleaning Symposium

April 23-25, 2020 | The Association of Gleaning Organizations | Burlington, VT

The Association of Gleaning Organizations builds the capacity of organizations recovering fresh fruits and vegetables from farms, gardens, and backyards across North America. Join the Association of Gleaning Organizations in partnership with Salvation Farms and other leaders in the sustainable food movement to talk shop and learn new skills for improving your gleaning program. More information and registration is available at [www.gleaners.us/international-gleaning-symposium-20](http://www.gleaners.us/international-gleaning-symposium-20).

### Glades, Quail, and Prescribed Fire Workshop

June 2-3, 2020 | Oak Woodlands & Forest Fire Consortium | Ash Flat, Arkansas

Co-hosted by the Oak Woodlands & Fire Consortium, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, and The Nature Conservancy, this 1.5-day workshop in Northern Arkansas will focus on prescribed fire management of glades, with emphasis on quail habitat. A half day of presentations at Ozarka College will be followed by a full day field tour to see these practices at Harold E. Alexander Spring River Wildlife Management Area. Registration is required and limited to the first 50 registrants. For details, visit <https://oakfirescience.com/events/glades-quail-and-prescribed-fire-workshop-in-arkansas/> or contact Joe Marschall ([marschallj@missouri.edu](mailto:marschallj@missouri.edu)) with questions.



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