

ACTION IN AGROFORESTRY

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

August 2010

Michael Gold and Michelle Hall, editors

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'The' Center for Agroforestry

It's official! We have become The Center for Agroforestry at the University of Missouri: A Global Center for Agroforestry, Entrepreneurship and the Environment.



The Center for Agroforestry
University of Missouri

A Global Center for Agroforestry, Entrepreneurship and the Environment

The new name was approved by Center faculty and staff in May and has now been given the official go-ahead from the MU College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources and the School of Natural Resources, both of which we are a part.

"We are excited to position ourselves as a global leader in agroforestry research, teaching and technology transfer,"

said Shibu Jose, Center director. "Our new name will convey this mission clearly."

You will start seeing our new name/logo pop up on everything affiliated with the Center soon. (See the sneak peek above!) We will soon be sending the logo electronically to everyone affiliated with the Center, for use in e-mail signatures, on posters and in PowerPoint presentations, for example. Revised Center letterhead will soon be available in both printed and electronic formats.

The Center's name will still be abbreviated "UMCA."

MISSOURI CHESTNUT ROAST: IMPACT AND ACTIVITIES

The eighth annual Missouri Chestnut Roast will be Saturday, Oct. 16, at the MU Horticulture and Agroforestry Research Center, New Franklin.

The event is held rain or shine, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Roast is a harvest festival; a family day out; a Missouri specialty product showcase; an agroforestry field day; and – first and foremost – a chestnut extravaganza!

Value-added food producers will provide free tasting samples and products for sale, including Missouri wines, meats and nuts. Enjoy chestnut cooking demonstrations, educational presentations and exhibits, children's activities, chestnut roasting booth with free samples of fresh roasted chestnuts, guided bus and walking tours of the chestnut orchards and agroforestry research areas, and a food concession stand featuring Missouri-produced grilled elk, buffalo, pork and beef products.

The day's activities center around the farm's Thomas Hickman House, now fully restored and furnished. The house, built in 1819, is one of Missouri's oldest standing brick homes and is on the National Register of Historic Places. Tours of the house will be available.

In 2009, UMCA researchers administered the first after-event survey to evaluate Roast participants' experience

with the festival and evaluate the festival impact on participants' behavior and awareness about chestnuts and other nuts, agroforestry and agritourism in the region.

Among the findings:

- *First-time visitors drove farther to attend.
- *Participants spent an average of two hours and spent an average of \$25 at the festival.
- *Friends and family; MU e-mail; and Columbia Daily Tribune were the most influential advertising channels.
- *Samples of roasted chestnuts were rated the highest attraction.
- *90 percent would recommend the festival to others.
- *The Roast had an impact on the behavior of participants in terms of increasing potential of agroforestry adoption and potential of agritourism in the region.

Volunteers are always needed to make Roast day a success. Contact Julie Rhoads, UMCA event coordinator, at 573-882-3234 or rhoadsj@missouri.edu, for more information. For Roast details, go to <http://www.center-foragroforestry.org/events/chestnut/index.asp>



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KUDOS

Ranjith Udawatta, Steve Anderson, Chung-Ho Lin and Shibu Jose are part of two Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watersheds Initiative proposals funded in the state by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service: Goodwater Creek – South Fork Salt Watershed Project; and Mark Twain Lake – North Fork Salt Watershed Project. UMCA will serve as the lead monitoring group on these conservation projects to ultimately reduce hypoxia in the Gulf of Mexico. The grants run through 2015; UMCA will receive 10 percent of the approximately \$3 million per project.

IMPACT

Johann Bruhn, David Emerich and Jeanne Mihail are working to identify bacterial communities in Burgundy truffles from Italy and Sweden, as well as in host tree root tips infected by the Burgundy truffle fungus in a research planting in Missouri. More than 30 bacteria obtained in pure culture from Italian Burgundy truffles have been identified so far, including representatives of genera known to fix nitrogen in legumes. This work may lead to recommendations that host tree seedlings be co-inoculated with beneficial bacteria along with the truffle fungus in an effort to improve truffle production.

RESEARCH

Byers, P.L., A.L. Thomas, and M. Millican. 2010. 'Wylde-wood' Elderberry. Cultivar and Germplasm Release. HortScience 45(2):312-313.

This publication officially "releases" this new elderberry cultivar to the public. 'Wylde-wood' is a wild selection of elderberry from

COMING SOON...

Aug. 17 UMCA Chestnut Workshop Series #3
Orchard Maintenance, Weed Control, Insect Scouting, Pest Management, Disease Control

Sept. 14 UMCA Chestnut Workshop Series #4
Harvest, Marketing and Sales

Both workshops held at Horticulture and Agroforestry Research Center, New Franklin. Contact Julie Rhoads, 573-882-3234 or rhoadsj@missouri.edu, for more information.

Sept. 17 UMCA Faculty/Staff Meeting, 2:30-4 p.m.
HARC, New Franklin

northeast Oklahoma that has performed exceptionally in numerous evaluations for more than 10 years, and seems to be well-adapted to Midwestern growing conditions. The owner of this cultivar, Marge Millican, has released it for the public. This new cultivar must be propagated by cuttings and will slowly become available to producers and nurseries over the next few years.

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Harris, M.K., K.L. Hunt, and A.I. Cognato. 2010. DNA Identification Confirms Pecan Weevil (Coleoptera: Curculionidae) Infestation of Carpathian Walnut. Horticultural Entomology 103(4):1312-1314.

Larvae found infesting fruit from a Carpathian walnut, Juglans regia L., tree in Missouri were confirmed to be those of pecan weevil, Curculio caryae (Horn) (Coleoptera: Curculionidae). The infested walnut tree occurs in the midst of pecan weevil-infested pecans; the larval haplotypes were found to be identical to pecan weevil larvae from the region. This is the first confirmed DNA analysis showing pecan weevil attacks J. regia and the second report that J. regia may be at risk of infestation by pecan weevil. The pecan weevil is a key pest of pecan and seems capable of inflicting similar damage to walnut if spread to commercial areas that produce J. regia.

OUTREACH

Mark Coggeshall, Jordan Prindle, and Jerry Van Sambeek attended a Thousand Cankers Disease Workshop in Denver, Colo., June 23. The workshop gave experience in dissecting all stages of the insect from a dying walnut tree, a bus tour to see walnut trees in decline, and examination of the fungus.



Pat Byers, center, Greene County Horticulture Specialist and UMCA collaborator, provides attendees with information at the elderberry variety trial area at Carver Farm. Byers was speaking as part of the Comprehensive Elderberry Workshop and Farm Tour June 17-18 at the Lincoln University Carver Farm, Jefferson City, and Eridu Farm, Hartsburg. Several UMCA staff members were among 125 people attending.



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