



ACTION IN AGROFORESTRY

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

January 2012

Michael Gold and Paige Pritchard, editors

Vol. 3, No. 1

Truffle and Mushroom Workshops in Columbia

This spring, Research Associate Professor **Dr. Johann Bruhn** is working with the Columbia Area Career Center's Professional & Community Education program to teach a variety of workshops on the cultivation of truffles and shiitake mushrooms in the midwest.

On the evenings of March 6th-7th Dr. Bruhn will lead a workshop on "Cultivating Shiitake Mushrooms at Home," from which each student will leave with an inoculated wood log to take home and start growing. The next workshop will focus on "European Black Truffle Biology and Cultivation in the Central U.S.," and will be held the evenings of April 4th-5th. This workshop will cover how the cultivation of truffle began in Missouri and how to get involved in this new and exciting cash crop.

"Once we have truffles available, we believe it's going to be something of a transformational factor in rural hospitality industries like agritourism, the restaurant business, the production of foods that truffles accompany – and improve anything from bread to ice cream," says Dr. Bruhn. "And so we expect that this production of truffles in this part of the country is not only going to benefit the grower but will benefit anyone who is producing anything that would be attractive with truffles."

Dr. Bruhn recently led a one-night workshop on "Truffle and Mushroom Cuisine." The workshop discussed how to prepare and store shiitake and recipes such as grilled shiitake, shiitake casserole and a cucumber-shiitake summertime salad. The mushrooms were provided by Ozark Forest Mushrooms.

Truffle recipes prepared for the workshop included truffled oil and butter over toast and truffled honey over a sharp cheese. The truffles used were perigord truffles, which are in season from the middle of December through February.

"It's really pretty exciting because I think most people think "truffles" but they really don't have much of an idea of what a truffle is or what it would taste like or what it would smell like," says Dr. Bruhn. "And a lot of people aren't really sure what to do with shiitake either."

Although this was the first class of its kind, Dr. Bruhn believes it will be repeated again, most likely during the fall when the black burgundy truffle is in season. Other projects Dr. Bruhn will be working on this spring include continuing to prepare truffle orchards at Ozark Forest Mushrooms and the Hills Farm southwest of Branson, and breaking ground at The Farm at Sugar Creek just outside of Hermann. He also has a Memorandum of Understanding with Uppsala University in Sweden and will continue his collaborative research on the biology and cultivation of European black truffles.

For more information on Dr. Bruhn's work and truffle cultivation in Missouri, see the Agriculture in Action guide on Burgundy Black Truffle cultivation at <http://www.centerforagroforestry.org/pubs/Trufficulture2011.pdf>

To sign up for one of Dr. Bruhn's workshops at the Columbia Area Career Center call (573) 214-3803 or register online at www.career-center.org/adult.

2012 UMCA Advisory Board Meeting Highlights

Immediately following the 13th Annual Review on January 12, 2012, the UMCA Advisory Board met to review the accomplishments of the previous year and discuss opportunities for the year ahead. Steve Jarvis, Director of the Missouri Forest Products Association, presided over the meeting which was attended by 22 members of the Advisory Board along with Dr. Shibu Jose and Dr. Michael Gold.

During the meeting the members held a lengthy and productive discussion concerning current budget constraints faced by the Center and a number of ideas were presented

regarding opportunities for future funding. Dr. Shibu Jose then discussed the Center's Road Map for 2020, updated with accomplishments over the past year. The Board discussed the future of the highly regarded Green Horizons quarterly newsletter. Dr. Andy Mason, Director of the USDA National Agroforestry Center, announced that the USDA Agroforestry Strategic framework was approved by Secretary Vilsack and released by Deputy Secretary Kathleen Merrigan. One item of particular interest was the idea of establishing a national Certified Agroforester credential to support the development of agroforestry throughout the USA.

ACTION IN AGROFORESTRY

Kudos

Research Assistant Professor **Andy Thomas** (as lead PI) from the MU Southwest Research Center and MU Agricultural Experiment Station; along with **Michael Gold**, UMCA and MU Dept. of Forestry; **Patrick Byers**, MU Cooperative Extension Service; **Kevin Fritsche** and **Grace Sun**, MU Dept. of Biochemistry; and **Dennis Lubahn**, Director, MU Center for Botanical Interactions Studies; have been awarded a second grant to help support the upcoming ISHS sponsored international elderberry symposium planned to take place in Columbia, Missouri from June 9 -14, 2013. The grant, entitled "The Organization and Hosting of the First International Elderberry Research Symposium in Missouri" is a USDA NIFA AFRI Foundation Grant for \$25,000.

Phillip Mohebalian recently completed his M.S. degree in Forestry entitled "U.S. Consumer Preferences for Elderberry Products" under the supervision of Forestry professor **Dr. Francisco Aguilar**. Phil is continuing on for his Ph.D. supported under the USDA National Needs Fellows grant to the MU Forestry Department "Integrating Disciplinary Diversity in Graduate Student Education to Support Forest Resource Management Decisions" (PI: **Dr. Rose-Marie Muzika**, Co-PI :**Dr. Francisco Aguilar**). The award provides funding for MS fellows Lizzie Wright and Christine Steinwand and PhD Fellows Pattie Quackenbush and Phil Mohebalian to complete their forestry graduate studies.

COMING SOON...

Mar. 6 & 7 "Cultivating Shiitake Mushrooms at Home"
The Columbia Area Career Center
Rm. 125
6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Cost: \$79

Apr. 4 & 5 "European Black Truffle Biology and Cultivation in the Central U.S."
The Columbia Area Career Center
Rm. 118
6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Cost: \$69

Outreach

January 11th and 12th were busy days for the UMCA! The 3rd Annual Agroforestry Symposium, held on the 11th, featured multiple presentations, a panel discussion on the "Biomass Feedstock Supply Chain," (*pictured above*) and a poster session in the afternoon (*pictured below*). The event was a chance for a variety of agroforestry experts to share research from the past year and develop ideas to move ahead in the field. The 13th UMCA Annual Review was held on January 12th and provided an opportunity for UMCA faculty and staff to present their research from the past year in the form of posters and power point presentations (*bottom photo*). An open discussion was held at the end of the day to answer questions among attendees.



The Center for Agroforestry at the University of Missouri

203 ABNR 573-884-2874
www.centerforagroforestry.org
Shibu Jose, Ph.D., Director

 The Center for Agroforestry
University of Missouri

A Global Center for Agroforestry, Entrepreneurship and the Environment