



# Action in Agroforestry

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Michael Gold and  
Savannah Kannberg, editors

## Stone Barns Center Hosts National Young Farmers Conference



The annual National Young Farmers Conference was held at Stone Barns Center for Food and Agriculture this month. *Courtesy of Stone Barns.*

The mission of Stone Barns Center for Food and Agriculture is to create a healthy and sustainable food system. Situated on 80 acres in Westchester County, 25 miles north of New York City, Stone Barns operates a highly diversified, four-season farm and education center that hosts over 100,000 visitors each year.

From across the U.S., 250 beginning farmers gathered to learn from agricultural leaders, peers and advocacy organizations at the 7th annual National Young Farmers Conference: Reviving the Culture of Agriculture. Part of their Growing Farmers Initiative, the conference brings together thought leaders, creative practitioners and business experts in the sustainable

agriculture movement with young farmers eager for ideas.

Dec. 3, 2014 was a pre-conference day of workshops and conversations with scientists, farmers and policy experts to explore agriculture and climate change issues, with a focus on mitigation and adaptation strategies. UMCA's Michael Gold presented "Using Agroforestry Practices as a Way to Diversify Risk in the Face of a Changing Climate."

On Dec. 4-5 was the conference which had a wide array of inspiring keynotes and unique workshops that addressed soil science, technical skills, agricultural policy, farm business management, conservation and more. Gold also presented "A to Z of Successful Chestnut Production."

## RESEARCH

### Abstracts presented at Crop-Soil-Agronomy

All are from the ASA/CSSA/SSSA Intl. Annual Meeting in Long Beach, CA. on Nov. 2-5, 2014.

Senaviratne, G.M.M.M.A., R.P. Udawatta, C. Baffaut, S.H. Anderson. 2014. A Stepwise, Multi-Objective, Multi-Variable Parameter Optimization Method for the Apex Model.

Senaviratne, G.M.M.M.A., C. Baffaut, N.O. Nelson, M. Van Liew, R.P. Udawatta, A.B. Bhandari, and J.A. Lory. 2014. Impact of Apex Parameterization and Soil Data on Runoff, Sediment & Nutrients Transport Assessment.

Senaviratne, G.M.M.M.A., R.P. Udawatta, C. Baffaut, N.O. Nelson, M. Van Liew, A.B. Bhandari, and J.A. Lory. 2014. Multi-Site P-Loss Assessment from Privately Owned Cropland in Northeast Missouri.

Zaibon, S., S.H. Anderson, A.L. Thompson, and R.P. Udawatta. 2014. Infiltration and runoff for variable rainfall as affected by vegetative buffers.

Adhikari, P., R.P. Udawatta, and S.H. Anderson. 2014. Soil thermal properties under prairies, conservation buffers and corn/soybean management systems.

Rajper, A.M., R.P. Udawatta, R.J. Kremer, C.H. Lin, and S. Jose. 2014. Effects of probiotics on soil microbial community and biomass under cover crops.

Chandrasoma, J.M., R.P. Udawatta, S.H. Anderson, and C.J. Gantzer. 2014. Comparison of in situ saturated hydraulic conductivity of restored and native prairies.

# Strengthening MU's scientific collaboration with Costa Rica

Mizzou faculty members Dr. Chung-Ho Lin (of the University of Missouri Center for Agroforestry), Dr. Teng Teeh Lim (Ag. Systems Management and Biological Engineering), and Dr. Nathan Douglas Leigh (Chemistry) traveled to Costa Rica from Nov. 1-11, 2014 to meet with collaborators at University of Costa Rica-Guanacaste, Earth University and the National Biodiversity Institute (INBio). At the University of Costa Rica (UCR)-Guanacaste campus, they are helping to establish both a bioanalytical research core

facility and a bioanalytical analysis and instrumentation design curriculum. The core facility will help develop the capacity for water quality, natural product, air quality and bioenergy research for the Guanacaste region. At Earth University and INBio they visited with administrators and scientists to establish a partnership on biogas, bioremediation and natural product research. Currently, UCR is finalizing an MOU with Mizzou and INBio has also agreed to initiate an MOU with Mizzou.

## Welcome: Gregory Ormsby Mori



### Education:

M.S. Forestry - University of Missouri, Columbia (2015 candidate)

M.P.H. Health Education - University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill (1993)

B.A. Anthropology - University of Massachusetts, Amherst (1990)

Certificate, Sustainable Agriculture - University of California, Davis (1985)

Starting this month, Gregory is the Center for Agroforestry's new Outreach Coordinator. Since studying sustainable agriculture and working at the New England Small Farm Institute in the 1980s, Gregory has pursued a lifelong interest in agriculture and environmental concerns. Starting in the early 1990s, he has worked internationally on environmental health and food security issues managing UN and USAID supported programs.

In 2010, he launched a social enterprise working with growers' cooperatives in Mexico and Central America to promote agroforestry practices and market agroforestry products. Currently, he is enrolled in the Center for Agroforestry's online Master's Degree program.

## Upcoming Events

**Jan. 8 - 9, 2015** —  
UMCA 6th Annual  
Agroforestry  
Symposium; University  
of Missouri, Columbia,  
Mo.

More details, including  
panels and speakers,  
can be found at: [www.  
centerforagroforestry.org](http://www.centerforagroforestry.org)

## KUDOS

### Cover crop project

Ranjith Udawatta received a Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG). It is part of the CIG matching funds from the Missouri Department of Natural Resource for his cover crop project. The MDNR awarded \$225,000 in October 2014.

### Fellowship awarded

Forestry/Agroforestry Ph.D. candidate Ryan Dibala was awarded a Brown Graduate Research Fellowship to support, broaden and enrich his educational experience while pursuing his doctoral research in Panama. From 2008-2010 Ryan worked in Ecuador as a Peace Corps Volunteer and then in forest restoration for an environmental NGO in Panama. Ryan plans to explore various aspects of silvopasture systems in the Azuero Peninsula, particularly biomass yield and water competition in intensive silvopasture systems among native and exotic tree species used for animal fodder.



The Center for Agroforestry  
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