Save the Date for 9th Annual Missouri Chestnut Roast

The Ninth Annual Missouri Chestnut Roast will be Saturday, Oct. 8, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Horticulture and Agroforestry Research Center, New Franklin, Mo.

The Roast, held each October during the chestnut harvest season, has become one of mid-Missouri’s premier family-oriented fall festivals, drawing thousands of visitors to the University of Missouri’s Horticulture and Agroforestry Research Center. The event is a harvest festival; a family day out; a Missouri specialty product showcase; an agroforestry field day; and – first and foremost – a chestnut extravaganza!

Admission and parking are free for the event.

Course dates and topics are as follows (all sessions are on Tuesday):

* Tuesday, March 22: Site selection, planting, grafting planning and pruning;
* Tuesday, May 3: Grafting;
* Tuesday, Aug. 16: Orchard maintenance, weed control, insect scouting and pest management, and disease control;
* Tuesday, Sept. 13: Chestnut harvest, marketing and sales.

MU instructors include Gold; Ken Hunt, research scientist, forestry; Mark Coggeshall, research assistant professor of forestry; and Michele Warmund, professor of plant sciences. Outside experts and veteran growers will be brought in for individual courses when applicable.

Previous workshop series were supported by a Missouri Department of Agriculture Specialty Crop Block Grant, which has ended. For 2011, workshop fees will be $75 per session or $300 for the entire course. The fee includes educational materials and lunch. A minimum of 10 participants for each course is needed for the workshops to be offered. The event confirmation date will be March 15, so sign up today!

For workshop details contact Gold at 573-884-1448 or goldm@missouri.edu; contact Julie Rhoads at 573-882-3234 or rhoadsj@missouri.edu to reserve your place for individual workshops or book all four in advance (recommended).
ACTION IN AGROFORESTRY

IMPACT

Chung-Ho Lin has applied for two patents:

“Purification of anti-microbial, anti-fungal and anti-inflammatory diterpenoids from Eastern redcedar (Juniperus virginiana).”

“Development of a spore-based biocatalyst for remediation of atrazine and other environmental pollutants (with Brian M. Thompson and George C. Stewart).

Lin also has submitted an invention disclosure form:

“Use of tricyclic diterpenoids from Eastern redcedar (Juniperus virginiana) for preventing and ameliorating the development of melanin and hyperpigmentation.”

RESEARCH


Eastern redcedar (ERC) is one of the most widely distributed tree species in Missouri. The ERC is an important source of bioactive secondary metabolites, but very few of these compounds have been identified, purified or commercialized. An interdisciplinary collaboration between MU scientists was initiated to identify and isolate biologically active phytochemicals from ERC tissues for possible commercial application. Many of these isolated diterpenoids not only have shown strong anti-microbial activities against a wide range of pathogenic bacteria, but also strong inhibitory activities against melanin biosynthesis. The first of these compounds to be characterized is the purified bioactive diterpenoid, which was found to have a significant inhibitory effect on the growth of all Gram-positive pathogens tested. It also played a small role in the inhibition of a select handful of Gram-negative bacteria. Additional compounds have activity on fungal agents, as well as potential anti-melanin activities.

OUTREACH

Shibu Jose presented at the Missouri River Relief Big Muddy Speaker Series, Jan. 18, Les Bourgeois Bistro, Rocheport, Mo. He spoke on “Biomass in the Missouri River Floodplain.”

COMING SOON...

Feb. 21-23 Agritourism, Small Fruit & Vegetable Conference Springfield, Mo.
Go to http://mtngrv.missouristate.edu/commercial/conference.htm for more info.

March 5 and April 2 Family Forest Legacy Workshops March 5: Columbia, Mo.; April 2: Jackson, Mo.
Go to www.snr.missouri.edu/forestry/extension/events.php for more info or to register.

For more information:
http://hosting.caes.uga.edu/2011NAAC/

June 24-26 Chestnut Growers of America annual meeting Go to http://www.wega.net/ for more info.

KUDOS

The following research proposal has been funded:
