

ACTION IN AGROFORESTRY

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

February 2012

Michael Gold and Paige Pritchard, editors

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Chile hosts UMCA director Shibu Jose

Shibu Jose, H.E. Garrett Endowed Professor and Director of the Center for Agroforestry, traveled to Chile in late January. He was hosted by the Faculties of Forestry



and Agronomy and the International Programs Office at the University of Concepción. He was the primary instructor for a two-day international graduate workshop titled "Ecological Principles of Agroforestry" that was co-sponsored by the International Union of Forestry Research Organizations (IUFRO). The workshop was attended by graduate students, faculty and natural resource professionals.

The workshop offered one graduate credit to MS and PhD students. Dr. Jose also attended several planning meetings for establishing a "Center for Investigations in Agroforestry (CIAF)" at the University of Concepción. In addition to the deans of Forestry and Agronomy, associated division directors, and faculty members from the University of Concepción, external stakeholders including the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute of Chile (INFOR) also attended these planning meetings. The Center for Agroforestry at the

University of Missouri will play a major role in the development of CIAF in Chile. Francis Dube and Dean Manuel Sánchez of the Faculty of Forestry, Professors Erick Zagal, Neal Stolpe, Marcelo Doussoulin and Cristian Guajardo

of the Faculty of Agronomy, and Álvaro Sotomayor of INFOR arranged several field visits for Dr. Jose. He visited both university research farms and private agroforestry farms where active agroforestry research and demonstrations were being carried out by investigators from the University of Concepción and INFOR. Dr. Jose also experienced an earthquake during his visit. While the US Geological Survey recorded it as a magnitude 6.2 with the epicenter only 30 miles from Concepción, there were no major damages reported. The region has been hit by many earthquakes, including the deadly earthquake of February 2010. Many communities in the region were greatly affected by that earthquake and the subsequent tsunami.

Pictured above: Shibu Jose with Dean Manuel Sánchez, Francis Dube and a few of the workshop participants.

Missouri Nut Growers Update

At the beginning of February, the Missouri Nut Growers met in Nevada, MO for their Annual Meeting and Nut Show. They had a nice collection of black walnut entries but the results of the nut show are still pending. There were technical presentations by Jerry Van Sambeek updating the MNGA on Thousand Cankers Disease (TCD), Bill Reid spoke on Drought and Pecan Kernel Development, Mark Coggeshall spoke on Genetic Research for Improved Nuts and TCD Resistant Walnuts, and Dennis Fulbright of Michigan State University spoke on Michigan's Approach to Harvesting and Processing Chestnut.

The Missouri Nut Growers Association has scheduled the following meetings for 2012. All are open to the public. Additional details will be available on their web site: www.missourinutgrowers.org.

May 5, 2012: Spring Grafting Meeting (Cut, Tape, and Trade!) This year's outing will be at First Fruits Farm, near Collins, MO. Our host, Sara Jean Peters, has several plantings of black

walnuts which Extension Nut Specialist Bill Reid will use to demonstrate various grafts. Following lunch and the annual exchange of scion wood, Extension horticulturist Patrick Byers will lead a tour of several alternative crop plantings, including elderberries, pawpaws, and aronia. Coffee is served at 9:00 a.m. and the program begins at 9:30 a.m. Contact Sara Jean Peters, 417-275-4422 for details after April 1st or visit the MNGA web site at: www.missourinutgrowers.org.

May 8, 2012: Spring Grafting EAST! MNGA is pleased to offer a second opportunity for individuals to learn grafting techniques. Vern and Bee Spaunhorst will host this session at their Heritage Valley Tree Farm, near Washington, MO. Vern and Bee are revamping their 10-acre pecan planting, replacing cultivars that are most subject to scab by grafting onto the stumps of cut trees. The outing will be held from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Extension Specialist Bill Reid will be demonstrating grafts. Contact Vern Spaunhorst for details after April 1st at 646-239-7479 or visit the MNGA web site at: www.missourinutgrowers.org.

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Kudos

The Columbia Missourian recently published an article spotlighting **Dr. Johann Bruhn's** work with Ozark Forest Mushrooms to start the state's first truffle orchard in southern Missouri. The article can be read at <http://www.columbiamissourian.com/stories/2012/02/09/missouri-farmers-prepare-tackle-truffle-market/>

The University of Missouri Cooperative Media Group recently published an article highlighting **Dr. Larry Godsey's** work on timber and taxes "What are your trees worth?" The article can be found online at: <http://extension.missouri.edu/news/DisplayStory.aspx?N=1348>

COMING SOON...

Mar. 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

MU Extension and Heart of Missouri Master Gardeners 'Hands On' Fruit Care Workshop Series

Mar. 16 Berries and organic fruit gardening
4:00 p.m. - 6:30 P.M.
\$25

Apr. 13 Disease and insect pest control of fruit planting
4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
\$25

For complete information see flier at <http://extension.missouri.edu/boone/mastergardeners.aspx> or contact **Frankie Anderson** at andersonfr@missouri.edu or at 573-445-9792.

Outreach

On Thursday, February 2nd **Dr. Ranjith Udawatta** moderated the Flood Recovery and Establishment of Flood Resilient Ecosystems workshop at the 2012 Missouri Natural Resources Conference in Osage Beach, MO. This multidisciplinary workshop addressed flooding related recovery and development of resilient ecosystems in the Mississippi River floodplain in Missouri. Floods affected farm lands, property, roads, ecosystems, and lives and accounted for over 20 million dollar annual average loss in Missouri during the last three decades. Presenters included:

- **Dr. Ranjith Udawatta** - *Environmental benefits of perennial vegetation along the rivers*
- **Dr. John Dwyer** - *Can tree buffers protect the levees?*
- **Dr. Shibu Jose** - *The MS/MO River Biomass Biofuel Corridor*
- **Dr. Larry Godsey** - *Economic Opportunities through establishment of resilient ecosystems in flood prone areas*

The Center for Agroforestry has lost a longtime friend and colleague, Dr. Felix Ponder, who passed away on Sunday, February 5, 2012 after a short illness. Dr. Ponder worked as a USDA Forest Service Scientist for more than 40 years and retired on December 3, 2011. As a research scientist at the Northern Research Station, Dr. Ponder had a special interest in black walnut, soil mycorrhizae and fertility, alternative approaches to fertilization including woody nurse crops and poultry litter, and benefits of using tree shelters. He had fertilization studies throughout the Midwest evaluating impact of NPK additions on tree growth and on black walnut nut production and alternate bearing. In the early 1990's he planned and established the plots in Missouri for the national long-term soil productivity study designed to look at impacts of organic matter, weed control, and soil compaction following timber harvest on hardwood regeneration. Dr. Ponder was the Forest Service liaison to Lincoln University, past president of the Walnut Council, and currently serving as chair of their silviculture committee.



The Center for Agroforestry at the University of Missouri

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 The Center for Agroforestry
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A Global Center for Agroforestry, Entrepreneurship and the Environment