13th North American Agroforestry Conference — A big success

By Mike Gold
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The 13th North American Agroforestry Conference “Agroforestry – Innovations in Agriculture” was held in Charlottetown, PEI, Canada from June 19-21, 2013. Host and Sponsors included: Association for Temperate Agroforestry, Poplar Council of Canada, PEI Soil and Crop Improvement Association, PEI Federation of Agriculture, PEI Agriculture and Forestry, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, USDA National Agroforestry Center. Shibu Jose gave an invited keynote presentation in the Friday morning plenary session entitled “Temperate agroforestry in the 21st century: A North American perspective”; and Mike Gold gave a presentation entitled “Creating the knowledge infrastructure to enhance landowner adoption of agroforestry through an agroforestry academy”.

In addition, UMCA and MU scientists, postdocs, graduate and undergraduate students collaborated on four posters which were presented at the conference.

Bradford Leeger and Michael Gold presented a poster entitled “Using goats in agroforestry systems to enhance food security for subsistence farmers”. Bradford is enrolled as a master’s candidate in the online agroforestry program.

Chung-Ho Lin, Hsin-Yeh Hsieh, George Stewart, Che-Min Su, Michael Gold and others presented a poster entitled “Exploring the health benefits and economic opportunities of the bioactive compounds isolated from eastern redcedar in Missouri”.

Anomaa Senaviratne, Ranjith P. Udawatta, Claire Baffaut, Stephen Anderson and Shibu Jose presented a poster entitled “Apex simulation: environmental benefits of agroforestry and grass buffers on corn-soybean watersheds.”

Sougata Bardhan and Shibu Jose presented a poster entitled “Soil physical and biological properties in a long term temperate alley cropping system.”

NAAC participants view the growth and survival of different varieties of hazelnuts, planted in 2009, Queens County PEI.
Action in Agroforestry

Update from Charlotte

In May, we published a story about Lincoln University assistant professor Charlotte Clifford-Rathert’s research regarding the use of goats to restore native vegetation in woodlands at the school’s 280-acre Busby Farm. These photos show the same patch of woodland over the course of a few days. It is part of a one-third-acre area where 14, 6-month-old male goats grazed and quickly cleaned up.

Before

After

Photos courtesy of Charlotte Clifford-Rathert

Kudos

Poster presentation wins award

A poster presentation by MU professor Dr. Corinne Valdiva, North Carolina State University professor Dr. Carla Barbieri and Pennsylvania State University doctoral candidate Jie Gao, a former MU student, won the award for “Best Visual Presentation” at the 44th Annual International Conference of Travel and Tourism Research Association.

The poster presented data from a study that “assessed whether preferences for agritourism destination features vary as elicited with word statements or pictures,” according to the presentation abstract.

Masters student accepts Purdue University position in Afghanistan

Joe Stangl, a masters student currently enrolled in the online agroforestry MS program, has accepted a position with Purdue University as an agriculture extensionist, based in Herat, Afghanistan. He will be working to build capacity in local government (Directorates of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock) and work on a demonstration plot used for workshops. Joe stated “I’ll definitely utilize my Peace Corps experience and Agroforestry education”.

Quarantine enacts to protect black walnut trees

The Missouri Department of Agriculture has enacted a state exterior quarantine to protect Missouri’s black walnut resource from Thousand Cankers Disease (TCD). The quarantine prohibits wood products, including walnut bark and all firewood, from infected areas from coming into Missouri. States affected by Missouri’s quarantine include Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Utah, Virginia and Washington. Several other states have enacted similar quarantines.

Thousand Cankers Disease (TCD) is a pest complex that has caused mortality in walnut in many western states. It is now present in the eastern native range of black walnut, but has not been detected in Missouri. TCD is caused by the walnut twig beetle and an associated fungus and black walnut is highly susceptible to this disease.

If you suspect you have seen TCD in Missouri, please contact the Missouri Department of Agriculture, Office of the State Entomologist at (573) 751-5505.

This information was originally published on the Missouri Department of Agriculture website.

Upcoming events

July 25 to 27
2013 National Tree Farmer Convention
Minneapolis, Minn.
Contact the American Tree Farm System at (202)463-5172 for more information.

July 29 to Aug. 1
NACD Forest RPG Summer Meeting
Macon, Ga.
Contact Mike Beacom at mike-beacom@nacdnet.org for more information.

Aug. 1
Bradford Research Center Organic Field Day
Columbia, Mo.
Call (573)884-7945 for more information.

Aug. 11 to 14
104th Annual Meeting of the Northern Nut Growers Association
Michigan State University
Visit http://events.anr.msu.edu/2013NNG/ for more information.

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