



# Action in Agroforestry

December 2013  
Vol. 4, No. 12

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## Center for Agroforestry Receives Grant Award

A 2013 Specialty Crop Block Grant Program Award goes to the Center to support growers and their efforts to mechanize their chestnut harvests.

The University of Missouri Center for Agroforestry received a 2013 Specialty Crop Block Grant Program Award from the Missouri Department of Agriculture.

This project's goal is to support chestnut growers to increase the competitiveness of local chestnuts. Help from this grant may be able to allow for local harvests of chestnuts to offset the amount of imported chestnuts.

This grant award has four objectives. The first objective of this award is to expand the acreage of chestnut orchards in the state of Missouri and to reduce overall harvest costs by demonstrating a mechanical chestnut harvester to both current and potential chestnut growers. In order for growers to produce on a commercial scale, efficient, mechanical harvesting is a must.

The second objective is to conduct a "time-and-motion" study to quantify the labor saved by using a commercial harvester. This could help growers

minimize their labor costs and maintain a high quality product. Currently, chestnuts are picked up by hand by a small pool of laborers. Using a commercial harvester makes it more practical for a grower to harvest many more tons annually.

The third objective is to create, demonstrate and release an online Chestnut Financial Decision Support Tool. This Excel-based program will be available to help chestnut growers make financially sound management and investment decisions.

Finally, the fourth objective of this grant award is to provide advanced financial and market information to growers. Having access to detailed market information will enable growers to sell their chestnut crop profitably.

Through the grant award, UMCA will be able to purchase and demonstrate the tractor-pulled chestnut harvester from FACMA, model C300T. This harvester



*Chestnuts that have been collected by the C300T mechanical vacuum harvester. Photo courtesy of FACMA.*

sweeps and vacuums in chestnuts as well as separating the chestnut from its burs. It can harvest about 1,300 pounds of chestnuts each hour, allowing for a harvest of over five tons of chestnuts per day.

At the Center's experimental research station (the MU Horticulture and Agroforestry Research Center in New Franklin, Mo.), there are seven tons of chestnuts produced and harvested annually. There will be plenty of opportunities for chestnut growers of all kinds to learn more about mechanical harvesting through training workshops.



*The C300T mechanical vacuum harvester hard at work. When used by chestnut growers, it can sweep and vacuum in over 1,300 pounds of chestnuts per hour. This harvester also removes the spiny bur from each chestnut, and can help minimize labor costs for chestnut growers. Photos courtesy of FACMA.*

## CONGRATULATIONS

# Former student hired at X-Body Biosciences in Boston

Maddie Myers, a former University of Missouri student, was just hired for a permanent position at X-Body Biosciences in Boston. X-Body Biosciences is a private biotechnology company that focuses on finding and developing human antibodies to help treat diseases. Maddie assisted Chung-Ho Lin at UMCA on his bioremediation projects from 2008 through 2011. She performed DNA extraction, cloning and transformation among other tasks.

While at MU, Maddie was awarded a first place Research Excellence Award at the 2011 MU Life Science

Week, in the Biological Engineering and Bioinformatics Category. She also received the 2011 College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources (CAFNR) Research Internship Award for one of her research projects with Lin as her mentor.

She interned at the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York, was admitted into the public health internship program at Harvard University and then completed her M.S. in the biotechnology program at Brandeis University.

Congratulations, Maddie!

## Upcoming Events

**January 14, 2014** — MU Cover Crops Research and Extension Symposium, Columbia, Mo.

**Mid-January** — Green Horizons arrives in mailboxes and emails

**February 7-8, 2014** — Missouri Nut Growers Association Annual Meeting and Nut Show, Nevada, Mo.

*Details will be on the MNGA website on January 1.*

# Green Lands Blue Waters Annual Conference

Michael Gold attended an excellent Green Lands Blue Waters (GLBW) Annual Conference which took place on November 20-21, 2013, on the campus of the University of Minnesota. The GLBW conference brought together over 100 experts in Continuous Living Cover (CLC) agricultural systems including: Perennial Grains, Perennial Forage/Pastures, Perennial Biomass, Agroforestry and Cover Crops. Attendees included professionals with experience in research, education, outreach and implementation of these CLC systems. The conference

goal was to share information across disciplines and to identify shared actions that will achieve transformational changes at the scale of watersheds through increased acreage of CLC on working farmlands.

Gary Bentrup of the USDA National Agroforestry Center (Lincoln, Neb.) gave an excellent presentation entitled "Tool Time: Resources in the CLC Toolbox". His presentation offered a sampling of farm and landscape-level tools available for mapping and planning Continuous Living Cover strategies to achieve farmer,

landowner and community goals.

Michael Gold, representing both UMCA and the Mid-American Agroforestry Working Group (MAAWG) gave a presentation describing the summer 2013 week-long agroforestry trainings entitled "The Agroforestry Academy: A Crash Course to Educate Natural Resource Professionals and Develop the Knowledge Infrastructure".

*All 2013 GLBW conference presentations will be made available in the coming months at: <http://greenlandsbluwaters.net/resources2/2013-conference>*

## Don't miss out on Green Horizons!

The January 2014 issue of the Center for Agroforestry's Green Horizons quarterly newsletter will be hitting mailboxes and inboxes alike next month. If you would like to subscribe, please email Michael Gold at [goldm@missouri.edu](mailto:goldm@missouri.edu).

You can also save some trees by changing your subscription to the e-version. It is the same great content, just in your inbox instead of your mailbox. Change it by emailing Michael Gold.



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