



# Action in Agroforestry

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Michael Gold and  
Taylor Wanbaugh, editors

## 3rd Agroforestry Academy Attracted Educators, Landowners, Military Veterans

The MU Center for Agroforestry hosted its' 3rd Agroforestry Academy from July 20-24, 2015 in Columbia, Missouri. Twenty four trainees from ten states across the US and Canada spent a very full week learning about agroforestry both on campus and while visiting seven different outlying farms. While previous Agroforestry Academies focused on "training the trainer" with natural resource education professionals, the 3rd Academy was organized to engage a greater number of farmer-landowners.

In particular, there was a special emphasis on providing agroforestry training to US military veteran farmers. Nine military veteran farmers received scholarships from UMCA through a USDA Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program "Armed-to-Farm" grant subaward from the University of Arkansas. Sixty percent of the 2015 academy trainees were farmers/landowners.

In addition to a stop at the MU Horticulture and Agroforestry Research Center, six different landowners were visited during the Academy showcasing an array

presentations to the case study farm landowner at the close of the week.

A post-academy evaluation revealed that 96% of trainees rated the academy as excellent or good.

Trainees ranged in age from ~25 to 65. One trainee commented "I loved it! It was very well organized and the farm visits gave everyone a chance to see agroforestry practices in place." The 4th Agroforestry Academy will be held from July 25-29, 2016.



of different agroforestry practices (e.g., silvopasture, alley cropping, forest farming) and specialty crop options (pecan, elderberry, chestnut, gourmet mushroom production).

Supported by a cadre of 14 trainer/mentors, trainees participated in an agroforestry case study design exercise. Design groups met each evening to apply what they had learned each day to their case study plan, culminating in group

### KUDOS

Thomas AL, JD Avery Jr, PL Byers, S Easter, K Hunt. 2015. Ozark chinkapin demonstrates compatibility as a scion grafted to Chinese chestnut rootstocks: implications for ex situ conservation. *Native Plants Journal* 16(2): 117-123.

**September 17, 2015:**

Forrest Keeling Nursery Fall Field Day;  
8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.,  
Elsberry, MO.  
Learn more about applications  
for conservation, specialty crops,  
agroforestry, and permaculture using  
Forrest Keeling's RPM produced trees  
and plants. Details at [www.fknursery.com](http://www.fknursery.com).  
RSVP requested.  
[www.fknursery.com/FallFieldDay](http://www.fknursery.com/FallFieldDay)

**September 19, 2015:**

Tree Nut Production & Agroforestry Field  
Day  
8:30 a.m.-3 p.m., Southwest Center, Mt.  
Vernon, Mo.  
Make plans to visit the Southwest  
Research Center and learn about tree  
nut production in agroforestry practices.  
Topics include pecan selections, walnut  
as a commercial crop and orchard  
species, and the all-important economics  
and financial dimensions of growing  
nut trees. Complimentary lunch will be  
served, so register early! There will be  
field tour observations and discussions.  
For more information contact Andy  
Thomas, [thomasal@missouri.edu](mailto:thomasal@missouri.edu), 417-  
466-0065.  
<http://southwest.cafnr.org/>

**October 5, 2015:**

The Emerald Ash Borer and Urban Wood  
Utilization Workshop  
8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Meet at the KC Zoo  
Parking Lot, 6800 Zoo Drive Kansas City,  
MO. \$10 registration  
[http://www.forestandwoodland.org/eab-  
workshop.html](http://www.forestandwoodland.org/eab-workshop.html)

**October 17, 2015:**

Missouri Chestnut Roast  
10 a.m. – 4 pm. Horticulture and  
Agroforestry Research Center, New  
Franklin, MO.  
Roasted chestnuts, cooking  
demonstrations, fresh chestnuts and nut  
trees for sale, farm tours, music, children's  
activities, Hickman House tours, many  
producers and exhibitors.  
[www.centerforagroforestry.org](http://www.centerforagroforestry.org)

**October 24, 2015:**

Great River Road Chestnut Roast  
10 a.m. – 4 pm. Forrest Keeling Nursery,  
Elsberry, MO.  
<http://www.fknursery.com>

# FALL 2015 - WELCOME NEW GRADUATE STUDENTS

**Online Agroforestry MS/Graduate Certificate**

Kelly McGowan (Dr. Coggeshall), Online MS  
Michelle Bond (Dr. Gold), Online MS  
Matt Lebon (Dr. Jose), Online Graduate Certificate  
Eriks Brolis (Dr. Gold), Online Graduate Certificate

**Campus-based graduate students – with UMCA research funding**

Tim Watkins (Dr. Jose), Agroforestry/SNR  
Dahn Vu (Dr. Lin), Forestry/SNR  
Hannah Hemmelgarn (Dr. Gold), Agroforestry/SNR  
Yan Li (Dr. Hu), Civil and Environmental Engineering  
Kaley Hensel, (Dr. Warmund) Plant Science/Horticulture  
Daniel Turley, (Dr. Manfra) Human Development and Family Science  
Boaz Bett (Dr. Motavalli), SEAS/SNR  
John Falco, (Dr. Gompper) Wildlife/SNR  
Van Ho, (Dr. Lin) Forestry/SNR

## NEW UMCA FACULTY



Dr. Sougata Bardhan has been hired as an Assistant Research Professor by UMCA with a research focus investigating the deployment

of biomass feedstock production systems in river floodplains and marginal lands. He will be responsible for building upon existing projects related to the topic as well as study the impact of such systems on soil microbial and biological properties. Dr. Bardhan was trained as a soil scientist with a Ph.D. from The Ohio State University. His areas of expertise include soil fertility; soil microbial ecology; biomass production ecology; agroecology; and environmental health and sustainability. He spent 5 years as a post-doc working in biomass production research at the Center for Agroforestry at University of Missouri prior to this position.