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 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 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.
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
Dan Turey, (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.

Upcoming Events

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. RSVP requested.
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, 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

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

October 24, 2015:
Great River Road Chestnut Roast
10 a.m. – 4 pm. Forrest Keeling Nursery, Elsberry, MO.
http://www.fknursery.com