Missouri Chestnut Roast a Huge Success

A beautiful day brought more than 1,500 people to the Missouri Chestnut Roast at the Horticulture and Agroforestry Research Center on Saturday, Oct. 17.

The Missouri Chestnut Roast was last held in 2010. It was revived in 2015 – and offered guests plenty of activities throughout the day. The event is hosted by the University of Missouri Center for Agroforestry.

“We were thrilled to see active participation of the local community,” said Shibu Jose, superintendent of HARC and director of the MU Center for Agroforestry. “We also hosted visitors from all over Missouri and from several of our neighboring states.”

Agroforestry practices were highlighted throughout the day. Guests were able to sample roasted chestnuts and sit in on chestnut cooking demonstrations. There were tours of HARC and the Historic Hickman House as well.

Numerous vendors were present, too. Booths included demonstrations, samples and educational materials.

“Some folks I spoke with commented on the beauty of the Missouri River Hills and the HARC Farm,” said Michael Gold, associate director of the MU Center for Agroforestry. “Others remarked on how much they learned about Missouri specialty crops likes chestnut, walnut and elderberry, while also having a wonderful day in the country.”

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There were also activities for children, including a straw bale maze, a play area and face painting.

To view pictures of the event, visit flickr.com/photos/cafnr/albums/72157660068137705.

The Horticulture and Agroforestry Research Center is located in New Franklin, Mo. For more information about the Research Center, call 660-848-2268 or email Bish-opn@missouri.edu. You can also visit their website at harc.cafnr.org.

Thomas Attends Plant Biotechnology Symposium in South Korea

Southwest Center Horticulturist Andrew Thomas (along with five other MU professors, CAFNR Dean Tom Payne, and Associate Dean Marc Linit) recently spent a week in South Korea as guests of faculty from Gyeongsang National University (GNU) in the city of Jinju. The occasion was the 5th MU – GNU Joint Symposium in Plant Biotechnology. The visit included tours of GNU’s state-of-the-art agricultural research facilities, two days of scientific presentations and excursions to spectacular coastal areas and an island botanical garden. Plans are underway to invite our Korean colleagues to the 6th Joint Symposium to be held in Columbia, October 2017.

Forrest Keeling Nursery’s Great River Road Chestnut Roast

A week after UMCA’s 9th Annual Chestnut Roast, the Forrest Keeling Nursery (FKN) held its annual Great River Road Chestnut Roast on Saturday, October 24, in Elsberry, MO, in cooperation with UMCA. In spite of cloudy skies and windy conditions, a large crowd came out to enjoy the FKN Roast which featured delicious local food, Missouri grown chestnuts for sale by Cedar Hill Farm of Napton, MO, free roasted chestnuts from UMCA, chestnut beer from the Urban Chestnut Brewing Company, artisan vendors, live music and lots of family activities. The Roast also showcased a variety of popular chestnut selections used in agroforestry projects including Chinese and Japanese-European hybrids. “These species are among our best-selling specialty crops and fast becoming one of the most valuable nut trees in the United States. It is prized in a variety of ethnic dishes, especially those of Asian cuisine,” said Wayne Lovelace, Forrest Keeling president and developer of the RPM-technology.

You can visit Forrest Keeling Nursery’s website at http://www.fknursery.com

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2015 Green Lands Blue Waters Conference
Bridges and Buffers, Farms and Cities: Continuous Living Cover Farming Systems
November 3 - 4, 2015
Coffman Memorial Union
Minneapolis-East Bank Campus, University of Minnesota
http://greenlandsbluewaters.net/resources2/2015-conference

SAF National Convention
“Agroforestry Adoption: Bringing the Science and Technology to Society.”
November 3-7, 2015
Baton Rouge, LA
http://www.xcdsystem.com/saf/site14/

UMCA Agroforestry in Action Webinar Series
“Creating an Evergreen Agriculture” by Dennis Garrity, UNCCD Drylands Ambassador.
Wednesday, November 11, 2015
11 a.m.-12 p.m. (CDT)
To register:  https://agroforestry.adobeconnect.com/tomsauer/event/registration.html
http://www.agroforestryinaction.org/#!live-webinar-schedule/c10d6
Questions--contact Gregory Ormsby Mori: ormsbyg@missouri.edu