UMCA Receives Grant Award to Offer “Agroforestry Summer Institutes” for High School Educators

Michael Gold, UMCA Associate Director, Hank Stelzer, MU Forestry Department State Extension Specialist, and Anna Ball, MU Agricultural Education and Leadership Department Professor and Chair, received one of six North Central Region Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (NCR-SARE) program Professional Development Program (PDP) awards.

Their project, “Missouri Agroforestry Summer Institutes: High School Educator Training for Curriculum Delivery,” is focused on adding agroforestry to the Missouri high school Agriculture Science II class. That class is part of the Missouri FFA curriculum. MU will train these teachers as part of the project.

Gold, Stelzer and Ball also received the 2016 Paula Ford Professional Development Program Proposal of the Year. The award goes to the proposal that demonstrates the same passion Ford had for sustainable agriculture. Ford served as the NCR-SARE Professional Development Program Coordinator at Kansas State University for 11 years. She supported SARE for more than 20 years and this award was created to honor her.

“The MU Center for Agroforestry has a major focus on outreach,” Gold said. “For 10 to 15 years, we’ve tossed around the idea of reaching out to high school students. We feel that there will be long-term value in showing them what agroforestry is all about. We want them to know that viable farming alternatives exist out there. The fact that the NCR-SARE review committee said this was the best proposal is just icing on the cake.”

Hannah Hemmelgarn, an SNR graduate research assistant in agroforestry, played a key role in developing the program. As part of her master’s project, Hemmelgarn hosted a one-day “agroforestry summer institute” for 15 high school teachers across the state. Hemmelgarn took the curriculum that was in place statewide and added to it. She created a weeklong module in agroforestry, and the summer institute was used to train the teachers in the new agroforestry module.

“Hannah did a great job reaching out to those teachers,” Gold said. “We wanted to go beyond that, though. We wanted to push it forward. There is an unmet need. The people evaluating the proposals agreed. They thought it was something worth doing.”

Through this 3-year, $70,334 grant award, the Center of Agroforestry will be able to hold two institutes each summer for the next three years. Each institute will train 15 teachers – with a total of 90 teachers trained over three years.

“We want to broaden our scope, our depth and our breadth,” Gold said. “We’re filling in all of the gaps. This is huge. For a lot of young people, sometimes you’re exposed to something that changes your life path. Hopefully, down the road, this will open a high school student’s eyes.”

Adapted from story written by Logan Jackson, Agricultural Research Center News Strategist College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources, University of Missouri

Additional Websites of Interest
Online courses offered by Cornell University. http://smallfarms.cornell.edu/
News from the Woods http://news.wellspringforestfarm.com/
Green Lands Blue Waters - Events http://www.greenlandsbluewaters.net

Agroforestry in Action Webinar
Wednesday, Sept. 28, 11:00 AM (CST)
Ecological and social drivers of tree diversity in coffee agroforestry systems. Vivian Valencia, Univ. of Michigan. To register: agroforestryinaction.org
Meet our New USAID Funded Indonesian Graduate Students

Ady Ayu Dewayani holds a BS in Forestry from Bogor Agricultural University (IPB), Indonesia. She works as a Research Assistant in Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) headquarter in Bogor. With financial support from USAID/Indonesia, she is pursuing a Master’s Degree in Agroforestry under the supervision of Dr. Chung-Ho Lin. She is interested in conducting research related to the use of genetically modified bacteria in habitat restoration processes in Indonesia.

Kania Dewi Rahayu holds a BSc in Biology from the Institut Pertanian Bogor (IPB), Bogor, Indonesia. She works as Publication Editor Assistant for the Southeast Asian Journal for Tropical Biology (BIOTROPIA). Her previous research background was in wildlife. She is pursuing her MS in Agroforestry supervised by Dr. Shibu Jose. She is interested in conducting research related to agroforestry systems for conserving wildlife habitat.

Ainun Pizar Seruni obtained her BS in Animal Husbandry from Brawijaya University (UB), Malang-Indonesia. She has worked as a Lecturer assistant since August, 2013. She is now pursuing her MS Degree in Agroforestry supervised by Dr. Michael Gold. She is interested in conducting research related to socio-economic aspects of silvopasture systems in Indonesia.

Haryo Ajie Dewanto earned his BS in Forestry from Universitas Gadjah Mada, Yogyakarta, Indonesia on 2014. He was a Climate Change and GIS Program Coordinator in an Ecosystem Restoration Concession in Central Borneo called Rimba Raya Biodiversity Reserve. He is pursuing an MS Degree in Agroforestry supervised by Dr. Shibu Jose. He is interested in conducting research on agroforestry systems for ecosystem restoration in degraded peat swamp forest ecosystems.

Novianus Efrat received his BS in Agricultural Technology from Bogor Agricultural University. Currently a Fulbright Scholar, he is pursuing his MS degree in Agroforestry supervised by Dr. Shibu Jose and Dr. Chung-Ho Lin, focused on renewable energy.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sept. 23 Alternative Fruit and Tree Field Day
1-5 pm, Southwest Center, Mt. Vernon, Mo. Join University of Missouri researchers, extension specialists and experienced growers to learn about alternative fruits and nuts that have economic potential for Missouri. For more information contact Andy Thomas, thomasal@missouri.edu, 417- 466-0065. http://southwest.cafnr.org/

Oct 8 Missouri Chestnut Roast
10 am – 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. Free and open to the public.
www.centerforagroforestry.org
Contact: Caroline Todd. 573-884-2874 ToddCS@missouri.edu

Oct 15 Great River Road Chestnut Roast

November 29-30 Green Lands Blue Waters (GLBW) Conference, Columbia, Mo.
Theme: ‘Going Green with Conservation-Based Farming: Market-Based Approaches to Promote Soil Health and Water Quality.’
Registration is now open. Posters welcome.
Conference includes working sessions on cover crops, agroforestry, perennial biomass crops, perennial forage / pasture systems, and perennial grains, as well as a “Tour of Midwest Watersheds.”
Confirmed speakers include:
• Bill Buckner, President and Chief Executive Officer, Noble Foundation
• Rebecca Wasserman-Olin, Economics Researcher, Chippewa 10% Project, Land Stewardship Project, Minnesota
• John Hendrickson, Program Manager, Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems, UW-Madison
• Lauren Cartwright, Agricultural Economist, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Missouri
• Rob Myers, North Central Regional Director for Extension, USDA Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program
• Sean McMahon, Executive Director, Iowa Agricultural Water Alliance

Registration: $180. To Register: http://snr.missouri.edu/green-lands-conference/ Contact: Caroline Todd. 573-884-2874 ToddCS@missouri.edu

September 30 and October 1. Missouri Chapter Walnut Council Fall Meeting and Field Day. Blue Springs and Pleasant Hill, Mo.
Registration: $10.00 for members; $15 for nonmembers
Details: https://www.walnutcouncil.org/state-chapters/missouri.html
Contact: Aaron Twombly, mowalnutcouncil@gmail.com 913-704-5210

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