



Action in Agroforestry

December 2018 Vol. 9, No.12 Michael Gold and Hannah Hemmelgarn, editors

UMCA Welcomes Ron Revord – New Assistant Research Professor, Tree Improvement and Genetics

We are delighted to welcome Ron Revord to our Center's faculty starting in June of 2019. Ron will take over the work of Dr. Mark Coggeshall, who led the Center's tree improvement and genetics research from 2000 – 2017. Dr. Coggeshall is currently the Research Leader at the US Forest Service Hardwood Tree Improvement Research Center based at Purdue University.

Ron's responsibilities with the Center for Agroforestry will include the continuance of ongoing applied breeding programs for Chinese chestnut, pecan, and black walnut, along with new initiatives related to restoration of the Ozark chinquapin and initiation of new (for our Center) work with hybrid hazelnut. The long-term goal of the Center's tree improvement research is to release stable and reliable tree crop varieties to Missouri growers while continuing to grow a base of genetic resources and knowledge that will enable the successful inheritance of this program and its multigenerational success. Achieving these goals will contribute to the broad and sustained realization of agroforestry in Missouri and the North Central U.S.

At the University of Illinois, Ron has been involved with the multifunctional woody



polyculture for sustainable food production research program. He is completing his Ph.D. in the Department of Crop Sciences at the University of Illinois. The current focus of his research is on hazelnut, and the systematic exploitation of the wild American hazelnut (*Corylus americana*) as a source of eastern filbert blight (EFB) resistance, genetic diversity, and climatic adaptability. His dissertation is entitled: "Characterization of American hazelnut (*Corylus americana*) germplasm and eastern filbert blight resistance."

In 2016 Ron received his M.S. in Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. His MS Thesis title was: Improvement of asexual propagation and *Anisogramma anomala* detection protocols to facilitate applied breeding of new *Corylus avellana* and *C. americana x C. avellana* germplasm. Ron obtained his B.S. in Molecular and Cellular Biology from the University of Illinois in 2012.

Ron is also a co-founder and current Chair of the Board of the Directors for the Savanna Institute (SI), a 501c3 non-profit organization dedicated to participatory agroforestry research in the Midwest U.S. SI works with farmers to build upon agroforestry science and aid adoption.

DEADLINE EXTENDED!

Abstract submissions are now being accepted for the 2019 AFTA Conference

Please consider submitting an abstract for the [2019 North American Agroforestry Conference](#) to be held June 24-27, 2019 in Corvallis, Oregon. The deadline for submissions has been extended! Submissions are due by **Friday, January 18, 2019**. The Association for Temperate Agroforestry welcomes your presentation, poster, and session proposals. For more information on submitting a proposal for the 2019 North American Agroforestry Conference, visit: <https://afta2019.org/abstracts>.

SARE OFOF Podcast on Agroforestry is now available

Michael Gold, Interim Director of the Center for Agroforestry, and silvopasture expert Chuck Talbott had a chance to talk story-corps style at the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education “Our Farms Our Futures” conference this past spring. You can hear their conversation on the SARE OFOF Podcast Series site: <https://usdasare.libsyn.com/012-agroforestry-michael-gold-and-chuck-talbott>

New online asynchronous graduate course at MU: Commercial use of Biodiversity

BIOCHM 8130 “Commercial use of Biodiversity” is a 100% online and asynchronous course, offered for the first time in Spring 2019. This 3-credit hour course will address the following topics: regulating access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing (legal aspects), natural products and the pharmaceutical industry, botanical medicine industry, development of major crops by the seed industry, horticulture, crop protection, biotechnology in fields outside healthcare and agriculture, natural personal care and cosmetics industry, and the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD). Contact Leszek Vincent, Ph.D. Dept of Biochemistry, Division of Plant Sciences, University of MO, Columbia, at Leszek@missouri.edu for more information.

KUDOS

Fall 2018 Online MS Agroforestry Graduate

Tim Watkins came to the MU campus on November 29, 2018 to present and successfully defend his MS Final Project entitled “Developing an Agroforestry Plan for Kilimo Timilifu, Tanzania”. His graduate committee included: Shibu Jose, Michael Gold, and Peter Motavalli. Tim initiated his graduate program in the Fall semester of 2015. Tim has already received his Graduate Certificate in Agroforestry. Tim is head of ECHO’s Agriculture Operations Team which includes the Seed Bank, Global Farm, Propagation Nursery, and Appropriate Technology areas. ECHO is an information hub for development practitioners whose purpose is to help those who are teaching farmers around the world know how to be more effective in producing enough to meet the needs of their families and their communities. Tim’s agriculture development experience includes one year (2002-2003) in the Central African Republic (CAR) managing the Centre d’Agroforesterie, a project promoting fruit trees and tree planting among the Gbaya and Fulani farmers of Western CAR. While at ECHO, Tim has traveled to many African countries for ECHO events and some agricultural consulting. Tim’s primary areas of interest include agroforestry, tropical fruits, nursery management and plant propagation.



UPCOMING EVENTS

10th Annual Agroforestry Symposium: Innovation to Entrepreneurship

January 31, 2019 / Univ. of MO Center for Agroforestry / Bond Life Sci. Bldg. MU Campus, Columbia, MO

Please join us at this year’s Agroforestry Symposium: Innovation to Entrepreneurship: Fostering a Culture of Research Translation. Keynote speakers are Dr. Kelly Sexton, Associate Vice President for Research - Technology Transfer and Innovation Partnerships for the University of Michigan and Dr. Rodolphe Barrangou, Associate Professor of Food Science and the Todd R. Klaenhammer Distinguished Scholar in Probiotics Research at North Carolina State University. The Symposium is free and open to the public, but registration is requested at goo.gl/iywnii. Not able to attend in person? Join us via livestream at goo.gl/qtzbZa. More information at <http://www.centerforagroforestry.org/events/symposia.php>

American Forage and Grassland Council Annual Conference

January 6 – 9, 2019 / AFGC / St.Louis, MO Hyatt Regency at the Arch

The 2019 AFGC Annual Conference, “Forages Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow”, marks the 75th anniversary of AFGC. Workshops will cover topics including soil health measurement, business and science of producing milk on pasture, forage management practices, and more. The keynote presenter is Dr. Garry Lacefield, Extension Forage Specialist at University of Kentucky. More information at <https://www.afgc.org/>

Woodland Mushroom Cultivation online course

January 15 – February 19, 2019 | Cornell Small Farms Program | Online

Instructor Steve Gabriel, Agroforestry Specialist for Cornell Small Farms Program, will deliver this online course for new or experienced farmers, woodlot owners or backyard gardeners interested in growing mushrooms as a viable economic enterprise. The course will cover basics of mushroom cultivation, harvesting, and marketing, as well as connection to management of healthy forests, with logistics of production, sales, and legal issues related to mushroom farming. Registration closes January 6; the course fee is \$280. More information at

<http://smallfarms.cornell.edu/online-courses/course-descriptions/woodland-mushroom-cultivation-bf-151/>

Introduction to Tree Fruit Production online course

January 16 – February 20, 2019 | Cornell Small Farms Program | Online

This all-levels course will cover basic concepts in orchard management. Instructors Anna Wallis and Michael Basedow, will review orchard venture analysis and business planning, tree fruit botany and orchard management, integrated pest management, harvest, cold storage and marketing. Registration closes January 6; the course fee is \$250. More information at <http://smallfarms.cornell.edu/online-courses/course-descriptions/introduction-to-tree-fruit-production-bf-223/>

Practical Farmers of Iowa “Cultivating Connections” 2019 Conference

January 17 – 19, 2019 | Practical Farmers of Iowa | Ames, IA

The 2019 Practical Farmers of Iowa conference is focused on cultivating connections: learn how to cultivate healthy soil, vision a farmland legacy, engage with your community, and renew your inspiration for resilient farms. On Thursday, January 17th, two “short course” sessions will take place; one on **silvopasture** with Keefe Keeley, Steve Gabriel, and Diane Mayerfeld, and a second on **orcharding** with Steve Louis, Michael Phillips and others. See the entire program and register at <https://practicalfarmers.org/events/annual-conference/>

Documenting the Source of Wild Ginseng webinar with Eric Burkhart

February 1, 2019 | 1:30-2:30pm EST | Northeast/Mid-Atlantic Agroforestry Workgroup | Online

The NEMA Agroforestry Webinar Series will host Eric Burkhart, Penn State University faculty and Plant Science Program Director at Shaver's Creek Environmental Center, to discuss the results of six years of surveying *Panax quinquefolius L.* in Pennsylvania, yielding insights into forest farming and husbandry participation. More information at <http://www.nemaagroforestry.org/webinars/>

Chestnut Growers Workshop

February 2, 2019 | 9am-5pm | Practical Farmers of Iowa | Iowa Arboretum in Madrid, Iowa

In this full-day workshop, learn from a number of experts about all aspects of chestnut production and marketing. Topics will include site selection, planting and tree management, varietal recommendations, grafted vs seedling trees, harvesting and curing, marketing and financial resources. Cost to attend is \$10 for PFI members and \$60 for non-members. Register at <https://form.jotform.com/tamsyn/pfi-chestnut-workshop>