



Action in Agroforestry

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Agroforestry Academy Offers Intensive, Integrated Training Opportunity for Diverse Learners

Since 2013, the University of Missouri Center for Agroforestry (UMCA) has been delivering a one-week intensive training program for service providers and farmer-landowners to glean a comprehensive understanding about the science and practice of integrating trees and shrubs on farms with crops, livestock, and wildlife. As the 2019 Agroforestry Academy approaches, a reflection of the program reveals continuous adaptation to the interests, needs, and learning styles of diverse participants, guided by the feedback provided by participants in pre- and post-Academy surveys. There are now three main components of the Academy: farm visits, classroom seminars, and a case study design project. Each component offers unique and complementary ways for participants to engage with agroforestry content.

Farm visits generally rank among the most valuable aspect of the Academy. During these morning field experiences, when the summer sun has yet to elevate daytime temperatures, participants have an opportunity to meet innovative farmer-landowners, to be inspired by their successes, and to ask questions about all aspects of their implementation, management, and marketing decisions. In addition to working agroforestry farms, the group also visits the MU Horticulture and Agroforestry Research Center (HARC) to learn about a plethora of ongoing research projects, and to gain hands-on skills such as grafting and mushroom inoculation from HARC research technicians and UMCA staff.

In the hot afternoons, air conditioned classroom seminars connect participants with agroforestry professionals from UMCA, the USDA National Agroforestry Center, the Savanna Institute and other partnering organizations to share detailed information about specific practices and techniques. The annually updated Agroforestry Training Manual and Handbook for Planning & Design are provided to participants as text resources that complement seminar content.

At the outset of the week, attendees are provided with information about a case study farmer's circumstances, their objectives, and a basic site description. Small groups are guided to work through the Handbook for Agroforestry Planning & Design during daily group meeting times in order to practice the important process of carefully considering each aspect of the design. Early in the week, a visit to the case study farm offers a chance for trainees to learn more about the site and the landowners' goals so that throughout the week, new content knowledge can be applied to this planning and design process. On the final day of the Academy, case study groups present their design plans to the farmer as a summative assessment of their understanding.

Registration is open for the 2019 Agroforestry Academy (July 21-26). Scholarships are available for US veterans. For more information, contact Caroline Todd at toddcs@missouri.edu or by phone at (573)884-2874 or visit www.centerforagroforestry.org/academy/2019/RegistrationBrochure.pdf.



Above, 2018 Academy participants pose for a photo in the shade during a farm visit

Employment Opportunities at the Savanna Institute

The Savanna Institute is seeking to fill three new positions! These new positions will work closely with academic, non-profit, business and farmer collaborators. Detailed job descriptions are [available here](#), and on the Savanna Institute website. Applications are due July 1st, 2019.

Associate Director: Preference for applicants who bring experience in agroforestry research or education; management of non-profit operations and personnel; or equivalent experience. This is a new position that will lead an array of organizational development, management, and fundraising roles.

Communication Specialist: Preference for applicants who bring experience in communications broadly, with specific skills and experience in one or more of the following: graphic design, video production, web development, written communications, webinar and podcast production, organizing educational events, and contracting media production.

Tree Crop Development Lead: Preference for applicants who bring experience in emerging crop commercialization, grower education, and novel investment strategies. This new position will initially focus on developing the Midwest industries for hazelnut, chestnut, and elderberry, but crop focus will evolve over time.

Agroforestry Podcast Book Giveaway Winners & The Latest Episode

The forest farming book giveaway has closed; Joey Los and Raelin Kronenberg are the lucky winners of Jeanine Davis and Scott Persons' book *Growing and Marketing Ginseng, Goldenseal, and Other Woodland Medicinals!* Thanks to all who entered the drawing; stay tuned for more ways to connect with agroforestry resources. This month's podcast episode highlights native plants in temperate agroforestry, with two Agroforestry Academy presenters, Terry Durham of River Hills Harvest elderberries, and Nadia Navarrete-Tindall of Native Plants and More consulting. Listen and subscribe on any podcast app. www.centerforagroforestry.org/pubs/podcast.php

KUDOS

Congratulations to Ranjith Udawatta and his co-authors, G.M.M.M. Anomaa Senaviratne, John A. Lory, Nathan O. Nelson, Jimmy R. Williams, and Stephen H. Anderson, whose published paper "Improved APEX Model Simulation of Buffer Water Quality Benefits at Field Scale" was selected to receive a 2019 American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers (ASABE) Superior Paper Award. These authors will be honored at the General Session Recognition Program to be held during the ASABE Annual International Meeting this July.

UPCOMING EVENTS

4th World Congress on Agroforestry 2019

May 20-22, 2019 | Le Corum Conference Centre, Montpellier, France

More than 1,000 delegates and leading keynote speakers from all over the world will contribute to this event. The overall objective of the Congress is to contribute to the progress of agroforestry science and practice in order to bridge the science-policy gap. Major topics include agroforestry and climate change, food security and nutrition, adoption, and policy, with special attention to vulnerable countries and populations.

More information and registration at <https://agroforestry2019.cirad.fr/>

Agroforestry in Action Webinar: Silvopasture in Wisconsin "Fodder" for Thought

May 29, 2019 | 11:00am-12:00pm CST | Free online event

Diane Mayerfeld, of the University of Wisconsin Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems, will address goals, challenges, and other "fodder" for thought about silvopasture in Wisconsin during this online webinar hosted by the Center for Agroforestry. This seminar is free and open to the public, but registration is required.

More information and registration at <https://agroforestryinaction.wixsite.com/agroforestryinaction>

Ozarks Ginseng & Forest Farming Workshop

June 8, 2019, 9:00-11:30am | Center for Agroforestry | Ozark Mountain Ginseng Farm, Thayer, MO

During this forest farming field tour and workshop, Dennis Lindberg of Ozark Mountain Ginseng Farm will share his knowledge and expertise about growing, propagating, and marketing high-value non-timber forest products, such as ginseng and goldenseal. This event is free, but registration is required. Contact Jamie Gundel at Oregon County Extension at (417)778-7490 or email gundelj@missouri.edu.

Chestnut Growers of America Annual Meeting

June 7 – 9, 2019 | W.K. Kellogg Biological Station in Hickory Corners, Michigan

The Chestnut Growers of America 2019 Annual Meeting program will include expertise from around the country addressing invasive pests, marketing, chestnut genetics, and much more. The event will include a cocktail reception, a walking tour of the facility grounds, and optional orchard tours. Registration closes May 31st. For information and registration, visit <http://www.chestnutgrowers.org/>

2019 Comprehensive Elderberry Workshop

June 13 – 15, 2019 | Midwest Elderberry Cooperative | The Carver Center, Jefferson City, MO

The Comprehensive Elderberry Workshop & Field Tour delivers the best new knowledge on elderberry from expert researchers and successful growers. New Growers Workshop June 13; Workshop and Field Tours June 14-15. Information and registration at: <https://www.riverhillsharvest.com/comprehensive-elderberry-workshop>.

2019 North American Agroforestry Conference

June 24 - 27, 2019 | Association for Temperate Agroforestry | Corvallis, Oregon

The Association for Temperate Agroforestry will convene for the 16th AFTA Biennial Conference, this year focusing on Agroforestry for Sustainable Production and Resilient Landscapes. More information and registration at <https://afta2019.org/>

7th Annual Agroforestry Academy

July 21-26, 2019 | Center for Agroforestry | University of Missouri campus, Columbia, MO

The Agroforestry Academy is a week-long intensive training that includes integrated classroom workshops, multiple farm visits, hands-on demonstrations, and practical on-farm agroforestry planning and design to advance adoption of agroforestry as a cornerstone of productive land use. Scholarships are available for US veterans. More information at <http://www.centerforagroforestry.org/academy/2019/RegistrationBrochure.pdf>

Specialty Mushrooms Project Monthly Webinars

First Wednesday of each month, 3pm-4:30pm EST | Cornell Small Farms Program | Free online webinars

The Cornell Small Farms Program's project focused on specialty mushroom farming enterprises is launching a monthly webinar series highlighting the latest research and stories from experienced growers around the region. These free webinars will occur on the first Wednesday of each month, from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. EST, and will be recorded and posted for later viewing at www.CornellMushrooms.org and at the Cornell Small Farms Program YouTube channel. Learn more and sign up for the webinars at www.CornellMushrooms.org.



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