



# Action in Agroforestry

August 2019 Vol. 10, No.8 Michael Gold and Hannah Hemmelgarn, editors

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## Passing the Baton: Leadership Transition at the Center for Agroforestry

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**From Dr. Michael Gold, Associate Director (formerly Interim Director):**

In March of 2017, I took over as Interim Director of the Center when Shibu Jose moved to become the School of Natural Resources Director. During the past 2 ½ years the Center has continued to grow and thrive, setting the stage for the arrival of our new Director, Dr. Sarah Lovell. Here are some of the major highlights that have taken place over these past 2 ½ years:

- CAFNR has recognized our Center as a Program of Distinction (POD). PODs will have preferred consideration for investment of resources, marketing, fundraising and communication services.
- The Center has received a major endowment from its most enthusiastic and dedicated supporter, Doug Allen (more exciting details will be forthcoming in the coming months).
- Our on-campus and online graduate programs are thriving.
- Our Center has hired three new faculty and three new staff members:

Cliff McGee, a Senior Lab Technician working at HARC; Mark McGee, a Senior Lab Technician working at HARC; Hannah Hemmelgarn, the Center's Education Program Coordinator; Dr. Ron Revord, the Center's new Assistant Research Professor nut tree breeder/geneticist; Dr. Sarah Lovell, the Center's new Director and Endowed Chair in Agroforestry; and Dr. Ashley Conway, the Center's new Assistant Research Professor of silvopasture.

Looking ahead, I am really enthusiastic about the continued growth and development of our Center. I look forward to working with Dr. Lovell as she takes over as the new Director, while providing continuity moving back into my previous role as the Center's Associate Director.

**From Dr. Sarah Lovell, Director and Endowed Chair Professor:**

As I begin this new role, I am filled with a sense of humility to be following in the footsteps of the previous Center leaders. Their outstanding achievements have created a strong foundation on which we can continue to grow. I am thrilled to have this opportunity to be part of the future of the Center for Agroforestry.



This appointment follows ten years that I served on the faculty at the University of Illinois and a previous three years at University of Vermont. My research program focused on multifunctional landscapes has evolved from an interdisciplinary background, including degrees in agronomy and landscape architecture. As I sought out landscape solutions

that would simultaneously meet the production, ecological, and cultural functions appropriate for landowners, I found my way to agroforestry. In fact, over recent years, the Center for Agroforestry has served as a source of inspiration and resources for my work.

Taking on the role of Director will allow me continue following my passion for agroforestry, with an excellent team who share that passion. Our group will continue to study innovative research topics that elevate agroforestry to a place among the top land use strategies for addressing the critical challenges we face today. We will also explore new partnerships and communication strategies to extend this work to audiences that have not previously been engaged in a meaningful way.

In the coming year, the Center will undergo a strategic planning process that will guide our specific directions moving forward. I will meet with stakeholders, collaborators, and potential partners to develop a better understanding about how best to serve our communities. I encourage our readers to reach out to me, or Dr. Gold, to share your thoughts on new opportunities and priorities. We look forward to hearing from you!

## Publications

- Rankoth, L.M., R.P. Udawatta, S.H. Anderson, C.J. Gantzer, S. Jose, and K.A. Nelson. 2019. Cover crop effects on corn plant sap flow rates and soil water dynamics. *Crop Science* DOI:10.2135/cropsci2019.04.0234
- Rankoth, L.M., R.P. Udawatta, K.S. Veum, S. Jose and S. Alagele. 2019. Cover crop influence on soil enzymes and selected chemical parameters for a claypan corn-soybean rotation. *Agriculture*. 2019, 9, 125. DOI:10.3390/agriculture9060125
- Rankoth, L.M., R.P. Udawatta, C.J. Gantzer, S. Jose, K. Veum, and H.A. Dewanto. 2019. Cover crops on temporal and spatial variations in soil microbial communities by phospholipid fatty acid profiling. *Agronomy Journal* 111:1693-1703. DOI:10.2134/agronj2018.12.0789
- Body, M.H. A., M.S. Zinkgraf, T.G. Whitham, C-H. Lin, R.A. Richardson, H.M. Appel, J.C. Schultz. 2019. Heritable phytohormone profiles of poplar genotypes vary in resistance to a galling aphid. *Molecular Plant-Microbe Interactions*. 32 (6): 654 DOI: 10.1094/MPMI-11-18-0301-R

## KUDOS

**Welcome to the many new students** in the University of Missouri Center for Agroforestry on-campus and online graduate programs who started this summer or are beginning this fall.

Name	Advisor	Program	From
Nicholas Mangili	Zhen Cai	Online MS	North Carolina
Ashley Warriner	Michael Gold	Graduate Certificate	Washington DC
Erike Lehtinen	Michael Gold	Online MS	New York
Jacob Barker	Michael Gold	Online MS	Kentucky
Tom Ludka	Michael Gold	Online MS	Pennsylvania
Zach Gerth	Michael Gold	Online MS	Florida/ Rwanda
Raelin Kronenberg	Sarah Lovell	On-campus MS, GRA	Minnesota
Liz Rogers	Chung-Ho Lin	On-campus PhD	Wisconsin
Hannah Hemmelgarn	Sarah Lovell	On-campus PhD	Missouri
Sophie Mendelson	Michael Gold	On-campus MS, GRA	Missouri
Graham Fox	Sarah Lovell	Online MS	North Carolina
Maria Hetman	Sarah Lovell	Online MS	Illinois/ Croatia
Paul Harris	Sarah Lovell	Online MS	New York
Bryan Cornelius	Michael Gold	Graduate Certificate	Washington
Julian Oja	Michael Gold	Graduate Certificate	Minnesota
Brent DeBauche	Chung-Ho Lin	Online MS	Wisconsin
Ben Bishop	Ron Revord	Online MS	Tennessee

**Congratulations to UMCA graduate Dayu Soraya**, who has started a new position as Natural Resources Management (NRM) Tool Developer at the World Agroforestry (ICRAF). Dayu completed her agroforestry MS this year, and has continued to thrive in her career.

**Lalith Rankoth successfully defended his PhD research on July 18, 2019.** He came to MU in June 2016 and has researched soil health, soil water dynamics, corn water use, and micrometer scale pore parameters as influenced by cover crops. He has already published his work in *Agronomy Journal*, *Crop Science*, *Agriculture*, and *Sustainability*. He is currently developing two more manuscripts from his dissertation work to submit to *Soil Science Society of America* and *Agriculture, Ecosystem & Environment*. He has already begun working as Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka as an Assistant Professor. He will be continuing his research on organic farming, conservation practices, and sustainable agriculture.

**Amanda Jo Talbot, MS Plant Sciences, and Dr. Harley Naumann were awarded a North-Central SARE Graduate Student Grant** for “The Establishment of Native Plant Species for Livestock Forage and Wildlife Habitat in Silvopasture Systems” totaling \$14,944. This project will begin September 1 at the Horticulture and Agroforestry Research Center in New Franklin, Missouri.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## **The Agroforestry Podcast: Forest Honey from Horizontal Hives**

*Now available on any podcast app | Center for Agroforestry*

This month's Agroforestry Podcast episode features Dr. Leo Sharashkin's seminar from the UMCA Agroforestry Academy. Leo collects wild swarms of honeybees and keeps them in "horizontal" or Layens hives to harvest forest honey that is free of agrichemicals and other contaminants. This special episode offers a deep dive into the world of keeping small bee livestock as part of a forest farming operation. Listen and subscribe on any podcast app [www.stitcher.com/podcast/the-agroforestry-podcast](http://www.stitcher.com/podcast/the-agroforestry-podcast). Check out Leo's website [www.HorizontalHive.com](http://www.HorizontalHive.com).

## **Growing and Marketing Pawpaw Workshop**

*August 23, 2019 | 1:30pm – 5:00pm | Horticulture and Agroforestry Research Center, New Franklin, MO*

Learn about the pawpaw, Missouri's state fruit tree, and a "new" specialty crop for Missouri producers during this field event. Researchers, farmers, and specialty crop economists will discuss up-to-date information about successful cultivation, processing, and marketing of pawpaw (*Asimina triloba*). Participants will also have the opportunity to taste samples of pawpaw and value-added pawpaw products. This event is free but advance registration is required. Contact Caroline Todd at [toddcs@missouri.edu](mailto:toddcs@missouri.edu) or by phone (573)884-2874 to register.

## **Native Plants for Ecosystem Services and Specialty Crops Workshop**

*August 15, 2019 | 8:30am–3:30pm | Grow Native | Monette Historical Museum, Monette, MO*

This informative workshop is for row crop farmers, livestock producers, hobby farmers, gardeners, and recreational landowners who are interested in the benefits and how-to of incorporating native plants to increase farm revenues, livestock health, pollinator habitat, soil health, water quality and more. Register at [www.grownative.org](http://www.grownative.org) or call (888)843-6739. Registration and lunch cost is \$13 for Missouri Prairie Foundation members, \$16 for non-members. Presenters include Nadia Navarrete-Tindall (Native Plants and More), Steve Clubine (farmer), Doug Peterson (NRCS), Ed Spevak (St.Louis Zoo), and Rick Rath (MDC).

## **Agroforestry in Action Webinar: Chestnuts in the Northeast**

*August 28, 2019 | 11:00am CST | Free online webinar | University of MO Center for Agroforestry*

Jono Neiger and Russell Wallack will present about implementation strategies, economics and remaining challenges of chestnut agroforestry in the northeast during the August webinar. To register, visit <https://agroforestryinaction.wixsite.com/agroforestryinaction>.

## **Forrest Keeling Nursery Fall Field Day**

*September 12, 2019 | Forrest Keeling Nursery | Elsberry, MO*

"Bee the Change from the Back Forty to Your Backyard" This year's Fall Field Day at Forrest Keeling will include a keynote presentation from Sara Parker Pauley, Director of the Missouri Department of Conservation, a panel of soil and plant health experts, site tours describing research and development and production methods, and a farm-to-table luncheon. For more details, and to register, visit <https://www.fknursery.com/FallFieldDay>.

## **Holistic Management with Agroforestry Workshop**

*September 14, 2019 | Douglas Cty Conservation District, UMCA | Douglas County Fairgrounds, Lawrence, KS*

This full-day (9am to 4pm) workshop will include an overview of permaculture and agroforestry planning, promising perennial tree and shrub crops, Savory Holistic Management methods and silvopasture basics, plus a hands-on mushroom cultivation experience. To register for this workshop, contact Heather McPeek at the Douglas County Conservation District (785)843-4260 ext. 3, or [Douglasccd1@gmail.com](mailto:Douglasccd1@gmail.com).

## **Agroforestry in the Heartland Field Day**

*September 14, 2019 / Midwest Agroforestry Solutions, The Land Connection / Vulcan Farm, Sidney, IL*  
Join the Savanna Institute and The Land Connection to see agroforestry in action in Central Illinois. During this field day, participants will visit two working farms owned and managed by Midwest Agroforestry Solutions, meet successful agroforestry farmers, and hear practical advice on how adding trees can help grow your farm. More information and registration at <http://www.savannainstitute.org/events.html>.

## **Opportunities with Chinese Chestnuts**

*September 18, 2019 / 1:30pm – 5:00pm / Horticulture and Agroforestry Research Center, New Franklin, MO*  
Chinese chestnuts are a viable crop for Midwest producers. During this field event, participants will tour chestnut orchards, meet with MU researchers and experienced growers, and hear up-to-date information about successful cultivation and marketing of chestnuts. There is no cost to participate, but advance registration is required. To register, contact Caroline Todd, [toddc@missouri.edu](mailto:toddc@missouri.edu), or by phone (573)884-2874.

## **Alternative Tree Crop Field Day**

*September 20, 2019 / 1:00-5:00pm / Center for Agroforestry / MU Southwest Research Center, Mt Vernon, MO*  
Join MU researchers, extension specialists, and experienced growers to learn about alternative tree crops that have economic potential for Missouri. Field Day activities are free and will include educational presentations, tastings of several fruits, and tours of the MU research plantings and orchards. For field day information, contact Patrick Byers (417)859-2044 [ByersPL@missouri.edu](mailto:ByersPL@missouri.edu). The MU Southwest Research Center is located at 14548 State Hwy H, Mount Vernon, Missouri.

## **The Land Institute Prairie Festival: Carbon, Culture & Change from the Ground Up**

*September 27-29, 2019 / The Land Institute, Salina, KS*

The Prairie Festival offers a unique opportunity to interact with some of the world's most compelling authors, thinkers, artists, and advocates focused on agriculture, food, the environment, science, sustainability, and social and environmental justice. The special event is held at the Land Institute's Big Barn; camping is available in the orchards, and evening barn dances and bonfires make this lively conference unique. Featured speakers at this year's Prairie Festival include Bill McKibben, M. Francesca Cotrufo, Carolyn Finney, and many more. Register at <https://landinstitute.org/news-events/prairie-festival/>.

## **Missouri Chestnut Roast Festival**

*October 5, 2019 / 10:00am-4:00pm / UMCA / Horticulture & Agroforestry Research Center, New Franklin, MO*  
The Missouri Chestnut Roast Festival is a perfect opportunity to get to know the Center for Agroforestry's work at the Horticulture and Agroforestry Research Center, to taste this year's harvest of chestnuts, learn Missouri folk arts and new recipes for perennial crops. This year marks the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the historic Hickman House at the farm! More information about this engaging, family-friendly event is forthcoming on the Center for Agroforestry's website: [www.CenterForAgroforestry.org](http://www.CenterForAgroforestry.org)