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

DOI:10.3390/agriculture9060125

DOI:10.2134/agronj2018.12.0789


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.

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Advisor</th>
<th>Program</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nicholas Mangili</td>
<td>Zhen Cai</td>
<td>Online MS</td>
<td>North Carolina</td>
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<td>Ashley Warriner</td>
<td>Michael Gold</td>
<td>Graduate Certificate</td>
<td>Washington DC</td>
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<td>Erike Lehtinen</td>
<td>Michael Gold</td>
<td>Online MS</td>
<td>New York</td>
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<td>Jacob Barker</td>
<td>Michael Gold</td>
<td>Online MS</td>
<td>Kentucky</td>
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<td>Tom Ludka</td>
<td>Michael Gold</td>
<td>Online MS</td>
<td>Pennsylvania</td>
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<td>Zach Gerth</td>
<td>Michael Gold</td>
<td>Online MS</td>
<td>Florida/ Rwanda</td>
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<td>Raelin Kronenberg</td>
<td>Sarah Lovell</td>
<td>On-campus MS, GRA</td>
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<td>Liz Rogers</td>
<td>Chung-Ho Lin</td>
<td>On-campus PhD</td>
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<td>Hannah Hemmelgarn</td>
<td>Sarah Lovell</td>
<td>On-campus PhD</td>
<td>Missouri</td>
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<td>Sophie Mendelson</td>
<td>Michael Gold</td>
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<tr>
<td>Graham Fox</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maria Hetman</td>
<td>Sarah Lovell</td>
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<td>Illinois/ Croatia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paul Harris</td>
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<td>Michael Gold</td>
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<tr>
<td>Julian Oja</td>
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<td>Brent DeBauche</td>
<td>Chung-Ho Lin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ben Bishop</td>
<td>Ron Revord</td>
<td>Online MS</td>
<td>Tennessee</td>
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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.
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 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 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.
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, toddcs@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. 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. Francesc 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 200th 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