

# The **Temperate Agroforester**

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## **Opportunities for Agroforestry in Changing Rural Landscapes**

*By Miles Merwin*

Cornell University hosted the fifth North American Agroforestry Conference August 3-6. Over 115 participants from throughout the US and Canada, plus several overseas countries, attended the conference at Ithaca, New York.

Titled "Exploring the Opportunities for Agroforestry in Changing Rural Landscapes," the meeting was sponsored by the Cornell University College of Agriculture and Life Science, including the Department of Natural Resources and Cornell Agroforestry Working Group. Co-sponsors included AFTA, USDA National Agroforestry Center, and the IUFRO Temperate Agroforestry Working Party. The principal organizers at Cornell were Jim Lassoie, Louise Buck, Barbara Cliff and Danica Merideth.

### **Keynote Addresses**

Two keynote speakers opened the conference on Monday, Aug. 4: Fee Busby, NRCS Deputy Chief of Science and Technology, and Rob Myers, Program Leader of the Jefferson Initiative on Crop Diversification.

In his talk titled "Agroforestry: Get Real," Fee Busby explored three themes related to the future of agroforestry in the US. He cautioned against wasting time by "preaching to the choir" or "planning to plan," admonishing his listeners to form a critical mass of people, effort and budget that will support agroforestry. He posed a basic question that must be addressed, "Who knows (about agroforestry), who cares, and so what?"

Busby said that "we should be careful what we ask for, we might get it." As an example of the intentional and unintentional results of success, he cited the increased opportunities for government cost share funding to support some agroforestry practices through the EQIP program, and the continuous sign-up provisions of CRP. However, the time required to adminis-

ter these programs has left NRCS staff with little time for planning and coordination with other agencies on the larger issues of resource conservation.

Busby's last point was that agroforestry mirrors the goal of thinking globally and acting locally, by combining both long-term (timber) and short-term (crops and livestock) outputs. He stressed the importance of marketing, saying that agroforestry enterprises will succeed by producing saleable products, not by relying on government incentives.

Rob Myers offered a USDA perspective on the relationship between sustainable agriculture and agroforestry. He listed a variety of public funding sources that are available to support agroforestry research and development, including the Fund for Rural America and the National Research Initiative. Myers believes that one way to overcome the general lack of understanding about agroforestry is to focus on the needs it addresses in common with sustainable agriculture, which has widespread support. Those common aims include species diversity, wildlife habitat, soil and water protection, beneficial insect habitat, and farmer-based marketing. The notion among many farmers that, outside the homestead, trees are "in the way" should be overcome, he said.

### **Proceedings**

More than 45 papers were delivered during 14 concurrent sessions at the conference. The proceedings to be published by Cornell will include all papers submitted for publication, along with abstracts of the 13 posters displayed during the poster session and summaries of two concurrent discussion panels on research and marketing. Final drafts of the papers are due in early November, and the proceedings will be available in 1998.

► **Agroforestry Conference, p. 7**

## ***The Temperate Agroforester***

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[http://www.missouri.edu/~afta/afta\\_home.html](http://www.missouri.edu/~afta/afta_home.html)

### **Association for Temperate Agroforestry Inc.**

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### **Mission Statement**

The mission of AFTA is to advance the knowledge and application of agroforestry as an integrated land use approach to simultaneously meet economic, social and environmental needs. AFTA focuses on agroforestry in temperate zones, with an emphasis on North America. AFTA pursues its mission through networking, information exchange, public education, and policy development.

### **AFTA Membership Dues and Subscriptions**

Regular: 1 year \$25, 2 years \$45, 3 years \$60;  
Student \$10; Sustaining \$50; Lifetime \$300.

Non-voting: Institutions \$50, Nonprofits \$25.

Overseas Postage: Canada/Mexico, add \$5 per year; All other countries, add \$10 per year.

Send your check payable to AFTA in US dollars to:  
Dr. Deborah Hill, AFTA Treasurer, Dept. of Forestry, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40546-0073, USA.

### ***The Temperate Agroforester***

*Editor:* Miles Merwin

Contributions related to agroforestry are welcome. Please submit items either on PC-formatted diskette, via e-mail, or typewritten. Deadlines for submissions are the 15th of March, June, September and December. Address all items to: Miles Merwin, The Temperate Agroforester, P.O. Box 266, Lake Oswego, OR 97034, Tel.(503) 697-3370, Fax (503)697-1767, Email mlmerwin@teleport.com

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### ***President's Corner***

## **Serving Member's Needs**

*By Gene Garrett, AFTA President*

I was indeed pleased to see so many of you turn out for our Ithaca meeting. As expected, the Cornell group did a highly professional job of hosting this year's event and we are indebted to each and every person involved.

My term as your president will end January 1, and as I reflect on AFTA's accomplishments over the past two years, I am pleased! We have managed to achieve most of the goals that I established for my presidency. My only disappointment has been that we have not been successful in our attempt to significantly increase our membership. I remain convinced, however, that there are thousands of individuals out there who would benefit from membership. I also remain convinced that part of the problem is lack of a proper infrastructure in AFTA to accommodate the needs of the membership.

To help solve this problem, the AFTA Board of Directors is actively pursuing the establishment of regional affiliations and at our August 4 Board meeting approved the formation of a Regional Council as a new standing advisory committee of the Board. The purpose of this Regional Council will be to help AFTA better understand and respond to agroforestry research and education needs in the various geographic regions of North America. And, the bottom line is that through this body, AFTA can better serve its members.

The success of any organization depends, to a great extent, upon having a membership that is willing to serve when called upon. I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge one individual in particular that met the challenge and sacrificed much to help AFTA achieve success. Mike Gold has served our organization approximately six years as our first President and, until Dec. 31, as our Immediate Past President. He has served us well! Mike, we will be forever indebted for the leadership and vision you have provided. Our success is a tribute to your efforts.

It has been an honor and a privilege for me to serve you as President. As my term winds down, I look forward to taking on new roles in AFTA and to continue service in various capacities as your immediate past president.

Thank you for working with me to help build a better AFTA!

# Minutes of AFTA Business Meetings at Ithaca, New York

AFTA held two business meetings at Cornell University during the recent North American Agroforestry Conference. Members gathered on August 3 for the first annual meeting since AFTA was officially incorporated. The next evening, the Board of Directors conducted its first meeting since incorporation.

## Members' Annual Meeting

The first Annual Meeting of the Association for Temperate Agroforestry Inc. was held on August 3, 1997 on the campus of Cornell University, Ithaca, New York. The meeting was chaired by President Gene Garrett.

Gene said that AFTA had achieved many things in the last year and a half, and that agroforestry in North America is growing rapidly. There has been a remarkable increase in the actual science of agroforestry since the first North American Agroforestry Conference at Guelph in 1989, he said.

Gene announced that, following approval of new Articles and Bylaws by an almost unanimous vote of the members, that AFTA was formally incorporated on July 28, 1997 in the state of Missouri. He said that a committee will start work on the necessary steps to file for 501(c)(3) tax status.

Treasurer Deborah Hill presented her report, as follows, which was accepted as read: For the year Jan. 1-Dec. 31, 1996: total receipts \$6988.79 (including \$2000 from USDA/FS), total expenses \$3973.72. For the period Jan. 1-July 31, 1997: total receipts \$9697.34 (including \$5000 from USDA/NRCS), total expenses \$10,859.09, balance (7-31-97) \$1853.32.

Joe Colletti, chair of the ad hoc Regional Association Committee, presented the committee's report to the meeting and distributed copies of the committee's Position Statement on AFTA Regional Associations dated July 28, 1997. The committee made three recommendations: (1) directors representing nine geographic regions of North America should be elected to the Board by the members, (2) the Bylaws should be amended to allow the creation of single or multi-state chapters within AFTA, and (3) technique-specific working groups are not needed at this time.

A general discussion about the committee's report followed. It was suggested that Canadian provinces should be associated with the neighboring US regional groups rather than under a single nationwide representative. There was a question about the minimum number of members that would be required to

constitute a chapter. Mechanisms for affiliation or partnerships with other existing organizations are also needed. The formation of a standing committee on technology transfer was proposed. It was suggested that regions should be based on areas of similar climate rather than along state lines. A comment was made that people need compelling reasons to join AFTA, and that membership could be increased by trying to attract more practitioners as well as educators and resource professionals. It was suggested that AFTA initiate a series of short technical bulletins on different agroforestry-related topics.

Gene opened the floor for nomination of candidates for the offices of President Elect, Secretary, and Treasurer, who will be chosen by the members this fall. The following persons were nominated, subject to their acceptance: President Elect, Henry Pearson and Louie Buck (both later declined-*Ed.*); Secretary, Sandra Hodge; Treasurer, Barbara Cliff. He said that other nominations would be accepted until Sept. 1.

## Board of Directors Meeting

The first meeting of the Board of Directors of the Association for Temperate Agroforestry Inc. was held on August 4, 1997 at Cornell University, Ithaca, New York. Directors present, constituting a quorum, were Joe Colletti, Gene Garrett, Michael Gold, Deborah Hill, Miles Merwin and Peter Williams. The meeting was chaired by Gene Garrett.

By unanimous votes, the directors approved resolutions to effect the following actions: (1) adoption of the Bylaws that were approved by a vote of the members of AFTA on June 1, 1997; (2) election of the following officers: Gene Garrett, President; Joe Colletti, President Elect; Michael Gold, Immediate Past President; Deborah Hill, Treasurer; and Peter Williams, Secretary; and appointment of Miles Merwin as Newsletter Editor; (3) location of the principal office of the corporation at the School of Natural Resources, University of Missouri, Columbia; (4) increasing the number of directors to nine; (5) setting the term of the officers to be elected this fall to begin January 1, 1998 and end at the North American Agroforestry Conference in 1999; (6) appointment of President Gene Garrett, Treasurer Deborah Hill and President Elect Joe Colletti as the 1997 Audit Committee to review the financial records of AFTA; (7) appointment

► **AFTA Meetings, p. 10**

# AFTA Seeks Proposals to Host 1999 Agroforestry Conference

AFTA is now inviting proposals from organizations interested in hosting the Sixth North American Agroforestry Conference to be held in 1999. Proposals are due by November 30, 1997.

Members of the AFTA Board will review all submitted proposals based on responsiveness to the criteria stated below. AFTA may contact the applicant organization for clarification or to offer suggestions or modifications to submitted proposals prior to final selection. Selection of the host for the 1999 conference will be made by December 31, 1997.

## Conference Format

The conference will be titled or subtitled: "The Sixth North American Agroforestry Conference," and will be sponsored under the auspices of AFTA. It should be a three day event with the following suggested format:

- *Sunday night*: icebreaker and AFTA meeting.
- *Monday*: Plenary and concurrent sessions AM and PM.
- *Monday evening*: Landowner "show-and-tell" and poster session.
- *Tuesday*: Field trips all day.
- *Wednesday*: Sessions AM and PM, late PM wrap up; (or) morning session only with lunch and conference wrap up.

## Conference Elements

Overall, the following components should be included:

- A minimum of three, half-day sessions
- A landowner show-and-tell session
- A poster session
- One or more all-day field trips
- No more than three (preferably two) concurrent sessions at one time
- An AFTA members meeting (facility for 75-100) plus an AFTA Board meeting (facility for 10-15).

Optional but recommended components for the conference are:

- Pre- or post-conference tours
- An open forum to discuss issues
- A "trade show" of public and private organizations to display goods and services related to agroforestry
- A fund raising event during the conference, e.g. silent auction.

## Publications

Conference organizers will publish proceedings of all accepted written submissions including abstracts of posters and abstracts of oral presentations where no paper is submitted. Before the end of the conference, a list of attendees will be circulated to all participants.

Conference organizers will contact a refereed journal (e.g., *Agroforestry Systems*; *Forest Ecology and Management*; *J. of Alternative Agriculture*) for publication of a selected subset of the written submissions in refereed, peer-reviewed form.

## Selection of Papers

The order of priority for written papers submitted for publication and oral presentation should adhere to the following general guidelines: A) 75% North American temperate zone; B) 25 % worldwide temperate. Tropical submissions may be included if a clear link to the development of temperate systems is demonstrated, and then limited to poster sessions. Placement of subtropical papers are up to the discretion of the organizers, depending on the paper's subject matter.

## Publicity

Conference organizers should contact appropriate agencies for contributions, sponsorship, and publicity for the meeting. These agencies should include local, federal and international agencies; universities; professional organizations; foundations; and private companies, e.g. SAF Agroforestry Working Group, National Agroforestry Center, and IUFRO Temperate Agroforestry Working Group. The organizers will publicize the conference via both print (e.g. direct mail, press releases) and electronic means (e.g. WWW and news groups).

## Registration Fees

It is important that registration fees for the conference be kept as low as possible, with a significant discount (e.g. 10%) offered to students and paid-up members of AFTA. Ten dollars of the regular registration fees received from non-student and non-members are to be designated to AFTA to support the association. AFTA will provide the organizers with a current list of paid-up members.

**Continued ►**

# Canadian's Tree Planting Enterprise Spans Six Decades

By Miles Merwin

Andrew Dixon was one of the featured landowner practitioners to speak at the Fifth North American Agroforestry Conference at Cornell. Andy, who turned 90 years old this year, lives near the town of Ailsa Craig, west of London, Ontario.

His first large scale planting of hardwoods on his family farm was in 1939, Andy said. He planted 1000 each of bass, ash and black walnut. "I grew big weed crops (between the trees) in summer," he said, "and hosted rabbits and many other creatures in winter."

In 1978, after 29 years, he found that only 50% of the ash, some black walnuts and none of the bass had survived. Andy selected the best walnuts, pruned them for form and girdled the rest. Two years later he thinned out all the competing trees to leave 138 of the original black walnuts for veneer-quality timber. He reported that his largest walnut (age 58) is now 20.5 inches diameter at "nose" height.

"Why is it necessary," he asked, "to plant 3000 trees to get 138 poorly-spaced trees that need pruning?"

To find a better way, in 1986 Andy tried planting black walnut in rows 40 ft. apart with cultivated crops between the rows. He grew corn for three seasons, followed by crops of wheat, oats and crown vetch. He found that the corn protected the young trees from sun and wind, and helped train straight stems with fewer low branches. Although it didn't produce seed as intended, he said that fixed nitrogen provided by the crown vetch stimulated growth of the walnuts.

Andy later experimented with a mixture of cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*) and red oak, planting the oak in every second alley between the cottonwoods in

which crops were grown. He has pruned the cottonwood for veneer logs which he expects to harvest at age 20, although he said they may be giving too much shade to the oak.

In his latest alley cropping venture started in 1994, Andy planted black walnut with alternating rows of poplar and black cherry in between. All were planted at 25 X 25 ft. spacing, so that after the poplars are harvested at age 25 years and the black cherry at 50 years, the remaining walnuts will be left at a 50 X 50 ft. spacing to grow to harvest at age 70 years. He said that other hardwoods such as oak and tulip poplar could also be produced in this type of mixed planting design.

"Now you are all wondering how big is the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow," he prompted his audience, by now giving him their rapt attention. As an example, Andy recalled that in 1991 he sold one of the oldest walnuts on his farm (71 years old, 91 inches in circumference) for C\$1500. "I grew that tree in my lifetime," he said, "and only pruned the lower limbs." If all 1200 walnut trees planted per acre (as in '94) were sold at age 70 at \$1500 each, that would yield C\$1.8 million, or an annual return of \$600/ac, he said.

Andy said that he plans to graze livestock among his trees for annual income, harvest the walnuts for sale, and produce firewood in addition to high-value timber.

"I plant the trees because my life depends on it," he said. "My great grandchildren will see them grow."

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## Proposal Format

Written proposals must be submitted by mail to AFTA. They should include the following:

(1) Cover Letter — Explain all relevant details concerning the event: When it will take place; how it will be organized; specific details on the field trips; specific details on the proposed facilities to accommodate the meeting; and the university or administrative entity which will sponsor it. Include amount requested of the university administration or host organization to back the conference.

(2) Budget—Details are needed only to the extent

that organizers have demonstrated their commitment and capability to back a first rate conference.

(3) Endorsement Letters — Provide letters of endorsement for hosting the event from the Department Chair and Dean of College, if at a university, or local administrator, if hosted by a public or private agency.

Submit written proposals by mail to: Dr. H.E. Gene Garrett, President, AFTA Inc., School of Natural Resources, 1-30 Agriculture Building, University of Missouri, Columbia, MO 65211. All proposals are due November 30, 1997. □

# Woods-Grown Ginseng Focus of Cornell Research Projects

By Miles Merwin

Cornell University is a center of active research on the development of American ginseng (*Panax quinquefolium*) as a high-value forest farming product in the hardwood forests of eastern North America. An update on several current research projects was featured during the recent fifth North American Agroforestry Conference at Cornell.

Ginseng research is being conducted at the Arnot Forest near Ithaca, New York, which is managed by the Cornell Dept. of Natural Resources. Sugar maples at Arnot Forest are managed for maple syrup production, and ginseng is a compatible understory crop which benefits from the shade, leaf litter nutrients and improved soil moisture provided by the maple trees.

## Research Goals

Several Cornell researchers were on hand to describe their current projects on ginseng. Their research has two goals: to reduce the collection pressure on wild American ginseng, and to determine optimal management requirements for producing it using “woods-grown” (forest farming) methods.

One project is seeking to characterize the optimal ecological and soil conditions for ginseng in its native habitat. Cornell senior extension associate Louise Buck described how the project has enlisted the aid of “shang hunters” (wild ginseng collectors), who have an intimate knowledge of where the best roots can be found, to collect soil samples from those sites.

That project is related to another study conducted by Cornell researchers Jillian Gregg and Todd Dawson which seeks to determine how climatic region, slope aspect and species composition of the forest canopy affect the growth and ginsenoside content of ginseng. Preliminary results indicate that microclimate or soil characteristics are likely to be more important than any of those factors.

## Ginsenoside Research

Concurrent with the field studies, laboratory analyses are being conducted to quantify the ginsenoside content of ginseng roots that differ in age, shape, geographic origin, and whether they are wild or cultivated.

Ginsenosides are the biologically active chemicals in ginseng roots that produce a quantifiable physiological effect on mammals and therefore are the basis for its medicinal value. The first step of this research is to develop a quick and easy method for measuring the seven most common and diagnostic ginsenosides.

The goal is to investigate whether or not the traditional criteria used to judge the quality (and therefore price) of ginseng roots, e.g. age, shape, color, are reliable indicators of ginsenoside content and thus medicinal value. Market price should logically be based on ginsenoside assays, and growers will receive a better return once they know how to grow ginseng to maximize its ginsenoside content.

Small plots have been established at Arnot Forest to demonstrate various cultivation methods and to evaluate the growth of ginseng from different geographic provenances. Young ginseng plants require 70-80% shade. During the first year of establishment plants are most susceptible to animal damage (e.g. slugs and rodents) and fungal pathogens (e.g. alternaria, phytophthora). Woods-grown roots are thinned to a final spacing of one per square foot and harvested after 7-10 years.

Several private organizations are cooperating with Cornell in these demonstration trials, including the New York State Ginseng Association and a newly formed growers' group, the North American Ginseng Association. □

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Participants at the agroforestry conference at Cornell inspect ginseng demonstration plots at the Arnot Forest. This bed includes wild-collected plants from the Catskill Mts. and seedlings from Michigan. (Photo: M. Merwin)

## ► **Agroforestry Conference**

Some of the conference papers will be selected for peer review and publication in a special issue of the journal, *Agroforestry Systems*. Jim Lassoie will be editor of both the proceedings and the special issue of *Agroforestry Systems*, with the assistance of Louise Buck and Danica Merideth.

### **Field Tours**

During the second day of the conference, participants had the opportunity to view agroforestry research and on-farm implementation during two full-day field trips. While the tours followed separate itineraries, both shared several stops in common. Both tours started at the Ithaca Farmers' Market, since it is an important sales outlet for several of the private landowners on the tour who market products from their agroforestry practices, and visited the Arnot Forest to learn about Cornell's ginseng research program (see separate story).

One such landowner featured on the tour was Brian Caldwell, a Cooperative Extension agent who markets certified-organic vegetables, apples, nuts and sheep produced from an alley cropping system on his own farm. Caldwell has experimented with numerous cultivars of chestnuts and other nut trees, and is currently producing vegetable crops interplanted in an orchard of the five most successful chestnut varieties. Six sheep are grazed using portable electric fencing.

Another producer who relies on direct marketing is Karl North, whose Northland Sheep Dairy was visited on the field tour. North grazes sheep in a old apple orchard, and markets his products (specialty cheeses, milk, meat, yarn, sheepskins and apple cider) through the Ithaca Farmers' Market.

Commercial biomass production was the subject of a visit to the State University of New York's willow biomass research plots at Tully, NY. The SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry is one of the lead agencies in the Salix Consortium, a collaborative group involving several commercial power companies that is working to demonstrate the feasibility of power generation using intensively-farmed willow and poplar. The Tully research site includes screening trials of over 300 clones of willow, and block plantings using the "Swedish double row" system to demonstrate management and harvesting of willows under commercial-scale conditions.

## **Closing and Awards Ceremony**

The closing luncheon in the historic Willard Straight Memorial Room at Cornell featured a summary speech by Bill Rietveld, Program Manager of the National Agroforestry Center, and a video address by Senator Christopher Bond of Missouri.

In his closing remarks, Rietveld addressed the question of how to make agroforestry practices more adoptable. To gain wider acceptance, he said that agroforestry must be economically viable and produce high value specialty products in a way that also benefits resource conservation. This will in turn depend on greater participation by the larger agricultural community in both research and educational efforts, he said.

Although his schedule would not permit a personal appearance, Senator Bond addressed the conference by video tape. In his introduction to the tape, AFTA President Gene Garrett recalled the reaction of Senator Bond following his visit to the Sho-Neff plantation in Stockton, Missouri where black walnut agroforestry is practiced: "I think I have seen the forestry of the future." Senator Bond, in his video address, said that agroforestry is a "win-win" approach to sustainable agriculture that benefits landowners, taxpayers and the environment. He detailed his support for federal funding of agroforestry research and demonstration projects in Missouri, and said that these deserve expansion to neighboring states.

At the conclusion of the luncheon, several awards were given. The Guelph-Wellington Award for best graduate student presentations at the North American Agroforestry Conference is funded through the generous contribution of Mr. Phil Gosling. This year's recipients of a certificate and check for \$250 each were Dean Gray and Jeff Lehmkuhler, both University of Missouri; Jim Chamberlain, Virginia Polytechnic Institute; and Gordon Price, University of Guelph.

A new award was also presented for the first time at this conference, the Terry Johnson Agroforestry Award. Given in memoriam of the late Terry Johnson, a strong advocate of agroforestry within USDA, and funded by NRCS, USFS and the National Woodland Owners Association, the award is given in recognition of outstanding service by a resource professional related to agroforestry. The award was presented to Bill Rietveld of the National Agroforestry Center.

All those present showed their sincere thanks and appreciation with a standing ovation to all the conference organizers for a very successful conference. □

## Bill Rietveld to Retire After 31 Years with Forest Service

Dr. Bill Rietveld, Program Manager of the National Agroforestry Center at Lincoln Nebraska, has announced his retirement, effective November 2. Bill's career with the Forest Service spans 31 1/2 years. His last nine years were at Lincoln, where Bill came in as a project leader and subsequently conceived and built the National Agroforestry Center into a Forest Service/Natural Resources Conservation Service partnership program that is nationally and internationally recognized.

Bill started his Forest Service career at the Flagstaff, AZ research unit of the USFS Rocky Mountain Station where he was a Research Plant Physiologist working on ponderosa pine regeneration. He then transferred to the North Central Station at Carbondale, IL where he conducted research on plantation culture of black walnut and other high-value hardwoods. From Carbondale, he transferred to North Central's lab at Rhinelander, WI where he conducted research on short-rotation woody crops.

Over his career, Bill has published over 125 papers on his research, plus many popular articles on agro-

forestry. He has received numerous performance awards, and recently received the Terry Johnson award for outstanding contributions toward advancing the science and practice of agroforestry. He is currently working on an agroforestry textbook, which he will complete in his retirement.

In reflecting on his career, Bill says that it has been rewarding, exciting, challenging, and demanding. And it has led to personal ties with colleagues and good friends throughout the U.S. and the world. However, the time has arrived to pursue other interests and a different lifestyle. Bill and his wife Janet plan to move to Durango, CO.

To ensure that the work of the National Agroforestry Center continues uninterrupted, Station Director Denver Burns has appointed Dr. Michele Schoenberger (research programs) and Jerry Bratton (technology transfer programs) to serve as co-acting Program Managers for the Center, effective November 2, until a replacement Program Manager is recruited.



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## Call for Posters: Agroforestry Enterprise Conference

The North American Conference on Enterprise Development Through Agroforestry: Farming the Forest and Agroforest for Specialty Products will be held October 4-7, 1998 in Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota. Poster abstracts are due by *November 1, 1997*.

This conference will provide participants with an opportunity to learn and share experiences about "cultivating" specialty forest products (or "forest farming") in temperate forest and agroforestry systems such as windbreaks, riparian buffer strips, alley cropping, silvopasture, and short rotation woody crops.

Sessions will focus on the three main areas of specialty forest products intentionally produced through forest farming: (1) Botanicals and Medicinals; (2) Decorative and Handicraft Products (including decorative greenery, cones, florals and ornamental plants and plant parts, decorative wood products etc.); and (3) Forest-Based Food Products (including nuts, berries, herbs, oils and extracts, honey, syrups, gums, mushrooms, fruits, flavor & smokewoods, game animals, etc.). Emphasis will be placed on markets and marketing, production systems, and financial and environmental costs and benefits.

The program will include oral and poster presentations, moderated discussions, practitioner displays and presentations, exhibits, and field tours. Conference presenters will be people who produce, procure, process, or sell specialty forest products, as well as researchers, and natural resource agency personnel. Presentations will offer practical information, and, to the greatest extent possible, be based on actual experience.

The conference is coordinated by the Center for Integrated Natural Resources and Agricultural Management (CINRAM) at the University of Minnesota. Current co-sponsors include the National Agroforestry Center; USDA Forest Service, State and Private Forestry; and Minnesota Agroforestry Coalition.

Practitioners and researchers interested in presenting posters (to be published in the proceedings) or display booths should submit the following information by *November 1, 1997*: title of poster, 200-300 word abstract, and author's name, address, phone, fax, email. For more information, contact Scott Josiah, CINRAM, 1530 Cleveland Ave. North, 115 Green Hall, St. Paul, MN 55108, Tel. (612) 624-7418, Fax 625-5212, Email [josia001@maroon.tc.umn.edu](mailto:josia001@maroon.tc.umn.edu). □





### Agroforestry Conference Proceedings

The proceedings of the Fourth North American Agroforestry Conference held in Boise, Idaho July 23-28, 1995 is available for purchase. Edited by John Ehrenreich, Dixie Ehrenreich and Harry Lee of the University of Idaho, it contains 73 papers and 22 poster abstracts in the following general topic areas: Agroforestry potential, Biology of temperate agroforestry systems, Economics of agroforestry in North America, Evolving systems for varying temperate conditions, Extension, Riparian buffer strips, Silvopasture systems in the temperate zone, Temperate zone alley cropping and intercropping, and Windbreaks and shelterbelts.

*Growing a Sustainable Future*, University of Idaho, 1996. To order, send a check for \$40 (includes postage) payable to "College of Forestry, University of Idaho" to John Ehrenreich, College of Forestry, Wildlife and Range Resources, University of Idaho, Moscow, ID 83844-1135.

### Black Walnut Symposium

The proceedings from the Fifth Black Walnut Symposium held in 1996 is now available. The theme for this symposium was "Black Walnut, Agroforestry, and Nut Production." The proceedings includes a number of research notes or review articles including the following: Hardwood agroforestry practices in temperate climates; Special forest products: a cornucopia of income opportunities; Black walnut, agroforestry, and municipal sewage sludge; Agroforestry programs in the temperate zone; Alley cropping corn to establish black walnut in Indiana; Biology and economics of a black walnut corn alley cropping system; Growing high value crops under black walnut; and Hammons ShoNeff Plantation.

*Knowledge for the Future of Black Walnut*, USDA Forest Service General Technical Report NC-191. Copies are available for \$15.00 (includes shipping) from the Walnut Council, 260 S. First Street, Suite 2, Zionsville, IN 46077. □

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## French Video on Agroforestry Now Available in English

*By Christian Dupraz, INRA, Montpellier, France*

The challenge in agroforestry consists in mixing forest trees and agricultural crops on the same plot of land. By contrast, the whole history of modern agriculture in temperate countries may be seen as a systematic separation between forests and crops, trees and farm animals, foresters and farmers.

A handful of relentless farmers, however, still know how to combine trees with crops or animals, and their knowledge helps us to imagine new, modern agroforestry practices. Managing forest trees on agricultural land may help diversify farming and could be a solution for non-farming landowners.

A video produced in France, now available in an English-language version, presents new options of land management based on agroforestry technologies. Titled "The Tale of the Tree and the Grain," it includes a definition of agroforestry, reports of practitioners, many technical aspects, and social and environmental issues. It is based on results obtained by INRA and CEMAGREF (French national Institutes for Agronomic and Forest Research) research workers, and displays experimental plantations established

by French Regional Forest Services. Both silvo-arable and silvopastoral systems are presented, with information on tree shelters.

Aimed at an audience of professionals in agriculture and forestry (farmers, breeders, foresters, extension officers), this video will also be of interest for anyone involved in the use of rural landscapes, including both private and public landowners.

The 26-minute film was produced by Christian Dupraz and directed by Bernard Bézineau, with financial support of the French Ministry of Agriculture, Agropolis, Région Languedoc-Roussillon, and INRA.

"The Tale of the Tree and the Grain," is available in either English (dubbed) or French versions for North American video (NTSC format) for US\$40 including shipping. Payment in convertible currency may be made by check or international money order payable to Agropolis International.

To order, contact Martin Weiss, AGROPOLIS, Avenue Agropolis, 34934 Montpellier Cedex 5, France, Tel. (33) 467047550, Fax (33) 467047599, Email [Weiss@agropolis.fr](mailto:Weiss@agropolis.fr). □



### AFTA Co-sponsors Agroforestry Forum

*Agroforestry Forum* is the newsletter of the UK Agroforestry Research Forum edited by Fergus Sinclair and produced by Michelle Jones at the University of Wales, Bangor.

AFTA is now a co-sponsor of *Agroforestry Forum*, along with the IUFRO Temperate Agroforestry Working Party. All AFTA members are encouraged to participate in the exchange of scientific information about agroforestry that is facilitated by this newsletter.

It is an informal newsletter that allows contributors scope to share and explore new ideas and data. Articles are reviewed in terms of their scientific merit and interest to our readership. *Agroforestry Forum* particularly welcomes concise articles breaking new ground in agroforestry. Short communications that challenge conventional perceptions will be given priority.

*Agroforestry Forum* exists to facilitate rapid exchange of information and opinion among researchers active in the agroforestry domain, with a focus on concise articles on process-based research from key natural and social scientists around the world, as well as reporting of progress in long-term agroforestry system trials and an increasingly popular news and views

section, in which topical issues are debated.

Special issues on key aspects of agroforestry are a regular feature, in which major scientists working in a particular field give their views on current research and possible new directions. The June 1997 newsletter includes a 56-page special issue that features articles by leading scientists in the field of agroforestry modelling, from overviews of the issues involved in developing them down to descriptions of biophysical and socioeconomic models and their output.

The combined newsletter and special issue will be produced twice per year, in June and December. Subscription rates are £20.00 (\$35.00) for individuals; £40.00 (\$70.00) for institutional libraries; and £10.00 (\$15.00) for full-time students with proof of student status. Individual issues are available for £15 each. Payment can be made by check payable to the University of Wales, or Visa/Mastercard.

Write to Dr. Fergus L. Sinclair, Editor, *Agroforestry Forum*, School of Agricultural and Forest Sciences, University of Wales, Bangor, Gwynedd, LL57 2UW, UK, Tel. 01248 382459, Fax 01248382832, Email [f.l.sinclair@bangor.ac.uk](mailto:f.l.sinclair@bangor.ac.uk). □

### ► AFTA Meetings

of Gene Garrett, Deborah Hill, Miles Merwin and Sandra Hodge as the Nonprofit Status Committee to complete and file the necessary forms for the corporation to apply for 501(c)(3) tax exempt status; (8) agreement that the Board shall meet quarterly or more frequently as needed, either by telephone conference call or in person; (9) increasing the annual newsletter subscription rates to \$50 for companies, agencies, and institutions, and \$25 for nonprofit organizations and libraries; (10) co-sponsorship along with IUFRO of the *Agroforestry Forum* newsletter; and (11) acceptance of three project proposals from the National Agroforestry Center.

### Regional Council and Chapters

The Board approved the creation of a steering committee, to be known as the Regional Council,

comprised of regional representatives. The Council will nominate three of its members to stand along with other nominees for election to the Board as directors at large.

The Board discussed the report of the ad hoc Regional Association committee, chaired by Joe Colletti, presented to the AFTA Annual Meeting the previous evening. It was agreed that the formation of regional chapters is a desirable goal, but also that there needs to be a well-defined process for the establishment of chapters, better delineation of the geographic boundaries of potential chapters, and guidelines for forming affiliations or partnerships with other organizations. It was noted that the formation of regional chapters will likely proceed at different rates depending on the geographic distribution of the membership. The Board voted to approve the creation of single or multi-state chapters within AFTA, and that a resolution to amend the Bylaws to define chapters will be put to a vote by the membership. □



### Temperate Agroforestry News

#### Group

afta@lists.missouri.edu

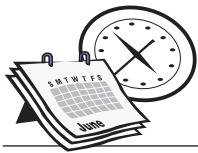
For two years, AFTA has sponsored an Internet news group on temperate agroforestry. All members and newsletter subscribers who have access to the Net should join and use this free bulletin board. AFTA encourages members to post notices to other colleagues in the news group about upcoming meetings, new books, web sites, etc. related to agroforestry. It is also a good place to post technical questions about agroforestry practices and requests for information which will be answered by other group members. The greater the participation in the news group, the more useful it will be for all subscribers.

To subscribe, send an e-mail message to listproc@lists.missouri.edu with your e-mail address in the "From:" header. Type only the following text in the body of the message: subscribe AFTA yourname. Use your real name; the server will pick up your e-mail address and send you a confirmation. To post an

e-mail message to the news group, address it to afta@lists.missouri.edu. Questions about how to sign-on can be sent to entmarc@mizzou1.missouri.edu.

#### New Sustainable Agriculture Sites

Four new web sites related to sustainable agriculture appeared recently. The Sustainable Farming Connection ([sunsite.unc.edu/farming-connection/](http://sunsite.unc.edu/farming-connection/)) includes information for farmers and others related to production, marketing, news, commentary, action alerts, etc. At the newly updated Sustainable Agriculture Network site ([www.ces.ncsu.edu/san/](http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/san/)), visitors can search the Sustainable Agriculture Directory of Expertise database or the USDA Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) database of more than 1,000 projects funded through the program. The Henry Wallace Institute for Alternative Agriculture ([www.hawiaa.org](http://www.hawiaa.org)) has information about the Institute's goals and programs. Produced at the University of Wageningen in the Netherlands, AB-



## Mark Your Calendar

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**Call for Posters: Conference on Agroforestry Enterprise Development**, November 1. The North American Conference on Enterprise Development Through Agroforestry will be held October 4-7, 1998 in Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN. Poster abstracts (200-300 words) are due by November 1, 1997. Contact Scott Josiah, CINRAM, 1530 Cleveland Ave. North, 115 Green Hall, St. Paul, MN 55108, Tel. (612) 624-7418, Fax 625-5212, Email [josia001@maroon.tc.umn.edu](mailto:josia001@maroon.tc.umn.edu).

**National Tree Farmer Convention**, November 6-9, Ogunquit, Maine. Members of the American Tree Farm System will gather for their annual meeting. For information, contact American Forest Foundation, 1111 19<sup>th</sup> St. NW, Ste. 780, Washington, DC 20036, Tel. (202) 463-2462.

**National Marketplace for the Environment**, November 18-20, Washington, DC. Trade show and conference will focus on marketing of environmentally-friendly products, technologies and services developed in the public and private sectors. For information, contact Carmela Bailey, National Program Leader for Agricultural Materials, USDA, Tel. (202) 401-6443, Fax 401-5179, E-mail [cbailey@reeusda.gov](mailto:cbailey@reeusda.gov).

**National Conservation Buffers Technology Conference**, January 26-28, 1998, San Antonio, TX. Co-sponsored by the Conservation Technology Information Center (CTIC), NCBI and NRCS, the conference will feature information about conservation buffer programs, design, and applications. For details, contact Lyn Kirschner, CTIC, Tel. (765) 494-1827, Email [kirschner@ctic.purdue.edu](mailto:kirschner@ctic.purdue.edu), or Web site [www.ctic.purdue.edu](http://www.ctic.purdue.edu).

**Agroforestry: Integrating Conservation, Crops, Livestock and Trees in the Pacific Northwest**, May 12-13, 1998, Richland, WA and May 14-15, 1998, Portland, OR. For information, contact Gary Kuhn, NRCS, Tel. (206) 616-7166, Email [kuhn@geology.washington.edu](mailto:kuhn@geology.washington.edu). □

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## AFTA Memberships and Newsletter Subscriptions

Membership in the Association for Temperate Agroforestry includes a subscription to our quarterly newsletter, discounts on AFTA publications, and reduced registration fees for meetings sponsored by AFTA.

**Annual Membership Dues:** Individuals and Families: 1 year \$25, 2 years \$45, 3 years \$60; Student \$10; Sustaining \$50; Lifetime \$300.

**Annual Newsletter Subscriptions:** Businesses, agencies & institutions, \$50; Nonprofits and libraries, \$25.

**Overseas Postage:** For all addresses outside the US, add the following amounts to the above membership/subscription rates: Canada/Mexico, \$5 per year; All Other Countries \$10 per year.

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**Main Agroforestry Interests** \_\_\_\_\_