



The **Temperate Agroforester**

Volume 7, Number 2

April 1999

Register Now for 6th Agroforestry Conference in Hot Springs

By Catalino Blanche, Conference Co-Chair

The 6th North American Agroforestry Conference is fast approaching. If you haven't made your reservations, I suggest you pick up the phone now and reserve a room at the Arlington Resort Hotel and Spa (800-643-1502) or the Downtowner Hotel (501-321-2835). The cut-off date for special rates is April 30.

Hot Springs is a pleasant one hour drive from Little Rock. If you fly into Little Rock and require transportation to and from Hot Springs, please provide me with your flight schedule in advance (at least two weeks) so I can possibly arrange pick-ups from and to the airport (this is not a free transport!).

As promised, we were able to reduce the registra-

tion fees. The registration fees of \$110 (AFTA member) and \$130 (nonmember) cover the reception (dinner) on June 13, morning and afternoon breaks, conference tour on June 15 (lunch, dinner and transportation), lunch on June 14 and 16 and a copy of the proceedings.

The Pre-conference tour is an optional activity on June 13. The \$40 fee covers lunch at the Petit Jean State Park, morning and afternoon refreshments, transportation, and visits to Winrock International, Winrock Farms, USDA ARS/Winrock Silvopastoral Re-

► **Hot Springs Conference, p.4**

AFTA Launches Special Website for Members Only

AFTA members now have their own private area within the Association's website (www.missouri.edu/~afta). AFTA has launched a new "Members Only" section that can be accessed only by current members upon entering the required username and password.

During April, all members in good standing will receive written instructions, including the current username and password, needed to access the members only area. The password will be updated annually, and continuing members will be informed of the new password after their membership renewal and dues are received.

Access to this special area will be one of the benefits of AFTA membership. Although some of its content will also be available on the public area of the AFTA website, information of special interest to members will only be available there.

For example, the online version of the current membership directory will only be available from the members area (see story this issue). Another exclusive feature will be an electronic version (in Adobe

Acrobat format) of the current issue of *The Temperate Agroforester* newsletter, which can be viewed or printed.

To keep members better informed about their Association, information on the governance of AFTA can be found in the members only section. For example, minutes of meetings of the Board of Directors, the AFTA Bylaws and information about elections of officers and directors will be available for viewing.

Contributing members (Lifetime and Sustaining) will also have access to a special area within the members only section. Upon entering a second username-password combination, contributing members will soon be able to access an electronic archive of all past and current AFTA publications. Back copies of all AFTA newsletters as well as publications and reports can be viewed and printed in Adobe Acrobat format. Although this area is currently "under construction," files containing some of last year's newsletters are already posted. □

The Temperate Agroforester

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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:
AFTA, c/o Center for Agroforestry, 203 ABNR,
University of Missouri, Columbia, MO 65211.

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, E-mail mlm1@teleport.com

Articles originally appearing in the *Temperate Agroforester* may be reprinted provided that source credit is given.

President's Message

AFTA - Visioning, Planning and Leading

By Joe Colletti, AFTA President

AFTA continues to grow as an organization. A new era for AFTA has just been entered. AFTA is now an official IRS-approved nonprofit organization. This nonprofit status means many good things including that AFTA can now seek and undertake fund raising activities.

During the biennial agroforestry conference in Hot Springs, Arkansas, June 12 - 16, 1999, we will hold our annual AFTA meeting. Plan to attend the meeting on Sunday, June 13 from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m. Updates on AFTA activities and executive reports will be given. Also, we will discuss plans for fund raising including establishment of a Fund Development Committee and creating/enhancing our vision for agroforestry in the temperate region of North America. We also hope to unveil our new AFTA logo at that time.

In the mail you will receive bio-sketches of the candidates who have agreed to run for the offices of President-elect, Secretary, Treasurer, and Director At-Large Board Members (3 positions) and a ballot. I encourage all AFTA members to vote for the candidate(s) of their choice for these leadership positions. Write-in votes are accepted.

I encourage all AFTA members to attend the 6th North American Conference on Agroforestry in Hot Springs, and to bring a colleague/ friend who could be recruited into AFTA or at least would enjoy the conference. The Hot Springs organizing committee has done a wonderful job in assembling social, technical, and educational activities.

New this year at the conference will be an Agroforestry Academy (Saturday, June 12) which will provide participants with hands-on experience related to evaluating agroforestry options and basic Internet use for agroforestry. Also new this year will be the Silent Auction - so be ready to bid on various treasures from around the land.

As with the past five conferences, there will be a pre-conference tour, two days of technical/scientific presentations, and a conference tour of near-by agroforestry systems. Also, a Conference Proceedings and a special issue of *Agroforestry Systems* will be produced.

I hope to see you at Hot Springs!! ☐

Federal Policy on Invasive Species May Impact Agroforestry

By Miles Merwin

On Feb. 3, President Clinton signed an executive order to coordinate federal efforts to address the environmental and economic threat that non-native animal and plant species may pose to ecosystems of the US. While aimed at curbing the spread of destructive species such as the Asian longhorn beetle and the zebra mussel, the new policy may have potential ramifications for agroforestry activities by governmental agencies and their private-sector partners.

The new policy calls upon all federal agencies to prevent the introduction or spread of invasive species through monitoring, research, restoration and public education. Agencies are prohibited from funding or undertaking any actions that could cause the spread of invasive species anywhere in the US.

The impact of this policy will depend on how the definitions of "alien" and "invasive" are interpreted and applied. An "alien" species is one which is not native to a particular ecosystem. An "invasive" species is defined as an alien species whose intentional or unintentional introduction therein "does or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health." While modern agriculture is based largely on the cultivation of "alien" species, most crops are clearly not considered "invasive."

An aggressive pest such as gypsy moth clearly fits the definition of an invasive species. However, there could be instances where new plants, introduced for conservation or economic reasons, might be considered invasive if they are capable of reproducing in a new environment. Russian olive, multiflora rose, and Eastern red cedar are some examples of plants origi-

nally introduced with the best intentions for conservation purposes that have since proven capable of spreading beyond planted areas.

According to Bruce Wight of the National Agroforestry Center, some within USDA interpret the new policy to mean that non-native species should be treated as "guilty until proven innocent" rather than "innocent until proven guilty." Under such a scenario, he said, NAC could not recommend or support forest farming cultivation of ginseng, for example, anywhere outside its native range until it was determined that it will not become invasive there. He cautioned, however, that it is still too early to say just how the new policy will be applied to agroforestry and how it may affect NAC and other USDA agencies.

The President's executive order also creates the Invasive Species Council, an Executive Branch body to be co-chaired by the Agriculture, Interior and Commerce departments. Within 18 months (August 2000), the Council will issue a National Invasive Species Management Plan. This plan is supposed to include recommended measures for a science-based process to evaluate the risks associated with introduction and spread of invasive species.

"Probably my best answer for AFTA members," Bruce said, "is to stay tuned and stay informed because I foresee some potentially critical discussions about application of this executive order. The agroforestry community needs to be ready to respond with their input." □

Web  Extra

AFTA Membership Directory Available in Print and Online

AFTA members can obtain a directory of their fellow members either in print or on the Web. The membership directory, published in January 1999, lists both contact details (address, phone, fax and email) plus areas of expertise or interest. Members in both the US and overseas are included.

Printed copies of the membership directory can be obtained by writing to Directory, AFTA, 203 ABNR Bldg., University of Missouri, Columbia, MO 65211. Please enclose a check for \$1.50, payable to AFTA, to cover the cost of copying and postage. Printed copies

will also be available for \$1.00 during the upcoming agroforestry conference in Hot Springs.

Members may also access the directory for free via the Web in the new Member's area of the AFTA website (www.missouri.edu/~afta/). A current username and password (which will be mailed this month to current members in good standing) is required for access to the on-line directory and other pages within the members only area. The on-line version has hyperlinks for member email addresses. □

► Hot Springs Conference

search Project, Heifer Project International and Bob Carruthers' agroforestry farm. We need to have at least 30 participants for this tour to materialize and so we are offering this on a pre-registration basis.

The Agroforestry Academy promises to be a worthwhile educational event. It consists of two short courses: (A) Evaluating Agroforestry Options, and (B) Basic Internet For Agroforestry. Course (A) will be available in the morning and afternoon of June 12 (session 1: 8:00 - 11:30 AM and session 2: 1:00 - 4:30 PM), whereas Course (B) will be available only in the afternoon (1:00-3:30 PM). Please circle the session (s) you plan to attend on your registration form.

We have limited space for these courses and so you need to register early. Continuing Education Units (CEUs) will be available for both courses (6 CEUs). The workshops will be held at the Computer Lab of the Math and Science High School, one block from the Arlington Hotel. Because of constraints on facilities, participation will be on a "first-come first-served" basis. NRCS personnel are encouraged to register immediately for the workshop on "Evaluating Agroforestry Options" to get an experience with the Agroforestry Economic Model.

The program will begin Monday, June 14 with a panel discussion. Papers will be presented in four concurrent sessions during both the morning and afternoon on the topics of socio-economics, riparian zones, short-rotation woody crops, silvopasture, small farm planning and forest farming management.

Tuesday will be devoted to an all-day field trip featuring agroforestry practices on small farms in Arkansas and northern Louisiana. The tour will include a visit to agroforestry research trials at the Louisiana State Univ. Hill Farm Research Station in Homer, LA.

On Wednesday, there will be three concurrent sessions in both the morning and afternoon, with papers presented on small farm modeling, shelterbelts, and alley cropping. The conference will end after a final wrap-up and conclusions session.

Don't forget the Silent Auction. Members are asked to contribute goods (e.g., books, tools, crafts) or services (e.g. consulting) to be auctioned off for the benefit of AFTA. If you have any item to donate, please contact Jim Robinson at 817-509-3215.

If I can be of further help, you may contact me at 501-675-3834, 501-6752940 (fax), or e-mail cblanche@yell.com. See you in Hot Springs! ☐

Web  Extra

Conference Program

Saturday June 12

Agroforestry Academy

8:00 – 11:30 AM Evaluating Agroforestry Options

1:00 – 3:30 PM Basic Internet for Agroforestry,
Evaluating Agroforestry Options (repeat)

Sunday June 13

7:00 AM – 3:00 PM **Preconference Tour**

5:00 – 7:00 PM **Ice Breaker and Dinner**

7:00 – 9:00 PM **AFTA Annual Meeting**

9:00 PM **AFTA Board of Directors meeting**
(members welcome to attend)

Monday June 14

8:30 – 10:00 AM **Panel Discussion**

10:30 AM – 12:00 PM **Concurrent Sessions**

- Socio-Economics
- Riparian Zones
- Short Rotation Woody Crops
- Silvopastures

12:00 - 1:00 PM **Lunch** in Poster Display area

1:00 – 5:30 PM **Concurrent Sessions**

- Socio-Economics and Small Farm Planning
- Riparian Zones
- Short Rotation Woody Crops and Forest Farming Management
- Silvopastures

6:00 - 9:00 PM **Poster Session and Dinner**

Tuesday June 15

8:00 AM – 9:00 PM **Field Tour** – Agroforestry Practices on Small Farms

Wednesday June 16

8:30 – 11:30 AM **Concurrent Sessions**

- Small Farm Modeling
- Shelterbelts
- Alleycropping

11:30 AM - 1:00 PM **Lunch** in Poster Display Area

1:00 – 3:00 PM **Concurrent Sessions**

- Shelterbelts
- Alley cropping

3:00 – 5:00 PM **Closing General Session**

News of Tax Exempt Status Reported at AFTA Board Meeting

By Sandra Hodge, Secretary

The AFTA Board of Directors held a regular meeting by telephone conference call on March 10, 1999 at 11:00 am CST. Directors attending, constituting a quorum, were Joe Colletti, Pete Schaefer, Sandy Hodge, Gene Garrett, Miles Merwin, Catalino Blanche, and Jim Brandle.

Minutes of the Dec. 16, 1998 meeting were amended to note that the Board voted unanimously to approve the new annual dues procedure.

Tax Exempt Status: Miles reported that AFTA has received an advance ruling from the IRS that it is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization. This has positive implications for fund-raising, and means that contributions from individuals and foundations are tax-deductible.

Treasurer's Report: Acting Treasurer Hodge reported that the AFTA account currently has approximately \$13,000.00 plus approximately \$114 in newsletter account.

Logo: The four variations of the new AFTA logo submitted by the logo review subcommittee were discussed. Board members requested revisions for the submitted designs and changes will be reviewed again by the whole Board before May 1 so that the new logo can be introduced and used for the 6th North American Agroforestry Conference in Hot Springs.

Agroforestry Conference in Hot Springs: AFTA's Annual Membership meeting will take place Sunday, June 13 from 7-9 PM after the icebreaker and dinner. The Board meeting will immediately follow. New officers will be installed at the Annual Meeting.

Registration for the NAAC will be handled by Trailblazer Rural Development Institute, at a cost of \$15.00 per hour. Paper abstracts are due April 1 so they can be distributed at conference. Completed manuscripts to be turned in at the conference and will be published at a later date. There will be several international participants. Countries represented include Haiti, Bangladesh, Japan, India and Australia.

April Election: The following people were nominated during the meeting: Miles Merwin, President-Elect; Sandy Hodge, Treasurer; Steve Michmerheuzen, Secretary (later declined); and Scott Josiah, Jim Brandle and Catalino Blanche, all for Director-at-Large. (Others nominated since the meeting are: Mel Baughman, Carl Mize and Sara Peters, all for Secre-

tary; and Richard Hallman for Director at Large.) Write-ins will be encouraged on the ballot as there are no nominations from the floor. Miles mentioned that he would like to phase out of the job as Newsletter Editor at the end of his term as President-Elect. He suggested that the Newsletter Editor be an ex-officio member of the Board. This would create another Director-at-Large opening.

Fund Raising Committee: The creation of a fund-raising committee was discussed. The Board appointed a three-member committee (Miles Merwin, Sandy Hodge and Jim Chamberlain) to develop proposed guidelines and procedures for the fund development committee and report back to the Board at the annual meeting.

Member Directory: It was agreed by the Board to limit the sale to members only because there was no indication on the directory questionnaire that it would be sold to those outside of AFTA. In the future, the questionnaire will allow members to check whether they want their names available to those outside of AFTA. The directory will also be available within the member's only area of the website.

2001 North American Agroforestry Conference: The 2001 NAAC will be held August 16-18 in Regina, Saskatchewan Canada. It will be announced at the Membership meeting in Hot Springs. A request for proposals for the 2003 conference will be published in the next newsletter.

Membership: Miles gave a brief report on the membership as of Jan. 1999. There are a total of 176 members, including 21 overseas. Categories of membership are: 77% regular, 13% student, and about 3% each for institutional, sustaining and lifetime. The geographic distribution is: 33% Midwest, 19% Northeast, 14% Northwest, 14% Southeast, 8% So. Great Plains, 7% Southwest, and 4% No. Great Plains.

Current projects: Joe said that the database of agroforestry activities is progressing slowly but steadily. He said that the project to develop a strategic plan for agroforestry is behind schedule. It was suggested that someone retired might be interested to lead the project, e.g. Henry Pearson, Dave Hintz or Sherm Finch. It was further suggested that the Regional Council could form the core of the "task force" to work on this project, with the addition of others to represent specific stakeholder groups. □

Management-Intensive Forestry Plus Management-Intensive Grazing Creates A Win-Win Situation

by Allan Nation

Grazing beef cattle and sheep in the pine barrens of the Southeast dates back to Colonial times. The traditional open range system consisted of un-managed cows and un-managed pine trees. Costs were low but so were returns. Stocking rates were frequently in the 40 acres-to-a-cow range.

Between 1950 and 1970 most of the woodland open range was closed and perimeter fences were required by law to keep stock off the highways. In many instances, the costs of these perimeter fences were considered too great an investment for the low stocking rates common to woodland range grazing.

Due to economic and cultural factors, over the last 20 years, beef cow and yellow pine timber production have largely parted company. However, recent research at the Hill Farm Research Station in Homer, LA, indicates that re-integrating grazing and timber management can greatly benefit timber growth and total economic return.

"In business time is money," explained Forestry Project Leader Terry Clason. "This is particularly true in a long-cycle crop like forestry. Being able to grow a sawlog in 25 years versus 35 years tremendously lowers opportunity costs."

Clason said the biggest growth limiter to a pine tree was another pine tree. "You have to keep the forest canopy open to produce fast tree growth but when you do that the understory vegetation is stimulated as well. This can be a big problem, or it can be a big opportunity if grazing is incorporated."

Clason said a visit to New Zealand really opened his eyes. "Landowners are really in the resource management business. Most of us are trained to manage a single resource rather than the whole. Once you start managing for the whole, each of the individual components tend to get better as well. Compared to New Zea-

land, forestry management in Louisiana is strictly third world."

He said traditional forestry management plants 680 trees per acre. Trees are then subsequently thinned as they grow. This tight spacing is used to create a barren forest floor and promote natural pruning as the trees drop their shaded lower limbs. Clason said this system creates three problems: a slow growing tree, loose knots which can weaken the wood's strength and virtually no high-value clearwood.



Jersey heifers graze a 12-year old bahia grass - loblolly pine silvopasture at the LSU Hill Farm, a featured stop on the Agroforestry Conference field tour (photo: T. Clason)

On the March 1998 pine timber market, regular saw logs were bringing around \$550 per thousand board feet. However, clearwood - knotfree wood used for veneer and architectural trim and millwork - was bringing \$800 to \$900 per thousand board feet. Clason said the New Zealand system of forestry is designed to maximize the creation of high value

clearwood through hand pruning.

"Once we make the decision to hand-prune, we can spread the trees out and go for maximum timber growth as well. Once we spread the trees out we find that an acre of timberland can support virtually the same stocking rate as an open pasture. It's a win-win situation."

Clason recommends that trees initially be planted in rows 24 feet apart and with 6 to 8 feet between the trees in the row. This is 300 trees per acre. If a planting contractor is used, the cost will run around \$300 per acre. The wide rows not only provide for excellent grazing but for subsequent easy access for logging machinery.

The trees are best planted in January and grazing should be deferred until the trees are tall enough for the cows to see them. "We have had very little seedling pine damage from grazing as long as there

was plentiful grass. However, a hungry cow finds the topmost terminal bud of a pine tree to be very tasty. Personally, I wouldn't take the risk and would exclude the cows until the trees are three to four feet tall. This could take from one to three years depending upon summer rainfall. However, the key to preventing seedling damage is to manage the grazing."

On cutover land, Clason recommends that hardwood brush first be brought under control and then the trees be put in. The pasture can then be planted in the summer of the planting year.

In existing pasture, a planting row six to eight feet wide must be sprayed with herbicide to lower water competition from the grass. The grass between the rows should be hayed or cut for silage in the planting year.

One benefit of adding cattle to a timber operation is that many of the agronomic practices required for the trees can be charged against the cattle operation. This allows them to be expensed immediately rather than carried forward as a basis against future forestry income. This not only saves taxes on current cattle income but lowers the opportunity cost basis of the timber as well.

Yet another win-win is that at high stock densities, there is no need for fire to recycle the pine straw as the cattle's cloven feet mash it into the ground. In this litigious era, not having to worry about smoke and fire escape liabilities can help you sleep better.

Clason said he personally prefers Bahia grass in a timbered pasture due to its low fertilizer requirements, but that common bermuda is good if your grazing operation is going to use a lot of prepared seedbed annual ryegrass. "The common bermuda seems to tolerate the annual tillage better," he said.

He said the Hill Farm was set up to produce 800 lb. plus feeder cattle from its own cow herd. He said this required a total of five acres of timbered pasture for each cow/calf/yearling unit. Annual ryegrass is used extensively for the post-weaning stocker phase and grows well under the trees.

Cattle and timber prices run on different cycles and can therefore both compliment and subsidize one another during the down phases of their cycles. Timber prices follow the interest rate cycle and rise when interest rates fall. During recessions, saw timber demand can virtually disappear and trees are best "stored on the stump."

Hand pruning should start when the trees are eight to ten feet tall. They should be pruned again after an additional eight to ten feet of growth and can be

pruned a third time if a very large sawlog is desired. Clason recommends that a New Zealand pruning shear called a "lopper" be used rather than a saw.

"The beauty of this to a cattleman is that all the forestry work can be done when there is nothing else to do. Adding forestry can help keep hired labor fully employed year around."

Once the trees reach eight inches in diameter, 200 of the trees should be removed as pulpwood or chip-and-saw. This will usually occur at age 10. The wide rows and lack of lower limbs greatly facilitate this thinning.

At 11 to 13 inches DBH, or 10 to 15 years of age, take out half the remaining trees and leave 50 trees per acre to grow to high value saw timber. Timber income will just about equal harvesting costs until this point. It is at this point the big profit phase begins.

Clason said that forestry is kind of like the stocker business in that most of the expenses are front-loaded and most of the profit comes from the "pop" at the end. In such a situation, in trees as in cattle, owning fewer longer can be much more profitable.

At age 25 to 30, Clason said one can clearcut or take half and leave half for another five years depending upon market conditions. "At today's clearwood prices a fast growing big tree is really increasing in value fast."

In yet one more example of wholistic serendipity, large pine trees have been found to respond exceptionally well to the pasture's fertiization program, particularly to nitrogen. Clason said they have seen growth increases as much as 30% on nitrogen fertilized pastures compared to legume based pastures. "At \$45 to \$50 more tree growth per year, the increase in tree growth almost completely pays for the pasture fertilization program."

Clason said on today's open market the final harvest grosses between \$6000 and \$8000 per acre. This is a net of \$2400 to \$4000 over average land and direct opportunity costs. He said this return could be greatly increased by delivering one's trees to the mills rather than selling them on the stump. "A little knowledge about grades and classes of lumber and being able to sort your logs by quality and grade prior to sale can add tremendous value. If you have your own little sawmill and start to cut clearwood for high value specialty markets, it can really get financially exciting." □

Excerpted by permission from an article published in The Stockman Grass Farmer, May 1998.

AFTA Seeks Proposals to Host 2003 Agroforestry Conference

AFTA is now inviting proposals from organizations interested in hosting the Eighth North American Agroforestry Conference to be held in 2003. Proposals are due by October 1, 1999.

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 2003 conference will be made by December 31, 1999.

Conference Format

The conference will be titled or subtitled: "The Eighth 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 silent auction or other fund raising event during the conference.

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.

Proposal Format

Written proposals must be submitted by mail to



Special Forest Products in Washington

www.midpacific.wsu.edu/forest/index.html

Jim Freed, Special Forest Products specialist at Washington State University, has created a rich source of information on special forest and "agroforest" products that can either be gathered from the wild or harvested from forest farms. Although the products and species discussed are tailored to the Pacific Northwest, information on general topics relevant to other regions is also available. These include wholesale and direct marketing, literature, product specifications, markets for NIPF landowners, sustainability of native plants, forestry stewardship planning, forest product wholesalers, floral and Christmas greenery specifications, setting personal harvesting goals, and working with harvesters.

Missouri Alternatives Center

<http://etcs.ext.missouri.edu/agebb/mac/>

The Missouri Alternatives Center serves as a communications center for Missouri farmers, Extension staff, government personnel and people who want to begin farming, diversify their current operation, or find ways to profit from small amounts of acreage. This website has an extensive list of links to online information on a wide variety of topics related to alternative farm crops and enterprise development, including agroforestry, aquaculture, exotic livestock, marketing, gamebirds, organic farming, herbs, edible flowers and ginseng. Much of this information will also be relevant to farmers outside of Missouri.

PFRA Shelterbelt Centre

www.agr.ca/pfra/shbgene.htm

The PFRA Shelterbelt Centre is a Canadian govern-

ment tree nursery that promotes economic security, rural development and agricultural sustainability by producing hardy trees and shrubs for prairie farmers and other eligible clients. The Centre also conducts applied research on tree related issues including tree improvement, planting technology, weed control, pest control and agroforestry. Pages on the site provide information on publications, staff, history and objectives, wildlife habitat plantings and shelterbelt research.

Farm-direct Marketing

www.ams.usda.gov/directmarketing/

USDA has launched a site on the Web devoted to farm-direct marketing. It provides a variety of resources and information to this growing sector of agriculture and is aimed at small and medium-sized producers. Information includes a monthly newsletter, publications, a directory of farm direct markets and state organizations, a bibliography, web links and a schedule of national and regional conferences.

FAO Agricultural Research Database

faowfs_h01.fao.org:8001/library/caris.html

The United Nations FAO provides access to the Current Agricultural Research Information System (CARIS) on the Internet and on CD-ROM. The database contains information on current and past agricultural research projects worldwide. Simple or complex searches using Boolean operators are possible. Multiple fields are searchable including: project titles, subject descriptor, country name and year. For more information, e-mail FAO-AGRIS-CARIS@fao.org. □

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 the 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: Conference Proposals, AFTA, 203 ABNR Bldg., University of Missouri, Columbia, MO 65211. All proposals are due October 1, 1999. □

MU Awarded Long Term Support for Agroforestry Research

By Michael Gold, Program Manager and Associate Prof., University of Missouri

The University of Missouri (MU) Center for Agroforestry was recently awarded a major grant by the Environmental Protection Agency. First year funding for the projected six-year "Agroforestry Floodplain Initiative" grant is \$2 million. The EPA award is, in part, a response to the devastation of the 1993 Midwest floods. The opportunity for the award came about via the sponsorship and foresight of Senator Kit Bond, R-MO, who recognized the potential conservation and production benefits of agroforestry. Bond sought environmentally and economically sound solutions to future floodplain problems. Taking up this challenge, Prof. Gene Garrett and a multidisciplinary team of researchers at the MU Center for Agroforestry crafted a major proposal to the EPA.

The overall goal of the Agroforestry Floodplain Program is to research and demonstrate agroforestry's ability to generate income, reduce non-point sources of pollution, sequester carbon, create and improve wildlife habitat and mitigate against the impacts of periodic flooding. The research program will identify solutions that minimize nonpoint source pollution originating on the upland while improving our understanding of the consequences of its presence in the floodplain.

The MU Center for Agroforestry is collaborating with researchers at the USDA Forest Service/NRCS National Agroforestry Center in Lincoln, NE and the Agroecology Issue Team (AIT) of the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture at Iowa State University. Overall the Agroforestry Floodplain Program contains ten objectives, 24 projects and over 30 research scien-

tists that span biophysical, social and economic dimensions; basic and applied research, outreach, technology transfer and field demonstrations.

The Agroforestry Floodplain Program is based on the premise that agroforestry principles, when properly applied in association with floodplains, can provide environmental benefits. The Floodplain Program seeks to develop the scientific basis for designing and prescribing agroforestry buffers within a "systems context" which is necessary if this technology is to be used effectively. Furthermore, if large scale adoption is to occur, buffers must provide economic benefits in addition to conservation oriented benefits. Many landowners, while being environmentally conscious, are reluctant to change land uses unless it has a financial reward. Research will be conducted to enhance our understanding of the requirements for adoption and practices must be identified that are economically viable.

The Agroforestry Floodplain Program is of tremendous importance to U.S. agroforestry as it is the first comprehensive, interdisciplinary research and technology transfer effort of sufficient scale and duration to provide definitive information with regard to many aspects of agroforestry (biophysical, social and economic). This program will provide critical answers to various facets of deploying agroforestry in floodplains and associated uplands. While funded as a regional initiative, it will clearly serve as a key catalytic effort to stimulate development of agroforestry throughout the U.S. □

National Agroforestry Center Web Site Deemed "Best of the Net"

The National Agroforestry Center's (NAC's) web site was recently named "best of the net" for forestry-related sites on the Internet by the Mining Co. NAC is a partnership of the USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station and State & Private Forestry, and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. The Center's purpose is to accelerate the development and application of agroforestry technologies to attain more economically, environmentally, and socially sustainable land-use systems. To accomplish its mission, NAC interacts with a national net-

work of partners and cooperators to conduct research, develop technologies and tools, establish demonstrations, and provide useful information to natural resource professionals.

The Mining Co. (www.home.miningco.com/) is a "web guide," a site containing thousands of hyperlinks to web sites related to more than 600 topics. A company-certified specialist chooses and then reviews the sites that are linked by the Mining Co.

NAC's web site can be accessed at www.unl.edu/nac/. □



Agroforestry Theory and Practice

The recently published book, "The Theory and Practice of Agroforestry Design," by Paul Wojtkowski, presents a detailed and in-depth look at concepts, principles and practices that underlie agroforestry applications. The focus is on how the individual parts (theories and concepts) form the whole (the process of designing or understanding specific agroforestry systems), and how theory may lead to successful application. Based on agroecological theory, the book could serve as an advanced text for students of agroforestry or for practitioners interested in going beyond field basics.

Theory and Practice of Agroforestry Design, Paul Wojtkowski, 1998. Send check for either \$29.50 (softcover) or \$45.00 (hardcover) to Science Publishers, P.O. Box 699, Enfield, NH 03748.

Herbal Green Pages

The 1998-99 edition of the *Herbal Green Pages*, which lists thousands of retail and wholesale herb and herbal product suppliers, is available in both

printed and electronic formats. It is published by the Herb Growing & Marketing Network, the largest herb trade association in the U.S. with approximately 2,000 members.

To order the *Herbal Green Pages* (\$35 paperback or \$40 on CD or disk), contact the Herb Growing & Marketing Network, P.O. Box 245, Silver Spring, PA 17575, phone 717-393-3295, email herbworld@aol.com.

Buffer Publications

A series of new fact sheets on riparian buffers, published by Maryland Cooperative Extension, include: (1) Introduction to the riparian forest buffer; (2) Riparian buffer design, establishment and maintenance; (3) Trees for riparian forest buffers; (4) Understory plants for riparian forest buffers; (5) Grasses for riparian forest buffers; and (6) Streambank restoration for riparian forest buffers. All are available free for single copies from: Agricultural Duplicating, Maryland Cooperative Extension, 6200 Sheridan Street, Riverdale, MD 20737. □



Mark Your Calendar

Urban Riparian Buffer Conference, April 21-22, 1999, Hartford/Springfield, Connecticut. Sponsored by the Southern New England Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society. For information, contact SWCS, P.O. Box 262, Storrs, CT 06268, Tel. 401-822-8829, email jpashnik@prodigy.net.

Sixth Conference on Agroforestry in North America, June 12-16, 1999, Hot Springs, Arkansas. The theme will be "Sustainable Land-Use Management for the 21st Century." For information, contact Dr. Catalino A. Blanche, Dale Bumpers Small Farms Research Center, 6883 South State Hwy 23, Booneville, AR 72927-9214, Tel. (501) 675-3834, email cblanche@yell.com, Web www.missouri.edu/~afta/afta_home.html (see Events Calendar).

Soil and Water Conservation Society, August 8-11, 1999, Biloxi, Mississippi. "Walk on the Wild Side," theme of this year's annual conference, will feature presentations related to three topics: soils, environmental quality, and wildlife and wetlands. Contact SWCS, 7515 NE Ankeny Rd., Ankeny, IA 50021, Tel. (515) 289-2331, Fax (515) 289-1227, Web www.swcs.org.

Society of American Foresters National Convention, Sept. 11-15, 1999, Portland, Oregon. For information, contact SAF: Tel. 301-897-8720, Fax 301-897-3690, Email safweb@safnet.org, Web www.safnet.org/calendar/natcon.htm.

FAO International Poplar Commission, 21st session, Sept. 24-30, 2000, Portland, Oregon. "Poplar and willow culture: meeting the needs of society and the environment." For information, contact Jud Isebrands, USFS Forestry Sciences Lab, 5985 Hwy. K, Rhinelander, WI 54501, Tel. 715-362-1116, Fax 715-362-1166, email jisebran@newnorth.net. □



Association for Temperate Agroforestry Inc.
 The Temperate Agroforester
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**6th North American Agroforestry Conference
 June 12-16, 1999, Hot Springs, AR**

Registration Form

First Name: _____ MI: _____ Last Name: _____

Affiliation: _____

Street: _____ City: _____

State/Province: _____ Zip/Postcode: _____ Country: _____

Tel.: _____ Fax: _____ e-mail: _____

Fees		Before May 12, 1999	After May 12	Amount
AFTA Member		\$110	\$130	_____
Nonmember		\$130	\$155	_____
Student		\$70	\$95	_____
Agroforestry Academy (Circle session below)				
Evaluating Agroforestry Options	1 2	\$35	\$40	_____
Basic Internet For Agroforestry	2	\$25	\$30	_____
Pre-Conference Tour (<i>Pre-registration only</i>)		\$40		_____
			TOTAL Enclosed	_____

Make checks payable to: Trailblazer

Send registration to: Agroforestry Conference Registration, Trailblazer Rural Development Institute, 302 Reynolds Dr., Ruston, LA 71270, USA.