

Agroforestry *Update*

June 2008

*British Columbia
Agroforestry
Industry
Development
Initiative*

Also In This Issue:

11 th NA Agroforestry Conference	2
Aromatic Farm Coop	3
News and Events	5
2009 World Agroforestry Congress	7

Shelterbelts Save Energy: Integrated Options In Development

High energy costs have many producers rethinking 'business as usual' and it is giving impetus for new shelterbelt plantings. Long recognized for their value in protecting soil, buildings, livestock and crops from the elements, energy savings are motivating increased shelterbelt use in many regions of Canada. According to Agriculture and Agri-food Canada, a 5-row shelterbelt can reduce energy loss from buildings by as much as 25%. Despite these

potential conservation benefits, some are still reluctant to plant them because of the loss of crop area and maintenance costs. Indeed, only 24% of BC farms currently use shelterbelts. To overcome these potential disadvantages, agroforestry options are in development to support plantings that can also generate income from alternate crops. Work in Quebec by the Centre de Developement Bio-alimentaire du Quebec is supporting shelterbelt practices with a focus on

multiple products from these linear forests. Ten shrub species selected for commercial production of small fruits, and natural health products have been under evaluation since 2003 with some promising results. It is hoped development of viable niche markets for shelterbelt products will add to the proven conservation benefits and increase adoption rates. These agroforestry plantings will have an added benefit of diversifying farm production and incomes.



A new shelterbelt at the Centre de Developement Bio-alimentaire du Quebec incorporates shrubs with economic potential.

11th North American Agroforestry Conference

Agroforestry Comes of Age: Putting Science into Practice

The 11th North American Agroforestry Conference of the Association for Temperate Agroforestry (AFTA) will be held May 31 to June 3, 2009 at the Stoney Creek Inn and Conference Center located in Columbia, Missouri. The conference will be hosted by the University of Missouri Center for Agroforestry (UMCA).

The intent of the conference is to further stimulate development and adoption of sustainable rural land management practices centered on the integration of trees into the landscape. The conference will provide a forum for individuals associated with or practicing agroforestry to share their experiences and discuss production, environmental and social attributes of different agroforestry practices. Upland and riparian forest buffers, windbreaks and shelterbelts, silvopasture, alley cropping and forest farming practices will be the main foci discussed during the conference. There will be concurrent sessions, a poster session, field trips and time for

discussion that focus on the successes, opportunities and constraints of agroforestry.

Target participants include forest and farm land-owners, land managers and consultants, business owners and entrepreneurs, scientists, students, foundations, natural resource and forestry professionals, extension specialists, government officials, non-government organizations, environmental consultants, and policy makers.

The conference will include oral and poster presentations that address current and emerging knowledge on temperate agroforestry practices as well as presentations related to the socio-economic, political and environmental aspects of agroforestry. Special emphasis will be placed on practical examples of agroforestry practices and on technology transfer to producers.

Topics that will be addressed during the conference may include, without being limited to:

* Practical applications of agroforestry.

* Agroforestry education, training, extension, technology transfer.

* Quantifying agroforestry's environmental impacts.

* The role of agroforestry practices for bioenergy and biomass production.

* Use of agroforestry in the production, marketing and value added benefits of specialty crops.

* Agroforestry modeling, decision support, tools.

* Biophysical and eco-physiological research.

* Agroforestry tree / crop / animal interactions.

* Role of agroforestry in pasture and silvopasture production.

* Role of agroforestry in organic production.

* Cultural and social dimensions.

* Policy and adoption

* Agroforestry economics.

For more information about the conference and field tours, and to find the guidelines for submitting abstracts for oral and poster presentations at the conference, please visit the UMCA website:

[www.
centerforagroforestry.
org](http://www.centerforagroforestry.org)

Abstracts for oral presentations and poster presentations at the 11th

North American Agroforestry

Conference must be submitted electronically by November 1, 2008

Aromatic Farm Cooperative Developing Value-Added Processing for Agroforestry

“...the Aromatic Farm Cooperative (AFC) is looking to expand its membership to support the development of novel economic opportunities by providing value-added natural health products and services.”

A Vancouver Island cooperative is poised to develop into an industry-leading player for natural essential oil and hydrosol production in BC. Based out of Cobble Hill, the Aromatic Farm Cooperative (AFC) is looking to expand its membership to support the development of novel economic opportunities by providing value-added natural health products and services.

The Cooperative's focus is the steam distillation of products from variety of native trees, shrubs and organically grown aromatic crops. The raw material used can be obtained from agroforestry production, woodlots and other producer members through a sustainable, community-based model. Another goal of the AFC is to teach the artisan crafts of aromatic farming and steam distillation for therapeutic grade essential oil production through workshops and an accredited apprenticeship curriculum.

The AFC will be filling a niche for high-quality, pure essential oils for medicinal use by qualified aromatherapists. Not all essential oils on the market are of equal quality. An abundance of import

fragrances are available of questionable quality and purity, however only the natural products of the grade the AFC will produce are considered medicinal.

The AFC will also provide an economic and environmentally friendly outlet for waste material from woodlots or agroforestry plantings. Conifer essential oil production uses the freshly cut branches and needles of the tree, so these can be collected during the pruning, spacing and harvesting phase and be processed into therapeutic-grade essential oils.

This will create value added products from under-utilized species and the opportunity to displace imports. For example, currently the only commercially produced Grand Fir (*Abies grandis*) essential oil is from plantations in Croatia.

This conifer grows naturally in BC coastal forests and is greatly undervalued. The AFC hopes to work with local woodlot owners and agroforestry practitioners and share distillation knowledge so that together they can produce a variety of conifer oils from the

local forests.

'Producer' members of the Cooperative have flexible options available to them, including the ability to retain some or all of the essential oils that their crops produce. Or they have the ability to purchase a variety of oils and hydrosols from the co-op – a true benefit of working cooperatively with distillers and other producers.

Practicing herbalists and aromatherapists can be assured that distillates produced by the co-op are fresh, therapeutic grade and unadulterated. They will be able to share and spread their knowledge with people who have similar interests and educate their clients to the benefits of local organic essential oils. Registered aromatherapists will also have the opportunity to participate in clinical studies and contribute to monograph research on essential oils that are unique to the growing region.

Members of the co-op also have the benefit of networking with other members that add value to

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Aromatic Farm Cooperative *concluded*

essential oils and hydrosols, so they have the opportunity to access ready-made products, such as soaps, lotions, spa products and services, natural cleaning products, and culinary products to compliment a variety of agri-tourism business opportunities. AFC members will thus be providing local organic products that would otherwise not be available in BC. The AFC is committed to following sustainable and ethical practices that are integrated into their quality assurance processes and standards. They extend an open and welcoming invitation to others who

want to be involved in the development of organic aromatic crops and essential oil production in BC. Through their operations based on southern Vancouver Island they have the potential to distill eight months of the year with a seasonal rotation between organic crops and conifer boughs. They also hope that through successes with these two resources they can demonstrate to other rural and forest-based communities the economic potential in their regions.

Among the membership options available, one can join as a 'Supporter' to show your support for local

organic essential oil production and that you want to see more of these products available in your community. Another option is to join as a 'Business' member, which provides the right to purchase bulk essential oils and hydrosols from the co-op. This membership is specifically geared for practitioners who provide natural health products and services.

For more information, visit the co-op's website:

www.aromaticfarmcoop.ca

"The AFC will provide an economic and environmentally friendly outlet for waste material from woodlots or agroforestry plantings."



Aromatic Farm Cooperative distiller, Kent Goodwin McKay (on the right) speaks with visitors at Cobble Hill.

Announcements and Upcoming Events

A reminder that next **deadline** for letters of intent and applications to the British Columbia Agroforestry Industry Development Initiative is **Friday, August 15, 2008**

**Hawthorn
Agroforestry
Demonstration
Presentation and
Field Day**

August 1, 2008

9:30 am to 2:30 pm
Edgewood, BC

The West Kootenay Herb Growers Cooperative (WKHGC) invites you to attend a presentation and tour of the Hawthorn Agroforestry Demonstration Farm Trial in Edgewood, BC.

Where: Royal Canadian Legion, 234 Granby Drive, Edgewood, BC.

Agenda

- 9:15 - 9:30 Registration/Coffee.
- 9:30 - 9:35 Jeanette Lee, West Kootenay Herb Growers Cooperative - Welcome and Introduction to WKHGC.
- 9:35 - 10:00 Jim Strausz, General Manager, Strauss Herb Company - The Value of Having a Local Supplier.
- 10:00 - 10:15 Jeanette Lee - Introduction to the West Kootenay Herb Growers Cooperative / Hawthorn Agroforestry Farm Trial.
- 10:15 - 10:45 George Powell, BC Agroforestry

Industry Development Initiative - Overview of Agroforestry.

10:45 - 11:00 Refreshment Break.

11:00 - 11:20 Paula Brown, Program Head, NHP Research Group, British Columbia Institute of Technology - Hawthorn Chemical Analysis and Evaluation.

11:20 - 11:40 Tim Dickinson, Senior Curator, Royal Ontario Museum; Associate Professor, University of Toronto - *Crataegus* (Hawthorn) Species Identification / Genotyping of Native Southern Interior Hawthorn Species.

11:40 - 1:30 Jeanette Lee - Hawthorn Farm Tour (snacks will be provided during tour to hold everyone over for late lunch) - Informal question/answer during tour to all presenters.

1:30 Lunch overlooking the scenic Lower Arrow Lake / informal Q&A networking session.

Special thanks to Strauss Herb Company for sponsoring coffee and tea service and the presentation segment of the day.

Registration Fee of \$20.00

(to cover costs of the tour, snacks and lunch). Space is limited.

For more information or to obtain a registration form, please send an email to Jeanette:

d_sawyer@columbiacable.net or call (250) 269-0038

Background information on the hawthorn agroforestry demonstration farm trial can be found at www.woodlot.bc.ca/agroforestry/hawthorn.htm

Accommodations in Edgewood and surrounding area:

Whispering Oaks Bed and Breakfast 250 269-7435
Furnished house/cabins 250 269-7429

Whatshan Lake Retreat 250 269-7246 (approx. 20 minute drive from Edgewood)

Accommodations in Nakusp (approx. 50 minutes north of Edgewood via Needles ferry) www.nakusp-bc.worldweb.com/WheretoStay/HotelsMotels/index.htm

Nakusp and Area Cabins, Chalets & Cottages www.nakusp-bc.worldweb.com/WheretoStay/CabinsChaletCottages/

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Announcements and Upcoming Events *continued*

Organic Islands Festival and Sustainability Expo

July 5 and 6, 2008
Victoria

Organic Islands Festival and Sustainability Expo 2008

Canada's largest outdoor green festival features over 100 exhibits, interactive displays, presentations, natural food demos, children's activities and entertainment. For more information contact Deb Morse at (250) 658-8148 director@organicislands.ca

Or visit the website:
www.organicislands.ca

CanWest Horticulture Show

September 17-18, 2008

Vancouver Convention & Exhibition Centre
999 Canada Place
Vancouver

For 27 years, the CanWest Hort Show has been the meeting place for buyers and sellers of BC's nursery, floriculture and landscape industry. It is Western Canada's largest horticultural trade show with over 3,500 industry professionals visiting over 425 booths over a 2-day

period. Highlights including seminars, industry and garden tours, new products showcase, and an exhibitor presentation stage make the show a comprehensive professional development opportunity.

For more information please contact: the CanWest office at:

hhenderson@bclna.com
604-574-7772

www.canwesthortshow.com/general_show_info.htm

Pre-registration: \$85; After August 29 or At the Door: \$105

TreeVitalize Your Landscape

Improve Water Quality by Implementing Agroforestry Practices

September 24-25, 2008
Indian Head,
Saskatchewan

The AAFC-PFRA Agroforestry Division will be hosting this excellent opportunity for researchers and practitioners to come together to hear and discuss relevant issues on:

- Linking agroforestry practices with other conservation applications to restore ecological functions and reconnect hydrological

processes.

- Putting the right trees in the right places, in the correct design.
- Improving water quality with agroforestry practices such as riparian tree buffers.

To receive more information on this event, please contact the AAFC-PFRA Shelterbelt Centre at 1-866-766-2284 or email pftratree@agr.gc.ca

2008 Annual General Meetings of the WPDC and the FBCWA

Woodlots: Facing our Future.

October 3-5, 2008
Kamloops

Join the Woodlot Product Development Council and the Federation of BC Woodlot Associations at the South Thompson Inn, quietly nestled on 55 scenic acres on the shores of the South Thompson River. AGM registration and program details will appear in the summer issue of the FBCWA Almanac and on the website:

www.woodlot.bc.ca

2nd World Congress of Agroforestry Agroforestry - The Future of Global Land Use

23 - 28 August 2009, Nairobi, Kenya

The deadline for submitting paper abstracts to the Second World Congress of Agroforestry is August 31, 2008

The World Agroforestry Centre, the United Nations Environment Programme and the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences at the University of Florida are pleased to sponsor the 2nd World Congress on Agroforestry to be held August 23 to 28, 2009 in Nairobi, Kenya. The Congress will assess opportunities to leverage scientific agroforestry in promoting sustainable land use worldwide. The Congress will serve as a forum for agroforestry researchers, educators, practitioners and policy makers from around the world to:

- * Share new research findings, lessons, experiences, and ideas that will help influence decisions that impact on livelihoods and the global environment

- * Explore new opportunities and cement exiting partnerships in agroforestry research, education, training, and development

- * Form new networks and communities of practice, and nurture old ones

The overall Congress theme is "Agroforestry - The Future of Global Land Use". Plenary, symposia,

concurrent sessions, and poster sessions will be organized around different major topics, based on the following:

- * Markets as opportunities and drivers of agroforestry land use

- * Tree-based rehabilitation of degraded lands and watersheds

- * Climate change adaptation and mitigation

- * Agroforestry's contribution to a multifunctional agriculture combining productivity with environmental sustainability

- * Policy options and institutional innovations for agroforestry land use

The conference organizers invite interested persons to submit abstracts for papers (300 words maximum) by 31st August 2008. You may submit your abstract electronically via email to wca2009@cgiar.org

The 1st World Congress of Agroforestry, held in 2004 in Florida, USA provided a global forum for agroforestry professionals to share knowledge, experiences, and ideas, and to plan future strategies in agroforestry research, education and training, and development. The 2nd

World Congress of Agroforestry will strengthen the momentum of knowledge sharing and will further underpin the enormous crescendo of interest in agroforestry that is building up worldwide.

Planned publications from the Congress include a summary document, a book of abstracts, refereed journal articles, journal special issues, and books on the key topics covered in the symposia and technical sessions. A declaration that embodies the substance of Congress deliberations will be developed as a tool for discussions with policy makers and donor agencies to advance the cause of agroforestry worldwide.

For more information visit the Congress website:

www.worldagroforestry.org/wca2009/

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Visit us on the Web

[www.woodlot.bc.ca/
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If you have suggestions for future editions of the *Update* or know of an event that should be included, please let us know.

The **Federation of British Columbia Woodlot Associations** administers the BC Agroforestry Initiative.



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