



Sassafras Moon Forest Farming Conference

Sunday, September 25th, 2022 - Erwin, TN

Speakers

David Brown, Mountain Cove Forest Farm

David is an avid forest gardener having grown a broad mix of native woodland plants for the past 30 years. Recently moving to the area, he's transitioning from 'forest gardener' to 'Forest Farmer' as he works to develop a newly acquired small mostly wooded property. As a beginning forest farmer, he is excited to explore existing and new markets for in demand plants that can be grown, harvested, and processed locally, naturally, and sustainably not only for profit but for the long-term safeguarding of these delicately balanced woodland plants. An enthusiastic lifelong learner, the prospects of combining plants, woods, learning and knowledge sharing are his passion.



Jeanine Davis, North Carolina State University

Dr. Jeanine Davis is an associate professor and extension specialist in the Department of Horticultural Science at NC State University. She is located at a research and extension center in western NC near Asheville. For over 30 years, she has researched new crops, vegetables, and organic agriculture and shared her knowledge on these topics with farmers and home gardeners across the country. Her current efforts are focused on woodland botanicals, hops, truffles, organic vegetables, and hemp. She is the lead author of the book "Growing and Marketing Ginseng, Goldenseal and Other Woodland Medicinals". Jeanine and her family

operate Our Tiny Farm where they raise bees for honey and board mini-donkeys.



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Jeannie Dunn, Red Moon Herbs

Jeannie has been wildcrafting and making herbal extracts, oils, and salves for over 15 years. She studied formally at both the NC School of Natural Healing and One World Healing Arts, but her herbal roots go much further back to the back-to-basics lifestyle infused in her as a child. Jeannie picked strawberries, canned vegetables, and pulled weeds from row crops with her parents and three siblings on their multi-generational family farm in Efland, NC. Today, knowing the powerful healing properties of those 'weeds' she used to pull, Jeannie happily uses them in her fermentations, herbal extracts, and fun, medicinal elixirs.



John Munsell, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech)

John teaches agroforestry at Virginia Tech and studies the environmental, social, and economic benefits of agroforestry and sustainable forestry practices with communities from Appalachia to Cameroon. He also is Past-President of the Association for Temperate Agroforestry, Associate Editor for the journal *Agroforestry Systems*, co-author of *The Community Food Forest Handbook* published by Chelsea Green, and lead author of the urban and community agroforestry systems chapter and co-author of the forest farming chapter in the forthcoming textbook *North American Agroforestry: An Integrated Science and Practice*, 3rd ed. In 2019, John

received the Outreach and Education Award from the Association for Temperate Agroforestry for extraordinary accomplishments in the field of agroforestry engagement.



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Kate Fotos, Future Generations University

Kate is a graduate of Colby College with a degree in environmental science and conservation biology. She began her work in maple syrup researching alternative tree syrups such as sycamore and walnut under Professor Mike Rechlin. In that first year, she also ran a state-wide maple education program for public schools across West Virginia. She has now expanded her scope of work to include producer coaching and public education for maple syrup production across the Appalachian range.



Ryan Huish, The University of Virginia's College at Wise, and Appalachian Forest Farm and Homestead.

Ryan is an Associate Professor of Biology with a background in botany and sociocultural anthropology. His research interests incorporate an interdisciplinary approach to address basic and applied questions in ethnobotany, ecology, and biocultural conservation. He and his family are the stewards of Appalachian Cove Forest Farm and Homestead in southwest Virginia where they tend perennial native edible, medicinal, and other useful plants through various agroforestry methods such as forest farming and alley cropping—putting his research into practice.



Stesha Warren, Appalachian Sustainable Development (ASD)

Stesha is slightly obsessed with the forest and all that grows within. She was raised with a horticultural and agricultural background and has studied plants, primitive living, foraging and herbalism for over 25 years. With a B.S. in Agricultural Education and pursuing her M.S. in Agroforestry, she has been teaching & sharing her passions for over a decade in both formal and non-formal educational endeavors. She is an agroforester for Appalachian Sustainable Development, teaches Wild Mushroom Certification for Mushroom Mountain and has a farm in the Piedmont of NC with her husband and two young children but is a native to the mountains of NC. In her spare time she enjoys spending time in the forest and working the farm with her husband and two young children, creating wild crafted culinary delights, exploring fiber arts and researching fungi, native medicinal botanicals and sustainable systems within agroforestry.



Robin Suggs, Appalachian Sustainable Development (ASD)

Robin joined the ASD's Agroforestry Program as Procurement Manager in the Spring of 2020. With a rather diverse set of skills in horticulture, community development and the production of non-timber forest products, he hopes to apply his life's experiences in growing relationships with both beginning and seasoned producers of medicinal plant species. The outcome of his work will ensure a sustainable, high quality supply chain for the Appalachian Harvest Herb Hub. Robin was raised in the Piedmont region of North Carolina. Heavily influenced by avid gardeners from both his maternal and paternal lineages, he started tending plants at the ripe old age of

8. Robin went on to receive a degree in Flower and Nursery Crops Technology from the North Carolina State University Agricultural Institute. After pursuing an early life career mostly in ornamental horticulture, Robin relocated from the Piedmont to the Great Smoky Mountains of North Carolina. It was there where he developed an appreciation and respect of the forest, and all its inhabitants, especially those with a tradition of harvest for medicinal use. Just prior to coming onboard with ASD, Robin created, owned and operated MoonBranch Botanicals, a small business dedicated to the production of medical plants native to the region supplying the highest quality bulk botanicals to medicine makers across the US.



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