



Forest Farming Intensive Propagation to Processing

September 17-18, 2021

**Cove Ridge Center at Natural Tunnel State Park
Duffield, VA**

FULL SCHEDULE

Friday, September 17

**Friday evening activities will take place at Cove Ridge Center in Natural Tunnel State Park*

5:30pm Registration Opens

6:10pm Welcome and Introductions

6:30pm Dinner service

7:15pm **Keynote with Jeanine Davis**, North Carolina State University
Forest Farming Medicinal Herbs: Reviewing the Past and Looking to the Future

Forest farming medicinal herbs is not a new concept! We will cover the early transitions from wild-harvesting to cultivating, some renewed efforts that have taken place over the decades, and discuss how we can learn from the past and establish a strong industry in the future.

8:30pm Adjourn

Saturday, September 18

8:00 Everyone meets at Cove Ridge Center
Check-in and Group Organization

9:00am Groups Depart for Field Sessions

9:00am- **Field Sessions**

12:00pm *Group A @ Appalachian Harvest Herb Hub**

*Group B @ Appalachian Cove Forest Farm and Homestead***



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- 12:00pm **Lunch and Keynote with Katheryn Crane, Mountain Rose Herbs**
Buyer Specifications for Forest Grown Botanicals
- What is drawing botanical companies to buy forest grown? What do you, as a small business, need to know to meet the needs of these companies? From first contact to contracting, learn more about the buyer specification for supplier herbs to a retailer.
- 1:15-4:15pm **Field Sessions**
*Group B @ Appalachian Harvest Herb Hub**
*Group A @ Appalachian Cove Forest Farm and Homestead***
- 4:15PM Adjourn

Topics to be covered at **Appalachian Harvest Herb Hub*

Washing with *Margaret Bloomquist, North Carolina State University*

Methods, tools, and sanitization for washing root and aerial parts of woodland botanicals. Fresh root washing demonstration.

Drying with *Katie Commender, Appalachian Sustainable Development*

Have you always wondered how to preserve your harvest to enjoy it year-round? In this session, you'll learn how to properly dry medicinal herbs using various dehydrating equipment.

Garbling with *Robin Suggs, Appalachian Sustainable Development*

In this session expect to be exposed to the basics of separating usable from non-useable plant material in accordance with grower specifications. Discussion and demonstration techniques used will be applicable mostly in cottage industry and beginner scale herb production.

Creative Marketing with *Jeanine Davis, North Carolina State University*

Beginning forest farmers often plan to sell their medicinal herbs to big wholesale buyers, but this requires large volumes of herbs or roots and the prices paid per pound are usually quite low. In this session we will explore additional ways to diversity your income stream and make money from your forest farming efforts.



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*****Topics to be covered at Appalachian Cove Forest Farm and Homestead***

Responsible Harvesting and Propagation of Forest Botanicals *with Ryan Huish, ACFFH*

Learn about various approaches to responsible harvesting and propagation of black cohosh, blue cohosh, goldenseal, ginseng, ramps, and other forest botanicals while hiking through a demonstration forest farm. We will also discuss things to consider between harvest and processing at the herb hub. This session will include moderate hiking on steep forest slopes, and will go forward rain or shine; please bring hiking sticks and rain jackets.

Why Tap a Tree? The Possibilities of Tree Syrups for your Forest Farm *with Kate Fotos, Future Generations University*

Join Kate Fotos as she discusses the potential of syrup production for your forest farm, starting with the how-to of the syrup and ending with their market potential. Tree syrups have begun to carve a niche market for themselves, and this session will act as an introduction to the sweet industry.

Forest Botanical Site Assessment *with Eric Burkhart, Penn State*

In this field session, attendees will visit a nearby forest to discuss Appalachian Forest plant ecology and site selection for forest farming of medicinal forest crops such as ginseng, goldenseal, ramps, etc. Related forest farming topics such as wild population assessment and stewardship, use of horticultural inputs (e.g., soil amendments), forest canopy manipulation (i.e., silviculture), and invasive species management will also be discussed.