



2022 Southern Ohio Forest Farming Conference - Presenter Bios

Keynote Speaker: Jeanine Davis

Dr. Jeanine Davis is an associate professor and extension specialist in the Department of Horticultural Science at North Carolina State University. She is located at the Mountain Horticultural Crops Research and Extension near Asheville. For over 30 years, her program has helped farmers improve the profitability of their farms by growing new crops, transitioning to organic agriculture, and adopting more sustainable practices. Subjects of her current research includes goldenseal, ginseng, ramps, hops, truffles, Chinese medicinal herbs, organic vegetables, and hemp. She has published over 150 peer reviewed publications and given over 600 invited presentations in the U.S., Canada, and Chile. She is also the lead author on the book "Growing and Marketing Ginseng, Goldenseal and Other Woodland Medicinals". She is a founding board member of the Organic Growers School and the NC Natural Products Association, board member for the Veterans Healing Farm, and an advisor to the NC Herb Association and the NC Tomato Growers Association. Jeanine and her family operate Our Tiny Farm where they raise bees for honey and board mini-donkeys.

John Munsell

John Munsell is a Forest Management Professor at Virginia Tech University, Past-President of the Association for Temperate Agroforestry, and Associate Editor for Agroforestry Systems. He has authored or co-authored 60 research publications and raised over 4 million dollars to support agroforestry and sustainable forestry outreach and research programs. John teaches agroforestry at Virginia Tech, and has worked with communities from Appalachia to Cameroon to study agroforestry and sustainable forestry implementation and associated environmental, social, and economic impacts.

He is co-author of The Community Food Forest Handbook published by Chelsea Green, and an author of a chapter on urban agroforestry applications and co-author of a chapter on forest farming in North American Agroforestry: An Integrated Science and Practice, 3rd ed. In 2017, John chaired the 15th North American Agroforestry Conference in Blacksburg and recently represented North America during the concluding "road map" plenary session at the 4th World Congress on Agroforestry in Montpellier, France. In 2019, John received the Outreach and Education Award from the Association for Temperate Agroforestry for extraordinary accomplishments in the field of Agroforestry engagement.

Bob Beyfuss

Bob Beyfuss retired from Cornell University Cooperative Extension in 2009, where he served as an Agriculture and Natural Resources Program Leader and also as the NY State specialist for American Ginseng Production. Bob received his Bachelor's degree from Rutgers University in 1973, majoring in Botany and his Master's degree in Agriculture from Cornell in 1987. He is the author of "American Ginseng Production in NY State", "The Practical Guide to Growing Ginseng", "Ginseng Production in Woodlots", "The Economics of Woodland Ginseng Production" "Growing Gourmet Mushrooms from A to Z" and other publications regarding Ginseng, Mushrooms, Organic Gardening and Agroforestry. He continues to speak at conferences and teach mycology workshops for Cornell.

Joana Amorim

Joana Amorim is a Portuguese immigrant homesteading and farming in eastern KY. With a background in Herbalism, holistic land design and organic and biodynamic farming, she runs a small Apothecary business out of her farm near Berea KY. She grows medicinal and edible mushrooms and a variety of medicinal herbs that she processes into staple products of the Apothecary. In collaboration with another herb farmer (Sarah from Among The Oaks) they created the Appalachian Herbal CSA share, where they combine seasonal wellness boxes with hands-on herbal skillshares in efforts to grow the herbal local community and to strengthen the relationship with the plants around us.

Will Lewis

Will Lewis lives in Hillsboro WV and is the Forest Farming Coordinator for the Yew Mountain Center. He has a degree in horticulture and has been practicing organic farming, beekeeping, and herbalism for over a decade. He has been leading the forest farming activities at the Yew Mountain Center for four years which includes: growing and managing all the highly regarded forest botanicals, mushroom cultivation, maple syrup production, and honey bee management. He also works for the WV Department of agriculture as a honey bee inspector and manages his own bee business producing honey and other hive products as well as queens and bees. Will has been teaching forest farming, herbal medicine, mushroom production, and honey bee management for several years now and is excited to share experiences and practices he has learned!

Tanner Filyaw

For more than 15 years, Tanner has been working to promote Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP's) as a sustainable and ecologically-based forest management strategy for woodland owners in southeast Ohio and the central Appalachian region. Tanner graduated from Ohio University in 2005 with a Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Geography, and a minor specializing in Environmental and Plant Biology. From 2005 to 2008, he served as an AmeriCorps VISTA with Rural Action's Sustainable Forestry Program before accepting a staff position as the organization's Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP) Specialist.

In this role he regularly conducted workshops, presentations, and provided on-the-ground technical assistance for woodland owners interested in developing sustainable NTFP enterprises, and restoring at-risk forest herb communities. In 2015, after gaining 10 years of experience in the field, Tanner returned to Ohio University and earned a Master's Degree in Environmental Studies for his research examining mycorrhizal symbiosis in wild-simulated ginseng roots, and the effect of mycorrhizal colonization on root ginsenoside concentrations. After completing his research, he returned to Rural Action in 2017 and continued to serve as the organization's NTFP Specialist, and ultimately Sustainable Forestry Program Director before accepting a position with United Plant Savers in 2021. In his spare time Tanner enjoys spending time with his wife and daughter, and experiments with producing forest-grown mushrooms, maple syrup, American ginseng, and a variety of other edible and medicinal forest products.

Chip Carroll

Chip has been involved with agroforestry and non-timber forest product work for the last 20 years. He began his career working with Rural Action's Sustainable Forestry Program where he worked closely with producers growing medicinal herbs in their woodlands and helped to form the Roots of Appalachia Growers Association. At Rural Action he was also active in State and National policy work related to American Ginseng regulations and regularly consulted with lawyers, judges and prosecutors on ginseng poaching cases. He has consulted as an expert witness on ginseng and other medicinal herb crop damage claims, providing the court with lost crop values. Chip was the Assistant Farm Manager for Frontier Natural Products' National Center for the Preservation of Medicinal Herbs where he helped manage research projects and oversaw their internship program.

He currently is the Sanctuary Steward for United Plant Savers 370-acre Botanical Sanctuary in Rutland, Ohio where he also oversees their Medicinal Plant Conservation Certificate Program. He also has been working for the United States Forest Service for the past 8-years monitoring wild ginseng populations on public lands. In 2016, Chip was hired as the Manager of Ohio Operations for American Ginseng Pharm, an agroforestry enterprise with operations in New York and Ohio.

In addition to his continued work with United Plant Savers, Chip operates his own business, Woodland Wise Botanicals. Through this, he does on-site consulting and education for landowners interested in growing ginseng and other woodland medicinal herbs. Chip's focus has been to transition wild-harvested species into cultivation regimes in order to take pressure off of native populations of Appalachian medicinal herbs. This is being accomplished through

consumer education, relationships with the natural products industry, and working directly with landowners that wish to grow these herbs.

Karam Sheban

Karam Sheban is the Director of Sustainable Forestry at Rural Action. He served first as an AmeriCorps member with Rural Action's Sustainable Forestry program from 2015 to 2017, and as a staff member with the program in 2018. During that time, he worked with the Appalachian Beginning Forest Farmer Coalition to launch their region wide initiative, helped to boost wood products sales at the Chesterhill Produce Auction, and worked with the Environmental Education team to launch the Appalachian Stewards program. After three years with Rural Action, Karam returned to school and received a Master's in Forestry from the Yale School of Forestry in New Haven, Connecticut. There, he conducted agroforestry research and worked with a broad range of forest stakeholders across New England. He never took the Rural Action bumper sticker off his car. Karam is a graduate of The Ohio State University and has family throughout the state. He is happy to be back in the rolling hills of Appalachian Ohio!

Badger Johnson

Badger Johnson is a natural resource manager and social network coordinator working for Rural Action to increase their climate resilience impact. Originally from northern Kentucky and now settled in Southern Ohio, they have experience working on farms, forests, parks, ranches and vineyards. Badger's professional interests include leading diverse stakeholders to make rural landscapes more adaptable to droughts and flooding, writing forest management plans, conducting prescribed fires, alley cropping in chestnut orchards, multi-story cropping hardwood timber with mushrooms and herbs, and scaling up elderberry production in riparian buffers.

Sherab Chen

Sherab Chen is a faculty librarian working at the Ohio State University, and he is also a self-taught wild edible plants and mushrooms forager. He believes self-teaching and life-long learning are the best approaches to gain holistic knowledge towards a better way of life. He recently obtained a 5-year wild mushroom safety certificate (Mushroom Mountain). During his tenure at Ohio State, he has also been advising student groups focused on tea culture and Buddhist meditation, and led wild plants/mushroom walks. Amazed by the biodiversity of the Buckeye state, he has been documenting and sharing his foraging experiences via social media such as Instagram. He is interested in forming a wild plants/mushroom foraging community and establishing standards and safety guidelines, and seeks collaboration with organizations to create a safe environment and sound reputation for foragers.

Rick Felumlee

Rick Felumlee, along with his wife and partner Jan, own and operate Mayapple Farms, a small diversified forest farm in Muskingum County, Ohio. They produce forest crops like ramps, ginseng and other woodland native plants, a variety of mushrooms and conventional produce crops like berries, garlic and chili peppers. They are life-long residents of the area and are committed to improving the local food system through sustainable, organic agriculture, and educational outreach.

Ed Fletcher

Ed Fletcher has been in the botanical business and made his livelihood working with plants for all of his adult life. He learned about plants from the roots up, propagating and growing native American wildflowers in his family's 4th generation ornamental nursery business, Gardens of The Blue Ridge. He joined Wilcox Natural Products as Cultivation Manager; he developed and managed the cultivation program overseeing nearly 4,000 hectares in 8 different countries of medicinal species crops.

He continued this work as the Chief Operating Officer of Strategic Sourcing, Inc's Botanical Division for 15 years before joining Herbal Ingenuity where he established and developed the Quality & Sustainability Department as a founding member of Herbal Ingenuity. The part of his work he enjoys the most is working with farmers, growers and suppliers around the world to educate and assist them in producing their best possible crop. He addresses all aspects of the process from propagation, cultivation, harvesting and post-harvest handling techniques for the chosen crop to achieve this. He has conducted research on different crops to improve their yields, marker constituents and overall quality through different techniques including Regulated Irrigation Deficit, Light Percentage Variances and Nutritional Input Impact Studies.

Edward is an active member of the American Herbal Products Associations (AHPA) and serves on the Board of Trustees as well as the current Chair of the Botanical Raw Materials Committee. He is a member of the Dietary Supplement General Chapters Expert Committee of the United States Pharmacopeia, other advisory panels and speaks and presents at numerous Industry gatherings. He is always happy to discuss any botanical questions you may have.