



Southern Ohio Forest Farming Conference

August 27-29, 2021

United Plant Savers Botanical Sanctuary; Rutland, Ohio

INSTRUCTOR BIOS

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.

Dr. Eric Burkhardt is a botanist and ethnobotanist. He is Director of the Appalachian Botany and Ethnobotany Program at Shaver's Creek Environmental Center and Associate Teaching Professor in the Ecosystem Science and Management Department at Penn State. His research and outreach program in Pennsylvania is focused on developing sustainable wild stewardship and agroforestry production systems for specialty forest products including American ginseng (*Panax quinquefolius*), goldenseal (*Hydrastis canadensis*), and ramps (*Allium tricoccum*).

Maureen Burns (bio coming soon)

Chip Carroll (bio coming soon)

Chris Chmiel (bio coming soon)

Ed & Carole Daniels (bio coming soon)

Rick Felumlee (bio coming soon)

Tanner Filyaw (bio coming soon)

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.



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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.

Dr. John Munsell is an Associate Professor at Virginia Tech University, Past-President of the Association for Temperate Agroforestry, and Associate Editor for Agroforestry Systems. He has authored more than 40 research publications and raised over 3 million USD 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 a chapter on forest farming in the forthcoming textbook *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.

Robin Suggs Before joining Appalachian Sustainable Development’s Agroforestry Program, Robin was the sole proprietor of MoonBranch Botanicals, a grower and producer of native medicinal plant materials along with other non timber forest products in the small community of Yellow Creek in far western North Carolina. His company supplied the natural products and medicines industry with high quality native raw bulk botanicals produced in their natural habitats. In 1996 he founded and served as executive director of the Yellow Creek Botanical Institute, a 501(c)3 corporation based in Graham County North Carolina. In this position, he was responsible for the conceptualization, development and management of a non-profit research and development organization utilizing native botanical resources as tools for sustainable economic development in western North Carolina. Robin is responsible for the development of the Graham County Economic Diversification Program, which seeks to create a vertically-integrated natural products industry in western North Carolina. As a result of his work in this area, Robin has had the opportunity to develop both the organizational and financial resources necessary to make North Carolina a global contender in this industry. Under his guidance, Yellow Creek Botanical Institute has developed inter-institutional partnerships with more than two dozen state, federal, and private organizations. These partnerships have resulted in a unique collaboration which seeks to develop a botanical medicines industry in western North Carolina including a network of buyers and suppliers, establish propagation and cultivation protocols for native species, provide an



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analysis of market trends and preserve the region's ethnobotanical knowledge by developing a regional database.