



## VABF/SFOP Agroforestry Track

This year's Virginia Association for Biological Farming and VSU's Small Farm Outreach Program Summit is offering an entire track focused on Agroforestry! We invite you to join for one or all of the sessions.

Session Title and Speaker	Time and Location
Pawpaws to the People: Preservation and Development of North America's Largest Superfruit <i>Ben Casteel</i>	Session A: Jan 20 8:30-10:00 am (Shenandoah A)
Community of Practice: Multi-strata Agroforestry <i>Steven Wilder</i>	Session B: Jan 20 10:30-12:00 pm (Shenandoah A)
Agroforestry Integration for the Small Farm <i>Stesha Warren</i>	Session C: Jan 20 2:00-3:30 pm (Shenandoah B)
Agroforestry Regional Knowledge (ARK) Exchange Network - Agroforestry Panel Discussion <i>Katie Trozzo, Ian Nichols, Cornelius Deppe, Ryan Huish, Dana Lydon</i>	Session D: Jan 20 4:00-5:30 pm (Shenandoah B)
Alley Cropping: Design, Implementation, and Production at Virginia Tech's Catawba Sustainability Center <i>Adam Taylor, Stesha Warren</i>	Session E: Jan 21 8:30-10:00 am (Pocahontas)
Integrating Nitrogen Fixers in Diverse Settings <i>Dani Baker</i>	Session F: Jan 21 10:30-12:00 pm (Shenandoah A)
Native Perennial Food Plants for your Edible Landscape <i>Dani Baker</i>	Session G: Jan 21 1:30-3:00 pm (Shenandoah A)
Silvopasture: Thinking Through the Design Process <i>Emilie Tweardy</i>	Session H: Jan 21 3:30-5:00 pm (Buck Mountain)



# Session Descriptions

## **Pawpaws to the People: Preservation and Development of North America's Largest Superfruit**

***Ben Casteel, Virginia Highlands Community College; Highlands Pawpaw Growers Association***

Asimina triloba, the Pawpaw, has become one of the most popular wild fruits. As demand increases, it becomes ever-so important to trial and conserve the work of pawpaw breeders that have selected and developed improved cultivated varieties. There must also be attention paid to the agroecological value of pawpaws as a potential agroforestry / silvopasture crop. Finally, moving forward to develop a supply chain of pawpaw products is critical to the development of this fascinating fruit from lore to store. Discussion will include work completed and in progress by the Highlands Pawpaw Growers Association as well as demonstration of grafting techniques for germplasm preservation.

## **Community of Practice: Multi-strata Agroforestry**

***Steven Wilder, Meadow Path Eco Farm***

Do you operate, or are you planning to operate, a multi-strata agroforestry system including food forests, forest farming, forest gardens, syntropic agroforestry, perennial cropping system, natural farm, eco-farm, or other forest mimicry system? Here is a chance for you to network with and learn from others who share your passion. A "community of practice" connects farmers who share common concerns, problems, experiences, and interests in a type of agriculture. This cooperative learning session is an active, participatory, highly organized networking experience. Small groups share ideas and experiences in response to prompts from the session facilitator. Session attendees will leave with multiple new connections, solutions, and ideas. From getting started, to deer protection, to saving money, to crop selection, to maximizing production, you'll learn from each other and become a better multi-strata farmer.

## **Agroforestry Integration for the Small Farm**

***Stesha Warren, Appalachian Sustainable Development***

Agroforestry is not a set of new practices, it has been around for centuries in various forms and cultures. In today's society we are seeing these practices reemerge in the forms of alley cropping, forest farming, silvopasture, riparian buffers and windbreaks. These approaches are gaining in popularity across small and large scale producers. The purpose of this class is to introduce agroforestry concepts that can be incorporated into the everyday homestead or small scale farm for crop and wildlife diversity, multi-revenues of income, soil and water protection, and a host of other benefits. Participants will gain a high level understanding of how to take these concepts and apply them to their land through presentation, conversations and situational case study for hands-on application.

## **Agroforestry Regional Knowledge (ARK) Exchange Network – Agroforester Panel Discussion**

***Katie Trozzo, Cornelius Deppe, Ryan Huish, Dana Lydon, Ian Nichols***

Join us to learn about the Agroforestry Regional Knowledge (ARK) Exchange Network and hear directly from three agroforester panelists from Virginia who are involved in the network. They will share details about the design, implementation, and maintenance of recent agroforestry demonstrations they established on their farms through the Catalyzing Agroforestry Grant Program (CAGP), including successes and lessons learned. The audience will have the opportunity to pose questions to the panelists. As part of the session, participants will also learn more about CAGP and ways to become involved in the ARK Exchange Network more broadly.

## **Alley Cropping: Design, Implementation, and Production at Virginia Tech's Catawba Sustainability Center**

***Adam Taylor & Stesha Warren, Virginia Tech Catawba Sustainability Center and Appalachian Sustainable Development***

Learn about the fundamentals of introducing trees into various crop rotations through the practice of alley cropping. Hear from Adam Taylor and Stesha Warren as they walk you through the process of developing an alley cropping system from design, to species selection, to land prep, to installation, to growing the crops. Hear about their lessons learned from successes to challenges and everything in between.

## **Integrating Nitrogen Fixers in Diverse Settings**

***Dani Baker, The Enchanted Edible Forest at Cross Island Farms***

Instead of adding nitrogen fertilizer, pepper your planting with nitrogen-fixing plants. This Power Point presentation will illustrate over 20 nitrogen-fixing plants from groundcovers to tall trees that you can integrate into your fruit or nut orchard, Silvo pasture, berry bush plot, annual vegetable planting and more! For each plant the presenter will describe the growth habit, preferred habitat, food value, other uses and aesthetic appeal. Attendees will leave with many ideas of how to integrate nitrogen-fixing plants into their edible landscape.

## **Native Perennial Food Plants for your Edible Landscape**

***Dani Baker, The Enchanted Edible Forest at Cross Island Farms***

When placed in habitats that meet their needs, native plants tend to be well adapted to our climate and have few pest, diseases or maintenance problems. This powerpoint presentation will illustrate the growth habit, preferred habitat, care required, food value, other uses and landscape appeal of over 25 native perennial plants you can include in your edible landscape. The plants range from small and tall trees to bushes, groundcovers, and even vines. If you want to create an edible hedge, an edible bed, a foundation planting, a you-pick venue, or a forest garden, you will discover there are a variety of native food plants to choose from to fill your space.

## **Silvopasture: Thinking Through the Design Process**

***Emilie Tweardy, Appalachian Sustainable Development***

As funding for silvopasture projects starts to pour in, many of you may be wondering, "where do I start?". Emilie will use the lens of Permaculture Design to help simplify the process, providing a springboard for design that anyone can use. We'll work through a design exercise at the end of the session so folks can get some hands-on experience in putting pen to paper. Join us for an interactive session and gain some real skills to take home.