Community Farming on Solid Ground

SUSTAINABLE LIVING HUB SEMINAR Fall 2023

First, a brief update

from the Sustainable Living Hub





The Campus is the Classroom

Teaching and Learning Outdoors at OU!

Identified several locations for pilot outdoor learning spaces

Collaborating with partners in University Planning, OIT, and CLTA

Exploring funding options

Developing an open access (and possibly open source) Teaching and Learning Outdoors guide



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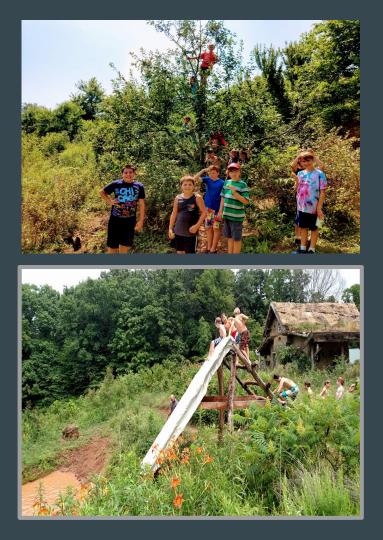
PRESENTATION OVERVIEW

-BACKGROUND -PHILOSOPHY -Community Farming Project -The future of Solid Ground Farm



WESTON LOMBARD

- -CO-FOUNDER, SOLID GROUND SCHOOL AND RISING APPALACHIA -Steward, Solid Ground Farm -Agroecology Instructor, Hocking College -Community Organizer
- -OHIO UNIVERSITY ALUMNUS



OUR HOME: SOLID GROUND FARM, LLC

A WORKING FARM AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND EXPLORATION CENTER, PROMOTING ENGAGEMENT WITH THE LAND AND RECONNECTION WITH NATURE THROUGH CREATIVE PLAY AND HANDS-ON PARTICIPATION.

WITH A MISSION: TO DEVELOP, SHARE, AND CELEBRATE **SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS** TO HOME AND COMMUNITY-SCALE FOOD PRODUCTION, AND TO DEMONSTRATE THAT THROUGH CREATIVE **NATURAL RESOURCE** MANAGEMENT, THE LAND, AS ALWAYS, IS THE BASIS OF OUR HEALTH AND WEALTH.







Solid Ground Farm, LLC

PIONEERING APPALACHIAN AGROFORESTRY AND AGROECOLOGY

WE BELIEVE THAT SMALL, DIVERSIFIED **PERENNIAL-BASED** community farms will be the foundation for an emerging **ECOLOGICALLY ROOTED REGIONAL ECONOMY**.

SOLID GROUND FARM SERVES AS A REGIONAL GERMPLASM AND RESEARCH, DEMONSTRATION, AND TRAINING SITE, PROVING THE EFFICACY OF **NATIVE** AND NATURALIZING TREE CROPS AND SHARING LESSONS LEARNED THROUGH WORKSHOPS, PUBLICATIONS, AND SPECIAL EVENTS.

<u>SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE SOLUTIONS FOR APPALACHIA</u>

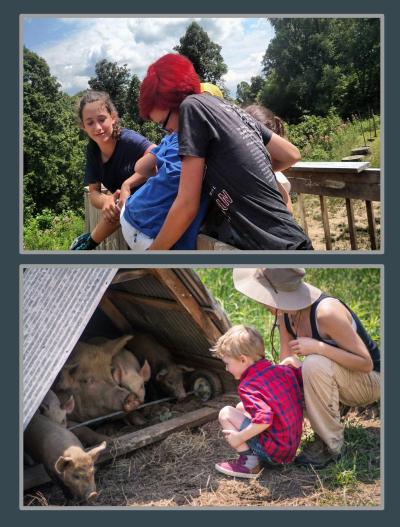




OUR PROGRAMS... RISING APPALACHIA (RAW CAMP)

A NON-PROFIT SUMMER CAMP AND YOUTH EDUCATION PROVIDER EMPOWERING YOUTH THROUGH PLAY AND NATURE EXPLORATION

RISING APPALACHIAN WARRIORS SUMMER CAMP **ENGAGES YOUTH** IN THE OUTDOORS THROUGH HANDS-ON PROJECTS, CREATIVE PLAY, AND **PARTICIPATION WITH NATURE**, FOSTERING CONNECTION TO THE ENVIRONMENT, GROWING BONDS BETWEEN PEERS, AND INSPIRING THE CONFIDENCE NEEDED TO NAVIGATE OUR WORLD AS ENGAGED INHABITANTS OF APPALACHIA.



Solid Ground School

A NON-PROFIT PLACE-BASED ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PIONEERING PROGRESSIVE, NATURE-BASED EDUCATION IN SOUTHEAST OHIO

IMMERSIVE PROJECT-DRIVEN CURRICULUM, HONORING THE INHERENT CURIOSITY, DRIVE AND CAPABILITY OF CHILDREN. SOLID GROUND SCHOOL ENCOURAGES CHILDREN TO FIND AND DEVELOP THEIR INNATE TALENTS, NURTURE THEIR CREATIVITY, AND LEARN TO **WORK TOGETHER** TO MEET THE CHALLENGES OF A CHANGING WORLD.

OFFERING PRE-K TO 6TH GRADE ALTERNATIVES TO PUBLIC SCHOOL, <u>www.solidgroundschool.com</u>





UNDERLYING PHILOSOPHY

FOUNDATIONAL ASSUMPTIONS

-WE ARE NOT ONLY SEPARATE, DISCONNECTED INDIVIDUALS COMPETING FOR PERSONAL SUCCESS, BUT ARE ALSO A COMPLEX SERIES OF RELATIONSHIPS CONNECTED TO AND RELIANT UPON ALL OF EXISTENCE

-OUR GREATEST CAPACITY IS TO CHOOSE WHERE WE DIRECT OUR ATTENTION AND ENERGY.





PHILOSOPHY IN ACTION: COMMUNITY FARMING





MADE POSSIBLE BY A USDA SARE FARMER RANCHER GRANT





THE PARTICIPANTS







HARVESTING, PROCESSING, SHARING



GROWING COMMUNITY



LESSONS LEARNED



FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS.. GROWING CULTURE AND ECONOMY FROM APPALACHIAN FIELDS AND FORESTS

BUILDING A NEW, REPLICABLE MODEL FOR LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ROOTED IN RELATIONSHIP WITH OUR NATURAL RESOURCES AND BASED ON;

-LONGTERM PLANNING AND BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES -COMMUNITY DRIVEN BUSINESS INCUBATION DESIGNED TO REMOVE BARRIERS TO BUSINESS SUCCESS BY PROVIDING ACCESS TO LAND, MENTORS, TOOLS, AND MARKETS -US FOREST SERVICE FUNEDED MENTOR/APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM BEGINNING MARCH 2024



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THANK YOU FOR YOUR ENERGY AND ATTENTION

CONTACT WESTON LOMBARD FOR MORE INFORMATION. 740-856-6299 OR <u>WESTONLOMBARD@GMAIL.COM</u>