

Lunch ~ N ~ Learn SEMINAR

NATIONAL



C-FAR

THE NATIONAL COALITION FOR
FOOD & AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

Program:

FARMING IN THE FOREST? YES INDEED!

Woodland Cultivation of Non-Timber Crops



December 15, 2017

PROGRAM

Welcome and Introduction

SALLY FLIS
NATIONAL C-FAR REPRESENTATIVE

Distinguished Speakers

SUSAN STEIN
DIRECTOR, NATIONAL AGROFORESTRY CENTER
U.S. FOREST SERVICE, USDA

&

DR. JOHN MUNSELL
DEPARTMENT OF FOREST RESOURCES
AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
VIRGINIA TECH

Open Forum

Closing

SALLY FLIS

NATIONAL C-FAR IS a nonprofit, nonpartisan, consensus-based and customer-led coalition that brings food, agriculture, nutrition, conservation and natural resource stakeholders together with the food and agriculture research and extension community, serving as a forum and a unified voice in support of sustaining and increasing public investment at the national level in food and agricultural research, extension, and education.

ABSTRACT

Forest farming is an agroforestry practice where woodland medicinal, edible, decorative, and handicraft crops are cultivated under a forest canopy that is managed to provide desirable conditions for production. Landowners and woodland lessees can generate income through forest farming and help conserve native plant populations which leads to healthier woodlands. Forest farming is gaining a foothold among non-timber products industries, such as herbal products companies, and some trade in or seek to sell verified forest grown merchandise at higher price points to discriminating consumers who demand sustainable and high-quality retail products. This presentation will cover the history and recent momentum of forest farming research and capacity building in the temperate regions of the US and present plans for future initiatives focused on market development and precision farming technology.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHY



John Munsell, Ph.D., is an Associate Professor in the Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation at Virginia Tech. He is Immediate Past-President of the Association for Temperate Agroforestry and Associate Editor for the journal *Agroforestry Systems*. John is most interested in private forest and farm stewardship, agroforestry and whole farm planning, and collaborative conservation. He has published over 40 peer-reviewed papers and more than 50 technical articles, and is co-author of a forthcoming

book on community food forests. John received his Ph.D. and M.S. from the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry and his Bachelors from Tulane University. He resides in Blacksburg, Virginia with his family where he enjoys playing string bass, going to a Hokie game or two, and making venison jerky.

SEMINAR SERIES DESCRIPTION

National C-FAR's Seminar Series regularly presents leading-edge researchers to address pressing issues confronting the public and Congress. National C-FAR and the Seminar Series serve as a resource to policymakers and staff.

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