

# PERENNIAL FARM GATHERING

*Virtual Gathering December 7th-9th, 2022*



**3-DAY VIRTUAL GATHERING** of farmers, landowners and perennial enthusiasts from across the country

## Day 1, December 7th 2022

*All times in CST*

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### **Yoga with Nelle Rutecki**

**8:30 - 9 am**

Join us every morning for a restorative yoga practice focused on longevity for the perennial work we do. A slow flow practice for all experience levels. Mat or rug optional.

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### **Welcome by Keefe Keeley**

**9 - 9:30 am**

Savanna Institute's Executive Director welcomes all to the Perennial Farm Gathering and sets the stage for three days of discussion, stories, and nutshell updates with fellow perennial agriculture enthusiasts.

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### **Nutshell Talks : Round 1**

**9:30 am - 12 pm**

A perennial favorite of the gathering, our Nutshell Talks invite audience members to share five-minute updates, stories, lessons-learned or nagging questions from their work. You can include slides or other visual aids if you'd like—or you can just talk with guests. Nutshells are a great way to connect with a community of practice and help build knowledge across the region. Sign up for a five-minute slot during the session in the chat to add your name to the list of Nutshell presenters.

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### **Listening Session for Demo Farms with Kaitie Adams**

**12 - 12:30 pm**

In 2019, Savanna Institute launched a network of Demonstration Farms to showcase the power and possibility of adding agroforestry to their farm landscapes. Now with 7 farms across 2 states showcasing innovative windbreak, alley cropping, silvopasture, and riparian buffer designs and research questions, we're looking to future successions of these farms and opportunities to expand the program. And we want to hear from you!

Join us for a listening session to answer the question: What do YOU want to see on Savanna Institute Demonstration Farms?

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### **New American Farmer**

**1 - 2 pm**

New American Farmers are refugees and immigrants that have resettled in the U.S. and have had to face the challenge of adapting to new lifestyles, cultures, and climates. Many come from an agricultural background and bring with them rich traditions around growing specialty crops and cooking diverse cuisines. Join us to hear from Salt City Harvest Farm (Syracuse, NY), Global Greens (Des Moines, IA), and Refugee and Immigrant Self-Empowerment (Syracuse, NY) as they share their experiences in working with these communities and building cross-cultural connections through growing food.

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### **Thick as Thieves with Samantha Bosco**

**2:15 - 3:15 pm**

People have been eating nuts (nucivory) and relating with nut trees for over thousands of years in what is now called the northeastern US. "Thick as Thieves", as the saying goes, is about the close relationships, allyships, confidences, and strategies towards ulterior agroecological agendas. We'll trace through a few historical roots of agroforestry advocates from across time and consider possibilities for the future.

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### **What Can Land Access Look Like? *Panel Discussion***

**3:30 - 5 pm**

What does it mean to own land or have access? Looking for ways to access land for perennial production? Are you thinking towards the future about how to continue to provide sustainable stewardship to the land you own? Join us as we discuss the ins and outs of land access and considerations when thinking about the land you want or the land you have.

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### **Deep Roots & New Shoot Awards**

**5- 5:30 pm**

Conferring virtual laurels in appreciation of extraordinary folks who have made their life's work advancing perennial agriculture.

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## **Day 2, December 8th 2022**

*All times in CST*

### **Yoga with Nelle Rutecki**

**8:30 - 9 am**

Join us every morning for a restorative yoga practice focused on longevity for the perennial work we do. A slow flow practice for all experience levels. Mat or rug optional.

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### **How can agroforestry contribute to the climate solution?**

**8:30 - 9:30 am**

Join Nate Lawrence and Jenna DeRario discussing the why/what/how of climate mitigation. Why does climate mitigation in agriculture matter? What does it entail? How is

mitigation actually assessed and verified? What's the deal with carbon sequestering? This info session will begin to address some of these questions, and mostly lead to more as we navigate our climate impact for the future.

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**Coffee with an Expert : Red Fern Farm****9 - 9:30 am**

With Kathy Dice and Tom Wahl, Owners and operators of Red Fern Farm in Wapello, Iowa Kathy Dice and Tom Wahl have been crafting their farm in Iowa for nearly 40 years. This is a chance to sit down with these agroforestry experts as they pull from a deep well of wisdom through successes and failures over the years. Join us to sip your morning coffee (or tea) and learn more about these trailblazers.

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**Coppicing Agroforestry****9:30 - 10:30 am**

Mark Krawczyk is the author of the newly-released book *Coppice Agroforestry - Tending Trees for Product, Profit and Woodland Ecology*. Join us for a presentation on this work and a round of Q & A from the author. He will focus on the practical side of coppicing, its utility to growers, and some relevant case study examples.

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**New Technologies in Silvopasture: Panel Discussion****10:45 am - 12:30 pm**

We'll explore current fencing options in silvopastoral grazing systems and discuss new revolutionary virtual fencing technologies for sheep, goats, and cows. Bring along your silvopasture questions as we ruminate on silvopasture by addition and subtraction, methods for protecting trees, and potential cost-share pathways for silvopasture establishment.

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**Great Lakes Protection Fund with Devon Brock-Montgomery****12 - 12:30 pm**

Agricultural runoff is a serious threat to water resources within the Great Lakes basin and beyond. In this session, we will discover how agroforestry practices significantly contribute to improved water quality. Featured are three partner organizations - the West Michigan Agroforestry Partnership, Riveredge Nature Center, and the Ozaukee-Washington Land Trust - which are establishing ambitious agroforestry plantings to directly address water quality issues in Lake Michigan.

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**Building an Agroforestry Services Business with Austin Unruh****1 - 2 pm**

Austin Unruh of Trees for Graziers will walk us through the path of building a successful agroforestry services business that is adapted to the needs and contexts of you and your region. He will share from his own experience starting and running a business that does consulting, plan writing, funding acquisition, nursery production, planting and aftercare for both riparian buffers and silvopasture. He will share how he has determined what to do, and just as importantly, what not to do, as well as business lessons learned the hard way.

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**New Developments in Financing Agroforestry: Panel Discussion****2:15 - 3:45 pm**

Thought leaders in finance are adopting a regenerative finance approach to supporting agroforestry. Their goal is to tailor financial support to meet the needs of farmers growing perennial crops. A wide variety of synergistic tools are being developed to fund the start-up period, establishment, production, and long-term development of agroforestry operations. Details of how this works will be discussed along with a look at the progress being made on a new Agroforestry Finance Guidebook and the plans Canopy Farm Management has to scale up agroforestry in IL and WI.

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**Nutshell Talks : Round 2****4 - 5:30 pm**

A perennial favorite of the gathering, our Nutshell Talks invite audience members to share five-minute updates, stories, lessons-learned or nagging questions from their work. You can include slides or other visual aids if you'd like—or you can just talk with guests. Nutshells are a great way to connect with a community of practice and help build knowledge across the region. Sign up for a five-minute slot during the session in the chat to add your name to the list of Nutshell presenters.

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## Day 3, December 9th 2022

*All times in CST*

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**Yoga with Nelle Rutecki****8:30 - 9 am**

Join us every morning for a restorative yoga practice focused on longevity for the perennial work we do. A slow flow practice for all experience levels. Mat or rug optional.

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**Get Your Hoof in the Door with Grazing****8:30 - 9:30 am**

Many experienced graziers describe silvopasture as an "expansion pack" for farmers who have already mastered the skills of management-intensive rotational grazing. But it can be more than that - silvopasture offers a way to reintroduce herbivores into agroforestry systems, contributing to soil health, nutrient cycling, and pest management. Selecting the appropriate types and breeds of livestock for your landscape and management are key to the success or failure of your silvopasture system. Cherrie Nolden has many years of experience managing goats, sheep, horses, guard dogs, and other animals on her farm near Dodgeville, Wisconsin. Jacob Grace has conducted research on the use of grazing for habitat management on Wisconsin grasslands, and now serves as a grazing and communications specialist for Savanna Institute and the Grassland 2.0 project.

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**Coffee with Expert(s) - Cristel Zoebisch and Beverly Paul****9 - 9:30 am**

Let's chat policy over a cup of coffee (or tea) with two experts working on advancing public support for agroforestry and their markets. Beverly Paul of Gordley Associates and

Cristel Zoebisch of Carbon180 are members of a national coalition of leaders working to lift the field of agroforestry to better serve farmers and the environment. Bring your questions, comments and a cup of coffee to chat about where ag policy is headed.

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### **Tools for Agroforestry**

**9:30 - 10:30 am**

Come learn the tools of the agroforestry trade in this session! We'll focus on methods and software for mapping and gathering site data, including selecting suitable tree species for your site and crunching some economic numbers. We'll also take a look at equipment and innovations for installing, maintaining, and harvesting agroforestry systems.

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### **Approaches to Alley Cropping: Panel Discussion**

**10:45 am - 12 pm**

How can alley cropping help to bridge the gap between annual and perennial production? What are different options for alley cropping? What considerations should you have in planning this system for your operation? Join us for a lively discussion on the how, what, and when of alley cropping. We will be looking at several sites to see the wide range of options with the agroforestry method.

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### **Perennial Bioenergy Crops with American Farmland Trust**

**12 - 12:30 pm**

Join American Farmland Trust and Argonne National Laboratory for a brief presentation and casual lunch time discussion on the potential of growing perennial bioenergy crops on marginal farmland. The presentation will briefly introduce perennial bioenergy crops and the discussion will allow for participants to ask questions and provide their thoughts or feedback on key barriers and interest.

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### **Woody Plant Propagation : Part 1 Methods and Supplies**

**12:30 - 2 pm**

In this session, we'll classify a variety of woody tree species into propagation techniques and give an overview of each. This session will also provide information on where to source tree genetics and propagation materials. We encourage attendees to form regional groups in order to bulk order supplies and save!

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### **Keynote - Ricardo Salvador**

**2- 3:30 pm**

Imagining the landscapes of the future should be accompanied by strategies to transform the present reality. What will it take to overcome the power of trillions of dollars of sunk costs in the current structure of agriculture?

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### **Closing and Send Off**

**3:30- 4 pm**

Thank you for attending our annual Perennial Farm Gathering with Savanna Institute. We hope to see you again soon!