

**CFAES**

SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROFESSIONALS NETWORK

**April 20, 2022**



**Time**  
to Act  
on Climate  
**Change**

This Earth Week Event is co-hosted by the Environmental Professionals Network (EPN), the Sustainability Institute at Ohio State, and Ohio State University Extension, and co-sponsored by the Undergraduate Student Government Sustainability Committee.



This program is being recorded and posted to the EPN YouTube channel for future access and viewing.



**THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

# AGENDA

6:00 p.m. Doors open to the Ohio Union's US Bank Conference Theater (in-person audience) and livestream production via EPN's YouTube platform opens (virtual audience).

6:10 p.m. Formal remarks begin and will be shared in the following order:

**Jeff Sharp**, PhD., director, School of Environment and Natural Resources.

*Footprints in the Himalayas*, a video produced by the **Byrd Polar and Climate Research Center**.

**Cathann A. Kress**, PhD., vice president for agricultural administration and dean, College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences.

**Kristina M. Johnson**, PhD., president, The Ohio State University.

**Elena Irwin**, PhD., distinguished professor of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences in Economics & Sustainability in the Department of Agricultural, Environmental, and Development Economics and faculty director of the Sustainability Institute at Ohio State.

**Jennifer Morris**, chief executive officer, The Nature Conservancy (*Ms. Morris's remarks will be delivered pre-recorded, virtually, the only presentation tonight not occurring live inside the US Bank Conference Theater*).

6:50 p.m. **Earth Day Keynote Presentation by Sophia Buggs**, owner, Lady Buggs Farm, and Mahoning Food Access Coordinator.

7:10 p.m. Q&A session with Ms. Buggs for both in-person and livestream audiences.

7:30 p.m. Program concludes.

# SPEAKERS



## **Sophia Buggs, owner, Lady Buggs Farm, and Mahoning Food Access Coordinator**

Sophia L. Buggs, also known as Lady Buggs, is the owner and operator of Lady Buggs Farm, a 1.3-acre urban farm located on the South Side of Youngstown, Ohio. She is reclaiming the sacred roots of farming through sustainable spiritual living. A few of her areas of expertise are specialty crop farming, wildcrafting, and fermenting traditional foods. Her mission is to regenerate her community by offering wellbeing from seed to table all while creating a loving urban homestead with her daughter, Passion. Sophia also serves as The Mahoning Food Access Coordinator and as the Environmental and Food Justice Director of Intentional Development Group. Sophia holds a Master of Education with a concentration in Curriculum and Instruction from American InterContinental University and a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice from Bethune Cookman University. She also has earned a number of accreditations, which includes a year of OJT Specialty Crop Apprenticeship through Goodness Grows, an organization that promotes food, faith, and sustainable farming for all, Market Garden Certifications with Youngstown Neighborhood Development Corporation, and a Certificate of Intuitive Plant Medicine with One Willow Apothecaries.



**Jennifer Morris, chief executive officer, The Nature Conservancy**

For the past 25 years, Jennifer Morris has dedicated her life to protecting the environment for people and nature. She brings decades of global leadership, proven management skills, and a passion for conservation to the organization and its ambitious mission—conserving the lands and waters on which all life depends. Years of working and living in a small community showed her that the health of each individual and each family was inextricably linked to the health of the environment. This realization propelled her to serve by working in economic development, and she went on to receive a master's degree in international affairs from Columbia University with a focus on business development and micro-finance. Jennifer was previously president at Conservation International, where she oversaw all programs across 29 countries and more than 600 million hectares of protected land. Jennifer is a passionate storyteller, avid outdoors enthusiast, and mentor to the future generations of conservation leaders. She lives in Washington, D.C., with her husband and daughter.



**Kristina M. Johnson, president, The Ohio State University**

Kristina M. Johnson, PhD., is the 16th president of The Ohio State University. She has served as chancellor of the State University of New York since 2017. Prior to that, she founded and served as CEO of several successful science and technology companies, served as under secretary of energy at the U.S. Department of Energy, and held academic leadership positions at institutions such as Johns Hopkins University, Duke University and the University of Colorado at Boulder. A member of the National Academy of Engineering, the National Inventors Hall of Fame and the National Academy of Inventors, Dr. Johnson is also an inductee of the Women in Technology International Hall of Fame and a fellow of the Optical Society of America, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, the International Society for Optical Engineering and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Dr. Johnson earned her BS, MS and PhD in electrical engineering at Stanford University.



**Cathann A. Kress, PhD., vice president for agricultural administration and dean, College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences**

Since May 2017, Kress has responsibility for leadership of the college which also comprises Ohio State Extension, research centers including the Ohio

Agricultural Research and Development Center, and the Agricultural Technical Institute in Wooster. She is a full professor within the department of Agricultural Communication, Education, and Leadership. Kress is a Trustee of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and serves on the State of Ohio Livestock Care Standards Board, and served on the National 4-H Council Board, and as chair of the administrative heads section of the Board on Agriculture Assembly, Association of Public and Land Grant Universities. Dean Kress graduated with distinction from Iowa State University, where she received her Bachelor's degree. She received her Master's and Doctorate from the University of Iowa, where she was an American College Testing (ACT) Special Research Fellow.



**Elena Irwin, PhD is a distinguished professor of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences in Economics & Sustainability in the Department of Agricultural, Environmental, and Development Economics and faculty director of the Sustainability Institute at The Ohio State University.**

Dr. Irwin's research addresses the sustainability of human-natural systems at local and regional scales, with a focus on land use, ecosystem services, and integrated models of land-water systems. She has been PI or Co-PI on multiple research projects totaling over \$16 million in funding, including funding from the National Science Foundation, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, as well as private foundations. Dr. Irwin earned an undergraduate degree in German and History from Washington University in St. Louis and her PhD in agricultural and resource economics from the University of Maryland.

# EPN Summer Field Trip Series

## JUNE 14, 2022

If you listen carefully,  
*It Sounds Like Love*



Artist **Cadine Navarro** will show participants that the seeds still speak. This morning event will guide and immerse participants through a series of indoor and outdoor spaces showcasing the beauty of native, Ohio prairie ecosystems. Navarro's *It Sounds like Love* will evoke meaning, place-making and action for greenspace storytelling and conversation on these nine native grasses inside Otterbein University's Frank Museum of Art, Westerville, OH. Through experiential learning locations such as the Alum Creek Multi-Use Trail, The Point at Otterbein, and Sharon Woods Metro Park, regional environmental scientists, and naturalists, including **Jenny Adkins, PWS**, will address the potential for restoring these grasses to the ecosystems and natural areas, including prairie habitats, that were once native to the northern Franklin County, southern Delaware County, and the broader Alum Creek Watershed area. **Dr. Terry Hermsen** and other local leaders will draw connections between the arts, the sciences, and highlight the many regional partnerships and strategies underway to restore native prairie and other habitats in the north central Ohio.

**Register today at [go.osu.edu/epnjun22](https://go.osu.edu/epnjun22)**

# ENVIRONMENTAL PROFESSIONALS NETWORK

*Connecting our community*

**[epn.osu.edu](http://epn.osu.edu)**

The Environmental Professionals Network (EPN), created nine years ago, is a service of the School of Environment and Natural Resources that connects and grows environmental professionals in-person and online. Over 2,000 environmental professionals statewide have active online membership accounts. EPN participants can access many online services and are linked to thousands of professionals in Ohio and beyond. Professionals are connected in a “community” of people who share their passion for our world and its environment, natural resources, people, and communities – local to global.

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— *We Sustain Life* —

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