

Tuesday, November 16, 2021



Utilizing current data, methods, and perspectives – this program revisits a persistent and existential question, *is humanity's present rate of population and economic growth sustainable?* This EPN Breakfast program will feature **Gaya Herrington** (director, Sustainability Services, KPMG), a global expert reporting on recently published models and statistics in support of the classic MIT *limits to growth* thesis, and **Sandy Doyle-Ahern** (president, EMH&T), leader of one of Ohio's largest professional engineering and survey firms with decades of experience managing regional development projects, who will take a deeper look at the rapid population growth of central Ohio – one of the fastest growing regions in the United States. Both speakers will offer strategies for what we can do in the 21st Century to both confront this growth and offer strategies towards a different, more ecologically balanced future in the region and beyond. Josh Knights (Sustainability Institute at Ohio State) will moderate this program. Join us again on November 16 for a candid conversation on human society – local, regional, and global development, and the sustainable development strategies to enhance social, economic and environmental well-being. Register today at go.osu.edu/epnnov21

Tuesday, December 7, 2021

Restoring Streams and Wetlands: *Whose Job Is It Anyway?!*

Save the date for this lively, end-of-the year EPN Breakfast event debating the professional skills and credentials needed for effective wetland development and stream restoration. To address these questions in a comedy-infused format, we're calling in a team of seasoned experts, including **Mark Dilley** (founder and co-owner, MAD Scientist Associates), **Brian Tornos** (environmental division director, Burgess & Niple), and **Gail Hesse** (executive director, Ohio Lake Erie Commission) to answer the question, *whose job is it anyway to restore Ohio's streams and wetlands?!* Join this event for a spirited discussion untangling the complexity and skills of what is needed for the restoration of our state's water resources. Ohio State Senior Capstone students will be displaying research posters during the networking session of this event.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROFESSIONALS NETWORK

Connecting our community
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 state-wide 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.

***** Thank You! *****

Students registered for free today courtesy of Ohio State's School of Environment and Natural Resources, the Sustainability Institute at Ohio State, and the following individuals who chose to "sponsor a student" during their online registration:

David Hanselmann
Marisa Twigg
Jera Elizondo Niewoehner-Green
Zoë Plakias
Cassandra Brown

Jessica D'Ambrosio
Janice Fry
Sally Miller
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CFAES

SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES
ENVIRONMENTAL PROFESSIONALS NETWORK

October 12, 2021



Growing the Future of Agriculture: Conversations with Black Farmers and Educators

7:15 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Nationwide &
Ohio Farm
Bureau 4-H Center



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

AGENDA

For in-person guests

7:15 a.m. Doors open at Ohio State 4-H Center; Coffee served.

7:40 a.m. Breakfast buffet served.

For all program attendees

8:10 a.m. Jeff Sharp, PhD, director, School of Environment and Natural Resources, provides welcome remarks.

8:20 a.m. Yolanda Owens, chief cultivator, Forage + Black and president of The Ohio State University College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (CFAES) Alumni Society Board, introduces and facilitates an engaging dialogue on the role of Black farmers in shaping the future of agriculture in Ohio and beyond.

Omope Carter Daboiku, farm manager, Edgemont Solar Garden and CSUx Beginning Farmer Incubator, talks about her agricultural work, growing food, and connecting with her community and young farmers.


Kenisha Robinson, regenerative farming fellow, Agraria Farm and owner, Nourganic Life Farm, shares her experiences as a young grower and “surprise” multi-generation farmer on her family’s 8 acre farm in Trotwood, Ohio.

Ariella Brown, associate director, Gender Equity Programs & Education, Antioch College, provides an overview of Black Farming: Community Land & Food Sovereignty Conference, next steps, and future activities.

Cathann A. Kress, PhD, vice president for agricultural administration and dean, CFAES, discusses programs and activities through Ohio State Extension and the agricultural research and educational communities at Ohio State to improve opportunities for Black farmers in Ohio.

9:10 a.m. In-person and virtual audience Q & A facilitated by Ms. Owens.

9:25 a.m. Closing Comments by Dr. Sharp.

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



Ariella Brown, associate director, Gender Equity Programs & Education, Antioch College

Ariella’s passion for agriculture and supporting local grown food began with her work in Congress, working for then Congresswoman Marcia L. Fudge who spearheaded an urban agriculture project called the Cleveland Seasonal High Tunnel Initiative, where she worked with USDA and other local organizations to fund hoop houses in urban settings. When Ariella relocated to Dayton a few years ago, she became involved with the Arthur Morgan Institute for Community Solutions to work on the first Black Farming Conference last year with a group of like minded individuals that wanted to celebrate the historical contributions of black farming while also providing a platform for black farmers to network and learn from one another; this is how the black farming conference started, by a small group of passionate people. Ariella is not a farmer herself, per se, but she respects and appreciates the hard work, dedication and love that goes into it and strongly believes we owe so much to our agrarian community that nurtures us everyday by growing the food we consume everyday.



Omope Carter Daboiku, farm manager, Edgemont Solar Garden and CSUx Beginning Farmer Incubator

Omope Carter Daboiku, an Appalachian of mixed ancestry, hails from the Ohio River town of Iron-ton, where she learned to grow and preserve food by working side-by-side with family elders. She migrated to Cincinnati in 1972 becoming a cultural geographer and award-winning teller of tales; and, worked as a professional storyteller, actor, and teaching artist for over 30 years.

Then, deep reflection of purpose during the Great Quarantine of 2020 pushed her back to the land as she found solace teaching urbanites how to plan and sustain community gardening in neighborhoods suffering from food insecurity. Honoring ancestral wisdom led OC to Edgemont Solar Garden and serving as Farm Manager for Central State’s Incubator Farm and being chosen for the

first Agraria (Community Solutions) Regenerative Farming Fellowship.

Easing into eldership, Omope calls herself “a futurist” committed to sharing global Earth Wisdom and exploring the dynamics of land stewardship as a path toward social and spiritual transformation.



Yolanda Owens, chief cultivator, Forage + Black, president of the CFAES Alumni Society Board

Ms. Yolanda Owens grew up in Columbus, Ohio. An unsuspecting participant in 4-H and In-School Scouting, she developed her connection with the land very young. Growing up with a garden in her backyard was only the beginning of her journey that took her to Ghana, West Africa, where she discovered that food is life. Ms. Owens is a graduate of The Ohio State University College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences where she also serves as President of the Alumni Society Board. An active participant in her community, she along with four other women helped to found Black Lactation Circle, a breastfeeding support and advocacy group for Black mothers in Central Ohio. Ms. Owens is a wife, a mother of two little boss ladies (no, really, their initials are CEO), and a supporter of those trying to do right by the people and the land.



Kenisha Robinson, regenerative farming fellow, Agraria and owner, Nourganic Life Farm

Kenisha Robinson is a 2nd-year produce farmer in southwest Ohio. Growing up on a small farm, she never imagined herself becoming a farmer. After graduating college, moving out of Ohio, and working several professional jobs in the government and non-profit sectors, Kenisha returned to the area. Driven by her desire to learn to grow her own food, connect back to the land where she grew up, and encourage other people to grow food, she started volunteering at a local farm. This connection led to her current position as a participant in the Regenerative Farmer Fellowship through Agraria Center for Regenerative Practice and as Program Assistant for the fellowship program. Her favorite food to grow is okra!

Breakfast provided by **Creative Cuisine**
www.creative-cuisine-catering.com