



SPRING 2023 CONVENING

Berea, Kentucky

April 22 – 25, 2023



Berea College Forestry Outreach Center (FOC) 2047 Big Hill Rd, Berea, KY 40403

SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 2023

TRAVEL DAY

Down on the Farm!

Jim Embry's ****Birthday and Butterflies**** Celebration
Heirloom Gardens Oral History Project Pilot Interview Sessions

Location: Atrus Ballew Farm, 265 Norris Road Richmond, KY 40475

- ACTIVITY 1: 3:00 PM Birthday Work Party
- ACTIVITY 2: 3:00 PM Interview Sessions, Heirloom Gardens Oral History Project Sign Up <http://heirloomgardens.princeton.edu>
- ACTIVITY 3: 6:00 PM Birthday and Ujamaa Dinner
- ACTIVITY 4: 9:00 PM Birthday and Ujamaa Fireside Conversations



Atrus Ballew Farm

SUNDAY APRIL 23, 2023

DEVELOPING REGIONAL UJAMAA SEED HUBS & ENVISIONING A SEED COMMONS

- LOCATION:** **Berea College Forestry Outreach Center, (FOC)**
2047 Big Hill Rd, Berea, KY 40403 PH: 859-756-3315
- 8:00 AM – 8:30 AM** Vans from Boone Tavern to Forestry Outreach Center
- 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM** **Continental Breakfast** at Forestry Outreach Center
- 9:00 AM – 9:30 AM** **Invocation, Welcome & Introductions, Overview of Convening**
Wendy Warren, Director of FOC, Jessica Klanderud, Carter G. Woodson Center.
Led by UCFA members Jim Embry & Fatimah Hasan
- 9:30 AM – 10:30 AM** **State of UCFA Cooperative:** Working Groups Brief Updates.
Bonnetta Adeeb, Steam Onward President, UCFA Co-Director
- 10:30 AM – 10:45 AM** Break
- 10:45 AM - 12:00 PM** **Seed Commons/Seed Hubs:** Presentations and Discussion
Tessa Desmond, Princeton University; Chris Smith, Utopian Seeds Project;
Michaela Colley, Organic Seed Alliance, and others
- 12:00 PM - 1:15 PM** **LUNCH at Forestry Outreach Center**
Welcomes and Introductions by Jim Embry, Lyle Roelofs, College President, &
Laurie Roelofs; The Honorable Bruce Fraley, Mayor of Berea.
- 1:15 PM – 2:30 PM** **Seed House Operations:** Order fulfillment, storage, germination tests, etc.
Presentations by Hassan Adeeb, Diane Fisher, Nate Kleinman & Dusty Hinz of
Experimental Farm Network.
- 2:30 PM – 4:00 PM** **Regional Seed Hub/Seed Commons Development** – Presentation, discussion,
and visioning on mechanics and dynamics of a regional seed hub. Chris Keeve,
Nate Kleinman, Bonnetta Adeeb, Zoe Holloman, Cara Loriz, Gordon Reed,
Tomia MacQueen, Collie Graddick, Michaela Colley, and Chris Smith.
- 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM** **FREE TIME:** Vans transporting attendees to Boone Tavern
Forest hike pinnacles, rest, farm/garden visitations. Tours of Berea College and
community sites (including College Square): details to be announced.
- 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM** **Dinner at Event Space next to Historic Boone Tavern**, 100 Main St. N, Berea,
KY 40403 PH: 844-202-6926 Dinner Dress Code: Business Casual. Cash Bar.
Remarks by Elijah Hicks, Berea College student; Short videos; Keynote Speaker
Collie Graddick, Federation of Southern Cooperatives.



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MONDAY APRIL 24, 2023

LOCATION:

Berea College Forestry Outreach Center, (FOC)
 2047 Big Hill Rd, Berea, KY 40403 PH: 859-756-3315

8:00 AM – 8:30 AM	Vans from Boone Tavern to Forestry Outreach Center	
8:00 AM – 9:00 AM	Continental Breakfast at Forestry Outreach Center	
	Track 1 – Ujamaa Cooperative: Strengthening Internal Capacity	Track 2 – Heirloom Gardens Project: Safeguarding Our History
9:00 AM – 9:20 AM	Welcome and Land Acknowledgement Jim Embry; Remarks by Chris Green, Appalachian Center	
	9:20 AM – 10:00 AM Individual Introductions (everyone gets 1-2 minutes)	9:30 AM – 9:45 AM Overview of the Heirloom Gardens Project
	10:00 AM – 11:00 AM Skills, Assets & Network Mapping Hassan Adeeb and Alexis Yamashita	9:45 AM – 10:45 AM Pilot Interview and Debrief
	11:00 AM -11:15 AM Break	10:45 AM – 11:00 AM Break
	11:15 AM – 12:15 PM Governance and Finance Presentation Alexis Yamashita	11:00 AM – 12:15 PM Project Launch Breakout Sessions
12:15 PM – 1:15 PM	LUNCH at Forestry Outreach Center Remarks by Janet Myer of Horticulture Farm	
	1:15 PM – 2:45 PM Zoom Presentation by Ife Kilimanjaro of Soul Fire Farm	1:15 PM – 2:45 PM Archiving Ujamaa’s Movement Work
2:45 PM – 4:00 PM	OPEN HOUSE (seed swapping, seed processing, group discussion, meet & greet)	
4:00 PM – 6:00 PM	FREE TIME: Vans transporting attendees to Boone Tavern Forest hike pinnacles, rest, farm/garden visitations. Tours of Berea College and community sites (including College Square). Details to be announced.	
6:00 PM – 9:00 PM	Dinner at Event Space next to Historic Boone Tavern , 100 Main St. N, Berea, KY 40403 PH: 844-202-6926 Dinner provided by Berea College. Dress Code: Business Casual. Cash Bar. Remarks by Teri Thompson of Strategic Initiatives of Berea College.	



TUESDAY APRIL 25, 2023 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM

DEVELOPING NEW PARTNERSHIPS & JUMPING INTO POLICY WORK

- LOCATION:** Berea College Forestry Outreach Center, (FOC)
2047 Big Hill Rd, Berea, KY 40403 PH: 859-756-3315
- 8:00 AM – 8:30 AM** Vans from Boone Tavern to Forestry Outreach Center
- 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM** **Continental Breakfast** at Forestry Outreach Center
- 9:00 AM – 9:20 AM** **Welcome and Land Acknowledgement:** Jim Embry. Remarks by representative from the bell hooks Institute.
- 9:15 AM – 10:15 AM** **Policy and Farm Bill:** Presentation and Discussion Garrett Lovelace of American University
- 10:30 AM – 10:45 AM** **Break**
- 10:45 AM – 11:30 AM** **Partnerships and Collaborations:** Presentation on existing UCFA projects, partnerships and potential collaborations, grants proposals. Bonnetta Adeeb,
- 11:30 AM – 12:30 AM** **Breakout Groups:**
- Group 1) Seed Commons Development** in KY & TN. Led by Jim Embry
Group 2) Related Partnership Topics: Working with educational institutions, USDA, other potential partnerships. Led by Bonnetta Adeeb.
- 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM** **LUNCH at Forestry Outreach Center**
Remarks by Candace Mullins of Grow Appalachia
- 1:30 PM – 2:00 PM** **Convening Wrap up and Adjournment**



The UCFA Spring 2023 Convening has been made possible with the support of numerous individuals and organizations. Thank you!



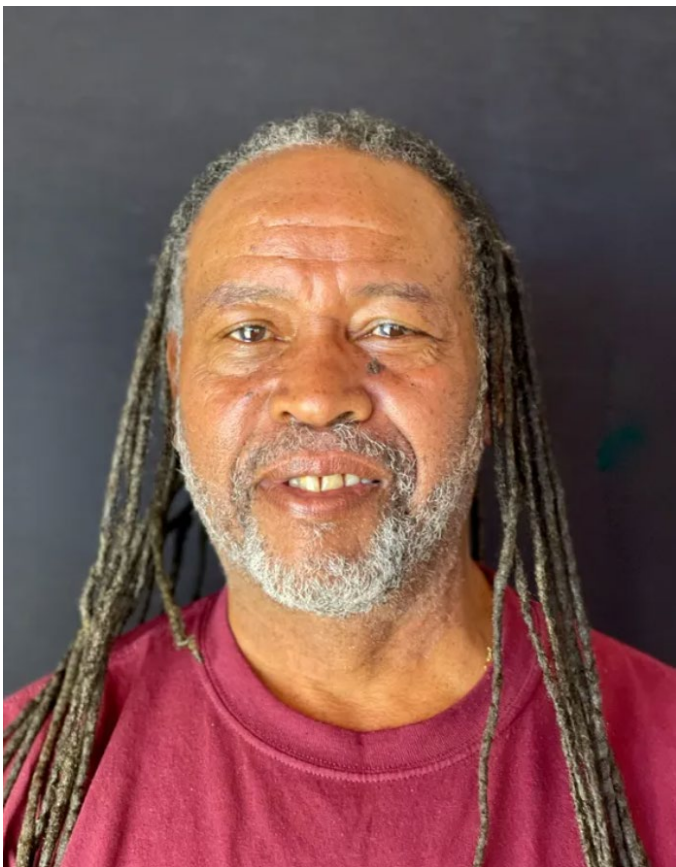
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COLLIE GRADDICK

Keynote Speaker, Sunday April 23rd Dinner Boone Tavern



Collie Graddick is a Consultant with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) a Partner in the Community Table Association of Cooperatives (CTAC), a lifetime member of the West Georgia Farmer's Cooperative (WGFC) and the Federation of Southern Cooperatives (FSC) and a founding member of the East Alabama Black Belt Farmers' Cooperative (EABBFC) and the West Georgia Young Farmers' Cooperative (WGYFC). Collie has been with the MDA for 23 years, working in the Seed, Noxious Weed, Fertilizer, Endangered Species and Pesticide Regulatory programs. He has been a partner and trainer at CTAC for 15 years, assisting immigrant, minority and small farmers with working together on developing Community Cooperative Food Systems (UCCFS).

WGFC and FSC are developing Local Food Systems throughout west Georgia, east Alabama and the southeastern US. Collie grew up on a 200-acre sustainable farm in Hamilton, Georgia producing fruits, vegetables and livestock. He received his B.S. degree in Agronomy from Fort Valley State University, GA and his M.S. degree in Commercial Fruit and Vegetable Production from Tuskegee University, Alabama.

Welcoming Berea College friends of Ujamaa Cooperative Farming Alliance



Founded in 1855 by ardent abolitionists and radical reformers, Berea College was the first interracial and coeducational college in the South. As one of ten federally recognized work colleges, Berea College does not charge students tuition. Instead, students work across campus in various departments to support the operations and mission of the college while gaining workplace experience before graduation. Berea College is guided by its eight Great Commitments: Educational Opportunity, the Liberal Arts, Christian Values, the Dignity of Labor, the Kinship of All People, Gender Equality, Supporting and Sustainable Living, and Serving Appalachia.



Sunday, 23^d April

At 9am, welcoming **Dr Jessica Klanderud, the Director of the Carter G. Woodson Center**; Assistant Professor of African & African American Studies. Founded in 2011, the Carter G. Woodson Center for Interracial Education at Berea College focuses our work on the interrelationship of race and poverty through coalition building. Overall, our goal is to build coalitions for anti-racism in the wider area of Central and Eastern Kentucky. <https://www.berea.edu/centers/carter-g-woodson-center-for-interracial-education>

At Noon: **Lyle Roelofs is Berea College's ninth President.** Dr. Roelofs' leadership initiatives at Berea College include strategic planning and institutional advancement through exploration of the College's mission of the eight "Great Commitments". He has also worked to enhance the physical resources of the College, pursued with a strong commitment to sustainability he has also added new properties to the Berea College Forest, upgraded the facilities for visitors, and supported the adoption of sustainable forest management practices.



6pm, **Elijah Hicks is a graduating senior** studying Agriculture and natural resources. As a Forestry Outreach labor student, Elijah has served as assistant botanist, researcher, and forest interpreter over last three years. Elijah's passion is for wilderness and what it has to teach us about sustainable agriculture and flourishing human communities. On March 15th, Elijah was awarded the Watson Fellowship, to study wilderness preservation, regenerative agriculture, tourism, and how these concepts and tools are used to foster communal flourishing.

Monday, 24th April



At 9am, welcoming **Chris Green Director of The Loyal Jones Appalachian Center.** The center envisions a future in which Appalachian communities seek progress through democratic participation, social justice, and environmental stewardship. We support the academic, career, and social success of students from Appalachian counties also working to increase understanding of, and interaction with Appalachia and exploring and illuminating for all people, the richness of the Appalachian region, people, and cultures. <https://next.berea.edu/centers/loyal-jones-appalachian-center>

At Noon: **Janet Meyer represents Berea College Farm and Greenhouse**, one of the oldest continuously operating educational farms in the United States. The Berea College Farm is situated on about 500 acres and maintains various livestock and horticultural enterprises, producing around **47,000 pounds** of organic food each year. Additionally, the Farm offers students real-world experience and management through the College's distinctive Labor Program. It also serves as an essential component to the [Agriculture and Natural Resources Department](#), acting as the primary laboratory for many academic courses. <https://farm.berea.edu/>



6pm, welcoming **Teri Thompson Vice President for Strategic Initiatives**, Teri oversees the College's relationship with external funding partners, and provides team-based leadership for the Administrative Committee and campus community related to the identification of institutional priorities, strategic planning for potential grant-funded initiatives, and collaborative development of programming to support Berea's students throughout their matriculation. In addition, she oversees areas of the College that provide meaningful and effective outreach to the Appalachian region, including Brushy Fork Institute, Appalachian Fund and Grow Appalachia.

Tuesday, 25th April



the bell hooks center
feminism is for everybody

At 9am, welcoming **the bell hooks center**. The center is an inclusive space where historically underrepresented students can come to be as they are, outside of the social scripts that circumscribe their living. We curate programs, collaborations, and events that affirm these students' sense of self and belonging—on campus and in the world.

Our work is motivated by bell hooks's famous insights that "patriarchy has no gender" and that, therefore, "feminism is for everybody." <https://www.berea.edu/centers/the-bell-hooks-center>

At Noon: **Candace Mullins, Executive Director of Grow Appalachia**. Grow Appalachia is a Strategic Initiative of Berea College. Our vision is a vibrant, regional food system where healthy food is accessible to all.

Grow Appalachia focuses on many levels of food security. We see the need to think and work holistically to ensure individuals and families have access to the healthy food. Our small but mighty team offer small-scale and beginning farmer assistance, backyard garden grants, a social enterprise to support food growing across Central Appalachia, and childhood nutrition and education programming within Berea.



ABOUT UCFA

Ujamaa Cooperative Farming Alliance (UCFA), is a program under the non-profit organization STEAM ONWARD Inc. UCFA is a collective of emergent and seasoned BIPOC growers, farmers, and gardeners who cultivate and distribute heirloom seeds.

UCFA recognizes the need for increased diversity in agriculture and increased diversity in the \$15 billion dollar U.S. seed industry. UCFA works to provide more opportunities and support for growers from historically oppressed and marginalized communities. To this end the Ujamaa Cooperative Farming Alliance is working to bridge the gap between prospective growers and seed companies.



At UCFA we view seeds as more than a commodity, but also as vessels of cultural heritage. Yet, as a commodity, heirloom seed farming can be a lucrative business opportunity for farmers, gardeners, and growers, as demand far outstrips supply. On just a small plot of land, growers can make a profit from seed farming as a side business.

Visit UCFA at: <https://ujamaafarms.com> and <https://ujamaaseeds.com>

Visit STEAM ONWARD at: <https://steamonward.org>

Contact UCFA at: ujamaafarmingcoop@gmail.com

