

Restoration Field Day 2022

The Restoration Field Day is a gathering for ecological practitioners, vendors, property owners, naturalists, and students of all ages. This full-day workshop will make ecological management accessible to everyone. Participants will explore a variety of land management tools, techniques, and services through field demonstrations, hands-on learning experiences, and vendor booths led by experts in restoration ecology.

This year we are showcasing the intersection of restoration, foraging and agro-ecology. We have a strong line-up of experts in each of these fields including Sam Thayer (Author of the Forager's Harvest), Matt Smith (Riveredge Research and Conservation Director), and Devon Brock-Montgomery (The Savanna Institute).

This event is held entirely outside and there are some incentives. If you are part of a non-profit organization or municipality we are offering you reduced registration for this event. A Hmong translator will be provided for each talk.

Riveredge Members: \$55 | Non-Members: \$60 | Student Price: \$30 | Non-Profit Partner: Variable

Schedule of Events

8am – 8:30am

Registration & Welcome

8:30am – 12 noon

Wild Edibles with Sam Thayer

12 noon – 12:45pm

LUNCH

12:45pm – 1:15pm

'Natural Area Manager Perspectives on Foraging and The Law' with Matt Smith

1:15pm – 2:30pm

'Common Foraging Plants for Agroforestry Systems' with Devon Brock-Montgomery

2pm – 2:45pm

'Planting and Expanding Clonal Native Woody and Herbaceous Species for Restoration' with Matt Smith and Sam Thayer

Restoration Field Day Speaker Bios

Sam Thayer: Author, forager, and internationally recognized authority on wild edible plants

Talk Title and Description: *'Wild Edibles with Sam Thayer.'* Sam Thayer (Forager's Harvest) will share his wealth of knowledge on foraging for wild edibles in Wisconsin ecosystems, informed by decades of study and practice.

Bio: Sam was born in Wausau, Wisconsin, where he first learned to gather wild food in vacant lots, backyards, city parks, and at the edge of town. He began "survival camping" at fourteen and led his first wild food walks when he was 19. After graduating from high school, he moved near the south shore of Lake Superior and built a rustic log cabin on an abandoned farmstead, chasing his childhood dream of "living off the land" while working part-time at a variety of jobs. Since 2000, when he won the Hazel Wood National Wild Foods Cooking Contest, Sam has been teaching regularly on edible wild plants, giving workshops across the United States. In 2002 he was inducted into the National Wild Foods Hall of Fame at North Bend State Park in West Virginia. His first book, *The Forager's Harvest*, has won a Midwest Book Award, IPPY Book Award, and was a finalist for the USA Book News Best Books 2007 award, selling more than 135,000 copies. His second book, *Nature's Garden*, has received similar acclaim and has sold over 75,000 copies.

Devon Brock-Montgomery: Water Quality Program Manager, Savanna Institute

Talk Title and Description: *'Agroforestry, Foraging, and our Changing Relationship with Agriculture.'* Devon Brock-Montgomery (Savanna Institute) will introduce agroforestry, its potential, and current agroforestry crops and projects in the Midwest. Comparing agroforestry with foraging practices, she'll explore our changing relationship with agriculture as well as discuss anticipated obstacles to finding common ground.

Bio: Born and raised in Wisconsin, Devon (she/her/hers) is thrilled to be joining the Agroforestry Adoption Team as the Water Quality Program Manager. The daughter of an agronomist, Devon spent her summers in the garden and the fall foraging for wild foods with her family. Prior to joining the Institute, Devon directed climate change research for the Bad River Tribe and studied forest health in eight states with the National Park Service.

Devon is interested in the nexus between natural and cultural resources – and agroforestry, with its core tenets of stewardship, reciprocity, and community, is a natural next step. In her spare time, Devon enjoys making music, foraging, and going on impromptu plant walks.

Matt Smith: Research and Conservation Director for Riveredge

Talk Title and Description: *'Natural Area Manager Perspectives on Foraging and The Law'* .

Foraging is a powerful way to connect people to landscapes and instill a sense of reliance on nature and conservation. However, there is a need to understand the relative abundance and rarity of local resources and the law when harvesting in a sustainable way. Matt will talk openly about his personal experiences protecting rare habitats in southeastern WI, some of the challenges to unmanaged foraging, and possible solutions with the group and other natural area managers present.

Talk Title and Description: *'Planting and Expanding Clonal Native Woody and Herbaceous Species for Restoration'* .

Walk with Matt Smith and Sam Thayer to profile many native woody and herbaceous species that can be readily cultivated and expanded through root production and cospicing. We will discuss ways to source material for new populations, cultivate in place, and the importance of long-lived perennial cover for humans and wildlife

Bio: Matt Smith is the Research and Conservation Director for Riveredge Nature Center and has 20 years of experience in the field of restoration ecology. Prior to employment with Riveredge, Mr. Smith has worked as a Consulting Ecologist for Eco-Resource Consulting, Land Manager for National Audubon at the Schlitz Audubon Nature Center, a restoration technician for Tallgrass Restoration LLC, a Conservancy Steward for the Sand County Foundation, a Technician through Seifert Field & Forest, a certified Arborist and Cultural Landscape Specialist for Green Tree-Tree Care and Consulting, and a plant surveyor for NatureServe. Mr. Smith's work has led him to practice restoration throughout the Midwest, experiencing first hand its wide variety of diverse environments and conditions. Mr. Smith's work has allowed him to play an active role in projects on large and small scales in the public and private sectors.