FORREST KEELING nursery

A — Conference Meeting Room
B — Garden Store
C — Main Tent
D — Cypress Grove
E — South Nursery Reservoir

LUNCH & CONVO GROUP TIMES

PAWPAW GROUP

11:30 AM - 12:15 PM
Main Tent
Rooted in Experience:
Appetizers & Conversation
with Wayne & Gene

12:15 - 1:15 PM
Cypress Grove
Farm-to-Table Lunch Buffet,
Chef Kevin Willmann,
Farmhaus

ACORN GROUP

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM
Cypress Grove
Farm-to-Table Lunch Buffet,
Chef Kevin Willmann,
Farmhaus

12:30 - 1:15 PM
Main Tent
Rooted in Experience:
Dessert & Conversation
with Wayne & Gene

MORNING AGENDA

7:45-9:00 AM **REGISTRATION** – ***Cypress Grove***

7:45–8:45 AM **COFFEE & CONNECTIONS** – ***Cypress Grove***
Take a closer look at FKN's Natural Communities, StreetSmart™ Trees, and Specialty Crops

9:00–9:30 AM **GENERAL SESSION** – ***Main Tent***
Welcome, Opening Remarks – Kim Lovelace, Wayne Lovelace, *Forrest Keeling Nursery*
Preview of Forrest Keeling's feature segment on *Empowered hosted by Meg Ryan*

9:30–10:30 AM **FIELD DAY KEYNOTE** – ***Main Tent***

Kelly Norris, nationally recognized plantsman, designer, and author

Rooted in Natives: Designing Living Landscapes for a Resilient Future
Drawing on decades of work as a plantsman, designer, educator, and advocate for ecological horticulture, Kelly Norris explores how native plant communities create resilient, adaptive, and enduring landscapes—supporting wildlife, strengthening communities, and redefining what performance means in the built environment.

10:45–11:30 AM **MORNING BREAKOUTS & TOURS** – **CHOOSE ONE**

> **URBAN FORESTRY** – ***Conference Room***

Shane McQuillan, Urban Forester, Runway Group

Urban Forestry with Native Trees: Designing for Decades of Performance
From production forests to city streets, Shane McQuillan has spent his career studying what enables trees to thrive—or causes them to fail. Drawing on lessons from urban forestry and community development, he explores how thoughtful tree selection and stewardship can turn native trees into resilient infrastructure that delivers lasting benefits for people and communities.

> **AGROFORESTRY** – ***Main Tent***

Dr. Chung Ho-Lin, Lead Scientist for the Bioremediation, Natural Products, and Bioanalytical Programs, Center for Agroforestry at the University of Missouri

Food Forests & Agroforestry Systems Built on Native Foundations
Drawing on decades of leadership in agroforestry research and application, Dr. Chung-Ho Lin explores how native trees and shrubs can form the backbone of productive agroforestry systems. He demonstrates how these living systems generate income, enhance ecological function, and strengthen resilience across working landscapes.

> **NURSERY TOURS A, B AND C** – ***See descriptions below.***

NURSERY TOURS & DEMONSTRATIONS

(All tours leave from the Cypress Grove area)

** Self guided tour*

> **Tour A — Better Performance Begins with Better Roots**
Inside RPM Root Production Method® container production

> **Tour B — The Future of Agroforestry Starts at the Source**
Scion orchard, seed orchard and specialty crop research

> **Tour C* — Where Innovation Meets Performance**
RPM®, Grafting, Tree improvement, Natural Communities, StreetSmart™ Trees, Specialty Crops, Burro Demonstration

AFTERNOON AGENDA

11:30 AM – 1:15 PM **FARM-TO-TABLE LUNCH & CONVERSATIONS** – ***Cypress Grove & Main Tent***
Rooted in Experience: A Conversation with Wayne & Gene
Farm-to-Table Lunch Buffet, Chef Kevin Willmann, Farmhaus

See back for Acorn and PawPaw Group times.

1:30–2:15 PM **AFTERNOON BREAKOUTS & TOURS** – **CHOOSE ONE**

> **SPECIALTY CROPS** – ***Conference Room***

Dr. Nadia Navarrete-Tindall, State Extension Specialist, Lincoln University

Profitable Native Crops for Midwest Growers and Agroforestry Systems
For more than two decades, Dr. Nadia Navarrete-Tindall has helped connect native plants to commercial markets. Drawing on extensive research and grower partnerships, she explores native fruit and nut crops that provide both ecological benefits and economic opportunity.

> **CONSERVATION & RESTORATION** – ***Main Tent***

Dr. Zack Miller, Leveraging Our Lands Strategy Lead, The Nature Conservancy

Incorporating Ecological Design for Production, Health, & Resilience: A Case Study in the Lower Missouri River Floodplain
Working at the intersection of conservation strategy, regenerative agriculture, and on-the-ground implementation, Zack Miller shares lessons from restoration efforts that prioritize longterm performance, ecological function, community conservation, and collective learning.

> **NURSERY TOURS A, B AND C** – ***See descriptions below.***

2:30–3:15 PM **GENERAL SESSION** – ***Main Tent***

> **CAPSTONE PRESENTATION**

Kim Lovelace, Forrest Keeling Nursery
Amanda Horne, Forrest Keeling Nursery
Judy Good, Bluestem Services

Measuring What Matters: Native Plants as Infrastructure
Bringing together nursery leadership, production systems, agroforestry, landscape innovation, and design communication, Lovelace, Horne, and Good present a practical framework for viewing native plants as defensible green infrastructure—linking decisions from plant source to landscape performance to measurable environmental, social, and economic outcomes.

3:15–3:45 PM **HAPPY HOUR & NETWORKING** – ***Cypress Grove***
Roots, refreshments, and relaxed conversation. Visit vendors and FKN displays.
Join Kelly Norris for a book signing of *Your Natural Garden* and *The New Naturalism,* and learn more about his New Naturalism Academy for professionals.