VIRGINIA Farm to Table CONFERENCE | 2018

This workshop is associated with the 2018 Farm to Table Conference on Dec. 5 & 6 in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley. For more on the Conference, visit http://conference.virginiafarmtotable.org or call (540) 432-6029 ext. 109

The Real Dirt on Dirt: A Workshop on Soil & Health

for Virginia farmers, foodies and families

WHERE: **Petersburg, VA**
Virginia State University (VSU) Main Campus,
L. Douglas Wilder Building (see map next page)

WHEN: **Friday, December 7, 2018**
9:00 am to 3:30 pm

COST: $25 per person
(includes catered lunch)

FOCUS: The promise & the practical of **soil restoration**, with special emphasis on the **microbial links** between soil, plant, and human health.

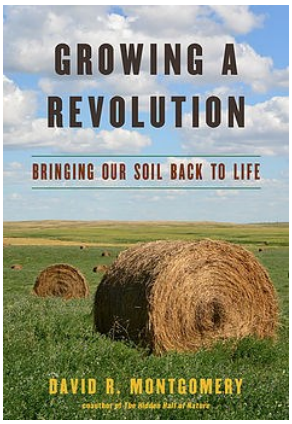
FEATURING:

Case Studies & Discussions with Local Farmers / Experts

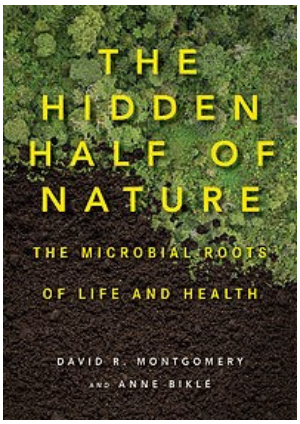
AND

Authors David Montgomery & Anne Biklé

David is a professor of geology at University of Washington and a 2008 MacArthur Fellowship ("genius grant") recipient. Anne Biklé is a biologist and environmental planner. Learn more about them at www.dig2grow.com. The books they will be discussing with us are:



In *Growing A Revolution*, Dr. David Montgomery travels the world meeting farmers at the forefront of a **soil health revolution**. On those farms, he discovers **simple, cost-effective strategies** that can help feed the world, cool the planet, reduce pollution, and return profitability to family farms.

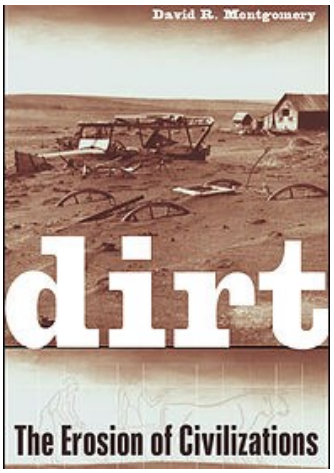


The Hidden Half of Nature digs into the science of **microbes**, explaining why good health - for people, plants, and soil - depends on these tiny critters. The authors reveal astounding parallels between our own bodies and the world of plants and soil. They show how cultivating beneficial microbiomes holds great promise for **transforming agriculture and medicine**.

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE!

Your hosts: Virginia Cooperative Extension (Virginia Tech • Virginia State University); Agua Fund, Inc.; Southern SARE Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education; USDA United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service; Virginia Soil Health Coalition (unlock the SECRETS in the SOIL)

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE



In *Dirt: The Erosion of Civilizations*, Dr. David Montgomery blends natural and cultural history to show how **soil degradation caused past civilizations to crumble** and how modern societies face a similar fate unless we shift to more sustainable land management practices.

TENTATIVE AGENDA

9:00 am – Registration / Networking (30 min.)

Welcome & Introduction (15 min.)

Dr. David Montgomery — *Dirt: The Erosion of Civilization* & *Growing A Revolution: Bringing Our Soil Back to Life* (60 min.)

10:45 am – Break (15 min.)

Local Farmer/Expert Panel Discussion and Q&A: Practical Soil & Health Restoration Case Studies (60 min.)

Noon – Catered Buffet Lunch / Networking (60 min.)

Anne Biklé — *The Hidden Half of Nature: The Microbial Roots of Life & Health* (60 min.)

2:00 pm – Break (15 min.)

Local Farmer/Expert Panel Discussion and Q&A: Practical Soil & Health Restoration Case Studies (60 min.)

Wrap-up & Conclusions (15 min.)

3:30 pm – Adjourn

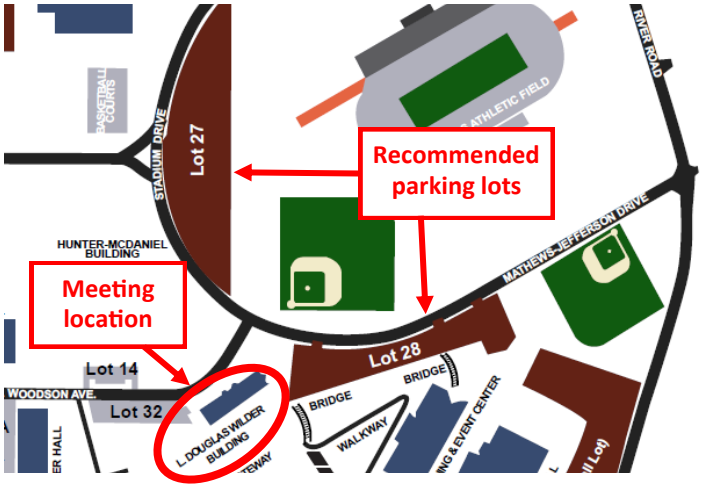
REGISTER BY NOON on TUES, DECEMBER 4!

Go to https://tinyurl.com/realdirt18 or call (540) 432-6029 ext.109

Find at this link info on paying $25 fee for registration and buffet lunch.

DRIVING & PARKING DIRECTIONS

- Take I-95 to Exit 54 (Temple Ave).
- At traffic circle at end of ramp, turn left to go west on Temple Ave / Rt. 144.
- Turn left at 2nd light, going south on Boulevard / Rt. 1 / Rt. 301.
- Continue to 4th light, turn right onto Dupuy Rd. (at Wawa store). Dupuy Rd. becomes River Rd.
- Travel ½ mile, VSU is on left, enter at Matthew-Jefferson Drive. Stop at guard station, ask where you should park.
- See map at right. Wilder Building will be on your left. Lots 28 or 27 are likely best parking options.



Interested in helping sponsor this event? Please call (540) 432-6029 ext.109

If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services, or other accommodations to participate in this activity, please contact Cyndi Marston at 540-432-6029 ext. 109 during business hours (8am-5pm) to discuss accommodations at least 5 days prior to the event.

Virginia Cooperative Extension
Virginia Tech • Virginia State University
www.ext.vt.edu

Virginia Cooperative Extension programs and employment are open to all, regardless of age, color, disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, veteran status, or any other basis protected by law. An equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Virginia State University, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture cooperating. Edwin J. Jones, Director, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg; M. Ray McKinnie, Administrator, 1890 Extension Program, Virginia State University, Petersburg.