



VTeen 4-H Science Pathways Café



TEEN SCIENCE CAFÉ
NETWORK

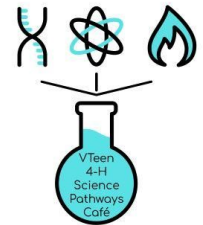
Culturing Cells for Healthier Soils

Thursday, January 27, 2022, 7:00-8:00 pm

Open to all youth entering grades 7-12 in VT and across the country!

Register by 1/27 @ 6:00 pm to receive the Zoom link

@www.uvm.edu/extension/youth/announcements



Did you know that microbes helped plants to colonize land 470 million years ago? Scientists have figured out what nature knew a long time ago - that we, as living creatures, are all interdependent in a giant web of life. Indigenous peoples witnessed the interdependence of living things and developed an agricultural tradition of growing three crops together where corn provides the structure, beans vine up the corn and provide nitrogen, and squash suppresses weed growth. Now growers and scientists can combine knowledge gained from many cultures that have observed nature with data from years of research in

agriculture, plant biology, and soil microbiology to grow our foods in more sustainable ways that promote natural ecosystems. In this café, you will learn more about the science behind healthy soils, helpful microbes, and vigorous plant growth to feed our growing planet within an ever-changing climate. You will also get hands-on examining plant materials and different microbial symbionts to determine their influence on above-ground plant phenotypes.

Start Thinking About Summer! We will be hosting the **AgroTek Summer Academy** at UVM at the end of June 2022. This café topic will be one of the featured free week-long residential academies where participants will dive deeper in to the subject. Come join us to learn about this exciting topic and consider applying! More information will be provided at the café.

ABOUT OUR SPEAKERS

Eric Bishop-von Wettberg is an Associate Professor in Plant and Soil Science with a research program focused on characterizing the diversity of genebanks and heirloom varieties to harness adaptations to extreme environments in emerging crops. **Giovanna Sassi** is a postdoctoral researcher in PSS; she studies the genetic basis of hops disease resistance and diversity between domesticated and wild plant populations using comparative bioinformatics, pathogenicity assays, and field assessments. **Bailey Kretzler** is a second year PhD student in PSS studying how crop domestication and intercropping impact root architecture and root-bound soil associated microbial communities.

Questions? Contact lauren.traister@uvm.edu

Closed captioning will be provided for this program.

To request additional disability-related accommodation to participate in this program, please contact the 4-H Office at 802-888-4972 or lauren.traister@uvm.edu

by January 13, 2022 so we may assist you.



www.uvm.edu/extension/youth