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Forest Botanicals for Business Minded Landowners
Fall Meetings on Building a New Supply Chain through Partnerships

Spring Mills, PA: United Plant Savers joins with PCO, Penn State, NC State, Virginia Tech, and Mountain Rose Herbs to hold two meetings where landowners can learn about the forest botanical supply chain and the opportunities and challenges facing forest-based growers and buyers of native medicinal forest plants. The meetings, which are set for November 13, 2015 in Front Royal, Virginia and November 14, 2015 in Abingdon, Virginia, will be focused on quality control, profitability, and sustainability and the development of a forest botanical supply model based on the third-party PCO Forest Grown Verification Program.

Sustainable harvesting of wild-grown medicinal plants is a major factor in reducing the threat to forest plant biodiversity. Wild ecologies can be fragile, and given the demand for medicinal plants the industry is looking for ways to verify the conscientious production and harvest of wild-grown products. Participants at the meetings will learn how to become involved in building a forest grown supply chain that features wild-stewarded and forest farmed products, as well as how to become a supplier in this emerging industry.

“PCO is excited to work with United Plant Savers to encourage forest grown verification,” says PCO’s Director of Education and Outreach Lee Rinehart. “In addition, UPS has provided funds for a cost share program that helps reduce the financial burden of growers who harvest forest products with careful attention to the sustainability of forest ecologies. Third-party verification communicates to consumers that the products they purchase were stewarded and legally harvested in a manner that does not degrade the long-term regenerative capability of the wild population.”

The cost to attend is \$15. Preregistration by October 2nd is required.

For more information on the forest grown supply chain meetings and a link to the registration form see <http://www.unitedplantsavers.org/2015-02-11-00-43-43/285-forest-botanicals-working-together-to-build-a-new-supply-chain> or email tiffany.brown@vt.edu

PCO is a membership-based, non-profit USDA-accredited organic certifying organization that educates and certifies growers, processors, and handlers of organic crops, wild crops, livestock, and livestock products in Pennsylvania and adjoining states. Interested producers and handlers of forest grown products can

contact PCO at (814) 422-0251 to obtain a Forest Grown System Plan, or visit <http://www.paorganic.org/forestgrown> for more information and a downloadable PCO Forest Grown Verification Program Manual.

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