



## **Pre Conference Workshop AM**

**9:00 AM to 12:30 AM**

# **Regenerative Farming, Composting, Teas, Vermicomposting, and DNA Sequencing**

This workshop will explain the complementary nature of regenerative farming and composting. We will share our experience with application of compost/teas on regenerative farms, including how to vermicompost to enhance compost microbial content. We will explain why microbes are important and how to evaluate them with microscopes and hand-held DNA sequencers. In-class demonstrations will include an on-farm compost tea extractor, microscopes, and DNA sequencer. We will wrap up with case studies of large and small-scale compost/tea/vermicompost production in regenerative farming and lawn care.

**Instructors:** Dr. Laura Kavanaugh

**Fee:** \$260 for USCC members, \$292 for nonmembers

**Duration:** 9:00 AM to 12:30 PM

**Date:** February 6, 2024

**CCOM™/CCP™ PDHs:** 3.5

**Agenda Details Coming**

### **About the instructors:**

**Dr. Laura Kavanaugh** is an engineer, scientist and entrepreneur. She has degrees in Chemistry, Chemical Engineering and Mechanical Engineering from Purdue University and holds a Ph.D. from the University Program in Genetics and Genomics from Duke University. She has had a varied and extensive career which includes over 13 years working in the Space Shuttle Mission Control Center in Houston, TX and over 10 years working for Syngenta Biotechnology in Research Triangle Park, NC, working on bioinformatics, DNA sequencing, and soil microbes. She is currently founder and CEO of Genome Insights LLC which applies the latest DNA sequencing technologies to enhance regenerative farming and large composting operations. She also oversees the compost and liquid biological amendment operations for Union Grove Farm Vineyard in Chapel Hill, NC. The vineyard uses regenerative farming methods to grow a new seedless variety of muscadine table grape.