



Mann Library
spring/fall 2022

soil is life

Beneath our feet is one of Earth's most important resources. Crops grow in it. An astonishing diversity of life thrive in it. The health of our planet depends on it.

A series of exhibits on display at Mann Library over the spring, summer and fall months of 2022 celebrate the beauty and life-sustaining qualities of soil. Summarized in this zine are highlights from the program, starting with a few on-line resources recommended by Cornell scientists. What is soil? Where does it come from? How can we safeguard it? How does it safeguard us?

Take a browse to find out!

image: Atlas of American Agriculture USDA 1936

Visit bit.ly/cornell-soil-health-zine hosted by the Cornell Soil Health Lab for links to the following resources



General:

- Soils: Where Food Begins (FAO)
- Soil Science Society of America
- Cornell's Soil Monolith Collection

On Soil Health:

- Cornell Soil Health Laboratory
- Soil loss in the U.S. corn belt
- Manual for the Comprehensive Assessment of Soil Health (Cornell Framework)

Soil and Our Future:

- Johannes Lehmann Lab: **Info on bio-char, sustainable soil management, and carbon sequestration**
- **Carbon Dioxide Removal**; 2021 talk about on rock dust & carbon sequestration by Benjamin Houlton, The Ronald P. Lynch Dean of The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
- **Exploring soil health in outer space** (& what it could mean for Earth)

image: Atlas of American Agriculture USDA 1936

life is soil
grounded
soil is life

Soil is an element of our planetary ecosystem that teems with life forms mostly invisible to the naked eye. The qualities of soil influence the whole environment, from the types of plants it will support to how much carbon it might sequester.

Grounded, a new exhibit in the Mann Library Lobby, examines some of the different values that humans derive from soil, both historically and in the cutting-edge science being developed at Cornell University. Planned in collaboration with the Cornell Soil Health Lab.

Mann Library Lobby

image: Atlas of American Agriculture USDA 1936

THE TOP SHELF GALLERY @ MANN, 1ST FLOOR



A new exhibit in *The Top Shelf Gallery* explores the beauty and life-sustaining qualities of soil through the work of artist and scientist Kirsten Kurtz. The installation includes a selection of richly hued and textured soil paintings created both in her studio and during community celebrations. As the science and the art on display in this exhibit show, in appreciating the vibrancy of life found in healthy soil, we begin to better understand its importance to our future.

More of Kurtz' work may be seen at soilpainting.com and on Instagram at [@kirsten_kurtz](https://www.instagram.com/kirsten_kurtz)



Terra preta (detail)
Kirsten Kurtz
Soil and gesso
2021

18 Years of Mud Painting Jenifer Wightman

Mann Library Gallery

Detail of Moorstown NJ Mud, 2018



View (Randall's Island, NY, NY), 2013

A new exhibit at Mann Library presents a bioart installation by artist and life scientist Jenifer Wightman. In conjunction with a retrospective of Wightman's work, two living paintings created with mud collected from Beebe Lake are undergoing a remarkable transformation, driven by the microbes that live within; this installation is appearing on the 1st and 2nd floors of Mann Library as part of the Cornell 2022 Biennial.

To see more of Wightman's work, please visit: vimeo.com/199725740



Mann Library will be hosting more soil-related programming in Fall 2022. Stay in touch via our website or social media to learn more.

- @mann.library.cornell.edu/news
- facebook.com/mannlibrary
- twitter.com/Mann_Library
- instagram.com/mannlibrary

Mann Library gratefully acknowledges the help of numerous Cornell staff and faculty who helped make these exhibits possible, including:

F. Garrett Boudinot, Craig Cramer, Benjamin Houlton, Morgan Irons, Kirsten Kurtz, Johannes Lehmann, Jonathan Russell-Anelli, and Jenifer Wightman

