

Timothy Savas

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Tim Savas is a computational and mechanical tool builder working in the domains of biology and human expression. He is currently stationed with the OpenAg Initiative at MIT Media Lab, whose work in food-futurism has been featured in biology research publications and The Wall Street Journal.

Tim is a visual artist, songwriter, and comedian based in Cambridge, MA.

EDUCATION

New York University
Bachelor of Arts 2009
Honors in Environmental Studies

RESEARCH & PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Special Projects Assistant, The Open Agriculture Initiative

MIT Media Lab, Cambridge, MA 2016 - present

Hardware fabrication lead for future-of-food lab, deploying digital farming tools to global open-source community. Currently leading hardware manufacturing for Personal Food Computer v3.0. Assisting infrastructure design and build of OpenAg Food Servers in Boston, MA and Anjar, India. Pinch hitting on bio research and cotton production.

Research Assistant, Temporal Ecology Lab

Harvard University, Cambridge, MA 2014 - 2016

Led controlled growth chamber experiments for the study of woody plant species responses to future climate change. Executed literature review and extensive field work across Northeastern US and Montréal, Canada. Photographed and published visual data set of plant morphology rubric.

Photographer

Hitched Studios, Boston, MA 2014 - present

Second lead photographer for premier wedding photography studio (Best of Boston 2011). Still dislikes having own photo taken.

Owner, Lucid Elixir

Pretty Neat Ideas LLC, Boston, MA 2014 - present

Researched, developed, and launched oneirogenic nootropic supplement for dream induction. Currently combining skills in product photography, brand design, and front-end web development for winter 2019 relaunch.

Research Assistant, The Ecosystems Center

Marine Biological Lab, Woods Hole, MA 2010 - 2013

Designed and deployed robotic chamber system for the study of terrestrial GHG emissions from Northeastern forest soils. Built and operated custom modifications for field instrument applications. Enjoyed role as lead mentor to six semesters of visiting undergrads.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

E.C. Ferrer, J. Rye, G. Brander, T. Savas, D. Chambers, H. England, C. Harper. Personal Food Computer: A new device for controlled-environment agriculture. Presented at the Future Technologies Conference (FTC), 2017. [link]

T. Savas, D. F. B. Flynn, and E M. Wolkovich. 2017. A standardized photographic guide to woody plant spring phenology. Knowledge Network for Biocomplexity. [link]

SPEAKING & EXHIBITIONS

Macro Photographic Guide to Northeastern Woody Species
Photo exhibition, Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University 08/19

Decoding Plants
TEDx Talk, TEDxBeaconStreet 11/17

Digital Farming at MIT Media Lab
Invited lecture, Harvard Weld Hill Research Lecture Series 11/17

SKILLS

Mechanical

Software: Solidworks, Eagle, Rhino

CNC and CAM: laser and waterjet cutting, 3- and 5-axis milling, manual Bridgeport milling, 3D printing, others

Computer Science

Proficient: Javascript, HTML/CSS, C++, GitHub workflow

Beginner: openFrameworks, Python, Node.JS, R

Audiovisual

Proficient: Lightroom CC, Final Cut Pro X, Logic Pro X, Pro Tools, Motion, LRTIMElapse, photo and video studio lighting

Intermediate: InDesign, After Effects, Ableton Live

Post-Graduate Courses

Design Across Scales, Lean Farming, Introduction to Computer Programming Using Javascript, Fundamentals of Website

Development, Harvard University Machine Shop Certification, Video Lighting, Creative Explorations in Screen-Based and Physical Computing, Experiments in Art, Audio, and Augmentation