



Indiana to host the Eastern Native Grass Symposium

You are invited to attend the 10th Eastern Native Grass Symposium (ENGs). This year the ENGs will place special emphasis on the role that native grasses, legumes, and forbs play on working and natural landscapes. Sessions will feature topics related to improving soil health with warm season grasses, ecosystem restorations, forages and grazing, controlling invasive species, utilizing pollinators on working lands and landscaping, land reclamation with native plants, management of vegetation for wildlife, oak savannas and other relevant issues for native grasses in the eastern United States.

There is a great line up of speakers for Monday afternoon and Tuesday including, “The Soils Guy,” Ray Archuleta. Ray teaches soil health and the principles of agroecology throughout the country.

Ellen Jacquart is with The Nature Conservancy and works on invasive species issues at the state level. She is the Invasives Committee chair for the Indiana Native Plant and Wildflower Society, the chair of the Invasive Plant Species Assessment Working Group in Indiana, and a member of the Indiana Invasive Species Task Force.

Steve Clubine is a grassland management consultant, contract prescribed burner, writes native grass news for the Missouri Prairie Journal, does trade shows for Truax grass drills, and grazes stockers on his own property. He retired from the Missouri Department of Conservation after 33 years as a grassland wildlife biologist.

Chuck Stanley is considered a leading national expert on prescribed burning.

Dr. Pat Keyser is a professor and director for the Center for Native Grasslands Management at the University of Tennessee. In that role, Dr. Keyser provides regional and national leadership in the development and implementation of comprehensive research and outreach programs focused on a broad range of issues pertinent to the management of native grasslands. This includes work on use of native grasses in forage production systems for livestock, biofuels production, the integration of forage and biofuels, answering specific management questions for native grasses, restoration of natural grassland communities such as woodlands and savannas, and wildlife responses to native grasslands management.

Jef Hodges works with The National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative and Truax and has exceptional experience with native forages.



Ray Archuleta, “The Soil Guy”



Dr. Pat Keyser

Dr. Cris Hochwender has done over 25 years of research on plant defenses, plant tolerances, adaptation of plants, arthropod herbivore communities and restoration ecology with emphasis on insect communities.

John Foster is the executive director of the Wesselman Nature Society at Evansville and is an excellent speaker on pollinators.

Dave Howell, a former director for Quail Unlimited, now a Quail & Upland Game Alliance wildlife biologist has worked in the conservation field since 1972.

John Shuey is Director of Conservation Science for The Nature Conservancy. John guides the Indiana Chapter's efforts connected with scientific research, eco-regional planning, conservation site planning, and large-scale restoration planning, including the 8,000-acre Efroymsen Restoration at Kankakee Sands and is a local expert on oak savannas. Ted Anchor and Tony Capizzo, also from The Nature Conservancy, will be talking about the new bison ecosystem project at the Kankakee Sands.



Dr. Stephen Ball has been a professional archaeologist working in Indiana for 28 years. He was the assistant director for research at the Glenn A. Black Laboratory of Archaeology at Indiana University from 1999-2004. He has participated in excavations throughout Indiana, but has specialized in the Late Prehistoric societies (A.D. 1000-1400) of Indiana. Currently, he is the cultural resource specialist for the Indiana Natural Resources Conservation Service. Stephen will talk about man's influence on landscape in his normal entertaining style.

Kevin Tugesvick is a restoration ecologist with Spence Restoration Nursery and extremely knowledgeable on restorations and plants.

The program includes a choice between three tours on Wednesday morning: grazing and wildlife on reclaimed mine ground; managing native forages for wildlife; and a combination tour including an Angel Mounds restoration project, pollinators, warm season grasses, and green roofs.



Restoration ecologist,
Kevin Tugesvick

The symposium is August 29th-31st at the Tropicana in Evansville. Go to the following website to register: www.easternnativegrasssymposium.eventbrite.com. For complete agenda information go to [Eastern Native Grass Symposium](#) on Facebook or contact of the following Southwest Soil and Water Conservation Districts (all at Extension 3): Pike County SWCD, 812-354-6120; Gibson County, 812-385-5033; Warrick County, 812-897-2840; Vanderburgh County, 812-423-4426, and Posey County at 812-838-4191 or symposium chair Victor Shelton, NRCS State Agronomist/Grazing Specialist, victor.shelton@in.usda.gov or 317-341-3065.