Example #1 - Symposia Proposal

1. Type of Proposal: Symposia

2. Symposia organizer name, symposia title, and affiliation information:
Coulter, Dave. Life along the edges – a discussion of the value of field margins, hedgerows, and buffers in the modern landscape. Osage Inc., Oak Park, Illinois.

3. Symposia Abstract:

Field margins, hedgerows, and buffers are features in the landscape that are - depending on the eye of the beholder - either prized, despised, or somewhere in between. In the early 21st century such vegetated edges are attracting some renewed attention, especially in light of recent losses to pollinator and bee populations. On one hand, there is research that points to the habitat that can be gained by thoughtful installation and management of marginal areas consisting of native plantings. Conversely, there are also those who feel that these elements are merely harbors for invasive species, and are potential population sinks that do not really benefit wildlife. If this is an idea that is looking for a home, then where is it? The uses of hedgerows, conservation plantings, have been – at times - promoted in agricultural landscapes for many years, and for good ecological reasons. Can - and should – these plantings be expanded into urban areas? Overseas, the use and management of these marginal areas is a discipline in its own right, based on historical and cultural practices. Might there be room, in the American landscape, for such features? Where might it be? Are restorationists and landscape managers missing an opportunity to reinvigorate old practices for this modern era?

4. Names and affiliations of individual presenters and presentation titles:

Caldwell, Wendy*. Monarchs in the margins: creating and restoring habitat for pollinators. - Monarch Joint Venture, Saint Paul, Minnesota.

Ferree, Rhonda*. Volunteers work with partnering organizations to restore natural habitats within their local communities. University of Illinois Extentsion, Havana, Illinois.

Kleinwachter, Jim*. Improving existing greenways – using trails and waterways to connect open space. The Conservation Foundation, Naperville, Illinois.

Fisher, Adrian*. Do three shrubs make a hedgerow? Reflections on hedgerow structure and usefulness in several contexts. Triton College, River Grove, Illinois.

Example #2 - Workshop Proposal

1. Type of Proposal: Workshop

2. Workshop organizer name, workshop title, and affiliation information:

Rothrock, Paul E.* Sedge (*Carex* spp.) identification. Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana. Email: perothro@indiana.edu.

3. Workshop Abstract:

This workshop will consist of 3 parts: an introduction to the morphology of the genus Carex, an introduction to common species of Carex using a free public domain pictorial guide, and an opportunity to "test drive" the new Carex key. The genus Carex, with over 110 species in Indiana, is an important ecological component of our wetlands and forests. It also has a reputation for being a taxonomically difficult group. The pictorial guide, centered on the Chicago Region, illustrates 36 common or indicator species of sedge. The "Keys to Nature" webtool provides a format for combining traditional dichotomous keys with rich pictorial content to explicate diagnostic characters. Recently a metaversion for Carex in the western Great Lakes region has been completed. Limited to 15. Participants are asked to bring a wireless-capable computer.