

At the end of each year, each SER chapter and section is expected to provide a summary of their composition, financials, activities & accomplishments, logistical information, and challenges to the SER head office. This report facilitates the relationship between SER and SER chapters/sections by allowing the head office to know what challenges you face, what area's you require assistance in, and what new developments have occurred in your region/thematic focus.

In addition to logistical information, SER requires that all chapters provide their most up to date legal documentation such as chapter bylaws, articles of incorporation and any other documents deemed important for our records.

Please provide us with any pictures of your activities for possible use in the Annual Report, SERNews, and other marketing and promotional materials.

Chapter Documents Required for 2014:

Financial Report – Please submit a year-end financial report for your chapter. *An example will be provided to each chapter.*

Legal Documents/ Bylaws – Please submit a current copy of the chapter's bylaws, articles of incorporation, and any other legal documents that SER does not already have, or any documents which have changed over the past year. *If your chapter documentation has not changed, and no new documentation has been added, you do not need to submit.*

Chapter Photos -- Please provide SER with any photos from your activities throughout the year. Please title photos descriptively (*location, description of what is happening, date, and names*).

Board Composition

Please provide a list of the most up-to-date information on chapter leaders and members: (*can also submit in a separate file if that's easier*)

Executive Board:

Name	Title	Board Term	Email
Sal Spitale	Chair	2	salspitale@hotmail.com
Stephen Murphy	Past Chair	1	Stephen.murphy@uwaterloo.ca
Steve Smith	Treasurer	2	Stephen@ufora.ca

Other Board Members:

Name	Title	Board Term	Email
Dale Leadbeater	Continuing Education	3	dleadbeater@slrconsulting.com
Ash Baron	Membership	1	Baron.a@aquaforbeech.com
Megan Ihrig	Publications	2	meihrig@gmail.com

Nigel Finney	Field Trips	1	nfinner@hrca.on.ca
Rachel Voros	College/University Outreach and Scholarships	1	locavoros@gmail.com
Jeff Warren	AGM and Workshops	1	warren@mmm.ca

Committees & Committee Members

Name	Committee	Term (If applicable)	Emails
Sal Spitale	Native Plant Resource Guide (NPRG)		
Megan Ihrig	NPRG		meihrig@gmail.com
Ash Baron	NPRG		baron.a@aquaforbeech.com
Georgina Braoudakis	NPRG		georgina.braoudakis@mail.utoronto.ca
Mary Anne Young	NPRG		maryanneyoung1@gmail.com
Joseph Lance	NPRG		jma.lance@gmail.com

Strategic Plan

Please indicate your strategic plan for the coming year. If you do not have an official strategic plan, please provide a written summary of your chapter's plans for growth and continued success. If you have a strategic plan, please attach the plan to your email.

- We are participating in the Go Wild, Grow Wild Expo hosted by Carolinian Canada Coalition. <http://gowildgrowwild.ca/expo2015/GoWildGrowWild2015>. We will have a booth and will be promoting our organization to the public to increase our membership.
- We will have two field trips at restoration sites.
- We will be releasing our 7th edition of the Native Plant Resource Guide this coming fall.
- We will be awarding the 2015 scholarship, worth \$2000, to a well deserving student.

Events

Please provide the name of any major events your chapter held this year (e.g. annual meetings/conferences, field trips, workshops) along with a brief description of each. *Please include any*

images from these events in your email. Title images descriptively with the name of the event, date, and a description of what is occurring in the photo.

1. It Starts with Soil Symposium - March 1, 2014

- a. The Ontario Chapter of the Society for Ecological Restoration is pleased to offer the Annual Society for Ecological Restoration Symposium (SERO 2014). The Symposium will take place at the University of Guelph Arboretum Centre, located on Arboretum Road south of College Ave East in Guelph. This year's theme of "It Starts with the Soil..." has the goal of focusing on the role of 'soil' in ecological restoration. The purpose of the symposium is to allow students, academics and industry members to bridge the gap between theoretical based knowledge and real world application by engaging experts from academia and industry through lecture, and conversation.

This event focuses on providing an opportunity for students, practitioners, planners, and managers to extend their education beyond their current knowledge. It is our goal to make SERO 2014 an educational experience that will both enrich and inspire all attendees! SERO 2014 is expected to attract one hundred people for the day to attend lectures, and generate thoughtful and positive discussion. This year we hope to encourage students, citizens, and industry alike from a variety of disciplines to develop their skills and share their accomplishments, benefiting both the presenter and attendees, and provide a forum to develop potential innovations and creative ideas.

Objectives of the Symposium include:

Develop a working framework for what we mean by "soil": traditional, constructed, artificial

Identify the kinds of impacts sustained by soils: chemical; physical; biological; other

Identify solutions that will contribute to sustainability of projects and assist with adaptation to global change.

Select speakers include:

Richard Heck, Soils and Landscape Processes, School of Environmental Sciences,
University of Guelph - Soil Morphology At Several Scales

Dave Kroetsch, Senior Soil Resource Specialist, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Soil Essentials for Restoration

Mike MacTavish, University of Waterloo
Earthworms and Soil

Autumn Watkinson, Laurentian University
Surrogate Soils

Chris Morrison, Arborist and Urban Soil Management
Healing the Soil: BMPs for urban soils

Maren Oelbermann, Department of Environment and Resource Studies, University of
Waterloo
Agroecosystems to Restore Degraded Soil and Sequester Carbon

2. Field Trips

Property	Agency	Location	Restoration Efforts	Date
Taquanyah Conservation Area	Grand River Conservation Authority	Cayuga	Stream, marsh, swamp, and vernal pool	Thursday June 19, 2014
Backus Woods	Nature Conservancy of Canada and TOARC	Norfolk County	Grassland and aggregate	Saturday September 13, 2014

3. Ontario Invasive Plant Council and Society for Ecological Restoration in Ontario Symposium and Annual General Meeting

- a. The Ontario Invasive Plant Council (OIPC) and the Society for Ecological Restoration Ontario (SERO) are holding a joint Annual General Meeting on September 15/16, 2014 in Peterborough. The meeting will include a day of field visits and a second day for presentations. Monday Sept 15th includes the field tours and an evening social. Tuesday Sept 16th is the conference date which will include the presentations and networking opportunities. There is wide interest in this joint AGM as invasive plants are an important focus for both organizations. The meeting will provide an opportunity for practitioners, researchers and industry to present their work and discuss the nature and management of invasive plants

Communications

Please indicate any communications tools launched and/or publications produced by your chapter in 2014:

Name of communication/publication (e.g. social media platforms, newsletters, books, guides)	Brief description (include link to websites)

Other Major Accomplishments

Provide a brief description the accomplishment

Awarded a scholarship worth \$2000 to a well deserving student.

Year-End Chapter Summary

Each chapter will need to provide a short summary of their activities in 2014 for SER's Annual Report. In each Annual Report the SER head office includes a section on the activities and accomplishments of each chapter/section from the year.

Please Note: Summaries should be no more than 250 words. Summaries should be written with care as they will appear in the Annual Report (please use third person).

SER Ontario (SERO) had a successful year including the awarding of the annual SERO scholarship, a Soils Symposium, a joint AGM/Symposium with the Ontario Invasive Plant Council, as well as two field trips.

Each year SERO offers a non-renewable scholarship of \$2000 to a student enrolled in an Ontario community college or an undergraduate student at an Ontario university. Brock Trojahn, was our scholarship winner.

SERO held two field trip opportunities this summer. Our first field trip included a tour of Taquanyah Conservation Area, Cayuga, a previous reservoir, now a reconstructed wetland that is now managed for coldwater stream habitat, marsh habitat, seasonal wetlands, and swamp. Our second field trip took place at the Nature Conservancy of Canada's Backus Woods, Norfolk County. In 2010, a large-scale field study was established to test the best way to grow grassland plants in sand pits. During this field trip the efficiency of planting approaches, mycorrhizal inoculation, biochar and municipal compost treatments on a former sand pit were discussed.

SERO held a symposium titled "*It Starts with the Soil...*". This symposium had the goal of focusing on the role of 'soil' in ecological restoration. The purpose of the symposium was to allow students, academics and industry members to bridge the gap between theoretical based knowledge and real world application by engaging experts from academia and industry through lecture, and conversation.

The Ontario Invasive Plant Council (OIPC) SERO held a joint AGM and Symposium on September 15/16, 2014 in Peterborough including a day of field visits and a second day for presentations.

Greatest Accomplishment & Photo

Please provide one sentence of your chapter/sections greatest accomplishment, or of a fun memory/activity, in 2014. Please attach in the email containing your annual report one high quality photo to accompany this sentence or that represents your group/membership. Photo should be from 2014.

Chapter Challenges

Please describe any challenges your chapter is currently facing and ways you are trying to overcome them. *Please include any comments on how you believe the SER head office could assist in supporting your chapter with these challenges.*

Volunteer Hours

Please provide the number of volunteers and an estimate of the total number of volunteer hours contributed by your chapter (*estimate if you're unsure*):

12 volunteers –total of 600 hours

Additional comments? Please provide any additional comments that you have for the SER staff, Board, or just general comments you wish to include.