

Annual SER Mid-Atlantic Conference Workshop*
Plant Stewardship Index (PSI) and Floristic Quality Assessment (FQA)
Tools to Evaluate the Ecological Integrity of Native Plant Communities

Thursday March 20, 2014 - 8:45 AM to 4:30 PM

Location: Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve, New Hope, Pennsylvania

Sponsored by:



Featuring:

Jared Rosenbaum, PSI
Coordinator - Bowman's Hill
Wildflower Preserve

Sarah Chamberlain,
Senior Research Assistant -
Riparia
Penn State University

Kathleen Walz,
New Jersey Department of
Environmental Protection -
Natural Heritage Program

Doug DeBerry, PhD,
College of William and Mary

**CEUs are currently being
arranged and will be
announced on the
Conference website (see
link below)**

- Do you need a tool to measure the improved conservation value for an enhancement-style restoration?
- Are you looking for a reliable and repeatable method to evaluate conservation value for a land donation?
- Would you like to know about recent advances in Floristic Quality Assessment from the Mid-Atlantic region's experts?
- Are you curious about the metrics and math used to develop the FQA/PSI?

The FQA and PSI provide promising solutions to these and other related questions.

FQA is a method used to measure the ecological integrity of a plant community. The PSI is an FQA tool specifically developed for plants within regions of New Jersey and the Pennsylvania Piedmont. FQAs and the PSI are currently receiving attention from Federal and State regulatory agencies as appropriate methods to evaluate conservation value. Also researchers are currently developing rapid bio-assessment methods.

Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve is a leader in PSI development and training. The workshop features training and presentation from Bowman's PSI Coordinator and a team of respected FQA researchers from the Mid-Atlantic region. They will provide valuable insights and extensive personal experience for workshop participants.

This workshop will teach you how to conduct an FQA and PSI; introduce you to leaders in the field of FQA research; and provide an understanding of the FQAs and PSI process that may allow you to follow and contribute to emerging regulatory considerations.

The workshop will be held at the Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve, which is a 25-mile drive from Temple's Ambler campus.

Workshop Schedule

8:45- 9:00 Registration and Coffee

Welcome from Miles Arnott, Executive Director of Bowman's Hill and Introductions to Featured Presenters and Review of Workshop Goals

Morning Session I

- Bowman's Hill PSI Inventory Training - *Rosenbaum*

Morning Session II

- The Process for Developing Coefficients of Conservatism in the Mid-Atlantic and Using the FQA as a Bio-Assessment Tool - *Chamberlain*

Lunch (To Be Provided – Boxed Lunches with Vegetarian Options)

Afternoon Session I

- Tour of the Bowman's Hill Grounds with Jared Rosenbaum and observe a demonstration of some of the PSI field techniques.

Afternoon Session II

- Development of NJ's FQA for Vascular and Non-Vascular Plants and Use of FQA Metrics in Ecological Integrity Assessments for Wetlands - *Walz*
- Rapid Floristic Quality Assessment –*Chamberlain* and Walz
- FQAs Development in Virginia and Lessons Learned from the Field- *DeBerry*
- Next Steps – *a Panel Discussion*

4:30 Distribute Certificates and CEUs

Post-Workshop Gathering (optional): Meet for dinner with participants from the Workshop and Early Arrivers to the SER Mid-Atlantic Conference*. Dinner venue and time to be announced.

* This workshop is presented as part of the SER Mid-Atlantic 9th Annual Conference at Temple University – Ambler Campus on Friday March 21, 2014 and Field Trips to Restoration Sites in PA and NJ on Saturday March 22, 2014. Register at <http://chapter.ser.org/midatlantic/>. The website includes details on CEUs, lodging suggestions near New Hope and Ambler, PA, and other information.