

Example #1 - Symposia Proposal

1. Type of Proposal: Symposia

2. Symposia organizer name, symposia title, and affiliation information:

Damm, Mary C. Ecological restoration on farmland. Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana.
Email: mdamm@indiana.edu

3. Symposia Abstract:

With increased nutrient loading creating hypoxic zones in the Great Lakes and Gulf of Mexico, major flood events in the upper Mississippi River watershed, and continued decline in grassland bird and insect populations throughout the region, the need for repairing degraded habitat on some of the 550,373 km² of farmland in the Midwestern United States is greater than ever. Federal Farm Bill programs provide financial support to farmers for conservation and restoration practices on farmland. The programs are the main way most farmers think and make decisions about incorporating ecological restoration practices on their land. For example, the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) and the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) support ecological restoration on farms. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and non-profit farmer advocate organizations (Practical Farmers of Iowa, Land Stewardship Project) work directly with farmers and have successfully communicated the need for ecological restoration through the broader objectives of improving soil health, improving water quality, and creating wildlife and insect habitat. Conservation organizations incorporate restoration practices on farmland by encouraging Federal Farm Bill conservation practices on currently farmed lands and restoring native plant communities on former croplands. In this symposium, an NRCS biologist, a farm owner, a restoration practitioner, and a restoration researcher will describe their work involving ecological restoration on current farmland and former croplands. The overall goal of the symposium is to facilitate better collaboration between the restoration and agricultural communities to implement more effective restoration efforts on farmland and highlight opportunities for restoration on Midwestern farms.

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

Damm, Mary C. Prairie Quest Farm: working land conservation and restoration. Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana.

Lenhart, Christian. Tradeoffs between water storage, nutrient removal, and plant community diversity in restored wetlands within agricultural watersheds. University of Minnesota, St. Paul, Minnesota.

May, Christopher A. Agricultural spectrum: ecological restoration of old fields, sustainable practices on existing fields. The Nature Conservancy, Lansing, Michigan.

Zay, Daniel. Ecological restoration opportunities in the agricultural landscape. USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, East Lansing, Michigan.

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

5. Bios of the symposium organizer and/or individual speakers:

Mary Damm: Mary Damm is a plant ecologist with work experience with The Nature Conservancy conducting field studies of riparian and wetland plant communities in Colorado and writing descriptions of plant communities of the western region of the United States. She returned to her home state to attend Indiana University for a PhD in Biology and researches the endangered black-soil tallgrass prairie in Iowa studying plant species diversity and soil characteristics and micro-spatial patterns of plants in restored and native prairies. She also works with farmers in Iowa teaching soils and conducting floristic inventories of pasture-based farms. In 2015 she purchased beautiful Prairie Quest Farm, which produces grass-fed beef and bobolinks, in the Driftless Region of Northeast Iowa.

Christian Lenhart: Christian Lenhart is a research professor in the Department of Bioproducts and Biosystems Engineering at the University of Minnesota and a restoration scientist for The Nature Conservancy's Minnesota-North Dakota-South Dakota Chapter. His research focuses on restoration and management of streams and wetlands, especially in agricultural watersheds. He also teaches ecological engineering design and global sustainability classes. Originally from Defiance, Ohio, he has also been involved in wetland restoration in the Lake Erie Basin. He has degrees from Notre Dame, the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and the University of Minnesota. He is the co-editor of the new book "Ecological Restoration in the Midwest. Past, Present, and Future" which was recently published by the University of Iowa Press.

Christopher May: Chris May is Director of Restoration for The Nature Conservancy in Michigan. He directs state-wide natural resource management and restoration efforts, and works with diverse partners to conduct conservation planning at a range of geographic scales. Chris has been involved in research and management of natural resources for over 28 years. He received his B.S. in Biology from Baylor University in Waco, Texas and his M.S. in Wildlife Management from Humboldt State University in Arcata, California. His past work experience includes restoration of aquatic, wetland, and upland habitats; invasive species management; prescribed fire and wildland firefighting; and use of GIS for natural resource management. Before moving to Michigan, Chris spent 5 years with the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources on the Gulf Coast.

Daniel Zay: Daniel Zay is the Michigan NRCS State Biologist. He works in the Ecological Sciences Division providing outreach on conservation biology and biological technical support to the field offices. His main activities include staff training regarding biological conservation practices and supporting implementation of the state wetland conservation program requirements of the Food Security Act (Farm Bill). Dan has a wealth of professional experience most recently from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 404 Regulatory Program, Louisville District, where he

provided wetland permit review and enforcement throughout Indiana. After graduating from Purdue University, Dan began his career as the Roadside Coordinator for the Indiana Department of Transportation, and then worked as a Regional Ecologist for the Indiana DNR, Division of Nature Preserves. In the private sector as a consultant Dan, lead wetland permitting and mitigation projects, biological studies, and conducted NEPA clearance efforts for transportation and airport projects throughout the Midwest.

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.

4. Bio of the workshop instructor:

Paul Rothrock is a graduate of Rutgers, The State University, and received his master’s and doctorate degrees from Pennsylvania State University, majoring in Botany with emphasis in Plant Ecology and Plant Taxonomy. He is one of North America’s, and especially Indiana’s, most prominent plant taxonomists and botanists with his research contributions spanning more than three decades. He has published nearly 50 peer-reviewed scientific publications, including five book chapters and one book. His expertise is within the area of sedge taxonomy and he has published *Sedges of Indiana: The Non-Carex Species* in 2009. Previously he developed the treatment for the genus *Carex* for the *Plants of Pennsylvania: An Illustrated Manual* (University of Pennsylvania 2000) and made major contributions to the *Flora of North America* volume 23. He has described 3 new Midwestern species and brought species status to 3 others, as well as leading the development of the Floristic Quality Assessment protocol for Indiana. Paul was

elected Indiana Academy of Science Fellow in 1992 and received the Indiana Academy of Sciences Distinguished Scholar Award in 2014.