# Epic Fails & Triumphant Results Proposals

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### Collaborative Presentations

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Presentation Title: 
Great Rivers Chicago public engagement process: how ideas from 6,000+ people were collected, coded and analyzed

Presentation Type: Breakfast of Champions (45 minutes; 1 table host)

Presentation Description: The vision of Our Great Rivers – by 2040 Chicago’s rivers will be inviting, productive and living for all Chicagoans and visitors – was developed and articulated by thousands of stakeholders through an intensive 18-month, citywide visioning process led by the Metropolitan Planning Council, in partnership with the Office of the Mayor of the City of Chicago, Friends of the Chicago River and more, called Great Rivers Chicago. The process was truly visionary and innovative—no other comprehensive regional vision for our three major rivers has ever been created through such robust community engagement. Our Great Rivers is the result of the most varied and sweeping public engagement process in the 82-year history of the Metropolitan Planning Council. With help from Friends of the Chicago River and the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, whenever possible MPC met people where they use—or hope to use—our rivers, to see the present and future through their eyes. There were nine community open house meetings, plus factory visits, paddling trips, site walks, bike rides, boat tours, design charrettes and more. There were more than 100 formal and informal opportunities for Chicagoans to tell MPC their vision. MPC partnered with local community groups to host highly successful meetings that reflected the diversity of the communities living alongside our rivers. More than 3,800 people filled out MPC’s English and Spanish-language online surveys. All told, MPC and partners gathered insight from more than 6,000 local residents to shape this vision and action plan for our rivers. This session will share best practices and lessons learned in this process and the various outreach methods used (in person focus groups, community meetings, online surveys). This session will also help provide specific expertise in the methods used to collect a range of qualitative data, how MPC created a master database for the outreach input and the coding methodology used to turn qualitative feedback into useful information that was analyzed, leveraged and incorporated into the final vision draft.

Learning Objectives: Robust community engagement tactics. Attendees will walk away learning about a range of examples of community engagement around current conditions and future aspirations stakeholders have about natural assets like our rivers through the various approaches deployed by MPC. Lessons learned, including what would be done differently next time, will be shared. Qualitative data collection and analysis. Attendees will learn about best practices in different approaches to question formulation and information solicitation in MPC’s community engagement process. Attendees will also hear about how master database for recording and coding the qualitative input received during all community outreach activities was established and how the analysis of such data was conducted.

Desired Track: Epic Fails & Triumphant Results: Data Driven Learning
Focus Area: Beyond the Choir, Water as a Resource, Data

Delivered presentation previously: no

If yes, last presentation: n/a

Permission to share email: yes

Permission to share presentation slides: yes

Name: Sarah Cardona
Organization: Metropolitan Planning Council
Profession: Associate
Email: scardona@metroplanning.org
Phone: 312.863.6009
Presentation Title:
How and Why to Align Environmental Education with NGSS

Presentation Type: Breakfast of Champions (45 minutes; 1 table host)

Presentation Description: Chicago Wilderness has evolved over the last 20 years, and so too have science education standards. Initiatives from both arenas can work together to improve science education and conservation of natural areas, as well as the future of Chicago Wilderness. This breakfast session is for educators or anyone working with youth in natural areas. It will include a hands-on activity that demonstrates how students engaged in the processes of science while learning environmental science concepts will develop a more profound understanding of science and motivation to preserve natural areas. We will discuss practical ways to enhance learning in out-of-school-time programs by connecting activities with Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS).

Learning Objectives: Attendees will: - Learn/review the "Nature of Science" and "Science & Engineering Practices" as defined in the NGSS; - Gather ideas for connecting environmental education and conservation work (both in and out of school time) to NGSS in order to prepare students to become responsible citizens.

Desired Track: Epic Fails & Triumphant Results: Data Driven Learning

Focus Area: Beyond the Choir

Delivered presentation previously: Yes, a modified version

If yes, last presentation: 3-hour workshop at the 2016 EEAI conference in Canton, IL, March 12, 2016

Permission to share email: yes

Permission to share presentation slides: yes

Name: Katherine Johnson
Organization: Chicago Botanic Garden
Profession: Youth Education Director
Email: kjohnson@chicagobotanic.org
Phone: 847-835-8343
Presentation Title: 
Introducing Sociology to Youth: The Coyote Interview Project

Presentation Type: Individual Presentation (12 minutes; 1 speaker)

Presentation Description: Over the summer of 2015 Cook County Forest Preserves’ Youth Outdoor Ambassadors interviewed citizens throughout Cook County about their perceptions of the “urban coyote”. This presentation is offered as a model to introduce scientific topics to youth and have them take part in a small scale sociological study.

Additional Session Information: This talk focuses on the Youth Outdoor Ambassador (YOA) program and specifically identifies the urban coyote interview project as a past opportunity offered by the program. We will introduce the YOA program as a whole and talk briefly about all the internship placement opportunities with the Forest Preserves of Cook County. Next, I will transition into the urban coyote interview project and identify the areas of the research project that positioned our interns at the heart of a county wide sociological research study. The Coyote Interview Project is a research initiative designed by the Education Outreach section of the Forest Preserves of Cook County. It is intended to support the Urban Coyote Project, a fifteen-year collaboration between the Wildlife department of the Forest Preserves of Cook County, Ohio State University, Cook County Rabies and Animal Control, and Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation. Our interns navigated data collection protocols, sample size bias, and interpretation of results. Participants will leave with learning about the results but how we introduced young people to interpreting scientific content to the public and interviewing the citizens of Cook County.

Learning Objectives: -Participants will see learn about the design of a youth lead sociological study. -Participants will learn about the ongoing research of the Urban Coyote Research Project. -Participants will learn about the data collection protocols used in this study. -Participants will learn about the Youth Outdoor Ambassador Program offered by the Forest Preserves of Cook County.

Desired Track: Epic Fails & Triumphant Results

Focus Area: Data

Delivered presentation previously: no

If yes, last presentation: n/a

Permission to share email: yes

Permission to share presentation slides: yes
Name: Adam Kessel
Organization: Forest Preserves of Cook County
Profession: Naturalist
Email: adam.kessel@cookcountyil.gov
Phone: 847-293-5506
Presentation Title: **Modeling Chicago Wilderness’ Green Infrastructure Vision on the Landscape and the Effects of Climate Change on Groundwater, Surface Water, and Ecosystem Services in the Kankakee River Basin**

Presentation Type: Individual Presentation (12 minutes; 1 speaker)

Presentation Description: Results of simulations from an integrated surface water/groundwater simulation model of the Kankakee basin above Wilmington, IL, includes streamflow in the Kankakee River, groundwater recharge, and groundwater levels of present day landcover and a realized Chicago Wilderness GIV landcover are compared for a) the historical climate (1980-2013), and b) projected future climate conditions for the 2050s and 2080s.

Additional Session Information: Presentation Title: Modeling Chicago Wilderness's Green Infrastructure Vision on the landscape and the Effects of Climate Change on Groundwater, Surface Water, and Ecosystem Services in the Kankakee River basin Presenting Author: Tamatha A. Patterson1 Alan F. Hamlet2, Chun-Mei Chiu2, Diogo Bolster2, Mark Schurr3, Ralph GrunDel4, Noel Pavlovic4, Dave Lampe5, Jessica Hellmann6 1Department of Biological Sciences, University of Notre Dame 2Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering and Earth Science, University of Notre Dame 3Department of Anthropology, University of Notre Dame 4U.S. Geological Survey, Great Lakes Science Center 5USGS Indiana Water Science Center 6Institute on the Environment and Department of Ecology, Evolution and Behavior, University of Minnesota  Climate change is hypothesized to bring important hydrologic changes to the Kankakee River basin including a large portion of the Chicago Wilderness area. The Chicago Wilderness GIV 2.0 is designed to guide restoration within the Kankakee watershed of the CW region impacting agriculture, remnant wetland ecosystems, and potential wetland restoration efforts intended to provide ecosystem services such as surface water retention and groundwater recharge, floodwater retention, habitat for breeding and migrating waterfowl, and recreational opportunities for the public. Using an integrated surface water/groundwater simulation model of the Kankakee basin above Wilmington, IL, we ran simulations of streamflow in the Kankakee River, groundwater recharge, and groundwater levels for a) the historical climate (1980-2013), and b) projected future climate conditions for the 2050s and 2080s of present day landcover and a realized Chicago Wilderness GIV landcover. Locating wetland restorations to provide sustainable ecosystem services is a challenge for land managers and planners who may lack the capacity to make a detailed assessment of alternative scenarios particularly when considering climate change. By building planning tools that assess the wetland restoration areas proposed by the GIV 2.0 in terms of ground and surface waters and ecosystem services, we can provide land managers with detailed comparisons of ecosystem service delivery under present and changing climate projections.

Learning Objectives: hydrologic effects of climate change in large portion of the CW area and effects of large scale restoration as designed in the CW GIV2.0.
Desired Track: Epic Fails & Triumphant Results

Focus Area: Oak Ecosystems, Water as a Resource

Delivered presentation previously: no

If yes, last presentation: n/a

Permission to share email: yes

Permission to share presentation slides: yes

Name: Tamatha Patterson
Organization: USGS/UMGL LCC
Profession: Conservation Ecologist
Email: tpatterson@usgs.gov
Phone: 219-926-8336
Presentation Title:
Conserving a rare orchid: using genetics to assess & monitor over 20 years of eastern prairie fringed orchid restoration

Presentation Type: Individual Presentation (12 minutes; 1 speaker)

Presentation Description: In collaboration with the US Fish & Wildlife Service, volunteers have conducted over twenty years of genetic restoration in the Chicago region to recover and restore populations of the eastern prairie fringed orchid (Platanthera leucophaea). We conducted a genetic monitoring study and assessed reproductive fitness to directly measure the impacts of these restoration practices. This work informs future recovery planning for P. leucophaea as well as other species facing reproductive failure in fragmented habitats. Additionally, we highlight the incredible value of volunteer action and USFWS facilitated recovery of threatened species.

Additional Session Information: The target audience for this talk is anyone interested in the recovery of threatened species, and will therefore be approachable to potential volunteers, land managers, scientists, and private land owners. This work relates directly to the Congress theme: volunteers have been working for over twenty years to recover this orchid in the Chicago region and have documented this restoration through citizen-science data collection. My collaborative thesis (with the Chicago Botanic Garden/Northwestern University and US Fish and Wildlife Service, Chicago Field Office) assesses the management practices that have been used in the past, and provides guidance for future species recovery planning. My work fits directly into track one, as it emphasizes the importance of genetic monitoring of restoration, assesses the impact of volunteer/citizen-science restoration and data collection, and concludes with what we have learned from over 20 years of restoration work conducted by volunteer and FWS collaboration.

Learning Objectives: 1. The impact of genetic recovery actions on P. leucophaea over time, how this informs future species recovery actions, and the importance of volunteer action and FWS facilitation that makes this possible. 2. The broader value of genetic monitoring of species and restoration practices for conservation planning.

Desired Track: Epic Fails & Triumphant Results

Focus Area: Priority Species, Data

Delivered presentation previously: Yes, a modified version

If yes, last presentation: Botany 2016, Savannah GA

Permission to share email: yes

Permission to share presentation slides: yes
Name: Claire Ellwanger
Organization: US Fish and Wildlife Service/Chicago Botanic Garden/Northwestern University
Profession: MS student & FWS Orchid Recovery Team Liaison
Email: cf.ellwanger@gmail.com
Phone: 443-928-0432
Presentation Title:  
Prioritizing Habitat Management for Priority Species

Presentation Type: Individual Presentation (12 minutes; 1 speaker)

Presentation Description: Horicon Marsh National Wildlife Refuge is managed by the USFWS. This wetland complex containing over 20,000 acres of marsh is an important habitat for many species. The refuge is also home to oak savanna, dry mesic prairie, forests, and riverine habitat. In 2016, Cardno assisted the refuge in developing a habitat management plan for the refuge. One key focus of this habitat management plan was selecting priority focal resources and subsequently identifying priority habitats and units on which to focus management. Using a series of decision support tools, Cardno and USFWS worked collaboratively to refine priorities and direction for future management at the marsh.

Additional Session Information: This session will highlight the application of decision tools and the findings of the planning effort. It can provide a case study or a real-world example for other land managers and regional planners.

Learning Objectives: As a result of this session, attendees will learn 1) about the range of decision support tools that can be used in planning efforts, and 2) how the application of multiple tools can be used to prioritize and focus limited time and funds to accomplish management goals.

Desired Track: Epic Fails & Triumphant Results

Focus Area: Oak Ecosystems, Priority Species, Data, Landowners

Delivered presentation previously: no

If yes, last presentation: n/a

Permission to share email: yes

Permission to share presentation slides: yes

Name: Dan Salas
Organization: Cardno
Profession: Senior Ecologist, ESA
Email: dan.salas@cardno.com
Phone: 608-661-2955
Presentation Title: Prioritizing and Implementing Large-scale Invasive Species Management

Presentation Type: Individual Presentation (12 minutes; 1 speaker)

Presentation Description: The Ho-Chunk Nation owns and manages over 12,000 acres of land across Wisconsin. Recently, Cardno worked with the Ho-Chunk Nation to inventory invasive species populations on nearly one-third of tribal lands. Based on the inventory, a prioritization process was developed in collaboration with the Ho-Chunk Nation to identify key areas for control. Since its completion, control efforts have been implemented using the results of this large-scale inventory and prioritization. This session will describe the data collected, analysis completed, and lessons learned from implementation of the plan.

Additional Session Information: This session is intended for individuals involved in land management and invasive species control. Attendees will see how assessment and planning can be put into action, plus see how implementation can inform future adaptive management.

Learning Objectives: As a result attendees will learn 1) considerations for developing decision tools regarding invasive species management, as well as 2) how to use implementation to inform adaptive management.

Desired Track: Epic Fails & Triumphant Results

Focus Area: Oak Ecosystems, Data, Landowners

Delivered presentation previously: Yes, a modified version

If yes, last presentation: Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference, Duluth MN in Nov. 2014

Permission to share email: yes

Permission to share presentation slides: yes

Name: Dan Salas
Organization: Cardno
Profession: Senior Ecologist, ESA
Email: dan.salas@cardno.com
Phone: 608-661-2955
Presentation Title:
Bringing storm water retention to new heights: Maximizing green roof benefits with native plants

Presentation Type: Individual Presentation (12 minutes; 1 speaker)

Presentation Description: With the most green roofs in North America, Chicago buildings capture a large volume of storm water. However, most green roofs are planted with non-native succulent species that provide few additional ecological benefits to the larger urban community. Research conducted in the CW region now demonstrates that local native plant species from shortgrass prairies can survive on green roofs and can potentially provide greater storm water capture than the commonly used non-native succulents.

Additional Session Information: This presentation will describe new research carried out on green roofs in the Chicago region. Data from vegetation and soil surveys of dolomite, gravel hill, and sand prairies were used to set up green roof plots that mimicked local natural areas. Plots at three locations have been monitored for four years and data suggest that it’s possible to establish prairie-like communities on green roofs. Controlled experiments using the same prairie mixes in experimental green roof trays revealed that rock prairie mixes capture storm water as well as, if not better than, traditional non-native succulent mixes. These data support strategies that fall under the umbrella of using “habitat analog” techniques to improve future green roof design. Because this presentation brings together habitat restoration and the built environment, the target audience is a mix of engineers, landscape architects, ecologists, horticulturists, urban planners, and gardening enthusiasts. The presentation fits into the track of “Epic fails and triumphant results” as it uses data-driven results to recommend future strategies for using green roofs as native species habitat and for storm water retention on both privately and publically owned buildings.

Learning Objectives: As a result of this presentation, attendees will understand the habitat and storm water retention benefits of increasing native habitat in underutilized urban spaces, such as rooftops. Attendees will learn about new research that supports using particular native Midwest plant species on green roofs.

Desired Track: Epic Fails & Triumphant Results

Focus Area: Water as a Resource, Data, Landowners

Delivered presentation previously: Yes, a modified version

If yes, last presentation: North American Congress for Conservation Biology, July 2016

Permission to share email: yes
Permission to share presentation slides: no

Name: Kelly Ksiazek-Mikenas
Organization: Northwestern University and The Chicago Botanic Garden
Profession: PhD Candidate
Email: kellyksiazek2011@u.northwestern.edu
Phone: 847-716-0688
Presentation Title:  
Monarch larval monitoring demonstrates the importance of urban milkweed patches in Chicago

Presentation Type: Individual Presentation (12 minutes; 1 speaker)

Presentation Description: Methodology from the citizen science initiative “Monarch Larva Monitoring Project” was applied to naturally occurring common milkweed patches along an urbanization gradient in Chicago. Throughout an entire migratory season, variation in larval abundance and survival was documented for nine sites ranging from a nature preserve to the urban core. Contrary to expectations, results suggest that urban and rural milkweed patches may support equal monarch larval populations, and that suburban patches may serve as “larval hot spots” supporting significantly more monarchs than both landscape types.

Additional Session Information: The target audience for this presentation is anyone who may be well suited to monitor for the Monarch Larva Monitoring Project (either at the level of an individual or an organization) as well as those who are involved in other monarch conservation initiatives in the Chicago area. This presentation topic is extremely relevant for this venue as monarch butterflies are one of the 12 priority species identified by Chicago Wilderness. As a large collaborative effort is currently underway to develop a Landscape Conservation Design for monarchs in Chicago, this presentation directly relates to the congress theme by allowing us to envision certain future directions for Chicago Wilderness in years to come. Attendees will benefit from this session by being exposed to a powerful citizen science initiative, being educated about the role unmanaged milkweed populations are already playing in monarch reproduction, and will leave with a better understanding of how the urban landscape can contribute to monarch conservation.

Learning Objectives: 1. The role unmanaged common milkweed populations in urban areas currently play in monarch reproduction. 2. How national citizen science methods can be employed at the regional level to inform conservation goals.

Desired Track: Epic Fails & Triumphant Results

Focus Area: Priority Species

Delivered presentation previously: Yes, a modified version

If yes, last presentation: Illinois State Academy of Science Meeting, Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville, April 2016

Permission to share email: yes
Permission to share presentation slides: no

Name: Jessa Finch
Organization: Chicago Botanic Garden
Profession: PhD Candidate
Email: jfinch@chicagobotanic.org
Phone: 410-562-5296
Presentation Title:

Project Budburst at Highcrest Middle School

Presentation Type: Individual Presentation (12 minutes; 1 speaker)

Presentation Description: Project Budburst is a citizen science program that the Chicago Botanic Garden uses to teach 5th graders at Wilmette's Highcrest Middle School about what plants tell us about climate change. This program teaches students to identify plants in their native garden, introduces them to conservation work at the Garden, and promotes a message that conservation is a key to a sustainable future.

Additional Session Information: Building and sustaining a strong conservation constituency begins with environmental education for our youth. Our conservation work can only be sustainable if we plan for our own succession by teaching and training the next generation of conservation leaders. Project BudBurst is one program that can encourage people, including youth, to be more aware of their natural surroundings and care about them. The target audience for the session is educators and anyone else interested in participating in this national citizen science program by monitoring bloom timing of oak woodland and prairie species. Project BudBurst teaches students about plant life cycles in the real world, and fosters a sense of love and respect them, which is a necessary component of a conservation ethic, and an essential trait in our future conservation leaders.

Learning Objectives: Attendees will:
1. Learn how to participate in a national citizen science project, Project BudBurst.
2. Learn how to integrate Project BudBurst into an elementary science curriculum.
3. See a great example of using native woodland wildflowers in a schoolyard habitat to learn about conservation and climate change.

Desired Track: Epic Fails & Triumphant Results

Focus Area: Beyond the Choir

Delivered presentation previously: no

If yes, last presentation: n/a

Permission to share email: yes

Permission to share presentation slides: yes

Name: Katherine Johnson
Organization: Chicago Botanic Garden
Profession: Youth Education Director
Email: kjohnson@chicagobotanic.org
Phone: 847-835-8343
Presentation Title:
Strategies to Mitigate Predation on the Federally Threatened Pitcher's Thistle at Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

Presentation Type: Individual Presentation (12 Minutes; 1 Speaker)

Presentation Description: Predation pressures from bio-control weevils and goldfinches on Pitcher's thistle are significantly decreasing seed production at the southern extent of their native range in Indiana. Mitigation of these threats is essential to protecting the future of this species along Lake Michigan. Strategies including population augmentation, pheromone based mass trapping and habitat modeling would result in more resilient populations in the face of climate change.

Additional Session Information: This presentation is directed towards any conservation professional that is concerned with species extinction at any level. The health of a plant population is also directly tied to the health of the habitat as a whole. Communities will not survive if we cannot find a way to connect our fragmented habitats. Collaborations and education are the keys to preparing our habitats for new stresses that our landscapes will have to endure in the future.

Learning Objectives: The importance of threatened species as indicators of habitat health and the direction future research should be headed with regard to resilience and plant communities.

Desired Track: Epic Failures & Triumphant Results

Focus Area: Oak Ecosystems, Priority Species

Delivered presentation previously: no

If yes, last presentation: n/a

Permission to share email: yes

Permission to share presentation slides: yes

Submission Information

Name: Megan K Korte
Organization: US Geological Survey
Profession: Biotechnician
Email: mkorte@usgs.gov
Phone: 219-926-8336 x420
Presentation Title:  
Headwater Streams of the Chicago Wilderness Region

Presentation Type: Individual Presentation (12 minutes; 1 speaker)

Presentation Description: Headwater streams are a dominant feature in our landscape, but there has been no systematic research and prioritization process in place for their preservation. As a result, headwater streams and the often unique and rare habitats that they represent have been left unprotected and subject to loss or degradation. Openlands is finishing a report that provides guidance to conservation agencies so that headwater streams can become a new priority habitat for preservation. The major findings and recommendations of the report will be presented.

Additional Session Information: The target audience for the presentation is Chicago Wilderness members, including regional, state and federal agencies that have the ability to protect headwater streams. These agencies include U.S Fish and Wildlife, USEPA, U.S Department of Agriculture/Forest Service, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, the IEPA, county forest preserve and conservation districts, land trusts, the NRCS, and Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and well as planners and landowners. This presentation relates to Chicago Wilderness priority species, especially those that depend on headwaters and small streams such as the mottled sculpin and the ellipse. It also relates to water as a resource since headwater health affects the health of the entire downstream river system. Finally this presentation relates to the landowners focus area since landowners can make a large difference in headwater preservation and are one of the target audiences for this presentation.

Learning Objectives: 1. The importance of headwater streams, including their effect on the health of entire downstream river systems. 2. The need for protection, preservation and restoration initiatives for headwater streams on a region-wide scale.

Desired Track: Epic Fails & Triumphant Results

Focus Area: Beyond the Choir, Water as a Resource, Priority Species, Landowners

Delivered presentation previously: no

If yes, last presentation: n/a

Permission to share email: yes

Permission to share presentation slides: yes
Submission Information

Name: Ders Anderson
Organization: Openlands
Profession: Greenways Director
Email: danderson@openlands.org
Phone: 312-863-6252
Proposal Title: 
**Restoring the Wetlands of Calumet**

Proposal Type: Collaborative Presentation (50 minutes; 3 speakers)

**Learning Objectives:** how the decline of breeding marsh bird populations has inspired large scale collaborative action around a data driven conservation process.

**Desired Track:** Epic Fails & Triumphant Results

**Presentation #1 Title:** Save the birds, save the marsh: breeding marsh bird population trends and modeling for goal setting.

**Presenter #1:** Nat Miller  
**Professional Title:** Director of Conservation  
**Organization:** Audubon Great Lakes  
**Email:** nmiller@audubon.org  
**Phone:** 3124530230 ext. 2006

**Presentation #1 Description:** Historical and recent survey data has documented sharp declines of the Calumet region’s breeding marsh bird density. During this presentation you will learn about our region’s epic failure to sustain marsh bird diversity and abundance and how there is evidence populations can recover.

**Additional Presentation #1 Information:** Audubon and partners have built carrying capacity models to inform a regional plan to set conservation targets and shared goals for landowners. This presentation will focus on the bird data aspect, while supporting presentations will speak to the unique threat of highly altered and poorly managed hydrology as well as the process to restore these areas. Many of the hydrological issues we face are complex and expensive to improve and need a large base of support. Historically conservation areas have been targeted for high biodiversity, but there is now a strong need to improve the water systems in Calumet that influence surrounding areas. The audience will be convinced of the critical nature of this restoration work and, thanks to new positive data, the potential to restore marsh bird populations by restoring quality marsh conditions. This fits well within the CW initiatives of Data and Water as a Resource

**Presentation #1 Focus Area:** Beyond the Choir, Water as a Resource, Priority Species, Data, Landowners

**Presentation #2 Title:** Conservation in a fractured landscape
Presenter #2: Chip O'Leary  
Professional Title: Deputy Director of Resource Management  
Organization: Forest Preserves of Cook County  
Email: Charles.O'Leary@cookcountyil.gov  
Phone: 708-711-1180  

Presentation #2 Description: Natural lands in the Calumet region have been subject to the impacts of heavy industry and urban development. Despite the impacts of fragmentation, direct misuse, and disturbed water regimes, significant biodiversity remains. We will take a look at the existing biodiversity, threats to persistence, and opportunities for individual and collaborative conservation in the region.

Additional Presentation #2 Information: The Calumet represents a tremendous conservation opportunity for the CW region, however the remaining threats and issues are complex and need to be addressed systematically and holistically. Attendees will be brought up to speed on the biodiversity in the region, but also the most pressing and urgent actions needed to be driven by a regional collaboration like CW. Special emphasis will be given to the marsh ecosystems.

Presentation #2 Focus Area: Oak Ecosystems, Beyond the Choir, Water as a Resource, Priority Species, Data, Landowners

Presentation #3 Title: Restoring hemimarsh in the Calumet Region

Presenter #3: Gary Sullivan  
Professional Title: Senior Ecologist  
Organization: The Wetlands Initiative  
Email: gsullivan@wetlands-initiative.org  
Phone: 312-391-0777  

Presentation #3 Description: The Calumet Region of Illinois was once one of the most diverse wetland systems in the Midwest. The habitat now in most serious decline, and whose restoration would provide the greatest benefit is hemimarsh, a spatially complex and hydrologically dynamic mixture of open water and emergent vegetation. We will examine the restoration, management and sustainability of hemimarsh in Calumet.

Additional Presentation #3 Information: The Calumet Region of Illinois was once one of the richest wetland systems in the Midwest, with thousands of acres of marsh habitat supporting an enormous diversity of plants and wildlife. Intense industrial development over the past 100 years has destroyed most of these wetlands, with the few remaining areas degraded and fragmented to where they provide little or no ecological value. Bioindicators of this loss are the many birds that once depended upon this wetland habitat, but are now in serious decline or have been extirpated from the region. We have recently completed a site by site assessment and conservation action
planning effort for the remaining Calumet wetlands that is already being used to inform ongoing restoration and site management strategies. Our ultimate goal is to reverse these losses by facilitating the restoration of functional wetlands and quality wildlife habitat again in this region. The habitat in most serious decline throughout the region, and the habitat whose restoration would provide the greatest benefit is hemimarsh, a spatially complex and hydrologically dynamic mixture of open water and emergent vegetation. Twenty wetlands comprising over 1,000 acres were surveyed to assess their potential for hemimarsh restoration capable of providing habitat support for key wetland-dependent species. Although each system was unique, they collectively shared many of the same challenges, e.g. invasive species, altered hydrology and bathymetry, ecotoxicology, and land ownership issues. Our goal was to determine which sites offered the best potential for restoration, what steps could be taken to improve conditions, and how much of the desired habitat could potentially be restored. We determined that some hemimarsh restoration will be possible at many of these sites, while others could be improved with appropriate management and a coordinated effort among the various landowners. However, the hydrologic and ecological issues that need to be overcome are relatively complex and will require an appropriate infusion of resources. Furthermore, the sustainability of these efforts will be vastly improved by taking a regional approach to managing the threats to these important wetland resources.

Presentation #3 Focus Area: Water as a Resource, Priority Species, Data, Landowners

Delivered presentation previously: Yes, a modified version

If yes, last presentation: Healing Our Waters, Chicago, August 2015

Permission to share email: yes

Permission to share presentation slides: yes

Submission Information

Name: Nat Miller
Organization: Audubon Great Lakes
Profession: Director of Conservation
Email: nmiller@audubon.org
Phone: 3124530230 ext 2006
Proposal Title:
Citizen science in the Chicago Wilderness: understanding rare plants, birds, and butterflies.

Proposal Type: Collaborative Presentation (50 minutes; 3 speakers)

Learning Objectives: -about three established citizen science programs and opportunities to participate in them. -what citizen science data is teaching us about the Chicago Wilderness

Desired Track: Epic Fails & Triumphant Results

Presentation #1 Title: Rare plants in the Chicago Wilderness

Presenter #1: Rachel Goad
Professional Title: Manager of Plants of Concern
Organization: Chicago Botanic Garden
Email: rgoad@chicagobotanic.org
Phone: 847-835-6927

Presentation #1 Description: Plants of Concern (POC) is a citizen science rare plant monitoring effort in the Chicago region. Over the past 16 years, POC has spearheaded both broad-scale and intensively local monitoring of rare plants and plant communities to better understand their status and how they may be conserved. Results from a few select projects and opportunities for involvement will be presented.

Additional Presentation #1 Information: The target audience is those who are interested in learning from and participating in botanical citizen science. This topic relates to congress theme of epic fails and triumphant results because good citizen science involves both. Attendees will benefit from what POC has learned over the past 16 years.

Presentation #1 Focus Area: Oak Ecosystems, Beyond the Choir, Priority Species

Presentation #2 Title: Thirty Years of Monitoring Butterflies in Illinois

Presenter #2: Doug Taron
Professional Title: Curator of Biology
Organization: Chicago Academy of Sciences / Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum
Email: dtaron@naturemuseum.org
Phone: 773-755-5166
**Presentation #2 Description:** The Illinois Butterfly Monitoring Network provides a standard protocol to collect quantitative data on butterfly populations in Illinois natural areas. Learn how the program has grown and responded to technological changes over the course of nearly 30 years, as well as how these data gathered by our citizen scientists have contributed to the scientific literature.

**Additional Presentation #2 Information:** This talk is for both those interested in joining a citizen science initiative and for anyone who wants to learn more about the kinds of data we collect and how they are used.

**Presentation #2 Focus Area:** Beyond the Choir, Priority Species, Data, Landowners

**Presentation #3 Title:** The BCN Survey - 17 years and still growing: a collection of bird data across CW conservation lands

**Presenter #3:** Judy Pollock  
**Professional Title:** Project Manager, Monitoring Co-Coordinator  
**Organization:** Living Habitats, Bird Conservation Network  
**Email:** jpbobolink@gmail.com  
**Phone:** 8479627868

**Presentation #3 Description:** The Bird Conservation Network Survey is a group of volunteer monitors that have been collecting bird data from local conservation lands for 17 years, and is active in 7 counties of the CW region. Their dataset is available to all and includes breeding season point counts, and transect data for other seasons; a new protocol for monitoring the efficacy of restoration for migrating birds is being implemented this year. This brief talk will explain what is in the dataset and how to retrieve data, and will demonstrate some of the ways that data has been used to promote successful bird conservation.

**Additional Presentation #3 Information:** This talk is for both those interested in joining a citizen science initiative and for anyone who wants to learn more about the kinds of data we collect and how they are used.

**Presentation #3 Focus Area:** Beyond the Choir, Priority Species, Data, Landowners

**Delivered presentation previously:** no

**If yes, last presentation:** n/a

**Permission to share email:** yes

**Permission to share presentation slides:** yes
Submission Information

Name: Rachel Goad
Organization: Chicago Botanic Garden
Profession: Manager of Plants of Concern
Email: rgoad@chicagobotanic.org
Phone: 8478356927
Proposal Title: RESTORE -- The Final Results

Proposal Type: Collaborative Presentation (50 minutes; 3 speakers)

Learning Objectives: Does the social structure of restoration impact biodiversity outcomes? What restoration practices are accepted by nearby residents?

Desired Track: Epic Fails & Triumphant Results

Presentation #1 Title: RESTORE: The Final Results

Presenter #1: Moira Zellner
Professional Title: Associate Professor
Organization: UIC
Email: mzellner@uic.edu
Phone: 8478669311

Presentation #1 Description: We describe the adaptation and calibration of a stylized collective decision-making agent-based model using ethnographic data, to advance theory on how decisions emerge in the context of ecological restoration in the Chicago Wilderness. Agent based model simulations suggest ways that decision making occurs and can be influenced.

Additional Presentation #1 Information: We propose a final presentation set from the RESTORE project. RESTORE investigated whether the social structure of organizations making decisions about restoration in oak ecosystems (like volunteers compared with land manager led restoration efforts) impact the biodiversity outcomes in those restoration efforts. We have presented preliminary results, but can now present the final results from this complex study. We will report on two aspects (not yet reported at Congress) and the “final answer” about This will include the results of our agent based modeling (ABM) work that tested the collective decision making processes at work in Chicago Wilderness, results from public surveys about restoration techniques, and the big reveal: does it matter for the biodiversity outcomes how we organize, make decisions, and implement restoration activities? Moira Zellner will present the ABM work. Paul Gobster will present the survey work, and Lynne Westphal, Lima Heneghan and/or David Wise will present the final project results. This will address oak ecosystems (since our study sites were all oak ecosystems) but also fits the “epic fails and triumphant results” in that this study (or suite of studies) looks at the various successes and failures that are possible given the different approaches to organizing for restoration. Attendees will benefit because many have participated in the study and are waiting to hear – is there one best way to go about restoration? Do volunteers rule, or professional land managers? Or does it not matter at all? While our results show that there is little biodiversity difference across the restored sites, it most definitely matters. We suggest that social resilience – reflected in there being an array of different approaches to restoration –
underlies ecological restoration success, especially in a region where people and nature live in such crowded close quarters. More specifics if you want them: The ABM study, the first presentation of the three: Ecological restoration actions generally result from collective decision-making processes and can involve diverse, at times contentious, views. As such, it is critical to understand these processes and the factors that might influence the resolution of diverse perspectives into a set of coordinated actions. We describes the adaptation and calibration of a stylized collective decision-making agent-based model using ethnographic data, to advance theory on how decisions emerge in the context of ecological restoration in the Chicago Wilderness. Simulations suggests ways that final collective positions can be changed. Our work advances our understanding of key mechanisms influencing collective decision processes and illustrates the value of agent-based modeling and its integration with ethnographic data analysis to advance the theory of collective decision making.

**Presentation #1 Focus Area:** Oak Ecosystems, Beyond the Choir, Data, Landowners

**Presentation #2 Title:** Resident and user support for urban natural areas restoration practices

**Presenter #2:** Paul Gobster  
**Professional Title:** Research Social Scientist  
**Organization:** US Forest Service  
**Email:** pgobster@fs.fed.us  
**Phone:** 8478669311 x16

**Presentation #2 Description:** Support for restoration techniques can be especially critical in urban settings where stakeholders recreate in or reside near natural areas but may lack familiarity with practices for managing ecological processes. Surveys of on-site recreationists and nearby residents of 11 Chicago metropolitan natural areas were used to assess support for 8 different practices commonly used in oak woodland restoration. Results ranged across techniques, with some being widely supported.

**Additional Presentation #2 Information:** We propose a final presentation set from the RESTORE project. RESTORE investigated whether the social structure of organizations making decisions about restoration in oak ecosystems (like volunteers compared with land manager led restoration efforts) impact the biodiversity outcomes in those restoration efforts. We have presented preliminary results, but can now present the final results from this complex study. We will report on two aspects (not yet reported at Congress) and the “final answer” about This will include the results of our agent based modeling (ABM) work that tested the collective decision making processes at work in Chicago Wilderness, results from public surveys about restoration techniques, and the big reveal: does it matter for the biodiversity outcomes how we organize, make decisions, and implement restoration activities? Moira Zellner will present the ABM work. Paul Gobster will present the survey work, and Lynne Westphal, Lima Heneghan and/or David Wise will present the final project results. This will address oak ecosystems (since our study sites
were all oak ecosystems) but also fits the “epic fails and triumphant results” in that this study (or suite of studies) looks at the various successes and failures that are possible given the different approaches to organizing for restoration. Attendees will benefit because many have participated in the study and are waiting to hear – is there one best way to go about restoration? Do volunteers rule, or professional land managers? Or does it not matter at all? While our results show that there is little biodiversity difference across the restored sites, it most definitely matters. We suggest that social resilience – reflected in there being an array of different approaches to restoration – underlies ecological restoration success, especially in a region where people and nature live in such crowded close quarters. More specifics if you want them: The Resident and user support for urban natural areas restoration practices study: Public support is important to the success of natural areas restoration programs. Support for restoration techniques can be especially critical in urban settings where stakeholders recreate in or reside near natural areas but may lack familiarity with practices for managing ecological processes. Surveys of on-site recreationists and nearby residents of 11 Chicago metropolitan natural areas were used to assess support for 8 different practices commonly used in oak woodland restoration. Support generally ranged in relation to the level or intensity of management intervention, from more than 90% of the sample supporting the planting of native seeds and plants to just 32% supporting the use of herbicides to control undesired vegetation. Results also suggest that support should be viewed as a multidimensional concept that involves attitudinal, demographic, and structural components which often differ for different practices. Managers can use the information provided here to increase their understanding of the relative nature of restoration support and devise holistic social-ecological strategies to achieve restoration success.

**Presentation #2 Focus Area:** Oak Ecosystems, Beyond the Choir, Priority Species, Data, Landowners

**Presentation #3 Title:** RESTORE: The Final Results

**Presenter #3:** Lynne Westphal, Liam heneghan, David Wise  
**Professional Title:** Research Social Scientist, Professor & Chair, Professor  
**Organization:** US Forest Service, DePaul, UIC  
**Email:** lwestphal@fs.fed.us  
**Phone:** 8478669311

**Presentation #3 Description:** RESTORE investigated whether the social structure of organizations making decisions about restoration in oak ecosystems (like volunteers compared with land manager led restoration efforts) impact the biodiversity outcomes in those restoration efforts. We have presented preliminary results, but can now present the final results from this complex study.

**Additional Presentation #3 Information:** We propose a final presentation set from the RESTORE project. RESTORE investigated whether the social structure of organizations making
decisions about restoration in oak ecosystems (like volunteers compared with land manager led restoration efforts) impact the biodiversity outcomes in those restoration efforts. We have presented preliminary results, but can now present the final results from this complex study. We will report on two aspects (not yet reported at Congress) and the “final answer” about This will include the results of our agent based modeling (ABM) work that tested the collective decision making processes at work in Chicago Wilderness, results from public surveys about restoration techniques, and the big reveal: does it matter for the biodiversity outcomes how we organize, make decisions, and implement restoration activities? Moira Zellner will present the ABM work. Paul Gobster will present the survey work, and Lynne Westphal, Lima Heneghan and/or David Wise will present the final project results. This will address oak ecosystems (since our study sites were all oak ecosystems) but also fits the “epic fails and triumphant results” in that this study (or suite of studies) looks at the various successes and failures that are possible given the different approaches to organizing for restoration. Attendees will benefit because many have participated in the study and are waiting to hear – is there one best way to go about restoration? Do volunteers rule, or professional land managers? Or does it not matter at all? While our results show that there is little biodiversity difference across the restored sites, it most definitely matters. We suggest that social resilience – reflected in there being an array of different approaches to restoration – underlies ecological restoration success, especially in a region where people and nature live in such crowded close quarters. More specifics if you want them: The (drumroll please) final RESTORE results: Conservation organizations conducting ecological restoration and the lands they manage constitute a social-ecological system (SES). We implemented SES analysis to examine whether relationships exist between diverse organizational structures and restoration planning processes and biodiversity outcomes on the ground. Understanding the importance of multiple approaches to planning and implementing restoration activities will strengthen social resilience and increase the likelihood that conservation efforts will continue despite any uncertainty in the socio-political system. We studied ten conservation organizations in the Chicago Wilderness region restoring Midwestern oak woodlands of global conservation concern. Despite a priori knowledge about the institutional diversity of these organizations, we found little relationship between restoration planning styles and biodiversity outcomes. This result has profound implications for the resilience of restoration as an SES: diverse or incongruous restoration planning styles are not reflected in biodiversity outcomes on managed lands. Such resilience can be important for potentially controversial ecological restoration practices in urban locations.

**Presentation #3 Focus Area:** Oak Ecosystems, Priority Species, Data, Landowners

**Delivered presentation previously:** Yes, a modified version

**If yes, last presentation:** various academic conferences

**Permission to share email:** yes

**Permission to share presentation slides:** yes
Submission Information

Name: Lynne Westphal, Liam Heneghan, David Wise, Paul Gobster, Moira Zellner
Organization: CW Science Team + Forest Service, DePaul, UIC
Profession: Research Social Scientists & Professors
Email: lwestphal@fs.fed.us
Phone: 8478669311 x11
Proposal Title:
Data Driven Approach to Protecting and Restoring Nature: The Lake County Green Infrastructure Model and Strategy

Proposal Type: Collaborative Presentation (50 minutes; 3 speakers)

Learning Objectives: A) To identify and implement best practice approaches to designing refined green infrastructure networks using high resolution data and ecological planning methods. B) To describe how a green infrastructure model and strategy provides a framework for conservation and restoration that enhances priority Chicago Wilderness landscapes.

Desired Track: Epic Fails & Triumphant Results

Presentation #1 Title: Designing a Green Infrastructure Network Using High Resolution Data and Ecological Planning Methods

Presenter #1: Will Allen
Professional Title: Vice President, Conservation Planning
Organization: The Conservation Fund
Email: wallen@conservationfund.org
Phone: 9199672248

Presentation #1 Description: Learn how the collaboration between The Conservation Fund and the Lake County Forest Preserve District developed a consistent, county-wide modeling framework using ecological planning methods and high-resolution land cover and tree canopy data to refine the county’s Green Infrastructure Vision. The session will review the source data inputs and modeling data related to landscape core areas, functional connections, restoration building blocks, and ecosystem services valuation that provide a science-based, data-driven ecological network in conjunction with the existing network of protected and managed lands.

Additional Presentation #1 Information: The target audience is Chicago Wilderness communities who would like to refine their Chicago Wilderness GIV data with the latest high resolution data and modeling approaches. This presentation will focus on how to use a data driven approach to protecting and restoring nature that identifies opportunities to expand oak ecosystems, manage water as a multi-benefit resource, and protect priority species. Attendees will benefit from the session from understanding how to enhance their green infrastructure data to support conservation and restoration decision making.

Presentation #1 Focus Area: Oak Ecosystems, Water as a Resource, Priority Species, Data
**Presentation #2 Title:** Implementing the 100-Year Vision for Lake County Using the Green Infrastructure Model and Strategy

**Presenter #2:** Jim Anderson  
**Professional Title:** Director, Natural Resource Department  
**Organization:** Lake County Forest Preserve District  
**Email:** janderson@lcfd.org  
**Phone:** 847-968-3282

**Presentation #2 Description:** Learn how the Lake County Green Infrastructure Model and Strategy was developed to guide regional, local and site green infrastructure planning by agencies, organizations, businesses, and citizens of Lake County, Illinois. See how the Strategy is helping implement the county’s 100-year vision and is supporting other county conservation and restoration efforts by Forest Preserve District staff.

**Additional Presentation #2 Information:** The target audience is Chicago Wilderness communities who would like to refine their Chicago Wilderness GIV data to help protect and restore nature through expanding oak ecosystems, managing water as a multi-benefit resource, and protecting priority species. Attendees will benefit from the session by understanding how Forest Preserve Districts can play a key role in supporting conservation and restoration projects.

**Presentation #2 Focus Area:** Oak Ecosystems, Water as a Resource, Priority Species, Data

**Presentation #3 Title:** Protecting and Restoring Nature Using the Lake County Green Infrastructure Model and Strategy

**Presenter #3:** Ryan London & John Sentell  
**Professional Title:** Preservation Programs  
**Organization:** Lake Forest Open Lands Association  
**Email:** rlondon@lfola.org  
**Phone:** 8474947218

**Presentation #3 Description:** Learn how the Lake Forest Open Lands Association is using the county’s Green Infrastructure Model and Strategy to serve as a framework to implement conservation and restoration projects in their service area.

**Additional Presentation #3 Information:** The target audience is Chicago Wilderness communities who would like to refine their Chicago Wilderness GIV data to help protect and restore nature through expanding oak ecosystems, managing water as a multi-benefit resource, and protecting priority species. Attendees will benefit from the session by understanding how nonprofits can play a key role in supporting conservation and restoration projects.
Presentation #3 Focus Area: Oak Ecosystems, Water as a Resource, Priority Species, Data

Delivered presentation previously: no

If yes, last presentation: n/a

Permission to share email: yes

Permission to share presentation slides: yes

Submission Information

Name: Will Allen
Organization: The Conservation Fund
Profession: Vice President, Conservation Planning
Email: wallen@conservationfund.org
Phone: 9199672248
Proposal Title:
The Greenest Region Compact - Community Sustainability and Land Stewardship

Proposal Type: Collaborative Presentation (50 minutes; 3 speakers)

Learning Objectives: 1. about the depth and breadth of municipal lands stewardship goals and accomplishments 2. innovative land conservation and land stewardship by two leading municipalities

 Desired Track: Epic Fails & Triumphant Results

Presentation #1 Title: The Greenest Region Compact - a regional plan for community sustainability

Presenter #1: Edith Makra
Professional Title: Director of Environmental Initiatives
Organization: Metropolitan Mayors Caucus
Email: emakra@mayorscaus.org
Phone: 312-301-4506

Presentation #1 Description: The Metropolitan Mayors Caucus created the Greenest Region Compact 2 by studying the environmental achievements of 290 municipalities, and studying all published municipal sustainability plans in region. Land stewardship emerged as the most important category in the new Compact. The research, including the work of Orland Park and Schaumburg, have been synthesized into consensus land conservation and stewardship goals under the Compact, formally adopted by dozens of municipalities.

Additional Presentation #1 Information: The two-year comprehensive analysis of municipal accomplishments and goals related to environmental sustainability showed that all goals and objectives related to Land was by far the highest priority. The Compact synthesized 1149 sustainability goals and 95 different environmental achievements (tracked by 3rd parties) into high-level consensus community sustainability goals. These became the Greenest Region Compact 2 which is being formally adopted by municipalities in the region. (36 adopted it to date). The detailed objectives and strategies were captured in the supportive Greenest Region Compact 2 Framework which offers steps to achieve these goals. The Land section, derived from municipal sustainability leaders, aligns remarkably with CW priorities and focus areas. The conservation community doesn't well know the depth and breadth of municipal commitment to biodiversity and land stewardship. This session will help build collaboration with municipal governments. The GRC2 is the data-driven strategy sought by the Data-Driven Learning (Epic Fails?) category

Presentation #1 Focus Area: Data, Landowners
Presentation #2 Title: Orland Park's Open Lands Fund Commission

Presenter #2: Dan McLaughlin
Professional Title: Mayor
Organization: Village of Orland Park
Email: jhodge@orland-park.il.us
Phone: (708) 403-6399

Presentation #2 Description: The Village of Orland Park has strategically preserved 300 acres of open lands while nearly 12 million ft\(^2\) of retail space supports its local economy. In 1995 the village had the foresight to create the Open Lands Commission to buy up land for conservation. Residents supported the vision by approving a $20 million bond referendum. Learn about this innovative municipal conservation strategy and the political will that made it work.

Additional Presentation #2 Information: Mayor Dan McLaughlin championed the open lands initiative in the village. He tells a great story about working with civic leadership to realize a vision of a sustainable community in a fast-growing, prosperous region. Mayor McLaughlin is a leader in councils of governments having served as the Executive Board Chairman of the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus and in leadership positions with Southwest Municipal Conference. He will address how land conservation integrates with broader community sustainability goals. The CW audience will learn about the strong will and capacity for collaboration offered by Orland Park as a leading municipality.

Presentation #2 Focus Area: Beyond the Choir, Landowners

Presentation #3 Title: The Land Stewardship Ethic in Schaumburg

Presenter #3: Martha Dooley
Professional Title: Landscape and Sustainability Planner
Organization: Village of Schaumburg
Email: mdooley@ci.schaumburg.il.us
Phone: (847) 923-3855

Presentation #3 Description: The Village of Schaumburg began its sustainability endeavors with a Biodiversity Recovery plan and has carried on additional sustainability planning now aligning with the Greenest Region Compact 2. To achieve diverse and sustainable open space, the village has taken steps to engage residential, commercial and institutional land owners in restoration and stewardship. Municipal codes require and policies encourage property owners to manage land and water in sustainable ways. Streambank restoration at the municipal center
demonstrates water stewardship and monarch conservation, while a large public parking lot demonstrates effective green infrastructure.

**Additional Presentation #3 Information:** Schaumburg's conservation leadership has been recognized by CW in the past. As a leader in the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus and the US Conference of Mayors, Schaumburg's strategies are noteworthy and influential. Their ideas are integrated into the Greenest Region Compact which will guide dozens of other municipalities.

**Presentation #3 Focus Area:** Water as a Resource, Landowners

**Delivered presentation previously:** no

**If yes, last presentation:** n/a

**Permission to share email:** yes

**Permission to share presentation slides:** yes

**Submission Information**

**Name:** Edith Makra  
**Organization:** Metropolitan Mayors Caucus  
**Profession:** Director of Environmental Initiatives  
**Email:** emakra@mayorscaucus.org  
**Phone:** n/a
Proposal Title: 
Creating the Supply Chain for Wildlife Friendly Landscapes

Proposal Type: Collaborative Presentation (50 minutes; 3 speakers)

Learning Objectives: 1. The unpredictable availability of native plants is the single biggest threat to developing a connected network of wildlife friendly landscapes 2. Conservation organizations, property owners, native plant growers and designers all have a part to play in developing the plant resources to meet this need.

Desired Track: Epic Fails & Triumphant Results

Presentation #1 Title: Developing the Supply Chain of Native Plants

Presenter #1: Carol E. Becker
Professional Title: Certified wildlife designer, MELA Executive Director (Retired)
Organization: Sage Advice Landscape Design and Consulting
Email: carol@sage-advice.net
Phone: 847-830-5945

Presentation #1 Description: Doug Tallamy says diverse species preservation is not possible unless we develop connecting corridors of native plants that will support insect and bird life. What happens when designers hit the ground to create this corridor of privately-owned sustainable sites? The first thing we find out is that the supply chain is missing a major link. Surprisingly, the right plant materials -- straight species natives -- are not readily available. This session will address the causes of a broken supply chain.

Additional Presentation #1 Information: This session is directed at conservation organization leaders and individuals committed to species diversity. Few of us recognize the huge gaps in the supply chain of native plant material, why those exist, and what we can do about it. This session lays the groundwork by explaining "what's going on right now" in the broken supply chain and what needs to be done about it to ensure a future of widespread wildlife friendly landscapes in built environments.

Presentation #1 Focus Area: Landowners

Presentation #2 Title: Growing Native Plants for the Future Market

Presenter #2: Grace Koehler
Professional Title: Marketing Manager
Organization: Pizzo Native Plant Nursery
Email: gracek@pizzonursery.com  
Phone: 815-826-0566

**Presentation #2 Description:** If we’re going to develop wildlife corridors, we need plant material. Where will it come from if there's not enough now? Can growers develop native plants in quantity, and predict the market well enough to stay in business until the market is fully formed? This session examines all these questions in the context of what growers are doing now to develop plant material.

**Additional Presentation #2 Information:** This session is directed at conservation organization leaders and individuals committed to species diversity. Growing native plants on the scale and on the timeframe needed to build both large and small wildlife corridors withing the next 5 years is a very challenging job and a difficult one to use as the basis for a successful business model. It’s particularly difficult now when the market is still emerging. This session will address what native plant nurseries are doing now to develop the plant material we need, and will predict how future demand will be met. It will also give information to conservation organizations on how they can help the growers both predict the market and supply it as it grows. Material in this and the previous section will include information published in Landscape Architecture Magazine in April of 2015, and will include developments in the market, created by Chicago Wilderness members, since then.

**Presentation #2 Focus Area:** Landowners

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**Presentation #3 Title:** Collaborating to Meet Market Demand for Native Plants

**Presenter #3:** Jeff Gibson  
**Professional Title:** Landscape Business Manager  
**Organization:** Ball Horticulture  
**Email:** jgibson@ballhort.com  
**Phone:** 630-624-7412

**Presentation #3 Description:** Increasing interest by conservation organizations and landowners in creating wildlife corridors is creating demand at garden centers for native plant material they don't necessarily have. This is but one step in the emergence of a market for native plants. To meet the need, ornamental growers are turning to seed companies, who have for many years demonstrated their expertise in developing supply chains. Seed companies, who know little about native plants, are engaging the native plant nurseries. This session will explain what's emerging to meet the demand for native plants, as all players begin to collaborate.

**Additional Presentation #3 Information:** This session is directed at conservation organization leaders and individuals committed to species diversity. The emergence of widespread new markets for native plant material is prompting business collaboration that is complex and
diversified, but absolutely necessary for the future development of wildlife corridors. This session, again based on material published in Landscape Architecture Magazine by one of the presenters (Becker), will help conservation organization leaders and landowners understand the complex business forces at work.

**Presentation #3 Focus Area:** Landowners

**Delivered presentation previously:** no

**If yes, last presentation:** n/a

**Permission to share email:** yes

**Permission to share presentation slides:** yes

**Submission Information**

**Name:** Carol E. Becker  
**Organization:** Midwest Ecological Landscape Alliance (MELA)  
**Profession:** Executive Director (Retired)  
**Email:** carol@sage-advice.net  
**Phone:** 847-830-5945