



Twelfth Annual Chapter Meeting
March 27 to March 29, 2020
Acacia Reservation, Lyndhurst, Ohio

Please join us for the twelfth annual meeting of the SER Midwest-Great Lakes Chapter. Our goal for the meeting is to highlight how restoration of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems can go beyond the expected ecological benefits and promote hope and community revitalization. Our three day meeting will include:

- **Keynote presentation on *Inspiring Conservation and Restoration: Bridging the Gap with Non-profit and Government Partners*** by Jennifer Windus (Ohio Natural Areas & Preserves Association and Ohio Invasive Plants Council).
- **Meeting host plenary session and tour on *Acacia Reservation – A Modern Urban Restoration Project***. Presentations by presenters from Cleveland Metroparks will provide an overview of the restoration efforts at Acacia Reservation to restore this former golf course into a natural area and the subsequent monitoring efforts. The plenary session will be followed by a walking tour of the restoration areas at Acacia Reservation.
- **Concluding plenary session on *Ensuring the Sustainability of Ohio’s Greatest Natural Resource – Ecological Restoration of Lake Erie***. Presentations by Thomas Bridgeman (University of Toledo Lake Erie Center) and Amy Brennan (The Nature Conservancy in Ohio) will highlight the current science and practice related to the restoration of Lake Erie and how the integration of science and practice related to restoration can ensure its future sustainability.
- **Choice of one of four symposia:** 1) An unexpected opportunity: managing for habitat on rights-of-way and energy and transportation lands; 2) Fore to forest for fins and feathers: a primer on restoring former golf courses; 3) Building on lessons from the past to forge a new future; 4) The essential roles of invertebrates in Midwestern landscapes
- **Choice of one of two workshops:** 1) Sedges, rushes and grasses: identification and use in restoration projects and 2) Integrating data review into ecological restoration, a field perspective – a workshop on best practices for conducting data review during restoration monitoring.
- **78 contributed oral and poster presentations:** We currently have presenters from 8 states (Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin, Virginia, Oregon) who will share their experiences involving prairie, forest restoration, stream, wetland, and oak savanna restoration. Presentation topics include effects of prescribed fire on pollinator species, American elm restoration, use of rain gardens in urban areas, restoration within the Oak Openings region, and more!
- **Choice of one from among four field trips and one service project:** 1) Worked over but working: transforming post-industrial sites to functional landscapes; 2) Valley View restoration – 100 years in the making; 3) Rehabilitating landscape legacies to restore ecosystem resilience for the future; 4) Coastal wetland restoration at Mentor Marsh; and 5) Behind the scenes at Acacia Reservation
- **Social events:** Several social events are scheduled that include a student social on Thursday evening, a sponsorship reception on Friday, lunch on Friday and Saturday, breakfast on Saturday, and a no-host social on Saturday

Meeting updates will be periodically posted on our social media accounts and our Chapter website (<http://chapter.ser.org/midwestgreatlakes/current-meeting/>). We encourage everyone to join us to learn about recent research findings, novel restoration techniques, and the chance to socialize with your colleagues.

PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE

	Thursday March 26	Friday March 27	Saturday March 28	Sunday March 29
Morning		Registration Workshops	Registration Continental Breakfast (cost included in registration fee) Oral Presentation Sessions	Offsite Field Trips
Lunch		Lunch (cost included in registration fee) Business Meeting Keynote Presentation <i>Inspiring Conservation and Restoration: Bridging the Gap with Non-profit and Government Partners</i>	Lunch (cost included in registration fee) Awards Ceremony	
Afternoon		Symposia Oral Presentation Sessions	Meeting Host Plenary Session & Tour <i>Acacia Reservation – A Modern Urban Restoration Project</i> Concluding Plenary Session <i>Ensuring the Sustainability of Ohio’s Greatest Natural Resource – Ecological Restoration of Lake Erie</i>	
Evening	Student Social at Bar Louie (cost included in registration fee)	Sponsorship Reception with snacks and drinks (cost included in registration fee) Poster Session	No-host Social at Pinstripes	

REGISTRATION RATES

We encourage everyone to register early to receive **Early Bird registration** prices and the deadline for receiving these rates is **March 6, 2020**. Those who register from **March 7 to March 20, 2020** are eligible for **Regular Registration** prices. After March 20, 2020 the only registration option is **On-site Registration**. *Note: we cannot guarantee that we will be able to provide on-site registrants with tickets for the sponsorship reception, Friday lunch, and Saturday lunch, so we encourage you to purchase early or regular registration.*

Registration costs for Friday and Saturday are by the day and the fee covers payment for all scheduled events and meals that specific day. There is no additional cost for Sunday's offsite field trips for those attendees who register for Friday and/or Saturday.

Registration Type	Friday Price	Saturday Price	Sunday Price
Early Bird Registration - Student Chapter Member	\$35.00	\$35.00	<i>Free to those who register on Friday and/or Saturday</i>
Early Bird Registration - Student Non-Chapter Member	\$45.00	\$45.00	<i>Free to those who register on Friday and/or Saturday</i>
Early Bird Registration - Regular Chapter Member	\$65.00	\$65.00	<i>Free to those who register on Friday and/or Saturday</i>
Early Bird Registration - Regular Non-Chapter Member	\$85.00	\$85.00	<i>Free to those who register on Friday and/or Saturday</i>
Regular Registration - Student Chapter Member	\$40.00	\$40.00	<i>Free to those who register on Friday and/or Saturday</i>
Regular Registration - Student Non-Chapter Member	\$50.00	\$50.00	<i>Free to those who register on Friday and/or Saturday</i>
Regular Registration - Regular Chapter Member	\$75.00	\$75.00	<i>Free to those who register on Friday and/or Saturday</i>
Regular Registration - Regular Non-Chapter Member	\$95.00	\$95.00	<i>Free to those who register on Friday and/or Saturday</i>
On-site Registration - Student Chapter Member	\$45.00	\$45.00	<i>Free to those who register on Friday and/or Saturday</i>
On-site Registration - Student Non-Chapter Member	\$55.00	\$55.00	<i>Free to those who register on Friday and/or Saturday</i>
On-site Registration - Regular Chapter Member	\$85.00	\$85.00	<i>Free to those who register on Friday and/or Saturday</i>
On-site Registration – Regular Non-Chapter Member	\$105.00	\$105.00	<i>Free to those who register on Friday and/or Saturday</i>

FRIDAY WORKSHOP INFORMATION

Reinier, John E.*. **Sedges, rushes and grasses: identification and use in restoration projects.** Cleveland Metroparks, Cleveland, Ohio. Email: jer@clevelandmetroparks.com.

The use of “native” sedges, rushes and grasses in restoration projects has been occurring for decades and native plant nurseries now offer an impressive variety of species for sale. With more species being propagated and dispersed into restoration areas, accurate identification is increasingly important for evaluating the success of these projects. I will highlight for participants using a few local examples how accurate identification of these taxa can also lead to the discovery of inadvertent introductions of species which, in some cases, could have significant implications. This workshop will include an overview of the morphology of sedges (Cyperaceae), rushes (Juncaceae) and grasses (Poaceae), with a focus on the key differences between these groups. We will also highlight several common species that occur throughout the Midwest with an emphasis on their ecology and habitat preferences. The second part of this workshop will focus on tools/approaches for choosing the most appropriate species during restoration planning. Participants should bring a laptop if possible. The instructor will have several botanical references, as well as microscopes, for participants to use.

Palmer, Craig*, Rob Sutter*, and Cynthia Collier*. **Integrating data review into ecological restoration, a field perspective – a workshop on best practices for conducting data review during restoration monitoring.** CSRA, a GDIT Company, Alexandria, Virginia. CP Email: craig.j.palmer@gdit.com; RS Email: robert.sutter@gdit.com; CS Email: cynthia.collier@gdit.com

Data review checks are an essential component to any monitoring program to provide assurance that data is in conformance with a project’s data quality acceptance criteria. Reliable data are needed for ecological restoration projects to accurately assess ecosystem conditions, track progress toward stated restoration goals, determine the effectiveness of restoration practices, make sound decisions, and provide evidence of restoration success. Field practitioners have an essential role in ensuring data quality, from collection and review of data sheets to the compiled database. In this training session, we will share an approach and best practices to integrate data review into the monitoring of restoration projects. The session will focus on internal data reviews for assessing, documenting, improving, and ensuring the quality of field-collected observational ecological data. Participants will be invited to engage in creative exercises demonstrating the concepts and applications of data review procedures and will gain an understanding of data review best practices relevant to restoration project monitoring. A compendium of the presentations, exercises, and recommended resources will be made available to all participants. Guidance presented in this workshop is based on the results of interagency collaboration and published resources, including the recently released U.S. Environmental Protection Agency document [Application of Quality Assurance and Quality Control Principles to Ecological Restoration Project Monitoring](#). Funding for this session is provided by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Great Lakes National Program Office and the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

SYNOPSIS OF SUNDAY OFFSITE FIELD TRIPS AND SERVICE PROJECT

Worked Over but Working: Transforming Post-industrial Sites to Functional Landscapes Field Trip. This guided field trip will visit several green infrastructure projects in the Cleveland, Ohio area that were implemented through Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District's Project Clean Lake Combined Sewer Overflow Control and Infrastructure Grant programs. The visited projects were all designed to remove stormwater before it enters the combined sewer system. Given the urban nature of the area, many sites have a legacy of industrial or residential use, and required considerable work to remove abandoned infrastructure, buildings, and trash before functioning green infrastructure facilities could be constructed. While none of the sites are "restored" from a traditional sense, they now provide valuable ecosystem services such as pollinator habitat and the capture and filtration of stormwater runoff. This guided tour will depart from the parking lot of Acacia Reservation shortly after 9 am and will conclude by noon. Transportation is provided for this field trip. Minimum of 10 participants required and maximum of 30 participants.

Valley View Restoration – 100 years in the Making Field Trip. Valley View Conservation Area is the newest acquisition of the Summit Metro Parks. This former 0.8 km² golf course is being restored to a natural area. When completed, the project will restore > 610 m of headwater streams, nearly 1.6 km of the mainstem of the Cuyahoga River, 0.3 km² of floodplain, and 0.1 km² of wetlands. The majority of the site will be forested, but will also include some open area habitats. In addition to the ecological restoration, the site is being planned for outdoor recreational use. Portions of the project have been completed via a Clean Ohio Grant from Ohio Public Works. The remainder of the site is under design and being funded by the National Oceanic Atmospheric Association and the Great Lakes Commission. This field trip will begin with a presentation that will discuss project planning and ecological design, cultural resource preservation, funding, public participation, project implementation, and monitoring and will conclude with a guided walking tour of the restoration areas. This guided tour will begin at 9:00 am at the Valley View Conservation Area in the Summit Metro Parks in Akron, Ohio and will conclude onsite by 11:00 am. Field trip participants are responsible for their own transportation to the field trip site. Minimum of 5 participants required and maximum of 40 participants.

Rehabilitating Landscape Legacies to Restore Ecosystem Resilience for the Future Field Trip. This guided tour by staff from the Cleveland Metroparks and Chagrin River Watershed Partners will feature two restoration projects that provide natural resource resilience from the impacts of climate change. Both projects are located at South Chagrin Reservation in the Sulphur Springs subwatershed of the Chagrin River. The first legacy site was a private runway surrounded by mature, forest and wetland mosaic. After acquisition, the partners worked with a consultant to disrupt unnatural drainage ways and daylight a small stream. The second legacy site was a former cattle pasture that had converted to a mature dense red maple forest. Recent timber harvest treatments were applied to stimulate young tree regeneration and to promote increase biodiversity and structural diversity. Field trip participants will learn about ongoing monitoring and invasive plant control that will enhance the forest management activities. This guided tour will begin at 10:00 am at the Harper Ridge Picnic Area in the South Chagrin Reservation in Solon, Ohio and will conclude onsite by 12:30 pm. Field trip participants are responsible for their own transportation to the field trip site. Minimum of 5 participants required and maximum of 30 participants.

Coastal Wetland Restoration at Mentor Marsh Field Trip. This field trip will provide a guided tour of Mentor Marsh, which is a National Park Service-designated National Natural Landmark and a National Audubon Society Important Birding Area that is one of most species-rich sites on the Great Lakes shoreline. This 3.3 km² wetland suffered dramatically in 1966 when salt-mine tailings leached into Blackbrook Creek that led to the replacement of native plants and trees by the invasive reed grass (*Phragmites australis*). The Cleveland Museum of Natural History began the large-scale restoration of Mentor Marsh in 2015 that involved spraying the *Phragmites* monoculture with an aquatic-safe herbicide and then physically mashing it flat to allow native plants to grow. Participants will learn about the restoration successes and challenges while visiting the western part of the site that should reach "maintenance mode" in 2020 and the eastern part of the site where restoration was recently initiated and is mid-recovery. This guided tour will begin at 9:00 am at the Mentor Marsh State Nature Preserve in Mentor, Ohio and will conclude by noon. Minimum of 5 participants required and maximum of 30 participants.

Behind the Scenes of Acacia Reservation Service Project. After spending time at Acacia Reservation, would you like to participate in the ongoing restoration activities for this meaningful project? Come join Natural Resource Manager Josh Philipps behind the scenes and assist with some early spring hands-on restoration work, which may include installing live stakes around constructed wetlands and/or repairing cages that protect young trees from deer. We will walk through a few different areas and discuss the opportunities, challenges, and lessons learned from the day-to-day management of golf course restoration in an urban environment. Field trip participants should meet outside the clubhouse at Acacia Reservation at 10 am and this service project will conclude at noon. Minimum of 5 participants required and maximum of 100 participants.

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS MEETING HOST & SPONSORS

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University of Akron Field Station**

Meeting Location and Lodging Information

The Chapter Meeting is being held in the Acacia Clubhouse at Acacia Reservation in Lyndhurst, Ohio. The physical address for the Acacia Clubhouse is 6899 Cedar Road Lyndhurst, Ohio 44124.

Information on Discounted Hotel Block Rates:

Hyatt Place Lyndhurst (Legacy Village)

Address: 24665 Cedar Road, Lyndhurst, Ohio 44124

Rates: \$139 for a King Standard room

Deadline for Discounted Rates: **February 26, 2020** or until the block is full

Instructions to Received Discounted Rates: Call 1-888-492-8847 and ask for the “Society of Ecological Restoration” group rate or use this link https://www.hyatt.com/en-US/hotel/ohio/hyatt-place-cleveland-lyndhurst-legacy-village/clezl?corp_id=G-SOER

Homewood Suites-Beachwood

Address: 25725 Central Parkway, Beachwood, Ohio 44122

Rates: \$109 for an Executive Studio Suite with King sized bed

Deadline for Discounted Rates: **March 2, 2020** or until the block is full

Instructions to Received Discounted Rates: Call 216-464-9600 and mention “Society for Ecological Restoration –MWGL Conference” to get the discounted rate or use this link https://homewoodsuites.hilton.com/en/hw/groups/personalized/C/CLEBDHW-SER20200326/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=PO