

Friday October 16th, 2026

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| 10:00am-12:00pm | Field Trip 1<br><b>Rare Charitable Research Reserve</b><br>Tom Woodcock, Jack Robinson, Brittany Killingbeck, Alissa Fraser.<br>Cambridge, ON  | Field Trip 2<br><b>Ignatius Jesuit Centre</b><br>Heather Lekx and Ashley Conrard<br>Guelph, ON |
| 2:00pm-4:30pm   | Field Trip 3<br><b>Waterloo Wetland Laboratory</b><br>Claire Schon and Dr. Rebecca Rooney<br>Columbia Lake Environmental Reserve, Waterloo, ON |                                                                                                |

Saturday, October 17th, 2026

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| Time          | Frosted elfin room: SJ2 1002                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Crimson paintbrush room: SJ2 2002                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Colicroot room: SJ2 2003                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Jefferson's salamander room: SJ2 2007                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 8-8:45        | Coffee & Registration                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 8:45-10       | Welcome and opening plenary - Jessica Linton - Species at Risk Butterfly Restoration<br>(Vanstone Lecture Theatre/Goldenrod Room)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Session 1     | Tallgrass, Meadow, and Alvars                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | People, planning, risk in restoration                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Urban Meadows                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Peatlands, northern forest and wetland restoration                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 10:10 - 11:20 | <p><b>Four Leaves and Few Remaining: Recovering Asclepias quadrifolia in Prince Edward County</b><br/>Aidan Curran - NCC</p> <p><b>Restoration of Tallgrass Prairie and Pollinator Habitat at Jack Darling Memorial Park</b><br/>Felicia Radassao - City of Mississauga</p> <p><b>The Ontario Tallgrass Prescribed Burn Support Program</b><br/>David Beamer - Tallgrass Ontario</p> <p><b>What's in the bank? Evaluating Seed Bank Reassembly in Restored Tallgrass Plant Communities**</b><br/>Keira McManus - University of Waterloo</p> | <p><b>Natural Asset Management – The Role of Restoration</b><br/>Kristen Harrison - North-South Environmental inc.</p> <p><b>Best Practices and Ways Forward for Municipal Involvement in Ecological Restoration*</b><br/>Martin Tamlyn - Township of Centre Wellington</p> <p><b>What the Society for Ecological Restoration can do for you*</b><br/>Miranda Ruekert - SER international</p> <p><b>How to Engage and Maintain Community Restoration**</b><br/>Francine D'Silva - City of Mississauga</p> | <p><b>Exploring Active Versus Passive Seed-Based Restoration Methods in European Buckthorn-Dominated Meadows in Southern Ontario</b><br/>Amelia Upper - University of Waterloo</p> <p><b>Long-Term Plant Community Trends in a Turfgrass-to-Meadow Restoration</b><br/>Lilhac Medina - University of Waterloo</p> <p><b>Balancing Beauty and Sustainability in Ecological Gardens</b><br/>Cara Steele - Abbey Gardens</p> <p><b>The Effect of Turfgrass-to-Meadow Restoration on Carbon Sequestration**</b><br/>Hayden Epp - University of Waterloo</p> | <p><b>Crawling Through the Ash: The Role of Wildfire-Associated Insects in Regenerating our Boreal Forests</b><br/>Brienne Christensen - MNR</p> <p><b>Frog Community Recovery as a Bioindicator of Ecosystem Health in the Sudbury Region*</b><br/>Karolyn MCGovern - Laurentian University</p> <p><b>Ecophysiological Evolution of a Restored Bog (Bois-des-Bel, Quebec) 25 Years Post-Restoration*</b><br/>Eve Schroeder - Nipissing University</p> <p><b>Peatland Restoration in Southeastern Manitoba* (**)</b><br/>Rose Simard - University of Waterloo</p> |

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| 11:20 – 11:40 | Break                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Session 2     | Seed Planning                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Invasive Management                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Aquatic ecosystem restoration and monitoring                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 11:40 – 12:40 | <p><b>Growing Native Seed Capacity to Support Species at Risk Recovery and Ecological Restoration</b><br/>Alyssa Cousineau, ALUS Canada</p> <p><b>From Strategy to Action: Advancing Southern Ontario's Native Seed Supply Through Collaboration</b><br/>Jennifer Nantais &amp; Sarah Winterton - CCC</p> <p><b>A Forest Near You: Growing the Supply of Regionally Appropriate Woodland Forbs</b><br/>Payton Lansborough - Thames Talbot Land Trust</p> | <p><b>A Landscape Scale Aquatic Invasive Species Management Program and its Implications for Restoration</b><br/>Dan Butler - Quinte Conservation</p> <p><b>Cutleaf Teasel Management and Restoration Techniques</b><br/>Bryson McEwen - Hamilton Conservation Authority (HCA)</p> <p><b>From Invasion to Restoration: Planning for Resilient Ecosystems</b><br/>Sal Spitale - North-South Environmental Inc.</p>                                                 | <p><b>O'Connor Park: Wetland and Wildlife Enhancements in an Urban Environment</b><br/>Cassidy Mowbray &amp; Braden Sherratt - City of Mississauga</p> <p><b>Baseline Habitat and Turtle Population Demography Assessment Before Highway Development</b><br/>Amara Johnston - University of Waterloo</p> <p><b>40 years of Riparian Zone Rehabilitation: Lessons Learned from Washington Creek, Southern Ontario, Canada</b><br/>Andy Gordon - University of Guelph</p> |                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 12:40 – 1:30  | Lunch                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Session 3     | Urban ecosystem Restoration                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Remotely located and remotely controlled                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Phragmites                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Native Wildflower Horticulture and Restoration                                                                                                                                                         |
| 1:30 – 2:20   | <p><b>Balancing Imperatives in the Pollinator Roadsides Rehabilitation Project</b><br/>Roger Suffling - Waterloo Region Nature</p> <p><b>Lessons in Site Preparation in Urban Contexts</b><br/>Michaela Smitas-Kras - TRCA</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <p><b>Native Seed Pellets as a Restoration Tool</b><br/>Kristen Campbell - Radical Roots Seed Bombs</p> <p><b>Remotely Piloted Aircrafts and Deep Learning Techniques for Ecosystem Restoration Monitoring: A <i>Phragmites australis</i> Case Study**</b><br/>Sarika Sharma - University of Windsor</p> <p><b>Can a Cheap Autonomous Robot Ease the High Cost of Release Cutting in Ecological Restoration Sites in Ontario?</b><br/>Adam Edie - independent</p> | <p><b>Tommy Thompson Park Phragmites Management Strategy</b><br/>Eden Kovacs - TRCA</p> <p><b>Two Stem Boring Moths as Biological Control Agents for <i>Phragmites australis</i>*</b><br/>Claire Schon - University of Waterloo</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <p><b>Germination Testing of Local Ecotype Sedges</b><br/>Andrea D'Silva</p> <p><b>Restoration in Urban Homes Where Wild Spaces are Reduced</b><br/>Nancy Hainsworth - Nancy's Creations and Seeds</p> |

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| 2:20 – 3:20          | Poster Session and Seed Exchange                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                  |  |
| Session 4: Workshops |                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                  |  |
| 3:20 – 4:20          | <b>Priority Evidence Needs for Ontario Restoration: A Practitioners' Environmental Scan</b><br>Tim Alamenciak                                                                                         | <b>Bringing Experience to Bear: Applying Restoration Practitioner Knowledge to Ecological Offsetting Practices</b><br>Sal Spitale | <b>Revisiting the Past, Present and Future of Tallgrass Communities: Bridging Science and Practice in Tallgrass Restoration</b><br>Keira McManus |  |
| 4:30 – 5:30          | Closing Plenary Speaker - Chantel Markle - Herptile Restoration in Ontario amidst a Changing Climate (Vanstone Lecture Theatre)                                                                       |                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                  |  |
| 6:30                 | After Conference Social at Molly Bloom's Pub                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                  |  |
|                      | * indicates that a title has been assigned based on the description by the organizers; actual title may differ<br>**indicates a talk is a lightning talk and is 5 minutes plus 5 minutes of questions |                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                  |  |