

Request for Presentations

Over its more than 20-year history, the Eastern Native Grass Symposium has set a standard of excellence in the quality of content and presenters offered to its attendees. We are currently seeking proposals from presenters and speakers for the 11th Eastern Native Grass Symposium, taking place September 17-19, 2018, at the Erie Bayfront Convention Center in Erie, Pa.

General theme: “*Form & Function: Grasslands and Meadows in the Converging Landscape.*”

Potential presentation topics include, but are not limited to:

1. Native grasses and forbs in commercial and residential landscapes
2. Site prep., seed selection, establishment, maintenance and expectation mgt.
3. E&S plans, steep slopes/disturbed sites (erosion control blankets, hydroseeding, solutions for challenging applications)
4. Public health and safety applications
5. Native grasslands for forage, biofuels and sustainable fiber production
6. Restoration of native grassland communities
7. Natives for wildlife and pollinator habitat
8. Role of natives in conservation agriculture (riparian and pollinator buffers, etc.)

For our **plenary sessions**, we are looking for visionary, inspiring and future-focused speakers.

For our **concurrent sessions**, we are looking for both practical, hands-on experience and research- and experience-supported presentations.

A successful proposal will show how a presentation will:

1. Demonstrate proven results.
2. Articulate lessons learned—including concrete examples of what works and what does not.
3. Provide tangible takeaways so audience members can put good ideas into practice.
4. Relate or be of strong interest to our symposium participants and their clientele.
5. Demonstrate, wherever applicable, how government/municipal/regulatory and private sector parties were engaged in the design, establishment, research and evaluation of the project.

Proposals for presentations must include:

1. Presenter's name
2. Mailing address
3. Daytime phone number(s), fax number, and e-mail address for each person presenting during the session
4. Title of proposed session
5. Brief description (200-500 words maximum), noting:
 - a. The scope of your presentation.
 - b. Target audience and main reason they will want to see this presentation.
 - c. Key findings.
 - d. Proven results
 - e. The presentation's alignment with the symposium themes.
 - f. How the presentation will emphasize partnership/engaging varied stakeholders
6. A brief (no more than 50 words) description of the main theme of the presentation, including three (3) learning outcomes. This description will be used in the symposium program if your proposal is accepted.
7. Duration. Sessions will likely run from 30-60 minutes. Those providing CEU credits might require a minimum of 50 minutes of instruction. Presentations can be single presenters or can be designed as part of a panel. We may consider combining single presentations with other compatible presentations.
8. Indicate if your speaking is contingent on a fee or expenses being covered.

Continuing Education Unit (CEU) Consideration:

The 11th Eastern Native Grass Symposium plans to offer CEUs for a significant portion of its presentations. Special consideration will be given to proposals demonstrating potential for satisfying CEU requirements for landscape architects, landscape designers and/or civil/environmental consultants. **You may be asked to tailor your presentation to these requirements as they are better known.**

Proposals are due February 15, 2018

Review of proposals will begin immediately, and applicants will be notified as soon as a determination is made on their proposal.

Email Randy Ferguson at rferguson@ernstseed.com, with "Symposium Proposal" in the subject line, or mail to:

Eastern Native Grass Symposium c/o Ernst Seeds
8884 Mercer Pike
Meadville, PA 16335

Thank you for your interest in presenting at the 11th Eastern Native Grass Symposium. We look forward to reviewing your proposal.