

Attendees can choose two (2) of the four (4) field tours below to participate in on Monday, September 17. One tour will take place in the morning, with lunch to follow on the motor coach. The second tour will take place in the afternoon before all groups reconvene at the Bayfront Convention Center in the late afternoon.

Getting Seeds from Field to Freight: A Tour of Ernst Conservation Seeds

Meadville, PA

Facilitator: Ernst Seeds staff

Ernst Conservation Seeds staff will lead the group on tours of the company's production fields, seed cleaning, processing, warehousing and shipping operations. September is a busy time of year at Ernst Seeds, as harvest is at its peak and our fields are alive with the color of asters, goldenrods and native grasses.

Wine Country Connection: Streambank Vegetation Projects and Vineyards Using Natives as Cover Crops, Erosion & Sedimentation Solutions

Erie and North East, PA

Facilitator(s): Tom McClure, District Manager, Erie County Conservation Dist. and Dan Dahlkemper, Principal, Dahlkemper Landscape Architects & Contractors

The first stop on this tour will be a creek bank restoration demonstration project along Cascade Creek where attendees will learn about lake geology and factors addressed in the restoration of the streambank. A stop at Camp Glinodo will illustrate a streambank stabilization project along Seven-Mile Creek. We will then visit Trolley Line Vineyards in North East to see innovative land preservation practices using native grasses as cover crops and erosion/sedimentation solutions. The tour will be capped off by a social visit to a nearby winery.

Native Grasses, Wetland Plants and the Sand Barrens of Presque Isle

Presque Isle State Park

Erie, PA

Facilitator: Dr. James Bissell, Curator of Botany and Director of Natural Areas, Cleveland Museum of Natural History

Dr. Bissell is one of Ohio's premier botanists. He is responsible for much of what is currently known about plant diversity and distribution in northeast Ohio and northwest Pennsylvania. His work has helped preserve land with rare species and habitats throughout the region. His tour will feature a one-to punch beginning at the Lighthouse or Beach #10 with a study of Presque Isle Indian grass. Dr. Bissell describes it as a very atypical variant, compared to all native Indian grass populations he has seen in Ohio and northwestern PA. A stop at the Thompson Circle pull-

*off will study the Sand Barrens and restored tussock sedge (*Carex stricta*) and greater bur-reed (*Carex aquatilis*) marshes. The Sand Barrens on Long Ridge, west of Thompson Circle, are the best sand barrens within Presque Isle. Restored Lake Erie marshes, dominated by greater bur-reed and tussock sedges, within Niagara Pond, will be seen just south of Fossil Dune Ridge, west of Thompson Circle.*

Establishment of Native Grasses & Forbs on State Game Lands

SGL 218 (Siegel Marsh)

Facilitator: Ronda Bimber, Acting Land Manager and John Keller, Game Lands Maintenance Supervisor

Members of the Pennsylvania Game Commission land management and habitat teams will lead a tour(s) of various warm season grass stands that have been developed for wildlife habitat and conservation purposes. Visitors will see some monoculture issues experienced on the site, CREP plantings that have worked well, and will see the results of a new seeding done this spring which should demonstrate expected progress from spring to fall.