



2024 Missouri Native Grasslands *Summit*

**Native Grassland Conservation
Partnerships into the Future**

April 9-11, 2024

Capitol Plaza Hotel
Jefferson City, Missouri

Message from Welcoming Speakers

Missouri's native grasslands have experienced unprecedented loss, with less than one half of one percent of our irreplaceable remnant prairies and savannas remaining. Once expansive, these native grasslands, their rich diversity of life, and invaluable ecosystem services are past the critical tipping point. Marjory Stoneman Douglas said it best, You can't conserve what you haven't got. Embracing her words, it is up to our generation to stem the continued loss of Missouri's native grasslands and imperative that we proactively restore them, conserving a centerpiece of our state's natural heritage for the benefit and enjoyment of generations to come.

Sara Parker Pauley

Native forages sequester carbon, improve soil health, reduce erosion and improve habitat for grassland birds and they can also improve the bottom line for Missouri's grazing operations by extending the grazing season and providing quality forage during the hot, dry summer months. The 2024 Grassland Summit will help all conservationists have a better understanding of the art and science of how to establish, manage and utilize these unique historic systems. Together we can build a better Missouri as we embrace the benefits of native grasses!

Scott Edwards

The future of Missouri's native grasslands will forever be changed in a positive way because of the 2024 Native Grasslands Summit - I truly believe that. We will look back on this transformative meeting and see how we have moved our grassland conservation efforts forward, so thank you to everyone who has taken the time to attend and collaborate on this important endeavor. We also couldn't have done this without so many wonderful partners on this planning committee that have put many hours in to pull off such a wonderful summit. CFM is fully committed to the conservation efforts of Missouri's native grasslands, so we can pass healthy natural resources to future generations.

Tyler Schwartze



We want your input!

In order to facilitate communication throughout the conference and to continue the conversation afterward, use this QR code to submit questions and ideas.

2024 Missouri Native Grasslands Summit



Welcome

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Upland sandpiper

HOSTS



Welcome to the Summit

Welcome to *YOUR* 2024 Missouri Native Grasslands Summit. To get the most out of your meeting, we encourage you to share your thoughts and ideas, which is paramount to how we move forward as a natural resource community to conserve the diverse values of native grasslands.

One of our goals for the Summit is for each one of you to walk away with more knowledge. We also want you to help set the stage for the future, to network and build relationships that help you become more engaged, and to begin building partnerships to advance native grassland habitats for more diverse wildlife resources. Native grassland habitats are a critical natural resource serving a myriad of functions and values — we are happy you will be a part of the future of native grassland conservation.

Thanks again for joining us, and we hope you have a great time at the Summit!

*— the Native Grasslands Summit
Planning Team*



Niawathe prairie



2024 *Summit* Planning Team

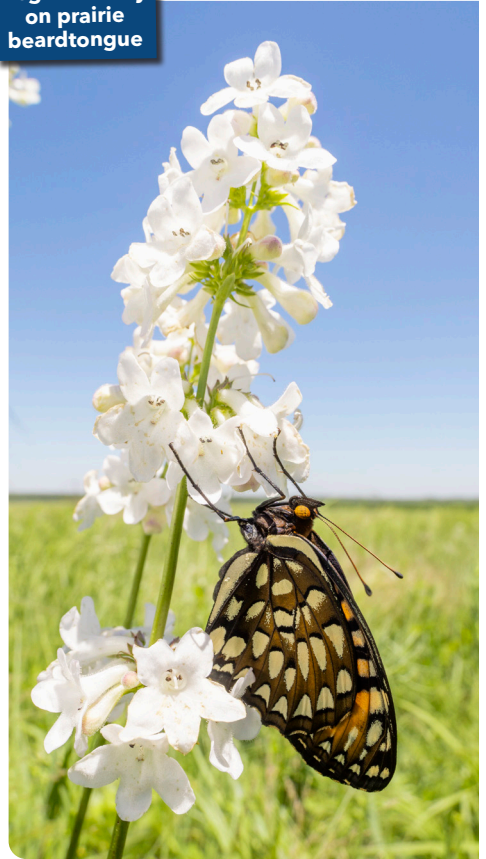
If you have questions or comments during the summit or after it concludes, reach out to someone on the team.

Andrew White
Bill White
Tricia Burkhardt
Tom Thompson
Shawn Carey
Carol Davit
Frank Loncarich
Jamie Kurtz
Seth Barrioz
Robert Pierce
Erin Holmes
Christopher McLeland
Casey Bergthold
Jason Jensen
Dave Haubein
Charlie Beshar
Kent Wamsley
Megan Buchanan
Michele Baumer
Tyler Schwartze
Landry Jones
Nate Muenks
Miceala Haymaker
Aaron Jeffries
Ryan Diener
Tanner Patton
Joel Porath
Joel Wirl



Dickcissel

Regal fritillary
on prairie
beardtongue



Brown-belted bumblebee



Agenda

Tuesday, April 9

10:00– 10:30 AM	Welcome <i>Welcoming Speakers: Sara Parker Pauley, Scott Edwards, and Tyler Schwartze</i>
Missouri's Grassland Legacy <i>Session Moderator: Bill White and Andrew White</i>	
10:30– 11:00 AM	Missouri's Prairie Inheritance: New Relevancies of Old-Growth Grasslands <i>Carol Davit</i>
11:00– 11:30 AM	Healing the Land with Native Plants <i>Doug Peterson</i>
11:30 AM– 12:20 PM	LUNCH
Missouri's Grassland Legacy <i>Session Moderator: Krista Noel</i>	
12:30–1:30 PM	Splendor in the Grass: A Reassessment <i>Doug Ladd</i>
1:30–2:00 PM	Foundational to Grassland Ecology: The Structure, Composition, and Function of Soil as the Fundamental Medium of Grassland Ecosystems <i>Sam Lord</i>
2:00–2:30 PM	A Tour of Missouri's Native Grassland Communities From Glades to Bottomland Prairies <i>Mike Leahy</i>



Northern bobwhite

2:30–2:45 PM	BREAK
Native Grassland Fauna: Case Studies and Monitoring Technology <i>Session Moderator: Frank Loncarich</i>	
2:50–3:10 PM	Silent Prairies: Grassland Birds on the Brink <i>Kelly VanBeek</i>
3:10–3:30 PM	Examining Grassland Bird Population Trends and Habitat Use: 2012 to Present <i>Dana Ripper</i>
3:30–3:50 PM	A Look Into Our Shared Future of Grasslands Conservation <i>Ethan Duke</i>
3:50–4:10 PM	Grassland Management for Priority Amphibian and Reptile Species <i>Dr. Jeff Briggler</i>
4:10–4:40 PM	The Regal Fritillary Butterfly: A High-quality Prairie Endemic <i>Dr. Dan Marschalek</i>
4:40 – 5:10 PM	What Can Bees Tell Us About Our Prairies <i>Mike Arduser</i>
6:00–7:30 PM	DINNER Presentation of Lifetime Achievement Award in Missouri Native Grasslands
7:30–10:00 PM	SOCIAL

Wednesday, April 10

Prescribed Burn Associations: Pooling Resources for Private Land Prescribed Fire

Session Moderator: Ryan Luckenhoff

8:00–8:20 AM	Prescribed Fire in Grasslands: Setting Objectives and Monitoring for Success <i>Mike Saxton</i>
8:20–8:40 AM	Prescribed Burn Associations: Pooling Resources for Private Land Prescribed Fire <i>Wes Buchheit</i>
8:40–9:00 AM	Interaction of Cattle and Fire on Remnant Prairie in Missouri <i>Dr. Tom Thompson</i>

Native Grassland Economics

Session Moderator: Stasia Whitaker

9:00–9:20 AM	Making Native Warm-Season Grasses Work for You <i>Drew Kientzy</i>
9:20–9:40 AM	Increasing Grass-fed Beef Production in Missouri <i>Adam Boman</i>
9:40–10:00 AM	The Value of Harvesting Seeds from Prairies <i>Mervin Wallace</i>
10:00–10:35 AM	BREAK



Noah Brown's prairie

PHOTO COURTESY OF BRUCE SCHUTTE



Cattle Production, Climate, and Native Forage

Session Moderator: Tanner Patton

10:40– 11:00 AM	Missouri Climate Trends and Impacts <i>Dr. Zack Leason</i>
11:00– 11:20 AM	Improving Drought Resilience with Native Warm-season Grasses <i>Drexel Atkisson</i>
11:20– 11:40 AM	Promoting Native Grasses to Livestock Produce <i>Charlie Beshler</i>
11:40 AM– 12:45 PM	LUNCH <i>Speaker: Rudi Roeslein</i>
12:45–2:15 PM	Increasing Acceptance of Native Forage among Cattle Producers: Keys to Native Pasture Success <i>Speakers to include Amy Hamilton, Elizabeth Steele, Dave Haubein, Charlie Beshler, Steve Clubine</i>
2:15–2:30 PM	BREAK
2:30–3:30 PM	Building Landowner Cooperatives <i>The group will walk through the framework of a landowner cooperative, hear some examples from across the state, and work through some examples of their own.</i>

Prairie and Pasture Management

Session Moderator: Megan Buchanan

3:40–4:00 PM	Identifying and Treating Invasive Plants in Grassland Systems <i>Valarie Kurre</i>
4:00–4:20 PM	The Fight to Save Our Prairies from Woody Encroachment <i>Dr. Jesse Nippert</i>
4:20–4:40 PM	Native Warm-Season Grasses and Forbs For Cattle <i>Steve Clubine</i>
4:40–5:00 PM	Diversifying Prairie Reconstructions and Native Pastures to Maximize Wildlife Benefit <i>Jerod Huebner</i>
5:00–7:00 PM	Social with Heavy Hors d'Oeuvres <i>Guest speaker: Duane Hovorka</i> <i>Presentation: The Farm Bill and Grasslands Act: Funding Prairie Conservation. Followed by a rainfall simulator demonstration by Luke Skinner with NRCS.</i>



PHOTO COURTESY OF MEGAN RUDROFF, USDA

Thursday, April 11

Water & Native Grasslands <i>Session Moderator: Nick Burrell</i>	
8:00–8:20 AM	Hydrology and Water Quality of a Missouri Tallgrass Prairie Stream <i>Dale Blevins</i>
8:20–8:40 AM	Predicted Water Trends and Impacts to Grasslands <i>Zack Leasor</i>
8:40–9:00 AM	Where Prairie and Water Meet: A Wetlands Perspective <i>Frank Nelson</i>
Urban Native Grasslands <i>Session Moderator: Carol Davit</i>	
9:00–9:20 AM	Native Plants in the City: Urban Design & Ecosystem Services <i>Ronda Burnett</i>
9:20–9:40 AM	Nature’s Paintbrush: Integrating Native Landscapes into the Built Environment <i>Chris Sanders</i>
9:40–10:00 AM	Benchmarks of “Success” within Urban Prairie Plantings: Plants and Pollinators; Victories and Failures <i>James Faupel</i>
10:00–10:15 AM	BREAK
10:15–11:00 AM	Informational "Grazing" Workshop <i>As a play on rotational grazing, the audience will be divided up into several different pastures (tables) to discuss various topics introduced at the summit.</i>
11:00 AM–12:00 PM	Resilient Grasslands Exercise <i>The group will participate in an exercise to create a shared vision of what resilient grasslands in Missouri looks like in the future, building on the knowledge and perspectives they have gained from the summit.</i>

Presenters



Tuesday, April 9

Morning Session

Sara Parker Pauley serves as the ninth Director of the Missouri Department of Conservation since its formation in 1937. The Missouri Conservation Commission announced Pauley's selection effective November 1, 2016. A native of Columbia, Pauley received both her law degree and bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Missouri-Columbia and did post-graduate studies in Australia as a Rotary Fellow. She previously served as Director of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources since 2010. She has worked as project manager for D.J. Case & Associates, a natural resources communications firm, and as a deputy director for the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. She has been an instructor at the University of Missouri's School of Natural Resources, teaching a course in natural resource policy and administration. She also served as President of the Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies. Pauley began her professional career as a policy analyst with the Missouri Department of Conservation from 1993–1996. Over the years, though her career path varied, it has never strayed far from her personal desire to be engaged in the stewardship of Missouri's natural resources.

Scott Edwards is the State Conservationist with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Missouri, headquartered in Columbia, MO. He has worked with the agency for over 28 years, serving in Mississippi, Louisiana, and began in Missouri in June of 2020.

Tyler Schwartze serves as the Conservation Federation of Missouri's 10th executive director in its 88-year-old Conservation Federation and is responsible for implementing CFM's mission, goals, policies and procedures with respect for Missouri's rich conservation heritage. He has furthered CFM's strong conservation advocacy efforts in the Missouri State Capitol to guide the passage of conservation-friendly legislation in each of the last four sessions. The Conservation Leadership Corps (CLC) and Share the Harvest programs continue to grow under his leadership, and he serves as the editor of CFM's publication, *Conservation Federation*. Living his entire life in Missouri, he brings passionate experience and sound judgment in protecting and promoting Missouri's wildlife and natural resources.



Bullsnake

Carol Davit is the executive director of the Missouri Prairie Foundation, a 58-year-old land trust, and Grow Native!, MPF's 24-year-old native plant marketing and education program. She has worked for nearly 30 years in conservation and environmental communications, development, administration, and leadership for private and nonprofit conservation groups, and also municipal and state governments. Editor of the *Missouri Prairie Journal* since 1997, Carol enjoys writing and speaking about native gardening, prairie conservation, and related topics. She is the chair of the Missouri Invasive Plant Council.

Doug Peterson was an NRCS employee for over 32 years, starting his career as a soil scientist. He went on to hold the NRCS positions of state grassland specialist, state soil health specialist, and regional soil health specialist, helping row crop and livestock producers around the country understand soil health and regenerative agriculture, including land management to regenerate soil health, function, and productivity. Currently, Doug is the science officer for Regenified, a regenerative verification and certification company working around the globe to improve the planet's environment as well as the health of its people.

Afternoon Session

Doug Ladd is currently a research associate with the Missouri Botanical Garden, and is a conservation biologist with 40 years of research and applied management experience, focusing on conserving and restoring biodiversity and healthy ecosystems in midwestern grasslands and woodlands, with an emphasis on floristics, vegetation, and fire ecology.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MEGAN RUDROFF, USDA

Sam Lord is an instructor of soil science and ecology at the University of Missouri in Columbia. He is also a PhD candidate focusing on the determination of biodiversity, ecological integrity, and nutrient dynamics of natural and agronomic ecosystems. In his research, Sam focuses on soil ecology and how plant-soil interactions and processes lead to the emergence of complex ecosystems.

Mike Leahy has worked for nearly 30 years for state conservation organizations in Indiana, Virginia, and Missouri. Over the last 17 years he has worked for the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) as a natural areas coordinator and natural community ecologist. He works on natural community conservation projects with MDC staff and many partner organizations.

Kelly VanBeek has been a professional wildlife biologist in public service for over 10 years, with experiences including managing habitat on both private and public lands, public engagement on many wildlife issues, and integrating ecological and social science at large geographic scales for birds of conservation concern. She currently focuses on nongame grassland bird conservation for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Migratory Bird Program in the Midwest region. Kelly has family roots in agriculture and seeks to find ways to integrate working lands conservation with wildlife habitat in her home state of Wisconsin and across the Corn Belt.



Prairie blazingstar and paintbrush

Dana Ripper has an M.S. in wildlife ecology from Arkansas State University. In 2010 she co-founded the Missouri River Bird Observatory (MRBO), a nonprofit dedicated to the conservation of birds and their habitats. MRBO employs science, education, and policy advocacy to achieve its conservation mission. Dana and other MRBO staff have spent the past 13 years working in Missouri's most imperiled habitats documenting bird population trends and their response to habitat management practices.

Ethan Duke has been using technology to advance conservation for 20 years. He cofounded the Missouri River Bird Observatory (MRBO) in 2010 with his wife Dana Ripper. MRBO's mission is to conserve Missouri's birds and their habitats through science, education, and advocacy.

Dr. Jeff Briggler has served as Missouri's state herpetologist for 24 years. Jeff spends the majority of time at MDC coordinating, conserving, monitoring, and promoting amphibian and reptile populations in Missouri. His work focuses on conducting and coordinating activities for listed amphibians and reptiles in Missouri, especially surveys and monitoring efforts, status assessments, recovery planning, and habitat planning. He is the lead author of MDC's third edition of *The Amphibians and Reptiles of Missouri*.

Dr. Dan Marschalek as an associate professor at the University of Central Missouri, his research focuses on the ecology of insects to aid in their conservation. Population-level studies are designed to learn more about endangered species to inform recovery efforts. Community-level studies investigate insect ecosystem functions, such as pollination and decomposition. Working toward the conservation of insects often requires creativity and problem-solving, and a close partnership with resource managers and landowners.

Mike Arduser is currently a research associate with the Conservation Research Institute. Mike has been studying native bees and working with pollination ecologists and bee researchers in the Midwest for more than 30 years. He has identified bees and other pollinators for many projects and surveys, organized and taught courses on the ecology and identification of midwestern bees for many conservation agencies and universities, and authored or co-authored popular and scientific publications on bees and pollination ecology.

Wednesday, April 10

Morning Session

Mike Saxton is the manager of ecological restoration and land stewardship at Shaw Nature Reserve, where he has worked since 2016. Mike has a master of science degree in biological geography from Northern Illinois University and conducted his thesis research on herbaceous plant recovery and seed bank dynamics in oak savanna restorations. At Shaw Nature Reserve, Mike manages prescribed fire, administers its ecological restoration volunteer program, and oversees invasive species control and native seed collection over 2,400 acres.

Wes Buchheit serves in a statewide role as the prescribed fire coordinating biologist in Missouri for Pheasants Forever & Quail Forever based in Perryville, Missouri. His first eight years of work with PF/QF focused on helping private landowners reach their land management goals, and he has been in his current fire-centric position for two years. Wes also served for five years on the Missouri Prescribed Fire Council executive committee. He enjoys spending time with his wife and two sons and managing the family farm for wildlife habitat with the help of the Foothills PBA.

Dr. Tom Thompson has served as the statewide grassland ecologist and research scientist for MDC since 2010. Tom's graduate work and subsequent work experience have primarily focused on native grassland and working grassland/rangeland landscapes. In Missouri, this work has included work on the long-term patch-burn grazing with cattle botanical and vegetation response studies, greater prairie-chicken translocations, bobwhite quail chick, brood, and adult survival and habitat use, and herptile, bee, grasshopper, butterfly, and planthopper surveys.

Drew Kientzy has served as a research analyst with University of Missouri Extension since 2020. He specializes in financial analysis, machinery economics, and business planning. He and his wife live and work on his family's fifth-generation diversified crop and livestock farm in Lincoln County, Missouri. Drew has been working with the economics of native warm-season grasses since the spring of 2021.

Adam Boman as the marketing director for the Missouri Forage and Grassland Council, connects producers in Missouri with premium markets for their regeneratively raised livestock. Adam also raises cattle and sheep in southwestern Missouri, and is very passionate about regenerative grazing and grassland agriculture. For the last 16 years, he has produced grass-finished beef that he has directly marketed to Missouri consumers

Mervin Wallace while employed in jobs that included teaching high school science subjects and working in the Missouri State Health Laboratory, his hobby was learning Missouri's native orchids and their habitats. This led him to the realization that native plant communities in Missouri are drastically reduced, that native plants need more places to live, and both public and private properties can provide this space. He has owned Missouri Wildflowers Nursery since 1984.

Dr. Zack Leason is an assistant professor in climate science at the University of Missouri where he serves as the Missouri state climatologist and director of the Missouri Climate Center. Zack received a M.A. and PhD in geography at Ohio State University after receiving a B.S. in meteorology at Western Kentucky University. He also worked as a postdoctoral researcher at Ohio State where he was funded by the National Science Foundation. Zack's research focuses on drought monitoring, soil moisture monitoring, and subseasonal-to-seasonal climate prediction.

Drexel Atkisson has been involved with a grazing operation for 40 years and has been an owner/operator for 30 years. A professional conservationist for 33 years, he has spent the last seven as a soil health specialist. He says "We started incorporating native warm-season grasses in our operation 30 years ago, and what a difference it has made."



Tiger salamander



Pink katydid

Charlie Beshler and his wife Donnia raise registered Hereford cattle and grandkids in Patton Mo, where they have been grazing cattle since 1989. The operation consists of diverse forages mainly made up of NWG and a fescue/ clover mix. They started planning to convert to NWG in 2018 and have been converting more every year as availability of forage allows them to do so.

Rudi Roeslein was inspired by his true passion for wildlife and landscape habitat restoration to create Roeslein Alternative Energy (RAE), an operator and developer of renewable energy production facilities that convert agricultural and industrial wastes, along with renewable biomass feedstocks to renewable natural gas (RNG) and sustainable co-products. In less than 10 years, RAE has quickly grown to become the industry leader in the production of renewable natural gas from livestock waste and has achieved the lowest Carbon Intensity Score ever awarded by the California Air Resources Board. RAE is now in a joint venture with Smithfield Foods called Monarch Bio Energy that is producing pipeline quality RNG that displaces traditional fossil fuels.

Afternoon Session

Amy Hamilton & Elizabeth Steele are part of their family's operation, Hamilton Native Outpost, which raises, harvests, cleans, and sells native grass and wildflower seed. They share a passion for using native plants in agriculture, especially grazing, and believe that recreating the native grasslands the bison would have seen is better for soil health, livestock, and wildlife.

Dave Haubein is the owner and manager of Round Rock Ranch & Haubein Farms in Dade County, Missouri—the first Audubon-Certified Ranch in the country. He also serves on the Farmer Advisory Committee for The Center for Regenerative Agriculture. He is a National Association of Conservation Districts champion of soil health, and is a board director for Partnerscapes, a national landowner-led organization for collaborative conservation.

Steve Clubine was born and raised on a small grain and livestock farm in southeastern Kansas, he was a grassland biologist for 34 years for the Missouri Department of Conservation and is now retired. He serves as a consultant for Truax Manufacturing (native grass drills), grazes stockers on his family property, writes “Native Warm-Season News” for the *Missouri Prairie Journal*, and is a councilman for the City of Windsor, Missouri.

Valarie Kurre is the coordinator of the Scenic Rivers Invasive Species Partnership (SRISP), the first cooperative invasive species management area established in the state. The SRISP focuses on combining invasive species management efforts from public land managers and private landowners in the scenic rivers region in southern Missouri to make the biggest impact on reducing invasive plants in the area. Valarie has worked in the field of invasive species management and botany for five years throughout southern Missouri, completing restoration work on a variety of habitats from glades, forested land, and riparian areas.

Dr. Jesse Nippert, a professor at Kansas State University, is a grassland and savanna ecologist working at the Konza Prairie in northeastern Kansas. His research is focused on plant physiological responses to climate change. For the past 15 years, he has studied the drivers and consequences of shrub expansion into grassland ecosystems.

Jerod Huebner is the director of prairie management for the Missouri Prairie Foundation. Based in Joplin, since 2015 Jerod has been overseeing stewardship of MPF’s 35 properties totaling 4,900 acres. In this role, he sustains the inherent native biodiversity of MPF’s old-growth prairie remnants, carries out numerous restoration projects, and establishes prairie plantings on MPF property and for several partners. He and his father are cattle producers. practicing rotational grazing on all native grass through the growing season.

Duane Hovorka is a senior agriculture policy specialist with the National Wildlife Federation (NWF). He has more than 40 years of experience in public policy at the federal and state level. He currently analyzes and lobbies on agricultural policy and conservation programs in Congress for NWF.



Ornate box turtle

Thursday, April 11

Dale Blevins led the Kansas City Office of the Water Resources Division of the U.S. Geological Survey for over 20 years. While with the USGS, he wrote many papers and conducted studies on water resources in Missouri. After retirement, Dale became active in the Missouri Prairie Foundation and has served on the Board of Directors for 13 years. He is currently MPF's immediate past president and manages farms in the Osage Plains of Missouri.

Frank Nelson has worked for the Missouri Department of Conservation for the past 20 years and with various partners to help advance wetland conservation in Missouri. His work includes strategic planning, applied research, renovating infrastructure, public communication, and ecological discovery. He currently serves as the wetland systems manager in MDC's Statewide Resource Management Branch and is working to conserve and promote the full spectrum of Missouri's wetlands, their biodiversity, and the benefits these critical habitats provide people.

Ronda Burnett has been a community conservation planner with the Missouri Department of Conservation since 2005. She holds a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture from Louisiana State University and a Master's of Urban, Environmental, and Land Use Planning from the University of Kansas. Ronda is the author of the award-winning reference manual, *Conservation Planning Tools for Missouri Communities*, published as a guide for city planners in 2018. Currently, Ronda serves on the Missouri Chapter board of the American Planning Association and is Chair of the Missouri Prairie Foundation's Grow Native! Committee.

Chris Sanders, a senior associate at Lamar Johnson Collaborative, entered the design industry in 2013. He is an accomplished designer who understands the design process's complexity. His professional career includes experience in the public and private sectors, including corporate, parks & recreation, and civic amenities throughout all design phases. Chris' experience in water resource management, hydrogeological research, and water quality brings an added dimension and measurable benefit to each project.



Bobolink

James Faupel, as of April 2024 is the director of horticulture at Bellefontain Cemetery and Arboretum. Previously, he was a supervisor of ecological restoration for the Missouri Botanical Garden at the Litzsinger Road Ecology Center in St. Louis County. Faupel started his career in horticulture, first working in the nursery industry and later in the design and landscaping trade. He has been working with native plants for 17 years. Faupel enjoys watching the diversity of wildlife they provide for (especially bees), as well as opening the eyes of others to the amazing natural world that exists right outside their front doors.



Additional Information To Keep In Mind!

- Water infiltration is higher on soils growing native grasses and forbs than shallow-rooted, non-native grasses.
- Soil carbon and organic matter are higher in soils growing native plants.
- Beef cow conception rates are typically higher on native grass pastures.
- The need for livestock mineral supplements are typically lower on native grass pastures.
- Missouri ranks 3rd among all states in beef cow production, due in part to our pasture and hay acreage.
- The declining Southern Plains Bumble Bee relies solely on native prairie plants for nectar and pollen.
- Steer weight gains are typically two times higher on native grass pastures, when compared to the same cattle using non-native grass pastures.
- University of Tennessee studies show that native warm-season grasses are some of the most drought tolerant forages that we can grow in the Midwest.

Sponsors

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Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

LITTLE BLUESTEM LEVEL



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Missouri Prairie Foundation, MFA, Audubon Conservation Ranching Initiative, Upper Mississippi Joint Venture, National Grazing Lands Coalition, Bamert Seed Company, Stone Environmental, Truax, Bass Pro Shops

NORTHERN BOBWHITE LEVEL

National Wild Turkey Federation, Missouri Center for Regenerative Agriculture, Grow Native!, Missouri Forage and Grassland Council

OTHER CONTRIBUTORS INCLUDE: Missouri Cattlemen's Association, Jefferson City Chapter of Bees and Brews Club

Missouri

is home to over 1000 wildlife and plant species that depend on native grasslands. We look forward to the continued conversations and partnerships as we work together to preserve these essential and diverse habitats.

Thank you

for being a part of the future of conservation in Missouri.

PHOTO COURTESY OF R. S. KINNERSON

800

Plants



20

Fish



65

Butterfly/Moth



31

Reptiles



250

Bees



44

Birds



13

Amphibians



20

Mammals



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