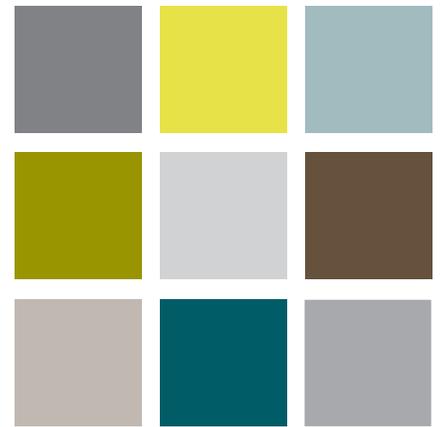


Professional Natural Resource Managers Education Impact Statement



SUMMARY

Regional Climate Education Team

Across the state of Ohio there are numerous individuals charged with managing Ohio's varied natural resources. These individuals are either in charge of land management for metro-parks, city parks, county parks or conservancy districts or are working one on one with landowners who are responsible for managing the resource. The decisions they make or the recommendations they provide have a critical impact on the future health and well being of Ohio's natural resources.

SITUATION

There is a contingent of natural resource managers across the state who are looking to improve their knowledge base in order to help them either better serve their clientele (as in the case of consulting foresters and employees of local soil and water conservation districts), or be better land managers with the lands they are charged to oversee. However, in the past the opportunities for these individuals to get updated resource management information have been a hit or miss proposition.



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Professional Natural Resource Managers Education Impact Statement

RESPONSE

To meet these needs, the SENR Extension program now offers an annual conference Ohio Woodland, Water, and Wildlife Conference. While the original target audience was resource managers, park maintenance personnel, and administrators from Ohio's numerous park districts, the target has expanded to include those who work for local soil and water conservation districts, consulting foresters, land surveyors and conservancy district managers. The conference provides three concurrent sessions with presentations addressing well-established management practices as well as emerging ecosystem issues such as emerald ash borer and woody invasive plants. Pesticide credits, continuing education credits for Certified Foresters and International Society of Arboriculture credits are also offered when and where appropriate.

IMPACT

The knowledge gained by the participants can have a large multiplier effect when one considers the amount of land resources the attendees have the potential to impact. In one year, the conference attendees represented 18 different park districts that had management responsibilities for over 90,000 acres of Ohio's park lands. A total of 10 different municipalities were represented along with employees from USDA NRCS, 5 different townships, private consulting foresters, master gardeners, private natural areas managers, private consultants in soils and aquatics along with foresters for the Ohio Army National Guard. In 2013 the audience has expanded again to include teachers, Master Gardeners and Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalists looking to expand their natural resource knowledge. The audience in 2013 increased in size again to a total attendance of 163 people.

Contact Information

Kathy Smith

Program Director

379B Kottman Hall
2021 Coffey Rd
Columbus, OH 43210

614.688.3136

smith.81@osu.edu

senr.osu.edu

woodlandstewards.osu.edu