

September 2012

NATIVE NEWS



BUS TOUR FOR LAND PLANNING PROFESSIONALS ON THURSDAY SEPT 20TH

Once again, Spence Restoration Nursery and the Indiana Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects will be sponsoring a bus tour titled "Native Plant Communities in the Commercial Landscape". This year we welcome Empower Results and the Upper White River Watershed Alliance as sponsors in addition to long-time sponsors Eco Logic and Williams Creek Management.

We will again focus on storm water BMPs, primarily infiltration practices. Our meeting place however, Raymond Park, features a mature prairie and wetland planting. These planting were installed in the late nineties. They will provide an opportunity to view a mature planting and discuss long term maintenance of prairies and wetlands. From Raymond Park, we will head north to Hamilton County where we will visit a couple of storm water BMPs in the Noblesville and Westfield areas. Forest Park, located near downtown Noblesville, contains pervious pavers and a parking lot rain garden that were planted by volunteers in 2009. Union Street in Westfield contains street scape rain gardens installed in 2010. Following these sites, participants will be treated to Lunch at Charleston's Restaurant in Carmel.



In the afternoon, we will visit the Speedway Bio-Retention areas which are part of a combined sewer separation project. This project aims to divert storm water out of the combined sewer system and into bio-retention basins and street-side rain gardens. It is hoped that this program will reduce combined sewer overflows, a major source of pollution in our waterways.

From Speedway, we will travel downtown to The Nature Conservancy Efromson Conservation Center. This LEED Platinum project includes an entirely native landscape including representations of many Indiana Native Plant Communities. The site is designed to capture and infiltrate all of the site storm water. We will discuss the effects of the urban heat island on the landscape and the need to include highly heat and drought resistant plants in non-irrigated urban settings, particularly in our changing climate.

From TNC, we will travel to the near northeast side to the Challenge Foundation Academy. This site contains two identical drainage areas off the building. One was planted with rain gardens while the other was left untreated, provided an excellent before/after example.

Please join us for this opportunity to learn about installation and maintenance of native plant communities. At several of the sites, we will hear from landscape architects and others involved in the design, installation and maintenance of the site.

Participants will receive a letter that acknowledges their attendance and provides a breakdown of the actual hours of instruction if they wish to apply for Continuing Educational Credits.

Please contact kevin@spencenursery.com for registration information. Please register by Friday September 14th.