

**24<sup>th</sup> North American Prairie Conference (2016)**  
**Call for Abstracts - Oral Papers and Posters**  
**Abstract Submission begins on 1 February and closes on 10 May 2016**

You are invited to submit an abstract for an oral paper or poster presentation at the 24<sup>th</sup> North American Prairie Conference being held at Illinois State University, Normal, IL, July 17-20, 2016. Our goal is to bring together prairie experts, enthusiasts, and advocates sharing knowledge, experience, and ideas. We also want to stimulate interest and motivate people toward action in the conservation, restoration, reconstruction, and functional uses of prairie in North America.

**Session Topics**

We encourage presentations on all topics relating to prairie, but we are especially interested in those that relate to the following tentative session topics:

- (1) Historical perspective & studies (change in biological communities)
- (2) Cultural legacy (Native Americans, European settlement, Prairie literature & Art)
- (3) Grassland animals (life history & ecology of invertebrates, herps, birds, and mammals)
- (4) Prairie plants (life history, ecology, response to management practices)
- (5) Community ecology (prairies and associated communities, such as savannas and barrens)
- (6) Restoration & planting, prairie seed sources and production, animals, microbes
- (7) Large scale – landscape restorations/plantings (case histories)
- (8) Management (fire, invasive species, patch burn grazing, grazing, mowing, etc.)
- (9) Conservation (planning and programs)
- (10) Relationships among organisms: parasitism and mutualism, plant animal interactions, soil organism.
- (11) Education (Nature Centers, Citizen Science Programs, Curriculum K-12)
- (12) Corridors (roadside, linear right-of-ways, trails, and habitat links)
- (13) Functional uses of prairie (runoff retention, carbon sequestration, flood protection, grazing, biofuels, landscaping)

Indicate the number of the topics listed above (up to 3 topics) that best reflects the content of your presentation at the bottom of the abstract. If you choose more than one topic, list them in order of your preference). Alternatively, suggest a topic that matches your presentation content.

**Oral Presentations and Posters**

Papers will be limited to a 15-minute presentation, with an additional 5 minute question and answer period for a total of 20 minutes allotted to each paper. Posters should be set up between 4:00 and 8:00 PM on 17 July 2016 in the Prairie Room of the Bone Student Center. They can be viewed during breaks and during a dedicated poster session on Monday 18 July 2016 from 4:00 – 6:00 PM. Posters need to be taken down by noon on Wednesday 20 July 2016.

**Abstract Guidelines for Oral Presentations and Posters**

The abstract should clearly and concisely summarize the contents of your oral or poster presentation. It should be prepared carefully as it may be the primary reason others will want to attend your talk or view your poster. An abstract should elaborate upon the title; introduce the hypotheses, methods or approach; highlight essential results; and clearly summarize important conclusions. In the preparation of your abstract, please consider the following:

- Abstracts will be reviewed on a first-come-first-served basis. Abstracts not following the guidelines or that are poorly written will be rejected.
- Use **Arial 11-point font** single spacing, one-inch right and left margins, and a maximum of 250 words.

The format (placement of title, authors, etc.) should follow that used in the example below. Designate each author's affiliation by a superscript number following the name of each author. Provide the affiliated institution and address for each author using the superscripted number corresponding to that of the author.

After the title and author information, skip one line and provide the name, phone number, and email address of the person giving the presentation.

**(1) All authors having same affiliation**

Diversity of insects in unburned and burned and prairie. Brown, Mary R<sup>1</sup>, and Robert D. Smith<sup>1</sup>. <sup>1</sup>Heartland University, Rivertown, Ohio.

Presenter: Mary R. Brown, 555-555-5555, [mrbrwn@hartldu.edu](mailto:mrbrwn@hartldu.edu)

**(2) Authors with different affiliations**

A history of prairie restoration methods. Smith, Herold R.<sup>1</sup>, Jane P. Doe<sup>1</sup>, and Robert R. Fisher<sup>2</sup>. <sup>1</sup>University of Wisconsin-Mayberry, Mayberry, Wisconsin, <sup>2</sup>USDA NRCS, Smithville, Michigan.

Presenter: Jane P. Doe, 555-555-0568, [jpdoe@uwmaybry.edu](mailto:jpdoe@uwmaybry.edu)

Skip one line and insert the body of the abstract. Following the abstract, skip one line and insert: (1) up to five Key Words (Capitalized); (2) session topic number (see list above) that best matches your presentation (indicate a second or third choice, if in doubt as to the most appropriate) or type in a suggested topic for your presentation; (3) indicate if your presentation is a poster or oral presentation; and (4) if you are a student, do you want to be included in the 'Best student oral or poster competition'? Each of these items should be listed on a separate line.

Abstracts need to be submitted by email to [rcander@ilstu.edu](mailto:rcander@ilstu.edu). The subject line of your email should be: 'Abstract for 24<sup>th</sup> North American Prairie Conference and your name.'

**Evaluation of Abstracts**

The conference program committee will evaluate abstracts based on overall relevance to the prairie conference goals and theme, clarity, and focus, and, for the more academic papers, scientific merit. The 24<sup>th</sup> North American Prairie Conference steering committee stresses the need for specific and in-depth presentations rather than general overviews of issues or projects.

**Poster Information**

A poster boards 4 ft. wide x 3 ft. tall space and mounting pins will be available for posters.

Questions about abstract preparation and submission may be directed to Roger Anderson [rcander@ilstu.edu](mailto:rcander@ilstu.edu) or by phone 309-438-2653. Conference information is available at <http://nap2016.illinoisstate.edu/>

**Sample Abstract**

Weevils, deer, and fire effects on flowering diversity of tallgrass prairie forbs. Roger C. Anderson<sup>1</sup>; M. Rebecca Anderson<sup>1</sup>, Erica A. Corbett<sup>2</sup>, <sup>1</sup>Illinois State University, Normal, IL, <sup>2</sup>Southeastern Oklahoma State University, Durant, OK.

Presenter: Roger C. Anderson, 309-452-5728, [rcander@ilstu.edu](mailto:rcander@ilstu.edu)

Our study revealed a complex interaction of deer browsing, a prairie endemic weevil (*Haplorhynchites aeneus*), and fire on production of flowering stems by prairie forbs. Our study site included two plots protected from deer browsing and two unprotected plots. The study was conducted over a four-year period (1998-2001) and the plots were burned twice (1999 and 2001) in late April. The total number of flowering stems was significantly higher on protected plots than unprotected plots in non-burned years. However, in burn years there was no significant difference in number of flowering stems between protected and unprotected plots due to a significant increase in flowering stems of *Silphium integrifolium* (Rosinweed), the leading species on unprotected plots. The increase in Rosinweed flowering stems in burn years resulted from fire eliminating the prairie weevil that partially clips peduncles of Rosinweed flowering heads. The two leading species on protected plots (*Helianthus mollis*, Ashy Sunflower, and *Veronicastrum virginicum*, Culver's Root) tended to have significantly fewer flowering stems during years of burning than in years without burning and always had significantly fewer flowering stems in unprotected than protected plots. For the second leading species on the unprotected plots, *Parthenium integrifolium* (Wild Quinine), there was no significant difference in the number of flowering stems on protected and unprotected plots; however, burn years had significantly more flowering stems than non-burn years for this species. Diversity (Shannon Index H') of flowering stems was significantly higher on protected than on unprotected plots for all years of the study.

Key Words: PRAIRIE, FORBS, DEER, FIRE, WEEVIL

Session Topic Number: 10,

Alternate Topic:

Format: Oral Presentation

Student competition: If the presenter is a student, do you want to be included in the 'Best student oral or poster competition'?

Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_