
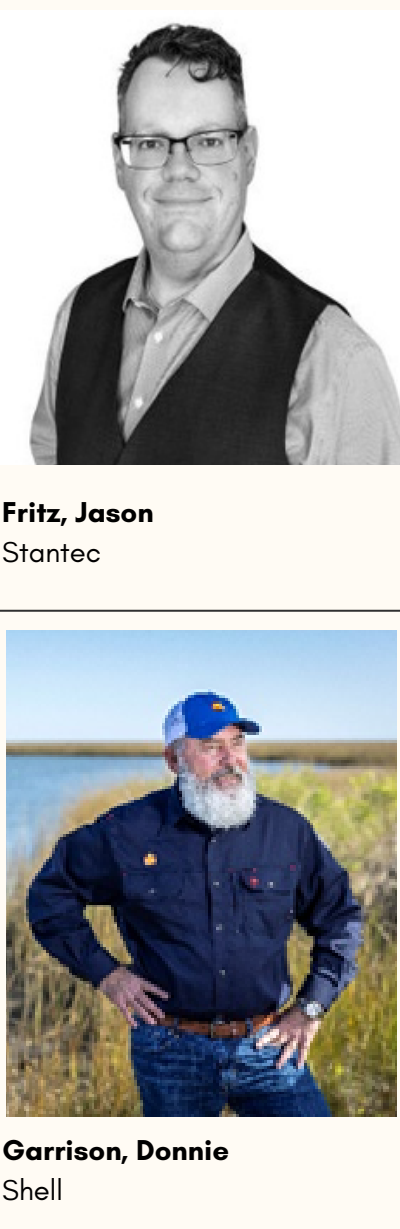







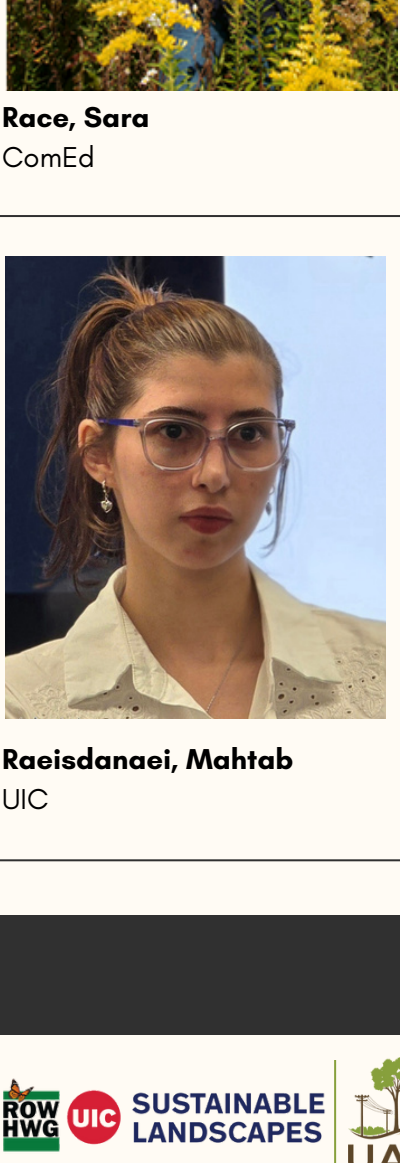

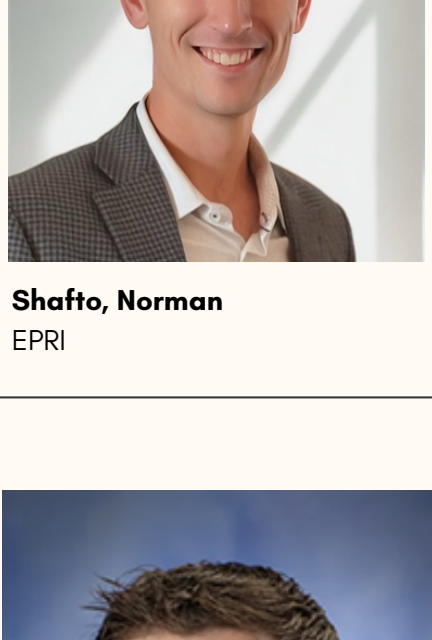
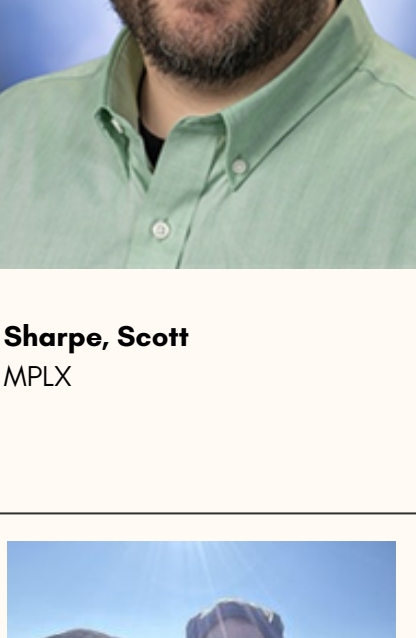
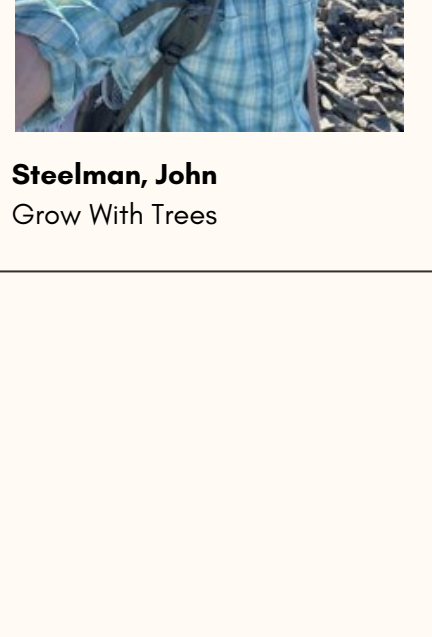
 <p>Anderson, Ashlyn Stantec</p>	
 <p>Barker, Steve Nisource</p>	Steve Barker possesses over 25 years of specialized experience in environmental permitting, ecological restoration, and conservation planning. He has demonstrated expertise in managing complex environmental projects and leading teams focused on compliance with environmental regulations, including wetland permitting, protected species management at state and federal levels, stormwater and erosion control, among other natural resource regulations. Currently, he serves as the Environmental Permitting Manager at NiSource, Inc., one of the largest fully regulated utility companies in the United States. His responsibilities encompass overseeing permitting processes for large-scale linear construction projects, renewable energy development and generation initiatives, and environmental remediation efforts. Additionally, he manages NiSource's biodiversity and Monarch CCAA programs and directs numerous conservation and pollinator habitat restoration projects across the company's service territory.
 <p>Bennett, Ashley EPRI</p>	Ashley Bennett is a technical lead for transmission and distribution (T&D) environmental solutions at the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI). Dr. Bennett has her PhD in entomology and prior to joining EPRI studied native plant and pollinator interactions. Her research areas of focus at EPRI include: vegetation management strategies for cost reductions and biodiversity conservation on rights-of-way (ROWs), pollinator conservation on utility lands, UAV and satellite inspection techniques, and promoting the use and establishment of native seed mixes on utility lands such as ROW and solar facilities. Dr. Bennett's research during her graduate and post-graduate work focused on understanding how local site design and landscape composition affected the ability of beneficial insects to perform ecosystem services such as pest suppression and pollination. In particular, she has investigated native plant and pollinator interactions as well as the use of drones to improve pest monitoring in urban and agricultural landscapes.
 <p>Bonneau, Josiane Freeport-McMoRan</p>	
 <p>Fallon, Dennis UAA</p>	
 <p>Fritz, Jason Stantec</p>	Jason Fritz is an Associate and the Nursery Business Development Manager at Stantec Native Plant Nursery. With over 20 years of experience in the native plant nursery industry, he specializes in native plant sourcing and seed specifications for restoration and native habitat creations. Jason is passionate about enhancing sustainability and resilience in public and private lands, and while not at the nursery, he enjoys walking his dog, hiking, and table-top role-playing games.
 <p>Garrison, Donnie Shell</p>	A Louisiana native with a B.S. in Biology from Nichols State University and over 30 years of Oil and Gas Industry experience. Twenty-six of those years working for Shell Midstream holding positions from Offshore Operator, HSSE Support to Operations Supervisor. His current role as Shell Midstream US Advocacy and Engagement Specialist, has allowed him to use his love for the environment to advocate a need for change in operating and maintenance practices. Using conservation and nature-based solutions for daily run and maintain work. He also serves a chair for American Petroleum Institute's Conservation Taskforce. This group is leading industry by making changes to their right of way mowing practices. Showing positive biodiversity impact while continuing to maintain a safe and reliable pipeline operating system.
 <p>Goff, Matt Georgia Power</p>	Matt Goff is a Vegetation Manager in the Forestry & Right of Way Services group at Georgia Power Company. He lives in Brookhaven, GA with his wife, two daughters, and the family's two dogs. For leisure, he enjoys sports with his family, bird hunting with the family dogs, and salt-water fishing. Matt holds a BSFR from the University of Georgia in Forest Resource Management. He has worked in the vegetation management industry for 28 years. He has 22 years in the utility vegetation management industry with Georgia Power. Matt holds the following professional credentials/qualifications: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• President of Utility Arborist Association• Certified Utility Vegetation Management Professional, Utility Arborist Association• State of Georgia Registered Forester• State of Georgia Registered Pesticide Applicator• International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Certified Arborist• International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Certified Utility Specialist• International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) TRAQ Credential
 <p>Grossman, Jason Liberty Utilities</p>	
 <p>Grundel, Ralph USGS</p>	
 <p>Harris, Kari CN Railroad</p>	
<p>Hernandez, Caroline University of Illinois Chicago</p>	Caroline Hernandez is the Assistant Director of the Sustainable Landscapes program at the Energy Resources Center for the University of Illinois Chicago. In her role, Caroline supports the Rights-of-Way as Habitat Working Group while overseeing programs engaging energy and transportation leaders throughout the U.S. and Canada in the creation and conservation of pollinator habitat. Caroline is a LEED Green Associate, holds a dual master's degree in international relations, and natural resources and sustainable development, and has a background in globalization, sustainable development, and climate change.
<p>Hughson, Brandon ProtecTerra</p>	Brandon Hughson, General Manager at ProtecTerra LLC has been in the Green Industry and working with trees for more than 17 years and has been an active member of the Utility Arborist Association (UAA) since 2012. Brandon has participated and been active on numerous UAA committees, served as a Director on the UAA Board of Directors and as the UAA Board President. In 2016 Brandon was awarded the Rising Star Award from the UAA. In addition, Brandon also serves on the Board of Directors for Saluting Branches, a green industry 501c3 non-profit. Brandon is also an ISA Certified Arborist.
<p>Kline, Chris Doral</p>	
<p>Mahan, Carolyn Penn State University</p>	Carolyn G. Mahan, professor of biology and environmental studies at Penn State, holds a PhD in Wildlife Science from Penn State and a BS (Natural Resources Management Engineering) from the University of Connecticut. Research interests include biodiversity in threatened ecosystems, effects of human-modified landscapes on wildlife, and behavioral ecology of mammals. Her work has been published in Conservation Biology, Journal of Mammalogy, and PLOS One among others. Dr. Mahan served on the boards of Pennsylvania Wildlife Society, Pennsylvania Center for Private Forests, and is past-president of Pennsylvania Biological Survey. She currently serves on Governor Shapiro's Advisory Council for Conservation.
<p>Mason, Ronan TC Energy</p>	
<p>Murphy, Ellie MPLX</p>	
<p>Paulson, Amy Meta</p>	Amy has 27+ years' experience in Environmental Project Management - currently working at Meta as a Senior Environmental Manager and Subject Matter Expert for Biodiversity and Land Management. While leading environmental assessments and permitting for data centers, she developed Meta's Data Center Biodiversity Program, working with internal and external partners to maximize native habitat restoration in our underutilized campus greenspaces. She has a BS in Ecology and MS in Conservation and Sustainable Development from the University of Georgia. Prior to joining Meta, Amy worked across the US and Europe leading reviews under the National Environmental Policy Act; developing sustainability, ISO 14001 EMS, resiliency, habitat, and watershed management plans; and conducting pollution prevention analysis and environmental compliance studies. She also has experience with military installation master planning, renewable energy systems, and conflict negotiation and facilitation. Amy serves her local community as Chairperson of her City's Environmental Advisory Board and on steering committees for the University of South Alabama and Alabama Coastal Foundation Gulf Coast Sustainability Summit.
<p>Payne, Lew NYPA</p>	Lewis H. Payne is the Manager ROW/Environmental for the New York Power Authority and is responsible for all vegetation management activities throughout the Authority's transmission system. He has over 40 years of electric utility vegetation management experience and is a Certified Arborist, Utility Specialist, and a New York Certified Pesticide Applicator. Mr. Payne serves as Chairperson of the New York Category Six Pesticide Recertification Training Committee, a member of the Environmental Energy Alliance of New York's Land-use Subcommittee, EPRI ROW Steering Committee, CEATI Vegetation Management Task Force Executive Committee, and past Chair of the Right-of-Way Stewardship Council.
<p>Pearson, Randy GeoMARC</p>	Randy, the Director of the GeoSpatial Mapping, Applications, and Research Center (GeoMARC), earned a B.S. in Geology, an M.S. in Geoscience, and a Ph.D. in Physical Geography with GIS and emphasis in remote sensing and digital image processing. Just out of graduate school in 1988, Randy accepted a position at NASA's Space Remote Sensing Center (SRSC) as the agricultural and environmental program manager. Within two years, Randy rose to the level of Senior Scientist, overseeing all satellite and airborne remote sensing applications within SRSC. In 1995, Randy accepted a faculty/research position at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (SIUE). While at SIUE Randy has taught a variety of courses related to earth processes (soils, geomorphology, geology), but his primary teaching area focused on remote sensing /computer image processing and geospatial modeling. In 1997, Randy formed the Laboratory for Applied Spatial Analysis (LASA), which was approved as an IBHE research center in 2021 (now referred to as GeoMARC). As one of SIUE premier research centers, GeoMARC's primary focus over the past 28 years has been heavily weighted toward the use of geospatial technologies for addressing issues facing the agricultural and environmental communities.
<p>Pritsolas, Josh GeoMARC</p>	Josh was in the U.S. Army for nearly 11 years, has an B.S. and M.S. in Geography with GIS and Remote Sensing background, and he is currently the Senior Scientist at the GeoSpatial Mapping, Applications, and Research Center (GeoMARC) on Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (SIUE) Campus. Josh has 11 years of experience working with academic institutions, government agencies, and private industry partners on GIS and remote sensing related topics. He has managed and worked on a variety of different geospatial research projects, with his main areas of expertise being mapping, monitoring, and characterizing agricultural and grassland environments with various remote sensing data platforms.
<p>Race, Sara ComEd</p>	Sara Race is the Senior Manager of Environmental Management at ComEd, an electric utility that serves northern Illinois. In her role, Sara leads the team responsible for managing all environmental aspects of the company's operations. In addition, she oversees the company's stewardship and biodiversity programs, including ComEd's prairie and pollinator program. Prior to this role, Sara was responsible for managing environmental compliance programs related to wetlands, avian, land use, and threatened and endangered species. She is currently involved in growing partnerships with many NGOs and government agencies to advance common stewardship and land management goals. Sara has been with ComEd since 2005 and has an MS in Environmental Management. Prior to graduate school, Sara worked in the non-profit sector focusing on environmental education and plant science education with institutions such as the Chicago Botanic Garden and The Field Museum.
<p>Raeisdanaei, Mahtab UIC</p>	Mahtab Raeisdanaei is a PhD researcher at the University of Illinois Chicago. Her research focuses on decision-making, behavioral modeling, and the application of large language models (LLMs) in organizational and environmental contexts. She explores how AI can simulate human behavior, evaluate decision quality, and inform contract and incentive design under uncertainty, with a particular focus on energy procurement and sustainability.

 <p>Rockefeller, Dan Ramboll</p>	<p>Dan Rockefeller is an ecologist, UAS pilot, and GIS analyst with 14 years of experience practicing restoration ecology and managing natural resources in a variety of roles in the environmental engineering industry, and with public and non-profit environmental institutions. He applies this experience to a portfolio that includes biodiversity planning, biodiversity metrics development and implementation, biodiversity-focused design, ecological restoration design and execution, and ecological monitoring planning. Dan has managed or served as the senior technical lead for multiple biodiversity assessment, planning, and design projects for clients throughout the U.S. and Europe. Dan is also Ramboll's U.S. biodiversity metrics lead, and manages the development and implementation of the Americas Biodiversity Metric and Global Biodiversity Metric.</p>
<p>Russell, Darrell Corvea</p>	
 <p>Salas, Dan UIC</p>	<p>Dan Salas is the Director of the Sustainable Landscapes Program at the UIC's Energy Resources Center where he and the team work on integration of biodiversity and infrastructure. The program facilitates to the Rights-of-Way as Habitat Working Group, which leads initiatives such as a nationwide conservation agreement for the monarch butterfly on energy and transportation lands, and a companion at-risk bumble bee conservation agreement. Dan oversees research and tool development projects supporting sustainability and habitat conservation. Dan is a certified Senior Ecologist by the Ecological Society of America and a decision analyst certified by the U.S. Department of Interior.</p>
<p>Sankowich, Sara Unitil</p>	
 <p>Surrey, Katie EPRI</p>	<p>Katie Surrey is a Species and Ecosystem Scientist at the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI). She holds a Ph.D. in Biology from Arizona State University, and a B.A in Environmental Science from Connecticut College. Her educational training and professional expertise are as an ecological conservationist focusing on human-wildlife interactions and conservation of endangered species. She currently provides research support to both EPRI's Endangered & At-Risk Species(P195) and Ecosystem Risk and Resilience (P258) programs. Her thesis work was a collaboration between ASU and the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute and focused on the wildlife-based ecotourism industry in Panama and examining the ramifications of the resulting human-wildlife interactions, directed through the lens of animal behavior, and with the aim of establishing more effective, non-invasive conservation methodology. She has also previously worked at Woods Hole Marine Biological Laboratories, the Franklin Park Zoo, California Wildlife Center, and the University of New South Wales in various research capacities and has led and contributed to several published papers in Conservation Biology and Elsevier.</p>
 <p>Shafto, Norman EPRI</p>	<p>Norman Shafto is a Sustainability Technical Leader at EPRI where he conducts research related to organizational sustainability, energy utility benchmarking metrics, and biodiversity, among other topics. Prior to joining EPRI, Norman was a Sustainability Analyst at the New York Power Authority, where he supported the implementation of their first sustainability plan. Specific focus areas included research and development of pollinator habitat, forestry, and water efficiency projects across New York State. Prior to NYPA, Norman was a Program Management Analyst at National Grid where he supported the overall management of a major business transformation project. Norman received a Bachelor of Arts in Sustainable Development and a Master of Public Administration in Environmental Science and Policy, both from Columbia University.</p>
 <p>Sharpe, Scott MPLX</p>	<p>Mr. Sharpe serves as the sustainable landscapes coordinator for Marathon Pipe Line LLC (MPL), a subsidiary of MPLX LP. MPLX LP is Marathon Petroleum Company's master limited partnership which was formed to own, operate, develop, and acquire midstream energy infrastructure assets. Prior to joining MPL in 2020, he held various roles within state natural resource agencies. In 2003, Mr. Sharpe joined the Wyoming Game & Fish Department as a forensic biologist. In 2005, he moved back to his home state to attend the Ohio Division of Wildlife Officer Academy. Upon graduating, Mr. Sharpe was assigned to Logan County as a State Wildlife Officer, beginning a series of roles with increasing responsibility within the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. He went on to become the district preserve manager with the Natural Areas & Preserves Program, then was named district manager with the Parks & Watercraft Division where he managed Northwest Ohio (including Lake Erie). Mr. Sharpe was then appointed as the assistant chief of the Division of Wildlife where he oversaw statewide operations, fish management, and wildlife management sections. He then joined MPL in 2020 as a field environmental professional supporting operations in Ohio and Michigan. In 2022, Mr. Sharpe was named to his current position as MPL's sustainable landscapes coordinator. In this role, he manages partnerships and leads vegetation management analysis, plan development, and plan execution activities across MPL-owned and -operated land in 26 states. Mr. Sharpe holds a Bachelor of Science degree in environmental science from Bowling Green State University.</p>
 <p>Steelman, John Grow With Trees</p>	<p>John is a forester by training, received a Bachelor of Science in Forest Operations from the University of Montana and a Master of Environmental Science from the University of Colorado. John is a branch manager at Grow With Trees, and serves as co-chair for the Right-of-Way Stewardship Council. John works with electric utilities and pipeline operators to benchmark IVM programming, provide strategic IVM and biodiversity planning, sampling-based vegetation monitoring programs, and biodiversity reporting materials for sustainability teams.</p>
<p>Tipton, Tony Columbia Gas</p>	
<p>Weber, Keith NiSource</p>	
 <p>Wittig, Victoria NW Indiana Urban Waters</p>	<p>Victoria Wittig has 20 years of experience in the environmental field including roles in academic, science-policy, municipal, international development and non-profit organizations. Victoria earned her Bachelor's in Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences from the University of Illinois followed by a Ph.D. also from the U of I. Her research examined how rising greenhouse gases affect the growth and productivity of trees. Victoria now serves as the Ambassador for the Northwest Indiana Urban Waters Federal Partnership where she works to connect partners to funding resources, technical support and collaborative opportunities to improve the health of the region's waterways, environment and communities.</p>
 <p>Young, Amanda Toyota</p>	<p>Amanda Young is a Senior Environmental Engineer at Toyota Motor Manufacturing, West Virginia. She is responsible for Toyota West Virginia's robust biodiversity program as well as maintaining environmental compliance. She is also a member of Toyota North America's Biodiversity working group. Prior to her role at Toyota, Young has worked in West Virginia managing environmental programs at multiple sites. She is very passionate about community outreach and environmental stewardship, as well as providing opportunities for underserved schools in her area. She has a Bachelor of Science degree in Natural Resources and Recreation Management from Marshall University as well as a Master of Science in Environmental Science from Marshall University.</p>
<p>Youpel, Mary API</p>	