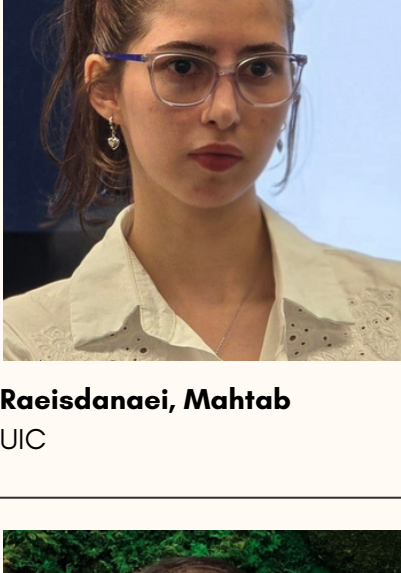
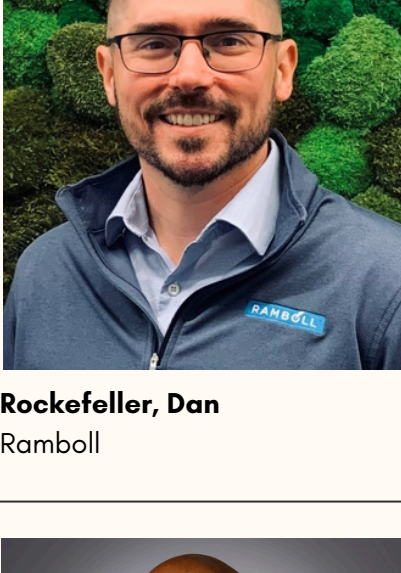
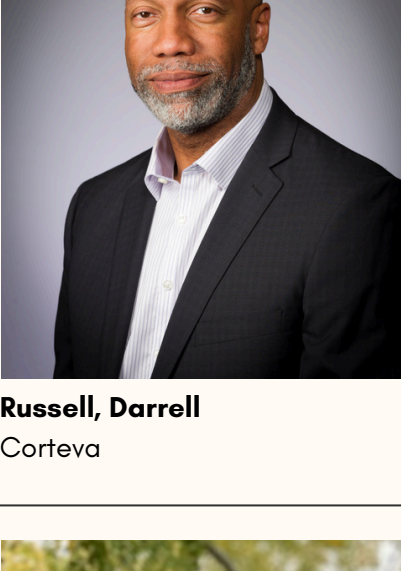
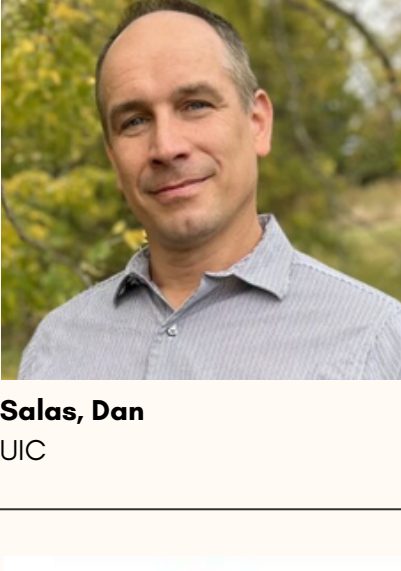

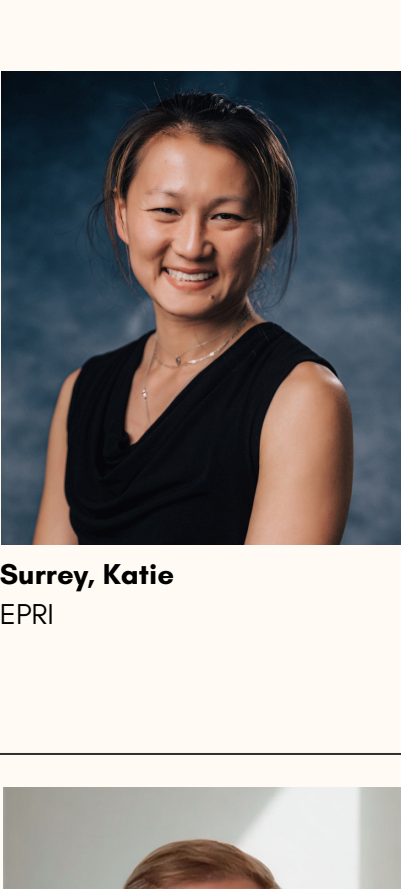
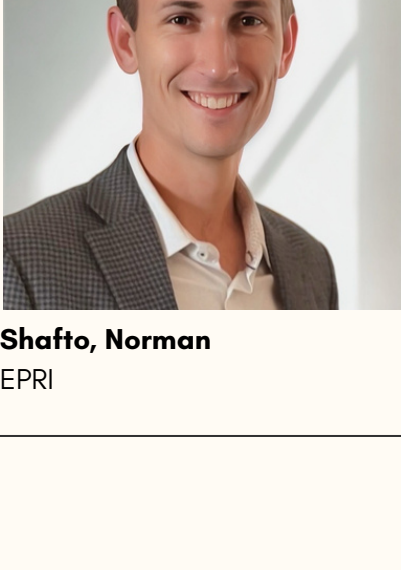

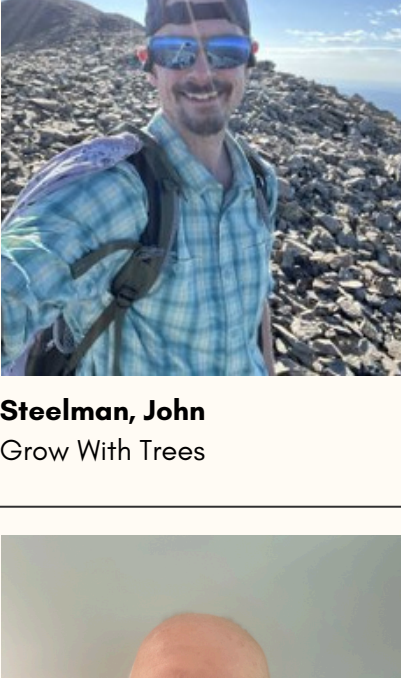





 <p>Race, Sara ComEd</p>	<p>Sara Race is the Senior Manager of Environmental Management at ComEd, an electric utility that serves northern Illinois. In her role, Sara leads the team responsible for managing all environmental aspects of the company's operations. In addition, she oversees the company's 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>
 <p>Raeisdanaei, Mahtab UIC</p>	<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>
 <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 Corteva</p>	<p>Darrell Russell is a Market Development Specialist with Corteva Agriscience. Darrell uses more than 30 years of experience with agricultural solutions to provide technical support, product recommendations and industry best practices to vegetation management customers throughout the eastern half of the US. He is based in Atlanta, Georgia.</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>Sara Sankowich is the Director of Sustainability and Shared Services at Unitil where she oversees the development and implementation of the company's sustainability initiatives and reporting, the vegetation management program, and the company's fleet and facilities and procurement departments. She has been working in the utility field for 22 years. Sara has a BS in Forest and Natural Resource Management from the State University of NY, College of Environmental Science and Forestry. She serves on many industry committees and is committed to advancing corporate social responsibility, environmental stewardship, diversity, equity and inclusion, and workforce development and retention. She is the chair of the Board of Governors of the Utility Vegetation Management Professional Development Program partnered with the University of Wisconsin. She was president of both the Utility Arborist Association in 2018, and the New England Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture in 2021.</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>Tony Tipton, Leader of Land Services and Vegetation Management at Columbia Gas, a NiSource subsidiary</p> <p>Tony Tipton is a 1985 graduate of Morehead State University in Kentucky. He began his career with Columbia Gas/NiSource in April of 1995. He currently manages the Vegetation Management Program for the Columbia Gas companies within the NiSource portfolio which includes Kentucky, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Ohio. In 2008, he was asked to develop and manage the IVM program, which he continues to lead today. He is married to his beautiful wife Jennique and has three children. His office is located in Lexington, Kentucky.</p>
 <p>Weber, Keith NiSource</p>	<p>Keith Weber is a manager of environmental policy and sustainability at NiSource, one of the largest fully regulated utility companies in the United States. He oversees sustainability development and reporting, including participation in S&P Global's Corporate Sustainability Assessment (CSA), which directly impacts membership in the Dow Jones Best-in-Class Indices. Keith holds a Bachelor of Science in Atmospheric Science from the University of Kansas.</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.</p> <p>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>	<p>Mary Youpel is a conservation leader working at the intersection of sustainability, industry operations, and environmental impact. At the American Petroleum Institute, she leads initiatives that embed conservation into industry practices, building partnerships across government, academia, and NGOs. A former NOAA Corps officer, Mary supported oceanographic research throughout the Atlantic and later advised Congress on coastal and environmental policy. She holds a B.S. in Natural Resources, dual master's degrees in Oceanography and Public Administration from LSU, and an MBA from UPenn Wharton. Mary is also the Founder and Executive Director of the Veterans Multiple Sclerosis Alliance, a nonprofit supporting veterans with MS. Her work reflects a deep commitment to environmental resilience, equitable health access, and cross-sector collaboration.</p>