

September 2013

# NATIVE NEWS



## BUS TOUR TO FOCUS ON MAINTENANCE OF NATIVE PLANTS IN STORM WATER BMPs.

Our annual Bus Tour titled “Native Plant Communities in the Commercial Landscape” will be held on Thursday September 26<sup>th</sup> in the Lafayette area. This tour will feature all new sites with a strong focus on maintenance of plant communities in storm water practices. We will meet at the Ivy Tech campus in Lafayette at 8:30 AM and discuss how the storm water is handled on their site. From there, we will travel to the Nanshan America site on US 52 where over 20,000 native plants were installed around a circular storm water pond in the spring of 2012. The plants were diligently watered during last year’s drought and have established a thriving community around the pond. The plants were installed and have been immaculately maintained by Garden Art, a firm located in West Lafayette. They will be onsite to explain how they have made this installation so successful. From there, we will briefly leave our storm water focus to visit a savanna restoration, installed this spring at the Cary Home. Finally we will complete the morning by taking a look at rain gardens installed this spring at the Wabash Center.



Following lunch, which is included in the registration fee, we will visit several sites on the Purdue University campus. Staff with the university planning department will be present to discuss the installation and maintenance of these projects. The first project will be the stadium parking lot, which handles the storm water from the parking lots through a series of bio-swales and has faced a variety of maintenance issues. Next, we will visit the Armory parking lot where we will view mature bio-retention areas that have been in place for several years. Our third stop will feature two more recent applications, a rain garden installed with the help of students and the renovation of the First Street Towers landscape. Finally, we will visit the rain gardens at the Horticulture Building, where innovative infrastructure has made the rain gardens a focal point of the landscape. As we exit campus, we will see some storm water planters along Harrison Street before returning to the Ivy Tech campus in Lafayette.

### Bus Tour Approved for LA CES Credits by the Indiana Chapter of ASLA

The bus tour has been approved for 3.5 CES credits. Please make sure to check in at the beginning of the day to sign the attendance form for credits.

## PLANT FEATURE: SOLIDAGO RIDDELLII (RIDDELL’S GOLDENROD)



An attractive species of fens and sedge meadows, Riddell’s Goldenrod has proven to be one the most adaptable forbs for storm water applications. It prefers full sun but has a wide moisture tolerance, ranging from continual saturation to well-drained areas that are only briefly wet following a rain event. It grows to around 2 feet in height, flowering primarily during the month of September. Due to the interesting sickle-shaped foliage and the flat-topped inflorescence, it bears little resemblance to the aggressive Canada Goldenrod of roadsides and old fields. It does not spread by rhizomes, so it coexists well with other rain garden plants. Finally, Riddell’s Goldenrod attracts a wide variety of interesting pollinators, adding further color and activity to your installation. In a restoration, it should be used in fen, sedge meadow, and wet prairie installations with associates from our [Sedge Meadow](#) and [Wet-Mesic Prairie](#) seed mixes.