

The National Academies of
SCIENCES • ENGINEERING • MEDICINE

**BOARD ON AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL STATISTICS**

Committee on an Assessment of Native Seed Needs and Capacities

**April 12, 2021
(Via Zoom)**

**FINAL AGENDA
4:00 – 5:30 PM ET**

4:00 pm	OPEN SESSION – Public Welcome Welcome, Brief Committee Introductions and Introduction of Presenters Susan Harrison, <i>Committee Chair</i>
4:05 pm	Keith Pawelek, <i>Associate Director, Texas Native Seeds</i>
4:30 pm	Committee Q&A
4:45 pm	Ed Toth, <i>Founder and Director, Greenbelt Native Plants Center, NYC Parks</i>
5:10 pm	Committee Q&A
5:25 pm	Additional questions, discussion if needed
5:30 pm	Adjourn

BIOSKETCH

Keith Pawelek

Associate Director - Texas Native Seeds

Keith was born and raised in Jourdan, Texas, where he grew up on his family's farm and ranch. Keith received his B.S. in Range and Wildlife Management from Texas A&M University-Kingsville in 2005. As an undergraduate, Keith was active on the Plant Identification Team, President of the Student Chapter of Ducks Unlimited, and a member of the Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society. With his diverse background in agriculture, wildlife, and habitat, Keith first joined South Texas Natives in 2003 as a student worker. After graduation, he became a permanent member of the team as a Research Associate (2005-2008), Manager of Production and Commercialization (2008-2010), Assistant Director of South Texas Natives (2010-2018), and now serves as Associate Director of the Texas Native Seeds program.

His primary duties are to assist the Texas Native Seeds Director in directing and supervising all aspects of the Texas Native Seeds program, including grant management, and serve as principle representative of the project in the absence of or delegation of the director. He also serves as a direct liaison between the Texas Native Seeds program and collaborators. He oversees the day to day administration of the statewide program including grant management, budgeting, and oversight of 11 professional staff and numerous student technicians.

Keith and his wife, Kathy, have one daughter, Olivia. His hobbies include hunting, fishing, and spending time with his family and friends.

Edward Toth is founder and director of New York City Parks' Greenbelt Native Plant Center (GNPC), one of the U.S.'s oldest and largest municipally owned native plant nurseries. The GNPC, through its programs and partnerships, works towards the conservation of the region's native flora. In 2012, he initiated the Mid-Atlantic Regional Seed Bank, a partner of the national Seeds of Success program, which promotes the use of ecoregionally-based seed collection and banking in support of meeting the region's needs for genetically appropriate wild seed. He views seed as a critical natural resource and its wise management as essential to sustainable land management and mitigating climate change. Ed joined NYC Parks in the mid 1980's where he guided the transformation of the woodlands of Prospect Park from a degraded, denuded landscape into a thriving native ecosystem. In 2012, he received the Thomas Stofka award from NYC Parks. In 2018, he was awarded the Sloan Public Service Award from the Fund for the City of New York. Ed is a member of the National Academies' Committee on an Assessment of Native Seed Needs and Capacities.