

SERPPAS Circular

April/May 2017

The SERPPAS Circular is a bimonthly collection of media coverage and upcoming events from SERPPAS Partners across the Southeast. Updates are collected from websites, press releases, and newsletters, and organized according to the objectives outlined in the SERPPAS Strategic Plan. If you have information to share in the next SERPPAS Circular, please email your input directly to the SERPPAS Coordinator, Addie Thornton, at Addie.Thornton@ag.tamu.edu. You may also contact her at 919-515-3931.

In the News

- **Spotlight**

- (REPI) The REPI Program announced that the Eastern North Carolina Sentinel Landscape Partnership was selected as the recipient of the 2017 REPI Challenge award. The Partnership is a joint effort between the Army, Marine Corps, Air Force, federal agencies, state and local governments, and non-profit organizations that is coordinating to protect rural and natural lands around a number of military installations in North Carolina. The total award of \$9.2 million in REPI funds will leverage \$10.1 million in partner contributions to protect more than 17,600 acres in the eastern portion of the state.

The REPI Challenge is an annual competition that seeks to cultivate projects that conserve land at a greater scale, thereby helping the REPI Program meet its ambitious goals in spite of limited funding. Since the initiation of the REPI Challenge in 2012, \$37 million in REPI Program funds have been leveraged with \$117 million in partner contributions to protect nearly 110,000 acres of working lands, habitat, and open spaces at 12 locations nationwide.

- For more information on the 2017 REPI Challenge award, visit: http://www.repi.mil/Portals/44/Documents/REPI_Challenge/2017REPIChallenge.pdf
- For more information on the Eastern North Carolina Sentinel Landscape Partnership, visit: http://sentinellandscapes.org/media/1215/sl_enc_factsheet_23dec16.pdf

- (SERPPAS) SERPPAS hosted another successful Principals meeting on May 16-17, 2017 in Beaufort, SC. The meeting was well attended and participants enjoyed learning about the Joint Land Use Study in Beaufort County, the training missions at both Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort and Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, as well as efforts of the SERPPAS working groups. SERPPAS learned about how Marines are Made on the tour of Parris Island (pictured right) and enjoyed a Low Country Boil prepared by the SC DNR Marine Division one evening. Pictures: <http://serppas.org/photo-gallery/>



- **Sentinel Landscapes**

- (REPI) The U.S. Army Public Affairs reports that Fort A.P. Hill was awarded the 2017 Governor's Environmental Excellence Gold Award for Land Conservation in recognition of the Fort's Army Compatible Use Buffer (ACUB) Partnership. The Governor's Environmental Excellence Awards recognize significant contributions of environmental and conservation leaders in Virginia. For more information, visit:
http://www.repi.mil/Portals/44/Documents/News%20PDFs/USArmy_2017.04.05.pdf?ver=2017-05-08-102007-817
- (REPI) The town of Emerald Isle, North Carolina, is moving forward with the acquisition of the final remaining parcel of land in a project to buffer an auxiliary landing field used by units training out of nearby MCAS Cherry Point. The town proposes funding the acquisition using funds from the DoD REPI Program, several state programs, and the town's operating budget. For more information, visit:
http://www.repi.mil/Portals/44/Documents/News%20PDFs/JacksonvilleDailyNews_2017.04.19.pdf?ver=2017-05-08-102007-767
- (ALRI) America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative (ALRI) has published an interview with the new chair for the Longleaf Partnership Council, Dr. Jim Guldin of the U.S. Forest Service Southern Region. Dr. Guldin's most recent research is in silvicultural restoration of southern pines to promote red-cockaded woodpecker recovery. To read the entire interview, visit:
<http://www.americaslongleaf.org/news/news-articles/interview-with-the-new-chair-for-the-longleaf-partnership-council/>
- (USFWS) The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has published an article on the effort to create the Coastal Headwaters Forest project, a plan to turn 200,000 acres of mostly loblolly stands straddling the Alabama-Florida line into longleaf forest. It would become the largest, privately owned longleaf timber tract in the nation, and provide critical habitat for many threatened and endangered species which utilize longleaf pine habitat. For more information, visit:
<https://www.fws.gov/southeast/articles/a-harmonious-future-for-profits-pine-and-at-risk-species-along-the-florida-alabama-line/>
- (REPI) North Carolina Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler announced that North Carolina will receive more than \$9 million in federal funding to protect areas around military bases. The federal grant will be matched by money from the military, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the state. For more information, visit:
http://www.repi.mil/Portals/44/Documents/News%20PDFs/WRAL_2017.05.02.pdf?ver=2017-05-08-102007-800
- (ALRI) America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative (ALRI) released its 2016 Range-wide Accomplishment Report, which summarizes the progress made over the past year toward goals detailed in the Range-wide Conservation Plan for the Longleaf Pine. This is the fourth annual report, and includes discussion on strategic priorities and the future of longleaf restoration. To access a copy of the report, visit:
http://www.americaslongleaf.org/media/23979/fy16_llp_rangewideaccompreport_final_web.pdf
- (NFWF) The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) and the Orton Foundation, an affiliate of the Moore Charitable Foundation, have announced a new partnership that will restore and enhance the longleaf pine ecosystem in eastern North Carolina. The Orton Foundation's grant of \$300,000 will support projects through the Longleaf Stewardship Fund, a public-private partnership managed by the NFWF that provides strategic grants to expand, enhance, and

accelerate longleaf pine ecosystem restoration across its historical range. For more information, visit: <http://www.nfwf.org/whoweare/mediacenter/pr/Pages/orton-longleaf-pr-17-0502.aspx>

- **Threatened, Endangered, and At-Risk Species**

- (USFWS) The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has completed reviews of petitions to list the Florida black bear and uplist the Mojave population of desert tortoise from threatened to endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). They found that neither petition presented substantial information that the requested actions should be warranted, so no further action will be taken. For more information, visit: https://www.fws.gov/news/ShowNews.cfm?ref=endangered-species-act-petitions-for-florida-black-bear-and-mojave-desert-&_ID=36017
- (USFWS) The USFWS filed a notice delisting the Gray Wolf in the state of Wyoming, an action taken in response to a final decision by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit recognizing the recovered status of the species. USFWS will work with state officials to transition wolf management and will continue to monitor the wolf population for the next five years to ensure recovery criteria are met. For more information, visit: https://www.fws.gov/news/ShowNews.cfm?ref=removal-of-wyoming%E2%80%99s-gray-wolves-from-endangered-species-list-final-step-&_ID=36037
- (USFWS) USFWS has joined Florida conservation and military officials in a voluntary effort to keep the striped newt, gopher tortoise, and 20 other at-risk species from being federally listed as endangered, through a mechanism known as the Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances. The agreement seeks to protect and restore roughly 46,500 acres of flatwood, sandhill, and forested wetland habitat at the Camp Blanding Joint Training Center. For more information, visit: <https://www.fws.gov/southeast/news/2017/04/fish-and-wildlife-the-military-and-state-of-florida-boost-conservation-at-camp-blanding/>
- (USFWS) USFWS finds that the yellow lance mussel, native to waters spanning from Maryland to North Carolina, warrants ESA protection and is proposing that it be listed as threatened. The warranted finding and proposal are the result of a review conducted by a Species Status Assessment team composed of experts from state and federal government agencies as well as academic institutions. For more information, visit: <https://www.fws.gov/southeast/news/2017/04/us-fish-and-wildlife-service-finds-yellow-lance-mussel-warrants-endangered-species-act-protection/>
- (GTCCA) The 8th Annual Candidate Conservation Agreement for the Gopher Tortoise has been submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The goal of the CCA is to organize a cooperative range-wide approach to gopher tortoise management and conservation in its eastern range. The CCA allows the signing parties to leverage knowledge and funding within a common conservation approach and framework. The CCA is voluntary and flexible in nature so that various conservation and management actions can be agreed to and implemented at different levels by the signing parties. <https://serppas.org/media/2298/2016-gtcca-compiled-report-final.pdf>

- **Southeast Wildland Fire Initiative**

- (FL DACS) Florida Governor Rick Scott, as well as the head of Florida's Department of Agriculture and Consumer Affairs (FL DACS), Commissioner Adam Putnam, issued a resolution recognizing April 9-15, 2017 as Florida Wildfire Awareness Week. Since the

beginning of the year, wildfires have burned roughly five times the number of acres as this time last year. For more information, visit: <http://www.freshfromflorida.com/News-Events/Press-Releases/2017-Press-Releases/Governor-Scott-and-Florida-Cabinet-Discuss-Dangerous-Wildfire-Conditions-Recognize-Wildfire-Awareness-Week>

- (NC WRC) The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (WRC) published a press release highlighting the benefits of conducting prescribed burns on game lands across the state. Prescribed burns help the WRC restore and maintain wildlife habitat on nearly 2 million acres of game lands. For more information, visit: <http://www.ncwildlife.org/News-Archives/beneficial-prescribed-burns-continue-across-north-carolina>
- (SERPPAS RxFire Work Group) The Louisiana ‘Learn and Burn Field Day’ that was hosted in partnership with the SERPPAS Rxfire work group and many local partners including LSU, TNC, LA Dept. of Ag and Forestry, made the news by showcasing how prescribed fire can be a management tool for landowners. See the news clip here: <http://www.kalb.com/video?vid=420781093> and <http://www.kalb.com/video?vid=419633013>
- (FL NRCS) The Florida NRCS created an interactive web-article to showcase how Florida landowners are managing their forests to mitigate wildfire. Check it out here: <http://nrms.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Cascade/index.html?appid=51a4b588c9a446f8aba2d25fd3030090>

- **Coastal Resilience and Regional Adaptation**

- (FL DEP) The Florida Department of Environmental Protection’s (FL DEP) Guana Tolomato Matanzas Research Reserve recently began a project that will test the effectiveness of a new strategy for protecting coastal habitat in high-energy environments. The study will integrate engineering and ecological approaches to protect and restore shorelines. For more information, visit: <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/FLDEP/bulletins/1952f13>
- (GOMA) The Gulf of Mexico Alliance has announced a new partnership with Anadarko Petroleum Company to invest in projects that support a healthy and productive Gulf of Mexico as part of the Gulf Star Program. The Program was created in 2015 as a public-private partnership to fund critical projects in GOMA’s Governors’ Action Plan III, and has awarded over \$630,000 supporting 19 projects across 7 critical Gulf issues. For more information, visit: <http://www.gulfofmexicoalliance.org/2017/04/gulf-of-mexico-alliance-gulf-star-program-announces-new-partnership/>
- (USACE) The US Army Engineer Research and Development Center in NH published their research on ‘*Future Projections of Heat and Fire-Risk Indices for the Contiguous United States*’. Increasing temperatures and changes in precipitation associated with climate change are expected to have increasing impacts on the contiguous United States in the coming decades, including military training and outdoor activities in general. Learn more here: <http://journals.ametsoc.org/doi/abs/10.1175/JAMC-D-16-0068.1?af=R&>

- **Southeast Conservation Finance Initiative**

- (MS DEQ) The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MS DEQ) announced that Mississippi’s initial State Expenditure Plan has been approved by the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council. The \$49.8 million plan describes the projects and programs which Mississippi will fund under the RESTORE Act. For more information, visit:

<https://www.deq.state.ms.us/MDEQPres2.nsf/28ce80ddea27fe0886256b28006d8a70/857ca04bb2659c5d862581080041b8bb?OpenDocument>

- (NFWF) The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) and International Paper (IP) announced that IP has renewed its five-year commitment to the Forestland Stewards Initiative, while increasing its overall contribution to \$10 million. The Forestland Stewards Initiative is one of the most effective public-private forest conservation partnerships in the United States, funding 44 projects that have restored, enhanced, or protected more than 190,000 acres of forest habitat. For more information, visit: <http://www.nfwf.org/whoware/mediacenter/pr/Pages/landmark-forest-pr-17-0419.aspx>
- (U.S. Endowment) The U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities has announced the second year of awards through the Healthy Watersheds Consortium Grant Program. The awards expand the pace of proactive watershed protection in the U.S. through conservation and improved stewardship of hundreds of thousands of acres of lands that provide drinking water, flood risk reduction, and an array of economic and environmental benefits. The sixteen awards total \$2.75 million and will benefit organizations and partnerships in 18 states. For more information, visit: http://www.usendowment.org/images/Press_Release_HWC_2017_Grantees_Announced.pdf

Upcoming Webinars

- June 8, 2017: [A Coastal Conservation Leadership Program in Washington State](#) by National Marine Protected Areas Center
- June 12, 2017: [Exorcising Natural Fire: Precisionism in Southeastern Fire Management](#) by Southern Fire Exchange
- June 15, 2017: [Coupling Geothermal Heat Pumps with Underground Seasonal thermal Energy Storage](#) by SERDP & ESTCP
- June 28, 2017: [The Gopher Tortoise Crediting Strategy as a Model to Protect At-Risk Species](#) by REPI
- August 16, 2017: [Leveraging GIS to Define and Make Progress Toward Your Desired End State](#) by REPI
- Archived: [Climate Change and US Forests](#) by USDA Office of Sustainability and Climate
- Archived: [Wildfire and Forestry \(CAL FIRE, WFLC and WGA\)](#) by Western Regional Partnership
- Archived: [NOAA Compensatory Mitigation Policy](#) by NOAA
- Archived: [Everglades: The Next Increment of Hydrologic Restoration and Its Value in Climate Change](#) by USFWS
- Archived: [The South Carolina Stream Conservation Planning Tool](#) by SC DNR

Upcoming Events

- May 21-25, 2017 World Environmental & Water Resources Congress (Sacramento, CA)
- June 5-8, 2017: Society of Wetland Scientists 2017 Annual Meeting (San Juan, PR)
- June 5-8, 2017: Southern Group of State Foresters Annual Meeting (Rogers, AR)
- June 12–16, 2017: 2017 Conservation Finance Bootcamp (Durham, NC)
- June 19-22, 2017: Southern Forest Tree Improvement Conference 2017 (Melbourne, FL)
- August 6-9, 2017: National Association of Conservation Districts Southeast Region Meeting (Greenville, SC)
- August 7-11, 2017: 2017 Conservation Banking Training Course (Shepherdstown, WV)



- August 20-24, 2017: 147th Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society (Tampa Bay, FL)
- September 27-29, 2017: Partnership for Gulf Coast Land Conservation Annual Meeting (Pensacola, FL)

For more information about SERPPAS, visit www.serppas.org.