

SERPPAS Circular

April/May 2016

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 khoury_christopher@bah.com.

In the News

- **Featured**

- (SERPPAS) Addie Thornton has been selected as the new SERPPAS Coordinator. Addie graduated *cum laude* from North Carolina State University (NCSU) with a degree in Natural Resources: Policy and Administration. For the past four years, she has served as the Program Coordinator for NCSU's Forestry and Environmental Outreach Program. Addie is excited to join the SERPPAS team, and looks forward to meeting everyone at next week's Principals Meeting.

- **Sentinel Landscapes**

- (DoD REPI Program) The 2016 Report to Congress was delivered to the House and Senate Committees on Armed Services (HASC and SASC) on March 16. The report highlights the partnerships that serve as the foundation of the REPI program, which has protected 437,985 acres in 88 locations across 30 states through Fiscal Year 2015. To access the report, visit: https://serppas.org/media/1971/2016repi-rtc_031616.pdf
- (DoD REPI Program) The REPI Program has released their Winter 2016 newsletter, which highlights REPI partnerships, projects, and initiatives that have developed innovative ways to leverage funding, institutional knowledge, and capacity to accomplish goals on a magnified scale. To access the newsletter, visit: <http://createsend.com/t/d-D2B0113C9D451262>
- (ALRI) America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative (ALRI) held its Spring Longleaf Partnership Council meeting on April 11-12 in St. Simons Island, Georgia. Participants discussed a variety of issues, including new perspectives on Longleaf trends, policy and outreach, federal program updates, and resource mapping. For more information, visit: <http://www.americaslongleaf.org/news/news-articles/getting-to-the-goal-spring-2016-longleaf-partnership-council-meeting/>

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

- (USFWS) The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is reopening the 60-day public comment period on a proposal to list the white fringeless orchid as threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The species occurs primarily in the southeast, with populations present in Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, and South Carolina. For more information, visit: http://www.fws.gov/news/ShowNews.cfm?ref=u.s.-fish-and-wildlife-service-reopens-comment-period-on-proposal-to-list-&_ID=35560
- (DoD) The Spring 2016 issue of *Natural Selections*, the DoD Natural Resources program quarterly newsletter, focuses on issues related to threatened, endangered, and at-risk species, and includes articles on migratory bird populations as well as the evolution of DoD's relationship

with the Endangered Species Act. To view the entire newsletter, visit:

http://www.dodnaturalresources.net/NaturalSelections_Spring2016.pdf

- (SC DNR) The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund has designated the North American Coastal Plain, which includes large portions of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana, as the world's 36th Biodiversity Hotspot. For more information, visit: http://www.dnr.sc.gov/news/2016/mar/mar9_biodiversity.html
- (USDA NRCS) The U.S. Department of Agriculture has released a three-year conservation strategy for the Lesser Prairie Chicken, including plans for the voluntary restoration of 500,000 acres of habitat. For more information, visit: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/?navtype=BROWSEBYSUBJECT&ss=16&cid=NRCSEPRD966606&navid=220130000000000&pnavid=2200000000000000&position=News&ttype=detail>
- (USFWS) USFWS has announced the down-listing of two green sea turtle breeding populations from endangered to threatened due to successful conservation efforts in Florida and on the Pacific coast. For more information, visit: <http://www.fws.gov/news/ShowNews.cfm?ref=conservation-efforts-for-florida-pacific-coast-green-sea-turtles-w&ID=35542>
- (NFWF) The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation has released their 2015 Annual Report, which details the over 800 conservation projects the Foundation funded in fiscal year 2015, achieving a cumulative conservation impact of over \$3.5 billion. To access the report, visit: http://www.nfwf.org/whoweare/mediacenter/Documents/2015_annual_report.pdf

● **Southeast Wildland Fire Initiative**

- (SERPPAS Prescribed Fire Work Group) The SERPPAS Prescribed Fire Work Group published the second edition of Driptorch Digest, a monthly newsletter for the southeastern prescribed fire community. To access the newsletter, visit: https://research.cnr.ncsu.edu/blogs/southeast-fire-update/files/2016/03/Driptorch-Digest-Vol_2_Feb-2016.pdf
- (SERPPAS Prescribed Fire Work Group) The SERPPAS Prescribed Fire Work Group published the third edition of Driptorch Digest, a monthly newsletter for the southeastern prescribed fire community. To access the newsletter, visit: https://research.cnr.ncsu.edu/blogs/southeast-fire-update/files/2016/03/Driptorch-Digest-Vol_3_March-April-2016.pdf
- (Ft. Benning Bayonet & Saber) Fort Benning's weekly newspaper has published an article on the environmental and training benefits of prescribed burning. To access the article, visit: <http://www.thebayonet.com/2016/03/01/953609/prescribed-burning-beneficial.html>
- (Coalition of Prescribed Fire Councils) The Coalition of Prescribed Fire Councils has released the 2015 National Prescribed Fire Use Survey Report, based on responses from all 50 state forestry agencies. The report outlines national and regional prescribed fire activity, state prescribed fire programs, and identifies impediments limiting the use of prescribed fire. To access the report, visit: <http://www.stateforesters.org/sites/default/files/publication-documents/2015%20Prescribed%20Fire%20Use%20Survey%20Report.pdf>
- (NC Sandhills PBA) The North Carolina Sandhills Prescribed Burn Association (PBA) held its kickoff meeting on February 11 in Carthage, North Carolina. For more information, visit: <https://serppas.org/media/1978/2016-04longleafleaderpbaarticle.pdf>
- (NCSU) North Carolina State University has released its Federal Prescribed Fire Programs White Paper, a guide to federal qualification standards for managing prescribed fire. To access the

report, visit: https://serppas.org/media/1979/federal-prescribed-fire-programs-white-paper_june2015.pdf

- (USFS) The U.S. Forest Service has released a new recruitment video for veterans to consider a career in wildland fire. To view the video, visit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oOwyu6-XKvM&feature=youtu.be>
- (AL FC) The Alabama Forestry Commission has released their 2016 training schedule for Prescribed Burn Manager certification and re-certification courses. To view the schedule, visit: <http://media.alabama.gov/pr/pr.aspx?id=10349&t=20>
- (SC DNR) The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources published an article outlining the benefits of prescribed burns on longleaf pine. To access the article, visit: http://www.dnr.sc.gov/news/2016/mar/mar31_prescribedfire.html

- **Coastal Resilience and Regional Adaptation**

- (DoD) DoD has released a new report, “Regional Sea Level Scenarios for Coastal Risk Management: Managing the Uncertainty of Future Sea Level Change and Extreme Water Levels for Department of Defense Coastal Sites Worldwide”, developed by a multiagency team of researchers to provide regionalized sea level and extreme water level scenarios for three future time horizons (2035, 2065, and 2100) for 1,744 military sites worldwide. To access the report, visit: <http://www.denix.osd.mil/sustainability/>
- (USDA) On April 5, the USDA announced the availability of \$15 million to help eligible conservation partners leverage local investments to provide technical assistance and financial resources for wetlands protection and improvements on private and Tribal agriculture land nationwide. For more information, visit: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/?navtype=BROWSEBYSUBJECT&ss=16&cid=NRCSEPRD906810&navid=220130000000000&pnavid=220000000000000&position=News&ttype=detail>
- (USDA) USDA has announced an investment of up to \$103 million in vital watershed projects in 19 states, including Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, and South Carolina. For more information, visit: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/?navtype=BROWSEBYSUBJECT&ss=16&cid=NRCSEPRD895426&navid=220130000000000&pnavid=220000000000000&position=News&ttype=detail>
- (OEA) Georgia Power Company will begin building one of Georgia’s largest solar power installations at Marine Corps Logistics Base-Albany. The installation is scheduled to come online in early 2017, and will produce 44 megawatts of direct current power. For more information, visit: <https://www.oea.gov/solar-facility-project-marine-corps-logistics-base-moving-forward>
- (NC DEQ) The North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has published a study showing that coastal habitat enhancement programs managed by the state fisheries agency provide \$4 in benefits for every \$1 invested in the coastal region. For more information, visit: <http://deq.nc.gov/press-release/north-carolina-sees-big-returns-coastal-habitat-programs>
- (Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council) The Council held a series of webinars in April to review the process used to develop its Initial Funded Priorities List, with the goal of identifying what worked and what could be improved to further the cause of comprehensive Gulf

restoration. For more information, as well as a link to the webinar slides, visit:

<https://www.restorethegulf.gov/release/2016/04/04/upcoming-council-webinar-dates-announced>

- (South Atlantic LCC) The South Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative (LCC) has announced an update on the progress of updating their South Atlantic Conservation Blueprint tool, designed to prioritize areas for shared conservation action in the South Atlantic Region. For more information, visit: <http://www.southatlanticlcc.org/2016/04/01/update-on-blueprint-2-1-progress/>

- **Southeast Conservation Finance Initiative**

- (USDA) USDA has announced the availability of up to \$260 million for partner proposals to improve the nation's water quality, combat drought, enhance soil health, support wildlife habitat, and protect agricultural viability. For more information, visit: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/?navtype=BROWSEBYSUBJECT&ss=16&cid=NRCSEPRD853006&navid=220130000000000&pnavid=220000000000000&position=News&ttype=detail>
- (USDA) USDA has announced the availability of up to \$20 million in competitive grants through the Conservation Innovation Grants program, which aims to spark the development and adoption of cutting-edge conservation technologies and approaches for farmers, ranchers, and other landowners. For more information, visit: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/?navtype=BROWSEBYSUBJECT&ss=16&cid=NRCSEPRD805606&navid=220130000000000&pnavid=220000000000000&position=News&ttype=detail>

Upcoming Events

- May 10-13: National Mitigation and Ecosystem Banking Conference (Fort Worth, TX)
- **May 10-11: SERPPAS Principals Meeting (Fort Benning, GA)**
- May 11-13: Southeast Land Trust Alliance Meeting (Birmingham, AL)
- May 11-13: Partnership for Gulf Coast Land Conservation Annual Meeting (Birmingham, AL)
- June 5-8: Southern Association of State Departments of Agriculture Annual Meeting (Point Clear, AL)
- June 6-10: Conservation Finance Boot Camp (Durham, NC)
- June 8: Alabama Department of Environmental Management 16th Annual Groundwater Conference (Montgomery, AL)
- June 8: World Oceans Day 2016 (Global)
- June 13-16: Southern Group of State Foresters Annual Meeting (Mobile, AL)
- June 14-17: Gulf of Mexico Alliance All Hands Meeting (Baton Rouge, LA)
- June 20-22: Association of Defense Communities 2016 National Summit (Washington, DC)
- June 20-24: Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council Meeting (Clearwater, FL)
- July 31-August 2: National Association of Conservation Districts Southeast Region Meeting (Cherokee, NC)
- November 1: Fall 2016 Longleaf Partnership Council Meeting (Savannah, GA)

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