

SERPPAS Circular

June/July 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**

- ▶ (U.S. Endowment) The Enviva Forest Conservation Fund announced the recipients of its 2017 grants. Established by Enviva Holdings, LP and administered by the U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities, the Fund is awarding \$500,000 to three projects that will help conserve more than 8,000 acres of environmentally sensitive bottomland and wetland forests. The 2017 Enviva Forest Conservation Fund grant recipients are:
 - Ducks Unlimited: The Fund is providing \$175,000 to assist with the acquisition of more than 6,000 acres in Camden County, North Carolina. The property is designated as wetlands and includes pocosins and Atlantic white cedar stands, which are bottomland forest ecosystems that the Fund has designated as priority conservation targets.
 - North Carolina Coastal Land Trust: The Fund is providing \$200,000 to help acquire 1,000 acres in Bertie County, North Carolina, for creation of a new State Natural Area with public access.
 - Virginia Department of Forestry: The Fund is providing \$125,000 to support a conservation easement on more than 1,000 acres in Sussex County, Virginia. This project blends working forest uses with permanent protection of bottomland forests.
 - For more information, visit:
http://www.usendowment.org/images/Press_Release_Enviva_2017_Awards_Announcement.pdf
- ▶ (ALRI) The Longleaf Partnership Council released the 2016 Range-Wide Accomplishments Report in April of this year. The report documents accomplishments associated with the America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative (ALRI) in fiscal year 2016 (October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2016), as compiled by State Coordination Teams across the longleaf range from southern Virginia to eastern Texas. Read the report here:
http://www.americaslongleaf.org/media/23979/fy16_llp_rangewideaccompreport_final_web.pdf?utm_source=DD_edition%239_2017%2F05%2F26&utm_campaign=Driptorch+Digest+9&utm_medium=email

- **Sentinel Landscapes**

- ▶ (USDA) The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) released a two-year implementation strategy to help private landowners restore and protect 400,000 acres of longleaf pine forests, a unique but imperiled landscape of the Southeast.

Through the strategy, NRCS furthers its ongoing effort to use existing Farm Bill programs and other resources to increase the abundance and improve the health of longleaf pine forests in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas and Virginia. For more information, visit:

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/newsroom/releases/?cid=NRCSEPRD1334418>

- ▶ (ALRI) The American Longleaf Restoration Initiative released 2017-2018 prospects for longleaf pine cone production through the Southern Research Station's (SRS) research. Researchers predict an increase in longleaf pine production over the coming year, with some longleaf pines in Alabama, Florida, and Georgia projected to yield huge numbers of seeds in October 2017. For more information, visit: <http://www.americaslongleaf.org/news/news-articles/longleaf-pine-cone-prospects-for-2017-and-2018/>
- ▶ (USFWS) U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke announced \$1.1 billion in annual funding for state wildlife agencies from revenues generated by the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration and Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration acts. The 10 states in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Southeast Region will receive a total of more than \$243 million. The funds, which are distributed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, support critical state conservation and outdoor recreation projects in states such as Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, North Carolina, and South Carolina. For more information, visit: <https://www.fws.gov/southeast/news/2017/06/interior-secretary-zinke-announces-southeast-will-receive-234-million-share-of-billion-dollar-national-distribution/>
- ▶ (NFWF) The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) is seeking applications for funding under the new Central Appalachia Habitat Stewardship Program, which is dedicated to restoring and sustaining healthy forests, rivers and streams for native bird and freshwater fish populations. Up to \$1.3 million is available this year for grants in the Appalachian region of Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Virginia and West Virginia. Proposals are due July 27, 2017. For more information, visit: <http://www.nfwf.org/whoweare/mediacenter/pr/Pages/applicants-sought-central-appalachia-pr-17-0607.aspx>
- ▶ (REPI) The DoD Readiness and Environmental Protection published their Spring 2017 newsletter which can be accessed here: <http://createsend.com/t/d-ACBE141368194848>

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

- ▶ (REPI) The REPI Program held the Gopher Tortoise Conservation Strategy as a Model to Protect At-Risk Species webinar on July 12, 2017. To hear the recording, visit: <https://bah16f18.adobeconnect.com/p5iixahlxofb/>
- ▶ (USFWS) The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will conduct five-year status reviews of 22 endangered fish, wildlife, and plants, and one threatened species, the Ozark cavefish as part of the process mandated by the Endangered Species Act (ESA). These species are found in the Southeastern United States and Puerto Rico. The five-year reviews will ensure listing classifications under the ESA are accurate and recommend changes in status where appropriate based on the latest science and analysis as well as an opportunity to track the species' recovery progress. For more information, visit: <https://www.fws.gov/southeast/news/2017/06/service-conducts-five-year-status-reviews-of-23-southeastern-species/>
- ▶ (USFWS) The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced over \$1 million in grants to 37 states and the District of Columbia to help combat white-nose syndrome (WNS), a fungal disease that

has killed millions of North American bats in recent years. Funds will help states find ways to prevent the spread of WNS while increasing survival rates of afflicted species. Insect-eating bats keep agricultural pest populations down, saving farmers at least \$3.7 billion per year in lost crop revenue and preventing the need for spraying costly toxic chemicals. For more information, visit: https://www.fws.gov/news/ShowNews.cfm?ref=service-provides-1-million-dollars-to-states-to-combat-bat-killing--f&_ID=36077

- ▶ (NWTF) The Alabama Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF) donated 24 acres to the Lauderdale Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in north Alabama. The group purchased the land for \$42,000 and donated it to the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR) that will increase access to public hunting as well as provide habitat for multiple wildlife species including white-tailed deer and Eastern wild turkey. For more information, visit: <http://www.outdooralabama.com/nwtf-donates-land-lauderdale-wma>
- ▶ (Garden & Gun) The magazine Garden and Gun published an article in their August/September 2017 edition, which focused on the efforts to conserve the Gopher Tortoise particularly in Georgia. Read the article here: <http://gardenandgun.com/articles/the-tortoise-and-the-lair/>

• Southeast Wildland Fire Initiative

- ▶ (FL DACS) Commissioner of Agriculture Adam H. Putnam announced on July 7, 2017 that 41 wildland firefighters from the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' Florida Forest Service are to assist wildfire suppression efforts in Western states. After more than 2,500 wildfires in Florida this year, Florida Forest Service firefighters are ready to help other states with their fires. For more information, visit: <http://www.freshfromflorida.com/News-Events/Press-Releases/2017-Press-Releases/Florida-Forest-Service-Firefighters-Heading-to-Battle-Blazes-in-Western-States>
- ▶ (NC PBA) On June 15th, the North Carolina Sandhills Prescribed Burn Association (PBA) initiative hosted a Growing Season Burn & Learn workshop in Moore County, North Carolina. The event brought together over 40 landowners, community supporters (including several fire departments) and agencies (including NC Department of Environmental Quality and NC State Parks) to provide training and tools needed to accomplish their longleaf restoration goals, including prescribed burning. For more information, visit: <http://campaign.r20.constantcontact.com/render?m=1117561491017&ca=01b9a372-1d33-4035-9611-8617a3919b7f>
- ▶ (SERPPAS Prescribed Fire Work Group) The SERPPAS Prescribed Fire Work Group released the ninth edition of the Driptorch Digest with news, information and events on fire from around the region. Read it here: <http://campaign.r20.constantcontact.com/render?m=1117561491017&ca=d1710f4a-676e-447b-a7a9-be37033e5919>
- ▶ (SERPPAS Prescribed Fire Work Group) The SERPPAS Prescribed Fire Work Group released the tenth edition of the Driptorch Digest with news, information and events on fire from around the region. Read the latest version here: <http://campaign.r20.constantcontact.com/render?m=1117561491017&ca=9f6a9908-b091-41f2-8bdd-c1507dfc49b2>
- ▶ (TELE) The Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies' Sustaining Family Forests Initiative holds training workshops for natural resource professionals across the country called 'Tools for Engaging Landowners Effectively'. Recently, they highlighted the ways in which the

SERPPAS Prescribed Fire Work group is working to connect with more landowners to increase burning on the ground. Read more here: <http://sffi.yale.edu/news/tele-field-prescribed-fire-private-lands>

- ▶ (JOE) As a result of the gap analysis work completed by the SERPPAS Prescribed Fire Work Group, to compare the national cohesive strategy and SERPPAS comprehensive strategy to what is happening on the ground, The Journal of Extension published 'A Framework for the Evaluation of Large-Scale Regional Conservation and Management Strategies'. With input from the work group coordinator, Jennifer Fawcett and others, this article spells out how to evaluate the work of large-n scale regional conservation efforts. Read the article here: <https://www.joe.org/joe/2017june/iw3.php>

- **Coastal Resilience and Regional Adaptation**

- ▶ (FL DEP) The Florida Department of Environmental Protection recently joined the Citrus County Board of County Commissioners, the Southwest Florida Water Management District and local officials to celebrate the groundbreaking of the Southwest Regional Water Reclamation Facility. The project is funded through a \$12.4 million loan through the state's Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF), and a \$4 million legislative appropriation grant. For more information, visit: <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/FLDEP/bulletins/19c6ff8>
- ▶ (FL DEP) The Florida Department of Environmental Protection recently awarded nearly \$3 million for six storm water projects to communities across Florida. Funded through annual appropriations from the Florida Legislature, Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) grants support projects designed to improve water quality in impaired springs, rivers, lakes and estuaries, which need help meeting Florida's stringent water-quality standards. For more information, visit: <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/FLDEP/bulletins/1a00107>
- ▶ (SA LCC) The South Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative released their July 2017 Newsletter which can be accessed here: <http://mailchi.mp/9c22e8fede53/pmx0j3o71h-2745373?e=e86655520f>

- **Southeast Conservation Finance Initiative**

- ▶ (MS DEQ) Gov. Phil Bryant announced that the U.S. Department of the Treasury has issued grant awards for six Mississippi RESTORE projects. This will contribute to proposing and implementing projects to support the economic and natural resource recovery of the Mississippi Gulf Coast and the entire Gulf region resulting from the oil spill. For more information, visit: <https://www.deq.state.ms.us/MDEQPres2.nsf/28ce80ddea27fe0886256b28006d8a70/4ce71bd4a33797108625814d005427e0?OpenDocument>
- ▶ (EPA) The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency awarded the Florida Department of Environmental Protection a grant for \$1.38 million to support a broad range of environmental programs including efforts to reduce air pollution, improving water quality, watershed management, reducing hazardous waste, and preserving underground drinking water sources. For more information, visit: <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-provides-138-million-floridas-environmental-programs>

UPCOMING WEBINARS

- ▶ July 26, 2017: [Global Atlas of Marine Fisheries](#) by Security and Sustainability Forum
- ▶ July 26, 2017: [Common Garden Studies for Herbaceous Plants: Lessons Learned from the Longleaf Pine Ecosystem](#) by Southern Regional Extension Forestry
- ▶ August 16, 2017: [Leveraging GIS to Define and Make Progress Toward Your Desired End State](#) by REPI
- ▶ August 22, 2017: [Cost-Effective Conservation Programs: What are the challenges?](#) By Southern Regional Extension Forestry
- ▶ August 23, 2017: [The Path Back: Oaks Facilitating Longleaf Pine Seedling Success on Xeric Sites](#) by Southern Fire Exchange

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ▶ August 1-4, 2017: Prescribed Burn Certification Class (Auburn, AL)
- ▶ 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 16-18, 2017: Longleaf Academy: Herbicides & Longleaf 201 (Tallahassee, FL)
- ▶ August 20-24, 2017: 147th Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society (Tampa Bay, FL)
- ▶ September 6, 2017: Building Capacity and Confidence Through Mentoring (Clanton, AL)
- ▶ **September 12 – 13, 2017: SERPPAS Steering Committee Meeting (Atlanta, GA)**
- ▶ September 27-29, 2017: Partnership for Gulf Coast Land Conservation Annual Meeting (Pensacola, FL)
- ▶ October 3-5, 2017: 4th Biennial Shortleaf Pine Conference (Galloway, NJ)
- ▶ October 12-13, 2017: Defense Coastal/Estuarine Research Program Symposium (Raleigh, NC)
- ▶ October 24-26, 2017: Oak Symposium: Sustaining Oak Forests in the 21st Century through Science Based Management (Knoxville, TN)
- ▶ October 23-25, 2017: Longleaf Partnership Council Meeting (Southern Pines, NC)
- ▶ October 29 – Nov 1, 2017: 71st Annual Conference Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (Louisville, KY) – will include SECAS Symposium

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