

SERPPAS Circular

June/July 2020

The SERPPAS Circular is a bimonthly collection of media coverage, funding opportunities and upcoming events/webinars from SERPPAS Partners across the Southeast. Updates are collected from websites, press releases, and newsletters, and organized according to the focus areas outlined in the [2018 – 2020 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.

FEATURE

- **SERPPAS/Sea Grant Coastal Resilience Meeting Outcomes Appear in Law Journal**
 - ▶ A recent article appearing in the *Sea Grant Law & Policy Journal* details the SERPPAS and Sea Grant efforts stemming from the August 2019 workshop, *Collaborating Towards Coastal Resilience in the Southeast*. This article is a comprehensive background and overview of the meeting last year including DoD challenges and priorities related to coastal resilience, REPI and OEA as tools, as well as exploring partnerships and projects with SERPPAS and state and local entities. Special thanks goes out to Shana Jones of the Georgia Sea Grant Legal Program and the Carl Vinson Institute of Government at UGA, for coauthoring the journal article, and Marissa McInnis and Mike Shaw for their input and feedback. To read the full article, click here: <http://nsglc.olemiss.edu/sglpj/recentarticles/10-2/stevens-jones.pdf>
- **SERPPAS Upcoming Virtual Sessions**
 - ▶ In place of any in-person meetings this year, we are providing a few virtual sessions to allow the partnership to engage, stay connected and continue to move our priorities forward.
 - **Wednesday, August 5, 2020 – SERPPAS Steering Committee Virtual Session (1pm – 3:30pm)** – *This is open for SERPPAS Steering Committee members only.*
 - **Tuesday, September 15, 2020 – SERPPAS Principals Virtual Session (9am -12pm)** – *This is open for SERPPAS Principals and Steering Committee members only.*
 - **Wednesday, September 16, 2020 – SERPPAS Coastal Resilience Virtual Session (1pm – 3:30pm)** – *This is open for all SERPPAS members and partners.*
 - ▶ Please save the date for the rescheduled 15 Year Anniversary SERPPAS Principals Meeting in Beaufort, NC, on **May 4-5, 2021!** Thank you for understanding these changes, as the health and safety of everyone is our highest priority. We hope these virtual engagements will allow us to stay connected and continue to advance the [SERPPAS objectives](#) across the region.

IN THE NEWS

- **Spotlight**
 - ▶ (GAOA/LWCF) Congress has approved the Great American Outdoors Act, which would fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and make critical investments in our national park system and other public lands. The bill will provide LWCF with full and permanent funding of \$900 million each year and \$1.9 billion annually will be invested for the next five years toward maintenance in national parks, other public lands, and at the Bureau of Indian Education. The bill now awaits presidential approval. To read more, please visit: <https://www.landtrustalliance.org/blog/historic-vote>

- ▶ (ALRI) America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative Longleaf Partnership Council has released its next longleaf communications document, *Blowing in the Wind: The Advantages of Longleaf Pine in Wind Storms*. This document is the second in the series of resiliency documents requested by the LPC, and this fact sheet compiles existing data/research and discusses longleaf pine's resiliency and response to windstorms such as hurricanes and tornadoes. To read more, click here: <http://www.americaslongleaf.org/news/2020/lpc-releases-new-fact-sheet-on-advantages-of-longleaf-in-windstorms/>
- **Sentinel Landscapes**
 - ▶ (REPI) The North Carolina Coastal Land Trust protected almost 300 acres on the Chowan River known as the Bal Gra Harbor tract, featuring mixed pine hardwoods with small ephemeral ponds, and immediately transferred the property to the North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation to add to the Salmon Creek State Natural Area. The project was made possible through grants from the North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund, the North Carolina Clean Water Management Trust Fund, USFWS's North American Wetlands Conservation Act program, and funding from the Department of Defense's REPI program through the United States Air Force. To read more, please visit: <https://coastallandtrust.org/salmon-creek-addition/>
 - ▶ (REPI) The May and July REPI Newsletters are now available, providing exciting news and announcements related to the REPI community.
 - May: <https://bit.ly/3jMSTsQ>
 - July: <https://bit.ly/3fg4A89>
 - ▶ (NLC) The Network for Landscape Conservation released its bimonthly newsletter, The Landscape Conservation Bulletin, sharing timely news, information, topics, and upcoming conferences and opportunities within the field of landscape conservation:
 - May: https://myemail.constantcontact.com/May-Bulletin-Network-for-Landscape-Conservation.html?soid=1128366788872&aid=gvXQIGLrS_E
- **Threatened, Endangered, and At-Risk Species**
 - ▶ (NFLT) The North Florida Land Trust (NFLT) is getting a \$450,000 grant to support efforts in the Ocala to Osceola Wildlife Corridor to provide habitat for a wide range of animals and imperiled species that are at risk of extinction, like the Florida black bear, the red-cockaded woodpecker, the eastern indigo snake, and the gopher tortoise. To learn more, please visit: <https://news.wjct.org/post/north-florida-land-trust-gets-450k-grant-ocala-osceola-wildlife-corridor>
 - ▶ (Jones Center) Scientists at the Jones Center at Ichauway are using remote sensing data from the NEON program to understand how longleaf pine forests are impacted by and recover from major weather events such as Hurricane Michael in 2018. The results will be used to develop tools to help forest managers plan restoration and conservation efforts. To read more, click here: https://www.neonscience.org/observatory/observatory-blog/mapping-aftermath-hurricane?fbclid=IwAR2ewFqSnPhjLzVGxFfPvOcDVHPRHtOv7F7ebeOP0fulAqcafV_E_DCe-LM
 - ▶ (Jones Center) Research conducted at The Jones Center at Ichauway Research Institute in Georgia finds that the structure of longleaf pine woodlands is ideal for supporting high water yield while also improving water quality. To read more, please visit:

http://jonesctr.org/LLA.pdf?fbclid=IwAR1zbbAdBVeqFpG1MH_ptVCfjKqM-WTI3tT4_2ZqTabRxEfN-4dfTG3-gy0

- ▶ (AFCEC) The Air Force Civil Engineer Center, through a combination of programs and partnerships with installations and USFWS, is helping some endangered species, like the Okaloosa darter and the Red-cockaded woodpecker, make a comeback. To read more, click here: <https://www.afcec.af.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/2291386/air-force-environmental-programs-help-endangered-species-thrive/>
 - ▶ (USFS) New research from the U.S. Forest Service Southern Research Station addresses bee biodiversity by comparing bee populations between primary and mature secondary longleaf pine forests in the southeastern U.S. Secondary forests are forests that have regrown after human disturbance. To read more, click here: <https://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/compass/2020/06/18/bees-of-longleaf-pine-forests/>
 - ▶ (NC WRC) The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission has named a new Executive Director, Major Cameron “Cam” Ingram. Major Ingram, who has been with NC WRC since 1997, previously served as the Major of Field Operations for the agency’s Law Enforcement Division. He replaces outgoing Gordon Myers, who is retiring after serving as the agency’s Executive Director for nearly 12 years.
- **Southeast Prescribed Fire Initiative**
 - ▶ (NCSU) Land managers are projected to have fewer opportunities to conduct controlled, prescribed burns in the southeastern United States because of man-made climate change. A new study found that in a future with high levels of greenhouse gas emissions, the percentage of suitable days for burning would significantly decrease by the end of the century, with some areas projected to lose all possible burn days in the summer months, increasing the risk of wildfire and putting fire-dependent ecosystems in jeopardy. To learn more, please visit: <https://cals.ncsu.edu/applied-ecology/news/climate-change-will-decrease-prescribed-fire-opportunities-in-southeastern-us/>
 - ▶ (USFWS) The history and current use of prescribed fire is highlighted in a recent feature from the USFWS National Wildlife Refuge System. Many areas in the Southeast are discussed as successful prescribed burning programs. To read more, click here: <https://www.fws.gov/refuges/features/Managing-Fire.html>
 - ▶ (AFCEC) The Air Force Civil Engineer Center’s Wildland Fire Branch has found ways to combat wildfires while enacting COVID-19 safety protocols for its firefighters, including teams at Eglin and Avon Park. The Wildland Fire Branch is leveraging technology to mitigate COVID-19 by conducting virtual training sessions and encouraging the firefighters in the WSMs to practice social distancing, reducing fire vehicle capacity and following CDC guidance. To read more, click here: <https://www.afcec.af.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/2279888/wildland-fire-pros-battle-fire-season-despite-covid-19/>
 - ▶ (SERPPAS) The SERPPAS Prescribed Fire Work Group published the 45th and 46th editions of the Driptorch Digest, which contains prescribed fire news, events, articles and more from across the region. Learn more here:
 - June: <https://myemail.constantcontact.com/June-Driptorch-Digest-Now-Available.html?soid=1117561491017&aid=ohIWY50A0b4>
 - July: <https://myemail.constantcontact.com/July-Driptorch-Digest-Now-Available.html?soid=1117561491017&aid=jgMHR2iMeMc>

- ▶ (SFE) The Southern Fire Exchange released its bimonthly newsletter, Fire Lines, sharing research, resources, news and upcoming events from around the Southeast and nationwide: <https://mailchi.mp/southernfireexchange/fire-lines-newsletter-volume-10-issue-3>.
- **Coastal Resilience and Regional Adaptation**
 - ▶ (ND DEQ) The North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality has submitted the [North Carolina Climate Risk Assessment and Resilience Plan](#) to Governor Roy Cooper. As directed by [Executive Order 80](#), the plan is the state’s most comprehensive effort to date, based on science and stakeholder input, to address North Carolina’s vulnerability to climate change. To learn more, please visit: <https://deq.nc.gov/news/press-releases/2020/06/02/state-climate-risk-assessment-and-resilience-plan-lays-groundwork>
 - ▶ (TNC) As a new hurricane season begins, The Nature Conservancy and Arizona State University's Center for Biodiversity Outcomes have published a new freely accessible article “[Repeated hurricanes reveal risks and opportunities for social-ecological resilience to flooding and water quality problems](#)” in *Environmental Science and Technology*. Associated map products are also available to the public [here](#).
 - ▶ (SACB) The Draft 2020 South Atlantic Conservation Blueprint is now available to be explored online. To view the draft copy, please visit: <https://communities.geoplatform.gov/landscapeconservation/south-atlantic-blueprint-atlas/>. To provide feedback on the blueprint, please visit: <https://www.southatlanticlcc.org/blueprint/>.
 - ▶ (NWF) The National Wildlife Federation has released a report, *The Protective Value of Nature*, summarizing the latest science on the effectiveness of natural infrastructure in lowering the risks to communities from weather- and climate-related hazards. To learn more and read the full report, please visit: <https://www.nwf.org/Educational-Resources/Reports/2020/06-05-20-Protective-Value-of-Nature>
 - ▶ (SACB) The South Atlantic Conservation Blueprint released its June and July Newsletters, listed below. To learn more, please visit:
 - June: <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDOIFWS/bulletins/28fb832>
 - July: <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDOIFWS/bulletins/2938747>
 - ▶ (SECASC) The SE Climate Adaptation Science Center released its June Newsletter, which includes climate related news, resources, publications, webinars and more for the Southeast region:
 - June: <https://secasc.ncsu.edu/2020/06/16/june-2020-newsletter/>
- **Energy Development and Siting**
 - ▶ (TNC OK) The Nature Conservancy now has a tool to identify the most promising places for wind power in the central U.S. that avoid conflicts with wildlife. The [Site Wind Right](#) analysis pulls together more than 100 sources of data on wind, energy, and wildlife, revealing 90 million acres in the Central U.S. where wind energy development would not disrupt important wildlife habitat. To read more, please visit: <https://www.nature.org/en-us/what-we-do/our-priorities/tackle-climate-change/climate-change-stories/siting-wind-right-wildlife/>
 - ▶ (REEO) The U.S. Army Regional Environmental & Energy Office released its June and July editions of the Southern Review of Legislative & Regulatory Actions. This newsletter includes environmental and energy related developments for DoD/Army leaders and installation staff, giving early notice of legislative and regulatory activities relevant to DOD interests.

- June: <https://serppas.org/media/3055/southern-review-06-2020.pdf>
- July: <https://serppas.org/media/3056/southern-review-07-2020.pdf>
- ▶ (REEO) The U.S. Army Regional Environmental and Energy Office released its bi-monthly publication, Southeast Energy Monitor. The Monitor contains current legislative and regulatory activity and state public services commission dockets pertinent to military interests for Region 4.
 - June 2020: <https://serppas.org/media/3054/southeast-energy-monitor-06-2020.pdf>
- **Military Services News**
 - ▶ (Army) Two installations in the southeast, Fort Benning in Georgia and Fort Bragg in North Carolina, have been great examples of the Army Compatible Use Program and the installations' collaboration with multiple partners in their respective states. To read more, please visit: https://www.army.mil/article/237296/army_program_protects_training_lands
 - ▶ (AMSF) The Alabama Military Stability Foundation recently launched an online portal to serve its multiple defense communities, looking to bridge the gap between DoD, the State of Alabama, and military installations throughout the state. The [Heroes Welcome Initiative](#) was created to help service members moving to Alabama easily find resources including Quality of Life information specific to each defense community, action steps for license and credentialing, as well as information on top attractions in Alabama. To read more, click here: <https://defensecommunities.org/2020/07/alabama-military-stability-foundation-launches-service-member-resource-website/>

UPCOMING WEBINARS

- ▶ Archived: [2020 Conservation Boot Camp Short Course](#) by Conservation Finance Network
- ▶ Archived: [SFE Webinar: Overview of the North Carolina Climate Science Report: Implications for Wildland Fire](#) by Southern Fire Exchange
- ▶ Archived: [South Atlantic Coastal Study \(SACS\) Update](#) by USACE
- ▶ Archived: [Leveraging GIS to Identify New Partnership Opportunities](#) by REPI
- ▶ Archived: [SFE Webinar: Prescribed Fire 101: A Foundation in Ecology & Practice](#) by Southern Fire Exchange
- ▶ Archived: [Perspectives on Prescribed Fire Management in Longleaf Pine Ecosystems: The Context of Landscape Transformation and Anthropogenic Climate Change](#) by SE CASC
- ▶ Archived: [Sentinel Landscapes Partnership 2020 Accomplishments](#) by REPI
- ▶ July 31, 2020: [The Future of Landscape Conservation: A Virtual Policy Forum](#) by Network for Landscape Conservation
- ▶ August 20, 2020: [SFE Webinar: Northern Bobwhites & Fire – A Perfect Match](#) by Southern Fire Exchange
- ▶ August 20, 2020: [Addressing Threatened and Endangered Species on DoD Lands](#) by SERDP and ESTCP
- ▶ September 9, 2020: [Effective Community Engagement](#) by REPI
- ▶ November 4, 2020: [Preparing for Extreme Weather: Improving Installation Resilience](#) by REPI
- ▶ December 9, 2020: [Exploring Endangered Species Crediting Strategies](#) by REPI

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ▶ **August 5, 2020: SERPPAS Steering Committee Meeting (Virtual)**
- ▶ September 13-16, 2020: [Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies 110th Annual Meeting](#) (Virtual)
- ▶ September 15-18, 2020: [2020 Gulf Coast Conservation Conference](#) (Virtual)
- ▶ **September 15, 2020: 2020 SERPPAS Principals Meeting (Virtual)**
- ▶ **September 16, 2020: SERPPAS Coastal Resilience Session (Virtual)**
- ▶ October 6-8, 2020: [Land Trust Alliance Rally 2020](#) (Virtual)
- ▶ October 13-16, 2020: [Natural Areas Conference](#) (Virtual)
- ▶ October 20-23, 2020: [The Biennial Longleaf Conference](#) (Virtual)
- ▶ October 25-28, 2020: [74th Annual SEAFWA Conference](#) (Springfield, MO)
- ▶ October 29-31, 2020: [Society of American Foresters National Convention](#) (Virtual)
- ▶ November 2-6, 2020: [Wildland Urban Interface Conference](#) (Virtual)
- ▶ December 1-3, 2020: [2020 Bays and Bayous Symposium](#) (Virtual)
- ▶ May 23-26, 2021: [Association of Natural Resource Extension Professionals \(ANREP\) 2020 Conference](#) (Corvallis, OR)
- ▶ August 23-25, 2021: [1st National Stream Restoration Conference: Stream Restoration 2020 Sharing Visions for the Future](#) (Baltimore, MD)
- ▶ **May 3-5, 2021: 2021 SERPPAS Principals Meeting (Beaufort, NC)**
- ▶ October 4-8, 2021: [4th Annual National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy Workshop](#) (Asheville, NC)

For more information about SERPPAS, visit www.serppas.org, or email info@serppas.org.