

## SERPPAS Circular

### September/October 2019

*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](mailto:Addie.Thornton@ag.tamu.edu). You may also contact her at 919-515-3931.*

#### **FEATURE**

- **SERPPAS Fall 2019 Steering Committee Meeting:** The SERPPAS Steering Committee met for their fall meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, on September 9-10, 2019. The purpose of the meeting was to continue to move forward with the implementation of the [2018 – 2020 Strategic Plan](#) through prioritized work group actions and use of the SERPPAS Good Map. The Steering Committee and work groups are encouraged to use and further refine the new SERPPAS layers within the [REPI Map](#) to communicate priorities and enhance their work across the region. The Steering Committee also endorsed the planning of the next SERPPAS Principals meeting in Beaufort, North Carolina, in May 2020, celebrating 15 years of the partnership, engaging the SERPPAS Principals and continuing to move the strategic objectives forward. The summary and notes from this meeting will be sent in the next few weeks.
- **SAVE THE DATE:** Please keep the following dates in mind for the next two SERPPAS meetings, logistical information to follow later:
  - ▶ **March 4-5, 2020:** SERPPAS Spring 2020 Steering Committee Meeting in Atlanta, GA, at the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. Logistics information and registration is now available: <https://serppas.org/events/serppas-meetings/spring-2020-steering-committee-meeting/>
  - ▶ **May 11-13, 2020:** 2020 SERPPAS Principals Meeting in Beaufort, NC, hosted by MCI East.

#### **IN THE NEWS**

- **Spotlight**
  - ▶ (NRCS) The USDA NRCS has announced that up to \$300 million is now available for Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) projects for FY 2019. Applications will be accepted from all 50 states and the US islands and territories through December 3, 2019. The RCPP promotes coordination with partners to leverage funding and in-kind services for addressing on-farm, watershed, and regional natural resource concerns, including source water protection. To learn more, please visit: <https://sourcewatercollaborative.org/highlights/nrcs-announces-300-million-for-rcpp-projects/>
  - ▶ (USFS) The USDA, USFWS, State and Private Forestry, and Cooperative Forestry staff requests applications for the Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program (Community Forest Program). The Community Forest Program of the USFS offers a unique opportunity for communities to acquire and conserve forests that provide public access and recreational opportunities, protect vital water supplies and wildlife habitat, serve as demonstration sites for private forest landowners, and provide economic benefits from timber and non-timber products. To learn more, click here: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2019/08/08/2019-17014/request-for-applications-the-community-forest-and-open-space-conservation-program>

- ▶ (USDA) The USDA's Under Secretary for Natural Resources and the Environment signed a Shared Stewardship agreement between USDA's Forest Service and NRCS and the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, the North Carolina Forest Service, and the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission. The Shared Stewardship Agreement establishes a framework for federal and state agencies to collaborate better, focus on accomplishing mutual goals, further common interests, and effectively respond to the increasing ecological challenges and natural resource concerns in North Carolina. To read more, please visit: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/nfsnc/news-events/?cid=FSEPRD667162>
- **Sentinel Landscapes**
  - ▶ (REPI) The Summer 2019 Edition of the REPI Quarterly Newsletter is available. This edition includes the announcement of the 2019 REPI Challenge recipient, the completion of the 2019 Sentinel Landscapes Accomplishments Report, and the details of the 2020 Sustaining Military Readiness Conference. To read more, please visit: <https://repiprogram.createsend1.com/t/ViewEmail/d/CC462A9A86B2831D2540EF23F30FEDED>
  - ▶ (CFRPC) On September 27th, the fourth and final conservation easement closed on Rafter T Ranch, adjacent to the Avon Park Air Force Range (APAFR), providing 1,686.17 acres of added protection. The easement was a joint effort between the Air Force, DOD's REPI program, the Nature Conservancy, USDA NRCS, the Florida Defense Support Task Force, Highlands County BOCC, and the Central Florida Regional Planning Council. Not only is the site part of the APAFR Sentinel Landscape, but it is contiguous with existing conservation land, thus expanding the Range's buffer while supporting landscape conservation in Florida's Heartland. To view a map of the area, click here: <https://serppas.org/media/2936/rafter-t-ranch-avon-park-air-force-range-sentinel-landscape-map.pdf>
  - ▶ (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: [https://myemail.constantcontact.com/September-Bulletin-Network-for-Landscape-Conservation.html?soid=1128366788872&aid=8\\_fxLsqiXVvk](https://myemail.constantcontact.com/September-Bulletin-Network-for-Landscape-Conservation.html?soid=1128366788872&aid=8_fxLsqiXVvk)
- **Threatened, Endangered, and At-Risk Species**
  - ▶ (USFWS) At Fort Stewart, RCW populations are being recovered while troops continue to train at a high level. The military and USFWS have found success partnering to benefit both entities. To read more, please visit: <https://www.fws.gov/southeast/articles/joining-forces/>
  - ▶ (NC WRC) The North Carolina Zoo just completed its fourth successful season of "head-starting" an army (or group) of one of North Carolina's rarest amphibians, the Carolina gopher frogs in partnership with the North Carolina Wildlife Resource Commission. The frogs have now been listed as endangered by the NCWRC, as populations have dwindled from 30 habitats to only six in the state. To read more, click here: <https://www.nczoo.org/news/north-carolina-zoo-strives-save-carolina-gopher-frog?fbclid=IwAR32HjHVgBKpnHGSM3g90Uf82POQDiapHOeflPjNmKdce92wP1VGTfrwvZk>

- ▶ (GT CCA) The 10<sup>th</sup> annual report for the Gopher Tortoise Candidate Conservation Agreement (CCA) was recently released. The report includes data and information from the signatory agencies and organizations to the agreement. 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. To read the full report, click here: <https://serppas.org/media/2937/2018-gt-cca-report-with-aff-information.pdf>
- ▶ (Science Mag) A long-term study in longleaf pine savannas shows that small fragments of habitat, when connected by corridors, had higher diversity and species survival. A long-term study in longleaf pine savannas shows that small fragments of habitat, when connected by corridors, had higher diversity and species survival. To read more, click here: <https://news.wisc.edu/scientists-connected-fragments-of-pine-savanna-and-new-species-keep-showing-up/?fbclid=IwAR1YeQxmuzgH9PGpaQNHL4DlvPsmoMrp3OIGMuDpKoUBpezlepPQCzncSVw>
- ▶ (CWPRI) The Collaborative Wildlife Protection and Recovery Initiative, a voluntary, informal partnership of federal and state agencies and NGOs interested in recovering listed species and preventing new listings under the Endangered Species Act, has released a new fact sheet covering the first pilot project benefitting the least Bell's vireo. The goal for the fact sheet is to provide a background for the Initiative, outline major milestones and dates, and highlight efforts and successes to date so that the least Bell's vireo pilot can be used as a model for other species across the country. To view the fact sheet, click here: [https://serppas.org/media/2938/cwpri\\_fact-sheet\\_october\\_2019.pdf](https://serppas.org/media/2938/cwpri_fact-sheet_october_2019.pdf)
- ▶ (ALRI) On August 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, the LIT Summit and TNC Longleaf All Hands Meeting took place in Saint Simons Island, GA, bring together local implementation team coordinators and partners to discuss progress and solutions for longleaf protection, management, and restoration by increasing understanding of priority strategies and enhancing communication and support across partners. A field tour to the Altama Plantation WMA offered attendees the chance to see longleaf pine restoration in person including a gopher tortoise burrow scoping. To read the full meeting notes, click here: [https://serppas.org/media/2939/lit-summit\\_tnc-all-hands\\_meeting-notes.pdf](https://serppas.org/media/2939/lit-summit_tnc-all-hands_meeting-notes.pdf)
- **Southeast Prescribed Fire Initiative**
  - ▶ (NCSU) A recent blog post details how professionals from organizations including NCSU Extension Forestry, Tall Timbers Research Station & Land Conservancy, Alachua Conservation Trust, U.S. Forest Service, and Southern Fire Exchange met near Fayetteville, North Carolina to tour a rare old-growth longleaf tract and discuss how to reintroduce fire without killing the very trees that make the tract so special. To read more about the visit and the "duff problem" that makes reintroducing fire to long-unburned longleaf stands so tricky, please visit: [https://research.cnr.ncsu.edu/blogs/southeast-fire-update/2019/08/30/managers-and-researchers-connect-to-advise-on-restoration-of-rare-old-growth-longleaf-tract/?fbclid=IwAR0VP48TcHFIZW5Ox1TEi25qE4CgVz5WdvxKXAQvi8G9VCpnYVvk6UMCfG\\_o](https://research.cnr.ncsu.edu/blogs/southeast-fire-update/2019/08/30/managers-and-researchers-connect-to-advise-on-restoration-of-rare-old-growth-longleaf-tract/?fbclid=IwAR0VP48TcHFIZW5Ox1TEi25qE4CgVz5WdvxKXAQvi8G9VCpnYVvk6UMCfG_o)

- ▶ (TNC AL) The importance of prescribed fire in the management of forest ecosystems, including longleaf pine, is put on display in the video "Into the Black". With an ever growing population and extensive efforts to restore large areas of native habitats, partnerships are critical to provide the capacity necessary to implement fire on the scale needed to accomplish these objectives. America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative, The Nature Conservancy, and other partners all get a shout out in this incredible video. To watch the full video, click here: [https://vimeo.com/359698595?ref=fb-share&fbclid=IwAR3t0O40rAEBVtCLLFX-X5APj3xpfDErrpf9PBz8fIooLzIU\\_6RfZfcwJ\\_E](https://vimeo.com/359698595?ref=fb-share&fbclid=IwAR3t0O40rAEBVtCLLFX-X5APj3xpfDErrpf9PBz8fIooLzIU_6RfZfcwJ_E)
  - ▶ (WTREX) The 4<sup>th</sup> Women-in-Fire Prescribed Fire Training Exchange (WTREX) will take place next spring (March 30-April 10, 2020) in southeastern Virginia. WTREX is an intensive 12-day training exchange that combines practical live-fire training with indoor learning and discussion to advance participants' qualifications and experience in wildland fire operations. Applications are due December 13, 2019, and while WTREX has a focus on women in fire, they are committed to bringing together as diverse a group as possible, including men, international participants, and people from all walks of life. For more information and summary of the most recent WTREX, click here: [https://serppas.org/media/2940/wtrex-2020-announcement\\_final.pdf](https://serppas.org/media/2940/wtrex-2020-announcement_final.pdf)
  - ▶ (SERPPAS) The SERPPAS Prescribed Fire Work Group published the 36<sup>th</sup> and 37<sup>th</sup> editions of the Driptorch Digest, which contains prescribed fire news, events, articles and more from across the region. Learn more here:
    - September: <https://myemail.constantcontact.com/September-Driptorch-Digest-Now-Available.html?soid=1117561491017&aid=iLcRlsysrVk>
    - October: <https://myemail.constantcontact.com/October-Driptorch-Digest-Now-Available.html?soid=1117561491017&aid=2p9dhLOOeN4>
  - ▶ (SFE) The Southern Fire Exchange released its bimonthly newsletter sharing research, resources, news and upcoming events from around the Southeast and nationwide: <https://us5.campaign-archive.com/?u=18313cd6d252b7c69af8d769e&id=624ce0a86a>. This issue contains a new fact sheet: "[Terrestrial Invasive Plants and Fire](#)".
- **Coastal Resilience and Regional Adaptation**
    - ▶ (SECASC) The SE CASC has created a six-part webinar series designed to help partners and stakeholders in the Southeast more readily access the large amount of information synthesized in the Fourth National Climate Assessment Volume II (NCA4). The first four webinars will focus on the Southeast. A guide to understanding the NCA4 is available here: [https://secasc.ncsu.edu/2019/09/24/overview-what-is-the-nca4-and-what-does-it-mean-for-the-southeast/?utm\\_source=SE+CASC+Newsletter+List&utm\\_campaign=5f05e81d68-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2019\\_10\\_01\\_08\\_44&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_23250a1ef2-5f05e81d68-94513333](https://secasc.ncsu.edu/2019/09/24/overview-what-is-the-nca4-and-what-does-it-mean-for-the-southeast/?utm_source=SE+CASC+Newsletter+List&utm_campaign=5f05e81d68-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_10_01_08_44&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_23250a1ef2-5f05e81d68-94513333)
      - First key message overview: [A Guide to Understanding Urban Infrastructure and Health Risks in the Southeast](#)
      - Second key message overview: [A Guide to Understanding Increasing Flood Risks in Coastal and Low-Lying Regions](#)
    - ▶ (SERPPAS/Sea Grant) The full summary and notes from the August 27, 2019 SERPPAS/Sea Grant: *Collaborating Towards Coastal Resilience in the SE* meeting that took place in Savannah, GA, are now available. This summary includes the immediate action items that came out of the meeting, notes on all discussions that took place, links to the presentations that were given, as



well as links to the various resources that were mentioned throughout the meeting. To read the meeting summary, click here: [https://serppas.org/media/2935/collaborating-towards-coastal-resilience-in-the-se-meeting-summary\\_final\\_102219.pdf](https://serppas.org/media/2935/collaborating-towards-coastal-resilience-in-the-se-meeting-summary_final_102219.pdf)

- ▶ (NOAA) NOAA's National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science is awarding more than \$1.5 million in fiscal year 2019, of an anticipated total of \$4.4 million over the next three years, for research into how natural, man-made and restored coastal habitats could reduce the effects of sea level rise, flooding and storms. Two of the projects are located in North Carolina and Florida. To read more, please visit: <https://www.noaa.gov/media-release/noaa-awards-44-million-for-research-on-sea-level-rise-and-flooding>
- ▶ (NOAA) Rolling updates for 2019 of the NOAA State Climate Summaries produced in 2017 are underway. The summaries cover assessment topics directly related to NOAA's mission, specifically historical climate variations and trends, future climate model projections of climate conditions during the 21st century, and past and future conditions of sea level and coastal flooding. Among those states that have already received updates are North Carolina, Alabama, and Mississippi:
  - North Carolina: <https://statesummaries.ncics.org/chapter/nc/>
  - Alabama: <https://statesummaries.ncics.org/chapter/al/>
  - Mississippi: <https://statesummaries.ncics.org/chapter/ms/>
- ▶ (SECASC) The SE Climate Adaptation Science Center released its Late Summer, September, and October Newsletters, which includes climate related news, resources, publications, webinars and more for the Southeast region:
  - Late Summary: <https://secasc.ncsu.edu/2019/09/05/late-summer-2019-newsletter/>
  - September: <https://secasc.ncsu.edu/2019/09/25/september-2019-newsletter/>
  - October: <https://secasc.ncsu.edu/2019/10/17/october-2019-newsletter/>
- ▶ (SACB) The South Atlantic Conservation Blueprint released its September and October Newsletters, listed below. To learn more, please visit:
  - September: <https://mailchi.mp/c796618a5443/pmx0j3o71h-3012281?e=e86655520f>
  - October: <https://mailchi.mp/ef130a5f1b5a/pmx0j3o71h-3022289>
- ▶ (SECAS) The Southeast Conservation Adaptation Strategy released its September and October Newsletters, which combines all the blogs written on the SECAS website during the previous month:
  - September: [https://serppas.org/media/2943/secas-newsletter\\_september.pdf](https://serppas.org/media/2943/secas-newsletter_september.pdf)
  - October: [https://serppas.org/media/2944/secas-newsletter\\_october.pdf](https://serppas.org/media/2944/secas-newsletter_october.pdf)
- **Energy Development and Siting**
  - ▶ (U.S. Army) The U.S. Army Regional Environmental & Energy Office released its September and October 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.
    - September: <https://serppas.org/media/2941/southern-review-09-2019.pdf>
    - October: <https://serppas.org/media/2942/southern-review-10-2019.pdf>
  - ▶ (LTA) Land trusts are stepping forward to help guide the design and siting of new solar facilities, recognizing that a rapid transition to renewable energy is vital to sustaining natural ecosystems and human communities. Drawing on their ecological expertise and negotiation skills, they are

working to ensure that solar installations minimize disturbances to wildlife habitat, wetlands and productive agricultural areas. To read the article in full, please visit:

<https://www.landtrustalliance.org/news/harnessing-power-sun>

- **Military Services News**

- ▶ (REPI) Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay is a recipient of a 2019 REPI Challenge Award that will protect the coastline from being developed, therefore preserving marsh and tidal lands integral to the absorption of storm surge. The project will also contribute to the Georgia Gopher Tortoise Conservation Initiative and the Georgia Sentinel Landscape, improving fire management, restoring longleaf pine habitats, promoting coastal resilience, and mitigating maritime and airspace operational conflicts. The Kings Bay project received \$8 million in REPI Challenge funds and garnered \$32.3 million in partner contributions to protect more than 11,000 acres of unprotected coast. To learn more, please visit:

[https://www.repi.mil/Portals/44/2019\\_REPI\\_Challenge\\_Winner\\_KingsBay\\_Profile.pdf?ver=2019-10-02-142044-333](https://www.repi.mil/Portals/44/2019_REPI_Challenge_Winner_KingsBay_Profile.pdf?ver=2019-10-02-142044-333)

## UPCOMING WEBINARS

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- ▶ Archived: [SERPPAS 101 Webinar](#) by SERPPAS
- ▶ Archived: [Leveraging the New REPI Installation Resiliency Authority](#) by REPI
- ▶ Archived: [Nature-based Resilience for Gulf Coast Communities](#) by EESI
- ▶ Archived: [Climate Adaptation for DoD Resource Managers](#) by DoD Natural Resources Program
- ▶ Archived: [Preview of Recent Trends in Southeastern Ecosystems and the Next Version of the Southeast Blueprint](#) by SA LLC
- ▶ Archived: [Measuring Impacts: Developing Mission Benefit Metrics](#) by REPI
- ▶ Archived: [Nature-based Solutions for Coastal Highway Resilience: An Implementation Guide](#) by FHWA
- ▶ November 20, 2019: [NCA4, Volume II: The Southeast; Key Message 3 Natural Ecosystems Will Be Transformed](#) by SECASC
- ▶ November 20, 2019: [Restored Habitat Recovery Use](#) by GOMA
- ▶ November 27, 2019: [REPI and the Farm Bill](#) by REPI
- ▶ December 5, 2019: [NCA4, Volume II: The Southeast; Key Message 4 Economic and Health Risks for Rural Communities](#) by SECASC
- ▶ January 8, 2020: [How to Introduce Local Businesses into your REPI Partnership](#) by REPI
- ▶ January 29, 2020: [Ecosystem Services Indicators for Community Resilience](#) by GOMA
- ▶ March 20, 2020: [Vulnerability and Adaptation Planning](#) by GOMA

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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- ▶ November 2, 2019: [Fire On The Mountain](#) (Danbury, NC)
- ▶ November 3-7, 2019: [CERF 2019 25<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference](#) (Mobile, AL)
- ▶ November 13-15, 2019: [Southeast CASC Regional Science Symposium](#) (New Orleans, LA)
- ▶ November 18-20, 2019: [9<sup>th</sup> Mid-Atlantic Stream Restoration Conference](#)
- ▶ November 18-22, 2019: [8<sup>th</sup> International Fire Ecology and Management Congress](#) (Tuscon, AZ)
- ▶ November 19-20, 2019: [North Carolina Coastal Conference](#) (Wilmington, NC)
- ▶ November 19-21, 2019: [Longleaf Academy: Longleaf 101](#) (Wakefield, VA)
- ▶ December 3, 2019: [SERDP-ESTCP Symposium](#) (Washington D.C.)
- ▶ January 14-16, 2020: [Longleaf Academy: Longleaf 101](#) (Ridgeland, SC)
- ▶ January 25, 2020: [Red Hills Fire Festival](#) (Tallahassee, FL)
- ▶ February 11-13, 2020: [Longleaf Academy: Fire & Longleaf](#) (Tallahassee, FL)
- ▶ **March 4-5, 2020: SERPPAS Spring 2020 Steering Committee Meeting (Atlanta, GA)**
- ▶ March 10-11, 2020: [Forest Economic Contributions Summit](#) (New Orleans, LA)
- ▶ March 18-20, 2020: [Southeast Land Conservation Conference](#) (Chattanooga, TN)
- ▶ March 30-April 10, 2020: [4<sup>th</sup> Women-in-Fire Prescribed Fire Training Exchange](#) (southeastern VA)
- ▶ April 18, 2020: [Party for the Pine Festival](#) (Southern Pines, NC)
- ▶ April 20-24, 2020: [3<sup>rd</sup> International Smoke Symposium](#) (Raleigh, NC)
- ▶ **May 11-13, 2020: 2020 SERPPAS Principals Meeting (Beaufort, NC)**
- ▶ August 10-13, 2020: [2020 Sustaining Military Readiness Conference](#) (San Antonio, TX)
- ▶ September 13-16, 2020: [Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies 110<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting](#) (Sacramento, CA)

For more information about SERPPAS, visit [www.serppas.org](http://www.serppas.org), or email [info@serppas.org](mailto:info@serppas.org).