

SERPPAS Circular

August/September 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 the SERPPAS Coordinator, Addie Thornton, at Addie.Thornton@ag.tamu.edu. You may also contact her at 919-515-3931.

In the News

• **Sentinel Landscapes**

- (OEA) The RAND Corporation has released a comprehensive review of the value of partnerships between U.S. military installations and their surrounding communities, concluding that such partnerships are beneficial to both military installations and their neighboring communities, and can lead to improved economic value and improved military-community relations. The report highlights several partnerships at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. The full report can be found at: http://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR1419.html
- (REPI) BioGraphic, a multimedia magazine hosted by the California Academy of Sciences, released a report on the decades-long efforts of the U.S. Army and its partners to protect the red-cockaded woodpecker and longleaf pine habitat around Fort Bragg, North Carolina. To access the report, visit: http://www.repi.mil/Portals/44/Documents/News%20PDFs/bioGraphic_The%20Birds%20and%20the%20Bombs_062816.pdf?ver=2016-09-09-155003-870
- (NC DAFP) The North Carolina Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund awarded over \$3.87 million to help communities across the state protect farmland and promote agricultural enterprises; including \$2 million towards obtaining conservation easements on lands that border military bases. For more information, visit: <http://www.ncagr.gov/paffairs/release/2016/9-7-16-ADFP-awards-2016-grants.htm>
- (USDA NRCS) A new blog post on the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service's Florida Longleaf Pine website, written by SERPPAS Steering Committee Co-Chair Ryan Orndorff, highlights the mutually beneficial relationship between the U.S. military and longleaf pine habitat. Read the entire blog post here: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detailfull/fl/programs/landscape/?cid=stelprdb1263472>
- (ALRI) America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative has published an interview with Robert Abernethy, President of the Longleaf Alliance, that covers his approach toward longleaf conservation, as well as the upcoming 11th Biennial Longleaf Conference. To access the interview, visit: <http://www.americaslongleaf.org/news/news-articles/interview-with-the-president-of-the-longleaf-alliance/>

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

- (USFWS) The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has completed initial reviews of ten petitions to list, delist, or reclassify species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), and found that four of those species may be warranted for listing, including the Florida Scrub Lizard. For

more information, visit: <https://www.fws.gov/news/ShowNews.cfm?ref=service-announces-findings-on-ten-endangered-species-act-petitions-& ID=35795>

- (USFWS) On September 1, 2016, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service released its National Listing Workplan, designed to address Endangered Species Act listing and critical habitat decisions over the next seven years. To access the plan, visit: https://www.fws.gov/endangered/improving_esa/listing_workplan.html
- (USFWS) The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has announced its final methodology for improving the way it identifies and prioritizes pending ESA status reviews; which will allow USFWS to be more strategic in how it addresses pending status reviews, to be more transparent in how it establishes workload priorities, and to work better with partners to conserve imperiled plants and wildlife. For more information, visit: <https://www.fws.gov/news/ShowNews.cfm?ref=service-announces-final-methodology-for-prioritizing-and-addressing-& ID=35748>
- (USFWS) The University of Central Florida and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have agreed to establish a permanent conservation research facility focused on sea turtle monitoring and research. For more information, visit: <https://www.fws.gov/news/ShowNews.cfm?ref=ucf-to-establish-permanent-sea-turtle-research-field-station-on-archie-& ID=35751>
- (USFWS) The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are taking additional steps under the ESA to restore balance to the Florida Everglades ecosystem and help reverse population declines of the endangered Cape Sable seaside sparrow. For more information, visit: <https://www.fws.gov/news/ShowNews.cfm?ref=corps-and-service-agree-on-actions-for-conserving-cape-sable-seaside-& ID=35747>
- (USFWS) The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will conduct five-year status reviews of 15 endangered and seven threatened species occurring across the southeastern United States in order to ensure listing classifications under the ESA reflect the latest available information. For more information and a complete list of species under review, visit: <https://www.fws.gov/news/ShowNews.cfm?ref=fish-and-wildlife-service-conducting-five-year-status-reviews-of-22-& ID=35781>
- (NOAA) The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has awarded \$5.4 million in grants to states and tribes in all coastal regions to help in the recovery of threatened and endangered marine species. For more information, visit: <http://www.noaa.gov/media-release/noaa-awards-54-million-in-grants-for-endangered-threatened-species-recovery>

- **Southeast Wildland Fire Initiative**

- (Florida Forest Service) The Florida Forest Service announced that over 204,000 acres of Florida state forests were treated with prescribed fire last year; Florida leads the nation in acres treated with prescribed fire. For more information, visit: <http://www.freshfromflorida.com/News-Events/Press-Releases/2016-Press-Releases/Florida-Forest-Service-Treats-204-000-Acres-of-State-Forests-with-Prescribed-Fire>
- (GA DNR) The Georgia Prescribed Fire Council will hold its annual meeting on September 29, in Tifton, Georgia, where it will cover a wide range of topics, including using prescribed fire as a tool to help conserve at-risk species. For more information, visit: <http://www.georgiawildlife.com/node/4253>
- (SERPPAS Prescribed Fire Work Group) The SERPPAS Prescribed Fire Work Group published the sixth 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/2016/08/Driptorch-Digest-Vol_6_July-Aug-2016-1.pdf

- (SERPPAS Prescribed Fire Work Group) The SERPPAS Prescribed Fire Work Group published the seventh 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/2016/08/Driptorch-Digest-Vol_7_Sept-2016.pdf
- (Partners for Conservation) Private landowners met with leaders of the US FWS, the USDA NRCS, and representatives from other public agencies and nongovernmental organizations at the 2016 Southeastern Forest Private Lands Partnership Forum. The forum's purpose was to raise awareness of cooperative conservation successes, provide a place to hear landowner issues/concerns and develop a set of landowner –focused recommendations for improving cooperative conservation in the SE. See the report here: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/pguc1r2boc7lo00/Southeast%20Forest%20Landowners%20Forum%20Report%20March%202016%20-%20March%2029%202016.pdf?dl=0>

- **Coastal Resilience and Regional Adaptation**

- (OEA) A new report released by the Union of Concerned Scientists warns that U.S. military bases along the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico will be increasingly vulnerable to floods and powerful storms as the planet continues to warm, and predicts sea levels to rise almost four feet above 2012 levels by the end of the century. For more information, visit: <https://www.oea.gov/us-military-bases-risk-sea-level-rise>
- (NOAA) The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is recommending \$9 million in funding for 17 coastal and marine habitat restoration projects as part of its 2016 Community-based Restoration Program, which supports healthy ecosystems and resilient coastal communities. For more information and a complete list of restoration projects, visit: <http://www.habitat.noaa.gov/restoration/programs/crp/ffo2016.html>
- (NOAA) The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and its partners have developed a new forecasting tool to simulate how water moves throughout rivers and streams in the U.S., paving the way for a large improvement in flood forecasting ability. For more information, visit: <http://www.noaa.gov/media-release/noaa-launches-america-s-first-national-water-forecast-model>
- (NOAA) The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration found that human-caused climate warming increased the chances of torrential rains, such as those that caused massive flooding in south Louisiana in mid-August, by at least 40%. For more information, visit: <http://www.noaa.gov/media-release/climate-change-increased-chances-of-record-rains-in-louisiana-by-at-least-40-percent>
- (Florida DEP) The Florida Department of Environmental Protection has awarded more than \$550,000 in funding for living shoreline projects to help protect the health of the Indian River Lagoon. For more information, visit: <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/FLDEP/bulletins/1561b9c>
- (SAA) The Governors' South Atlantic Alliance has released a new report, *Living Shorelines in the Southeast: Research and Data Gaps*, which synthesizes scientific information relevant to living shorelines in North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida, including the physical, biological, and chemical characteristics of living shorelines in salt marshes and mangroves. To access the full report, visit: <http://southatlanticalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Living-Shorelines-in-the-Southeast.pdf>

- (GCERC) The Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council has released a proposed update to its 2013 Comprehensive Plan, which provides additional strategic guidance for projects and activities aimed at restoring the Gulf of Mexico. For more information, visit: <https://www.restorethegulf.gov/release/2016/08/23/gulf-coast-ecosystem-restoration-council-releases-draft-comprehensive-plan-update>
- (NAS) The National Academies of Sciences released their report *Effective Monitoring to Evaluate Ecological Restoration in the Gulf of Mexico*, which recommends a set of best practices for monitoring and evaluating restoration activities related to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. For more information, visit: <http://www.gulfofmexicoalliance.org/2016/07/5652/>
- (South Atlantic LCC) The South Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative has released their August and September newsletters. The newsletters include updates on current South Atlantic LCC projects, information on current funding opportunities, and information on updates to the South Atlantic LCC's major mapping effort, Blueprint 2.1. The newsletters can be accessed through the following links:
 - August 2016 South Atlantic LCC newsletter: <http://us2.campaign-archive2.com/?u=59d57e49ab5b1afb3a66167ee&id=95f0670044&e=e86655520f>
 - September 2016 South Atlantic LCC newsletter: <http://us2.campaign-archive2.com/?u=59d57e49ab5b1afb3a66167ee&id=a855978e04&e=e86655520f>
- (USGS NACCH) The USGS National Assessment of Coastal Change Hazards (NACCH) project works to quantify coastal change hazards including extreme storm impacts, long-term erosion, and sea-level rise along our Nation's open-ocean coasts. Changing Coastlines at Cape Canaveral https://serppas.org/media/2070/serppas-newsletter_usgs_nacch_final.pdf
- **Southeast Conservation Finance Initiative**
 - (USFWS) The Migratory Bird Conservation Commission has approved \$33.2 million in funding for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and its partners to purchase, lease, or otherwise conserve more than 81,000 acres of wetland and associated upland habitat for waterfowl, shorebirds, and other bird species across the United States. For more information, visit: [https://www.fws.gov/news/ShowNews.cfm?ref=more-than-\\$33-million-in-funding-approved-to-protect-waterfowl-and-other-&_ID=35789](https://www.fws.gov/news/ShowNews.cfm?ref=more-than-$33-million-in-funding-approved-to-protect-waterfowl-and-other-&_ID=35789)
 - (NOAA) The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has opened a call for 2017 proposals to protect threatened and endangered species under the Species Recovery Grants Program, authorized under Section 6 of the Endangered Species Act. For more information, visit: <http://www.noaa.gov/media-release/noaa-awards-54-million-in-grants-for-endangered-threatened-species-recovery>
 - (Florida DEP) The Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Coastal Management Program is accepting applications for the Coastal Partnership Initiative grant program, which promotes the protection and effective management of Florida's coastal resources as the local level. For more information, visit: <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/FLDEP/bulletins/160dd20>
 - (NFWF) The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation announced the second round of grants, totaling over \$3.4 million, from the Gulf Coast Conservation Grants Program, which will enhance coastal habitats, bolster fish and wildlife populations, and strengthen resilience along the Gulf of Mexico. For more information, visit: http://www.nfwf.org/whoware/mediacenter/pr/Pages/gccgp_16-0714.aspx

- (AFWA) The Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish & Wildlife Resources was developed to reimagine a 21st century model of funding conservation that bridges the funding gap between game and nongame species. See their recommendations in this long report: http://www.fishwildlife.org/files/Blue_Ribbon_Panel_Report2.pdf

Upcoming Webinars

- September 28: [Using NRCS's PLANTS Database in Conservation Planning](#) by Southern Regional Extension Forestry
- October 20: [Longleaf Pine Management: Modeling Increased Water Availability From Prescribed Fire](#) by the South Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative
- October 11: [How Important is it to Mimic Natural Fire Regimes in the Southeastern Coastal Plain?](#) By The Southern Fire Exchange
- November 2: [Fire Season 2016 Hot Topics](#) By The Southern Fire Exchange
- December 7: [Environmental Law Institute Brief – Sentinel Landscape Partnership Authorities and Opportunities](#) by REPI
- Archived: [Introducing the Shortleaf Pine Restoration Plan](#) by Shortleaf Pine Restoration Initiative

Upcoming Events

- September 19-22: National Association of State Foresters Annual Meeting (Savannah, GA)
- September 21-22: South Carolina Prescribed Fire Council Annual Meeting (Edgefield, SC)
- September 21-24: National Association of State Departments of Agriculture Annual Meeting (Lincoln, NE)
- September 25-27: Environmental Council of the States Fall Meeting (Wheeling, WV)
- **September 29: Fall 2016 SERPPAS Steering Committee Meeting (Atlanta, GA)**
- September 29: Georgia Prescribed Fire Council Meeting (Tifton, GA)
- October 12-13: South Carolina Water Resources Conference (Columbia, SC)
- October 15-20: The Wildlife Society 23rd Annual Conference (Raleigh, NC)
- October 18-19: Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies 70th Annual Conference (Baton Rouge, LA) – to include SECAS Leadership Summit on October 17
- October 25-28: Prescribed Fire for Wildlife Training Session (Tallahassee, FL)
- October 28-30: Rally 2016: The National Land Conservation Conference (Minneapolis, MN)
- October 31-November 1: Longleaf Partnership Council Fall Meeting (Savannah, GA)
- November 1-4: 11th Biennial Longleaf Alliance Conference (Savannah, GA)
- December 10-15: 2016 National Summit on Coastal Restoration and Management (New Orleans, LA)

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