

SERPPAS Circular

October/November 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**

- (U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities) The U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities, Inc. has partnered with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Region 8 to co-fund the Mapping the South's Protected Forests of the Future Project. The Project is designed to better visualize the state of protected working forests over the next several decades, and to enhance cooperation and coordination among groups with an interest in working forest retention. The U.S. Endowment has released a Request for Proposals for the project, for which up to \$100,000 is available; proposals are due to the Endowment by December 30, 2016. For more information, visit: http://usendowment.org/images/Mapping_the_South_RFP.pdf
- (U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities) The U.S. Endowment and USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to provide \$7,520,000 to landowners in Mississippi, Georgia, and North Carolina through the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). This new RCPP partnership supports the goals of the Sentinel Landscapes partnership, and will focus on working forest lands and the restoration of threatened and endangered species. For more information, visit: http://www.usendowment.org/images/Press_Release_2016_RCPP_NRCS_Endowment.pdf
- (ALRI) America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative (ALRI) held their Fall 2016 Longleaf Partnership Council Meeting on November 1. Participants discussed ongoing efforts in support of longleaf pine restoration, future challenges, and possible 'game changers' that could significantly increase the pace of longleaf restoration across the landscape. For more information, visit: <http://www.americaslongleaf.org/news/news-articles/fall-2016-longleaf-partnership-council-meeting/>
- (DoD REPI) DoD's Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) Program has published its Fall 2016 newsletter, which highlights REPI partnerships that are creating value for veterans, installations, and the environment. The newsletter includes several stories highlighting REPI partnerships' work with veterans, as well as information on USDA NRCS's call for proposals for projects that will provide new conservation opportunities through its Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) program. To view the entire newsletter, visit: http://www.repi.mil/Portals/44/Documents/Newsletters/REPI_Newsletter_Fall_2016_final.pdf?ver=2016-11-10-113916-253

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

- (DoD) The Fall 2016 issue of *Natural Selections*, the DoD Natural Resources program quarterly newsletter, focuses on threatened and endangered species on DoD lands, and includes articles on

the draft gopher tortoise conservation and crediting strategy, and conservation efforts related to the red-cockaded woodpecker, arroyo toad, and marine mammals. To view the entire newsletter, visit:

https://www.dodlegacy.org/Legacy/Documents/636148115723758375NaturalSelections_Fall2016.pdf

- (GA DNR) The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has approved a statewide strategy developed by Georgia's Department of Natural Resources to help conserve hundreds of Georgia plant and animal species. The plan will guide statewide conservation efforts for the next ten years. For more information, visit: <http://www.georgiawildlife.com/node/4305>
- (SC DNR) The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources reported a record number of loggerhead sea turtle nests were laid on South Carolina beaches in 2016, surpassing the previous state record set in 2013. The upward trend in sea turtle nests is an indication that the species is beginning to recover. For more information, visit: http://www.dnr.sc.gov/news/2016/nov/nov14_turtle.html
- (NFWF) The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) have created the Bats for the Future Fund, a competitive grant program that will fund the development of treatments for white-nose syndrome to promote the survival of bats in North America. USFWS has pledged \$1 million to seed the fund, which will annually pool public and private dollars to fight the disease. For more information, visit: http://www.nfwf.org/whoweare/mediacenter/pr/Pages/bats_16-1027.aspx
- (NFWF) The National Fish & Wildlife Foundation is soliciting proposals to expand and enhance longleaf pine ecosystem restoration and management across longleaf pine's historical range. The Longleaf Stewardship Fund is a landmark public-private partnership supported with Federal funding from the USDA's Forest Service (FS) and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Department of Defense (DoD), the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), and private funding from Southern Company, International Paper's Forestland Stewards Initiative, Altria Group and the American Forest Foundation's Southern Woods for At-Risk Wildlife Partnership. Please view the RFP here: <http://www.nfwf.org/longleaf/Pages/LSF-RFP-2017.aspx>

• Southeast Wildland Fire Initiative

- (SERPPAS Prescribed Fire Work Group) The SERPPAS Prescribed Fire Work Group published the eighth 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/2016/10/Driptorch-Digest-Vol_8_Oct_Nov_2016.pdf
- (SFE) The Southern Fire Exchange published a fact sheet on the value of forming a Prescribed Burn Association, which is becoming an increasingly popular approach to increase private landowner's ability to utilize prescribed fire. http://southernfireexchange.org/SFE_Publications/factsheets/2016-2.pdf
- (SFE) The Southern Fire Exchange published a fact sheet which provides a brief descriptions of commonly referenced wildland fire initiatives, programs and networks. http://www.southernfireexchange.org/SFE_Publications/factsheets/2016-3.pdf
- (NCJIC) The North Carolina Joint Information Center can provide up to date information about wildfires in NC: <http://ncjic.blogspot.com/>

- (WFMRD&A) The Wildland Fire Management Research Development & Application Program has developed an App called “Wildfires Near Me” focused on keeping you informed about wildfires in your area: <https://www.wildfiresnearme.wfmrda.com/>
- (USA Today) Forest fires burn 119,000 acres in 8 Southeastern states: <http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation-now/2016/11/20/forest-fires-burn-119000-acres-8-southeastern-states/94169774/>
- **Coastal Resilience and Regional Adaptation**
 - (NOAA) The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association’s National Estuarine Research Reserve System (NERRS) has released a study indicating that Pacific coast marshes are more resistant to rising seas than Atlantic coast marshes. The full report was published in the journal *Biological Conservation*. For more information, visit: <http://www.noaa.gov/media-release/pacific-coast-marshes-more-resistant-to-rising-seas-than-atlantic>
 - (NFWF) The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation announced that it has approved funding totaling more than \$245 million to five projects developed in consultation with the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority of Louisiana. The projects are designed to advance critical river diversion projects within Louisiana, including the engineering and design of two major sediment diversions along the Lower Mississippi River that will build, sustain, and maintain thousands of acres of coastal wetland. For more information, visit: http://www.nfwf.org/whoweare/mediacenter/pr/Pages/gebfla_16-1115.aspx
 - (CEQ) The White House’s Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) has released *Opportunities to Enhance the Nation’s Resilience to Climate Change*, a report which describes 17 inter-related opportunities to help build climate resilience by guiding federal agency actions and partnerships. To access the report, visit: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/finalresilienceopportunitiesreport.pdf>
- **Southeast Conservation Finance Initiative**
 - (EPA) The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has extended the deadline for eligible non-profit groups and tribal communities to apply for the 2015 Environmental Justice Small Grants (EJSG) Program, which provides funding for projects that help communities understand and address exposure to multiple environmental harms and risks at the local level. For more information, visit: <https://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/2ac652c59703a4738525735900400c2c/316dc88d3802678185257da2005d2a42!OpenDocument>
 - (USDA) Starting in November 2016, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will accept and process applications for enrollment in the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). Through CSP, agricultural producers and forest landowners earn payments for actively managing and expanding conservation activities like cover crops, ecologically-based pest management, and buffer strips, all while maintaining active agriculture production. For more information, visit: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/newsroom/releases/?cid=NRCSEPRD1299417>
 - (USDA) USDA is seeking new proposals for cutting-edge projects that will provide new conservation opportunities through its competitive Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) program. The department plans to invest up to \$25 million for projects that spark the

development and adoption of innovative conservation technologies and approaches in areas like conservation finance, data analytics, and precision conservation. For more information, visit: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/newsroom/releases/?cid=NRCSEPRD1299301>

- (GOMA) The Gulf of Mexico Alliance (GOMA), in collaboration with the Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium, is seeking proposals for the Coastal Community Projects Small Grants. These funds are available on a competitive basis to eligible coastal communities to proactively address vulnerabilities to coastal hazards. For more information, visit: <http://www.gulfofmexicoalliance.org/our-priorities/priority-issue-teams/community-resilience-team/community-resilience-small-grants/>
- (NFWF) The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation has approved nearly \$370 million from its Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund to fund 24 projects in the states of Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas. The projects are designed to remedy harm and reduce the risk of future harm to natural resources that were affected by the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill. For more information, visit: http://www.nfwf.org/whoware/mediacenter/pr/Pages/gebff_16-1115.aspx
- (SA LCC) The South Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative (SA LCC) has released their October and November newsletters. The newsletters include articles on regional urban planning, the recent SECAS Leadership Summit, and coastal adaptation strategies. The newsletters can be accessed through the following links:
 - October 2016 SA LCC newsletter: <http://us2.campaign-archive1.com/?u=59d57e49ab5b1afb3a66167ee&id=b065531a8b&e=e86655520f>
 - November 2016 SA LCC newsletter: <http://us2.campaign-archive2.com/?u=59d57e49ab5b1afb3a66167ee&id=dbfc855d89&e=e86655520f>
- (U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities) The U.S. Endowment has released a new Request for Proposals for the Enviva Forest Conservation Fund. Up to \$500,000 is available for 2017 grants to protect bottomland hardwood and other wetland forests in northeast North Carolina and southeast Virginia. For more information, visit: <http://www.usendowment.org/envivafund.html>

Upcoming Webinars

- December 7: [How to Submit Applications to Become a Sentinel](#) Landscape by REPI
- December 15: [2017 Longleaf Stewardship Fund Applicant Webinar](#) by NFWF
- December 20: [Adapting Farms to Weather Extremes and Climate Uncertainty](#) by Southern Regional Extension Forestry
- January 18: [Why Companies Should Care About Biodiversity](#) by Security & Sustainability Forum
- February 9: [How important is it to mimic natural fire regimes in the Southeastern Coastal Plain?](#) By Southern Fire Exchange

Upcoming Events

- November 30-December 1: Mississippi-Alabama Bays and Bayous Symposium (Biloxi, MS)
- December 10-15: 2016 National Summit on Coastal Restoration and Management (New Orleans, LA)
- December 12-13: Sea Level Rise and Climate Change Adaptations Conference (Fort Myers, FL)



- December 15: A Symposium on Innovative Partnerships for Working Lands Conservation (Atlanta, GA)
- February 3-4, 2017: Louisiana Environmental Education State Symposium (Baton Rouge, LA)
- February 6-9, 2017: Coastal Geotools 2017 Conference (North Charleston, SC)
- February 6-9, 2017: Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill & Ecosystem Science Conference 2017 (New Orleans, LA)
- February 15-19, 2017: National Wild Turkey Federation Convention (Nashville, TN)
- February 23-25, 2017: Environmental Education Association of Alabama 2017 Conference (Andalusia, AL)
- **March TBD 2017: SERPPAS Steering Committee Meeting (Atlanta, GA)**

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