

SERPPAS Circular

February/March 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

- **Featured**

- March 31, 2017 – The 2017 REPI Report to Congress is now available on the Department of Defense’s (DoD) Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) Program’s website: www.REPI.mil. The Report summarizes and reviews the achievements of the Program through Fiscal Year 2016: in its 14-year lifespan, the REPI Program has protected 464,668 acres in 89 locations across 30 states. <http://www.repi.mil/Resources/Reports-and-Fact-Sheets/>.
- March 24, 2017 - A first-in-the-nation conservation plan, The Gopher Tortoise Conservation and Crediting Strategy, crafted by the U.S. Department of Defense, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and state wildlife agencies in Alabama, Florida, Georgia and South Carolina, protects at-risk gopher tortoises here while helping military bases to continue training and testing missions across the tortoise’s Southern turf: <https://www.fws.gov/southeast/news/2017/03/fws-dod-adopt-credit-strategy-for-southeast-installations-benefiting-gopher-tortoise-and-other-species/>

- **Sentinel Landscapes**

- (REPI) DoD’s REPI Program has published its Winter 2017 newsletter, which includes a spotlight on REPI and communities, information on the 2017 Sentinel Landscapes applications, and a summary of relevant webinars, events, and news stories. To view a copy of the newsletter, visit: <http://createsend.com/t/d-E4D0F4CBF9D8247B>
- (REPI) Three projects that serve to protect military installations across Florida will benefit from \$765,000 in grant funding from the Florida Defense Support Task Force Grant Program. For more information, visit: http://www.repi.mil/Portals/44/Documents/News%20PDFs/News4Jax_22FEB17.pdf?ver=2017-02-28-094214-450
- (The Conservation Fund) The Conservation Fund is working to help the Georgia Department of Natural Resources conserve the 19,577-acre Sansaville property back to longleaf forest, using federal funding from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and DoD’s REPI Program. For more information, visit: http://www.repi.mil/Portals/44/Documents/News%20PDFs/TheConservationFund_06FEB17.pdf?ver=2017-02-28-094214-527
- (ALRI) America’s Longleaf Restoration Initiative (ALRI)’s Longleaf Partnership Council has a new president: Dr. Jim Guldin of the U.S. Forest Service’s Southern Research Station. ALRI has published an interview with Dr. Guldin on their website, which can be accessed through the following link: <http://www.americaslongleaf.org/news/news-articles/interview-with-the-new-chair-for-the-longleaf-partnership-council/>

- (FL Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services) The Florida Forest Service and the Florida Natural Areas Inventory have partnered to develop the Longleaf Pine Ecosystem Geodatabase (LPEGDB). This spatial database will serve as a central repository for data on the distribution and ecological condition of longleaf pine ecosystems in Florida. For more information, visit: <http://www.freshfromflorida.com/Divisions-Offices/Florida-Forest-Service/Our-Forests/The-Florida-Longleaf-Pine-Ecosystem-Geodatabase>
 - To view the Longleaf Pine Ecosystem Geodatabase map, visit: <http://www.fnai.org/webmaps/LongleafMap/>
- (USDA NRCS) Through the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP), NRCS co-invests with partners in innovative, workable and cost-effective approaches to benefit farming, ranching and forest operations; local economies; and the communities and resources in a watershed or other geographic area. Pre-applications are due April 21, 2017: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detailfull/national/programs/farmland/rcpp/?cid=nrcseprd13096>
- (USDA NRCS) USDA Offers Renewal Options for Expiring Conservation Stewardship Programs Contracts, see the news release here: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/newsroom/releases/?cid=NRCSEPRD1322782>
- **Threatened, Endangered, and At-Risk Species**
 - (DoD) The DoD Natural Resources program has released the Winter 2017 issue of *Natural Selections*, the program's quarterly newsletter, which includes articles on the Secretary of Defense Environmental Awards Program and Endangered Species Day. To view the entire newsletter, visit: https://www.dodlegacy.org/Legacy/Documents/636240503254917773Natural%20Selections_Winter%202017.pdf
 - (USFWS) The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has announced the availability of the draft recovery plan for the Yellowcheek Darter, a fish federally listed as endangered. Written comments on the plan can be submitted through May 5, 2017. For more information, visit: <https://www.fws.gov/news/ShowNews.cfm?ref=draft-recovery-plan-for-endangered-yellowcheek-darter-available-& ID=35989>
 - (SC DNR) The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources has partnered with the South Carolina Bluebird Society for the purpose of bluebird conservation across the state. The partnership will produce better opportunities that will contribute to bettering life for several species of birds in South Carolina. For more information, visit: http://www.dnr.sc.gov/news/2017/feb/feb10_bluebird.html
 - (FL FWC) The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission has developed a smartphone app designed to help document where gopher tortoises live within the state. The information collected via the app will help biologists better understand where populations of gopher tortoises live and how best to protect these populations. For more information, visit: <http://www.americaslongleaf.org/news/news-articles/download-the-florida-gopher-tortoise-smartphone-app/>
 - (USFWS) On the heels of Manatee Appreciation Day, the IS Department of the Interior announced the downlisting of the West Indian manatee from endangered to threatened. See the news release here: <https://www.fws.gov/southeast/news/2017/03/manatee-reclassified-from->

[endangered-to-threatened-as-habitat-improves-and-population-expands-existing-federal-protections-remain-in-place/](#)

- **Southeast Wildland Fire Initiative**

- (Alabama Forestry Commission) Alabama Governor Robert Bentley proclaimed February as “Prescribed Fire Awareness Month” in Alabama; recognizing prescribed fire as an effective natural and economic protection against wildfires. For more information, visit: <http://www.forestry.alabama.gov/pr.aspx?ID=12086>
- (SC DNR) South Carolina Governor Henry McMaster has proclaimed March “Prescribed Fire Awareness Month” in South Carolina. The proclamation was requested by members of the South Carolina Prescribed Fire Council, and is designed to raise awareness of the essential role that fire plays in the stewardship and protection of natural resources. For more information, visit: http://www.dnr.sc.gov/news/2017/mar/mar1_fireawareness.html

- **Coastal Resilience and Regional Adaptation**

- (FL DEP) The Florida Department of Environmental Protection has announced that Florida Governor Rick Scott’s 2017 budget includes \$225 million for Everglades restoration and \$111 million for beach restoration and re-nourishment. For more information, visit: <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/FLDEP/bulletins/18409b0>
- (NC DEQ) The North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality has announced the availability of \$100,000 in grants to local governments in 20 coastal counties to help fund coastal projects in fiscal year 2017-2018. For more information, visit: <https://deq.nc.gov/state-coastal-agency-helps-local-governments-fund-coastal-projects>
- (NFWF) The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and Wells Fargo have launched the Resilient Communities grant program, designed to improve natural resources and enhance local capacity to help communities prepare for expected impacts associated with water quantity and quality issues, forest conservation challenges, and sea level rise. For more information, visit: <http://www.nfwf.org/whoweare/mediacenter/pr/Pages/community-resilience-17-0213.aspx>
- (SA LCC) The South Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative has released the February 2017 edition of their monthly newsletter. The edition includes articles on tracking prescribed fire efforts across the Southeast, mapping marshes along the Atlantic coast, and how conservation partnerships are succeeding in protecting land, water, and environmental resources. To view the newsletter, visit: <http://us2.campaign-archive2.com/?u=59d57e49ab5b1afb3a66167ee&id=743c507f31&e=e86655520f>
- (NC ADAPT) The NC Adapt Work Group is a coalition of leaders from the agriculture and forestry sectors, along with partners from the business, academic, research and government communities. Their most recent reports, Keeping North Carolina’s Farms and Forests Vibrant and Resilient through Adaptive Management, identifies sector-specific recommendations for adaptation practices, policies and programs.
 - *Priorities and Recommendations for Advancing Adaptive Management:*
 - *for Commodity Crop Producers:*
http://sfldialogue.net/files/NC_STRAT_commodity_crops_adaptive_management_jan17.pdf

- *in Specialty Crop Agriculture:*
http://sfdialogue.net/files/NC_STRAT_specialty_crops_adaptive_management_jan17.pdf
- *on Forest Lands:*
http://sfdialogue.net/files/NC_STRAT_forestry_adaptive_management_jan17.pdf
- (NOAA) Research on killer tornadoes in the U.S. Southeast enters 2nd year:
<http://www.noaa.gov/news/research-on-killer-tornadoes-in-us-southeast-enters-2nd-year>
- **Southeast Conservation Finance Initiative**
 - (NFWF) The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and ConocoPhillips have announced \$1.2 million in grant awards through the SPIRIT of Conservation and Innovation program. These grants will support restoration and enhancement of important habitat and advance innovative water conservation technologies in 11 states. For more information, visit:
<http://www.nfwf.org/whoware/mediacenter/pr/Pages/spirit-of-conservation-17-0216.aspx>
 - (NFWF) The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and Shell Oil Company have expanded their successful Shell Marine Habitat Program to include a wider focus with additional geographies and habitat. For more information on the program and its expansion, visit:
<http://www.nfwf.org/whoware/mediacenter/pr/Pages/shell-marine-pr-17-0228.aspx>
 - (USDA NRCS) Acting Deputy Agriculture Secretary Michael Young today announced the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is investing up to \$15 million in technical and financial assistance to help eligible conservation partners voluntarily protect, restore and enhance critical wetlands on agricultural lands.
<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/newsroom/releases/?cid=NRCSEPRD1318612>

Upcoming Webinars

- April 5, 2017: [RCPP Announcement for Program Funding Webinar](#) by USDA NRCS
- April 6, 2017: [1,4-Dioxane Impacts and Innovative Cleanup Technologies at DoD Contaminated Sites](#) by SERDP and ESTCP
- April 11, 2017: [The Southeastern Grasslands Initiative \(SGI\) a Fit for the Future](#) by USFWS
- April 12, 2017: [Conservation Finance Tools and Strategies](#) by REPI
- April 12, 2017: [Everglades: The Next Increment of Hydrologic Restoration and Its Value in Climate Change](#) by USFWS
- April 13, 2017: [NOAA Marine Debris Program-funded Microplastic Research and Current Research Priorities](#) by National Marine Protected Areas Center
- April 18, 2017: [Assembling Resource Data for Field Inventories: GIS, Imagery and other tools to get Started](#) by USDA NRCS
- April 20, 2017: <https://www.serdp-estcp.org/Tools-and-Training/Webinar-Series/04-20-2017> Solutions for Installations' Participating in Energy Markets by SERDP and ESTCP
- April 25, 2017: [Watershed Planning from an NWQI Perspective](#) by USDA NRCS
- April 26, 2017: [The South Carolina Stream Conservation Planning Tool](#) by USFWS
- April 27: [The Ecology of Fuels](#) by Southern Fire Exchange
- May 3, 2017: [Annual REPI Help Session for FY18](#) by REPI

- May 17, 2017: [Weather Variability and Its Impacts on Forest Health](#) by Southern Regional Extension Forestry
- June 8, 2017: [A Coastal Conservation Leadership Program in Washington State](#) by National Marine Protected Areas Center
- June 28, 2017: [The Gopher Tortoise Crediting Strategy as a Model to Protect At-Risk Species](#) by REPI
- Archived: [Award Winning Projects: Resource Conservation and Resiliency](#) by SERDP and ESTCP

Upcoming Events

- March 29-April 1, 2017: Association of Southeastern Biologists Meeting (Montgomery, AL)
- April 3-4, 2017: Spring 2017 Longleaf Partnership Council Meeting (Montgomery, AL)
- April 4-5, 2017: North Carolina Coastal Conference (Raleigh, NC)
- April 4-5, 2017: Air Quality in a Changing World (RTP, NC)
- April 5-7, 2017: FL Chapter of The Wildlife Society Spring Meeting (Orlando, FL)
- April 11, 2017: SA LCC Conservation Blueprint Version 2.2 Workshop (Tallahassee, FL)
- April 13, 2017: SA LCC Conservation Blueprint Version 2.2 Workshop (Atlanta, GA)
- April 18 - 20, 2017: The Longleaf Alliance's Longleaf Academy: Gopher Tortoise 301 (Andalusia, AL)
- April 22, 2017: Party for the Pine Festival (Southern Pines, NC)
- April 24-26, 2017: The Southeast and Caribbean Climate Community of Practice Meeting (Charleston, SC)
- April 25 – 27, 2017: National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy Workshop (Reno, NV)
- May 9-11, 2017: 3rd National Adaptation Forum (St. Paul, MN)
- May 12-13, 2017: The Longleaf Film Festival (Raleigh, NC)
- **May 16-17, 2017: 2017 SERPPAS Principals Meeting (Beaufort, SC)**

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