Education and Training Opportunities This Fall

Upcoming webinars and workshops related to fire science and management are designed for both fire managers and scientists, and we hope that you are able to participate in those that interest you!

Webinars

The Southern Fire Exchange is partnering with Southern Regional Extension Forestry to offer four webinars on fire-related topics. We are excited about our presenter line-up and for the opportunity to provide you with information that was prioritized in our consortium needs assessment. It is easy to participate, and continuing education credits are available! All webinars will be hosted by the Forestry & Natural Resources Webinar Portal, and will be archived on the portal for future viewing. To learn more about these webinars and how to participate, click here.

Using the Southern Fire Exchange Resource Center
September 28, 12pm to 1pm (EDT)
Joseph Roise, North Carolina State University
Learn how to use the Resource Center to meet your information needs and to interact with others.

Using Smoke Prediction Models
October 19, 12pm to 1pm (EDT)
Daniel Stratton, USDA Forest Service
Become familiar with the characteristics, uses, and limitations of emission and smoke models.

Prescribed Fire and the Public: Myths and Realities
November 16, 12pm to 1pm (EDT)
Sarah McCaffrey, USDA Forest Service
Gain insights about the social acceptability of prescribed fire and variables influencing public approval.

Interagency Fuel Treatment Decision Support System
December 14, 12pm to 1pm (EDT)
Stacy Drury, Sonoma Technology, Inc.
Find out about this new web-based decision support system and view an online demonstration of IFTDSS.

Also, be sure to check out the webinar schedules for other JFSP Knowledge Exchange Consortia. Many of the webinars are applicable to multiple locations or ecosystems. View the recent blog post, It’s the Webinar Time of Year! by the Alaska Fire Science Consortium, to see a listing of upcoming webinars.

Fuels Management Workshop

Registration is now open for the September 28 workshop in Olustee, Florida from 9:30am to 12:30pm. This workshop—Landscape-scale Mechanical Fuels Reduction Treatment Effects on Fire Behavior, Fuel Loads, and Forest Ecology—includes a tour and discussion of new research conducted at the Osceola National Forest to quantify the wildfire risk reduction effectiveness and consequences to soil and vegetation of mechanically shredding and burning understory shrubs and small trees in pine flatwoods. This workshop is sponsored by Conserved Forest Ecosystems Outreach and Research Cooperative (CFEOR), the Southern Fire Exchange, University of Florida’s School of Forest Resources and Conservation, and the USDA Forest Service.

This workshop is free to CFEOR members (registration period 9/28/11) and costs $5 for non-CFEOR members (registration period 9/5/11 - 9/27/11). Continuing education credits are available. Later this fall, the workshop presentations and materials will be archived on the SFE Resource Center.

Fire and Pocosins: Lessons Learned Conference

The Nature Conservancy is holding a conference focused on fire within pocosin ecosystems—October 11, 2011 in Maple Hill, North Carolina from 9am to 4pm. The goal of this conference is for persons directly engaged with pocosin fires, whether combating wildfires or conducting prescribed burns, to share information and experience in order to better meet their objectives. Practitioner lessons, a question and answer session, and an afternoon field trip to TNC’s Shaken Creek Preserve are planned.

A $5 fee is requested for lunch, and you must register in advance to attend. For the agenda and registration information, please contact Hervey McIver at hmciver@tnc.org.
Partner Spotlight: American Forest Foundation

The American Forest Foundation (AFF) works on-the-ground with families, teachers, and elected officials to promote stewardship and protect our nation’s forest heritage. Project Learning Tree®, AFF’s environmental education program, works with tens of thousands of teachers each year. In an era where more and more children are disconnected from nature, the program works to grow the next generation of leaders ready to inherit America’s natural legacy. The American Tree Farm System®, AFF’s sustainable woodland system, helps nearly 88,000 family forest owners meet stringent third-party standards for managing nearly 26 million acres of forestland. The program’s work with landowners is particularly important in the South, where approximately 87 percent of forested lands are privately owned by companies, individuals, and families (see Southern Forests for the Future for more information).

In addition, AFF advocates for policy supporting conservation activities—including support for increased opportunities to use prescribed fire on privately-owned forests. Specifically, AFF recommends policies that

- Ensure landowners have a prescribed burn plan that addresses potential risks and escape fires;
- Enable controlled burning to be safely used as a management tool on family-owned forests, and address public sentiments, smoke management, and air quality concerns; and
- Encourage the use of science-based standards for insurance and liability coverage to allow fire application in a safe and cost-effective manner.

Learn more about AFF’s policy priorities at www.forestfoundation.org/currentissues.

AFF collaboration with the Southern Fire Exchange includes a position on our Advisory Board and transmitting SFE updates about newsletters, fact sheets, and educational opportunities through their state organizations to landowners.

Learn more about AFF and their programs:
Website: www.forestfoundation.org
Blog: www.forestfoundation.org/american-forest-foundation-blog
Facebook: www.facebook.com/AmericanForestFoundation
Twitter: www.twitter.com/AmForestFndn
Sign up for the newsletter: www.forestfoundation.org/newsletters

Requesting Your Input

The SFE is entering its second year of enhancing access to, and application of, fire science information. We have a successful online Resource Center (www.southernfireexchange.org); a growing ‘library’ of fact sheets, the Fire Lines newsletter, research highlight presentations, and informational webinars; and a track record of working with Prescribed Fire Councils and other groups in the South. We want our second year to be even more productive in meeting your specific needs. As we begin our planning process for second year activities, we welcome your input: What fire research topics do you need to hear more about? Are you planning a fire training activity in the coming year that we could support with research highlights? How can we improve your access to fire information and research results? Send your answers to these questions or other ideas to sfe@ifas.ufl.edu. And follow us on Twitter @SEfirescience for announcements about new publications and educational events.

Our hearts go out to all those affected by the recent wildfires in Texas. If you are interested in supporting relief efforts, here are a few of the organizations accepting online donations:
- American Red Cross (www.houstonredcross.org)
- Salvation Army (www.salvationarmytx.org)
- Texas Wildfire Relief Fund (http://txwildfirerelief.org)

Visit the SFE Calendar to learn more about upcoming workshops, trainings, field trips, demonstrations, and other opportunities. To add an event to our calendar, please send the event information to sfe@ifas.ufl.edu.

Prescribed Fire Council Meetings
- **Alabama PFC Annual Meeting**
  - September 28, 2011
  - Andalusia, Alabama
- **Georgia PFC Annual Meeting**
  - September 29, 2011
  - Tifton, Georgia
- **South Carolina PFC Annual Meeting**
  - September 29, 2011
  - Florence, South Carolina
- **North Florida PFC Fall Meeting**
  - October 12, 2011
  - Tallahassee, Florida
- **Central Florida PFC Fall Meeting**
  - November 1, 2011
  - Kissimmee, Florida

Conferences
- **9th Symposium on Fire and Forest Meteorology**
  - October 18-20, 2011
  - Palm Springs, California
- **NFPA Backyards & Beyond Wildland Fire Education Conference**
  - October 27-29, 2011
  - Denver, Colorado
- **38th Natural Areas Conference**
  - November 1-4, 2011
  - Tallahassee, Florida
- **Exploring the Mega-fire Reality Conference**
  - November 14-17, 2011
  - Tallahassee, Florida
- **SAMAB 21st Annual Conference**
  - November 15-17, 2011
  - Asheville, North Carolina
- **8th Southern Forestry and Natural Resources GIS Conference**
  - December 11-13, 2011
  - Athens, Georgia
- **Southwest Fire Ecology Conference**
  - February 27-March 1, 2012
  - Santa Fe, New Mexico
  - Abstract deadline October 1, 2011
- **3rd Human Dimensions of Wildland Fire Conference**
  - April 17-19, 2012
  - Seattle, Washington
  - Abstract deadline December 15, 2011