



“Taking an all-lands approach to burning”

15 May TUESDAY

8:00-9:00 Registration

Morning Master of Ceremonies: Beth Buchanan

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| 9:00-9:30 | Welcome and Introduction to the Southern Blue Ridge Fire Learning Network <i>and</i> National FLN Perspective | Margit Bucher (TNC) |
| 9:30-10:00 | Welcome to the Andrew Pickens Ranger District <i>and</i> the Southern Blue Ridge Escarpment Landscape | Robert Sitzlar (USFS)
Kristen Austin (TNC) |
| 10:00-10:30 | USFS regional perspective on controlled burning in the Appalachians | Michael Ward (USFS) |
| 10:30-10:50 | <i>Break</i> | |
| 10:50-11:15 | Burning for cane from a cultural perspective | David Cozzo (EBCI Extension Center) |
| 11:15-12:00 | Duff as a novel fuel in the southern Appalachians: will the 2016 wildfires accelerate mesophication? | Joe O’Brien (SRS) |
| 12:00-13:00 | <i>Lunch and Recognitions</i> | Beth Buchanan (USFS) |
| | <i>Afternoon Master of Ceremonies: Helen Mohr</i> | |
| 13:00-13:30 | Tracking decline and recovery of understory shrub fuels after the Blue Ridge Escarpment fires | Steve Norman (SRS) |
| 13:30-14:00 | Effects of large wildfires on water quality and water quantity in mesophytic forests of the Eastern US | Dennis Hallema (ORI) |
| 14:00-14:30 | Managing a watershed for resilience and water | Anne Bradley (TNC) |
| 14:30-15:00 | Discussion: fire – restoration – resilience – water | Julie DeMeester (TNC) |
| 15:00-15:20 | <i>Break</i> | |
| 15:20-15:45 | Community perceptions of wildlife & controlled burning | Kathryn Gaasch (Duke University) |
| 15:45-16:45 | Panel discussion on changing public attitudes about fire in the Southern Blue Ridge

moderated by Debbie Crane (TNC) | Steven Bekkerus (USFS)
Jen Bunty (CAFMS)
Bill Wiley (SCFC)
Kathryn Gaasch (Duke University) |
| 16:45-17:00 | Field trip logistics | Wes Bentley (USFS) |
| 18:00-? | <i>Dinner & Social – Continuing to strengthen network connections</i> | |



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16 May WEDNESDAY

8:00 - Depart Wesleyan Camp as four groups that rotate traveling to field trip stops. We will eat lunch together.

	8:45-9:00	9:30-10:15	10:45-11:30	12:00-1:00	1:30-2:15	2:45-3:15	3:45-4:30
Group 1	Andrew Pickens Stumphouse Ranger Station	State Line	Russell Fields	Lunch at Chattooga Belle Farm	Garland Tract	Turkey Ridge	Keowee-Toxaway State Park
Group 2		Russell Fields	State Line		Turkey Ridge	Garland Tract	
Group 3		Garland Tract	Turkey Ridge		State Line	Russell Fields	
Group 4		Turkey Ridge	Garland Tract		Russell Fields	State Line	

5:00 - Arrive back at Wesleyan Camp

Russell Fields Prescribed Burn Unit – Don Hagan, Assistant Professor, Clemson University; Helen Mohr, USFS, Forester
Burn unit contains research plots for the JFSP-funded seasonality of burn study, FLN monitoring plots and a cane restoration study area.

State Line Prescribed Burn – Brian Browning, USFS, FMO, Nantahala Ranger District
Cooperative burn between the Sumter National Forest and the Nantahala NF – this burn unit spans 2 states and 2 national forests.

Garland Tract – Chris Holcomb, USFS, Wildlife Technician, Andrew Pickens Ranger District
Burn unit was historically an apple orchard and the apple trees were removed before the USFS purchased it in 1996. By 2001 SCDNR created what is known as the Long Creek Tract, which encompasses this unit. This special WMA is solely managed for small game habitat enhancement and has been kept in early successional stages with the use of prescribed fire on short rotations.

Turkey Ridge Burn Unit – Victor Wyatt, USFS, Silviculturist, Andrew Pickens RD
Shortleaf restoration site where planted loblolly has been harvested and has been site prep burned and planted with shortleaf, Table Mountain and pitch pine species.

Keowee Toxaway State Park and Burn Unit – Caity Homan, SCSP, Biologist; Joe Lemeris SCDNR former SCSP Biologist; Michael Weeks, SCFC, West Unit Forester; Wes Bentley, USFS, AFMO Andrew Pickens RD
This burn was completed in conjunction with SC Forestry Commission. Hear about the SC State Parks burn program in the mountains of South Carolina.

Chattooga Belle Farm – Mr. Land, Owner of Chattooga Belle Farm
A landowner perspective of the prescribed fire program on the Andrew Pickens RD.

*Hard hats are required for USFS personnel (bring your own) and strongly encouraged for all attendees. Please wear hiking shoes (expect to hike up to 1 mile) and be prepared for rain and inclement weather. Bring sun screen and bug spray.

Dinner will be at the Camp. We will announce a suggested meet-up place for later in the evening for those interested.



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17 May THURSDAY

Morning Master of Ceremonies: Helen Mohr

8:00-9:30	Review what monitoring datasets are telling us Discussion: What products or information would increase your unit’s incorporation of monitoring data in burn decision making?	Bob Cherry (USFS) Rob Klein (NPS) Margit Bucher (TNC) Don Hagan (Clemson University) Peter Bates (Western Carolina U.) Adam Coates (Virginia Tech.)
9:30-9:50	<i>Break</i>	
9:50-10:20	Making the best out of your fire/spot weather forecasts	Lara Pagano (NWS)
10:20-10:50	IMET Perspective on fire weather	Mike Proud (NWS IMET)
10:50-12:00	FY19 SBR FLN proposal discussion in small groups by topic	small group leads
12:00-13:00	<i>Lunch</i>	
	<i>Afternoon Master of Ceremonies: Beth Buchanan</i>	
13:00-13:30	LANDFIRE Update	Jim Smith (LANDFIRE)
13:30-13:40	Considerations for wildlife and fire in the SBR	Adam Warwick (TNC)
13:40-14:15	Present FY19 FLN RFP actions as proposed in small groups	small group leads
14:15-14:30	Review next steps for SBR FLN	Margit Bucher, Beth Buchanan
14:30	Adjourn	