

Northeast-Midwest Prescribed Fire Science and Management Workshop

AUG. 29-31, 2023

THE MADISON CONCOURSE HOTEL

MADISON, WI



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By:



The Northeast Regional Strategy Committee (NE RSC) is a regional organization chartered by the **National Wildland Fire Leadership Council (WFLC)** to coordinate and support the implementation of the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy across the 20 Northeast and Midwest states.

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Planning Committee

Dan Anerino

Regional Fuels Management Specialist
USDA Forest Service

Brittany Baumer

Director, Illinois Prescribed Fire Council
Resource Management Project Analyst
Forest Preserves of Cook County

Dave Celino

NE RSC Chair
Chief Fire Warden
Massachusetts DCR

Paul Charland

Fire Management Specialist
US Fish & Wildlife Service

Ryan Gauger

Fire and Stewardship Manager
The Nature Conservancy: Missouri

Craig Maier

Coordinator, Tallgrass Prairie and
Oak Savanna Fire Science Consortium

Larry Mastic

Coordinator, Northeast Region
National Cohesive Wildland Fire Strategy
Wildland Fire Leadership Council

Jack McGowan-Stinski

Program Manager
Lake States Fire Science Consortium

Zachary Prusak

Wildland Fire Training Specialist
Chair - Coalition of Prescribed Fire Councils
Tall Timbers Research Station & Land Conservancy

Mikel Robinson

Full Scope Management, Inc.

Nick Skowronski

Research Forester Northern Research Station,
USDA Forest Service

Gary Werner

External Affairs Committee Chair
Wisconsin Prescribed Fire Council

Northeast-Midwest Prescribed Fire Science and Management Workshop



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Agenda

of the workshop

Monday | August 28 | 2023

University Room AB

10:00 - 5:00

Pre-Conference Workshop

Smoke TOOLS Workshop
Instructors: Trent Wickman, Air Quality Specialist, USDA Forest Service, Superior National Forest and Alexia Prospero, Air Resource Specialist, USDA Forest Service, Eastern Region

Reception and Registration Area

4:00 - 6:00 pm

Early Registration and Check-In

Tuesday | August 29 | 2023

DAY ONE: Welcome to Wisconsin all Fire Practitioners! Cultural Fire Session, Liability Insurance, Private Lands Rx Fire, Cooperative Fire, Rx Fire Councils and Rx Burn Associations

Reception and Registration Area

7:00 - 8:00 am

Registration and Check-In

Madison/Wisconsin Ballroom

8:00 - 8:15

Welcome & Leaders intent

8:15 - 8:45

Welcome To Wisconsin

Dave Celino, Chief Fire Warden, Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation
Heather Berklund, Wisconsin State Forester and Jim Barnier, Wisconsin State Fire Supervisor

8:45 - 9:45

Cultural Fire Panel

Moderator: Mike Dockry, PhD, Assistant Professor, University of Minnesota
Panelists: Ron Waukau, Forest Manager, Menominee Tribal Enterprises
Vern Northrup, retired firefighter, Fond du Lac Band of Ojibwe
Ferin Davis Anderson, Supervisor of Environmental Sciences, Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community
Nisogaabokwe - Melonee Montano, Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Traditional Ecological Knowledge Outreach Specialist, Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC)

09:45 - 10:15

NETWORKING BREAK with Sponsors and Exhibitors - Foyer

Madison/Wisconsin Ballroom

10:15 - 11:15

How Does Fire Fit into the Holistic View of Resource Management? Panel

Steve Miller, Regional Director, Fire and Aviation, USDA Forest Service Region 9 (Eastern Region)
Jeb Barzen, Chair, Wisconsin Prescribed Fire Council and Private Lands Conservation LLC
James Furman, U.S Forest Service Liaison at Air Force Wildland Fire Center
Brad Strobel, Wildlife Biologist, USFWS at Necedah National Wildlife Refuge

Madison/Wisconsin Ballroom

11:15 - 12:15

Landowner Values and Perceptions of Prescribed Fire in the Northeastern US

Melissa M. Kreye, Assistant Professor of Forest Resources Management, Department of Ecosystem Science and Management and Extension Specialist, Pennsylvania State University

12:15 - 1:45

LUNCH - boxed lunch provided

Lunchtime live concert on the S. Hamilton corner of the Capitol lawn

Madison/Wisconsin Ballroom

1:45 - 2:00

Welcome Back & Leaders intent

Steve Miller, Regional Director, Fire and Aviation, USDA Forest Service Region 9 (EasternRegion)

2:00 - 3:00

Addressing Rx Fire Liability & Insurance Needs & Opportunities Panel

Carissa Wonkka, Research Ecologist. USDA-ARS, Northern Plains Agricultural Laboratory
Mark Horn, Conservation Journalist, Conservation Media, LLC
Jim Elleson, Wisconsin Prescribed Fire Council
David Dybdahl, founder, American Risk Management Resources Network, LLC (ARMR)

3:00 - 3:30

NETWORKING BREAK with Sponsors and Exhibitors - Foyer

3:30 - 4:30

The Value of Prescribed Fire Councils Panel

Jeb Barzen, Chair, Wisconsin Prescribed Fire Council and Private Lands Conservation LLC
Mark Melvin, retired, The Jones Center.
Zach Prusak, Wildland Fire Training Specialist, Tall Timbers Research Station, Chair of the Coalition of Rx Fire Councils
Jonathan Stober, Wildlife Biologist, USDA/US Forest Service, Talladega National Forest, Shoal Creek Ranger District

4:30 - 5:30

Investment and Returns in Cooperative Burning - PBAs, Cooperative Burns Week and TREX Panel

Ryan Gauger, Fire and Stewardship Manager, The Nature Conservancy
Scott Moats, Director of Lands/Fire Manager (IA & MO), The Nature Conservancy
Jess F. Crockford, SW Regional Coordinator, Kansas Prescribed Fire Council
Kody Wohlers, Loess Hills Land Stewardship Director
George Jensen, Coordinator of the Southwest Georgia PBA, Tall Timbers Research Station

5:00 - 7:30

Social and Poster Session - Foyer and Wisconsin Ballroom

8:00 - 9:00

NE-MW Fire Council Chair meeting - University Rooms

Wednesday | August 30 | 2023

DAY TWO: Tools & Technology, Ecosystems & Ecology, Applied Research and Management Practices

Reception and Registration Area

07:00 am

Registration Desk Open

Madison/Wisconsin Ballroom

8:00 - 8:20

Welcome & Leaders intent

Amanda Mahaffey, Deputy Director, Forest Stewards Guild

Madison/Wisconsin Ballroom

8:20 - 9:30

Useful tools for managing, monitoring and modeling Rx fires, and the integration of UAS technology with prescribed burn projects **Panel**

James Furman, Wildland Fire Specialist, USDA Forest Service
Mrinal Kumar, Professor, Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, The Ohio State University
Roger Williams, Associate Professor of Forest Management & Wildland Fire Science, School of Environment & Natural Resources, The Ohio State University

Madison Ballroom

9:30 - 10:15

Tech support for shared stewardship planning and comprehensive reporting on prescribed fires

Lowell Ballard, Director of Geospatial Solutions, Timmons Group
Chris Schmidt, Space Science and Engineering Center, University of Wisconsin-Madison

University Room

9:30- 10:15

Tracking Wildfires and Rx Fires: Success Stories

Michele Witecha, Prescribed Fire Specialist, The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

10:15 - 10:40

NETWORKING BREAK with Sponsors and Exhibitors - Foyer

Madison/Wisconsin Ballroom

10:40 - 11:10

EPA and Air Quality Update: What the Changes Mean for You

Trent Wickman, Air Quality Specialist, USDA Forest Service, Superior National Forest

Madison Ballroom

11:10 - 11:55

Insufficient consideration of the impact of long-term drought on prescribed fire behavior

Tim Brown, PhD, Director, Western Regional Climate Center, and Program for Climate, Ecosystem and Fire Applications (CEFA), Desert Research Institute
Tamara Wall, PhD, Research Professor, Atmospheric Science, Desert Research Institute

University Rooms

11:10 - 11:55

Fire Ecology in The Upper Midwest: Effects of Fire Seasonality & Intensity on Controlling Woody Plants

Jed Meunier, WI DNR Research Scientist

11:55 - 1:15

LUNCH - On your own

Madison/Wisconsin Ballroom

1:15 - 2:15

Fire: A Tool or a Relationship?

Gerould Wilhelm, PhD, Director of Research, Conservation Research Institute

Madison/Wisconsin Ballroom

2:15 - 3:15

Fire in the NE-MW - a tree ring fire scar history of fire across key forest ecosystems across the region

Joe Marschall, Tree-Ring lab, University of Missouri
Evan Larson, Professor, Department of Environmental Sciences & Society, University of Wisconsin-Platteville
John Neely, Assistant Fire Management Officer, USDA-Forest Service, White Mountain National Forest, Tribal Representative

3:15 - 3:45

NETWORKING BREAK with Sponsors and Exhibitors - Foyer

Madison Ballroom

Assembly Room

University Rooms

3:45 - 4:45

The Fire Gap in Oak Ecosystems - Scaling up Oak Ecosystem Burn Units

Matt Zine, Moderator, Habitat and Management Specialist, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Gregory Nowacki, Ph.D., Regional Ecosystem Mapping Leader, USDA FS Eastern Region
Melissa Thomas-Van Gundy, PhD, Project Leader, Research Forester Forest Service, Northern Research Station
Bennie Terrell, Forest Fuels Specialist, Mark Twain National Forest

3:45 - 4:45

Rx Fire in Prairie Ecosystems

Rich Henderson, WI Department of Natural Resources (retired), The Prairie Enthusiasts (volunteer)

3:45 - 4:45

Rx Fire in the Pine Barrens

Michael Gallagher, Research Ecologist, Northern Research Station
John Lampereur, District Silviculturist, Forest Service, Lakewood/Laona RD, Chequamegon-Nicolet NF

Madison/Wisconsin Ballroom

4:30 - 5:15

Fire Needs Assessments Panel

Bill Kleiman, Project Director, Nachusa Grasslands, The Nature Conservancy, Illinois Chapter
Mike Lynch, Great Lakes Director, Forest Stewards Guild

Madison Ballroom

University Rooms AB

5:30 - 6:30

Building a Prescribed Fire Guide for the NE-MW – A Scoping Discussion

Nick Skowronski, Wildland Fire Research Scientist, Northern Research Station, USDA Forest Service
Amanda Mahaffey, Deputy Director, Forest Stewards Guild

5:30 - 6:30

Panel on the Future of Fire History in the NE-MW: Seeking managers input into how to help guide research and management

Moderator: Lane Johnson, Research Forester, University of Minnesota Cloquet Forestry Center

Thursday | August 31 | 2023

DAY THREE: Pulling it All Together: Collaborative Planning, Resource Sharing, CPBM Programs, Communication Strategies, Training the Next Generation and National Policy Challenges/Opportunities

Reception and Registration Area

07:00 am

Registration Desk Open

Madison/Wisconsin Ballroom

8:00 - 8:40

One Fire at a Time: 32 Years of Restoring EcoSystem Health in a Rare Inland Pine Barren

Neil Gifford, Albany Pine Bush Preserve Commission, Albany, NY

8:40 - 9:30

Setting Effective Burn Objectives Panel

Tom Fielden, Allegheny Zone FMO, NPS
Dan Laber USFWS Midwest Region North Zone FMO
Persephone Whelan USFS Branch Chief, Operations Risk Management (Acting) USDA Forest Service
Steve Woods, Conservation Stewardship Director Huron Pines
Matt Zine, Habitat Management Specialist WDNR

9:40 - 10:00

NETWORKING BREAK with Sponsors and Exhibitors - Foyer

Madison/Wisconsin Ballroom

10:00 - 11:00

Public Concerns and Perspectives - increasing the focus on Rx fire contingency planning Panel

Steve Goldman, Deputy Director, Fire and Aviation, USFS, Eastern Region
Ludie Bond, Wildfire Mitigation Specialist/Public Information Officer, Waccasassa Forestry Center; Florida Forest Service
Persephone Whelan, Branch Chief, Operations Risk Management (Acting), USDA Forest Service

11:00 - 11:30

State CPBM Programs Panel

Jonathan Stober, Wildlife Biologist, USDA/US Forest Service, Talladega National Forest, Shoal Creek Ranger District
Mark Melvin, retired, The Jones Center
Todd Breininger, Program Specialist, Bureau of Forestry, Forest Fire Protection, Pennsylvania DCNR

11:30 - 12:15

National Policy Challenges and Opportunities Panel

Jim Karels, Fire Director and Wildland Fire Committee, National Association of State Foresters
Dave Celino, Chief Fire Warden, Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation
Steve Miller, Regional Director, Fire and Aviation, USDA Forest Service Region 9 (Eastern Region)

12:15 - 1:15

LUNCH - On your own

1:15 - 1:45

Emerging Themes from the Wildland Fire Mitigation and Management Commission as it pertains to place-based collaborative

Kelly Martin, (ret) Chief of Fire and Aviation, Yosemite National Park, National Park Service, Pacific West Region, Yosemite CA, Wildland Fire Mitigation and Management Commission Member

1:45 - 2:30

Engaging the Public in Prescribed Fire

Ludie Bond, Wildfire Mitigation Specialist/Public Information Officer, Waccasassa Forestry Center; Florida Forest Service

2:30 - 2:45

NETWORKING BREAK with Sponsors and Exhibitors - Foyer

2:45 - 3:45

Pooling Human Resources to Get Fire Done Panel. Fire Departments, Volunteers, Alternative Spring Breakers and More!

Dave Celino, Chief Fire Warden, Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation
Ryan Gauger, Fire and Stewardship Manager, The Nature Conservancy
Kristin Pink, Forest Preserves of Cook County

3:45 - 4:45

Training the Next Generation Panel

Zach Prusak, Wildland Fire Training Specialist, Tall Timbers Research Station
Todd Aschenbach, Professor, Grand Valley State University
Michael Tiller, Professor, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point
Jarod Reibel, Conservation Stewardship Land Manager at the Edward Lowe Foundation

4:45 - 5:00

Final Word and Report Out

Speakers and Panelists



Todd Aschenbach

Dr. Todd Aschenbach is a professor of natural resources management at Grand Valley State University in West Michigan. His teaching and research interests focus on wildland fire and ecological restoration. He also works as an on-call wildland firefighter for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and conducts wildfire research with the US Forest Service's Fire Behavior Assessment Team. Todd is the Prescribed Fire Program Specialist for the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Forestry. His duties include overseeing the prescribed fire program for the Bureau, reviewing all the burn plans for Pennsylvania, serving as an Agency Representative to the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency, and assisting in the wildland fire program. Prior to his current position, he worked as a Fire Operations Forester for the Division of Forest Fire Protection and as a Service Forester in the William Penn Forest District. He has been active on the Steering Committee for the Pennsylvania Prescribed Fire Council since its inception and has been on the Board of Directors since 2016. He has served as the Vice-Chair, Acting Chair and is currently the Secretary of the Board. He also serves on the Governing Board for the Coalition of Prescribed Fire Councils.



Lowell Ballard

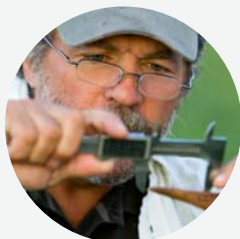
Lowell and his team work across all aspects of land management including forestry, fisheries, and wildlife. Their work focuses on helping State, Federal, and Private partners deliver their programs more efficiently and effectively using technology and spatial insights. He is currently working on aggregating all wildfire fuel mitigation accomplishments through his National Fuels Project, working closely with DOI and USDA leadership and State forestry support.



James Barnier

James has worked in the fire management field for 35 years. He started his prescribed burn career in 1988 working with the USFS and BLM in Colorado, burning 3 to 4 burns a year in the Rocky Mountain region. He continued his prescribed burning career in 1994 with Wisconsin DNR supporting Great Lakes ecosystems. His current position oversees the forest fire program including prescribed burning and suppression efforts across the state. He works with many partners in the state to increase safe prescribed burning and public awareness acceptance of burning for ecological and fuel reductions efforts.

His primary interest is establishing a robust prescribed burn program that demonstrates the value and benefits from burning in the appropriate places while emphasizing efficiencies and safety measures across the state of Wisconsin.



Jeb Barzen

Jeb has spent most of his 36-year career studying birds and applying ecosystem restoration tools in wetlands, grasslands, and savannas to benefit them. This includes conducting over 770 prescribed burns throughout the Midwest, in Vietnam, and in the Russian Far East. While teaching prescribed burning in Russia, he can uniquely claim to be the only person ever to be quoted by Pravda as an 'expert American arsonist.' Early on in his career, it became clear that the projects that interested him most would last well beyond his own lifetime, so he began to focus on teaching, mentoring, and advancing the tools that we depend upon to advance ecosystem restoration - chief among them - prescribed burning and prescribed burn practitioners. To that end, Jeb has recently collaborated with the Wisconsin Prescribed Fire Council, the Gaylord Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies, UW Arboretum, The Wisconsin Chapter of The Nature Conservancy and numerous local NGOs to create a course on fire ecology and prescribed burn implementation at the UW-Madison which currently matriculates 24 students each year and is proposed to expand enrollment next year. Currently, Jeb serves as chair of the Wisconsin Prescribed Fire Council.



Heather Berklund

Heather has years of on-the-ground Wisconsin forest management and fire control experience with the Wisconsin DNR. She began her DNR forestry career in 2000 and served as an integrated field forester, a forestry team leader, and an area forestry leader, coordinating, supporting, and collaborating with partners and staff on all aspects of public and private forest resource management, fire suppression and prevention, prescribed burning, and incident management response. She held the role of Deputy Division Administrator of Field Operations for over 3 years, responsible for overseeing statewide staff and policies guiding our bureau and field operations, which included helping coordinate and implement the newly aligned agency statewide prescribed burn program. She was named the Forestry Division Administrator in October 2020 and now oversees all Division of Forestry programs and policy, working in partnership across all Wisconsin's forestry community to ensure we have a robust and healthy industry and ecosystem today and into the future. She is proud of the staff and leadership at DNR on the success of the prescribed burn program and for all the investments that the Division of Forestry continues to make to add value to prescribed burning and fire management both statewide and nationally.



Ludie Bond

As a Wildfire Mitigation Specialist/Public Information Officer with the Florida Forest Service for the last 20 years, Bond covers one of their 15 designated districts in Florida. The Waccasassa Forestry Center/District 8 is comprised of five counties: Alachua, Gilchrist, Levy, Marion, and Putnam. In her capacity as a Public Information Officer, she provides local, state, national, and international media with information about wildfire incidents, wildfire causes, wildfire prevention, prescribed burning, and fuel mitigation programs in the area. She also develops Firewise projects and Countywide Community Wildfire Protection Plans to lower the risks and potential damaging effects of wildfires in communities determined to be at risk.

Bond holds a Bachelor of Science in Public Relations ('85) and a Master of Forest Resources and Conservation ('04) from the University of Florida. She is currently enrolled at the University of Florida as a PhD student at the School of Forest, Fisheries, and Geomatics Sciences where her research emphasis is on evaluating prescribed fire communications in the southeastern United States. She serves as a Type 1 Public Information Officer on one of the Florida Forest Service's Incident Management Teams. She has responded as a Public Information Officer to multiple wildfire incidents throughout Florida, the southeast, and as far west as Alaska, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Texas, and Utah. Bond has also responded to multiple hurricane recovery deployments throughout Florida, including in the panhandle of Florida for Hurricane Michael and in southwest Florida for Hurricane Ian.



Todd Breininger

Todd is the Prescribed Fire Program Specialist for the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Forestry. His duties include overseeing the prescribed fire program for the Bureau, reviewing all the burn plans for Pennsylvania, serving as an Agency Representative to the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency, and assisting in the wildland fire program. Prior to his current position, he worked as a Fire Operations Forester for the Division of Forest Fire Protection and as a Service Forester in the William Penn Forest District. He has been active on the Steering Committee for the Pennsylvania Prescribed Fire Council since its inception and has been on the Board of Directors since 2016. He has served as the Vice-Chair, Acting Chair and is currently the Secretary of the Board. He also serves on the Governing Board for the Coalition of Prescribed Fire Councils.

Todd has been involved with wildland fire since the early '90s and is currently qualified as a Task Force Leader. Every summer he takes a few fire details out in the western states. He received his B.S. in Forest Resources Management from West Virginia University.



Timothy Brown

Dr. Timothy Brown conducts applied research and applications development at the Desert Research Institute (DRI) in Reno, Nevada. His primary academic interests include wildland fire-climate and fire-weather connections; the wildland fire environment; applications development for wildland fire management planning, decision-making and policy; the interface between science and decision-making; and user engagement through the deliberate co-production of knowledge. He is Director of the Western Regional Climate Center, and established and directs the Program for Climate, Ecosystem and Fire Applications (CEFA) at DRI. He is graduate faculty in the Atmospheric Sciences Program at the University of Nevada, Reno, and quandom Monash University Adjunct in the School of Earth, Atmosphere and Environment, Science Faculty in Clayton, Victoria, Australia.



Dave Celino

Dave has been the State Fire Supervisor for Massachusetts since 2007, and during in tenure has been the chair of the Northeast Forest Fire Supervisors, and is the current Chair of the Cohesive Strategy Northeast Regional Strategy Committee and represents the Northeast States on the NWCG Incident Position Standards Committee. He has been in the fire service, both structural and wildland, for over 30 years and was a rural call/volunteer Fire Chief prior to taking on his current state role.



Jess Crockford

Jess Crockford grew up on a ranch in western South Dakota. He graduated from the University of Montana with a bachelor of science degree in forestry/range management in 1973. In 1972, Jess started working for the U.S. Forest Service in the Black Hills National Forest. He moved to Kansas in 1974 as a range conservationist and held various positions with the Soil Conservation Service. In 1986, he became the State Range Conservationist. Jess moved to Hutchinson, Kansas, in 1990 as the Area Conservationist and later to the Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations. He retired from the Natural Resources Conservation Service in June 2012 after 39 years of federal service. In 2013 he started with the Kansas Prescribed Fire Council as a coordinator.



Ferin Davis – Anderson

Ferin Davis Anderson is the Supervisor of Environmental Sciences for the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community's Land and Natural Resources Department. She has worked with the Community since 2016. She is also an enrolled citizen of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa/Ojibwe/Anishinaabe/Mitchifs in North Dakota. Ferin is responsible for stewarding and restoring natural areas for the SMSC. She works to weave traditional knowledge and western science to make more holistic management decisions. This includes using fire as an ecological and cultural tool to achieve beneficial and healing outcomes. Witnessing Indigenous people revitalize this practice has been one of the greatest gifts of her career.



David Dybdahl

David Dybdahl is the founder of American Risk Management Resources Network, LLC (ARMR) in Middleton, WI. ARMR is a wholesale insurance brokerage firm specializing in the development and sale of insurance products that support the environment. He has been instrumental in creating functional liability insurance packages for firms that perform controlled burns and other conservation centric services. A visionary and pioneer in environmental insurance products he was one of 25 people inducted into the Insurance Business of America, Hall of Fame, in 2021. He graduated from the University of WI-Madison with an BBA and a MBA degree, majoring in insurance and risk management, and also majored in Finance for the MBA. He is an avid outdoor sportsman and supports Ducks Unlimited, Pheasants Forever, Quail Unlimited, Trout Unlimited and The Sierra Club.



Jim Elleson

Jim Elleson started doing prescribed burns in 1995 on his 110-acre property in Wisconsin's Driftless region. In 2003 he founded Quercus Land Stewardship Services, an ecological restoration contractor focused on helping landowners take care of their land. He sold the company in 2020 and is now a part-time employee, helping with the prescribed burn program. Jim has been an active member of the Wisconsin Prescribed Fire Council since its founding in 2003. He has served in many leadership positions in the WPFC and is currently Secretary and chair of the Standards Committee.



Tom Fielden

Tom Fielden Started his Career in 1986 with the California Conservation Corps; after completing the program went to work for the USFS on a fuels crew, learning prescribed fire operations. He went on to work his way up through the fire organization on fire engines, helicopter crews, and overhead positions in District Fuels and Fire Management, he is currently a Fire Management Officer for the NPS in WV. Tom also served in positions with the Karuk Tribe as their Emergency Manger and the TNC Missouri Chapter Fire Manger for 4 years each, he holds a BS in Fire Science.



James Furman

James is a Fire Management Specialist currently serving as the U.S. Forest Service Liaison to DoD. He previously served as the Air Force Wildland Fire Chief and as Eglin AFB's Wildland Fire Program Manager. Under his watch the Eglin program tripled its productivity, becoming a national leader with an average of approximately 125 prescribed fires and more than 100,000 acres/year of prescribed fire. He is an active member and past Chairman of the North Florida Prescribed Fire Council and served as a key member on the Steering Committee and Fire Subcommittee for the 1,000,000-acre Gulf Coastal Plain Ecosystem Partnership. He currently serves as Wildland Fire SME for DoD's environmental research programs and leads an "Integrated Research Management Team" to facilitate DoD-funded collaborative prescribed fire research initiatives. Through his support of fire research, he has become something of a "poster child" for co-production of science between researchers and fire managers.



Michael Gallagher

Michael Gallagher is a research ecologist of the USDA Forest Service Northern Research Station. Stationed at the Silas Little Experimental Forest, a historic facility known for fireline research and long-term forest census plot studies in the New Jersey Pine Barrens, Gallagher works on FS-led and collaborative research focused on a wide array of prescribed fire and wildfire challenges to managers. This work includes experiments to develop and test next-generation fuels monitoring and fire behavior modeling tools to understand how prescribed fire can reduce forest pests like ticks and invasive insects and to improve fire effects monitoring. Gallagher's work benefits from over 15 years of experience as a red-carded wildland firefighter.



Ryan Gauger

For fifteen years Ryan has had the pleasure of working for TNC across the Midwest focusing on fire management and stewardship. Since late 2019, Ryan has served as the Missouri TNC Fire and Stewardship Manager. Ryan also serves as the Vice Chair of the Missouri Prescribed Fire Council. When it comes to fire management, the only thing that Ryan is more passionate about than increasing the use of prescribed fire safely is helping partners and private landowners burn more themselves. In that regard, Ryan has been an advocate for more training opportunities, public/private partnerships for fire implementation, assisting in the development of Prescribed Burn Associations, and collaborative planning efforts across all groups/individuals who engage in prescribed fire-related challenges. Recently those efforts have taken the form of working with partners within Missouri and from across the country to bring hands-on, experiential learning to Missouri utilizing the Prescribed Fire Training Exchange (Trex) model.



Neil Gifford

Neil Gifford is the Conservation Director for the Albany Pine Bush Preserve Commission, and a community representative on the North Atlantic Fire Science Exchange, with 26+ years of fire ecology and Rx fire experience. He earned associate's, bachelor's, and master's degrees in Ecology and Environmental Science from Paul Smith's College and Plattsburgh State University, with an emphasis on fire ecology and field ornithology



Steve Goldman

Steve Goldman has worked for the US Forest Service and fought fire for 32 years and currently serves as the Deputy Director of Fire and Aviation for the Eastern Region. He has served as a Type 2 Burn Boss, Type 2 Incident Commander, and an Agency Administrator on high-complexity fires. His career started in southern Arizona, then to eastern Tennessee, and finally in Wisconsin and Michigan for the last 19 years in various positions and duty stations. Steve has a passion for firefighters and public safety, which has brought him to believe “the fire must be fought before it starts.” This has driven a career-long passion for fuels reduction, prescribed burning, and training to promote those activities. One example of that training is the development of the Mack Lake Staff Ride. Mr. Goldman received a Bachelor of Science from the University of Arizona in Forest-Watershed Management in 1993.



Richard Henderson

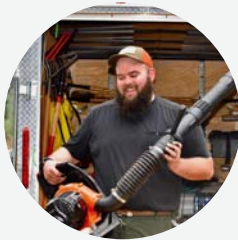
Forty-seven years of experience in natural area inventory, assessment, and management of prairie, sedge meadow, oak savanna, and oak woodland ecosystems. Research projects included the effects of the seasonal timing of fire on prairie plants, purple loosestrife ecology and control, prairie insect response to fire, and effects of fire in oak woodlands. Coordinated a six-state Prairie Insects Inventory Project (1996-2004).

Active volunteer with the Wisconsin Chapter of The Nature Conservancy land stewardship program from 1975 to 2000. Served on the WI Board of Directors for 8 years. Volunteered with The Prairie Enthusiasts land protection and land management programs from 1992 to the present. Served on the Board of Directors of The Prairie Enthusiasts from 1992 to present, including 5 years as president.



Mark Horn

Mark Horn is a conservation journalist who publishes the Conservation Digest blog and website. He is a retired restoration ecology technician and prescribed burner with a quarter century experience. Mark is also a rural Wisconsin woodland owner and active volunteer with a variety of conservation organizations. He is currently the chair of the Liability Insurance Committee of the Wisconsin Prescribed Fire Council and board member of the South Central Invasives Partnership, a CISMA covering five counties in south-central Wisconsin.



George Jensen

George attended the University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point, where he studied Wildland Fire Science and Conservation Biology under Dr. Ron Masters. During this time, George had heavy involvement in the UWSP interagency fire crew, where he was an officer for two years; George burned with the crew in Wisconsin, Oklahoma, Chicago, Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina. George also worked for the federal government on a fuels module and helitack crew. Upon graduation, George took a job as a Conservation Biologist for the Endangered Resources section of the WNDR and as a Private lands biologist for the private sector. He was also on the state burn team. George attended graduate school at Mizzou under Dr. Ben Knapp. George worked his master's tenure at the Jones Center at Ichaaway, where he researched how Resistance, Resilience, and Transition treatments affect fire behavior and effects in longleaf pine ecosystems during atypically hotter and drier days. He also studied fine-scale fire effects in patches of longleaf pine. Currently, George works for Tall Timbers as the Southwest Georgia Prescribed Burn Association Coordinator and is an Adjunct professor of ecology at Thomas University.



Bill Kleiman

For 30 years, Bill Kleiman has been the project director for The Nature Conservancy's Nachusa Grasslands in North-central Illinois. Bill has directed various aspects of land management, habitat restoration and the volunteer stewardship program for the 4,000-acre Nachusa Grasslands preserve. The preserve introduced bison in 2014 and has a vigorous science program. Bill helps lead the Grassland Restoration Network, and serves with the Middle Rock Conservation Partners. Bill has been a burn boss for over 400 fires. He is the Fire Manager for The Conservancy in Illinois. He started and serves with the Illinois Prescribed Fire Council. Bill is a co-author of the annual Illinois Fire Needs Assessment.

Bill has received recognition awards from the Natural Areas Association with their Carl Becker stewardship award, and the Society of Ecological Restoration with their Theodore Sperry award, and the Burton Atwood Award for conservation excellence by the Illinois Association of Conservation Districts.



Melissa Kreye

Melissa M. Kreye is an Assistant Professor of Forest Resources Management in the Department of Ecosystem Science and Management and an Extension Specialist at Pennsylvania State University. Her extension programs include the Forest Owner Carbon and Climate Education program and Effective Environmental Outreach Strategies. Recent research projects examine landowner interest in forest carbon payments and opportunities to use prescribed fire as a forest management tool.



Mrinal Kumar

Dr. Mrinal Kumar is a Professor of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering and Tinkham Endowed Professor of Aeronautical and Astronautical Engineering at The Ohio State University. At OSU, he serves as Director of the Laboratory for Autonomy in Data-Driven and Complex Systems (LADDCS), where his group conducts research on uncertainty quantification in complex engineering systems. Current federally funded projects at LADDCS include the integration of autonomous unmanned aerial systems with prescribed wildland burns, trustworthy model building and predictive uncertainty quantification for space domain resiliency, and construction of digital twins for prognostics of smart manufacturing systems. LADDCS is currently driven by one post-doctoral fellow, seven Ph.D., one MS student, and eight undergraduate researchers. To date, Dr. Kumar has guided the completion of ten Ph.D. dissertations. He has published over 100 archival articles and peer-reviewed proceedings. He is an Associate Fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics. He is a recipient of the NSF CAREER Award, AFOSR Young Investigator Award, and the Gerald M. Gregorek Excellence in Teaching Award given by his home department at OSU. Dr. Kumar received his Ph.D. from Texas A&M University and a bachelor's degree from the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, both in aerospace engineering.



Dan Laber

Dan Laber, North Zone Fire Management Officer, US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Twenty-three years of experience in Fire Management and Fire Suppression. From my first temporary job with the USFWS at the Madison Wetland Management District in South Dakota to my first permanent fire position at the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) in Georgia to the first fire manager position at Necedah NWR in Wisconsin, I have seen and experienced firsthand the benefit of fire when managed safely. The knowledge and I have gained equals the joy and excitement I experienced throughout my career. I am fortunate to work for an agency uses fire to implementing conservation.



John Lampereur

John is a district silviculturist for the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, based out of Lakewood, Wisconsin. He has been with the US Forest Service for 34 years, working mainly in Washington, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. He is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point and did additional graduate-level work in silviculture at the University of Washington and Oregon State University.

John has a passion for silviculture and a strong belief that it should be actively used to meet the objectives of all resource disciplines. He loves working with others to leave the land better than he found it. He has a particular interest in using silviculture for landscape restoration. This work has spawned a keen interest in researching the history of the lands he works on.



Evan Larson

Evan Larson is a father, husband, teacher, scientist, and enthusiast of wild places. His formal education includes an Environmental Science bachelor's degree from Willamette University, degrees in geography from the University of Tennessee-Knoxville (M.S.) and the University of Minnesota (PhD), and a Faculty Fulbright fellowship to Mid Sweden University in Sundsvall. Less formally, Evan's philosophy of life has been informed by significant doses of reflection, books, chainsaws and firewood. Evan has 22 years of experience using tree rings to investigate fire history and ecology in the high desert of central Oregon, subalpine whitebark pine forests across western North America, Scots pine forests in northern Sweden, longleaf pine forests in Florida, and red pine forests throughout the Midwest. His current work focuses on telling a more complete and accurate history of the interwoven relationships among people, fire, and pines in Great Lakes Region. As a Professor in the Department of Environmental Sciences & Society at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville, Evan teaches courses that blur the lines between physical and cultural geography and that are infused with undergraduate research in search of transformative learning experiences.



Michael Lynch

Michael Lynch, Great Lakes Region Director for the Forest Stewards Guild, focuses on regional research needs, collaboration opportunities, and natural resource planning at a landscape-scale. Michael has specialized experience developing integrated solutions to balance the multifaceted ecological, economic, and social needs of the Lake State's forest resources. Michael holds a BA from Gustavus Adolphus College with majors in Biology and Environmental Studies and an MS in Biological Integration from the University of Minnesota. Prior to working for the Forest Stewards Guild, Michael worked with the Wisconsin DNR, Minnesota Forest Resources Council/Minnesota DNR, Sugarloaf: The North Shore Stewardship Association, and USDA Forest Service. Michael also operates a southern Minnesota corn and soybean farm that pairs land and water conservation practices with production agriculture. He spends his time away from Guild and farming activities engaging in a variety of outdoor adventures with his wife and kids.



Amanda Mahaffey

Amanda Mahaffey serves as Deputy Director of the Forest Stewards Guild, a national organization that practices and promotes ecological forestry. Through her 11 years at the Guild, she has built enduring programs in woodland owner outreach (Forestry for the Birds and Women Owning Woodlands), forest climate resiliency, and fire science in management. She is on the leadership teams of the North Atlantic Fire Science Exchange and the Maine Prescribed Fire Council, and she regularly collaborates with the Northeastern Forest Fire Protection Compact. Amanda has become a sought-after resource for facilitation and catalyzing collaboration across agencies and organizations to help put science into practice. Amanda is a Maine licensed forester, a prescribed burner and wildland firefighter, and an experienced singer and choral conductor. She currently serves on the board of the Forest Stewardship Council U.S. Amanda holds degrees from Yale University and the University of Southern Maine. She is passionate about supporting the next generation of forest stewards.



Joe Marschall

Joe Marschall is a Senior Research Associate at the Center for Tree-Ring Science at the University of Missouri and serves as coordinator for the Oak Woodland & Forests Fire Consortium (one of the fifteen Fire Science Exchanges funded by the Joint Fire Science Program). He has participated in tree-ring-based fire history and other fire effects research across much of the eastern U.S. and is especially interested in research which informs fire and natural community management.



Kelly Martin

Kelly Martin is a retired federal wildland firefighter with over 35 years of federal wildland fire experience. She began her career at the Apostle Island National Lakeshore in 1984 while attending Northland College in Ashland WI and retired as the Chief of Fire and Aviation at Yosemite National Park in 2019 after serving 14 years there as the first female Fire Chief in the park's history. She worked her way up through the wildland fire ranks, holding positions with the National Park Service and the US Forest Service in six different states and becoming highly skilled and qualified in Operations and Fire Behavior on Type 1 and Type 2 Incident Management Teams.

In 2019, Martin retired from federal service to become the Co-founder and President of Grassroots Wildland Firefighters, a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing the public and elected officials with information and education as a frontline emergency responder regarding much-needed federal wildland fire workforce reforms. She is also very active as a Burn Boss for The Nature Conservancy (TNC) mentoring and coaching other TNC employees and nonprofit organizations to help them become more skilled and proficient in applying "good fire" on the landscape.

Her current work includes being Vice President of the International Association of Wildland Fire serving on the Board of Directors since 2019

Representative for Wildland Firefighters on the Biden/Harris Wildland Fire Mitigation and Management Commission and serves as a coach, mentor, and trainer for Women in Fire Training Exchange since 2016 most recently completing their first international WTREX training in South Africa.



Mark Melvin

Mark Melvin has recently retired from the Jones Center at Ichauway. Mark has over 30 years of private land management experience in the south which includes over 250,000 acres of prescribed fire experience. During his time at Ichauway, his primary role was to promote the appropriate use of prescribed fire. Some of his outreach efforts included prescribed fire short courses that provided "hands-on" experience, participation with numerous university courses for undergraduate and graduate programs, private landowner outreach, and partnering with many natural resource management agencies. Mark has worked closely with the prescribed fire council community over the past two decades. He was a founding member of the Georgia Prescribed Fire Council and has provided continuous leadership since its inception. He assisted and facilitated the creation of prescribed fire councils across the United States. Mark was also the founding chair of the Coalition of Prescribed Fire Councils. In his retirement, he volunteers and serves on many prescribed fire committees, workgroups, and advisory boards.



Jed Meunier

Jed Meunier is an ecologist and research scientist within the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry. His research interests range from individual species attributes to landscape ecology with a unifying theme of understanding how forces of climate and disturbance drive ecological change and how we can in turn manage for resilient systems. His dissertation research was on fire ecology in northern Mexico investigating spatial and temporal aspects of fire in relation to climate and land-use over several centuries. Jed received his M.S. in the wildlife ecology department at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, studying the effects of hunting on declining American woodcock populations. Jed considers himself lucky to spend his time asking questions and through applied research to assist in the management of Wisconsin's many treasures.



Steven Miller

Steve began working in fire with the Texas Forest Service in 1985. He currently serves the US Forest Service as the Eastern Region Director of Fire and Aviation Management. Prior to joining the USFS, he spent thirty-one years working for the State of Florida. Twenty-six of those years he served as the Chief of Land Resources for the St Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD). There he was responsible for a multiple use land management program on over 700,000 acres. The program safely completed 1600 prescribed burns on over 600,000 acres. He served on the North Florida Prescribed Fire Council, the 1998 Governor's Task Force on Wildland Fire, Florida Forestry Blue Ribbon Commission, and the Florida Forest Council. Steve's works in both suppression and prescribed fire. He is qualified as a Incident Commander, Operations Chief and Burn Boss. Steve served as Vice President for the International Association of Wildland Fire (IAWF). He earned his BS in Forestry from the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point (UWSP) and an MS in Ecological Restoration from the University of Florida. Demonstrating his commitment to the future of fire, Steve taught courses on Fire as an Adjunct Instructor for UWSP. Steve is married and has an adult son and daughter. Fire is the family business since his wife and daughter also serve on incident management teams.



Scott Moats

Scott is located at Broken Kettle Grasslands in the northern Loess Hills and serves as the Director of Lands for the state and serves as the Fire Manager for Iowa and Missouri. Responsibilities include fire management for Iowa and Missouri, oversight of grazing programs, agricultural leases, grassland reconstruction and restoration, and research on Iowa preserves. A lifelong resident of Iowa, Scott holds a B.A. in biology and English from Buena Vista University and a M.S. in biology from the University of Northern Iowa, where he also taught for three years as an adjunct professor of biology.



Nisogaabokwe – Melonee Montano

Nisogaabokwe – Melonee Montano, is a mother, grandmother, and an enrolled member of the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa and the Traditional Ecological Knowledge Outreach Specialist for Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) where she helps assess climate change impacts on treaty resources and potential threats to Ojibwe culture and lifeways. She is also a Grad Student at the University of Minnesota – Twin Cities in the Natural Resources Science & Management Program under the Forestry Department. Prior to GLIFWC she was Red Cliff's Environmental Programs Manager where she has also served on various committees including EPA's Regional Tribal Operations Committee, Alliance for Sustainability, Treaty Natural Resources, the Integrated Resources Management Plan, and is currently serving on the Great Lakes Compact Commission. She holds a B.S. degree in Healthcare Administration with a Native American and Environmental Studies emphasis. Lastly and most importantly, she is a lifelong student of her cultural ways.



John Neely

John Neely is an Assistant Fire Management Officer in the White Mountain National Forest in New Hampshire and Maine. His work includes suppression, prescribed fire, and fuels and partnerships. He has worked for USFS in wildland fire positions since 2001.



Greg Nowacki

Greg is a Regional Ecologist with the USDA Forest Service, Eastern Region in Milwaukee, WI. His primary field is ecology – the study of the interrelations among plants, animals, and their physical surroundings. He is keenly interested in forest stand dynamics, soil-site-vegetation relations and the conveyance of ecological knowledge to natural resource managers. His expertise involves oak-fire ecology, old growth, disturbance ecology, and ecological classification and mapping.



Kristin Pink

Kristin Pink is a regional ecologist with the Forest Preserves of Cook County, Illinois focused on restoring the 15,000-acre Palos Preserve Complex in southwestern Cook County where she grew up (#LivingTheDream). The Palos Preserves represent the largest contiguous block of natural open space in the urban Chicagoland region. She has been on the fire line for 13 years and leading burns for 6 years. Her professional goal is to return fire to all Palos Preserves while promoting diversity in fire culture, increasing fire acceptance in local communities, and keeping her eyebrows.



Alexia Proseri

Alexia is an Air Resource Specialist for the Eastern Region of the USDA Forest Service. She covers the southern tier of the region, which includes MO, IL, IN, OH, and WV. In her role, Alexia works on smoke forecasting for prescribed fire, monitors visibility, and provides guidance regarding air quality impacts for prescribed fire projects. She is also an Air Resource Advisor (ARA) trainee preparing to assist with the understanding and prediction of smoke impacts during a wildfire. Alexia has a B.S. in Meteorology from Valparaiso University and a M. Eng in Applied Climate from the University of Michigan.



Zachary Prusak

Zachary Prusak currently works at the Tall Timbers Research Station as a Wildland Fire Training Specialist. In this role, he works with state, federal, local, and private conservation groups and landowners to create and promote fire training opportunities and facilitate on-the-ground partnerships through collaboratives such as Fire Councils and Prescribed Burn Associations. He is also the lead for training coordination within the NE-MW region of the US, supported by funding from a Federal WRR Grant, and assesses the training needs of a wide variety of fire professionals and then provides solutions, including improving communication methods and constructing new hybrid fire course materials for both NWCG and private landowners. Zach also is the current Chair of the Coalition of Prescribed Fire Councils. Previously Zach served as the Florida Fire Manager for The Nature Conservancy, the South Region Land Manager for the Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands Program, conducted controlled burns and studied mosquito populations with the Reedy Creek Improvement District, and worked as a biologist for the Florida Park Service. Zach has close to 35 years of fire experience, is qualified as a Prescribed Fire Burn Boss Type 2 (RXB2), and is a State Certified Prescribed Burn Manager in Florida.



Jarod Reibel

Jarod is the Conservation Stewardship Land Manager at the Edward Lowe Foundation, located in southwest Michigan. There he uses prescribed fire as a land management tool in restored prairies, savannas, woodlands, and wetlands on the 2,000 acres that he manages. He is also currently the Vice-Chair of the Michigan Prescribed Fire Council (<https://www.firecouncil.org/>), and active in their training and qualifications subcommittee. He holds a B.S. in Natural Resource Management, and a M.S. in Biology, both from Grand Valley State University (GVSU), and now works with GVSU to host their S130/190 and S290 fire trainings at the Edward Lowe Foundation. Outside of work Jarod enjoys hunting, fishing, woodworking, working on their small homestead, and hiking with his wife and dogs.



Chris Schmidt

Chris Schmidt is a researcher at the Cooperative Institute for Meteorological Satellite Studies (CIMSS) at the Space Science Engineering Center (SSEC) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He joined the Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite (GOES) Biomass Burning team in 2001 and is the algorithm lead in charge of NOAA's current operational Fire Detection and Characterization Algorithm. He's also a part of the team developing NOAA's Next Generation Fire System (NGFS). Chris has given numerous trainings on GOES and fire detection with GOES, and is involved with projects looking at satellites designed for fire detection and monitoring. He's also a recovering politician who was the Common Council President of Madison for two years and served as the acting Mayor several times.



Jonathan Stober

Jonathan Stober is a wildlife biologist on the Shoal Creek Ranger District of the Talladega National Forest in Alabama. Graduate of the University of Georgia and a Master's degree from the Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources, Jonathan has 25 years of experience working with the flora and fauna of the southeast and restoration of their native communities. He worked at the J. W. Jones Ecological Research Center at Ichauway as a Conservation Biologist. Due to the dominant role fire plays in habitat management of southeastern communities Jonathan has led the development of ArcGIS tools for fire managers to assess frequency, seasonality, and extent of fire management efforts. Since 2020 Jonathan is Chair of the NEMW Regional Prescribed Fire Council Coordinating Committee working to help councils and fire managers develop regional assessment and answer the needs of prescribed fire councils in the 20-state region. Outside of his professional roles Jonathan assist in the management of a family farm and is always looking for a good burn day.



Brad Strobel

Brad Strobel has been a wildlife biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for nearly 15 years. During this time he has worked in fire dependent landscapes along the Texas coast and in the Central Sands region of Wisconsin. He is particularly interested in the cross-over of ecology, history, technology and science to broaden our understanding of fire as an irreplaceable ecosystem process.



Bennie Terrell

Bennie Terrell, Forest Fuels Planner for Mark Twain National Forest, I graduated from Southern University A&M College with a B.S. Urban Forestry and spent many summers working for the USDA in the field of forestry, recreation and fire. This continued into an 20 year (and going) career with the US Forest Service in the fields of fire suppression, incident management, prescribed fire, and fuels management.



Melissa Thomas-Van Gundy

Before coming to the Timber and Watershed Lab in 2006, Melissa worked for 16 years in the Monongahela National Forest as a forester, fire planner, and forest ecologist. Her research includes stand- and landscape-level projects focused on the restoration and sustainable management of forested ecosystems in the eastern United States. These projects include investigating the role of fire in mesic and sub-mesic oak forests, using witness trees to understand historical forest conditions, restoration of red spruce forests, and restoration of American chestnut.



Michael Tiller

Michael grew up in Northern California where he enjoyed an active outdoor lifestyle hunting, fishing, camping, and skiing in the beautiful Sierra Nevada Mountains and coastal redwoods. He enjoyed a 10-year career with Cal Fire serving as a Firefighter and Fire Apparatus Engineer. In 2006, he moved to College Station, Texas where he attended Texas A&M University and earned a B.S. in Wildlife and Fisheries Science. After completing his B.S. degree, he attended Stephen F. Austin State University where he earned an M.S. degree in Environmental Science and Ph. D. in Forestry, both with a research focus on understory fuel flammability in forest and rangeland ecosystems. Michael also served as a Wildland Urban Interface Specialist for the Texas A&M Forest Service for 2-years where he was actively engaged with fuels management and prescribed burning. He recently accepted an Assistant Professor of Forest Ecology position at UW-Stevens Point where he leads the fire science program and serves as an adviser for the UWSP Fire Crew.



Tamara Wall

Dr. Tamara Wall is a research professor at the Desert Research Institute in Reno, NV and deputy director of the Western Regional Climate Center. Additionally, Dr. Wall is the co-lead of the Climate Center Group at DRI, and is the lead PI for the California Nevada Adaptation Program (part of the national NOAA-sponsored Climate Adaptation Partnerships/Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments network) and a co-PI in the Southwest Climate Science Center Consortium. Dr. Wall has worked extensively with stakeholders in California, Nevada and other regions of the West in co-produced climate science projects for the last nine years. Her research focuses on qualitative and quantitative social science research in climate information use by stakeholders, evaluating co-produced climate science, understanding the process of climate information dissemination and utilization for climate resiliency and adaptation in natural resource management agencies, and public and agency use of fire weather forecasts and fire behavior/fire danger information. Dr. Wall also has extensive expertise and training in organizational development, facilitation, graphic recording, workshop and meeting design, strategic planning, collaboration training, and working with both small and large groups in-person and in virtual collaborative settings. Recent work has focused on developing expertise in applying change theory and frameworks to better support mixed research/practitioner teams to address the evolving dynamics between research, social processes, and climate change adaptation actions.



Persephone Whelan

Persephone began working for the Forest Service as a GS01 and has held positions in Region 1, Region 3, Region 4, Region 6, and Region 9. At the beginning of her career as a fire manager, she pursued a goal to learn as many positions as possible by working on hand crews, light and heavy engines, and helitack crews. Persephone has 3 bachelor's degrees from the University of Idaho, 401 Certification from UNLV, Aviation Safety Manager from UC Davis, and training in Just Culture, HROs, facilitation, and a whole lot of other "stuff". Throughout her career she has been blessed with many opportunities ranging from being a member of the Learning From Unintended Outcomes Steering Committee, the National Accelerated Training Program (NATP), a member of the Region 8 RT-300 Steering Committee, and being selected to represent the Forest Service as a Master's Degree graduate student in Risk Management with Notre Dame of Maryland University.



Trent Wickman

Trent grew up in northern Minnesota and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. He attended Michigan Tech University in Houghton, MI and received a B.S. in Biology and an M.S. in Environmental Engineering. After graduation in 1996 he worked as an Air Permit Engineer for the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency for five years drafting and issuing air permits for new industrial sources. Since 2001 he has worked for the US Forest Service as an Air Resource Specialist, primarily in the states of Minnesota, Michigan, and Wisconsin, assessing the impact of air emissions from industrial sources to forest resources and also supporting prescribed burning operations through various smoke management activities. Over the last 5 years he has also been detailed to about a dozen different wildfires across the US to do smoke forecasting and monitoring.



Gerould Wilhelm

After an undergraduate degree in Marine Biology at Florida State University, Jerry served a stint as a conscript in the Army; he then joined the staff of the Morton Arboretum. He received his Ph.D. in botany in 1984 at Southern Illinois University, Carbondale. His dissertation focused on the vascular flora of the western panhandle of Florida and southwestern Alabama. He co-authored, through years of collaboration with Floyd Swink and Ray Schulenberg, the flora "Plants of the Chicago Region." He recently completed the "Flora of the Chicago Region, a Floristic and Ecological Synthesis" with Co-author Laura Rericha. He was an owner of Conservation Design Forum, Inc., the pioneer company devoted to changing water doctrine in the United States, which asserts that rainwater should be regarded as a blessing, not a bane. He is also noted for his development of the Floristic Quality Assessment (FQA) methodology, which has become widely adapted for use in at least numerous states and provinces. Currently, he is Director of Research for the Conservation Research Institute. His current research is on the lichens of the 53-county Southern Lake Michigan Region.



Michele Witecha

Michele has been involved in prescribed fire both academically and professionally throughout the southeast and Midwest for the past 20 years. After earning her M.S. in Range and Wildlife Management from Texas A&M-Kingsville, she enjoyed work as a biologist for wildlife and endangered species in fire-dependent communities in Florida, Texas and Kansas. Michele has spent the last 10 years with the Wisconsin DNR working primarily on prescribed fire, and has been in her current position as the Prescribed Fire Specialist for the last 6 years.



Roger Williams

Dr. Williams received the BS and MS degrees from the Ohio State University in Forest Biology and Silviculture, respectively, and the PhD in Forest Resource Management from the University of Maine. He currently serves on the Forestry Faculty in the School of Environment and Natural Resources at Ohio State University and also serves as the Academic Director of the China Gateway Program in the Office of International Affairs. Dr. Williams conducted forestry consulting work for Pacific Millennium in Anhui Province, China, and developed and led a research abroad program in south China, to study forest management practices, biodiversity issues, and avian communities. He led a U.S. State Department project to improve the forest economy in southwest Siberia after Perestroika. Dr. Williams served as a wildfire expert on the Discovery's Science Channel Weird Science program. He teaches the Wildland Fire Management courses at the Ohio State University, which includes conducting prescribed burns where students receive red card certification as part of the courses. He was presented the National Educator award by the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture and is a certified prescribed burn manager in Ohio. Dr. Williams currently serves as Co-PI on a National Science Foundation research project to study the Integration of Autonomous UAS in Wildland Fire Management and on a Foundation for Food and Agricultural Research project to study Enhanced Soil Carbon Farming as a Climate Solution.



Kody Wohlers

Kody Wohlers is the Loess Hills Land Stewardship Director for the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation (INHF) in western Iowa. Kody manages stewardship efforts on INHF properties, permanent land protection projects, conservation easement monitoring, and landowner relations within his region. He coordinates the Loess Hills Fire Partners. Kody coordinates and leads the Loess Hills Cooperative Burn Week. The event focuses on collaborative partnerships and networking, mentor:mentee knowledge sharing, hands-on training, and active fireline experience to build leadership and decision-making skills. Kody works with the Fire Learning Network and other regional professionals to promote prescribed fire on a landscape level.



Carissa Wonkka

Carissa Wonkka is a plant community and fire ecologist for the USDA ARS Northern Plains Agricultural Research Lab in Sidney, MT, focused on developing process-based restoration strategies that improve the resilience of native plant communities. After getting a BS from the University of Massachusetts, she headed west to Arizona where she first observed the difficulties for land managers grappling with a complex legal and regulatory landscape. This prompted her to attend Suffolk University Law School before attaining an MS and Ph.D. in Ecosystem Science and Management from Texas A&M University to attempt to bridge the gap between ecology and policy. She ties her legal background in with bio-physical studies in her current research on social, legal, and regulatory barriers to effective ecosystem management and restoration.



Steve Woods

Steve Woods is the Conservation Stewardship Director at Huron Pines and serves on the Steering Committee of the Michigan Prescribed Fire Council. During 17 years at The Nature Conservancy Steve became certified as an RXB2 and served as the Fire Manager for Michigan and Ohio Chapters. Steve has led over 200 prescribed burns, maintaining high-quality natural areas all across the country. He is passionate about healing the land with fire by putting fire back in the hands of the people and is currently helping establish a Fire Collaborative enabling NGOs in Northern Michigan to use fire in natural areas management.



Matt Zine

Matt Zine has been with the WDNR State Natural Areas program for 25 years, virtually all of which has been spent focusing on the restoration of fire-dependent plant communities in one roll or another. He believes enhancing the implementation of prescribed burning (i.e., how much we get done) is the single most important management tool we should be focusing on for these community types.

Sponsors and Exhibitors



Northeast Regional Strategy Committee

Larry Mastic, NE RSC Coordinator USFS
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The Northeast Regional Strategy Committee (NE RSC) provides executive leadership, coordination and guidance for implementation of the Northeast Regional Action Plan while providing a forum for members to recommend and guide joint strategic direction on fire and land management activities. The NE RSC continues to collaboratively support, recognize and assist the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy goals and implementation efforts.



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Adaptive Restoration, LLC is a full-service ecological restoration and land management company that specializes in ecological consulting, forestry, education and outreach, and botanical surveys, invasive species management, restorative forestry, and prescribed fire. We do projects throughout Wisconsin, but with a focus on the Driftless area in the southwest corner of the state.



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With unparalleled technical service, CleanAir Engineering provides high-quality, reliable equipment and comprehensive rental packages for meeting the world's most demanding air measurement applications. CEMS, ambient, leak detection, stack, and industrial hygiene instrument rental, sales, and servicing worldwide from four technical centers. CleanAir's testing groups for ambient air, lab, source, and thermal performance are committed to world-class measurement excellence and innovation.



Illinois Prescribed Fire Council

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The mission of the Illinois Prescribed Fire Council is to promote the safe and continued use of prescribed fire on the Illinois landscape. We provide guidance and resources to landowners, organizations, agencies, legislators, and land managers on the use of prescribed fire to maintain and restore ecosystem health. We compile data on prescribed fire across the state through our Illinois Prescribed Fires Accomplished Map, and published the Illinois Fire Needs Assessment Report.



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The IAWF a professional membership association dedicated to uniting the global wildland fire community. We are uniquely positioned as an independent organization whose membership includes experts in all aspects of Wildland fire management. IAWF independence and breadth of global membership expertise allows it to offer a neutral forum for the consideration of important, at times controversial, Wildland fire issues.



Michigan Prescribed Fire Council

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The Michigan Prescribed Fire Council was formed to bring together practitioners, guides, and students of prescribed fire to provide a network through which information could be disseminated, partnerships could form and the use of prescribed fire would be protected. The mission of the Michigan Prescribed Fire Council is to protect, conserve and expand the safe use of prescribed fire on the Michigan landscape. Find resources and more information at www.FireCouncil.org



NES Ecological Services

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NES Ecological Services is a committed group of ecologists whose diverse backgrounds include wetland, wildlife, habitat restoration, and plant ecology. Located in Green Bay and Madison, Wisconsin, NES is fully equipped to serve clients throughout the Midwest and beyond.

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Oak Woodlands & Forests Fire Consortium

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The Oak Woodlands & Forests Fire Consortium is 1 of 15 fire science exchanges funded by the Joint Fire Science Program, serving much of the Central Hardwoods Region in the eastern US. Our mission is to provide fire science information to resource managers, landowners, and the public about the use, application, and effects of fire. The fire science needs of our region primarily relate to management and restoration as opposed to protection, setting a unique stage for the fire topics addressed.



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Pheasants Forever is the nation's leading upland wildlife habitat conservation group.
www.pheasantsforever.org
The Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter of Pheasants Forever supports wildlife habitat improvement, promotion of good land stewardship.



The Nature Conservancy

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The mission of The Nature Conservancy is to conserve the lands and waters on which all life depends. Our vision is a world where the diversity of life thrives, and people act to conserve nature for its own sake and its ability to fulfill our needs and enrich our lives. Fire is an essential force that has shaped life around the globe, but in many ecosystems today, the role of fire is severely out of balance. The Nature Conservancy works to maintain fire's role where it benefits people and nature and keep fire out of places where it is destructive. To access information and resources related to The Nature Conservancy's work with fire, please visit www.conservationgateway.org



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We seek to ensure the perpetuation and recovery of prairie, oak savanna, and other associated ecosystems of the Upper Midwest through protection, management, restoration, and education. In doing so, we strive to work openly and cooperatively with private landowners and other private and public conservation groups. We work with landowners, farmers, and other organizations to save these prairie and oak savanna remnants which have persisted on the land since before European settlement.



Wisconsin Prescribed Fire Council

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The specific purposes of the WPFC are to:

- Work to increase the capacity for prescribed burning in Wisconsin to address critical conservation needs
- Provide a unified voice representing the prescribed fire community in Wisconsin
- Educate practitioners and the general public
- Enhance the public perception of prescribed fire
- Promote professionalism in the prescribed fire community
- Encourage cooperation and collaboration among non-profit conservation organizations, government agencies, for-profit businesses and private individuals

Notes

and thoughts



Photo Credit: Joe Occhiuzzo



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Photo Credit: Gary Werner



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Sponsored by: The Northeast Regional Strategy Committee (NE RSC), a regional organization chartered by the National Wildland Fire Leadership Council (WFLC) to coordinate and support the implementation of the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy across the 20 Northeast and Midwest states.



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