

FLN Networker No. 192: September 2, 2015

The FLN Networker is a publication of the Fire Learning Network—a partnership of the USDA Forest Service, Department of the Interior (BIA, BLM, National Park Service, US Fish & Wildlife Service) and The Nature Conservancy—intended to foster communication within the network and among its friends. Submit comments, links and subscription requests to Liz Rank.

For more about the FLN, visit www.conservationgateway.org/fln or contact Lynn Decker.

News from the Field

California: From Hayfork, **Michelle Medley-Daniel** (michelle@thewatershedcenter.com) has posted her **resident's-eye-view** of one of the northern California fires (the **Fork Complex**) on the [FAC Net blog](#). In addition to sharing a sense of what it's like to live with thick smoke—and uncertainty—for weeks on end, there are some **practical smoke links** at the end.

Georgia / Appalachians: The **FAC Net** here continues to **expand its influence** beyond its original scope in Towns County, sharing fire adapted communities concepts through a variety of venues. The **Chestatee-Chattahoochee RC&D** recently had a Firewise/Fire Adapted display at the **county fair in neighboring Rabun County**, for example. **Frank Riley** is also participating in the Georgia Academy for Economic Development, which includes many **key economic players** in north Georgia, and will be spreading the word through those channels. Along with **Mike Davis**, he also recently met with the New River Highlands RC&D in **Wytheville, Virginia** and the Blue Ridge RC&D in **Bakersville, North Carolina**, and Frank will be speaking to two RC&Ds in **southwest Georgia** later this month. For more on outreach through RC&Ds, contact **Frank Riley** (frank.ccrd@gmail.com) or **Mike Davis** (madavis@fs.fed.us).

Idaho (and Colorado): The **Island Park Sustainable Fire Community** is **taking advantage of smoky skies** to encourage community members to take part in its upcoming slash pickup days. The PSA script begins "Although the smoke in the air is **from distant fires**, Island Park residents are **urged to prepare** their properties for **wildfires that will strike closer** to home..." then explains a few ways homeowners can help make their properties safer, and announces the slash pickup dates. (For more, see their website, <http://islandparkfirecommunity.com/>.)

Rebecca Samulski (montezumafirewise@gmail.com) of **FireWise of Southwest Colorado** **borrowed their idea** for a [story](#) in the *Cortez Journal*, "No Better Time to Prepare Your Property for Wildfires."

Minnesota: **Dovetail Partners** produced the [report](#) "Fire Adapted Communities: Nationwide Efforts and Community-Based Tools for Living with Wildfire." It includes an introductory **overview of various programs and efforts** currently aimed at **helping communities** become better **adapted to wildfire**. For more information, contact the lead author, **Matt Frank** (matt@dovetailinc.org).

North Carolina: As reported earlier, the **effectiveness of fuel treatments** conducted as part of the **Grandfather Restoration Project** played a major role in the decision to manage the July **Bald Knob wildfire for resource benefits**. A more [in-depth discussion](#), with maps and photos, has been written up by **Clint Cross** (Regional Fuels Specialist, R8) and **Jim Menakis** (Fire Ecologist, WO).

Oregon: A **community outreach tour** of the **Ashland Forest Resiliency Project** was the [front page story](#) in today's *Ashland Daily Tidings*. **Darren Borgias** (dborgias@tnc.org) is quoted on the value of this kind of community engagement: "It's so important to get people out here in the watershed to have this discussion," he said. "Sometimes when you get into a conference room, with all the arm-waving and shouting, people have a hard time coming to an agreement. **Out here** where you can look up and **see what the issues are** and **discuss solutions**, it's easier to **get on the same page.**"

Washington: In the midst of the record wildfire season in the state, **Mary Sutton Carruthers** (mscarruthers@tnc.org) and **Reese Lolley** (rlolley@tnc.org) have written a post for a [Conservancy blog](#) about the need for **communities to adapt to wildfire**. In their post, they mention the **value of collaboratives** like the **FLN** and **FAC Net**—and introduce the **new Washington State Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network**.

Washington: A special **multi-partner team** has been deployed to north-central Washington in a **pilot effort** to support fire adapted communities strategies in an area currently facing several large fires. The team will work with the **Chumstick Wildfire Stewardship Coalition** to schedule and deliver home assessments and training and to identify opportunities to **assist communities during large fire events**. The team will also be documenting lessons and stories from the field. **Michelle Medley-Daniel** will be in touch with the FAC Net through their online workspace during the assignment, and will share lessons more widely afterwards.

Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges: A **new fact sheet about TREX** is available on the Conservation Gateway—just as the fall training season is about to get underway. **Three TREX are scheduled** for the coming weeks: the Spanish-language TREX (September 15-October 5) in **New Mexico**, and the Klamath River (September 29-October 11) and NorCal TREX (October 20-November 1) in **northern California**.

Resources: Fire Myths / Virtual Tour

Fire Myths: The *Washington Post* [opinion piece](#) “**Five Myths about Wildfires**” does a nice job of briefly **laying out—and then refuting—five big myths** about wildfire. It includes mention (though not in so many words) of the value of fire adapted communities practices. It covers a lot of key messages **very concisely**—likely a piece worth flagging for referring people to for “**Wildfire 101**.”

Virtual Tour: The **North Atlantic Fire Science Exchange** recently hosted a **fire science tour** in **New Jersey’s pine barrens**, attended by 25 people. For those who couldn’t make it, a **virtual field trip** was created on Google Maps, complete with **photos** and detailed **notes for each stop**—an interesting way to document and share the tour and its learning. See the **Forest Guild** [blog post](#) for more, including a link to the tour, or contact **Amanda Mahaffey** (amanda@forestguild.org).

Articles: Fire Ecology / Understory Plants

Fire Ecology: The [August issue](#) of *Fire Ecology* is now available. Among the articles are “**Vegetation Response to Burn Severity, Native Grass Seeding, and Salvage Logging**” (Penelope Morgan et al.), “**Principles of Effective USA Federal Fire Management Plans**” (Marc D. Meyer et al.) and “**Pile Burning Effects on Soil Water Repellency, Infiltration, and Downslope Water Chemistry in the Lake Tahoe Basin, USA**” (Ken R. Hubbert et al.).

Understory Plants: A [story](#) in *ScienceDaily* reports on a recent paper by Jens Stevens and colleagues, “**Forest Disturbance Accelerates Thermophilization of Understory Plant Communities**.” They report that in burned areas in California, species from further south are increasingly represented in the understory regrowth—but that **areas thinned before wildfire** “burned less hot and therefore left some tree canopy, allowing for both northern and southern plant species to coexist.”

Food for Thought: Listen / Resilience / Network Building

Listen: The **FAC Net blog** (facnetwork.org) has an interview with Forest Service **social scientist Sarah McCaffrey**, talking about fire adapted communities, risk ... and the import role of listening in communication.

Resilience: A [post](#) on the Institute for Social and Environmental Transition blog looks at **risk and resilience** in light of flooding events in Colorado and India, noting that **resources and economic capacity** are **not enough** to ensure resilience.

Network Building: The Interaction Institute for Social Change has a nice [blog post](#) addressing the question, What is the difference between “**networking**” and “**network building.**”

In the News

The whole (media) world is currently aware of wildfire, so just one selection from the multitude: The *Bloomberg Business* [article](#), “There Aren’t Enough Firefighters to Stop America’s West from Burning,” intersperses **stories from fire camps** in California (including Hayfork) and Washington with an **interview with Tom Harbour.**

Webinars

October 23

Compositional and Structural Changes over Time with Different Fire Regimes in Linville Gorge, NC

11:00 Pacific / noon Mountain / 1:00 Central / 2:00 Eastern (1.5 hours)

In this **Southern Blue Ridge FLN** webinar (originally scheduled for August 18), **Cassandra Pallai** will discuss research conducted in Linville Gorge based on resampling plots originally put in during 1992 for her Master’s project at Duke University. The plots have been resampled (by Waldrop and others) periodically and give a nice sampling of different fire regimes in Linville. Plots within the Table Rock Fire footprint were recently sampled, and Pallai combined those results with the original sampling and Waldrop’s resampling to study compositional and structural changes over time with different fire regimes. ([Add to your calendar.](#))

Join the webinar: <https://nethope.webex.com/nethope/j.php?MTID=mcbca28b7c21b57ed9ec7d7f00d791e11>

FLN and FAC LN Workshops & Field Tours

September 14

Pike’s Peak FLN Field Tour / CO

Partners will visit to the Sourdough and North Slope prescribed burn project sites. A small group has been working to get operating agreements and burn plans in place for these projects so things are on track for a potential fall burn at one or both locations.

Information: Paige Lewis (paige_lewis@tnc.org)

October 20-22

Central Appalachians FLN / Pembroke, VA

This will be a combined offering of the Consortium of Appalachian Fire Managers and Scientists (fire history workshop) and Central Appalachians FLN (annual workshop). There will be presentations from the region’s leading fire history researchers on the first day, followed by a full-day field trip to research sites and recently-burned units, and an FLN working meeting on the third day. A more detailed agenda will be available soon.

The group rate for rooms at the Mountain Lake Lodge ((800) 346-3334) is available through September 21; ask for the Fire History Workshop/Central Appalachian FLN room block.

Register: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1mE_UGCeGnzilFkEX08sIRlw0gorvLSATTMylUzCDlj8/viewform?c=0&w=1

FLN Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges

- Sept. 15-Oct. 5** **Spanish-Language TREX / northern NM**
In and around the Santa Fe NF; participants from U.S. and several other countries.
- Sept. 29-Oct. 11** **Klamath River TREX / northern CA**
Along the Klamath River; providing experience and training on planning and implement controlled burns to protect communities from wildfires and prepare for managing wildfires for resource benefits.
- Oct. 20-Nov. 1** **NorCal TREX / northern CA**
Forests and grasslands; international and U.S. fire practitioners will build their experience in prescribed fire practices, fire effects and other conservation efforts.

Conferences, Workshops, Training, Etc.

- Sept. 5-Oct. 31**
new listing **Art Exhibit: Fires of Change / Flagstaff, AZ**
This Joint Fire Science Program and NEA funded art exhibition features works created by 11 artists who took part in a week-long Fire Science Boot Camp last September. Info: <http://flagartscouncil.org/2015/03/fires-change-exhibition/>
- September 16** **Firing Operations and Initial Attack in Grassland Habitats / WA**
Joint Base Lewis McChord, the Center for Natural Lands Management and the Washington Prescribed Fire council will be hosting training opportunities targeted for firefighters working on firing boss task books or wishing to increase their experience with initial attack on grassland fires. Anyone who is NWCG qualified and current is welcome.
Information: http://waprescribedfire.org/uploads/JBLM_Training_Announcement.pdf
- September 24-26** **Colorado Wildland Fire Conference: Creating Fire Adapted Communities / Snowmass Village, CO**
The conference theme will be “Fire adapted communities—who owns the risk?” FAC Net staffer Molly Mowery will be among the keynote speakers at this conference. Information: <http://www.wildfire-colorado.com/>
- October 20-21** **Fire History in the Appalachians / Pembroke, VA**
See the listing for the Central Appalachians in the FLN Workshops section.
- October 22-24** **Backyards & Beyond: Wildland Fire Education Conference / Myrtle Beach, SC**
Information: <http://www.nfpa.org/training/backyards-and-beyond>
- October 28-29**
updated **Restoring the West 2015: Restoration and Fire in the Interior West / Logan, UT**
Registration is now open. The call for posters is open through September 25.
Information: <http://www.restoringthewest.org/>
- November 3-5**
new listing **Natural Areas Conference / Little Rock, AR**
“Conservation through Collaboration” is the theme of this conference, co-sponsored by the Arkansas Natural Heritage Association, The Nature Conservancy and others. Information: <http://www.naturalareasconference.org/>
- November 16-20** **AFE Fire Ecology & Management Congress / San Antonio, TX**
Additional offerings with this conference include an Rx310 course and several field tours, including one to Aransas NWR.
Information: <http://afefirecongress.org/>

December 8-9

Introduction to State-and-Transition Simulation Modeling of Landscape Vegetation Dynamics / Durham, NC

The TNC LANDFIRE team is sponsoring this two-day training using ST-Sim software, including modeling concepts, creating simple models of vegetation change, running the models and interpreting the results.

Information: <http://wiki.syncrosim.com/index.php?title=Courses>

**April 11-15, 2016
new listing**

5th International Fire Behavior + Fuels Conference / Portland, OR*

The theme of this IAWF conference is “Wicked Problems, New Solutions: Our Fire, Our Problem.”

*The conference will be held concurrently in Portland and in Melbourne, Australia.

Information: <http://www.firebehaviorandfuelsconference.com/>

Send News, Links & Comments

Lynn Decker – ldecker@tnc.org – Lynn is in the office.

Guy Duffner – gduffner@tnc.org – Guy is in Boulder, CO August 31-September 5.

Heather Montanye – hmontanye@tnc.org – Heather is in the office.

Jeremy Bailey – jeremy_bailey@tnc.org – Jeremy is in the office.

Mary Huffman – mhuffman@tnc.org – Mary is out September 4.

Wendy Fulks – wfulks@tnc.org – Wendy is out September 6-19.

Liz Rank (editor) – lrnk@tnc.org – Liz is in the office.

Note: September 7 is a Conservancy holiday.

To stop receiving the FLN Networker, please reply to this message and include your request in the body of the message.

Full Links

News from the Field—CA: <http://facnetw.ork.org/i-see-skies-of-blue/>

News from the Field—ID (and CO): <http://www.cortezjournal.com/article/20150827/Columnists13/150829848/0/SEARCH/No-better-time-to-prepare-your-property-for-wildfires>

News from the Field—MN:

http://www.dovetailinc.org/reports/Fire+Adapted+Communities+Nationwide+Efforts+and+Community-Based+Tools_n691

News from the Field—NC:

<http://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/FireLearningNetwork/NetworkProducts/Pages/SBR-Bald-Knob-Wildfire-Brief.aspx>

News from the Field—OR: <http://www.dailytidings.com/article/20150901/NEWS/150909966>

News from the Field—WA: <http://www.washingtonnature.org/post/127799653712/preparing-for-fire-in-washington-how-communities>

News from the Field—TREX: <http://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/HabitatProtectionandRestoration/Training/TrainingExchanges/Pages/TREX-fact-sheet.aspx>

Resources—Fire myths: https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/five-myths-about-wildfires/2015/08/21/4d7e1606-4758-11e5-8e7d-9c033e6745d8_story.html

Resources—Virtual tour: <http://forestquild.ning.com/blog/fire-science-in-nj-s-pine-barrens>

Articles—*Fire Ecology*: <http://fireecologyjournal.org/journal/issue/?journal=35>

Articles—Understory plants: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2015/08/150810132122.htm>

Food for Thought—Listen: <http://facnetw.ork.org/dont-forget-to-listen/>

Food for Thought—Resilience: <http://blog.i-s-e-t.org/a-comparative-analysis-when-money-isnt-enough/>

Food for Thought—Network building: <http://interactioninstitute.org/developing-potential-in-networks/>

In the News—Bloomberg Business: <http://www.bloomberg.com/features/2015-wildfires-in-the-american-west/>

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