

FLN Networker No. 300: June 17, 2020

The FLN Networker is a publication of the Fire Learning Network—a partnership of the USDA Forest Service, agencies of the Department of the Interior and The Nature Conservancy—intended to foster communication within the network and among its friends. Submit comments, information to share, and subscription requests to Liz Rank.

For more about the FLN, visit www.conservationgateway.org/fln.

News from the Field

California: Catch up with the **Humboldt PBA** by giving “**Burning, Carefully**, With the Humboldt Prescribed Burn Association” a listen. The Jefferson Public Radio [interview](#) with **Lenya Quinn-Davidson** (lquinndavidson@ucanr.edu), **Jeff Stackhouse** and Humboldt PBA president **Dean Hunt** was conducted earlier this spring.

Georgia: For the past 13 weeks, partners in the **Georgia Blue Ridge Mountains FLN** landscape—Chestatee-Chattahoochee RC&D Council, Georgia Forestry Commission, and Chattahoochee-Oconee NF—have been taking turns offering “**Firewise Fridays**” for residents in Gilmer County. The landscape began increasing its fire adapted communities outreach work in January ... and then COVID-19 came along. Leaders decided to keep up the momentum by going virtual: each week one of the partners emails residents and government officials information on a particular wildland fire mitigation topic. According to U.S. Forest Service Fire Management Officer **Mike Davis** (mike.a.davis@usda.gov), “We know we’re **reaching several hundred residents**, perhaps more Feedback has been very positive and we’ve heard **mitigation efforts have increased** in several communities. This effort will continue until face-to-face meeting opportunities return.”

Georgia: The **North Georgia Prescribed Fire Council** went virtual with its **annual meeting**, held earlier this month. The format allowed more than 300 people from 28 states to attend and hear presentations on the **state of fire in Georgia**, burning in hardwoods and pine species other than longleaf, **smoke management tools**, **burn plans**, prescribed fire **liability**, and prescribed fire use for deer management. A recording of the presentations—as well as an **ATV/UTV safety** video from the Georgia Forestry Commission—will soon be posted at www.garxfire.com. For more, contact **Mike Davis**.

Minnesota: Dovetail Partners—in partnership with Cook, Lake and St. Louis counties and Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Firewise—hosted their “Tips for **Backyard Wildfire Resiliency**” workshop last month. Originally intended as an in-person workshop, with peer support from FAC Net, the organizers **reworked it** to be presented as an hour-and-a-half **virtual session**. Fifty-nine people—more than half of them local landowners—attended the evening session, and more than 90 people have viewed the [recording](#) since then. For more, contact **Gloria Erickson** (gloria@dovetailinc.org).

Virginia: The **Heart of the Appalachians FLN** Monitoring Working Group hosted its 9th annual **Plant Identification and Protocol Refresher Workshop** this morning. More than **20 people**—from the George Washington & Jefferson National Forests, Monongahela National Forest, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries and The Nature Conservancy—gathered by videoconference. They discussed key identifiers of plants commonly found in the monitoring plots, and got refreshed on the **forest structure and composition monitoring protocol** before heading out to the field this season. For more, contact **Nikole Simmons** (nikole.simmons@tnc.org).

Nominations: Wildfire Mitigation Awards

Wildfire Mitigation Awards: The International Association of Fire Chiefs ([IAFC](#)), National Association of State Foresters ([NASF](#)), National Fire Protection Association ([NFPA](#)) and USDA Forest Service ([USFS](#)) are **accepting nominations** for the 2021 Wildfire Mitigation Awards. See the [award criteria](#); [nominations](#) are due by **November 13**.

Stay Safe: Fuel Geysering

Fuel Geysering: A [post](#) on the Wildland Fire Lessons Learned Center blog last week explains how the **coronavirus is likely to increase the chances** of fuel geysering—and runs through what you can do to mitigate the risk of harm.

Resources: Virtual Workshops / Fact Checking / Cell Service / COVID-19

Virtual Workshops: A [quick guide](#), “**50 Tips for a Vibrant Virtual Workshop**,” was compiled by **Annie Schmidt** (annie@thewatershedcenter.com) and **Michelle Medley-Daniel** (michelle@thewatershedcenter.com) based on lessons from successfully moving this spring’s annual **FAC Net** workshop online.

Fact Checking: Science Feedback is a non-profit ([website](#)) dedicated to verifying the **credibility** of “**influential claims and media coverage** that claims to be scientific”; they currently focus on climate change and health issues. See, for example, their recent [analysis](#) “The Potentials and Limitations of Tree Plantings as a Climate Solution.”

Cell Service: The Wildland Fire Lessons Learned Center has a very brief [handout](#) on a trick to squeeze a **bit more reception** from your phone in **areas with poor cell service**.

COVID-19: The **Southern Rockies Fire Science Network** has posted links to an [extensive collection of resources relevant to wildland fire](#) practitioners. Categories include news items, research, operations, community preparedness and more.

Articles & Reports: Certified Burners / PODs / Entrapments / Peatlands / Increasing Rx

Certified Burners: The **FLN** and **Coalition of Prescribed Fire Councils** recently hosted a **webinar** on certified prescribed burn programs that builds on the recent [report](#) “**Insights and Suggestions** for Certified Prescribed Burn Manager Programs” by the Forest Stewards Guild. In addition to an introduction from report author **Meg Matonis** (megan@forestquild.org), **panelists** from states with established (Florida, Ohio) and developing (California, New Mexico, Washington) certification programs **discussed their programs**, including challenges and what is working well. A [recording](#) and some questions and answers from the [chat](#) are available.

PODs: The **Colorado State University** Public Lands Policy Group has released the [paper](#) “Pre-Season Planning for Wildland Fire Response: An **Assessment** of the US Forest Service’s Potential Operational Delineations (PODs)” (Greiner et al.). Based on **interviews with Forest Service personnel and external stakeholders** involved with developing PODs on national forests, the authors found that “PODs have the potential to facilitate **stronger communication** among multiple agency levels and partners about wildfire response and could enhance strategic **decision making**, leverage options during wildfire events, and may **inform fuels planning**.” For more about PODs, see the **FLN**-supported [report](#) “Collaboratively Engaging Stakeholders to Develop Potential Operational Delineations” (Caggiano).

Entrapments: The authors of the [article](#) “A Classification of U.S. Wildland Firefighter Entrapments Based on Coincident **Fuels, Weather, and Topography**” analyzed environmental conditions of 166 entrapment events, and lay out **four archetypes of conditions** under which entrapments occur. “Current firefighter **safety guidelines seem to emphasize only a subset** of the possible conditions due to a focus on the factors that maximize the potential for extreme fire behavior.”

Peatlands: The *ScienceDaily* [post](#) “Low-Severity **Fires Enhance Long-Term Carbon Retention** of Peatlands” summarizes a recent article published in *Global Change Biology*. Researchers found that fire creates a crust—the “**crème brûlée effect**”—that makes it more difficult for microbes to reach the organic matter below, slowing the release of carbon.

Increasing Rx: The [working paper](#) “**Strategies** for Increasing Prescribed Fire Application on **Federal Lands**: Lessons from Case Studies in the U.S. West” from the University of Oregon’s Ecosystem Workforce Program is based on case studies in California, Colorado, New Mexico and Oregon. **Partnerships** (including **TREX** and the **All Hands All Lands Burn Team** in New Mexico, and **Ashland Forest Resiliency** partners in Oregon) were highlighted as one of the strategies key to overcoming workforce capacity constraints.

Essay: Common Threads

Common Threads: A [piece](#) in *Forbes* by Marshall Shepherd, “3 Common Things In **Race, Coronavirus and Climate Change Debates**,” highlights the logical parallels underlying arguments about these three crises.

Jobs: Fire Program Manager / FMO

Fire Program Manager: **The Nature Conservancy** in North Carolina is hiring a **coastal plain stewardship and fire program manager**. Details are on the Conservancy’s careers page ([job ID 48691](#)); applications are due by June 24. (As always, current employees should apply through [PeopleSoft](#).)

FMO: The **State of New Mexico Forestry** is seeking a **fire management officer** to be based in Capitan. Details are on the state’s careers page ([job ID 112049](#)).

Webinars

June 18
new listing

COVID-19 and Field Work PLS

noon Pacific / 1:00 Mountain / 2:00 Central / 3:00 Eastern (1.5 hours)

This peer learning session will be hosted by the National Forest Foundation
Register: https://nationalforests.typeform.com/to/Kljngt?mc_cid=8b2d241f67&mc_eid=51fdb49604

June 24
new listing

Enabling Landscapes: Appealing Narratives About Wildfires in Perspective

7:00 am Pacific / 8:00 Mountain / 9:00 Central / 10:00 Eastern (1.75 hours)

Part of the PyroLife International Symposium, “Towards an Integrated Fire Management.” See the [agenda](#) for details.

Register: <https://pyrolife.lessonsonfire.eu/international-symposium-registration/>

June 25
new listing

Future Avoided Cost Explorer User Demo

9:00 Pacific / 10:00 Mountain / 11:00 Central / noon Eastern

This webinar from the Colorado Water Conservation Board will demonstrate the [FACE tool](#), which explores the economic risks of various hazards, including wildfire, on sectors of the state’s economy.

Details: <https://cwcb.colorado.gov/webinar-future-avoided-cost-explorer-user-demo>

- July 1**
new listing **Fire in New Places. Surprise! Our Forests Burn! and Extreme Wildfires in the European South**
7:00 am Pacific / 8:00 Mountain / 9:00 Central / 10:00 Eastern (1.75 hours)
Part of the PyroLife International Symposium, “Towards an Integrated Fire Management.” See the [agenda](#) for details.
Register: <https://pyrolife.lessonsonfire.eu/international-symposium-registration/>
- July 8**
new listing **Integrated Fire Management in Aotearoa, New Zealand Drawing on Social and Cultural Research with Rural and Rural-urban Interface Communities and Aboriginal Women and Cultural Burning in NSW Australia**
7:00 am Pacific / 8:00 Mountain / 9:00 Central / 10:00 Eastern (1.75 hours)
Part of the PyroLife International Symposium, “Towards an Integrated Fire Management.” See the [agenda](#) for details.
Register: <https://pyrolife.lessonsonfire.eu/international-symposium-registration/>
- July 29**
new listing **USDA Forest Service 638 Authority**
1:00 Pacific / 2:00 Mountain / 3:00 Central / 4:00 Eastern (2 hours)
The webinar will cover how the agency is implementing 2018 Farm Bill provisions related to self-governance agreements (often referred to as 638 agreements or contracts) under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act. (Note: the same content will be offered on August 4.)
Details: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/inside-fs/out-and-about/forest-management-and-intertribal-timber-council-host-webinars-638>
- August 4**
new listing **USDA Forest Service 638 Authority**
10:00 Pacific / 11:00 Mountain / noon Central / 1:00 Eastern (2 hours)
See the July 29 listing above; this webinar offers the same content.
Details: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/inside-fs/out-and-about/forest-management-and-intertribal-timber-council-host-webinars-638>

Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges (TRES)

- Sept. 28-Oct. 9** **Klamath River TRES / Northern CA**
Planning is underway—save the date.
- Oct. 19-Nov. 2** **Flagstaff TRES / Flagstaff, AZ**
See the [announcement](#) for details; [applications](#) are due by July 31.
- Oct. 25-Nov. 6**
postponed **Southern Blue Ridge TRES / Pickens, SC**
This TRES has been postponed until 2021 due to the novel coronavirus.
Information: <https://apfire.wixsite.com/sbtrtes>

Conferences, Workshops, Training, Etc.

- July 12-15** **45th Annual Natural Hazards Research and Applications Workshop / online**
“Active Hope in an Era of Environmental Extremes” will be this workshop’s theme.
Information: <https://hazards.colorado.edu/workshop/2020>
- September 22-24** **Great Plains Fire Summit / North Platte, NE**
Information: <https://nefirecouncil.org/great-plains-fire-summit>

- Sept. 30-Oct.1** **Colorado Wildland Fire Conference / Grand Junction, CO**
 Fire Adapted Colorado has rescheduled (from April) this conference focused on
 “Discover Your Role: Reducing Wildland Fire Risk.”
 Information: <https://www.wildfire-colorado.com/>
- October 20-23** **Fire Ecology Across Boundaries: Connecting Science and Management /**
deadline **Florence, Italy**
 The Association for Fire Ecology, Pau Costa Foundation, Regione Toscana and
 University of Florence are hosting this workshop; virtual participation may be
 possible, depending on the COVID-19 situation. Abstracts for oral presentations are
 due June 30.
 Information: <http://fireacrossboundaries.org/>
- November 2-6** **WUI 2020 / Reno, NV**
 Information: <https://www.iafc.org/events/wui/>

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Send News, Links & Comments

- Emily Hohman** – emily.hohman@tnc.org – Emily is in the office.
Heather Montanye – hmontanye@tnc.org – Heather is out June 19, 26.
Jeremy Bailey – jeremy_bailey@tnc.org – Jeremy is in the office.
Marek Smith – marek_smith@tnc.org – Marek is out June 19.
Mary Huffman – mhuffman@tnc.org – Mary is in the office.
Wendy Fulks – wfulks@tnc.org – Wendy is out June 29-30.
Liz Rank (editor) – lrnk@tnc.org – Liz is out June 19, 24.

Note: July 3 is a Conservancy holiday.

Full Links

- News from the Field—CA: <https://www.ijpr.org/show/the-jefferson-exchange/2020-03-05/burning-carefully-with-the-humboldt-prescribed-burn-association>
- News from the Field—MN: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u3kuhZ_0tkc&feature=youtu.be
- Nominations—Wildfire Mitigation Awards—Criteria: https://www.iafc.org/docs/default-source/wildland/criteria_wma-2021_0522.pdf
 Nomination form: https://webportalapp.com/appform/login/wma_applications_2021
- Stay Safe—Fuel geysering: <https://wildfirelessons.wpcomstaging.com/2020/06/11/the-coronavirus-pandemic-and-fuel-geysering/>
- Resources—Virtual workshops:
<http://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/FireLearningNetwork/USFLNPublications/Pages/Virtual-Workshops-How-To.aspx>
- Resources—Fact checking—Website: <https://sciencefeedback.co/about/>
 Tree planting analysis: <https://climatefeedback.org/the-potentials-and-limitations-of-tree-plantings-as-a-climate-solution/>
- Resources—Cell service:
<https://www.wildfirelessons.net/HigherLogic/System/DownloadDocumentFile.ashx?DocumentFileKey=872bdaa2-ea15-0a5d-32e8-14ae85a7b4c8&forceDialog=0>
- Resources—COVID-19: <http://www.southernrockiesfirescience.org/covid19>
- Articles & Reports—Certified burners—Report: <https://foreststewardsquild.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/InsightsRecommendationsCPMBprograms.pdf>
 Recording: <https://tnc.app.box.com/s/v6o3h8d2ebdgd721k91jav288n27mpee>
 Chat transcript:
<http://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/FireLearningNetwork/NetworkProducts/Documents/CPBM-2020-06-10.pdf>

Articles & Reports—PODs—Greiner et al.: https://colostate-my.sharepoint.com/personal/caschult_colostate_edu/_layouts/15/onedrive.aspx?id=%2Fpersonal%2Fcaschult%5Fcolostate%5Fedu%2FDocuments%2FPODs%20Report%20final%2Epdf&parent=%2Fpersonal%2Fcaschult%5Fcolostate%5Fedu%2FDocuments&originalPath=aHR0cHM6Ly9jb2xvc3RhdGUtbXkuc2hhcmVwb2ludC5jb20vOml6L2cvcGVyc29uYWwvY2FzY2h1bHRfY29sb3NOYXRlX2VkdS9FYTVaVE83NkM5TkZtMldmTTThaLUpXSUJUNE9mUy04dEEySDB2UHJnckgxR1VnP3J0aW1lPXU3S0lnMkFOMkVn

Caggiano: <https://cfri.colostate.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/22/2019/08/PODs-Collaborative-Engagement-Final-Report.pdf>

Articles & Reports—Entrapments: https://www.fs.fed.us/rm/pubs_journals/2020/rmrs_2020_page_w001.pdf

Articles & Reports—Peatlands: <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2020/05/200521161222.htm>

Articles & Reports—Increasing Rx: http://ewp.uoregon.edu/sites/ewp.uoregon.edu/files/WP_99.pdf

Essay—Common threads: <https://www.forbes.com/sites/marshallshepherd/2020/06/12/3-common-things-in-race-coronavirus-and-climate-change-debates/#33e7e0c57119>

FLN Webinars—Information about upcoming FLN webinars and recordings of previous ones is at:

<http://conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/FireLearningNetwork/NetworkProducts/Pages/webinars.aspx>

TREX—The latest application information for upcoming TREX is always listed at:

<http://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/HabitatProtectionandRestoration/Training/TrainingExchanges/Pages/Upcoming-Training-Exchanges.aspx>

The Fire Learning Network is supported by *Promoting Ecosystem Resilience and Fire Adapted Communities Together: Collaborative Engagement, Collective Action and Co-ownership of Fire*, a cooperative agreement between The Nature Conservancy, USDA Forest Service and agencies of the Department of the Interior.

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