



Georgia Prescribed Fire Council

News Release

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Georgia Prescribed Fire Council Announces First North Georgia Meeting

Prescribed Fire Practitioners, Landowners Invited to Informational, Networking Session

Atlanta, GA (May 17, 2019) – The Georgia Prescribed Fire Council, a statewide coalition of land managers, landowners, forestry consultants, conservation organizations, universities, and state and federal agencies that promotes the safe use of prescribed fire as an essential natural resource management tool to ensure ecosystem health and reduce wildfire risk, will hold its first-ever meeting in North Georgia on Thursday, June 6, 2019, at Chattahoochee Technical College's Appalachian Campus in Jasper, GA. The daylong meeting will address critical issues for prescribed fire practitioners and advocates, with a special emphasis on north Georgia and its unique terrain, population and forest types.

Prescribed Fire for a Healthy Forest

- Albany Quail Project
- Chestatee/Chattahoochee RC&D Council
- Consulting Foresters
- Georgia Conservancy
- Georgia Department of Natural Resources
- Georgia Environmental Protection Division
- Georgia Farm Bureau
- Georgia Forestry Association
- Georgia Forestry Commission
- Georgia Power
- Georgia Wildlife Federation
- Greater Okefenokee Association of Landowners
- Heritage and Wildlife Conservation Council
- Joseph W. Jones Ecological Research Center
- The Longleaf Alliance
- National Park Service
- National Wild Turkey Federation
- The Nature Conservancy
- The Orianna Society
- Private Landowners/Managers
- Quality Deer Management Association
- Ruffed Grouse Society
- Tall Timbers Research Station and Land Conservancy
- UGA, Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources
- U.S.D.A. Natural Resources Conservation Service
- U.S. Department of Defense
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- U.S. Forest Service



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Meeting attendees will hear from prescribed fire experts on topics including the effects of prescribed fire in Eastern Oak ecosystems, the connection between prescribed fire and air quality and more. Craig Harper, PhD., professor of wildlife management and the extension wildlife specialist, University of Tennessee, will deliver the keynote.

Tickets are \$35, and the cost includes a hot breakfast and catered lunch. Tickets are available at www.garxfire.com/events.htm and the registration deadline is Friday, May 31. For more information about the Georgia Prescribed Fire Council, visit <http://www.garxfire.com/>.

North Georgia's public and privately-owned forestland are a significant economic, biological, recreational, and aesthetic resource. Carefully planned prescribed fires prevent the build-up of flammable, naturally-occurring fuels that set the stage for destructive wildfires. Prescribed fire also helps ensure healthy habitat for plants and animals, including rare and endangered species in Georgia.

"This gathering places a special emphasis on north Georgia and its unique terrain, population and forest types," said Mike Worley, council chair. "It is essential that we continue to promote our vision of the use of prescribed fire as an essential tool to maintain our ecosystems. This meeting will be the best chance to network with other prescribed fire practitioners and other experts in the use of fire."

"With prescribed fire season underway and the growing interest in this tool among private landowners in north Georgia, this is an opportune time to hold a meeting in this part of the state. We look forward to building stronger relationships with north Georgia landowners," said Erick Brown, fire manager for The Nature Conservancy of Georgia, a cooperating member of the council. ([video](#))

"The U.S. Forest Service relies on prescribed fire as a critical management tool for keeping the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests healthy for wildlife and keep these public lands resilient," said Mike Davis, Fire Management Officer. "Because national forests are often mixed with non-federal lands, we encourage private landowners to attend and explore opportunities for working together across landscapes. Boundary lines cannot contain the forest threats from insects and disease, extreme weather, and unwanted catastrophic wildfire."

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