



U.S. Fire Learning Network Annual Meeting

Putting it All Together – Accelerants for Success

New Bern Riverfront Convention Center & the Sheraton Grand
New Bern, 100 Middle Street, New Bern, North Carolina

About the U.S. Fire Learning Network

The Fire Learning Network is a joint project of The Nature Conservancy’s Global Fire Initiative, the USDA Forest Service, and the U.S. Department of the Interior. During its first two years, the FLN engaged more than 250 partner agencies, tribes and private landowners to advance ecologically sound restoration on over 60 million acres. The FLN supports and accelerates collaborative, community-based, landscape-scale fire management planning and implementation through the use of regional and national workshops.

The U.S. Fire Learning Network (FLN) furthers The Nature Conservancy’s biodiversity conservation goals and the goals of the U.S. National Fire Plan by:

1. Accelerating ecosystem restoration on landscapes; and
2. Fostering innovation and transferring lessons learned via regional learning networks.

Agenda for Monday February 7

If you arrive early, explore the waterfront and historic New Bern. New Bern is the second oldest town in North Carolina and is situated where the Trent and Neuse Rivers meet. New Bern abounds with history around every corner with over 150 historic landmarks, the magnificent Tryon Palace, Birth Place of Pepsi and a 157,000-acre national forest. You will visit the forest as part of the Wednesday field workshop, and following the field trip a reception will be hosted at the Tryon Palace. Now is your time to visit the landmarks or the Birth Place of Pepsi Museum.

7pm – 10pm Welcome No-Host Reception – Sheraton Grand New Bern *Pro Sail Pub*

Agenda for Tuesday February 8 –Morning

New Bern Riverfront Convention Center –Colonial Capital Ballroom C

Day's Goal: Envision the role of the Fire Learning Network and the opportunities for partnering in landscape restoration, and learn about current status of the Regional Fire Learning Networks

- 7:00 – 8:00 Breakfast provided — foyer of Colonial Capital Ballroom C
- 8:00 – 8:15 Welcome, Objectives of the Network and Housekeeping
Lynn Decker, Director U.S. Fire Learning Network/Meeting Co-facilitator
Robin Hanford, Fire Education Specialist/Meeting Co-facilitator
- 8:15 – 8:30 Welcome to the Croatan National Forest
Mike Brod, Wildlife Biologist, U. S. Forest Service, Croatan National Forest
- 8:30 – 8:45 Welcome to North Carolina
Fred Annand, Associate Director for the North Carolina Chapter of The Nature Conservancy and Director of Protection
- 8:45 – 9:30 The Fire Learning Network as a Tool for Fire Restoration: Global Context and Domestic Challenges
Jeff Hardesty, Director Global Fire Initiative, The Nature Conservancy
- 9:30 – 9:45 Break
- 9:45 – 10:30 “Partnering” to Scale-Up Landscape Restoration: Federal and State Perspectives
Jim Hubbard, Director Office of Wildland Fire Coordination, U. S. Department of Interior Agencies
- 10:30 – 11:00 Break
- 11:00 – 12:00 Panel Discussion: Gathering the Pieces of the Puzzle
Jeff Hardesty, TNC; Jim Hubbard, NFP DOI; Corbin Newman, NFP USFS; Anne Jeffery, DOI External Affairs; and Tim Melchert, USFS LANDFIRE; Louise Milkman, Senior Policy Advisor, TNC (Panel moderator)
- 12:00 – 1:30 Lunch provided — Heritage Hall

Agenda for Tuesday February 8 –Afternoon
New Bern Riverfront Convention Center – Colonial Capital Ballroom C

About the Regional Fire Learning Networks

In its second phase—slated to extend through 2006—the Fire Learning Network will catalyze up to 10 Regional Fire Learning Networks chosen through a Request for Proposals process. In addition, key projects (also known as "anchor sites") will serve as the loci for the regional networks, each aiming to engage 4–12 additional projects with similar ecosystems and/or management issues. Regional networks operate primarily through workshops focused on:

1. Achieving tangible progress and transferring lessons learned in community-based adaptive fire management; and/or
2. Building technical capacity in application of the best available fire science tools.

- 1:30 – 1:45 Great Plains RFLN Presentation
 Susanne Hickey, TNC Iowa
 John Ortmann, TNC Nebraska
- 1:45 – 2:00 Southwest RFLN Presentation
 Anne Bradley, TNC New Mexico
- 2:00 – 2:15 Northeast RFLN Presentation
 Stephanie Gifford, TNC New York
- 2:15 – 2:30 Laurentian Mixed Forest RFLN Presentation
 Meredith Cornett, TNC Minnesota
- 2:30 – 2:45 Break
- 2:45 – 3:00 Southcentral RFLN Presentation
 McRee Anderson, TNC Arkansas
- 3:00 – 3:15 Intermountain West RFLN Presentation
 Louis Provencher, TNC Nevada
- 3:15 – 3:30 Southern RFLN Presentation
 Rob Sutter, TNC North Carolina
 Jim Murrian, TNC Florida
- 3:30 – 3:45 RFLN Discussion and Follow-up Questions
 Tom Dooley, FLN Applied Fire Ecologist-West, TNC

3:45 – 4:00 Break

4:00 – 4:30 Wednesday Field Workshop Overview and Logistics
Margit Bucher, TNC North Carolina
Jim Smith, LANDFIRE Project Manager, TNC

Dinner on your own

Agenda for Wednesday February 9
Various Local Landscapes

Day's Goal: Experience the local landscapes; learn about Croatan National Forest, LANDFIRE and FRCC; discuss integrating monitoring and adaptive management; and then relax together.

7:00 – 7:45 Breakfast provided — Sheraton Library/Morgan Rooms

8:00 Buses depart

Workshop Field Day
Jim Smith, LANDFIRE Program Manager, TNC
Margit Bucher, TNC North Carolina
Mike Brod, USFS Croatan National Forest

5:00 – 7:00 Palace Tour and Hosted Reception (liquid refreshments and hors
d'oeuvres): ***Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens***

Dinner on your own

Agenda for Thursday February 10 –Morning

New Bern Riverfront Convention Center – Colonial Capital Ballroom C

Day's Goal: Putting it all together: Learn about opportunities to integrate education, training, monitoring and support to advance restoration of fire-adapted ecosystems.

- 7:00 – 8:00 Breakfast provided — foyer Colonial Capital Ballroom C
RFLN Breakout Breakfasts encouraged
- 8:00 – 8:30 Lessons Learned From Field Trip
Jim Smith, LANDFIRE Project Manager, TNC
Margit Bucher, TNC North Carolina
- 8:30 – 9:00 Education and Communication
Ed Brunson, Fire Education Director, TNC
Robin Hanford, Fire Education and Communication Specialist, TNC
- 9:00 – 9:30 Training
Sam Lindblom, Fire Training Coordinator, TNC
- 9:30 – 9:45 Break
- 9:45 – 10:15 Government Relations
Louise Milkman, Senior Policy Advisor, TNC
- 10:15 – 10:45 Measuring Success
Rob Sutter, Senior Conservation Ecologist/Regional Scientist, Southern
U.S. Region, TNC
- 10:45 – 11:00 Break
- 11:00 – 12:00 Putting the Pieces Together discussion; RFLN work assignments; due
dates
Lynn Decker, Director U. S. Fire Learning Network, TNC
Tom Dooley, FLN Applied Fire Ecologist-West, TNC
Darren Johnson, FLN Applied Fire Ecologist-East, TNC
- 12:00 – 1:00 Lunch provided – Heritage Hall

***Agenda for Thursday February 10 – Afternoon
New Bern Riverfront Convention Center***

1:00 – 3:30 Concurrent Work Sessions:

Work Session Goals: Integrate education, training and government relations opportunities into your RFLN; develop metrics for measuring and reporting FLN success; establish goals and expectations for RFLNs and Ecologists working together.

Breakout Room – Colonial Capital Ballroom C

Western RFLNs (1) complete a needs assessment and plan for the next 12 months; (2) develop action list for integrating education, etc. into your network; (3) develop draft metrics for measuring and reporting success
Tom Dooley, facilitator

Breakout Room - Tryon A

Eastern RFLNs (1) complete a needs assessment and plan for the next 12 months; (2) develop action list for integrating education, etc. into your network; (3) develop draft metrics for measuring and reporting success
Darren Johnson, facilitator

3:30 – 3:45 Break

3:45 – 4:30 Report Outs, Wrap-up, Evaluations and Adjourn

Dinner on your own

Travel home safely and thank you for participating in your FLN.