



Fire Learning Network
Notes from the Field

Central Appalachians FLN & Central Appalachians Fire Managers and Scientists

Joint Fire History Workshop / Annual Workshop

Blacksburg, Virginia
October 20-22, 2015

The Consortium of Appalachian Fire Managers and Scientists (CAFMS) partnered with the Central Appalachians Fire Learning Network (FLN) to hold a joint workshop and annual workshop near Blacksburg, Virginia. More than 60 participants from twenty different agencies participated in the three-day event.

CAFMS coordinated a fire history workshop during the first two days, which brought together many of the pioneers of Central Appalachians dendrochronological, soil and peat charcoal, witness tree and other techniques used to develop our understanding of the historic fire regimes of the Central Appalachians. It was a rare opportunity to interact and learn from researchers whose work and publications influence management decisions across the region. A field trip allowed participants to visit some of the original sites (including actual trees) studied by Dr. Charles Lafon and Dr. Henry Grissino-Mayer, enjoy a soil charcoal demonstration by Dr. Sally Horn, and discuss future research needs and prescribed fire objectives at a burn unit on the Jefferson National Forest. One of the central questions was about fire seasonality and the potential to use recently fire scarred trees that come with exact burn dates to obtain more precise reads from the dendrochronological record.

The FLN hosted the third day of the gathering, with presentations focused on collaborative success stories, new technological tools, northern long-eared bats, and fire effects monitoring. Marek Smith kicked things off with an overview of ten years of accomplishments for the Central Appalachians FLN followed by a testimonial from Tyler Urgo of how the FLN has benefitted the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. Steve Spangler, from the network's newest partner, New River-Highlands RC&D Council, closed out the day by addressing the protection of woodland homes from wildfire.



The annual FLN Partnership Award was presented to Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF) for their tenacity and commitment to building fire management capacity within their agency, collaborative planning and implementation across organizational boundaries.

Photo: Laurel Schablein/TNC

For more information about the workshop, contact:

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Far left: Dr. Henry Grissino-Mayer (University of Tennessee) discusses dendrochronological sampling methods showcasing trees from original studies in the Central Appalachians.

Photo: Laurel Schablein/TNC

Left: Margit Bucher (TNC) and Dr. Sally Horn (University of Tennessee) demonstrate soil charcoal sampling.

Photo: Marek Smith/TNC

The FLN is part of the *Promoting Ecosystem Resilience and Fire Adapted Communities Together (PERFACT)* cooperative agreement between The Nature Conservancy, USDA Forest Service and agencies of the Department of the Interior. For more on PERFACT, contact Lynn Decker at ldecker@tnc.org or (801) 320-0524.



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Workshop presentations are available at <http://www.appalachianfire.org/events-webinars-1/2015/10/20/fire-history-in-the-appalachians-and-central-appalachian-fire-learning-network-meeting>