

Wildlife Habitat Restoration on Private Lands Conference

Theme

Applying Science to Restoring Habitat in a Changing Landscape

Location

Harding University
Searcy, Arkansas

Date

May 6 – 7, 2014

May 6 (morning session)

Applying Science

- 8:30 am Registration
Debbie Moreland, Program Administrator, The Arkansas Association of Conservation Districts
- 9:00 am **Welcome**
Phillip Tappe, Dean, School of Forest Resources, University of Arkansas – Monticello & Director, Arkansas Forest Resources Center
- 9:10 am **Keynote speaker:** Integrating science into wildlife habitat restoration on private lands
Presentation will discuss how basic research on habitat and population processes operating at a landscape scale in Texas are modifying local management of northern bobwhite on private rangelands
Fidel Hernández, Professor, Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute, Texas A&M University-Kingsville
- 9:45 am Landscape Conservation Planning: Large-Scale Science for Focused, Strategic Delivery
The presentation will describe several examples of how science-driven biological planning & conservation design for a variety of taxa are being applied to help prioritize and focus on-the-ground delivery of conservation programs and actions in Arkansas and the Southeast.
Keith McKnight, Coordinator, Lower Mississippi Valley Joint Venture
- 10:30 am Break
- 10:45 am To Monitor or Not to Monitor - That is the Question
This presentation will provide a brief overview of the various types of monitoring and why monitoring is important for carrying out a strategic approach to conservation delivery. Monitoring designed to determine the effectiveness of one or more specific conservation practices tied to the biological response of one or more target species is necessary to evaluate the “success” of a project in providing benefits to the target species. However, biological response monitoring is often not carried out due to a lack of capacity by the implementing parties. This presentation discusses strategic approaches currently used by the Service and our partners to address our lack of monitoring capacity.
Dr. Ronnie J. Haynes, Regional Coordinator, Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- 11:15 am Mashing Wildlife Management with Production Agriculture
This presentation will show you how you can mesh your personal goals of wildlife management with the realities of having to make an income off of your farm. It will talk about determining and setting goals and utilizing federal and state programs to accomplish your mission.
Clint Borum, Private Lands Wildlife Biologist, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency

12:00 pm Lunch

May 6 (afternoon session)

Changing Landscape

- 1:00 pm Managing flooded forests on private lands: what we know and what we don't know
Bottomland hardwood forests (BHF) provide a magnitude of ecological services that range from nutrient storage and floodwater attenuation to habitat for a variety of wildlife species. Our track record of conversion to agriculture and resource exploiting in BHF ecosystems throughout the Southeast has led to a considerable reduction in wetland functions that has many ramifications. Large scale effects to restore wetland functions to the Mississippi Delta have included conservation programs and conservation planning strategies for a more sustainable BHF ecosystem. As Natural Resources professionals we have gained much knowledge about natural resource management, however there is still much more to learn.
Dr. Douglas Osborne, Assistant Professor of Wildlife, Arkansas Forest Resources Center
- 1:45 pm Oak restoration: promoting oaks in natural hardwood stands
Dr. Kyle Cunningham, Arkansas Forest Resources Center
- 2:30 pm Break
- 3:00 pm Bioenergy and Biodiversity: Aggressive Feedstock Choices and the Risk to Fish and Wildlife Resources
The modern bioenergy movement includes an on-going search for feedstocks that can be easily grown/harvested, are high-yielding, and can be grown on land not well-suited to traditional agricultural crops. Some potential feedstocks are native to the U.S. but many are not and genetic modification is often pursued as a means of boosting geographic range and boosting yields. Attention to the implications for native fish, wildlife, and the ecosystems on which they depend is needed in order to avert unintended consequences.
Bill McGuire, Bill McGuire Conservation, LLC.
- 3:45 pm Invasive Plants Website
Arkansas is being invaded. This presentation introduces the audience to Arkansas' invasive pest program and the ARInvasives.org web site.
Dr. Jon Barry, Assistant Professor – Forestry, Arkansas Forest Resources Center
Dr. Tamara Walkingstick, Associate Director, Arkansas Forest Resources Center
- 4:15 pm Farm Bill Update: panel discussion
David Long, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
James Baker, Natural Resources Conservation Service
Linda Newkirk, Farm Service Agency
- 4:45 pm Departing remarks
Evaluations

May 6 (evening)

Awards Dinner & Ceremony

6:00 pm Reception (Eagleview Catering)

6:30 pm Dinner

Landowner & Professional Private Lands Award Recognition

David Long, Private Lands Supervisor, Arkansas Game & Fish Commission

9:00 pm Depart

May 7

Field Tour of Private Lands

NOTE: Due to rural road conditions and safety considerations on public roadways, all field tour participants must ride the tour bus. No private vehicles will be allowed on the tour. A shuttle will be available for returning passengers to their vehicles parked at the Harding University football stadium at any time for emergency or scheduled departures.

8:30 am Load buses
Harding University
Football stadium parking lot

12:00 pm Lunch

3:00 pm Return
Harding University
Football stadium parking lot