

# The Longleaf Alliance



*th*

## **Regional Conference and Forest Guild Annual Meeting**

*Forestry in a Changing World:*  
**New Challenges and Opportunities**



Longleaf Alliance  
Report No. 14

July 2009

## Education Programs at the Joseph W. Jones Ecological Research Center

Kevin McIntyre

Joseph W. Jones Ecological Research Center, Rt. 2, Box 2324, Newton, GA 39870-9651

### Abstract

The Joseph W. Jones Ecological Research Center, founded in 1991, has programs in research, conservation, and education. Its mission is to understand, to demonstrate, and to promote excellence in natural resource management and conservation on the landscape of the southeastern coastal plain of the United States. The Center focuses its efforts in two areas; longleaf pine ecology, management and restoration, and water resources. The presentation today is intended to give an overview of the Jones Center education and outreach programs related to longleaf pine.

The Center's educational efforts began with its first cohort of graduate students in the mid 1990s. Today, this program

represents one of the most significant contributions of the Center, with over 70 individuals receiving advanced degrees through this program and moving on to professional positions with natural resource management and conservation organizations throughout the Southeast. The educational mission of the Center expanded in 1998 with the hiring of dedicated staff and the establishment of a formal education and outreach program. The Center's longleaf pine programs are focused on practicing natural resource professionals and university students preparing for careers in natural resources. Highlighted examples of Center programs include university Maymester courses, ecological forestry workshops for professionals, and prescribed fire outreach.

## The National Coalition of Prescribed Fire Councils: An Initiative to Nationally Address Key Management, Policy, and Regulatory Issues

Mark A. Melvin<sup>1</sup>, Johnny Stowe<sup>2</sup> and Dale Wade<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Joseph W. Jones Ecological Research Center, Newton, Georgia; <sup>2</sup>South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, Columbia, South Carolina and <sup>3</sup>The Rx Fire Doctor, Hayesville, NC

### Abstract

Prescribed fire managers face new and increasingly complex challenges in the 21st century that limit or threaten the use of prescribed fire. Although prescribed fire is used to accomplish diverse resource benefits across the United States, most burners share a number of common concerns, including public safety/health, ecological stewardship, liability, public education, and air quality regulation. To assist in addressing these challenges, a diverse group of public and private leaders collaborated at the Longleaf Alliance's 2006 bi-annual conference to form a National Coalition of Prescribed Fire Councils (National Coalition). The mission of the National Coalition is to provide a forum for exchange of knowledge and ideas, and to serve as an umbrella organization to provide a more powerful voice through partnering with state and local prescribed fire councils. Since its formation, the National Coalition has reached out to embrace existing councils (extant in only five states in 2006), and provide guidance in the formation of

new ones. Membership now includes active or developing councils in thirty states, British Columbia and Mexico, which represent 12 million acres of annual prescribed fire use. The acting Scoping Committee is pleased to announce the formation of the National Coalition's inaugural Governing Board. These members are recognized as leaders in the conservation and prescribed fire community that can build on the successes of the National Coalition and further develop the organization. Board members bring broad representation from across the country and will meet November 3-5, 2008 to take over the reins from the Scoping Committee. Their efforts will focus on organizational development and structure, funding sources, and staffing requirements to elevate the organization to its next level of national prominence. The National Coalition looks forward to expanding its efforts to ensure that the ecological values and other public benefits of prescribed fire are secure for the future.