2018 SOUTHEAST BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION FORUM

In partnership with NatureServe and the Network of Natural Heritage Programs

At North Carolina Botanical Garden, Chapel Hill, NC

*Draft* AGENDA

**Day 1 (1/2 day) – March 6, 2018**

* Welcome and introductions, orientation, overview of conference goals
* Introductory presentations
  + NatureServe
  + NCNHP
  + NCBG
* Exploring North Carolina – Tom Earnhardt
* Communications workshops (concurrent workshops and presentations)

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| Communication Among Partner Agencies | Marketing and Outreach | Communication for Biologists and Data Managers |
| * Finding common purpose * Building interagency trust * Holding difficult conversations | * Marketing biodiversity information * Reaching new audiences   + Funding sources   + Legislators   + Students   + General interest * Social media * Tools from the NatureServe network * Cross-marketing within the Network | * Giving presentations to lay audiences   + What is “natural heritage”?   + Why is biodiversity important? * PowerPoint tips * Communication with central NatureServe and network programs (Sharepoint, Listserves, etc) * Discussions around species listing with partners (federal, state, and NGOs) |

* Evening reception

**Day 2 (Full day) – March 7, 2018**

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| Time | Partnerships -Applying Biodiversity Data | Biology & Data Management Working Groups | | |
| 9-12 | Application of biodiversity data in protection prioritization   * Case studies of biodiversity data being employed to affect conservation actions (NCNHP, others) * Brainstorming/discussion: How to improve conservation projects to protect more biodiversity | Benefits of taxonomic concept mapping (all disciplines) | | |
| ZOOLOGY   * Taxonomy * Data standards and management for special cases (e.g. alligator, elk, wolf) * Discussion of sensitive records management for specific species (chosen ahead of time) * Marine mammal programs | BOTANY AND ECOLOGY  Ecological Integrity framework and applications (including and beyond the EO) | |
| BOTANY   * Taxonomy * G ranks work session updating difficult G ranks * Review G1s and G2s that might warrant federal protection * Identify unprotected single-site endemics | ECOLOGY   * Advances and directions in national classifications, mapping, and assessment * Community classification updates from the states * EO ranking discussion – developing standards for types; |
| 12-1 | LUNCH | ZOOLOGY LUNCH  Updates from field staff | BOTANY LUNCH  Updates from field staff | ECOLOGY LUNCH  Updates from field staff |

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|  | Network Member Training | Partnerships -Applying Biodiversity Data | Biology & Data Management Working Groups |
| 1-3 | NatureServe Environmental Review Tools and VISTA   * NCNHP, VANHP, PANHP demos and applications * Discussion of barriers and opportunities for implementation in other states | Partnerships between NHPs and regulatory agencies   * Sharing experiences engaging in public land management planning (fed and state) (VANHP and USFS management plan as an example) * Data sharing with partner agencies (wildlife, USFWS, NOAA, NMFS, USFS) * Collaborations and contracts with regulatory partners * Presentations from partner agencies | Rethinking conservation priorities in view of:   * Climate change * Species decline * Emerging issues – regulatory changes, unsustainable harvest, etc. |
| 3-5 | Fees workshop   * Review of programs’ fees * Examples laws and rules * 1-2 presentations on implementation of data fees (PA?, VA?, others) * Discussion about data fees | Partnerships between NHPs and non-regulatory agencies   * Engagement with private industry (forestry/biomass) * Engagement with conservation NGOs * Collaborations and contracts with private industry and NGOs | Data collection   * Presentations and demonstrations of field data collection apps and tools from field biologists, integration into Biotics (indoors) * Split into break-out groups to give people hands-on experience with field data collection tools (outdoors if possible). |

**Day 3 (Half Day, Optional Full Day) – March 8, 2018**

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| **Network Member Training** | **Partnerships -Applying Biodiversity Data** | **Regional Collaboration** |
| Biotics tips and tricks   * Global edits training * FAQs, tips and tricks in Biotics from NatureServe central staff for Natural Heritage Program staff * Biotics Q&A session with NatureServe central staff * Brainstorming session to develop ideas for Biotics development   + - * + Is Data Exchange meeting   your needs?   * + - * + Data quality concerns         + Data collaboration dashboard   in Biotics | Discussion with partners for development of project ideas – what do they need that NatureServe and NHPs can help with?   * Biotics, Observation data model, demo/discussion for partners * SEAFWA update and next steps * Brainstorming session to develop ideas for future collaboration among partners (NatureServe, NHPs, and partner agencies) | Landscape-level conservation   * Overview * 1-3 case studies of landscape-level conservation (e.g. Eno-New Hope Landscape Conservation Plan)   Current regional projects   * Presentations (VA/FL modeling, etc) * Brainstorming session to develop ideas for future collaboration among states |

FULL GROUP

* Wrap-up presentation and lunch – Alan Weakley
* Local field trips (optional)

**1 Mason Farm Biological Reserve**: Johnny Randall and Mike Kunz

**2 North Carolina Botanical Garden:** Dan Stern, Chris Liloia, and Heather Summer

**3 Weymouth Woods State Natural Area**: Alan Weakley and Wesley Knapp

**4 Deep River State Natural Area (paddle trip):** Scott Pohlman and Judy Ratcliffe

**5 Occoneechee Mountain State Natural Area**: Misty Buchanan and Nathan Shepard

**6 Swift Creek Bluffs**: Mike Schafale

**7 Willie Duke’s Bluff:** Milo Pyne