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)
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* 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;
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| 12-1 | LUNCH | ZOOLOGY LUNCHUpdates from field staff | BOTANY LUNCHUpdates from field staff | ECOLOGY LUNCHUpdates 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.
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| 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).
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**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
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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