

Southeast Natural Heritage Conference: Abstracts by Lead Author

Name	Title	Abstract	Session
Crabtree, Todd	Rare Plant Habitat Modeling with Arcmap	This presentation is an introduction to specific tools in Arcmap that can be used to model habitat for rare plants. Methods for using these tools will also be described. Examples of habitat models developed for rare species searches in Tennessee will be used.	Thur 9:30
Crist, Patrick	Wildlife Connectivity for SWAPs	The Doris Duke Foundation granted funding to NatureServe to, among other things, develop approaches and guidelines for integrating wildlife connectivity into SWAPs. This presentation will describe the objectives, approach, and progress of this 4 year effort in the Western U.S., the large partnership assembled to achieve it, and the current state of connectivity modeling, planning, and cross-state integration so far.	Thur 9:30
Crist, Patrick, and Ian Varley	NatureServe Vista Recent Developments	NatureServe Vista is a powerful conservation decision support system. The tool has undergone considerable expansion in capabilities and adoption over the last year. This session will provide an overview of the tool and recent developments and applications	Thur 3:30
Copas, Kyle	Networking the Network: Toward an Online Strategy for NatureServe	This session will provide attendees with context and insights on online initiatives either pending or underway: the redesign of natureserve.org, concepts for redesigning NatureServe Explorer, and the creation of the network Sharepoint site and mobile prototypes. New data about our current and prospective audiences strongly influence these activities as does an emerging marketing and communications strategy, making this session relevant to anyone charged with telling—or revising—the story of their program.	Thur 10:30
Gaines, Glen	America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative	The longleaf pine forests that once covered over 90 million acres in southeastern United States has been reduced by 97% to 3.4 million acres—only 3% remains. The America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative was established to seek opportunities to maintain, improve, and restore the longleaf pine ecosystem across its historic range. The Initiative is a collaborative effort aimed at implementing the goals of the Range-wide Longleaf Pine Conservation Plan.	Fri 9:30
Gravuer, Kelly	Cross-jurisdictional status of southeastern plants	Heritage botanists and interested ecologists are encouraged to attend this session to discuss plant species of mutual interest. We will discuss recent observations from the field, coordinate any relevant inventory work, and review GRanks and associated global information using the Rank Calculator. Plants to review will be drawn from participant suggestions.	Thur 1:30

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Gravuer, Kelly, and Bruce Young	Plants and the Decline of Pollinators	Learn about NatureServe's recent work ranking Bombus species and developing detailed range maps for different types of pollinators. Hear perspectives from the field on known, suspected, or feared impacts of pollinator decline on plant species. Are patterns emerging? How can we collaborate to monitor and respond to pollinator declines and the impacts of these declines on plants of conservation interest?	Fri 8:30
Howie, Shara	TNC-NS Collaboration: Increasing Effectiveness through Partnership	We will present an update on the efforts to collaborate between NatureServe and the Conservancy including a summary of the business case for partnership, and specific projects underway. This session also aims to get ideas for new and better collaboration in the southwest region.	Thur 10:30
Maybury, Kat	The MJD Screening Tool: Status & the Next (Big) Steps	We've built an EO- based web service that is "first stop" information source, directing users to individual programs for local information. Soon, we'll launch this as a subscription-based product available to all MJD clients. What should our business model be? How do we market it? What do we charge for it? What are the risks and potential benefits to you? To imperiled species? Can we distribute risks/benefits fairly across the network?	Fri 11:00
McNees, Jason	Data Fees & Data Release Policies Around the Network	Every program has different policies and fee rates for releasing different scales of data, which can make MJD estimates challenging. Many programs also find it a challenge locally when re-evaluating their fee policies to determine what pricing structure they should use. This session will explore the issue, and gather feedback on a potential Sharepoint site that NatureServe is considering building to help manage this information, make it available to other programs, and streamline the estimate process.	Fri 9:30
Nichols, Jennifer, and Rob Solomon	Integration of Observations in Spatial Methodology	Workshop to present work to date and obtain network input on proposed NatureServe methodologies focused on improving the spatial methodology, including the integration of observations. Discussion may include examination of the underlying tenets of the methodology and analysis of proposed changes in terms of usability and value to network programs.	Thur 1:30

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Nordman, Carl	Vegetation of the Natchez Trace Parkway	NatureServe and state Natural Heritage Program partners have collected vegetation plot data on the Natchez Trace Parkway in Alabama, Mississippi and Tennessee. The Parkway is 22,000 hectares and is administered by the National Park Service, who provided funding. About 500 0.1 hectare plots have been used to develop a National Vegetation Classification (NVC) for the Parkway lands. Multivariate vegetation data analysis was used to develop the classification, using the new NVC hierarchy (FGDC 2008).	Fri 11:00
Ormes, Margaret	Methodological Puzzles and New(ish) Tools	Bring your puzzlers and help solve others! Proposed topics include: mapping aquatic EOs; EO Ranks - should the viability, temporal, and absence values be captured in separate fields? GH/G1 – how to draw the line with obscure species (e.g., cave obligates); Ranking rapidly declining species that lack quantitative census data; Introduced/restored populations - how do programs manage these data? Climate Change Vulnerability Index – how well does it work for your species in your state?	Fri 10:30
Pulsipher, Susan	Changing a culture: tracking mitigation activities from inception to completion	Many GIS datasets are developed by an SME to meet their need. Sharing data or including information to assist others is not a priority. Managers in the Environmental Division at Fort Bragg requested a way to track habitat improvement mitigation activities. We closed the loop by improving the quality and coverage of existing end-result datasets, establishing planning and implementation datasets, and nurturing a change in attitudes across the branches.	Fri 8:30
Pyne, Milo	Southeast Region Ecology Programs and Projects	We will discuss ecology project work and programmatic highlights from the southeastern State member programs and the southeastern regional office of NatureServe. Some topics will include efforts at crosswalking and integration of the US NVC and ecological systems with state classifications, the new IVC hierarchy in the region, use of the ranking calculator, and work on ecological integrity assessment methodology and its application.	Thur 10:30
Pyne, Milo	Southeast Regional ecology future priorities and funding opportunities	Building on the previous session. we will discuss future ecology project work from the NatureServe and member program perspective, in the context of programmatic priorities and possible funding opportunities. How can we as a network take advantage of our common objectives and build on our achievements to develop opportunities for future work?	Fri 1:30

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Scott, Cameron, and Mary Long	An Ecological Sustainability Database for the USFS	Discuss the Ecological Sustainability Database developed by NatureServe for the USFS, Southeast region.	Thur 9:30
Scott, Cameron	The State of the MJData: Content and Currency	[Abstract pending]	
Soule, Judy	Wheels, Webs, and Working Networks	NatureServe has recently initiated a leadership training program for the network, Leader to Leader (L2L), sponsored by American Express. This session will include a brief introduction into the goals and workings of the program, and then take off on a group exercise to map out the current state of our network in terms of connections and information flow. How does L2L and a network map relate? How do you map a network? Why should we want to? Please join us in this hands-on session to find these answers and more.	Thur 2:30
Surette, Sherry	Preliminary Surveys for the Bumblebees (Bombus spp.) of Mississippi	Several wild bumble bee (Bombus spp.) species throughout North America have shown major declines in recent years. The Mississippi Natural Heritage Program is currently conducting the first ever state-wide survey for bumblebee species in Mississippi. This survey will be used to determine the most common and rare Bumblebees in our state, and will be used as a benchmark for continued monitoring of these keystone species in the future.	Fri 10:30
Pyne, Milo	Ecological Classification Workshop for Texas	This is an opportunity to engage network members from Texas and neighboring states in an overview of ecological classification issues. We will explore ecological systems and their utility as a mapping unit, and transition to the new hierarchy in terms of Groups and Macrogroups. This is an exploration of lessons learned from the Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife's mapping of	Thur 1:30
Weber, Joe, and Kat Maybury	MJD-ing Priority Areas, Observations, Ecology Data, and Predicted Distributions	We'll discuss spatial data that have not yet been "MJD'd," but could be. What types of information should we be aggregating and using to answer what questions for what clients? For example, VA, NC and others have developed methods for delineating areas of highest priority for conservation; their methods could be expanded regionally or nationally to inform	Fri 2:00

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White, Rickie	Monitoring ecological communities on NPS land: An ecological integrity assessment based approach	The National Park Service's Cumberland Piedmont Network and NatureServe have worked closely together to create a vegetation monitoring protocol that uses aspects of the Carolina Vegetation Survey, FIA, and ecological integrity assessment methodology to report out on the condition and trends of vegetation communities in 14 Southeastern national parks. This presentation will explore this approach and the lessons learned thus far from setting up the project.	Fri 11:30
Young, Bruce	Notes from the Field	A time for catching up on what is happening around the Network in Zoology and Botany. Session will include informal presentations from NatureServe and Southeast Member Programs.	Thur 10:30