

Bog Learning Network
Annual Winter Meeting: March 13 and 14, 2018
Sherrill Center, Mountain View Room, UNC-Asheville

Day 1: Tuesday, March 13th 1-5pm plus social

12pm	<i>Doors open BYO Lunch, Networking</i>
1pm	Welcome
1:15-1:30pm	<p>What's in a name? That which we call a bog by any other name would still smell of stinky peat: Monitoring and management of Phineas Fen (AKA Cutshaw Bog) – Chris Stoeihel, Wildlife Biologist, Cherokee National Forest</p> <p>This talk will provide an overview of the land ownership and management history of Cutshaw Bog/Phineas Fen. Preliminary summaries of site data collected for vegetation and aquatic & terrestrial animals during the 2017 field season and of soils and hydrology data collected by ETSU and UNCA will be included. Management objectives for the site will also be presented and proposed management activities will be open to group discussion.</p>
1:30-1:45pm	<p>Plant propagation agreement between Cherokee NF and Overhill Gardens – Chris Stoeihel, Wildlife Biologist, Cherokee National Forest</p> <p>The Cherokee NF has an agreement with Overhill Gardens in Vonore, TN, to collect seed on USFS lands and then propagate species for restoration projects and revegetation. Chris will share what led up to it, how it has worked out, and the challenges of managing this agreement.</p>
1:45-2pm	<p>Fire History in Western North Carolina, a Case Study in Panthertown Valley – Mandi Miller, UNCA</p> <p>Fire regime data is critical to implementing restoration of ecological processes. Charcoal analysis is an important method used to further understand the history of fire regimes. This research can help determine the frequency, severity, and size of historic fires, aiding land managers in determining appropriate management activities. Research goals included identifying the fire history in the southern Appalachian Mountains Panthertown Valley Wetland/Bog complex. Additionally, experimental trials of charcoal analysis were conducted to determine the most efficient and least damaging processing techniques.</p> <p>&</p> <p>Biodiversity of Testate Amoeba in Western North Carolina – Madeline Scheer, UNCA</p> <p>Testate amoeba are model organisms for ecological research and can indicate environmental mechanisms and anthropogenic disturbance driving the communities present within the ecosystem. Our primary objectives were to describe patterns of community composition of modern day testate amoeba (TA) within two of southern Appalachian mountain wetlands (Panthertown Bog and Franklin Bog), to develop hypotheses to explain differences within the community, and to determine if taxa occupy similar ecological niches with respect to substrate moisture, total elemental C and N, and pH. <i>Sphagnum</i> peat moss was sampled from hiking trail and non-trail samples within the two sites. Statistical analysis includes Shannon's diversity index, to determine the biodiversity of each sample, multivariate ordinations, to compare species and environmental variables, along with descriptive statistics of the individual samples were conducted. This research will provide valuable data to aid in the analysis of long term studies evaluating environmental and climatic changes in the fens of NC.</p>

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2-2:20pm	<p>Restoring Southern Blue Ridge Mafic Fens & Woodlands in VA: 2 Decades of Active Management at Big Spring Bog and Grayson Glades State Natural Area Preserves – Claiborne Woodall, Southwest Regional Supervisor and Natural Areas Steward, Virginia Natural Heritage Program</p> <p>Located in the Southern Blue Ridge physiographic province within Grayson County, Virginia, The Glades conservation site supports a globally rare ecological community and numerous state and globally rare plant and animal species. Since the early 20th century, much of The Glades has been fragmented by residential development and altered hydrologically by agriculture and mining. In 1991, the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) began acquiring land in The Glades. As of 2017, 103 acres has been dedicated within two State Natural Area Preserves: Big Spring Bog and Grayson Glades. For the past 18 years, DCR's Division of Natural Heritage has worked to restore these natural areas with a combination of on-going invasive species control and mechanical thinning, plus repeated applications of prescribed fire. We evaluated plant community monitoring data, rare plant population monitoring data and photo series to chronicle the effects of this active management. Our results suggest that the current management strategy is both (1) increasing native herbaceous species richness and abundance and (2) beneficial to the site's high-value conservation species. Similar results may be possible within other portions of The Glades conservation site and at similar sites in the Southern Blue Ridge of Virginia and North Carolina.</p>
2:20-2:30pm	<i>10-minute break</i>
2:30-3pm	<p>Bog Ecology: A Review – Mike Schafale, Terrestrial Ecologist, NC Natural Heritage Program</p> <p>Much of our effort in the Bog Learning Network focuses on specific resources or specific management issues. Each bog is unique, but there are several kinds of bogs which have characteristics in common. In addition, some general principles of bog ecology apply widely. This talk will review some of the general ecological characteristics of bogs and will touch briefly on the types of bogs.</p>
3-3:30pm	Q&A/Discussion
3:30-3:45pm	<i>15-minute break</i>
3:45-4:45pm	<p>Innovative Management Panel Presentation & Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bogs & Hogs... Management beyond corral traps – Carrie Radcliffe, Restoration Coordinator, Atlanta Botanical Garden & Mountain Bog Project Coordinator, Georgia Plant Conservation Alliance • Systemized Herbivory to Manage Woody Encroachment & Non-native Vegetation – Lauren Reker, Owner, KD Ecological Services & NNIS Coordinator, MountainTrue • Using Herbicides on Undesirable Woody Vegetation – Thomas Floyd, Biologist, GA Dept. of Natural Resources • Controlled burning in wetlands – Adam Warwick, Stewardship Manager, The Nature Conservancy in North Carolina
4:45-5pm	Announcements and Adjourn
5:30pm until –	<p>Informally reconvene at New Belgium Brewing, 21 Craven St. Asheville, NC 28806</p> <p>-On-site parking available</p> <p>-food & beverages available for purchase: Liquid Center tasting room & Bun Intended food truck</p>

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Day 2: Wednesday, March 14th 8:30am-3pm

8am	<i>Doors open</i> <i>Coffee & Munchkins, Networking</i>
8:30am	Welcome
8:45-9:45am	Goal Breakout Sessions with BLN Steering Committee Members (choose one): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinating Protection – Adam Warwick • Increasing Membership/Outreach – Thomas Floyd & Jennifer Lamb • Facilitating and Providing Education and Learning Opportunities – Lauren Reker • Promoting and Supporting On-the-Ground Conservation – Gabrielle Graeter and Carrie Radcliffe
9:45-10am	<i>15-minute break</i>
10-11am	Report Out from Breakout Sessions
11-11:30am	Complex interactions in <i>Sarracenia</i> : Implications for plant and ecosystem health – Dr. Jessica Stephens, Postdoctoral Research Associate, Dept. of Biological Sciences, University of Pittsburgh <i>Sarracenia</i> species are charismatic plants that excite the public about natural environments and conservation management. Owing to this fact and that these plants are staples of the southeastern landscape, there has been a large effort to properly manage endangered <i>Sarracenia</i> species and remnant habitats, often with the use of prescribed burns. To be discussed are the roles that prescribed burns and population isolation may play in modifying <i>Sarracenia</i> interactions, in particular, the current research on obligate pitcher plant arthropods and the <i>Sarracenia</i> microbiome. The discussion will include future research on this topic and highlight how little we actually know regarding their role in <i>Sarracenia</i> health.
11:30-11:40am	Floodplain restoration project update – David Lee, Natural Resources Manager, Conserving Carolina This presentation will highlight a 100-acre floodplain collaborative restoration project that will result in the creation of a significant amount of mountain bog wetland habitat.
11:40am-1pm	<i>Lunch break</i> <i>BYO or on your own nearby (suggestions coming soon)</i>
1-1:45pm	Best Practices Workshops (these run concurrently, so please choose one): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessing and Addressing Threats to Bog Turtle Populations – Gabrielle Graeter, Wildlife Diversity Biologist, NC Wildlife Resources Commission & Mike Knoerr, Graduate Student, Clemson University • Invasive Species treatment – BLN Invasive Species Subcommittee: Bob Gale, Gary Kauffman, Anita Goetz, David Lee, Lauren Reker, and Rick Foster

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1:45-2:30pm	Best Practices Workshops (these run concurrently, so please choose one): <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rare plant propagation & reintroduction, and rare plant monitoring – Carrie Radcliffe, ABG/GPCA and Rebekah Reid, Botanist, US Fish & Wildlife Service• Peatland ecohydrology: a voyage across four decades – Dr. Douglas Wilcox, Empire Innovation Professor of Wetland Science, The College at Brockport SUNY
2:30-2:50pm	Postcards from the Field
2:50-3pm	Comment Cards & Adjourn
until 4pm	<i>Room open for networking</i>