



2019 ILLINOIS PRESCRIBED FIRE COUNCIL SYMPOSIUM

AGENDA & PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

May 8-9, 2019
Moraine Valley Community College, Palos Hills

WEDNESDAY *May 8th, 2019*

8:30 AM – 8:50 AM

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Location: **M109**

8:50 AM – 9:00 AM

Spark and Leadership Awards

Location: **M109**

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

KEYNOTE - Landscape Fire: A Management Tool or a Life Force in the Grassland Biome?

Location: **M109**

10:15 AM – 10:55 AM

SESSION 1

A. Discussing the New Illinois Fires Accomplished Map - What Gets Measured Gets Done

Location: **Room A**

B. Organized Chaos: Coordinating Largescale Fire Management at the Forest Preserves of Cook County

Location: **Room B**

11:05 AM – 11:45 AM

SESSION 2

A. Using a Fire Weather Forecast (and Experience) to Develop a Prescribed Burn and Smoke Management Plan

Location: **Room A**

B. The Nature Conservancy's Southern Illinois Habitat and Fuels Crew

Location: **Room B**

11:45 AM – 1:00 PM

Lunch

Location: **Lobby/Lunchroom**

1:00 PM – 1:40 PM

SESSION 3

A. Effects of Prescribed Fire on Fauna of the Southern Great Lakes Basin

Location: **Room A**

B. Demystifying the NWCG

Location: **Room B**

1:50 PM – 2:30 PM

SESSION 4

A. Drones/UAVs and Prescribed Fire - An Overview

Location: **Room A**

B. Challenges in Prescribed Fire (Discussion Panel)

Location: **Room B**

3:40 PM – 3:20 PM

SESSION 5

A. Disentangling the Effects of Fire, Habitat, and Climate on the Endangered Regal Fritillary Butterfly

Location: **Room A**

B. Intro to the Illinois Prescribed Fire Manager Certification Process

Location: **Room B**

3:30 PM – 4:00 PM

SESSION 6

A. One Minute Show-and-Tell

Location: **Room B**

THURSDAY *May 9th, 2019*

8:00 AM

FIELD TOURS ([MAP](#))

Orland Grasslands Land & Water Reserve

Location: **167th Street, west of La Grange Road**

Cranberry Slough Nature Preserve

Location: **Country Lane Woods parking lot, 95th Street west of La Grange Road**

Cap Sauers Holding Nature Preserve

Location: **Parking at 11301 Ford Road, Palos Park, IL 60464**

Pre-register for a field tour at <https://forms.gle/bGFUm71YafMUjdT69>
or at the Symposium on May 8th!

The Illinois Prescribed Fire Council would like to give a special thank you to Dr. Sylvia Jenkins and the staff at Moraine Valley Community College for hosting this year's Symposium and their assistance coordinating the venue space.

The Council also wishes to offer our sincere gratitude to all of our exhibitors, speakers, and program sponsors for making this event a success.

SPONSORS & EXHIBITORS:



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The Spark and Leadership awards recognize significant individual performances in Illinois prescribed fire management. The Awards recognize individuals who have gone above and beyond their normal job responsibilities and provided exemplary contributions to prescribed fire in Illinois.



Spark Award Winner: **Elliot Medina**

Elliot Medina started his fire career with the Forest Preserves of Cook County (FPCC) as an intern on the Audubon Chicago Region Conservation Corps crew in 2010 and 2011, and it continued when he was hired full time in January of 2012. He was clearly bitten by the burn bug and wanted to take on as much responsibility as possible from the get-go. He

quickly rose from a crew member to crew boss, and then into his current role of burn boss. Elliot does not miss burn days, and in his career with the FPCC he has missed one out of a possible 137 burn days. Elliot has participated in 320+ burns overall and burn bossed 140 burns since earning his Illinois Prescribed Burn Manager certification, resulting in 5,000+ acres burned under his direction. He has mentored countless Conservation Corps crew members, volunteers, students and staff, providing them insight and guidance along a path he has personally followed - from intern, crew member and crew boss to a skillful and capable burn boss. Elliot does an exemplary job of managing and engaging everyone who burns under his direction, and has earned the respect of his crew and the supervisory staff at the FPCC. Elliot is a professional, hardworking and safety-focused burn boss whose future potential is boundless, and whose will to learn exemplifies what the Spark Award is all about.

Leadership Award Winner: **John Peters**

John Peters is a quality leader who has contributed a quarter century of fire work at the McHenry County Conservation District (MCCD), where their fire program has consistently burned many acres at a variety of sites. MCCD is known for getting fire in all sorts of habitats, from wetlands and woodlands to the easier to do prairie fires, and John has played a key role in planning and executing these successful burns. With over 25 years of experience, John Peters has helped foster a dynamic and rich, safe and efficient work ethic with the MCCD fire program, working with a cohort of great colleagues who are knowledgeable about fire; from Ed Collins, Brad Woodson, Tom Simpson and Jeff Murray to the next generation of Chris Zeiner and Adam Rex. John can discuss any topic on fire, from weather and smoke management to pumper units and brush thinning. John is generous with his time and goes above and beyond, demonstrating true leadership in the MCCD fire program.

Spark & Leadership Awards 2019

PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

9:00 - 10:00	<p>Landscape Fire: A Management Tool or a Life Force in the Grassland Biome? Presenters: <i>Gerould Wilhelm (Director of Conservation – Conservation Research Institute)</i></p> <p>Commonly today landscape fire is deployed as a management tool to discourage this or that weed or kill some unwanted species. While sometimes accepted as a necessary tool by resource agencies, its deployment is administered after prescribed intervals, the feeling being that fire is basically a stress and the land requires periodic respites. Fire as a cultural concept is discussed along with an exploration into the word itself and its tendency to influence the thinking of English speakers. Landscape scale fire will be seen less as a tool and more as cultural, annual rite performed by people of the grasslands who throughout much of the Holocene, prior to settlement, had to have all the necessities of life within walking distance. Landscape fire will be seen not as a management exigency but as a seasonal requirement, fully as crucial to the life system as light following day, wind and doldrum, rain and the snow, changes of seasons, and presence of a human culture who loves the land for its own sake.</p>	Room M109
10:15 - 10:55	<p>Discussing the New Illinois Fires Accomplished Map - What Gets Measured Gets Done Presenters: <i>Bill Kleiman (Project Director - The Nature Conservancy)</i></p> <p>The Illinois Prescribed Fires Accomplished Map is unique, allowing us to specifically track where prescribed fire programs are being implemented and monitor fire success across the state. This sharing of maps of the fires we have done, and history of interagency cooperation helps our fire community thrive. This session will feature an interactive lecture reviewing the newest Illinois Prescribed Fires Accomplished Map, followed by a discussion about what future success will look like and how we can collaborate to get more fire on the ground.</p>	Room A
10:15 - 10:55	<p>Organized Chaos: Coordinating Largescale Fire Management at the Forest Preserves of Cook County Presenters: <i>John McCabe (Director of Resource Management - Forest Preserves of Cook County)</i></p> <p>The Forest Preserves of Cook County had its best burn season ever this past spring, burning over 9,500 acres. How did we do it? A question I often ask myself! The successful coordination of anywhere from ten to twelve crews on a burn day requires a lot of team work, great communication and some luck. This presentation will give a brief overview of all the moving parts that come together during a burn day-- and over the cumulative course of a burn season -- in order to execute multiple safe and successful fires in the country's largest urban conservation district.</p>	Room B
11:05 - 11:45	<p>Using a Fire Weather Forecast (and Experience) to Develop a Prescribed Burn and Smoke Management Plan Presenters: <i>Brad Woodson (Natural Resource Manager - McHenry County Conservation District)</i></p> <p>Despite challenges, burning under the right conditions is safe and responsible in an urbanized county. This presentation will cover the important parameters in a fire weather forecast and how to use them to develop a prescribed burn plan and smoke management plan.</p>	Room A

11:05 - 11:45	<p>The Nature Conservancy's Southern Illinois Habitat and Fuels Crew Presenters: <i>Caleb Grantham (Restoration Specialist - The Nature Conservancy), Hugo Goulet-Papazian (Restoration Specialist – The Nature Conservancy), Nathan Speagle (Restoration Specialist – The Nature Conservancy)</i></p> <p>The Nature Conservancy's Southern Illinois Habitat and Fuels Crew is an evolution of TNC's Invasive Species Strike Team, with a broader focus on multiple aspects of restoration work done in and around the Shawnee National Forest. The collaboration is one between the United States Forest Service, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, and The Nature Conservancy. Whereas earlier incarnations of the southern Illinois team focused primarily on the treatment and monitoring of non-native invasive species, the last couple of years have seen a shift towards a more holistic approach to restoration and natural resource management. Throughout the year the team controls different invasive plant species via chemical and mechanical methods, including assisting agency partners with fire line construction and rehabilitation, and the implementation of prescribed fire on state, federal, and adjacent private properties. Further enhancing the work being done by prescribed fire is the team's Timber Stand Improvement (TSI) or Forest Stand Improvement (FSI) projects, which provide additional fuels treatment and ecosystem benefits through the removal of understory and mid-canopy, shade tolerant mesophytic species. This presentation will provide an overview of what The Nature Conservancy does, and how their partnership with other government agencies has promoted prescribed fire on both public and private lands.</p>	Room B
1:00 - 1:40	<p>Effects of Prescribed Fire on Fauna of the Southern Great Lakes Basin Presenters: <i>Chris Anchor (Senior Wildlife Biologist - Forest Preserves of Cook County)</i></p> <p>From the smallest soil dwellers to large mammals, it's commonly understood that the timing, frequency, and pattern of prescribed burn practices have the potential to significantly impact wildlife. But aside from the immediate impacts of fire, how does an established fire routine change wildlife interactions with their habitat and with one another? This presentation will seek to answer some of these questions, summarizing over three decades of data exploring how prescribed fire changes the landscape and influences the health, abundance, and diversity of wildlife within it.</p>	Room A
1:00 - 1:40	<p>Demystifying the NWCG Presenters: <i>Scott Crist (Fire Management Officer - U.S. Forest Service)</i></p> <p>The National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) is shrouded in mystery...or at least it seems like it sometimes! This session will clarify what the NWCG is (and isn't), its role in wildland fire operations within the context of NIMS-ICS principles, the types of training available and how they correlate with local fire programs, and more...</p>	Room B
1:50 - 2:30	<p>Drones/UAVs and Prescribed Fire - An Overview Presenters: <i>Paul Brewer (Ret. Forest Wildlife Project Manager – Illinois Department of Natural Resources)</i></p> <p>Presented will be a brief summary of how drones/UAVs might be useful to prescribed fire managers for both planning and conducting prescribed burns. Some examples will be presented, as well as a series of short videos.</p>	Room A

1:50 - 2:30	<p>Challenges in Prescribed Fire (Discussion Panel)</p> <p>Panelists: <i>Tom Flader (Training Officer - Newport Township Fire Department), Dave Hodge (Turning Leaf Restoration), Kristin Pink (Ecologist - Forest Preserves of Cook County), Kim Roman (Biologist - Illinois Nature Preserves Commission); Moderated by John McCabe (Director of Resource Management – Forest Preserves of Cook County)</i></p> <p>Who said prescribed burning is easy? Not the experts on this panel! Our group of panelists will discuss headaches, obstacles, roadblocks and other challenges that have given them trouble over the years. Perhaps you have addressed these already or have trials of your own to share with the panel and audience members? Join the discussion by attending this moderated session and we may be able to prescribe some relief for your headaches.</p>	Room B
2:40 - 3:20	<p>Intro to the Illinois Prescribed Fire Manager Certification Process</p> <p>Presenters: <i>Dave Griffith (District Forester - Illinois Department of Natural Resources)</i></p> <p>In 2007 the state of Illinois passed a law, Public Act 95-0108, that established requirements related to conducting prescribed fires. Within this legislation are specific requirements related to certified Prescribed Burn Managers. How does one become an Illinois Prescribed Burn Manager? What does the law actually require? Nobody likes to read legal-ese, so this presentation will provide an easy to follow run down of what is needed and why it is important to receive an Illinois Prescribed Burn Manager certification.</p>	Room B
2:40 - 3:20	<p>Disentangling the Effects of Fire, Habitat, and Climate on the Endangered Regal Fritillary Butterfly</p> <p>Presenters: <i>Rich Henderson (Ecologist - Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources)</i></p> <p>The regal fritillary butterfly is a prairie-specialist requiring large tracts of treeless habit with violets (host for larvae) and nectar plants for the adults. Once abundant east of the Mississippi River, it is now very rare. For decades, concerns have been raised about whether or not regals are sustainable on sites managed with fire. In an attempt to address this issue, regal fritillary butterflies were surveyed for 20 years across four preserve complexes in south central Wisconsin being managed with fire. Research into the effects of fire history and timing on regal fritillary populations will be presented.</p>	Room A
3:30 - 4:00	<p>One Minute Show-and-Tell</p> <p>Presenters: <i>Audience-driven</i></p> <p>Has a new piece of equipment made your life easier (or harder)? Share your gadgets, inventions, fire apps, favorite smoke screening website, Avenza maps or a hundred other ideas. Send your image to bkleiman@tnc.org. We will assemble a slide show with your name on the image you sent. You attend the session, or send someone, and when your slide comes up you give an unscripted casual one-minute explanation. No homework, no presentation stress.</p>	Room B

FIELD TOUR SITES

Thursday, May 9th, 2019 at 8 a.m.

Field tours are run concurrently at each location. Participants are responsible for arranging for transportation to the designated meeting location.



Orland Grasslands Land & Water Reserve Orland Park, IL

This 1,120-acre site is a prairie restoration embedded within a suburban matrix. Originally prairie, and converted to row crop agriculture after settlement, Orland Grasslands was purchased by the Forest Preserves of Cook County in the 1960s. It was part of a reforestation program in the 1960s in which portions of the site were planted with trees. Beginning in 2007, a restoration design was initiated with the US Army Corps of Engineers to restore wetlands and prairie. The work was completed in 2013 and the site has been managed with fire regularly since that time. Dominated by fine fuels, and surrounded by an urbanized landscape, challenges abound for conducting safe and effective burns. The visit will look at equipment, tools, and strategies for effective burning in a grassland. Challenges will be discussed. Effects of fire in relation to land management issues and needs will also be discussed.



Cranberry Slough Nature Preserve Palos Hills, IL

This 570-acre site is a woodland remnant with scattered wetlands and pockets of savanna. The preserve sits within a larger matrix of woodlands that are subdivided by roads. Cranberry Slough has had an extensive invasion by Amur honeysuckle which at one time covered over 80% of the site. Recent work has eradicated all pockets of invasive brush with a low density of scattered individuals remaining. Fire is being used as a tool to reduce woodchips resulting from honeysuckle mowing, reduction of remaining scattered individuals, and invigoration of herbaceous native vegetation. Recovery is ongoing but has been impressive in some areas. The

visit will focus on how fire can be used to supplement and impact woody invasive control and also its impacts on native flora recovery.



Cap Sauers Holding Nature Preserve

Palos Park, IL

This 1,520-acre preserve is the Forest Preserves of Cook County's largest nature preserve. It is best known for a large esker that runs through its center, giving an excellent view of the woods and wetlands within the preserve. The site had limited use of fire until 2010. Since that time, fire has been used to maintain the open character of wetlands and a remnant prairie, as well as to assist with recovery of woodlands after invasive brush removal. Some areas have been treated with fire alone to assess effects on pockets of invasive brush. The visit will look at ongoing restoration work as it relates to fire management across a number of natural communities and open up a discussion of alternate techniques.

Pre-register for a field tour at <https://forms.gle/bGFUm71YafMUjdT69>

or at the Symposium on May 8th!

PRINTABLE AGENDA

7:30 - 8:30	Registration	
8:30 - 8:50	Welcome and Opening Remarks <i>Sylvia Jenkins, President of Moraine Valley Community College</i> <i>Arnold Randall, General Superintendent, Forest Preserves of Cook County</i> Location: Room M109	
8:50 - 9:00	Spark & Leadership Awards <i>Presented by Rob Littiken, Illinois Prescribed Fire Council President</i> Location: Room M109	
9:00 - 10:00	Keynote: Landscape Fire: A Management Tool or a Life Force in the Grassland Biome? <i>Gerould Wilhelm, Director of Conservation, Conservation Design Forum</i> Location: Room M109	
10:00 - 10:15	Break	
10:15 - 10:55	Discussing the New Illinois Fires Accomplished Map - What Gets Measured Gets Done <i>Bill Kleiman</i> Location: Room A	Organized Chaos: Coordinating Largescale Fire Management at the Forest Preserves of Cook County <i>John McCabe</i> Location: Room B
10:55 - 11:05	Break	
11:05 - 11:45	Using a Fire Weather Forecast (and Experience) to Develop a Prescribed Burn and Smoke Management Plan <i>Brad Woodson</i> Location: Room A	The Nature Conservancy's Southern Illinois Habitat and Fuels Crew <i>Caleb Grantham, Hugo Goulet-Papazian, Nathan Speagle</i> Location: Room B
11:45 - 1:00	Lunch	
1:00 - 1:40	Effects of Prescribed Fire on Fauna of the Southern Great Lakes Basin <i>Chris Anchor</i> Location: Room A	Demystifying the NWCG <i>Scott Crist</i> Location: Room B
1:40 - 1:50	Break	
1:50 - 2:30	Drones/UAVs and Prescribed Fire - An Overview <i>Paul Brewer</i> Location: Room A	Challenges in Prescribed Fire (Discussion Panel) <i>Tom Flader, Dave Hodge, Kristin Pink, & Kim Roman</i> Location: Room B
2:30 - 2:40	Break	
2:40 - 3:20	Disentangling the Effects of Fire, Habitat, and Climate on the Endangered Regal Fritillary Butterfly <i>Rich Henderson</i> Location: Room A	Intro to the Illinois Prescribed Fire Manager Certification Process <i>Dave Griffith</i> Location: Room B
3:20 - 3:30	Break	
3:30 - 4:00	One Minute Show-and-Tell <i>Multiple</i> Location: Room B	

Thank you for joining us and safe travels!