FEBRUARY 2020 NEWSLETTER

Southeastern Game Bird Breeders & Hunting Preserve AssociationNewsletter**2020 (2)**
The 2020 SEGB&HPA Short Course will be held April 17 at theHampton Inn**121 Holiday DriveSummerville, SC 29483Phone - 843-871-8300Fax - 843-832-3004**
2020 SEGB&HPA Short Course Registration
Name - _____

Business Name – _____
Address _____

_____

Phone - _____Email - _____Registration Fee - $100 **for your name or business_____Lunch** - $20/Person **(include number of guests____)_____Dinner/Auction** - $20/Person **(include Number of guests_____)_____**We need to know numbers for the meals because they will be catered.**Total Remitted to the SEGB&HPA _____ Send to:Dr. Gary Davis, Exec. Sec.SEGB&HPA2627 Hitchcock Dr.Durham, NC 27705**If you want to register on site, please email me to give me the numbers in your party who will be eating with us.**gpdavis@centurylink.net****We are in the process of inviting speakers, and if you know of anyone interested, please let me know.** Don't forget to bring an item(s) for our auction/dinner on the 17th. Our Association is not particularly financially well off, and the auction helps to keep us afloat**Our lunch and dinner will be held at the Tupalo cover at Wannamker Park (across from the hotel). The auction will be at the hotel**

at 8 pm.
Tentative Schedule (at the Hampton Inn) **8 am to 9 am – Board Meeting and Registration9 am to 9:45 am – Game Bird Disease Update – Dr. Doug Anderson - GA Poultry Lab10 am to 10:45 am – Hunting Preserve Safety Apparel – Ty Holland - Gunrise Gear11 am to 11:45 am – Managing A Hunting Preserve – Darrel Sanstedt – Sun Rise Quail Farm12 noon to 1:30 pm – Lunch at Wannamker Park1:45 pm to 2:30 pm – TBA2:30 pm to 3:30 pm – TBA3:30 pm to 4:30 pm – General Member Meeting (election of new Board Members, Site selection and date for 2021 meeting).6 pm to 7 pm – Dinner at Wannamker Park7:30 pm to ??? – Auction (Hampton Inn)**
Quail Restoration Supported by 28 Partners in S.C.***Council is a multi-organizational task force composed of the leaders of 28 agencies***PUBLISHED ON** January 28, 2020

COLUMBIA, S.C. — Quail restoration efforts in South Carolina improved exponentially recently when the 28 partners who make up the South Carolina Quail Council agreed to work together to help bring back the "Prince of Gamebirds.""Quail restoration is one of the greatest conservation challenges we have ever faced because of the large-scale changes in land use that have rendered many thousands of acres unsuitable, or at least only marginally suitable for these birds," said South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) Interim Director Robert Boyles. "There are 15 to 20 or more other species of birds with the same population declines as quail, and pollinators like butterflies and bees are being impacted by loss of this type habitat as well. We are very grateful to all of the partners for recognizing the scope of the task at hand and being willing to help."The South Carolina Quail Council is a multi-organizational task force composed of the leaders of 28 state and federal agencies, non-governmental conservation organizations and private landowners. It is chaired by the SCDNR director and serves to provide advocacy for habitat restoration for bobwhite quail and other wildlife species with similar habitat requirements, through the South Carolina Bobwhite Initiative. The Quail Council helps coordinate agency and organization efforts.The final

signatures have been obtained on a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the partners that make up the South Carolina Quail Council.“Every partner involved in the Quail Council has a unique set of skills or resources to contribute to restoration of quail in South Carolina,” said Boyles. “While this MOA does not bind any of the partners to anything specific, it does affirm the willingness of all involved to pull together to address the declining trend in bobwhites and similar species.”The South Carolina Bobwhite Initiative is part of the National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative, the 25-state unified strategy for restoring wild quail. That strategy can be explored at these websites: www.scbobwhites.org and www.bringbackbobwhites.org – SCDNR

ARS Ecologists Address a Burning Question***Some wonder if mowing or close grazing confers the same benefits as prescribed fire*****PUBLISHED ON** January 23, 2020

WASHINGTON — When it comes to restoring rangeland habitats, there is no replacement for “prescribed fire,” according to Agricultural Research Service (ARS) ecologists.Using fire with a stated objective—a strategy known as prescribed fire—is widely recognized as an effective way to remove standing, dead vegetation on rangelands. But fear of fire has left some to wonder if mowing or close grazing confers the same benefits.Lance Vermeire, an ecologist at the ARS Fort Keogh Livestock and Range Research Laboratory in Miles City, Montana, compared the benefits of mowing rangelands with setting them on fire to rid them of unwanted debris and reset their ecological balance. He found in a recent study that fire is better than mowing because it restores soil health and promotes growth of grass that is more nutritious for grazing cattle.“The results show that mowing is not the same as fire and cannot replace it. Fire is unique,” he says.An essential resourceWildfires are a part of the natural cycle of growth and regeneration in many Western habitats and although all fire effects are not always positive, rangeland managers have used fire to control invasive weeds, enhance forage quality, increase plant diversity and

maintain wildlife habitats. The nation's rangelands are owned and managed by a patchwork of government agencies and private interests and some managers are reluctant to use fire, opting instead to mow or graze areas to get rid of unwanted plants, open habitats to sunlight and restore native grasses."If a rangeland needs to be revitalized, the question often being asked is, 'what tools will best accomplish that?'" Vermeire says.The question is important because rangelands cover millions of acres across the Great Plains and they're essential for grazing livestock and as wildlife habitat. Rangelands are also a major source of water supplies.Climate change concernsDroughts and drier conditions brought on by climate change make it essential to carefully control any prescribed fire, Vermeire says. But the drier conditions also mean that there is more combustible material in many areas just waiting for a spark, which could be a good reason to consider prescribed fire to reduce unwanted debris, he says. "Fires are going to happen, so isn't it better to control the conditions, and decide what you want burned, and when and where you want to burn it, rather than waiting for a wildfire to break out and burn unchecked," he says.Effects on soil, forage quality and plant growthTo compare mowing with fire, Vermeire mowed the grasses in experimental plots during the May growing season, set prescribed fires in others and left others as control plots. About two months later, he measured the amount of plant material or "biomass" in the plots, analyzed the soils for nutrients and assessed the forage quality of the dominant grasses. A year later, he repeated the same measurements and assessments.He found that while mowing offered some benefits, fire proved to be a better tool for releasing nutrients into the soil, increasing the total amounts of grass and producing grass with more of the nutrients essential for healthy cattle, such as nitrogen and phosphorus. The study was partially funded by the U.S. Forest Service. The paper, published in Rangeland Ecology and Management, can be found here.The Agricultural Research Service is the U.S. Department of Agriculture's chief scientific in-house research agency. Daily, ARS focuses on solutions to agricultural problems affecting America. Each dollar invested in agricultural research results in $20 of economic impact.–Dennis

O’BrienUSDA ARS

Prescribed Burns Benefit Bees***Fire creates perfect environment for large blooms, increasing resources pollinators rely on*****PUBLISHED ON** February 6, 2020

RALEIGH, N.C. — Freshly burned longleaf pine forests have more than double the total number of bees and bee species than areas that have not burned in over 50 years, according to new research from North Carolina State University.For many forests, fire is as essential as rainfall, and while several studies have outlined the benefits of human-controlled prescribed burns on forest ecosystems, little was understood about how prescribed burns, or fires in general, may impact pollinators.“There is global concern about the decline of insects in general, and pollinators in particular, so it’s really important for land managers to understand how prescribed fire affects insect communities,” says co-author Dr. Elsa Youngsteadt from NC State’s Department of Applied Ecology.“Given the importance of fire in maintaining longleaf pine ecosystems overall, you would expect it to be good for the region’s native bees. But it’s also easy to imagine small bees and their nests, especially nests in twigs and stems, just getting incinerated. We weren’t sure where we would find the most robust pollinator community.”NC State researchers worked with the Walthour-Moss Foundation longleaf pine savannah reserve, which was established to protect this endangered pine. The reserve regularly burns 90% of its plots in 3-year cycles, while the remaining 10% of plots have not been burned for at least 50 years. This provided an ideal opportunity to compare bee abundance and diversity between unmanaged and managed ecosystems."The southeastern US has some of the highest lightning strike rates in the world, which used to contribute to low-intensity fires passing through the longleaf pine savannas every 2 or 3 years,” says Youngsteadt. “But agriculture, development, and logging fragmented this landscape and blocked the movement of fire.”For this study, researchers placed bee “traps” at 16 sites: four that had been burned the year of sampling,

four that had been burned one year before sampling, four that had been burned two years before sampling, and four unburned control sites.The researchers found that burned sites supported 2.3 times more total pollinators than plots that had not burned in 50 years. Burned sites also had 2.1 times as many different bee species as unburned sites. Within those burned areas, bee abundance and diversity tended to be greatest at sites that were most recently burned, and this abundance and diversity decreased with time since the last fire. But why?**Fires maintain openings in the forest canopy, reduce ground cover, and release nutrients into soils at the same time, creating the perfect environment for large blooms, increasing the flower resources pollinators rely on. The study also found that the low-intensity prescribed burns did not reduce the amount of nesting material for above-ground nesting pollinators, and their abundance was not impacted by the fires. Meanwhile, below-ground nesting species appeared to benefit from the increased access to bare soil.“It’s great news that prescribed fire, as it’s currently used in longleaf pine savannas, is helping to support the pollinator community, but there’s still a lot to learn,” says Youngsteadt. “For example, the fires in this study were set in the winter, but many land managers use summer burns. Knowing the effects of fire in different seasons will be an important next step, as will knowing the optimal area of land to burn at any one time.”The paper, “The Impact of Prescribed Burning on Native Bee Communities (Hymenoptera: Apoidea: Anthophila) in Longleaf Pine Savannas in the North Carolina Sandhills,” was published in the journal *Environmental Entomology* on 27 December, 2019. The paper was authored by Heather Moylett and Clyde Sorenson of NC State’s Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology and Elsa Youngsteadt of the Department of Applied Ecology. All authors contributed to the work equally. The research was funded by the Walthour-Moss Foundation.— Michelle Jewell, North Carolina State University**

Secretary's Corner

Happy Valentine's Day to all our Members