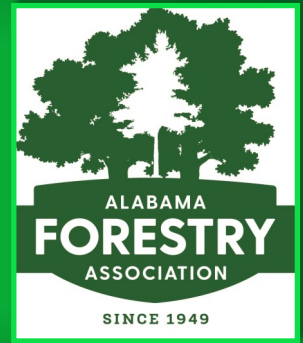




# Prescribed Fire Newsletter

*Third Quarter 2019*



## Laying fire on the ground

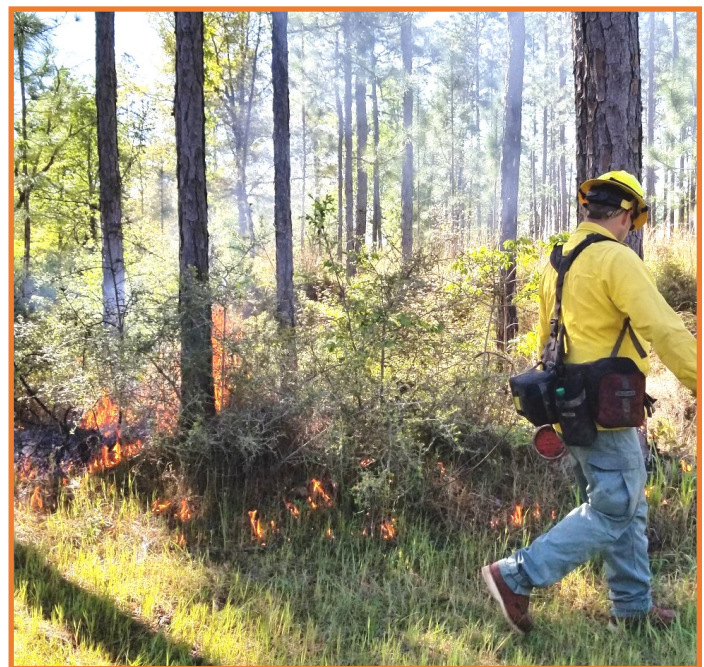
Many landowners remember days of their youth when they could ride by an open pine stand and see smoke and fire throughout. Lush vegetation, quail, and turkeys were abundant throughout the fire dominated Longleaf forest. The use of prescribed fire is becoming a lost art due to various reasons. However, 18 landowners got a first hand opportunity to use prescribed fire during a live fire demonstration.

Burners got to observe backing fires creep through longleaf stands leaving the pines unharmed. They were also able to see clear benefits to wildlife and the woods of a regular prescribed fire program on the Sharon Acres property. After spending all day with Certified Burn Managers and physically participating in a prescribed burn, many attendees went home to start planning their own burn. One participant has already been able to get help from the Alabama Forestry Commission to burn his property, while others are awaiting proper timing to put fire back on their property.

This hands on informative day was made possible through the generosity of the owner of Sharon Acres who allowed us access to burn on his property. When he was asked why he burns his Longleaf stands and fields he thought a moment, and replied “ I just want to be a good steward of the land and help the wildlife.” One look at his property makes it obvious to all that day that he is a great steward of the land.

Landowners gathered around Sharon Acres barn in Mobile County on an early and warm April morning. They expected a full day of lectures about prescribed fire; however, they were in for a surprise when instead, they were given fiery drip torches to carry, water trucks to drive and hand tools to help maintain fire lines. Participants spent all day learning how to correctly write burn plans, construct fire breaks, interpret fire weather, lay fire lines, and evaluate results of a burn. Attendees had access to several Burn Managers to talk with and ask questions.

The demonstration also provided an opportunity for landowners to talk with other landowning peers about their use of and thoughts on prescribed fire. Many told stories about Grandpa using fire on his property years ago, but expressed concern over using it today. One attendee said “ You will kill longleaf by burning in April.” Another stated “I just wanted to play with fire for a day.” Certified Burn Managers were able to answer landowners’ concerns, and make them feel as comfortable as Grandpa was when he used fire.





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## Upcoming Opportunities

- Alabama Certified Burn Manager Course, August 13-16, 2019  
**Location:** Auburn University School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences, Auburn, AL  
**Registration:** <http://forestry.alabama.gov/Pages/Fire/BurnManager.aspx>
- Alabama Certified Burn Manager Course, August 26-29, 2019  
**Location:** Stockton Civic Club, Stockton, AL  
**Registration:** <http://forestry.alabama.gov/Pages/Fire/BurnManager.aspx>
- 2019 Alabama Prescribed Fire Council Annual Meeting, September 5, 2019  
**Location:** Jefferson State Community College Chilton-Clanton Campus, Clanton, AL  
**Registration:** [alaforestry.org/events](http://alaforestry.org/events)
- 2019 Alabama Forestry Association Annual Meeting, September 8-10, 2019  
**Location:** Perdido Beach Resort, Orange Beach, AL  
**Registration:** [alaforestry.org/events](http://alaforestry.org/events)

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