

# MEET THE CAFMS/NCPFC ANNUAL MEETING PRESENTERS



**Sadia Afrin, Graduate Research Assistant, North Carolina State University (NCSSU)**

Sadia Afrin recently completed her Ph.D. from NC State University. Her Ph.D. research work focuses on chemical transport modeling and data analysis approaches to assess the air quality and health impacts from prescribed fire and wildfire smoke in the Southeast U.S. [safrin@ncsu.edu](mailto:safrin@ncsu.edu)



**Sharon Bischof, Mountain Region Biologist, North Carolina State Parks**

Sharon Bischof is the Mountain Region Biologist for North Carolina State Parks. She coordinates collaborative projects of prescribed burning, invasive species treatments, rare species inventory and monitoring, and forest and stream restoration work on State Park properties in the western 1/3 of North Carolina. [sharon.bischof@ncparks.gov](mailto:sharon.bischof@ncparks.gov)



**Jon Blanchard, Natural Resource Manager, NC State Parks**

29 years of fire experience with an emphasis on restoration of natural systems. Currently running an amazing staff of 9 full-time and 9 temporary attempting to manage 200,000 acres of fire-prone habitat that get 20 million visitors a year.

[jon.blanchard@ncparks.gov](mailto:jon.blanchard@ncparks.gov)



## **Jen Bunty, Public Info Coordinator, Consortium of Appalachian Fire Managers & Scientists**

Jen Bunty is the Public Info Coordinator for the Consortium of Appalachian Fire Managers & Scientists (CAFMS). CAFMS is one of 15 regional Fire Science Exchanges supported by the Joint Fire Science Program. Jen's educational background is in population ecology and conservation and she uses graphic design skills and tech-savvy for science communication. Her work with CAFMS is focused on building connections in the fire world and bringing science to the party. [jen@cafms.org](mailto:jen@cafms.org)

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## **Tommy Cabe, Tribal Forest Resource Specialist, Liaison for USFS and NPS**

Tommy is a Tribal member from the Bird Town Community of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. In 2005 he became the Tribal Forest Resource Specialist where he is responsible for Forest Management Plan Development on the Trust Lands and on the forested Tribal acres. Cabe serves as a liaison in the "agency to agency" relationships with the USFS and the NPS for collaboration on Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) and traditional gathering of certain resources within these adjacent landscapes. [tommcabe@nc-cherokee.com](mailto:tommcabe@nc-cherokee.com)

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## **Thomas Crate, Fire Management Officer, North Carolina State Parks and North Carolina Prescribed Fire Council President (Outgoing)**

I have been working for the State of North Carolina for the last 9 years in my current position. Prior to my position with the State, I worked on various wildland fuel mitigation projects across the country. I am a nationally qualified Prescribed Fire Burn Boss Type 2 and love implementing prescribed fire throughout the state. [thomas.crate@ncparks.gov](mailto:thomas.crate@ncparks.gov)



**Gary Curcio, Fire Environment Forester, IPA Fire Environment Specialists-LLC, La Grange, NC**

Gary Curcio is the lead Forester for IPA Fire Environment Specialists, LLC, who concentrates on wildland smoke mentoring, modeling, and training. Presently a practicing Air Resource Advisor his current work projects involve the advancement of fire Weather, forest fuels (organic soil & duff), prescribed fire and smoke management. [gary.curcio@gmail.com](mailto:gary.curcio@gmail.com)

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**Corey Davis, Assistant State Climatologist at the State Climate Office of North Carolina**

Corey has been at the State Climate Office since 2008. He is the primary developer of the Fire Weather Intelligence Portal and editor of the Climate Blog that shares the story of the weather in North Carolina.

[cndavis@ncsu.edu](mailto:cndavis@ncsu.edu)

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**Jennifer Fawcett, Extension Associate, NC State University and North Carolina Prescribed Fire Council President (Incoming)**

Jennifer Fawcett coordinates the Southeast Regional Partnership for Planning and Sustainability (SERPPAS) Prescribed Fire Work Group. She began prescribed burning in 2010 during her MS work at Clemson University, and has never looked back! She is excited to serve as your NC Prescribed Fire Council President in the coming year.

[jennifer\\_fawcett@ncsu.edu](mailto:jennifer_fawcett@ncsu.edu)





## **Greg Hicks, Assistant State Forester- Forest Protection**

Greg Hicks is an Assistant State Forester with the North Carolina Forest Service and has 22 years of experience working for the agency. He specializes in Forest Protection and oversees the agency's Wildfire and Emergency Response, Forest Health, and Law Enforcement programs. Hicks is a 1998 graduate of North Carolina State University with a BS in Forest Management. [greg.hicks@ncagr.gov](mailto:greg.hicks@ncagr.gov)

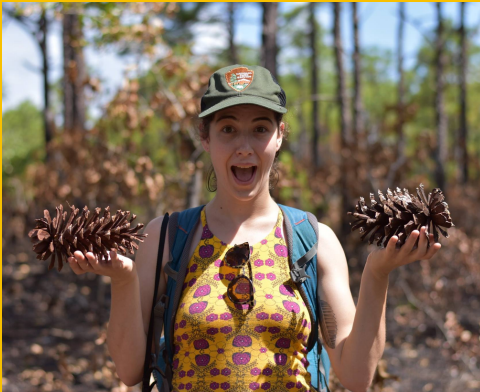
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## **Chris Jordan, Game Lands and Forest Resources Manager, NCWRC**

Chris Jordan manages the NCWRC forestry program and is an FMO. [chris.jordan@ncwildlife.org](mailto:chris.jordan@ncwildlife.org)

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## **Laurel Kays, Extension Assistant & Southern Fire Exchange Outreach Specialist**

Laurel Kays specializes in wildland fire education and outreach projects with NC State Extension Forestry, including coordinating outreach for the Southern Fire Exchange. She holds an M.S. in Forestry from NC State University. [lekays@ncsu.edu](mailto:lekays@ncsu.edu)

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## **Bryan Kerns, Teacher, Dobyns-Bennett High School Pulaski Club**

Bryan has worked in wildland fire for the past twenty years and has been teaching high school math for seventeen years. In 2019, Bryan started the Pulaski Club, a program aimed at getting wildland fire and natural resource management on the radar of high school students. The program continues to grow in popularity with students and now has a prescribed burn team that participates in several days of prescribed burning each school year, including their own on-campus fire ecology research area. [bkerns@k12k.com](mailto:bkerns@k12k.com)



**Bradley McLamb, Meteorologist, North Carolina  
Department of Environmental Quality**

Bradley McLamb is an air quality forecaster with the NC Division of Air Quality. He specializes in meteorological forecasting and analysis along with web development. He has worked on various web development projects to enhance the sharing of air quality information with our partners and the citizens of NC. [bradley.mclamb@ncdenr.gov](mailto:bradley.mclamb@ncdenr.gov)

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**Helen Mohr, Director, Consortium of Appalachian  
Fire Managers & Scientists**

Helen Helen grew up in Seneca, SC and attended Clemson University for a bachelor's and master's degree in Forest Resource Management. After graduation she has been with the Forest Service Southern Research Station as a Forester. She has worked alongside Tom Waldrop and his team for her entire career. She has assisted and led many studies associated with prescribed fire and wildfire in the southern Appalachian Mountains. Helen became the director of CAFMS in 2009. [helen@cafms.org](mailto:helen@cafms.org)

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**La' Portia J. Perkins, Federal Lands Associate,  
Landscape Conservation, Defenders of Wildlife**

La' Portia J. Perkins is a Florida born - Virginia raised wildlife/forester, social scientist, artist, and poet. She holds a B.S. in Wildlife and Fisheries Biology with a minor in Environmental Science and Policy from Clemson University and an M.S. in Forestry from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. La' Portia's job and work centers the African-diasporic experience with land management and nature in the Southeast with a focus on storytelling and connection. [Lperkins@defenders.org](mailto:Lperkins@defenders.org)



## Justin Query, Assistant Regional Forester, North Carolina Forest Service

Justin Query is the Assistant Regional Forester with the North Carolina Forest Service, covering the 33 western NC counties. Born and raised in Rowan County, he completed his Bachelors of Forest Management at NC State University in 2002. In May 2003, he was employed by the NC Forest Service as the Chatham Assistant County Ranger, and since served in various positions such as Service Forester, Education Ranger, Assistant District Forester, and Wildfire Mitigation Forester. [justin.query@ncagr.gov](mailto:justin.query@ncagr.gov)

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## Wesley Sketo, Wildfire Mitigation Forester, NC Forest Service

Coming up on a year in his new position on the NC Forest Service fire staff where he covers the western half of the state for federal mitigation grants, Community Wildfire Protection Plans and Firewise USA. Previously worked about 3 years as the management forester at DuPont SF and primarily federal employment before that with DoD and USFS. Originally from SC and attended Clemson University after an enlistment in the US Navy.

[wesley.sketo@ncagr.gov](mailto:wesley.sketo@ncagr.gov)

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## Phil Wallace, Silviculture Staff Forester, NC Forest Service

I began with the NC Forest Service in 2004 working in Fayetteville, NC as a Southern Pine Beetle Forester. It was there that I developed a passion for working with prescribed fire and the longleaf pine community. Prior to accepting the Silviculture Staff Forester position in March, I worked as the Working Lands Forester with a focus on increasing prescribed fire capacity on private lands. [phillip.wallace@ncagr.gov](mailto:phillip.wallace@ncagr.gov)





## Adam Warwick, Stewardship Manager, The Nature Conservancy

Adam Warwick has been overseeing The Nature Conservancy's land management in western North Carolina since 2012. Most of his time and effort over the past nine years has been scaling up burning to restore open structure and diversity to Appalachian pine and oak forests. He developed TNC's burn program for the North Carolina mountains; the core of which is an innovative 23-person 'call-when-needed' crew that is being modeled across the USA. Adam grew up in Knoxville, Tennessee, and received his Bachelor of Science degree in Zoology from the University of Tennessee. He went on to obtain a Masters of Science degree and Fisheries and Wildlife from the University of Missouri. [awarwick@tnc.org](mailto:awarwick@tnc.org)

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