



# North Florida Prescribed Burn Association Newsletter

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President: Ben Williams

Vice-President: Charlie Farr

Secretary: Rick Robbins

Treasurer: Michael Bush

Director: Doug Moore



## Message from the President



Ignition is an important fire term and that is what this inaugural newsletter is.....the starting point for landowners to return fire to the land as a tool for ecosystem maintenance.

On February 18, 2016 Joe Prenger, FWC Landowner Assistance Program Administrator, responded to an email sent out suggesting among other things that some sort of help from the FWC in setting up "a list of landowners (and others) who join.....a "co-op with the understanding that they will help one-another." in accomplishing prescribed burns would be a good use of FWC resources.

The payoff offered as reasoning for this help from the FWC's perspective being that their goal of improving habitat would be furthered.

Mr. Prenger's response included the following: "As a matter of fact, we are actively looking into developing one or more Prescribed Burn Associations". His email ended with this: "We will do our best to implement your suggestion!" Implicit in his response of course was the idea that the FWC would be helping landowners help themselves and thereby acting as a force multiplier, basically getting more for the State's dollars that are spent enhancing wildlife habitat. The series of communications was hopeful, though a path was unclear.

Fast forward to the present, and what we have is proof that Mr. Prenger, (actually) all the FWC folks who have been so indispensability instrumental in nurturing this along were true to their word.

What we also have proof of is, that the old American idea of helping one's neighbor is alive and well, even if that neighbor is over in the next county.

How successful the North Florida Prescribed Burn Association will be in fulfilling the opportunity that we have as a result of a lot of folks pushing along that "unclear" path that brought us to this point is, hard to say. But, assuming Mr. Churchill was correct when he said: "Continuous effort, not strength or intelligence, is the key to unlocking our potential." and factoring in that it's been the persistence of many that has gotten us to this point, I'd venture more on the side of success than failure.

## Links to Relevant Articles (ctrl/click to open)

Fire terminology

Interagency Prescribed Fire  
Planning and Implementation  
Guide

Fire frequency effects on soil  
respiration

Prescribed Fire in Florida:  
Strategic Plan 2013-2020

Southern Pine Beetle forecast

[Past Fire Festivals](#)

Video: The value of fire  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Q2vSviCKPs&t=180s>

## Upcoming events

July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018: NFPBA  
Membership meeting ,  
Gainesville, Florida

October 22 to 25, 2018: 12<sup>th</sup>  
Biennial Longleaf Conference,  
Alexandria, Louisiana

January 26, 2019: Fire  
Festival, Austin Cary Forest,  
Gainesville, Florida

## Contact Us

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# NFPBA Update

**Association progress:** NFPBA was formally created on 1/28/18 with a meeting at Austin Cary Memorial Forest with the adoption of a Charter, election of a Board and Officers, and forming several committees. Since then we have been moving forward: approximately eight NFBPA members have participated in 5 prescribed burns involving approximately 85 acres; an educational opportunity arranged by Barry Coulliette (Prescribed Fire Specialist with Alachua Conservation Trust) to observe and subsequently evaluate a 100 acre prescribed burn at Little Orange Creek Preserve; with Richard Hamann's (and several UF law students) help, we have become a non-profit corporation and have filed for 501c3 status. We also have new Bylaws and a checking/savings account. We are working on a participation log, standards/procedures, task book and applied for a grant for an equipment trailer. Barry Coulliette has reached out to many landowners to evaluation properties and make preparations for future burns. We currently have 29 members and 113 contacts on our mailing list. We've continued to add content to our Facebook page and the newsletter is here.

**Membership Meeting:** July 21, 2018 at Austin Cary Memorial Forest, Gainesville, Florida. Agenda and details will be sent out separately.

**National Wild Turkey Federation Grant proposal:** The NFPBA has submitted (May, 2018) a grant proposal to the National Wild Turkey Federation. This proposal is to provide funding for the Association to purchase an equipment trailer, fire equipment (torches, rakes, flappers, fuel cans, sprayers), weather monitors, radios, and other essential equipment. We should have more information on the status of the proposal by August or September, 2018.

**Community Service:** Recently, Board member Doug Moore hosted a prescribed fire during the Family friendly wildfire prep day in Baker County. The event was covered by the Baker County Press and highlighted the beneficial effects of prescribed fire. Good job, Doug!

## SAVE THIS DATE: Gainesville Fire Festival

*Prescribed fire demonstrations, wagon tours, live wildlife, live music, food trucks, activities for all ages*

The North Florida Prescribed Burning Association, along with numerous government agencies and other organizations from Florida, are joining together to host the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Fire Festival.

The Fire Festival is scheduled to be held at UF's Austin Cary Forest Campus, north of the Gainesville Regional Airport (10625 NE Waldo Road, Gainesville, Florida, 32609). The Fire Festival will be a public outreach event to help increase knowledge and understanding of prescribed fire as a safe, effective way to ensure ecosystem health, and reduce wildfire risk. The festival will be on January 26, 2019 (Hours TBD), during Florida's Prescribed Fire Awareness Week, with a rain date of February 2, 2019.

The event will include live prescribed fire demonstrations, multiple bands, food vendors, wildland fire trucks, bulldozers, fire plows and other equipment used in prescribed fire will be on display. Guided wagon tours

through the fire-managed forest at Austin Cary will be provided throughout the event. The tours will provide the opportunity to see and learn about how prescribed fire helps create important wildlife habitat.

So don't forget to save the date...January 26, 2019 at the Austin Cary Forest.

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## Hotspot Profile: Charlie Farr



**NFPBA HS:** Tell us a little bit about your background.

**Charlie:** *I was born in Hot Springs, Arkansas many years ago just after the Great Flood. My father was in the Army so I grew up and went to school in many places including Paris, France. I have a BS in zoology from the University of Arkansas and I went to medical school in Little Rock. I got sand in my shoes while finishing my family practice residency in Gainesville at UF and I practiced in Jacksonville for just under 30 years. I repurposed myself as a farmer in 2013 on our small farm in northwest St. Johns county where I live with my wife Mary, our two horses and dog, Ruby.*

**NFPBA HS:** How did you become interested in prescribed fire?

**Charlie:** *In the past we had the Florida Forest Service burn on our property as part of our Stewardship Forest plan. With our County forester's encouragement, I began the process to become a prescribed fire manager.*

**NFPBA HS:** What is your role in the NFBPA?

**Charlie:** *Vice-President and whatever Ben Williams tells me to do*

**NFPBA HS:** What are your goals for the NFPBA?

**Charlie:** *I would like us to help each other increase the number of burns and acreage we burn each year. It is a good thing for the land and we can have fun in a collegial activity. We are off to a good start with NFPBA participation in five burns and about 85 acres this year.*

**NFPBA HS:** Is there anything one would find surprising about you?

**Charlie:** *I am one of very few who went through four years in the Navy and and four years of medical school without learning to drink coffee.*

**NFPBA HS:** What is the most rewarding aspect of prescribed burning to you?

**Charlie:** *The way the land, plants and wildlife respond and recover after the burn.*