



Gulf Coastal Plains & Ozarks Landscape Conservation Cooperative

Newsletter, The Monitor



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Headlines at a Glance:

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[GCPO LCC fall Steering Committee Meeting](#) to be held at SEAFWA, October 9, 2012

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The Wide Angle View

News from Greg Wathen, LCC Coordinator

New Milestones in the GCPO LCC

The week of September 17, the GCPO LCC reached a couple of important milestones. First, we officially welcomed Dr. Alexis Londo as our new Geomatics Coordinator. We have previously introduced Dr. Londo to the LCC web community (Sept 6 Blog about Alexis), so I won't re-hash her background here. Nevertheless, our LCC has been looking to establish much needed geospatial capacity for some time now, so we're extremely pleased to have fulfilled that need. Dr. Londo will be serving in her role of Geomatics Coordinator, as an Assistant Professor at the Geosystems Research Institute/High Performance Computing Collaboratory (GRI/HPC2) at Mississippi State University in Starkville, MS. She'll be co-located with two USFWS Inventory & Monitoring Network staff, Janet Ertel and Kristine Evans at GRI/HPC2. I'm really pleased that we're establishing some core capacity at Mississippi State, which should really allow the GCPO LCC to flourish as we move forward with our conservation planning work. The second milestone also occurred at Mississippi State last week: the inaugural meeting of the GCPOLCC Adaptation Science Management Team (ASMT).

[Read more](#)

Thanks to Mark Musaus, Ron Seiss and Gene Gardner

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[Good News: National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation](#)

[LMVJV Management Board fall meeting](#) - Oct 10, SEAFWA Hot Springs, AR

[Workshop: Strategic Habitat Conservation and Selecting Species to Design Functional Landscapes, the Surrogate Species Approach](#) - Oct 24, 25, Lafayette, LA

[East Gulf Coastal Plain Joint Venture Fall Board Meeting](#) - Nov 14, 15 Hattiesburg, MS

[SARP July 2012 Newsletter](#)

[Fleur di Lis Fisheries Newsletter](#) from Natchitoches National Fish Hatchery - Aug issue

The GCPO LCC has some big shoes to fill in its Steering Committee leadership. Mark Musaus, our Steering Committee Chair, recently announced that he will be retiring from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service at the end of this year, after a 38-year career in the Service. And, Ron Seiss, our Vice-chair, also announced his retirement from the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks, as he moves on to a new path in his conservation career with The Nature Conservancy. While I'm thinking about retirements and vacancies on the Steering Committee, I would be remiss if I didn't also mention Gene Gardner, Steering Committee rep from the great state of Missouri. Gene is another committee member who has been with us since our beginning; he recently retired from the Missouri Department of Conservation after a long and successful career with that great agency. [Read more](#)

Strategic Habitat Conservation, Surrogate Species and the GCPO LCC

There has been a lot of talk about surrogate species lately, or at least there has been a lot of talk within the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. If you haven't heard about surrogate species, or if you are not familiar with the terminology, here's a synopsis: On July 23, 2012, USFWS Director Dan Ashe released an announcement to Service employees, directing the Fish & Wildlife Service to embark on a fundamentally new path of conservation in the 21st century. The basic announcement was that for the Service to be successful and true to its mission in the 21st century, it would require a new way of working and thinking about their conservation work. In short, Dan Ashe wanted to increase the Service's commitment to Strategic Habitat Conservation as a way of working, to direct their work towards landscape level priorities, and to better prepare itself for the accelerated changes and landscape stresses of the 21st century. The approach that the Service is proposing to define and design landscapes capable of sustaining fish and wildlife is called "surrogate species". This week, in Memphis, TN (at the Ducks Unlimited Headquarters), and the last week in October in Lafayette, LA, the USFWS will be hosting



Opportunities & Events:

[Avian Research Position at Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission](#)

[Two Positions Open at Texas Tech University and South Central Climate Science Center](#)

[Gulf Coast Prairie LCC seeks Science Coordinator](#)

[SEAFWA Annual Conference- Hot Springs, AR](#)

[NE Climate Science Center Stakeholder Meetings](#) - Oct 30, 31 U. of MN

[Gulf Coast Joint Venture fall Board Meeting in LA](#)

[Mississippi-Alabama Bays and Bayous Symposium](#) - Nov 14, 15 MS Coast Coliseum & Convention Center

[Longleaf Alliance 9th Annual Meeting](#) - Oct 23-26, Nacogdoches, TX

[Two post doctoral positions at Colorado State University](#)

[Be part of the first National Adaptation Forum](#)

More from the [gcpolcc.org Funding & Grants](#) page

More from the [gcpolcc.org Position Announcements](#) Page

News You Can Use

[Ecosystem Services webinar by David Yoskowitz. Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies](#) -first webinar recorded by the GCPO LCC

[The National LCC bi-monthly report for Sep 2012](#)

workshops on its Draft Technical Guidance on Selecting Species for Design of Landscape Scale Conservation.

[Read more](#)

LCCs, the Southeastern State Historic Preservation Offices, and the Conservation of Cultural Resources

I recently traveled to Asheville, NC, to attend a meeting of the Southeastern State Historic Preservation Offices (SE SHPO), which provided a great opportunity for me to learn more about the world of cultural resource protection, and to meet some of the folks who are most interested in that part of conservation. My primary reason for attending was to participate in a session on Landscape Conservation Cooperatives, which explored opportunities for LCCs and SHPO to collaborate with each other on projects of mutual interest. My thanks to Janet Cakir of the South Atlantic LCC, and Ramona Bartos of the North Carolina Dept of Cultural Resources, for spearheading this effort of getting the LCCs and SHPOs together, and for providing the opportunity to exchange ideas. The meeting was well attended, including several from the Tennessee office here in my hometown of Nashville.

Ever since taking on the job of Coordinator for the GCPO LCC, I have known that cultural resources conservation fell under the purview of LCC responsibilities, but have not had a very good idea on how we were supposed to approach this community, or how cultural resources might fit in with the concept of landscape scale conservation.

[Read more](#)

Planning for Growth and Open Space Conservation Webinar Series

Session 5 of this very interesting [Planning for Growth and Open Space Conservation Webinar Series](#) last week.

You can view Session 5 [here](#). I was especially intrigued by some of the innovative tax incentive tools for conservation that are being established in areas like Seattle, WA. Other previous sessions of the series are accessible at the main web site (above), and you can also sign up for future webinar events.

From Under the Scope

[New Free Tools for Stream Ecosystem Modeling Available](#)

[Study results: In Ouachita River, increased species richness and diversity downstream from Rempel Dam after increased minimum flows from the Southern Instream Flow Network](#)

[Estimating Global “Blue Carbon” Emissions from Conversion and Degradation of Vegetated Coastal Ecosystems](#)

[New Study: A Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment of California's At-Risk Birds](#)

[Link to paper: WRP Quantitative Benefits to Amphibians in the MAV](#)

[Link to paper: Assessment of Changing Ecosystem Services Provided by Marsh Habitat in Galveston Bay region, TX](#)

[Link to UK study: Food production and wildlife can coexist if land use is planned at a bigger scale](#)

[Lower Mississippi River Sportfishing Guide](#) available online, from the LMRCC Committee

[Look, Don't Touch](#) - Thought-provoking article on “the problem with environmental education”

Gulf of Mexico news

[The Partnership for Gulf Coast Land Conservation 3rd Annual Meeting](#)

[Goals and Priorities in the Gulf of Mexico Region](#)

[Integrated Ecosystem Assessments and Indicators](#)

The View from John Tirpak, the LCC Science Coordinator

Adaptation Science Management Team Meets in Starkville

Thanks to everyone who made the inaugural meeting of the Adaptation Science Management Team in Starkville, MS such a smashing success. The Team expended some serious brainpower addressing some real tough technical challenges (broadly evaluating alternative conservation frameworks, framing out conceptual models, and discussing appropriate conservation targets). However, despite that mentally exhausting effort, the enthusiasm and optimism of the group about the LCC's role in connecting our too-often disjunct resource perspectives and taking on the large-scale stressors affecting our natural and cultural resources was both palpable and contagious. I never cease to be amazed at the talent and dedication of the conservation professionals working in the Gulf Coastal Plains & Ozarks geography, and after just a few short days with just a few representatives of that larger conservation community I emerged re-energized about the importance of our shared mission.

In the coming weeks and months . . .

[Read more](#)

Staff Highlight

H. Alexis Londo is the GIS and forestry expert who started September 17, 2012 as the GCPO LCC's Geomatics Coordinator. Working as an employee of Mississippi State University (MSU), Alexis has stepped into the latest dedicated GCPO LCC position to be added to the Cooperative. Her position represents a portion of MSU's contribution to the GCPO LCC and is yet another example of how GCPO partners are leveraging their resources to work toward the goal of sustainable natural and cultural resources on a landscape scale. Alexis will be co-located with the MSU Geosystems Research Institute, alongside the FWS Inventory & Monitoring positions attached to the GCPO. Alexis has a wealth of experience and her background is seemingly tailor-made for this position. “All my hours of statistics, programming



From Our LCC Network

(LCCs with GCPO states)

[Historic Preservation 101](#)

[Appalachian LCC launches new web portal](#)

[Upper Midwest and Great Lakes Landscape Conservation Cooperative Announces Fiscal Year 2011 Projects](#)

[New South Central Climate Science Center Director Announced](#)

[Upper Midwest and Great Lakes Landscape Conservation Cooperative Names Bradly Potter New Science Coordinator](#)

[Northeast Climate Science Center Director Announced](#)

[Dr. Gwen White hired as Eastern Tallgrass Prairie and Big Rivers LCC Science Coordinator](#)

[SALCC October Newsletter](#)

[Great Plains News, summer 2012](#)

Forecasting the Future

[A Conservation Legacy Made to Last, by Dan Ashe](#) - featuring our very own Taylor Hannah!

[Link to article: NEON light- a 30-year plan to study America's ecology is about to begin](#)

and remote sensing training combined with my forestry and biology education have prepared me to take on this position," she says.

[Read more](#)

From Around the GCPO Region

Southeast Conservation Adaptation Strategy Update

There are many mechanisms affecting the southeastern natural and working landscapes, environments that are critical to the region's economic and environmental health. Forces such as urbanization, climate change, energy production, and sea level rise all have major influences, and some we are just starting to understand from a regional perspective. In order to effectively mitigate and adapt to these changes, conservation planning and action must be proactive and address change across organizations, across disciplines, across partnerships and ultimately within a socioeconomic context. This is the goal of the Southeastern Conservation Adaptation Strategy (SECAS), a regional, multi-partner initiative led by members of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (SEAFWA), supported by federal leaders in the Southeast Natural Resources Leadership Group (SENRLG), and developed through partners comprising the southeastern network of Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (South Atlantic, Peninsular Florida, Appalachians, Gulf Coastal Plains & Ozarks, Caribbean and Gulf Coast Prairies LCCs).

[Read more](#)

Mississippi River Corridor - Tennessee, Inc - the Little Organization that Could

It's hard to believe that an organization made up of just two staff have achieved as much as the MRCT has in the past seven years. With the goal of "creating a better quality of life and economic development for our citizens that live along the Mississippi River in west Tennessee," the duo of Diana Threadgill, President, and Glenn Cox, VP have worked with a myriad of local, state, federal and private partners to develop - and execute - corridor management and environmental enhancement plans for the entire west Tennessee corridor. Guided by a Board of Directors that includes Ed Carter, TWRA Director, the

organization is at the cutting edge of linking natural resource conservation planning with the needs and desires of local communities. “Through our six-county MRCT Task Force Committees, we have held a multitude of meetings with local communities up and down the Corridor, and guess what they all say is most important to them?”

[Read more](#)

New Report Shows Rise in Hunting, Fishing and Wildlife-Related Recreation Participation in 28 States

Billions of dollars generated for local economies and conservation! Participation in wildlife-associated recreation increased in 28 states since 2006, according to the findings of the 2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation State Overview Report released by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on September 12, 2012. The National Survey, conducted since 1955, measures participation in these activities and related spending on trips and equipment across the nation and in individual states. The 2011 data show that hunters, anglers and wildlife watchers spent \$145 billion last year on related gear, trips and other purchases such as licenses, tags and land leasing or ownership.

[Read more](#)

Gulf of Mexico News

Are you interested in seeing how the LCC, Climate Science Centers, Coastal Zone Management Programs, and Gulf of Mexico Alliance goals and activities align? Check out this matrix: [LCC, CSC, CZM, GOMA Matrix](#). This matrix was provided to the Gulf of Mexico Alliance during their annual meeting in June 2012. The annual meeting is used by the Alliance to bring together partners to identify opportunities to leverage activities to meet their Action Plan goals. The matrix shows several areas of shared goals and priorities. Please feel free to contact me with any suggestions or questions ([Email Laurie Rounds](#)).

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