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OHIO PRESCRIBED FIRE COUNCIL'S ANNUAL MEETING

Ohio Fire Academy
8895 East Main Street, Reynoldsburg
Tuesday, December 5th, 2023
9:30 am – 3:30 pm

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| 9:30-10:00 am | Registration & refreshments |
| 10:00-10:15 am | Welcome , <i>John Watts, OPFC Chair</i> |
| 10:15-11:15 am | KEYNOTE: Fire Season Phenology - Applying Fire Science to Open the Burn Window
<i>Jack McGowan-Stinski, Program Manager, Lake States Fire Science Consortium</i> |
| 11:15-11:30 am | Update on Ohio's Rules and Regulations, Step Grants
<i>Greg Guess, Deputy Director, Ohio Division of Forestry</i> |
| 11:30-12:15 pm | Burning in Ohio's Oak Forests
<i>Dr. Roger Williams, Associate Professor of Forestry and Ecosystem Analysis and Management, The Ohio State University</i> |
| 12:15-1:00 pm | LUNCH |
| 1:00-2:00 pm | Restoration by Fire
<i>Nate Simons, Executive Director, Blue Heron Ministries, Inc.</i> |
| 2:00-2:15 pm | Break |
| 2:15-3:15 pm | Panel Discussion , with interactive "Menti Surveying"
<i>Grace Dietsch, Regional Manager of Conservation, Five Rivers Metro Parks</i> |
| 3:15-3:30 pm | Summary and Adjourn |

SPEAKER BIOS:

Jack McGowan-Stinski, Keynote:

Jack McGowan-Stinski is the Program Manager for the Lake States Fire Science Consortium. His main duties include managing the activities of LSFSC, and liaising with researchers, land and fire managers, and policymakers across the Lake States Region. Jack received a B.S. in Wildlife Biology from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, and a M.S. in Conservation Biology from Central Michigan University. Jack is one of the founders of the Michigan Prescribed Fire Council, has supported the start-up of other State RX Councils in IL, IN, MN, OH, PA, WI, and currently is part of the steering committee for both the NE-MW Regional Prescribed Fire Council, and the Coalition of Prescribed Fire Councils.

Dr. Roger Williams:

Dr. Williams received his BS and MS degrees from the Ohio State University in Forest Biology and Silviculture respectively, and his PhD in Forest Resource Management from the University of Maine. He currently serves on the Forestry Faculty in the SENR at OSU and serves as the Academic Director of the China Gateway Program in the Office of International Affairs. Dr. Williams served as a wildfire expert on the Discovery's Science Channel Weird Science program. He teaches Wildland Fire Management and Forest Management courses at OSU and serves on the Silvics of North America Project sub-committee to write the Exotic and Invasive Species Chapters of the USFS Silvics of North America handbook. Dr. Williams currently serves as Co-PI on a NSF research project to study the Integration of Autonomous UAS in Wildland Fire Management.

Nate Simons:

Nate Simons is a registered landscape architect and executive director of Blue Heron Ministries, Inc. He graduated with Bachelor of Landscape Architecture and Bachelor of Science degrees from Ball State University, with a minor in Natural Resources (1985). Nate has an interest in historic modeling of Great Lakes Region wetland, prairie, savanna, and oak woodland communities. His experience in restoring wild places includes the control of exotic/invasive plant species, reintroduction of native plant communities, and prescribed fire management. In addition to directing Blue Heron Ministries, Inc., Nate is employed on a part-time basis by the Indiana Division of Nature Preserves as an Ecologist Aide, which includes resource management planning and stewardship of state nature preserves in northeast Indiana.

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