

# People of Fire in Time and Place



Northeast-Midwest Prescribed Fire  
Science and Management Workshop  
Albany, New York  
August 19-22, 2024



WELCOME TO THE ALBANY PINE BUSH PRESERVE

# Our Story of People of in Time & Place



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# Northeast-Midwest Prescribed Fire Science and Management Workshop

Albany, NY

August 19–22, 2024

## PROGRAM SCHEDULE

<b>Monday, August 19</b> (Pre-workshop Training Opportunities)	Pre-registration required
<b>Smoke TOOLS Workshop</b> – Alexia Prosperi, Air Quality Specialist, Eastern Region (WI), USFS and Ralph Perron, Air Quality Specialist, Eastern Region (NH), USFS	<b>Governor E</b> 10:00 am – 5:00 pm
<b>Fire History in the Northeast US: Understanding Long-term Fire Regime and Forest Change with Tree Rings and Fire Scars</b> – Joseph Marschall, Center for Tree-Ring Science, University of Missouri; Daniel Dey, USDA FS Northern Research Station; and Chris Guiterman, CIRES University of Colorado Boulder, and NOAA's NCEI	<b>Governor D</b> 1:00 – 5:00 pm
Early Registration Check-in ( <i>check-in early and pick up your badge and packet</i> )	4:00 – 6:00 pm

Day One –  
“Once Upon a  
Time...”

WELCOME

Indigenous  
Fire Keeping  
& fire history

WHY do we  
Burn NOW?  
Contemporary  
Burning  
& Fire Effects

Capacity,  
Collaboration &  
Communications

### Tuesday, August 20

Registration Check-in	7:00 – 8:30 am
<b>Welcome and Opening Remarks</b> Corey Lehman, Acting Deputy Commissioner, NYS DEC Office of Public Protection; Sean Mahar, Interim Commissioner, NYS DEC; Neil Gifford, Conservation Director, Albany Pine Bush Preserve Commission	8:30 – 9:00 am
<b>Indigenous Firekeeping</b> Moderator: Mike Dockry, Assistant Professor, Forest Resources; Affiliate Faculty, American Indian Studies, University of Minnesota; Bazile Panek, Fire-Plan Research Coordinator, University of Wisconsin-Platteville; Cheyenne Reuben-Thomas, PhD student, Cornell University; Troy Phillips, Enrolled member and Sub-Chief, Hassanamisco Nipmuc Tribe Chairperson. Commissioner, Massachusetts Commission on Indian Affairs	9:00 – 10:30 am
Networking break	10:30 – 11:00 am
<b>WHY do we burn NOW? Part One – Past is Prologue: Fire Ecology and Fire Effects</b> Dan Dey, Assistant Director Research, Northern Research Station, US Forest Service	11:00 – 12:00 pm

<b>Tuesday (continued)</b>	
<b>Lunch (provided)</b>	12:00 - 1:00
<b>WHY do we burn NOW? Part Two - Contemporary Burning: Why and Where</b> Moderator: Chris Guiterman, Assistant Research Professor, University of Arizona, Laboratory of Tree-Ring Research Polly Weigand, NAFSE and Fire Projects Manager Forest Stewards Guild Samuel Gilvarg, PhD student, Applied Forest and Fire Ecology Lab, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry Jessica Cancelliere, Research Scientist/Forest Health Section Chief, NYS DEC Michael Gallagher, Research Ecologist, Northern Research Station, Silas Little Experimental Forest	1:00 - 2:30 pm
<b>Networking break</b>	2:30 - 3:00 pm
<b>Capacity, Collaborations, and Communications: Presentation/Panel</b> Moderator: Polly Weigand, Workshop Coordinator – NAFSE and Fire Projects Manager Forest Stewards Guild Chris Hawver, Executive Director, Albany Pine Bush Preserve Commission Tom Brady, Executive Director, Northeastern Forest Fire Compact Robert Cavanagh, Acting Director, Division of Forest Protection, NYSDEC Amanda Mahaffey, Forest Ecologist, US Fish and Wildlife Service Caren Caljouw, Prescribed Fire Manager, Massachusetts Dept. Fish and Wildlife Jon Bailey, Maine Fire Manager, The Nature Conservancy Todd Breininger, Prescribed Fire Specialist, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources	3:00 - 4:30 pm
<b>Wrap up for the day</b>	4:30 - 4:45 pm
<b>Social reception with the Exhibitors and Sponsors</b>	4:45 - 6:45 pm



<b>Wednesday, August 21</b>	
<b>Morning Briefing</b> – Neil Gifford, Field Trip Coordinator – Conservation Director, Albany Pine Bush Preserve Commission	8:30 - 9:00 am
<b>Field Trip to Albany Pine Bush Preserve</b> (includes transportation and lunch)	9:00 am - 2:00 pm
Return to hotel	2:00 pm
Working group meetings	2:00 - 4:00 pm
Poster Slam and social reception	4:00 - 6:00 pm

Day Three –  
**NOT**  
 ✓ “The End”

Conclusions from  
 APB Field Trip

What should  
 RX fire  
 training look  
 like for the  
 Region?

Connecting Capacity:  
 A Facilitated  
 Discussion to Identify  
 and Overcome  
 Barriers to Good Fire

Outstanding  
 Questions –  
 What’s Next?

## Thursday, August 22

Morning Briefing	8:30 – 8:45 am
<b>Smoke/Air Quality updates</b> Alexia Prospero, Air Quality Specialist, Eastern Region (WI), USFS Ralph Perron, Air Quality Specialist, Eastern Region (NH), USFS	8:45 – 9:00 am
<b>Training Needs for Prescribed Fire Practitioners</b> Moderator: Zach Prusak, Wildland Fire Training Specialist, Tall Timbers Research Station, Chair, Coalition of Rx Fire Councils Scott Jackson, Fire Management Officer, Division of Forest Protection, NY DEC Jim Elleson, Program Manager and Standards Committee Chair, Wisconsin Prescribed Fire Council George Jensen, Coordinator, Southwest Georgia PBA, Tall Timbers Sara Hart, Project Assistant, Division of Lands and Forests, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation	9:00 – 10:00 am
Networking break	10:00 – 10:30 am
<b>Connecting Capacity: A Facilitated Discussion to Identify and Overcome Barriers to Good Fire</b> Facilitator: Alex Belote, Fire Program Coordinator, Massachusetts DCR	10:30 – 11:30 am
<b>Connecting Capacity Roundup</b>	11:30 – 12:00 pm
Lunch (provided)	12:00 – 1:00 pm
<b>Special Presentation – TBD</b>	1:00 – 2:00 pm
<b>National Policy and Standards Updates</b> Dave Celino, Chief Fire Warden, Massachusetts DCR Steve Goldman, Deputy Director, Fire and Aviation, USFS, Eastern Region	2:00 – 2:45 pm
<b>Workbook Synthesis, Outstanding Questions – What’s Next?</b> Jack McGowan–Stinski, Program Manager, Lake States Fire Science Consortium Amanda Mahaffey, Forest Ecologist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	2:45 – 3:00 pm
<b>Workshop Adjourns</b>	3:00 pm

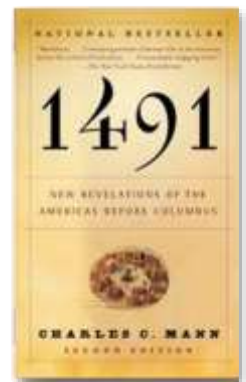
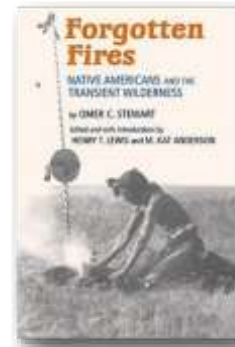
# Indigenous Firekeeping

TUESDAY, AUGUST 20  
9:00AM-10:30AM

## CASE STUDY: Fire history in the Albany Pine Bush (APB)

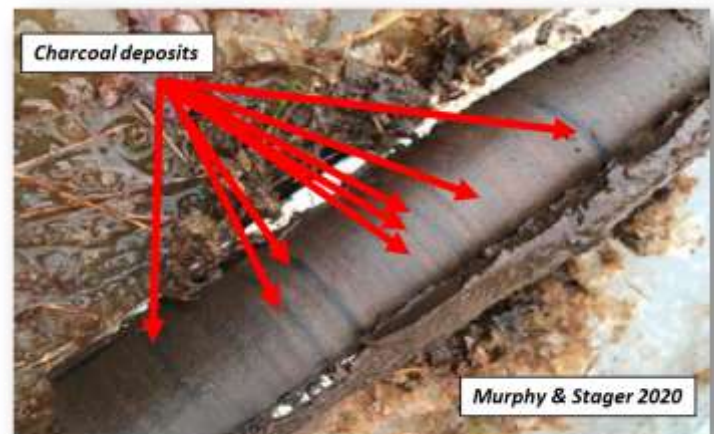
The Albany Pine Bush Preserve lies within the unceded territory of the Stockbridge-Munsee Community of Mohican Indians and at the eastern door of the Mohawk Nation of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy. Both nations suffered from the forced removal from much of their ancestral homelands.

*Muh-he-conneok: People of the Never Still Waters - Mahicannitock (Hudson River).*



“Rather than thick, unbroken snarls of trees imagined by Thoreau, the greater eastern forest was a kaleidoscope of garden plots, blackberry brambles, pine barrens and spacious groves of chestnut, hickory and oak.”  
*Mann, 1491.*

- Research by Paul Smith’s College and Concordia University (in press) reveal a 6,600 year continuous record of oak, pine and wildland fire here.
- This history suggests a fire frequency heavily influenced by Indigenous Firekeeping.





# Indigenous Firekeeping In Your Place

What were some of your takeaways from the session? How do they apply regionally?

When you go back to Your Place how will you update your organization about your place in fire history and Indigenous Firekeeping? Where will you begin?

How do you develop respectful relationships with Indigenous partners?

# WHY Do We Burn NOW?

TUESDAY, AUGUST 20

11:00AM—12:00PM Part One - Past is Prologue: Fire Ecology and Fire Effects

1:00PM-2:30PM Part Two - Contemporary Burning: Why and Where



## CASE STUDY: WHY does the APB Burn NOW?

### Biodiversity:

- One of the best remaining examples of an Inland Pitch Pine-Scrub Oak Barrens (S1/G2)
- Type locality of the Endangered Karner Blue Butterfly (S1/G1)
- Supports 113 other rare wildlife species (S1-S3) including >70 NYS SGCN
- One of the most diverse native pollinator and moth communities of any northeastern grassland or barrens (>200 native bees).
- Hundreds of “common” but no less worthy species
- Six rare plants

### Wildfire Risk Reduction: reduce hazardous fuel loading.

- >250,000 people visit the preserve annually
- Many more live, commute, and/or work within the APBP Wildland Urban Interface.

### Invasive Species Management

- Reduce abundance and alter competitive advantage
- Prevent successful invasion/reinvasion via frequent fire

### One Health: reduce ticks and tick-borne disease

### Climate Resilience

- Assisted migration: potential source populations and future recipient site.
- Reduce threats from emerging problematic species (e.g. southern pine beetle).

## Albany Pine Bush Preserve Designations

- National Natural Landmark
- Maurice D. Hinchey Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area Site
- National Recreational Trail Site
- NYS Unique Area
- NYS Birding Trail Site
- NYS Bird Conservation Area
- National Audubon Society Important Bird Area





## WHY do You Burn NOW?

*Sketch out some of your fire dependent critters or plants*



What new ideas did you learn from this session?

What is the fire ecology of Your Place? What are your fire-dependent species? What are the desired fire effects? When and where does Your Place need fire to occur in terms of timing (frequency and seasonality), space (extent and scale), and effects (intensity and severity)?

How do you share this knowledge about WHY you or your organization burns?

# Capacity, Collaboration, and Communication

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 20**

**3:00PM — 4:30PM Presentation Panel**

**CASE STUDY:** APB working with partners on a proactive approach to build capacity, credibility, awareness, confidence, understanding and acceptance of prescribed fire.

## Ongoing Outreach and Interpretive Education.

### Annual outreach for the upcoming fire season.

- Postcard mailing to 6k neighbors
- Survey residents
- Personalized letter to stakeholders and officials
- Press release announcing the beginning of the season
- S130 & S190 offered to all Albany County Fire Depts

### Discovery Center Exhibits

- Interpretive center has exhibits dedicated to fire
- Landscaping is periodically burned as part of S130 & S190 training.

### Educational Programing

- Public programs- hikes to see effects of fire
- School curriculum about prescribed fire
- Discovery Kits that are loaned to schools
- Science lectures for those interested in fire research
- Partner Presentations – Albany Institute of History and Art, garden clubs, colleges, community organizations, etc.

### Special Events that Feature Fire

- Lupine Fest - partners have tables and help with public demonstrations
- Smokey Bear Day - partner with NYS DEC
- Night at the Discovery Center –volunteers help introduce people to prescribed fire

### Community Outreach

- Tabling
- Special exhibits
- Brochures and other materials
- Website pages and vanity url
- Roadside billboards
- Information at trailhead kiosks
- Social Media – informational videos on YouTube, Instagram #apbburncrew



## Notifications, Alerts and Public Relations for each individual fire.

### Recruiting Crew

- Email list of approx. 500 interested wildland fire professionals and officials.
- Call for crew several days prior
- GO/NO-GO day prior

### Notifications

- Phone calls to officials, public safety (airport tower, dispatch for police, fire and NYS thruway), businesses and neighbors located in the vicinity of the burn location
- Emails to approximately 600 people who have signed up for Rx fire alerts – includes trail closures
- Website alert page
- Social Media: Facebook announcement to 21k followers
- If location allows, special invitations to VIPs, media and guests to view a prescribed fire

## Why do we do it?

- We're a 3,400 acre preserve surrounded by more than 200,000 households within a 10-mile radius of the Discovery Center.
- It reassures the public and officials that we are professionals.
- Allows businesses and neighbors time to mitigate for smoke. For example: close windows, turn off air handlers, relocate for a few hours, allow for extra travel time, etc.

## What are we seeing as a result?

- Reduction in complaint calls
- Greater cooperation from municipalities
- Dispatchers relay information directly to people calling 911
- NYS Thruway posts alerts on digital signage
- Nixle announcements
- An increase in people coming to our defense on social media
- Our staff, partners and volunteers are seen as experts in their field



# Capacity, Collaboration, and Communication in Your Place

What barriers and solutions, Villains and Heroes, did you hear in these stories? How do these characters interact?

What ideas did you hear for building capacity around prescribed fire?

How can You be part of the collaboration and communication solution?



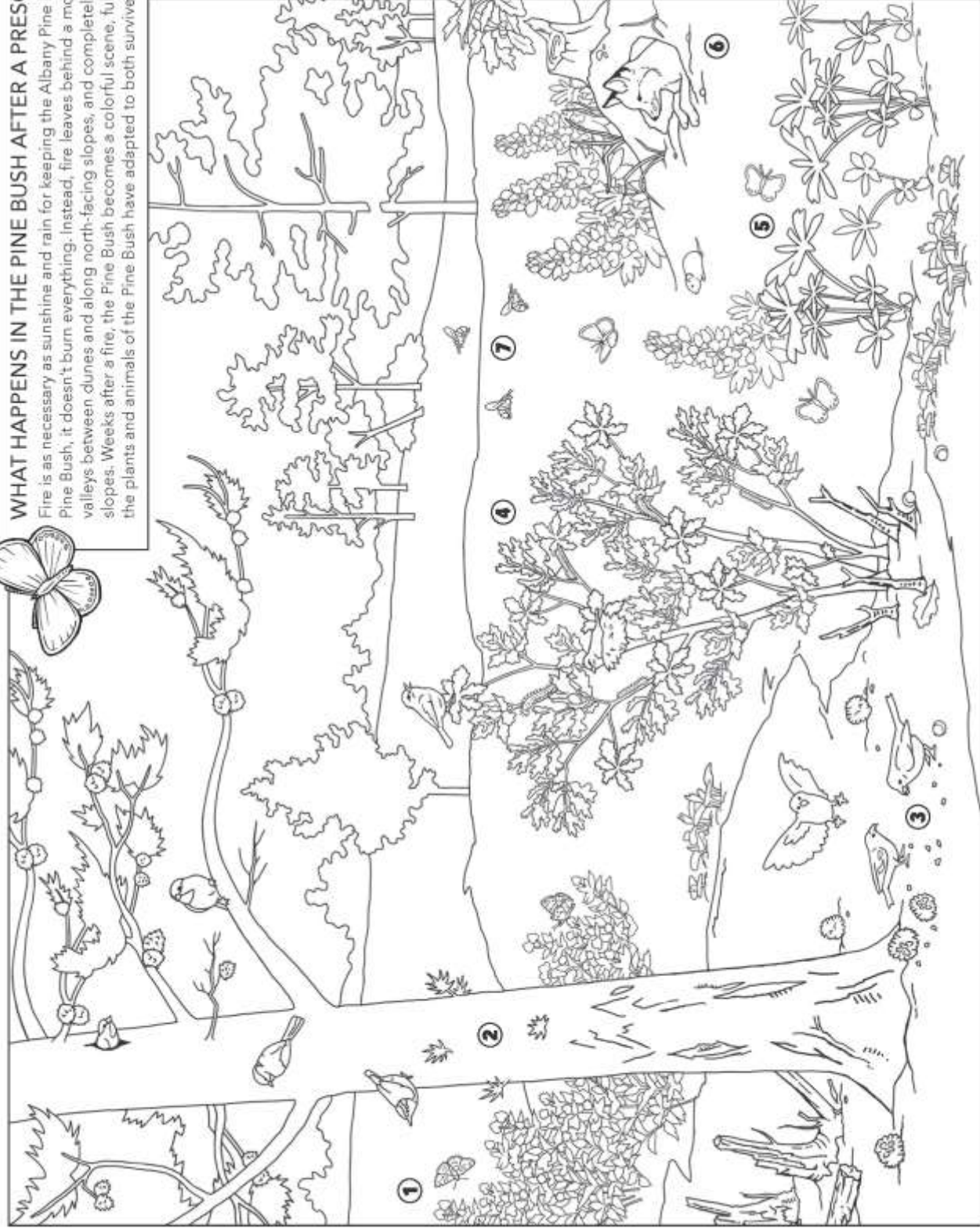
*"We're saving more than the Karner blue butterfly and other endangered species with these burns; we're saving ourselves."  
~Altamont Enterprise Editorial Board 2023*



# Prescribed fire is central to educational programming.

## WHAT HAPPENS IN THE PINE BUSH AFTER A PRESCRIBED FIRE?

Fire is as necessary as sunshine and rain for keeping the Albany Pine Bush healthy. When a fire moves through the Pine Bush, it doesn't burn everything. Instead, fire leaves behind a mosaic with unburned patches of land in the valleys between dunes and along north-facing slopes, and completely burned areas at the tops of south-facing slopes. Weeks after a fire, the Pine Bush becomes a colorful scene, full of amazing and unusual life. Discover how the plants and animals of the Pine Bush have adapted to both survive and depend on fire in the scene below!



- 1 New Jersey tea is a flowering shrub with immense roots that survive fire below ground. The new stems and leaves that sprout after a fire are food for the larvae of the rare mottled duskywing skipper. Fire also helps the seeds of NJ tea to germinate.
- 2 Pitch pine are able to survive fire with thick bark and the ability to sprout new needles directly from their trunk and branches. These fresh green epicormic sprouts pick up where the old burned needles left off.
- 3 Pitch pine cones will open in the heat of a fire, releasing seeds to the ground below. Foraging wildlife including birds and mammals eat the seeds as well as ants, bees and other insects that are now easy to find.
- 4 Scrub oaks grow back quickly after a fire. Shrubland birds like the Prairie Warbler in this picture build their nests among the scrub oak's long stems and dense leaves. The leaves are also food for the caterpillars of the rare inland barrens buck moth.
- 5 Although Karner blue butterflies cannot survive a fire, they depend on fire to maintain their habitat. Wild blue lupine, the Karner blue's host plant is enriched by nutrients released during a fire. It thrives in the open spaces fire creates. Karner blues survive the fire in unburned patches and future generations return to the fresh lupine sprouts that grow back after the fire.
- 6 Underground burrows protect animals from the heat of a fire. Animals like this fox, wait below the surface for the fire to pass before emerging to hunt for voles and mice in the now-open landscape.
- 7 A diversity of bees including many solitary bees require open sand for nesting. Bees play a crucial role in pollinating lupine and other wildflowers.



## FIELD TRIP: Shifting Paradigms in Restoring Fire Regimes in the Albany Pine Bush Preserve

The Albany Pine Bush Preserve supports one of the best worldwide examples of an inland Pitch Pine–Scrub Oak barrens (PPSOB S1/G2) and provides habitat for 114 rare animal species including more than 70 NYS wildlife Species of Greatest need. Since 1991 management focused on reducing wildfire risk and improving ecosystem health (composition, structure, function) by restoring altered fire regimes and recovering the endangered Karner Blue (*Plebejus melissa samuelis*) has proven challenging but successful. High quality PPSOB has grown to nearly 1000 ha (~2,500 acres) and the annual Karner metapopulation has exceeded the 3000-butterfly federal minimum for 11 years, and the 7,600-butterfly target for 10 years.

However, as managers transition more acreage from a restoration regime to maintenance, questions remain about setting seral stage targets and their respective ideal fire frequency. How much of each seral stage should be maintained and how frequently should we burn them to maintain appropriate fuel loads, and prevent/reduce invasive species and overabundant natives (e.g., scrub oak, pitch pine, white pine), while facilitating the expansion of desirable native plants, and maintaining habitat for so many rare wildlife species simultaneously?

**The field trip will offer an opportunity to discuss these questions while observing the results of prescribed fire and other ecological management techniques in the Albany Pine Bush Preserve, including:**

- Growing season prescribed fire
- Dormant season prescribed fire
- Invasive tree removal
- Native forest thinning
- Scrub oak mowing and thinning
- Restoration Seeding

APB Rx Fire 1991—1999	APB Rx Fire 2000—2024
<p><b>Logistics</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8-week spring dormant season window</li> <li>• High rates of spread &amp; flame length in pitch pine-scrub oak barrens fuels</li> <li>• Light, shifting, and high wind problematic</li> <li>• Complicated smoke and fire management</li> <li>• Limited crew, gear and training relative to 2024</li> <li>• Assumed fire alone would achieve all goals</li> </ul>	<p><b>Logistics</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mechanical pretreatments to reduce and/or rear-range fuels</li> <li>• Increased minimum RH and fuel moisture</li> <li>• Enabled growing season fire</li> <li>• Opened the wetter end of the prescription</li> <li>• Mow+Burn produced high heat but lower flame length &amp; rates of spread</li> <li>• Increased residence time</li> </ul>
<p><b>Effects</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Only top-killed woody plants</li> <li>• Increased 10 and 100-hour dead woody fuel</li> <li>• Exacerbated invasive plants</li> <li>• Little duff reduction</li> <li>• Little mineral soil exposure</li> <li>• No lupine expansion</li> <li>• Almost no pitch pine recruitment</li> <li>• Stressful</li> <li>• Escaped prescribed fire 4/27/1999</li> </ul>	<p><b>Effects</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consumed all mowing slash, litter and duff</li> <li>• Improved smoke and fire management</li> <li>• Exposed considerable mineral soil</li> <li>• Improved pitch pine recruitment</li> <li>• Enabled lupine expansion &amp; Kbb recovery</li> <li>• Improved habitat structure</li> <li>• Return of several extirpated plants and animals.</li> <li>• Less stressful and more enjoyable burns</li> </ul>

# Prescribed Fire Management in the Albany Pine Bush Preserve 1991-2024



## Legend

Burns - 4,336 acres

2020-2024

2024

2023

2022

2021

2020

2015-2019

2015-2019

2010-2014

2010-2014

2005-2009

2005-2009

2000-2004

2000-2004

1995-1999

1995-1999

1991-1994

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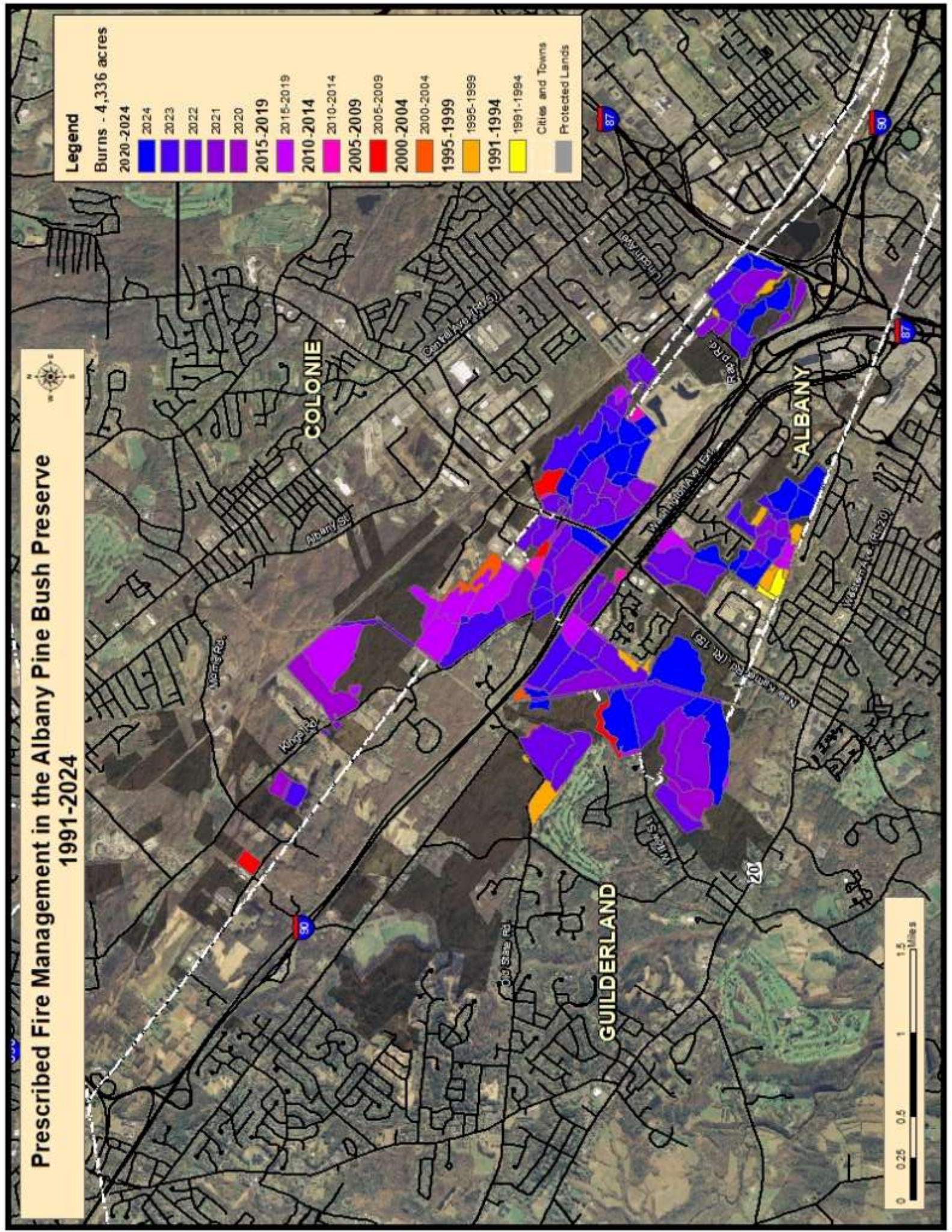
1991-1994

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Cities and Towns

Protected Lands



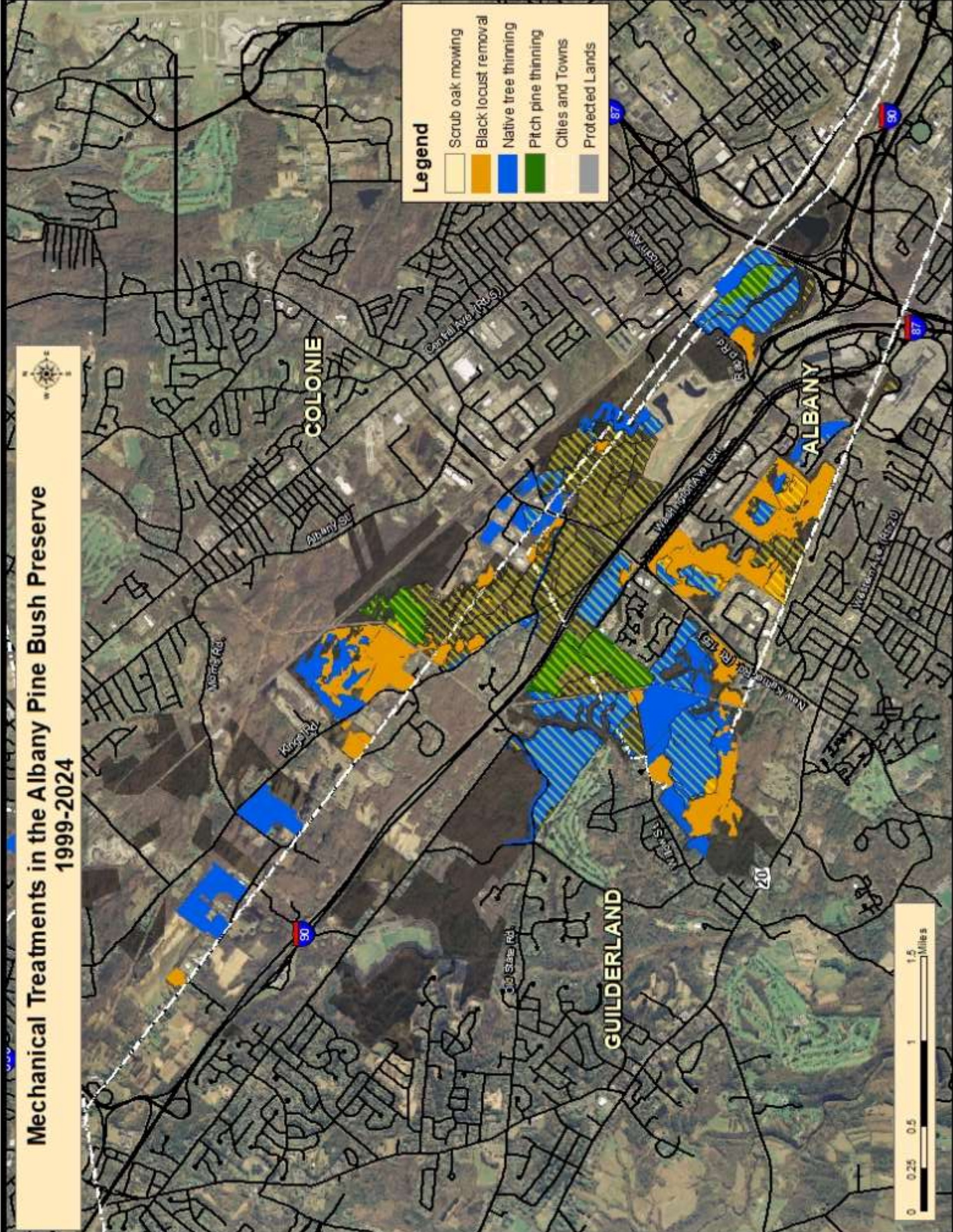
# Mechanical Treatments in the Albany Pine Bush Preserve 1999-2024



COLONIE  
ALBANY  
GUILDERLAND

**Legend**

- Scrub oak mowing
- Black locust removal
- Native tree thinning
- Pitch pine thinning
- Cities and Towns
- Protected Lands





## Field Trip Highlights:

- Restoring ecosystem health after decades of neglect is different from maintaining a healthy ecosystem.
- Fire alone is not enough. Mechanical pre-treatments are essential to creating conditions for safe and effective prescribed fire.
- Growing-season fire is critical to achieving restoration goals.
- Monitoring fire effects along with wildlife dynamics is essential to evaluating changes in ecosystem health.
- Frequent fire (growing–season and dormant-season) is essential to maintaining improved conditions.
- Community engagement at every step is critical.
- IF WE CAN DO IT HERE, YOU CAN DO IT ANYWHERE....One Fire at a Time....

## APB Outstanding Questions

- Maintenance fire regime: while better understood than 30 years ago, what is the ideal frequency?
- Climate change: how will a warmer and wetter climate influence burn windows and our ability to achieve desired effects?



## Did you know?

- While no Karner blue life stage can survive fire, improved lupine nutrition following fire can improve fitness and population growth.
- Late spring Rx fire extends the growing season for lupine, scrub oak and other native plants.
- Cornell University research found positive public attitudes about the use of Rx fire in the APB.



Day Two -  
"FUN Field Trip..."



ALBANY  
PINE  
BUSH



*(Sketch a mental map)*

## Field Trip Notes and Reflections

What are some key points You are learning about Fire Program logistics? *Examples: site and burn plans, burn parameters, fireline operations, fire effects, volunteers, educational programs, lessons learned....*



## Breaking News!

New York recently updated the labs required for every Regents Biology student.

One lab regarding environmental issues and solutions highlights the Albany Pine Bush and the links between prescribed fire and the endangered Karner blue butterfly.

## Information to Share in Your Place



These barriers and successes will be used on Day Three for our Connecting Capacity: A Facilitated Discussion to Identify and Overcome Barriers to Good Fire

What part do You play in Your Place to help build a successful fire program?

What are 3 of Your Barriers and what are 3 of Your Success Stories for overcoming Barriers?



What steps or actions can You do to help someone else build their Fire Program, or overcome their Barriers?



# Training Needs for Prescribed Fire Practitioners

THURSDAY, AUGUST 22

9:00AM-10:00AM

## CASE STUDY: APB Fire Training



### APB Fire Crew

#### Training Facts:

- Introduction to Wildland Firefighting training offered to all Albany County Fire Departments
- APB offers First Aid and CPR training
- APB partners with NYSDEC to administer the RT-130 to ~70 wildland fighters each year.

### NWCG PMS 310-1 Qualifications

[Position Catalog | NWCG](#)

**Burn Boss (RXB2):** FFT2, FFT1/ICT5, FIRB, ENGB, ICT4, RXB2-Task Books for all positions

RT-130, Rx-410, S-390

**Squad Boss:** FFT1/ICT5

RT-130, S131

**Firefighter Type 2:** FFT2

\*RT-130, ICS-100, IS-700, L-180, S-130, S-190

\*Annual Fireline Safety Refresher (RT-130) is not required for the first year as a Firefighter Type 2 (FFT2); however, it is required for subsequent years.



# Your Fire Training (or Your Organization's Standard)

What fire training needs and opportunities stood out to you from this session?

What do you think would be valuable training elements for prescribed fire practitioners in Your Place?

What are Your, or Your organizations, prescribed fire training needs? What gaps in that training limit Your ability to implement prescribed fire?



# Connecting Capacity - Identify and Overcome Barriers to Good Fire

THURSDAY, AUGUST 22  
10:30AM-11:30AM

What are some lessons learned from the workshop examples of overcoming barriers?

What do you think is the number one barrier to doing more good fire in Your area/organization?

How are You going to try and overcome this barrier (did you make a specific connection?)



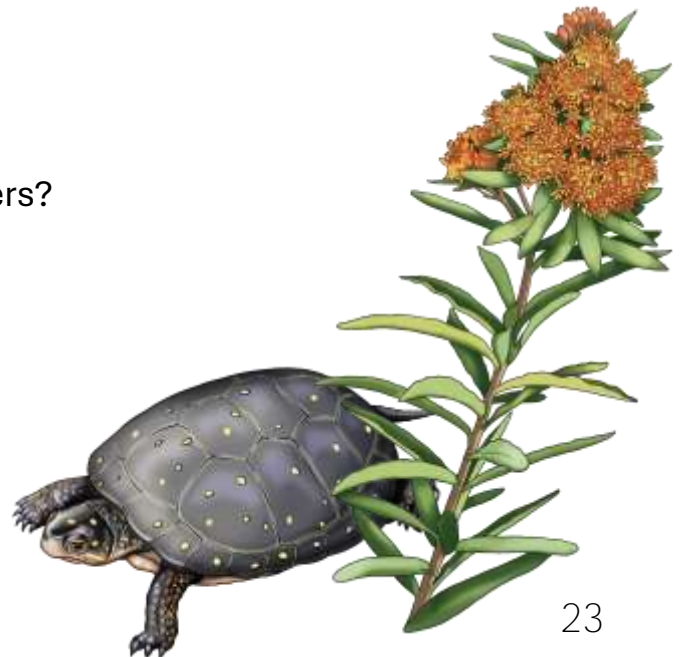
## *Fill in after the Workshop*

Did You make progress overcoming the barrier? What happened? Who helped you?



What role can You play in helping overcome barriers ? Provide a success story of one barrier you/your organization has overcome and actions on how you accomplished it.

What are ways to assist each other to overcome barriers?



# Policy Updates on a National Level

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 22**  
**2:00PM-2:30PM**



Notes:





NOT

✓ “The End”

*Use Your APB Storybook to write or draw Your Own People of Fire in Time & Place Storybook*

What "aha" moments or soundbites did You take away from conversations this week?

What are some immediate actions You / Your organization can make or take after the Workshop? Contact people for more information? Assist those that contact you? Participate in action-oriented working groups on prescribed fire?

What will You do to help see that actions and successes lead into the Next Workshop (progress report or new Storybook?)



# Background on the Albany Pine Bush

The 3,400+ - acre Albany Pine Bush Preserve (APBP), located in New York's Capital District, protects one of the best remaining inland pitch pine-scrub oak barrens in the world. This extraordinary fire-dependent natural community provides habitat for many plants and animals, including more than 20 percent of New York State's wildlife Species of Greatest Conservation Need, such as the endangered Karner blue butterfly.

The APBP is a National Natural Landmark, Maurice D. Hinchey Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area, National Recreation Trail Site, a New York State Unique Area, Birding Trail Site, Bird Conservation Area, and a National Audubon Society Important Bird Area. Characterized by rolling sand dunes and over 20 miles of trails, the APBP offers visitors many recreational opportunities including hiking, bird watching, cross-country skiing, horseback riding, mountain biking, hunting, fishing and canoeing. The Albany Pine Bush Preserve Commission is a public-private partnership created by the NYS Legislature in 1988 to protect and manage the APBP and provide the public with educational and recreational opportunities. The Management Plan for the APBP guides all aspects of expanding and managing the preserve. The Commission's goal is a preserve of 5,380 acres.

As the gateway to the Pine Bush, the Discovery Center at 195 New Karner Road, Albany, is a "green" certified interpretive center where visitors come to understand why the Pine Bush is rare and special. A visit to this unique destination is an exciting exploration where learning comes naturally through interactive exhibits, an outdoor Discovery Trail, and numerous programs on the ecology, natural history, cultural history and management of the Pine Bush. Admission to the Discovery Center is free (there is a fee for some programs). The center is open daily weekdays 9am-4pm and weekends 10am-4pm. For more information, visit [www.AlbanyPineBush.org](http://www.AlbanyPineBush.org) or call 518-456-0655.



## ALBANY PINE BUSH PRESERVE COMMISSION



### • EX OFFICIO MEMBERS

NYSDEC  
NYSOPRHP  
Albany County  
Guilderland  
Colonie  
Albany  
The Nature Conservancy



### • 4 Community Members Appointed by the Governor Approved by the NYS Senate





**The 20th Capital Walls mural.**

“Pem-po-tu-wuth-ut (Place of the Council Fire) Biocoenosis” by Juliana Haliti is on The Yard, on the corner of Chapel St. and 16 Sheridan Ave. in downtown Albany. The mural features plants and animals that live in the Albany Pine Bush Preserve.



**Fire first**

Lack of snowfall and early warm temperatures allowed the APBPC to begin the 2024 fire season with a first of a kind February burn in the Blueberry Hill section of the preserve on February 28th. APBPC staff were assisted by volunteers and staff from OPRHP, NYSDEC, and TNC. Additionally, ABC NEWS10 and WAMC both attended the burn for their respective broadcasts. The 18 acres burned included the Glacier (12 acres) and Grackle (10 acres) management units.

**Community support**

Albany Fire/EMS recruits entered their final month of their academy in June, learning various skills along the way in many disciplines of emergency responses. Recruits were able to learn the capabilities of Albany Airport Professional Firefighters IAFF Local I-65, meet with Albany Pine Bush Preserve in regards to wild land firefighting, train with Colonie EMS Department in technical rope rescue skills, learn water rescue techniques along with many other skills.



**Did you know?**

The Albany Pine Bush has a series of prescribe fire trading cards.

# Planning Team



FullScope  
Management, Inc.



Thank you to our hosts:

