



## **International Prescribed Fire Seminar**

**Date: 06 MAY 2019**

### **Location: Municipality of Mafra/Portugal**

The Mafra's International Prescribed Fire Seminar - emerged naturally as a result of the fire use as a territory management tool, during the last decade in the Mafra County.

Since the 1990s, the Municipality of Mafra has received a wide range of technicians and entities from several areas, all of them related to the fire ecology, fire use of and wildfires. These experiments allowed for technical and scientific developments in the field of fire ecology.

The Municipality of Mafra, together with other partner entities, promotes this seminar, which aims to discuss the current state of art of fire use ecology, to verify the differences between Portugal, countries with long use of prescribed fire in the territory management (USA) and countries that still struggle for their implementation (England, Germany, etc.).

We invite the entire forest community and all those interested in the fire ecology, forest management, fire management and prescribed fire to participate.

(The final program is still being developed and there may be changes).





## Speakers:

Paulo Fernandes- Associate Professor of Forest Sciences and Landscape Architecture of UTAD



Paulo Fernandes has a degree in Forestry (1992) with a PhD in Forestry Sciences from the University of Trás-os-Montes and Alto Douro (2003). He is currently Associate Professor (since 2013) in the Department of Forest Sciences and Landscape Architecture of UTAD and is an effective researcher of the Center for Research and Agro-Environmental Technologies, integrating the respective executive committee. He is a member of the management of the Portuguese Society of Forestry Sciences, he belongs to the Independent Technical Observatory of rural fires of the Portuguese Republic Assembly. Integrated the Independent Technical Commissions that investigated the June and October wildfires (2017). He was member of the direction of the International Association of Wildland Fire (2013-2018), maintaining equivalent functions (since 2011) at the Pau Costa Foundation for Fire Ecology and Management. Since 1992 he has been developing applied research on behaviour, ecology and fire management in national and international projects, which have been





translated in several publications, including 100 articles in scientific journals. Has actively participated in controlled fire technology transfer activities and collaborated with various public and private entities in matters of forest fire protection.

**Joaquim Sande Silva** - Fire Ecologist, College of Agriculture of the Polytechnic Institute of Coimbra



Joaquim S. Silva holds a BSc. and a PhD in Forestry, both awarded by the University of Lisbon. He works at the College of Agriculture of the Polytechnic Institute of Coimbra in Portugal, currently teaching several subjects on fire ecology and fire management. His main research interests are within the domains of fire ecology and invasion ecology. He led four research projects, two of which are still ongoing. He has authored 26 research papers in journals indexed in the [Web of Knowledge](#), mainly in the fields of invasion ecology and fire ecology. He has also authored more than one hundred non-indexed publications, including conference papers, book chapters and technical reports. He was editor of six books and the book series “Árvores e Florestas de Portugal” (Trees and Forests of Portugal). He has





integrated the two Independent Technical Commissions that investigated the 2017 fires in Portugal. Currently he is one of the ten experts of the Technical Independent Observatory, with a mandate to provide expertise on forest fires to the Portuguese Parliament. He is currently a member of the board of directors of the Portuguese NGO the League for the Protection of Nature.

**Greg Seamon** – Fire Training Specialist, Tall Timbers Research Station



Greg graduated with a degree in Zoology from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. He began his career as a biologist for the National Audubon Society at Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary in south Florida where he participated in various management activities including prescribed fire as well as monitoring endangered species, invasive plant establishment and water level changes associated with neighbouring developments. Upon leaving Audubon Greg worked for The Nature Conservancy for 23 years in various roles as a Land Steward, Training Specialist and Director of Science and Conservation Resources in New York and Florida before joining Tall Timbers, a non-profit research station, as the Fire Training Specialist at



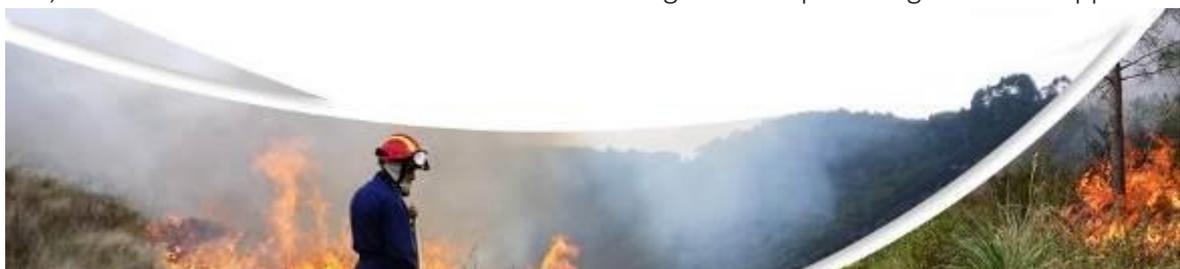


the National Interagency Prescribed Fire Training Center in Tallahassee, Florida. Some of Greg's accomplishments include numerous scientific papers on research conducted for restoration of a sandhill community. Additionally he was a founding member of the North Florida Prescribed Fire Council, receiving the Chairman's Award for his work with the media in 2005. Greg served as the Chair of the Council twice since its establishment in 1989 as well as serving as the Chair of the Coastal Plain Chapter of the Society for Ecological Restoration, and Chair of the Southeast Chapter of the Association of Fire Ecology. Greg has conducted prescribed fire training across the United States as well as internationally.

**Casey Teske**, Geospatial Fire Ecologist, Tall Timbers Research Station



Casey has worked in many aspects of wildland fire since 1993, joining Tall Timbers after serving most recently as the Fire Ecologist for Grand Canyon National Park. She is heavily involved in research and application development for wild and prescribed fires using GIS and Remote Sensing tools, gaining first-hand experience with fire during her many summers as a firefighter to help pay for school. During the summer months she is often found on wildland fires, whether it is embedded with fire folks on the ground or providing decision support for





Incident Management Teams as a UAS pilot and long term analyst (LTAN). She enjoys assisting with writing burn plans and implementing prescribed burns, coordinating research and operational activities on fires, and putting her technical skills to work doing fire research with new technologies. Additionally, she remains very involved in helping connect students/recent graduates with internships and employment opportunities specifically related to prescribed and wildland fire, and mentoring women pursuing fire careers. She completed her Ph.D. in Forestry at the University of Montana in 2012.

**Rob Gazzard** - advisor on contingency planning and wildfire in Forestry Commission England



Rob Gazzard is an advisor on contingency planning and wildfire in Forestry Commission England and wider UK Government, chair of the South East England Wildfire Group, chair of the UK Wildfire Research Group and Technical Expert in the European Civil Protection Mechanism. He has been deployed on wildfire incidents, worked on prescribed burning programmes and been a partner on various research projects in the United States and Europe.





**Tessa Oliver** - Special Projects Manager—Landworks Non Profit Company – South Africa



After studying humanities at the Universities of Stellenbosch and Cape Town for 5 years and a stint as a photographer, Tessa's career path went into a biological direction. Her knowledge of the local flora, picked up from her parents who were both botanists, got her a job with Cape Nature at their scientific services section. Since then she has also worked for the Agricultural Research Council and the South African National Biodiversity Institute. In 2011 she organised the 5<sup>th</sup> International Wildland Fire Conference in Sun City, South Africa. She is currently employed by the Landworks Non Profit Company and has just successfully implemented the GEF funded FynbosFire project which looked at climate change adaptation with regards to fire in the Fynbos Biome ([www.fynbosfire.org.za](http://www.fynbosfire.org.za)), for the South African Department of Environmental Affairs and the United Nations Development Programme.





Alexander Held –Europe Forest Institute - Resilience Research Programme



Senior Expert Alex Held holds an MSc in Forest Science from Freiburg University, Germany. He started as a fire ecologist at the Fire Ecology working group of the Max-Planck Society and received a number of operational qualifications in the US and South Africa. He moved from fire ecology to fire management and worked with the Global Fire Monitoring Centre GFMC in Europe and southern Africa. Later, Alex worked with the South African "Working on Fire" Program WoF, until 2012, when he joined the European Forest Institute EFI. At EFI, Alex works on the establishment of the European Forest Risk Facility to create more resilient landscapes throughout Europe as a result of the exchange of expertise and knowledge as well as mutual assistance and cooperation. He was involved in a series of projects that contribute to the





establishment of the European Forest Risk Facility, namely the FRISK-Go, Fireefficient and NEtRiskWork, as well as in the current SURE project.

His expertise is in risk management, vegetation fire, silviculture and deer management.

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