

# Burning Issues 2023 Review

Stephanie Diep



# Thank you Sponsors!



Org	Monetary	In-Kind
<b>Edward Lowe Foundation</b>	\$1,000.00	
<b>Pheasants Forever</b>	\$1,000.00	
Native Connections	\$500.00	
Ann Arbor NAP	\$500.00	
Querkus Creative	\$100.00	\$181.00
Jim Marshall	\$90.00	
White Oak Initiative	\$513.58	
MI State Firemen's Assoc		\$200.00
SWMLC/Tantrum Brewing		\$20.00
KNC		\$135.00
Cody Kresta		\$32.00
Stephanie Diep		\$75.00
Michele Richards		\$143.00
Amy Frye		\$40.00
Lee Osterland		\$75.00
Ashley Colewick		\$75.00
Fjallraven		\$300.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,703.58</b>	<b>\$1,276.00</b>

# Thank You Speakers

## **Keynote Game Birds:**

Don Bonnette, MI DNR Forester

## **Panel 1 Birds and Fire:**

Mike Monfils, Michigan Natural Features Inventory

Mitch Lettow, SW Michigan Land Conservancy

Rich Keith, Kalamazoo Valley Bird Observatory

## **Panel 2 Oak Management:**

Jesse Lincoln, Michigan Natural Features Inventory

Justin Heslinga, Land Conservancy of West MI

Mary Parr, Pierce Cedar Creek Institute

## **Panel 3 Research and Fire Monitoring:**

Brian Stearns, US Forest Service Huron-Manistee National Forest

Todd Aschenbach, Grand Valley State University

Tyler Allyn-White, Kalamazoo Nature Center

## **Panel 4 Fire in the WUI**

David Borneman, David Borneman, LLC

Katie Carlisle, Huron-Clinton Metroparks

Lee Osterland, Forest Resource Division, MI DNR

## **Strategic Planning Session**

Carol Baldwin, Great Plains Science Exchange

Jarod Reibel, Edward Lowe Foundation

Amy Frye, NRCS

## **Burn Plan Writing Workshop**

Steve Woods, Huron Pines

Jack McGowan-Stinski, Great Lakes Fire Consortium

Brian Stearns, US Forest Service

# Thank You Planning Committee and Volunteers

## Planning Committee

Stephanie Diep, Kalamazoo Nature Center

Michele Richards, MI Army National Guard

Jarod Reibel, Edward Lowe Foundation

Amy Frye, NRCS

Tina Stephens, City of Ann Arbor NAP

Lee Osterland, MI DNR

## Volunteers/Planning Support

Ryan Koziatek and KNC Crew

Ashley Cole-Wick

Michael Hahn

Bruce Miller

Paul Charland

Dennis Ireland

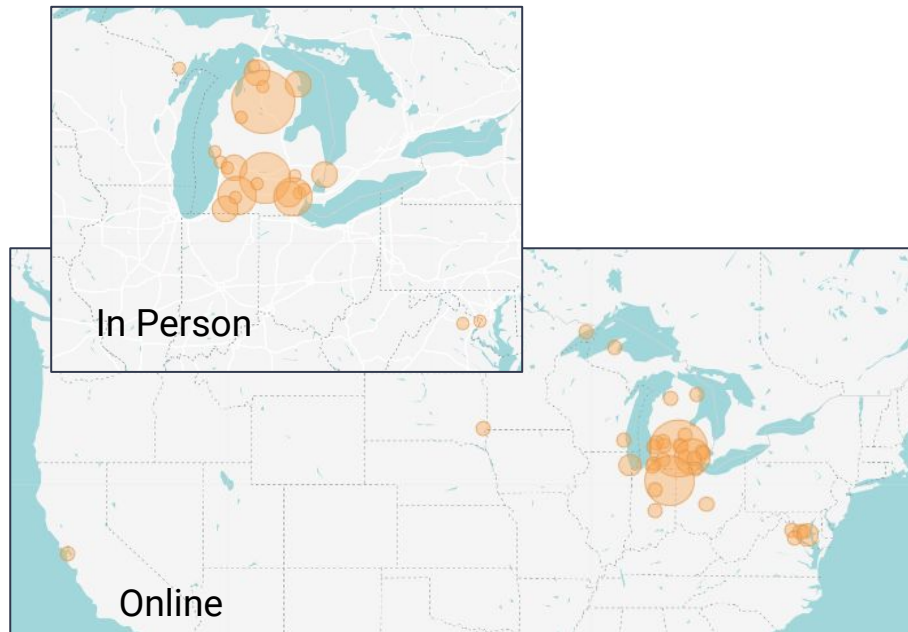
Estimated Cumulative Volunteer Hours Contributed to Planning & Day of Logistics

Over 200 Voluntary Hours (\$15,000 value)

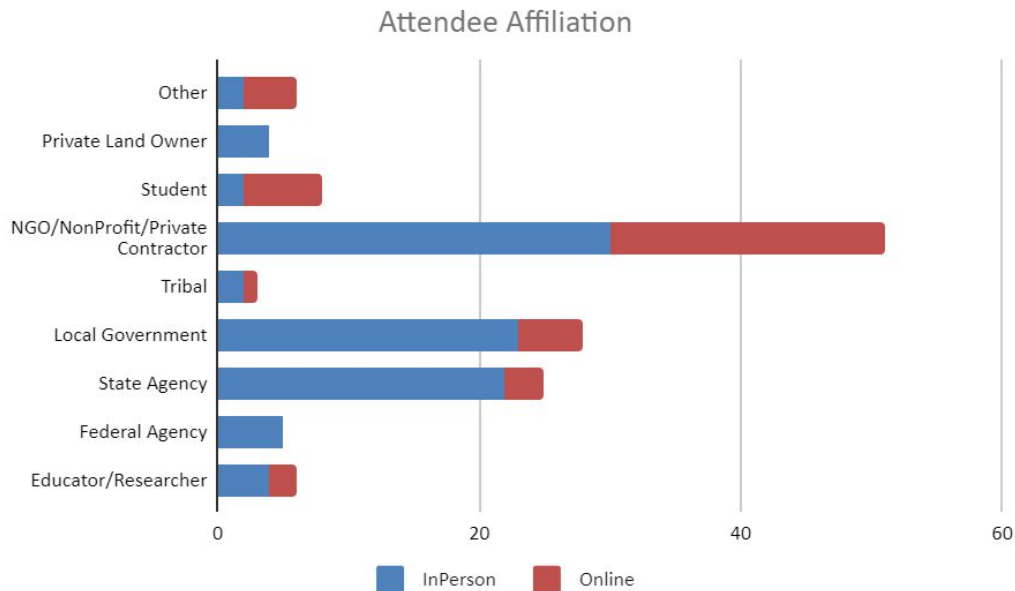
*\*100 paid Admin Hours not included*

# Registration and Attendance

Burning Issues Participation				
	Registration	Day 1 Panel Sessions	Day 2 Strategic Planning	Day 2 Burn Plan Writing Workshop
In-Person	94	75	~50	~40
Online	74	85	33	29
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>69</b>



# Registrant Affiliation



Online and In-Person dominantly  
**NGO/Non-Profit/Private Sector**

In-Person followed by Local Gov  
and State Agency

Online followed by Students and  
Local Government

# Event Finances

**TOTAL NET EVENT PROFIT**

**~\$6,000**

Income	Amt
In-person Reg (Net)	\$5,805.00
Online Reg (Net)	\$5,040.00
Silent Auction	\$895.00
Sponsors	\$3,190.00
WOI Reimbursement	\$513.58
<b>TOTAL Income</b>	<b>\$15,443.58</b>
<i>In-kind donations</i>	\$1,076.00

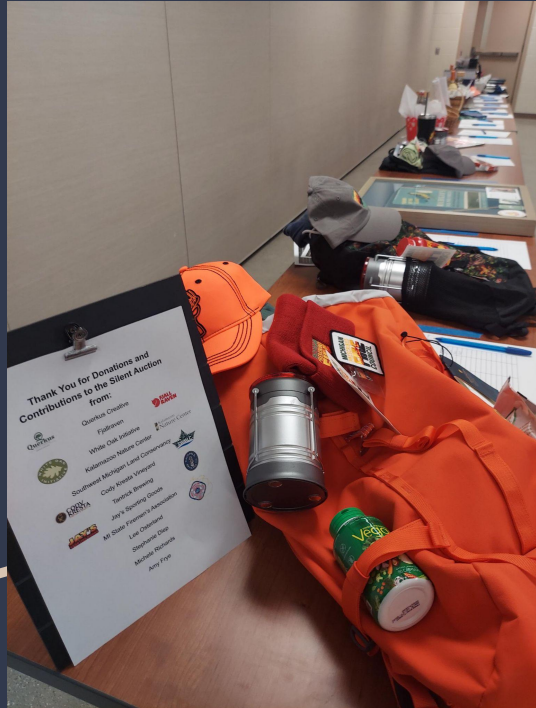
*Eventbrite Fees to Registrants  
= \$857.57 saved by MPFC*

## **MERCH** (not in event totals)

Merch Restock Cost	<b>\$960.63</b>
Merch Sales Revenue	<b>\$383.00</b>

Expenses	
Admin contract paid to KNC	\$5,506.55
Postage Mailing BI stickers	\$25.20
Food (breakfast, liquor, catering)	\$2,945.16
	Gray Rock Catering = \$2090
Venue	\$0.00
Silent Auction Contributions	\$387.17
<b>Strategic Facilitator Plane Reimbursement</b>	<b>\$517.19</b>
<b>Speaker Hotel Reimbursements</b>	<b>184.40 so far</b>
<b>Lighter Leashes</b>	<b>?</b>
Square sales transaction fees	\$30.97
<b>TOTAL Expenses</b>	<b>\$9,565.67</b>

# Silent Auction



TOTAL REVENUE	\$895.00
MI PFC Input	\$387.17
WOI reimbursed	\$63.58
<b>TOTAL PROFIT</b>	<b>\$571.41</b>

Thank You In-Kind Supporters!	Value of Contribution
MI State Firemen's Assoc	\$200
Querkus Creative	\$181
SWMLC/Tantrum Brewing	\$20.00
Kalamazoo Nature Center	\$135.00
Cody Kresta	\$32.00
Stephanie Diep	\$75.00
Michele Richards	\$143.00
Amy Frye	\$40.00
Lee Osterland	\$75.00
Ashley Cole-Wick	\$75.00
Fjallraven	\$300.00
<b>TOTAL Contributions</b>	<b>\$1,276.00</b>



Most popular item:

Limited Edition Querkus Framed Print sold for \$120

*donated and designed for MI PFC by Querkus Creative*



# Evaluation Takeaways

## **DAY 1** (61 responses)

Majority of respondents were professionals in fire (field or office)

Majority heard about Burning Issues from MPFC email/website or colleagues

Majority ranked the effectiveness of Day 1 as EXCELLENT

~50% of responses said this was their 1st time at an Annual MPFC Burning Issues

Majority ranked that they would use/share what they learned today

High interest in advanced and FFT2 trainings, field days, webinars on rxfire, more experience and learning and networking opportunities!

## **DAY 2** (36 responses)

Most are not or unsure if they are MI PFC members

Good/Excellent ranking for Strategic Planning Session

Despite average ranking of strategic planning value to participants, much feedback encouraged more of these type of collaborative sessions

Good/Excellent ranking of Burn Plan Writing Workshop with high response of using/sharing info learned

# Summary of Feedback

- Overall positive experience from online and in person attendees!
- “I really appreciated Steve, Jack and Brian really just talking about their experience. I could just listen to our fire knowledge cache just talking about their experiences and lessons learned.”
- “I really appreciated you having the workshop both in-person and online. I wish I could have made it in person....but am glad I was able to attend a few sessions online.”
- “Amy’s constant monitoring of the chat helped virtual participants feel more comfortable”
- “Please continue to integrate development and training opportunities for non-NWCG folks!”
- “Need more agency MI PFC participation (DNR, USFWS, USFS, etc.) Proactively ask them to share their expertise.”
- Many more

# Topics of Interest for Future Events

- Fire and Forestry
- Fire and Wildlife (herps, endangered species, insects i.e. Karner Blue Butterfly, beyond birds and more birds)
- Fire and Hydrology
- Smoke Modeling Tutorial
- More Monitoring/Research/Ecological Response to fire
  - Growing season burn research
  - Impacts on soil nutrients, organic matter, etc.
  - Plant diversity impacts/results
- Case Examples of successful burns or lessons learned/collaborative story session with photos
- Indigenous Knowledge of Prescribed Fire (historical and current) (MI and other states)
- Fire and Weather
- Techniques of RxFire Implementation/Fuel Breaks
- Oak regeneration
- Budgeting/Operations/Insurance Logistics of running rxfire business
- Cool vs Warm Season Grass RxFire
- UP fire specifically

AAR What can we do better? What worked well?

# Strategic Meeting

Roughly 50 in-person and 33 online (~83 total) attendees

- Breakout #1: Target Audience
- Breakout #2: Barriers to the MI PFC Mission and Vision
- Breakout #3: Barriers to Participation in MI PFC
- Proposed Changes to MI PFC Mission/Vision/Objectives and Next Steps

# Strategic Planning Takeaways (1 of 3)

## Participation by majority:

NGO/Non-profit/private sector, Local Gov, and State Agency

## Highest preference for in-person/hybrid Lower MI meetings

## Future Events/Actions to support rxfire community:

1. Trainings/Hands-on Experience (FFT2 and more advanced, TREX, etc.)
2. Networking Events
3. Public Outreach
4. Resource/Research Sharing

## Breakout #1: Who should be our collective audience?

Property owners, Land Managers, General Public, Fire Contractors/Professionals, Political Movers, Recreational Land Users

\* tiered approach of MI PFC supports practitioners and political movers who engage w/public and property owners

**Missed audiences:** DIY land managers, BIPOC, small private landowners, general public, tribal, students/youth, local fire departments, conservation districts, Federal agencies, local municipalities, Northern MI

**Why?** Lack exposure/communication streams, lack of public knowledge/understanding of rxfire, lack money/time/equip/labor capacity

**50% split Yes/No to change things to reach broader audience** b/c many feel they are not reaching their primary audience well yet or don't have capacity

# Strategic Planning Takeaways (2 of 3)

## Breakout #2

### What limits ability to put rxfire on the ground?

1. #1 with >50% of responses =  
Training/Hands-on Experience/Credentials
2. Labor capacity
3. Equipment needs
4. Costs to operate/pay contractors
5. Networking/collaboration with fire dept, agencies, other orgs

*# are ranked by most mentions, bullets are not ranked*

**68% say MI PFC needs improvement/does not meet these needs.**

*Lots of suggestions/things to consider. Will take some intentional time to work through.*

MI PFC Top Priorities (Vision) should involve:

- Network Building
- Public Outreach
- Training Fire Personnel
- Support for Private Landowners to Burn

Because MI PFC (Mission) should involve:

- People!, network building, public education, ecological benefits, creating a fire culture in MI, training facilitation, legislative support

# Strategic Planning Takeaways (3 of 3)

## Breakout #3

### What policies/attitudes interfere with use of rxfire?

1. **Barriers to implement fire:** lack training, staffing, resources/equip, funding, weather
2. **Public Perspectives:** public fear fire, bad PR
3. **Lack Networking, Collaboration, Communications:** with local fire dept, private sector with agencies, structural/wildland firefighters, agency perspectives of fire implementation requirements, local jurisdictions/boards don't support us
4. **Insurance/Legislative**

### What would help you be more involved with MI PFC / What limits your participation?

- **Membership logistics**/clarification of expectations (time commitment)
- **Broader Networking/Labor Sharing**
- **Lack Time**/Need support from org/agency leadership to help on paid time
- **Want to feel useful**/Not sure what I could add to council/I need more training first

Most are capable of helping share/advertise information/training opportunities. Numerous people are interested in helping coordinate/plan trainings and events or helping on volunteer fire crews.



# Organizational Resilience

*The Stewardship Network Conference > Thomas Gardali of Audubon Canyon Ranch lecture*

**“Resilient Organizations have the ability to respond effectively to change and adapt successfully to new and unforeseen circumstances while staying true to their mission.”**

1. **Purpose Driven** > clear and focused mission and vision
2. **Diversity** of worldviews and experiences > solutions/resources are equitable and inclusive
3. **Empowered** by a culture of inclusion and shared leadership
4. **Agile** > learn and adapt, future oriented
5. **Clear and Intentional Communications** with internal and external stakeholders > listen to needs
6. **Staff Wellness** > create space for rest and renewal
7. **Face Challenges Head-on** > acknowledge issues and identify available resources to address them with a hopeful view
8. **Connected** > Support individual and community networks associated within and outside the org

# MI PFC Proposed Changes/Next Steps Discussion

## CURRENT MISSION

“The mission of the MI PFC is to protect, conserve, and expand the safe use of prescribed fire on the Michigan landscape.”

“The MI PFC was formed to bring together practitioners, guides, and students of prescribed fire to provide a network through which information could be disseminated, partnerships could form and the use of prescribed fire would be protected.”

## CURRENT VISION (none)

## OBJECTIVES

- Promote the safe and responsible use of rxfire
- Promote public understanding of the benefits of prescribed fire.
- Promote the development and utilization of prescribed fire to achieve desired environmental and ecological resource management goals
- Disseminate technical info on rxfire and its application
- Anticipate rxfire issues and concerns and suggest courses of action
- Provide a framework for communications regarding rxfire objectives, techniques, and issues

## PROPOSED MISSION

The MI PFC will support current and future fire practitioners by connecting agencies and organizations for collaboration and resource sharing to meet land management needs safely and responsibly.

## PROPOSED VISION

The MI PFC strives to create a culture of fire in Michigan where fire practitioners have support to manage landscapes with fire safely and efficiently for their land management objectives.

## PROPOSED COUNCIL OBJECTIVES

- Promote the safe and responsible use of prescribed fire.
- Share research, resources, and training opportunities to support fire practitioners' growth and experience in the field.
- Support networking groups between interagency, NGO's, students, private landowners, volunteers, and all peoples interested in fire.
- Provide guidance for efficient public outreach to educate about the importance of fire in the landscape historically and today.