



## *Illustris Palustris Award* 2019



The North Carolina Longleaf Coalition presented the 2019 Illustris Palustris Award to Angie Carl, Coastal Land Steward and Fire Manager with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) in North Carolina.

Angie manages ~36,000 acres of nature preserves including the Green Swamp, Shaken Creek, and McLean's Savannah. Under her leadership, these preserves have transformed into some of the best remaining examples of coastal longleaf natural communities. As one indicator of her success, these TNC preserves support some of the most robust populations of Venus flytraps in the world.

Her restoration success is due in part because of her high level of skill and preparedness, careful coordination with partners, and relentless commitment to her prescribed burn program. Angie hires, trains and supervises four different seasonal burn crews each year. Her burn boss expertise is recognized internationally, attracting some of the best in the business come to NC to learn from her. For Angie, every day is a burn day.

Angie's longleaf restoration efforts are not limited to prescribed burning. Angie has been very proactive in employing a variety of restoration techniques to better manage longleaf habitats. These have included seed collection, large-scale grass plug plantings to restore the herb layer, hand clearing of woody plants in overgrown longleaf pine savannas, and mechanical thinning in overstocked stands. Angie also recognizes the importance of protecting and enhancing all habitats in her jurisdiction, including the ancient bald cypress forests on the Black River in Southeast North Carolina that are documented to be among the oldest trees on the planet, over 2674 years old.

Angie is also very actively engaged in the Cape Fear Arch and Onslow Bight conservation partnerships. She works closely with partners from NC Forest Service, NC Parks, NC Wildlife Resources Commission, US Forest Service, other federal and state agencies and key private landowners, such as Orton Plantation.



Angie Carl receives the 2019 Illustris Palustris Award.

The Fire in the Pines Festival was initiated by Angie. Through her hard work and steady promotion, it has become a major event that attracts thousands to learn more about fire in the woods. She also encourages others to conserve longleaf by leading field trips, and other events for TNC members and donors, legislative leaders and key stakeholders, and the public. She is an inspiration to the longleaf community and well deserving of the 2019 Illustris Palustris Award.

