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 CONSERVING THE JEWELS OF THE NIGHT:
 WHAT NATURAL AREAS PROFESSIONALS CAN
 DO TO HELP FIREFLIES
 webinar presented by Candace Fallon

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Abstract: Fireflies, lightning bugs, glow-worms—these are but a few of the names used to describe some of our most celebrated insects. Fireflies have fascinated children and adults alike for centuries, and beyond their cultural, biological, and economic importance to humans, they are also important components of natural ecosystems. Over 150 species have been described from the US, ranging from the commonly encountered big dipper firefly in the East to the California pink glow-worm in the West. Fireflies—including flashing fireflies, glow-worms, and daytime dark fireflies—use a wide range of habitats, from riparian forests and desert canyons to tallgrass prairies, mangrove swamps, agricultural fields, and numerous other places in between. And yet, like many insect species, they appear to be in decline. Although monitoring programs are scarce, growing anecdotal reports, backed by expert opinion, suggest that firefly populations are in trouble. Key threats to their persistence include habitat loss, light pollution, and pesticide use. By understanding these threats and what fireflies need to thrive, natural areas professionals can play a significant role in their conservation. In this webinar, we will provide an introduction to firefly life history, discuss some of the threats they face, and outline key steps that can be taken to protect fireflies and their habitats in natural areas across the country.



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Candace is a senior conservation biologist at the Xerces Society, where her work focuses on the conservation of at-risk invertebrates and their habitat. In this role, she provides technical guidance to land managers, leads survey and research efforts for at-risk terrestrial and aquatic species, advocates for endangered species protections, and conducts outreach and education to engage others in invertebrate conservation. Candace leads Xerces’ firefly conservation campaign and serves as co-chair of the North American section of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature’s (IUCN) Firefly Specialist Group. She is the lead author of the Xerces Society’s *Conserving the Jewels of the Night: Guidelines for Protecting Fireflies in the United States and Canada*.

Website: <https://xerces.org/publications/guidelines/conserving-jewels-of-night>



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