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2021 Natural Areas Conference

Life from the Ashes: Exploring the Impact of Prescribed & Natural Fire on Insects and Other Invertebrates

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Presented by Scott Hoffman Black

Executive Director, [Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation](#)

[Read Bio](#)

Presentation Description:

With well over a million species, insects and other invertebrates make up the vast majority of animals on the planet. They are also vital for functioning ecosystems -- providing food to over 90% of songbirds and many fish species as well as providing ecosystem services such as pollination, pest control and improved soil health. Fire can greatly improve the value of habitat for many invertebrates, however, the impact of fire (positive or negative) on specific species or species groups depends on their life history traits. Fire (both natural and prescribed) in the wrong place, at the wrong scale, or at the wrong time can be detrimental.

Scott will give an overview of why land managers should include invertebrates in their prescribed fire plans and set the stage for a variety of speakers that will discuss invertebrates and prescribed and natural fire.

Scott Hoffman Black is an internationally recognized conservationist who has been at the forefront of the conservation movement for three decades. He is executive director of the Xerces Society, which under his leadership has become the premier invertebrate conservation organization in North America. Scott's work has led to habitat protection, restoration and improved management on millions of acres of rangelands, forests, and farmland as well as protection for dozens of rare and endangered species. He is an author of the best-selling *Attracting Native Pollinators* and *Gardening for Butterflies* and has written more than two hundred other publications. His work has been honored with many awards, including the 2011 Colorado State University College of Agricultural Sciences Honor Alumnus Award, the U.S. Forest Service Wings Across the Americas 2012 Butterfly Conservation Award and the 2019 Wings Across the Americas International Research Partnership Award and a 2020 Natures Choice Award from the Greater Good Foundation.