



**CALIFORNIA
LICENSED
FORESTERS
ASSOCIATION**

*The Voice of
California's
Licensed
Foresters*

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California Licensed Foresters Association

January 2022 - Newsletter

President's Message

Jason Wells, CLFA President

Here's to new beginnings. Here begins the planting season on the coast, and with these seedlings the promise of a future forest. Slash piles are burned, clearing the debris that had accumulated over decades. A new cohort of professional foresters receive freshly minted licenses, and with it the promise of a long career in a changing and relevant field. Most years we celebrate the new year as a time to reflect on the events of the past year and move on to addressing the issues of the day. The last few years have seemed stuck in a time warp, doomed to repeating the same cycles of worse begetting worse. Droughts, fires, floods, re-growth and then drought. Rinse and repeat. We've also been mired in the constant struggle that is adapting to a post-covid world; unable to find a way forward, and long removed from a sense of normalcy.

My message today is to encourage you all to return to the roots of our new year celebration, with reflection and determination. While we aren't as far removed from the pandemic as many of us would have suspected a year ago (or even six months ago), we were able to put on successful scaling seminar events at both Unity Forest Products and Humboldt Redwood Company, and we have been continuing to provide regularly scheduled archaeology trainings. The board has also continued our regular operations remotely, and we, along with the rest of the world, have become quite adapted to operating virtually. Virtual operations in some ways have actually made it easier to participate in a wider number of meetings and opportunities, and I hope this is something that will help to increase participation and networking in our field in the future, even once we are able to get back to regular in-person events. In more positive reflections, the Sierras are at 150% of normal snow pack for a change, which hopefully will grant some reprieve by delaying fire season, and possibly recharge ground water somewhat.

Perhaps 2022 is the year that we will begin to see more proactive management than reactive. Perhaps 2022 will be the year we can all move forward, and rid ourselves of this mire. Perhaps I'm being overly optimistic, but it's in the spirit of change that I find hope.

Best wishes to you in the new year. I'm looking forward to things looking up.



Colorado Bull, 3rd season 2021



Forest Practice—BOF

Andrea Eggleton—Regulatory Rep to CLFA

Board of Forestry Committee Meetings - 12/7/21

Management Committee

Timberland Conversion

- Board has a policy on [Timberland Availability and Conversion](#), of which the main position is to oppose timberland conversion unless the public values of the conversion outweigh the conversion.
- [Definitions](#)
 - [Relevant Statutes](#) – it is important to note that the BOF cannot change statutory language; only the State Legislature can approve changes to the state law.
 - [Relevant FPRs](#) – the BOF can make changes to the Forest Practice Rules, so long as they maintain compliance with the statutes.
 - The committee will first look to review the policy
 - The main inconsistency is that the Act says there needs to be a *bona fide* intent, while the policy states that the Board is opposed to conversion unless it is in the public interest.
- Cal Fire comments
 - Supportive of addressing the complex issues here
 - Include consideration of County rules
 - Want to make the guidance clearer and more consistent to the public
- George Gentry - CFA
 - There are many types of conversions
 - Capable of growing trees is a key consideration, ie permanent transformation vs non-permanent transformation
 - Suggestion: staff creates a list of the categories of conversions (ag vs permanent conversion etc)
- Mike Garabedian
 - Need to also consider Williamson Act/TPZ authority and coming out of TPZ
 - Counties also make TPZ rules and also the Dept of Conservation also has a significant involvement in TPZ issues
- The Board will hold a Workshop on conversion, likely in January
 - Goals are to identify the types of conversion that exist and opportunities to address those, identify what the problems are
- **“Cutover Land”, “Meadows and Wet Areas”, and “Wet Meadows and Other Wet Areas” Revisions**
 - Definition of Meadows and Wet Areas was changed again in this plead to revert back to the original FPR definition. The Water Board and CDFW think this is a step backwards from the WQ/“interagency” definition that was included in the [September rule plead](#). Cal Fire has concerns about the WQ definition. The Water Board commented that their definition would “protect” meadows that are dry in drought conditions but wet “under normal conditions”. Members Chase and Pardi want to focus on cleaning up the Rules with removing reference to cutover lands and providing consistent references to the existing defined term of “Meadows and Wet Areas”, declining to include the Water Board’s definition of wet area. Cal Fire does not think there is a problem with degradation of meadows with timber operations.
 - Member Chase plan to present [the rule plead as-is](#) to the full board with the existing FPR definition for “Meadows and Wet Areas” in January.
 - (“Meadows and Wet Areas” means those areas which are moist on the surface throughout most of the year and/or support aquatic vegetation, grasses and forbs as their principal vegetative cover.)
 - E. Goldsworthy of GDRC commented that the Water Board has a no-net-loss requirement and also is more complicated to the point where it gets into the “wetland delineation” area, which requires an additional license and is overly burdensome.

Unevenaged Management Working Group – comments from George Gentry

- The group is still working on a proposal for revisions to stocking standards for unevenaged management, though the Dixie Fire has added some new thoughts for consideration for the group.
- They know they want to propose change to 8-18s, and also include providing stocking credit for hardwoods and snags.



Forest Practice—BOF cont.

2022 Priorities

- Discussion of [priorities](#); the list will be finalized in January at the earliest.
- Many public comments requesting review and update of the JDSF Management Plan.

Forest Practice Committee

Cal Fire Update on Exemption and Emergency Notice Reporting pursuant to PRC 4589 – Eric Huff, Staff Chief, CAL FIRE

- Chief Huff provided a draft [Monitoring Report](#) on the 1038(c)6 Exemption (300-ft from an Approved and Legally Permitted Habitable Structure). This report is part of a requirement from SB 901 on the Department.
- This report is complementary to the 1038c monitoring report presented to the board earlier in the year.
- Cal Fire staff that wrote the report will be present at the January meeting for questions.
- 35 exemption notices were reviewed that were located across the State.
- Report includes a section on operational and policy recommendations based on the observations
 - The footprints are typically very small.
 - Watercourse protection was generally adequate, with sediment discharge typically occurring on Class III tractor crossings.
 - The fuels treatment requirements are generally resulting in the types of fuels conditions that are defensible for the future.
 - Many landowners reported that the operations were break-even or a little profit.
- Chief Huff encouraged the public to dive into the report and **provide any comments for the January BOF meeting.**
-

Class II-L Sunset Repeal Rule Text

- The rules for determination of Class II-L sunset in 2022, so the Board must decide whether to revise or re-adopt the rules. The Effectiveness Monitoring Committee has suggested that the watershed size method be maintained and the channel width method be removed based on [recent rigorous research](#).
- CDFW has expressed concern for removing the channel width method.
- Drew Coe presented again to further present the EMC's research results.
- CDFW still has "concerns" and recommends "caution." The Committee is giving them one more month to bring legitimate concerns and data forward.

2022 Priorities

- Discussion of [priorities](#); the list will be finalized in January at the earliest.

Full Board Meeting 12/8/21

Actions taken during the Executive Session (closed):

Discussed the two litigation items on the agenda but took no reportable actions.

Regular Session

- Consent Calendar Items: approved
- Approval of November BOF Meeting Minutes
- [Rulemaking Matrix](#)
- [Appointment of William Snyder, RPF RPF No.1760, as Vice-Chair of the Professional Forester Examining Committee.](#)
- [Range Management Advisory Committee \(RMAC\) - re-appoint Lance Criley, USFS, for 4-yr term with the RMAC](#)
- [Approval of Final Joint Institute for Wood Products Innovation Report: Cross-Laminated Timber Layup Tests Using Western Wood Products Association \(WWPA\) White fir Species Group, TallWood Design Institute](#)
- [Approval of Final Board of Forestry and Fire Protection Report: Barriers to Mass Timber and Other Innovative Wood Products in California, Sierra Institute for Community and Environment](#)
- RPF-CRM Vital Statistics, Approval of RPF License Withdrawal



Forest Practice—BOF cont.

Monthly Board Reports

Report of the Chairman (Chair Gilles): very brief, acknowledges the Francis Raymond award for the day.

Director's Report, Thom Porter:

- Thom Porter is retiring, this is his last month as Director
- Following up on Board Member questions from last month:
 - Demonstration State Forests – return to the ritual of the holiday season, and the Capital Christmas tree in Sacramento was supplied by La Tour DSF. Tree lighting ceremony viewing link is included in the Director's report.
 - Firefighter behavioral health: HR Dept of Health and Wellness provided a briefing to the Director on the behavioral health aspect of CAL FIRE's operations
 - Incorporating more mindfulness and meditation content at the fire academy and at the stations
 - Will roll out a "tactical fitness program" in the spring
 - Continuing to work towards physical fitness standards with the union.
 - The program has an average of 600+ employee contacts during fire season (employees reaching out to behavioral health staff for support).
 - There is the most public attention on "forest management" as ever in Director Porter's career. Cautions the Board that the state legislature is busy pushing "solutions" from their perspective, and Director Porter feels the BOF needs to get ahead of some of these proposals that are starting to erode important state institutions. Need to also do a better job of highlighting the Board's work to the public.
- The Governor is working on a successor for Director Porter.

Executive Officer Report, Edith Hannigan:

- In-person meetings: hopeful that the BOF will be able to reconvene with in-person meetings at some point in 2022, especially for re-engaging with field tour meetings (May, July, and September).
- Husari and Wade's terms expire in January, though they may be able to extend their service for some time until successors are appointed.
- Staffing update: Looking for a Land Use Planning staffer to fill Edith's previous position.
- DRAFT Annual Report Update
- Annual Call for Regulatory Review received a number of Public Comment Letters:
 - Board Staff Report on Newly Effective Forest Practice Rules and Suggested Rule Modifications for Consideration
 - Loretta Moreno CNRA comment
 - John Munn comment
 - Dustin Lindler comment
 - Contractor's Coalition comment
 - California Wildlife Foundation comment
 - County of Nevada comment
 - Marc Jameson comment
 - Niel Fischer Collins Pine comment
 - Warren Halsey comment
 - Lynn Kennedy comment
 - Lee Ann and Eric Wade comment
 - Adil Allawi comment
 - Michael Burke comment
 - David Hutchinson comment
 - Margaret Belska comment
 - County of Santa Clara comment
 - Denis Zaff comment



Forest Practice—BOF

Report of the Regulations Coordinator (Jane VanSustern):

- Board consideration of re-adoption of emergency rulemaking entitled “Emergency Notice Fuel Treatment & RPF Responsibilities” - 14 CCR §§ 1052 and 1052.4
 - These emergency regulations are coming to their sunset date. In previous meetings, this rule text was approved under regular rulemaking for permanent adoption, but will not go into effect until 2023, so this re-adoption of the emergency rules is necessary to ensure there is not a lapse in applicability. Please see the Notice of Proposed Emergency Action for more details.
 - This rule package requires that RPFs be present on-site on Emergency Notice Areas a sufficient number of times to remain apprised of operations, as well as requires the fuels treatments associated with the Emergency Notice for Fuel Hazard Reduction to be completed within one year of acceptance of the EM, instead of one year from creation of the slash. **Please note that this regulatory text is currently in effect, as of 8/5/2021.**
 - Motion to re-adopt the emergency rulemaking passes unanimously, extending the applicability of this text until Dec 21, 2022. The permanent rulemaking on this rule package is identical and will come into effect on Jan 1, 2023.

Report of the Standing Committees

Management and Forest Practice Committees – see detailed notes on Committee Meetings above
Resource Protection Committee

- Defensible Space Regulations – Clare McCoy from BOF Staff reported that this regulatory package is being composed by a large, inter-disciplinary group of stakeholders. This rule plead includes a 0-5-foot zero-fuels zone around structures.
- Subdivision review – CAL FIRE is making progress on review of all of the subdivisions in the State in SRA or Very High Fire Severity LRA that do not have 2 methods of ingress and egress
- Safety Elements – reviewed City of Perris, City of Monrovia, City of Palm Desert, City of Rancho Mirage, City of Rancho Santa Margarita, and Imperial County.
- Reviewed the Draft 2022 Committee Priorities
- Board consideration of proposed changes to regular rulemaking entitled “State Minimum Fire Safe Regulations, 2021”
 - Approval of the motion to move the rule package for 15-day public comment period.

Report of the EMC, Sue Husari: the committee has not meet since November, so there was nothing further to report.

Report of the RMAC, Christina of the Board Staff

- Discussions with the Tahoe National Forest with CRMs or folks who have the required expertise to manage grazing of rangelands and meadows. The RMAC was helping the forest with outreach to qualified applicant pools and how to improve their program nationwide. No action taken.
- January 5th is the next meeting.
- Recommendations for appointment for the four open seats should be coming to the Board at the January meeting. Applications will be reviewed at the Jan 5th committee meeting.
- The RMAC annual work plan will also be submitted to the Board at the January meeting.

Presentation of the 2021 Francis H. Raymond Award for Excellence in California Forestry

- Congratulations to Gary Rynearson, RPF #2117, individual winner of the 2021 Francis H. Raymond Award! Thank you for your 44 years of hard work in this industry and your service as a prior CLFA President, three-time member of the Board of Forestry, member of the PFEC for over a decade, and many other contributions.
- Congratulations also to the California Forest Pest Council, the organizational winner of the 2021 Francis H. Raymond Award!

Public Comments

- Many comments calling for a current review of the JDSF Forest Management Plan, as well as many comments expressing concern for forest management activities and their impact (implied negative) on wildlife, watersheds, wildfire risk, Indigenous values and cultural resources, and climate change. Many commenters from Mendocino County with concerns.



Water/Wildlife/Botany

Mark Pugsley — Committee Chair

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD

The Board last met on December 8th and January 4th Via Teleconference. No forestry action items were on the agenda. [Agenda](#) The next meeting is scheduled for February 4th. No agenda is available.

Region 1-North Coast

The Board last met on October 7th via teleconference. The Executive Officers report contains a 5 year assessment of the Upper Elk River Sediment TMDL. Minutes are not yet available, but the agenda is. [Agenda](#). The next meeting is scheduled for February 3rd via teleconference. No agenda is available.

Region 2- San Francisco Bay

The Board last met on December 15th via teleconference. No forestry action items were on the agenda. Minutes are not yet available, but the agenda is. [Agenda](#). The next meeting is scheduled for January 5th via teleconference. No agenda is available at this time.

Region 3-Central Coast

The Board last met on December 10th via teleconference. No forestry action items were on the agenda. Minutes are not yet available, but the agenda is. [Agenda](#). The next meeting is scheduled for February 17th via teleconference; the agenda is not yet available.

Region 5-Central Valley

The Board last met on December 9th via teleconference, an overview of the Board's forest activities program occurred. Minutes are not yet available, but the agenda is. [Agenda](#). The next meeting is scheduled for February 17th via teleconference; the agenda is not yet available.

Region 6-Lahontan

The Board last met on November 10th via teleconference . A presentation on the state of the [forest activities program](#) occurred. Minutes are not yet available but the audio of the meeting is available on the Region's webpage. [Agenda](#). The 2022 Schedule is not yet available.

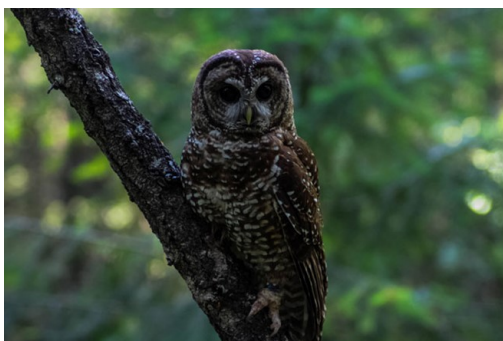
Environmental Protection Agency

The EPA and Army Corp of Engineers is proposing a rule change for the Waters of the United States to return the definition back to the 2015 definition. The largest impacts to this proposed rule change will be to ephemeral streams and wetlands. [Article](#).

WILDLIFE

California Fish and Game Commission

The Commission last met on December 15th via teleconference. [Agenda](#). The next meeting is scheduled for February 16th via teleconference. The agenda is not yet available.



(Photo Credit: Tim Demers, [USFWS](#))
California Spotted Owl



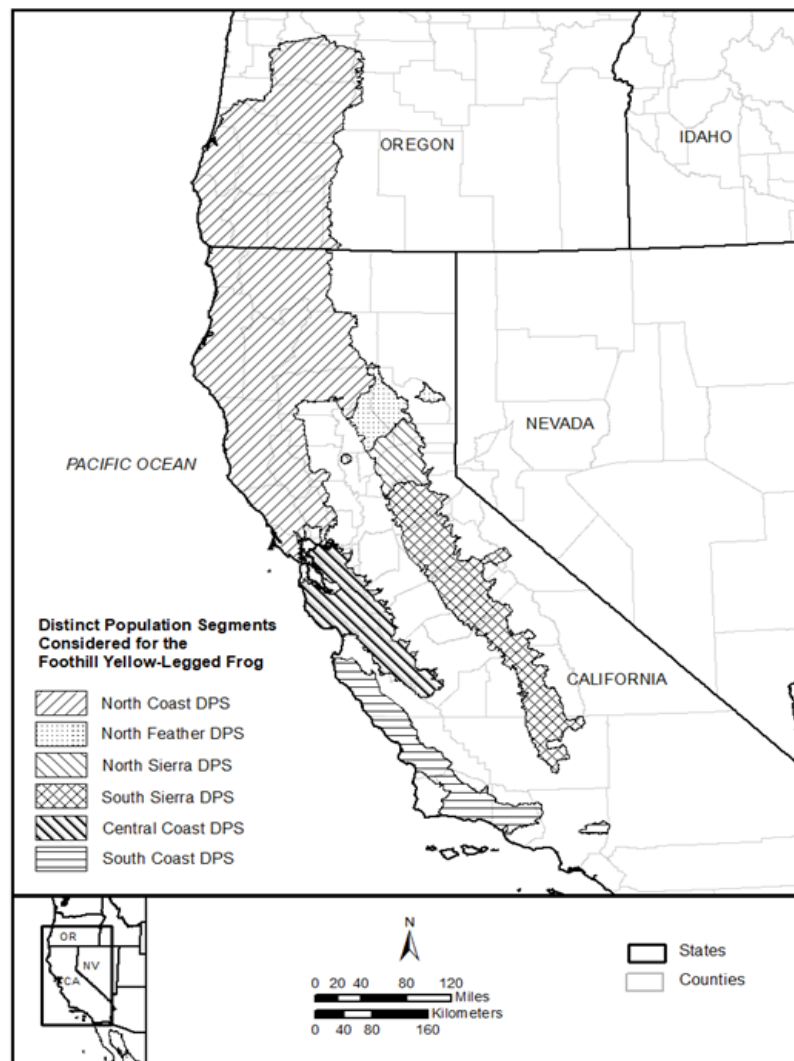
Water/Wildlife/Botany cont.

The Service has agreed to conduct a new Status Review of the California Spotted Owl (*Stix occidentalis occidentalis*) in response to a [lawsuit](#) filed August 2020 by several organizations that alleges that the previous [Status Review](#) published November 2019 was not supported by the Service's own scientific assessment. The new Endangered Species Act Review is expected to be published February 25, 2023.

Relevant Research: [Megafire causes persistent loss of an old forest species.](#)(Jones 2021)

Foothill Yellow-Legged Frog

The Service has proposed Listing of four Distinct Population Segments(DPS) of the Foothill Yellow-Legged Frogs(*Rana boylei*) Under the Endangered Species Act. The South Sierra and South Coast DPSs are proposed for listing as Endangered and the North Feather and Central Coast DPSs are proposed for listing as threatened. No Critical Habitat is proposed at this time for any DPS. The primary threats given for this decision to list the DPSs are hydrologic modifications, invasive species, and climate change. Public Comments must be received or postmarked before February 28, 2022. A map showing the DPS ranges is included below. [Federal Register](#).



(Source: USFWS)



Forestry Challenge

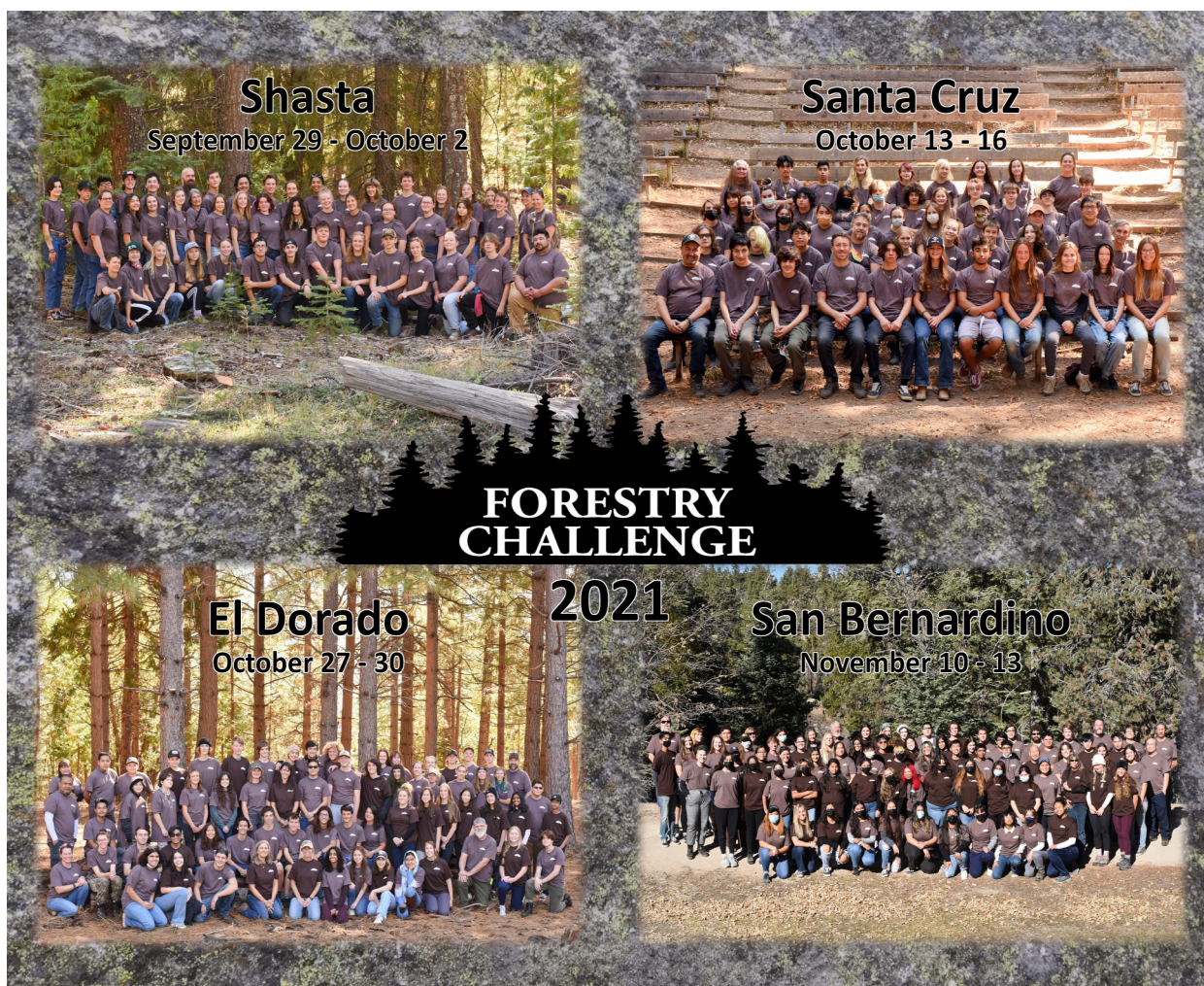
Diane Dealey Neill

After a successful event season in the fall of 2021, the Forestry Challenge is on track with a Championship event on April 21 to 23 in Tuolumne County. More details and a formal request for volunteers will come in February.

I would like to thank CLFA for its donation to the Forestry Challenge, as well as donations from the following individuals who made a donation as part of their CLFA dues:

Bill Snyder
Charll Stoneman
Erik Jensen
Gaylord Briggs
Jack Harvey
Jerry Jensen
John McDonagh
John Todd
Kelly Conner
Larry Camp
Len Nielson
Mark Mueller
Pete Johnson
Ruth Norman
Shannon Johnson

The Forestry Challenge thrives and succeeds on donations and grants, so these contributions make a difference and are appreciated!





2021 CLFA BOARD MEETING WORKSHOP/CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

BOARD MEETINGS

2022

- ◆ January 15, 2022—9:00 am to 2:00 pm—Granzellas, Williams
- ◆ February 15, 2022—6:00 pm to 8:00 pm—GoToMeeting
- ◆ April 19, 2022—6:00 pm to 8:00 pm—GoToMeeting
- ◆ May 20, 2022—6:00 pm—7:00 pm—Audit
- ◆ May 21, 2022—9:00 am to 2:00 pm—Granzellas, Williams

CLFA WORKSHOPS / CONFERENCES

2022

- ◆ February 11, 2022—Licensing Prep Class—Granzellas, Williams, CA
- ◆ March 4 & 5, 2022—Spring Conference—postponed
- ◆ March 28—April 1, 2022—5-day Initial Archaeology, Gaia Hotel & Spa—***Class is Full***
- ◆ May 4 & 5, 2022—Archaeology Refreshers, Gaia Hotel & Spa, Anderson
- ◆ October 3-7, 2022—5-day Initial Archaeology, Gaia Hotel & Spa—***8 spots remaining***
- ◆ November 9 & 10, 2022—Archaeology Refreshers, Gaia Hotel & Spa, Anderson

Brochures and registration for all workshops & conferences will be accessible on the CLFA website

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