



Gopher Tortoise Academy

Gopher Tortoise Academy brings together leading experts in the field to share the current conservation strategies and habitat management practices that promote viable gopher tortoise populations.

Tortoise biology, population dynamics, and field techniques will also be presented in a combination of classroom and field presentations.

AUGUST 6-8, 2025

**BLUE LAKE CAMP AND RETREAT CENTER
ANDALUSIA, AL**

REGISTER TODAY!

longleafalliance.org/events

Or contact Karen at 803-607-5466 for more information.

Presented with support from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and NRCS

Gopher Tortoise Academy

August 6-8, 2025

Blue Lake Camp and Retreat Center

8500 Oakwood Lane, Andalusia, Alabama

Wednesday August 6, 2025

1:00	1:30	Welcome and Introductions	
1:30	2:00	Tortoise Biology and Natural History	Ericha Shelton-Nix, ACDNR
2:00	3:00	Population Dynamics	John Tupy, USFWS
3:00	3:20	Break	
3:20	4:10	AL Population and Challenges	Ericha Shelton-Nix, ACDNR
4:10	4:30	USFWS Landowner Programs	MS and Daphne USFWS staff
4:30	5:00	USDA Financial Assistance Programs	NRCS staff
5:00		Dismiss for day	

Thursday August 7, 2025

8:30	9:00	Classroom open	
		Keystone Dynamics and Commensal Species of the Gopher	
9:00	10:00	Tortoise	Lisa Lord, The Longleaf Alliance
10:00	10:20	Break	
		Habitat Management and Improvement Techniques for the	
10:20	11:20	Gopher Tortoise	Lora Smith, The Jones Center
11:20	12:00	Cogongrass and invasive species threats and treatments	Emma McKee, The Longleaf Alliance
12:00	1:00	Lunch provided	
1:00	1:20	Headstarting: Case Study from SC	Lisa Lord, The Longleaf Alliance
		Recipient Sites and Longleaf Restoration: Case Study of	
1:20	2:20	Nokuse Plantation	Derek Breakfield, Nokuse Plantation
2:20	2:40	Break	
2:40	3:10	Emerging Markets: Biodiversity Credits	Lisa Lord, The Longleaf Alliance
3:10	4:00	Managing for Multiple Values on the Conecuh National Forest	Derek Colbert, USFS
4:00		TBD	
5:00		Dismiss for day	

Friday August 8, 2025

8:30	9:00	Travel to Site 1-Private land
9:00	9:45	Tour Site 1
9:45	10:15	Travel to Conecuh National Forest
10:15	11:15	Tour CNF
11:15	11:30	Travel to Blue Lake
11:30	12:00	Closing remarks
		Academy adjourns - Travel home safely!
		Lunch provided to-go