N. Lee May

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ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

Assistant Professor & **Program Coordinator**, **Environmental Studies** | 2025–present
University of Montevallo | Montevallo, Alabama

EDUCATION

Ph.D., **Texas A&M University** | College Station, Texas | 2019–25
Ecology & Conservation Biology | Certificate in Applied Biodiversity Science
Dissertation: *The Past, Present, and Future of Wildfire in the Lost Pines of Bastrop County, Texas*
Advisor: Urs Kreuter | Committee: Wendy Jepson, Joseph Veldman, John Casellas Connors

B.A., **James Madison University** | Harrisonburg, Virginia | 2006–10 | Phi Beta Kappa
Geography (Global Studies concentration) | Minor: Middle Eastern Communities & Migrations
Senior Project: *A Geographic History of the Appalachian Identity*

PUBLICATIONS

PEER-REVIEWED MONOGRAPHS:

May, N.L. (under review). *Planting a Fire: How Science & Society Facilitated a Destructive Wildfire in the Great Plains of Texas*. Texas A&M University Press.

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES:

May, N.L., Wald, D.M., Kreuter, U.P. (under review). Considering wildfire in conservation planning: Lessons from Habitat Conservation Plans in the United States. *Land Use Policy*.

May, N.L., Miller, W.A., Kreuter, U.P. (2026). Rebuilding and new residential development following a destructive wildfire: A ten-year wildland-urban interface case study in Texas, United States. *International Journal of Wildland Fire, 35*(5): WF25028.

Kreuter, U.P., Wonkka, C.L., Twidwell, D., Treadwell, M.L., **May, N.L.** (2025). Awareness and social interaction influence natural resource professionals' recommendations for prescribed fire use. *Rangeland Ecology & Management, 100*: 89–98.

PROFESSIONAL REPORTS:

Kreuter, U.P., Wilcox, B.P., Veldman, J.W., **May, N.L.** (2022). 2022 Recommended Land Management for the Water Quality Protection Lands, Austin, Texas. Submitted to the Water Quality Protection Lands Wildland Conservation District, Austin Water, City of Austin, Texas.

NON-REVIEWED ARTICLES:

May, N.L., Miller, W.A. (2025). Reflecting on Bastrop. *Tierra Grande: The Journal of Texas Real Estate Research, 32*(2): 14–19. Texas Real Estate Research Center, Texas A&M University.

Miller, W.A., **May, N.L.** (2024). Where there's smoke: Climate change, population growth, and wildfires. *Tierra Grande: The Journal of Texas Real Estate Research, 31*(4): 14–18. Texas Real Estate Research Center, Texas A&M University.

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, & AWARDS

Willie Mae Harris Fellowship for Outstanding Teaching Assistants | Texas A&M College of Agriculture and Life Sciences | 2024–25
Outstanding Graduate Teaching Award | Texas A&M Ecology and Conservation Biology | 2024
W.B. Davis Endowed Scholarship | Texas A&M Ecology and Conservation Biology | 2022–23
Sid Kyle Graduate Merit Assistantship | Texas A&M Ecosystem Science and Management | 2020–23
ECCB Travel Grant | Texas A&M Ecology and Conservation Biology | 2023
Merit Fellowship | Texas A&M College of Agriculture and Life Sciences | 2019–20

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Principles of Sustainability | ES 302 | University of Montevallo | Fall 2025; Fall 2026
History and Ecology of Fire | ES 321 | University of Montevallo | Spring 2026
Field Methods | ES 380 | University of Montevallo | Fall 2026
Environment and Society | ES 200 | University of Montevallo | Fall 2025; Spring 2026; Fall 2026
Environmental Studies in Action (Senior Capstone) | ES 499 | University of Montevallo | Spring 2026
Environmental Studies Internship | ES 495 | University of Montevallo | Spring 2026; Summer 2026
Fundamentals of Ecology (*Lab TA*) | ECCB 215 | Texas A&M | Fall 2020; Spring 2023; Spring 2024; Spring 2025
Ecosystem Management (*Lab TA*) | RWFM 411 | Texas A&M | Spring 2023; Spring 2024

PRESENTATIONS

May, N.L. (2026). 'Foresting the Plains' and Fueling a Fire: How Government Agencies and Environmental Scientists Planted and Legitimized a Flammable Forest in the Great Plains. *American Association of Geographers (AAG) Annual Meeting*, San Francisco, CA.

May, N.L. (2026). Unearthing the Roots of the Lost Pines 'Forest.' *Alum Creek Wildlife Management Association Winter Meeting*, Bastrop, TX.

May, N.L. (2025). New Discoveries in the Lost Pines. *Native Prairies Association of Texas Ecosystem Restoration Talk*, virtual.

May, N.L. (2025). Stoking the Fire: Unintended Consequences of Houston Toad Conservation in Bastrop County, Texas. *Texas A&M Rangeland, Wildlife, and Fisheries Management Seminar*, College Station, TX.

May, N.L. (2023). The Production of Destruction: How Society Invented the Flammable Lost Pines 'Forest' of Texas. *American Association of Geographers (AAG) Annual Meeting*, Denver, CO.

May, N.L. (2023). How Society Invented the Lost Pines 'Forest' of Texas. *Texas A&M Ecological Integration Symposium*, College Station, TX.

May, N.L. (2023). The Production of Destruction. *Texas A&M Ecology & Conservation Biology Seminar*, College Station, TX.

May, N.L. (2022). Historical Research Across Disciplines. *James Madison University Middle East Student & Faculty Research Workshop*, Harrisonburg, VA.

May, N.L. (2014). Developing Charlottesville's Food Identity. *Tom Tom Founders Festival*, Charlottesville, VA.

May, N.L. (2008). Changing Pace and Changing Identity: The 'Race' of the Jordan River. *James Madison University Middle East Conference*, Harrisonburg, VA.

May, N.L. (2007). Guantánamo Bay: Self-Defense or Self-Destruction? *James Madison University General Education Student Conference*, Harrisonburg, VA.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Association for Environmental Studies and Sciences (AESS)
American Association of Geographers (AAG)
Southeastern Division of the American Association of Geographers (SEDAAG)
American Society for Environmental History (ASEH)
Alliance for Texas History

SERVICE

UNIVERSITY OF MONTEVALLO:

Chair, Sustainability Committee (2025–present)
Coordinator, Green Fund (2025–present)
Member, University of Montevallo Priority Action Team for Long-Range Transformation (2025–present)
Undergraduate Research Advisor, Olive Bibb (2026–27)
Faculty Advisor, Environmental Club (2025–present)
Faculty Advisor, Outdoor Adventure Club (2026–present)
Major Advisor to sixteen students in the Environmental Studies program

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY:

Instructor, Dept. of Ecology & Conservation Biology Graduate Teaching Assistant Training Workshop (2022–26)
Member, Applied Biodiversity Science Program Steering Committee (2020–22)
Member, Dept. of Ecology & Conservation Biology Climate Committee (2021–22)

PROFESSION/COMMUNITY:

Mentor/Mentee, AESS Faculty Mentorship Program (2025–present)
Book Reviewer, *Journal of Texas History* (in preparation)

MISCELLANEOUS EXPERIENCE

Contestant | Jeopardy! (television program), Season 30 | January 2014
Musician & **Songwriter** | The Can-Do Attitude (band) | 2009–2018