

# North Carolina Vegetation Management 2023 Annual Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, December 6th



- 8:00 a.m. **Registration Opens / Exhibitors Open**
- 9:00 a.m. **Welcome / President's Remarks**  
Daniel Horne, Division Roadside Environmental Engineer, NC DOT and NCVMA President
- 9:15 a.m. **Aquatic Plant Management: Recent Research Findings Supporting Operational Practices**  
Dr. Robert Richardson, Professor and Extension Specialist, North Carolina State University  
*Maximizing aquatic plant management activities relies upon understanding both weed biology and management techniques. Recent research has documented that short, periodic exposures to aquatic herbicides can control selected target vegetation as well as long term static treatments. This can potentially reduce the cost of treatment while maintaining or increasing efficacy. Other research has documented genetic differences in Valisneria and Lyngbya biotypes that may present management implications. Further, a new biotype of hydrilla in Connecticut has significant biological differences from the historic biotypes in the United States. Important findings and management implications from these and other recent research trials will be presented.*
- 9:45 a.m. **Forestry Safety: Using Situational Awareness to see the Forest AND the Trees**  
Josh Anderson, At-Height Market Manager, Redwing Rigging Solutions  
*In the realm of forestry, ensuring workplace safety means maintaining acute situational awareness to discern both the broader environment and the immediate hazards. By focusing on both the forest and its individual trees, we can prevent accidents and protect our workforce.*
- 10:15 p.m. **Break with Exhibitors**
- 11:00 a.m. **Pollinator Panel**  
Moderator: Jesse Peery, Area Sales Manager, Envu  
Panelist: Phillip Barnes, Powerline Forester, City of Apex  
Panelist: Kevin Clemmer, Roadside Vegetation Management Supervisor, NC DOT  
Panelist: Debbie Hamrick, Director of Specialty Crops, NC Farm Bureau Federation  
*This panel session, aided by a moderator, will focus on the promotion of pollinator habitats in the State of North Carolina. The panel will explore and discuss best practices and their use of Integrated Vegetation Management methods at the township, state agency, and agriculture levels for the successful promotion of pollinator habitats.*
- 12:00 p.m. **Glyphosate Updates**  
Frank Wong, US Industry Affairs Lead, Bayer  
*This session will focus on the current status of Roundup products. U.S. EPA Registration Review of glyphosate and Roundup products will be addressed, as well as the current status of U.S. litigation. Bayer resources for addressing public issues will be presented. Attendees will be given a review of the availability of Roundup products, Bayer resources and the importance of science-driven regulation of pesticide products.*
- 12:30 p.m. **Lunch, Atrium**

- 1:30 p.m. **Fire/Weather Patterns and the Value of Fire Safety Programs**  
Frank Archuleta, Wright Tree Services  
*Wright Tree Services Fire Safety Program includes wildfire and equipment fire programs that are critical to the safety of their employees and customers alike. During this session, attendees will learn about those programs and their value and experience a demonstration of Wright Tree's Wildfire Safety Training program.*
- 2:00 p.m. **Plant Growth Regulators - A tool for more than roadsides**  
Brandon Dunlap, Aquatics and VM Territory Manager, Nutrien Solutions  
*The use of plant growth regulators will be discussed within the context of multiple use sites including roadside, pipelines, solar, and other difficult to mow areas. PGR overview, application considerations, expectations, and product labels will be discussed.*
- 2:30 p.m. **A Word From Our Exhibitors & Sponsors**
- 2:45 p.m. **Break with Exhibitors**
- 3:15 p.m. **Stormwater Permitting and Best Management Practices**  
Sheila Rayman, P.E., Director, EnviroScience, Inc.  
Ryan Romanson, Environmental Inspection Services, EnviroScience, Inc.  
*An overview of EPA NPDES construction stormwater permitting and Best Management Practices (BMPs) that will maintain compliance. Implementation of BMPs on construction projects from tree clearing through active construction and post construction methods will be presented.*
- 3:45 p.m. **Jimmy V Foundation for Cancer Research**  
Rebecca Erquitt, Foundation Value and Giving
- 4:15 p.m. **Wrap Up for the Day**  
Daniel Horne, Division Roadside Environmental Engineer, NC DOT and NCVMA President
- 4:30 p.m. **End of Day 1, Exhibitors open until 5:00 p.m.**

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Thursday, December 7th



- 8:30 a.m. **NCVMA Board Business Meeting**  
Daniel Horne, Division Roadside Environmental Engineer, NC DOT and NCVMA President  
Paul Mitchell, Division Manager, Wright Tree  
*As the year comes to an end, so does the current term of the NCVMA President. During this time we will welcome the new President, vote on members to fill the newly vacated board positions, and wrap up board business.*
- 8:45 a.m. **Scholarship Committee Update**  
Dylan Hurley, Forest Mgmt Technology Dept Chair, Montgomery Community College  
*The NCVMA has always taken our responsibility to educate our industry to the best of our ability by continuously supporting scholarship initiatives and opportunities. During this time, we will update the association on how those initiatives are going to date and about the expansion into community college support that has occurred over the few years.*
- 9:00 a.m. **Environmental Factors Affecting ROW Decisions**  
Eric Romaniszyn, Sr Scientist, EnviroScience  
*EnviroScience, Inc. will discuss various factors that may affect the improvement and maintenance of existing right-of-ways, as well alignments of new ROWs. These factors include threatened and endangered species, pollinators, invasive species, streams, and wetlands. When these are encountered, solutions may include US Fish & Wildlife Service coordination, jurisdictional waters delineations, permitting, planting recommendations, and invasive species control.*
- 9:30 a.m. **Break with Exhibitors**
- 10:30 a.m. **Right Tree, Right Place**  
Maegan Mullinax, Business Development Manager, ACRT  
*This concept is not new to many of us in the utility vegetation management space, but how do we educate our stakeholders? This presentation will center on the main talking points beyond the basics. We will also discuss local support and improving communication between your company and others.*
- 11:00 a.m. **GIS Workflows for Vegetation Management**  
Ray Dorsey, Clarion Software  
*Many utilities and transportation entities are requiring GIS (Geographic Information Systems) technology within their vegetation management programs. This presentation offers an overview of GIS workflow methodology and best practices in the area of vegetation management.*
- 11:30 a.m. **Closing Session**  
Paul Mitchell, Division Manager, Wright Tree  
*Presidents remarks will be given by the incoming President, Jimmy V Silent Auction Winners will be announced and instructions for credit sign ups will be reviewed.*
- 12:00 p.m. **End of Day 2**