

2016 Fall Newsletter

20th Annual Symposium
December 7th and 8th, 2016
Sheraton Hotel
&
Koury Convention Center
Greensboro, North Carolina

NCVMA President



From Beauty to Brown and Back
 By
 2016 NCVMA President
 Curtis Horn

Biltmore Estate is a beautiful property from the historic Biltmore House, into the Gardens, and across the landscape to Antler Hill Village. Over this expanse, visiting guests view meticulously manicured gardens, pastoral hillsides and livestock pastures and field plantings for crop production and beauty.



Each of these settings presents its own challenges for vegetation management, which includes a wide variety

of undesirable, invasive and even exotic vegetation, along with terrain features and guest activities. When conditions are favorable, invasive plants can actually take over the landscape providing a guest view that is not desirable. To achieve success, a variety of control methods and timing are utilized.

In the Gardens, the expectation is year round beauty, which entails four plant change-outs each year. After each seasonal planting, the plant beds are hand weeded or carefully treated with herbicide to maintain a weed free view.

Vegetation control on open hillsides, pastures and right-of-ways of powerlines and forest trails require the combined effort of mowing rotations each season and herbicide treatment of invasive vegetation between the cuttings. As guests view these locations, the effect of the herbicide application must be of minimal notice. Two plants that provide a continual challenge are autumn olive and porcelain berry. Despite repeated mowing, these two plant species will grow in a ground

covering carpet which crowds out the desirable field grasses and forbs. Moreover, the porcelain berry can be very aggressive in its habit of vines growing up and covering entire trees and fence lines. To maintain the aesthetic beauty, efforts must be ongoing.



In some instances, vegetation can get beyond these controls and a forestry mower is required to restore the location to management of more conventional means. Each year a section is cleared to remove the competing invasive and often exotic vegetation. The result is an area of green becoming brown from cut vegetation and follow-up herbicide treatment. The contrast in view can be a stark but necessary step to produce the beauty and a manageable landscape. Guests touring Biltmore Estate often have questions about the view from one location to another.

During the Legacy of the Land Tour, drivers serve as tour guides and share the “what and why” at various locations to inform guests about staff efforts for managing the landscape. Guests can be inquisitive, and once informed have an understanding and support for these efforts.

Crop fields provide another challenge and opportunity. Weeds in crops must be controlled to have profitable production, and these can include invasive Johnson grass. Herbicide options in row crops provide some control, however areas like hayfields can require special herbicide treatments and/or equipment, such as a rope wick, to reduce competing weeds while allowing the hay crop to grow.

Some locations of crop fields are planted for production, yet also provide a beautiful view. Each season about 50 acres of fields at Biltmore Estate are planted to canola for oil production. The view of an entire field covered in light yellow blooms is a breathtaking scene each spring. It is a favorite with guests as well, who will wear out the roadside turf as they park and stop for pictures. The final step in production is a pre-harvest treatment with a herbicide desiccant. This requires signage indicating “Do Not Enter-Pesticide Treatment”, which is removed as soon as entry is safe as indicated on the label.



Another guest favorite are strips of sunflowers planted beside the paved Bike Path. This near mile long strip is planted to provide blooming the first week of each of the months of July, August and September. Although mainly for landscape adornment, the mature seed heads of the sunflowers are also harvested to supply food to the large chicken flock for egg production.



NCVMA Scholarship Awards

NC State University

“Derek C. Smith NCVMA Graduate Scholarship Award”

Erika Haug, a Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences, PhD candidate at NC State University. - FY 2016 - \$1500.00



Again, to produce sunflowers a pre-plant herbicide treatment is utilized followed by a post emergent application to eliminate competing weeds. Each application requires close attention to guest activities along the adjacent walkway to avoid any adverse situations.

In summary, there are a variety of tools for the vegetation manager to utilize in managing the landscape. The choice for each location will depend on the desired result and factors such as location, terrain and adjacent activities.

I hope everyone had a successful year of vegetation management and will join us December 7 and 8, at the NCVMA Annual Symposium, in Greensboro, North Carolina. Until then, be safe.

NCVMA Undergraduate Scholarship Winners

Mr. Joshua L. Godwin

Horticultural Science - FY 2016 - \$1,045.00

Mr. Ethan M. Garner

Horticultural Science - FY 2016 - \$1,045.00



We are again proud to sponsor casino night at the NCVMA symposium for the fight against childhood cancer. Please join us for a night of fun and games as we celebrate the advances in the fight against cancer. In 20 years the survival rate of childhood cancer has gone from 20% to a staggering 80% thanks to donors like you. We want to see you there.

NCVMA members are encouraged to send articles or other information that would be of interest to the NCVMA membership. Articles will be considered for publication in the Newsletter by the NCVMA Board of Directors. The Newsletter will be posted on the NCVMA website twice per year: 1) A spring issue prior to the NCVMA field day; and, 2) A fall issue, prior to the NCVMA Annual Meeting.

Articles should be sent via email in MS Word format to the Newsletter Editor. www.ncveg.com

The VIP Column (Vegetation Mgt. Information for the Professional)

Federal Pesticide Laws

We regulate pesticides under broad authority granted in two major statutes, the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act and the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act. These laws have been amended by the Food Quality Protection Act and the Pesticide Registration Improvement Act.

- **Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA)** - Requires all pesticides sold or distributed in the United States (including imported pesticides) to be registered by EPA.
 - Registration is based on evaluation of scientific data and assessment of risks and benefits of a product's use.
 - Label directions control how products are used.
 - We can authorize limited use of unregistered pesticides or pesticides registered for other uses to address emergencies and special local needs.
 - We can suspend or cancel a product's registration.
 - Training is required for workers in pesticide-treated areas and certification and training for applicators of restricted use pesticides.
- **Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA)** - Requires us to set pesticide tolerances for all pesticides used in or on food or in a manner that will result in a residue in or on food or animal feed. A tolerance is the maximum permissible level for pesticide residues allowed in or on human food and animal feed.
 - Includes strong provisions for protecting infants and children, as well as other sensitive subpopulations.
 - Provides for exemption from the requirement for a tolerance.

Under the **Food Quality Protection Act, of 1996**, which amended both FIFRA and FFDCA, we must find that a pesticide poses a "reasonable certainty of no harm" before it can be registered for use on food or feed. We must review each pesticide registration at least once every 15 years.

- Several factors must be addressed before a tolerance can be established, including:
 - the aggregate, non-occupational exposure from the pesticide (exposure through diet and drinking water and from using pesticides in and around the home);
 - the cumulative effects from exposure to pesticides that have a common mechanism of toxicity, that is, two or more pesticide chemicals or other substances that cause a common toxic effect(s) by the same, or essentially the same, sequence of major biochemical events (i.e., interpreted as mode of action);
 - whether there is increased susceptibility to infants and children, or other sensitive subpopulations, from exposure to the pesticide; and
 - whether the pesticide produces an effect in humans similar to an effect produced by a naturally-occurring estrogen or produces other endocrine-disruption effects.
- The **Pesticide Registration Improvement Act of 2003 (PRIA)** also amended FIFRA and FFDCA. PRIA was reauthorized by the Pesticide Registration Improvement Renewal Act of 2007 and the Pesticide Registration Improvement Extension Act of 2012. Under PRIA:
 - Companies must pay service fees according to the category of the registration action.
 - EPA must meet decision review time periods, which result in a more predictable evaluation process for companies.
 - Shorter decision review periods are provided for reduced-risk registration applications.

- The [Endangered Species Act \(ESA\)](#) requires federal agencies to ensure that any action they authorize, fund, or carry out, will not likely jeopardize the continued existence of any listed species, or destroy or adversely modify any critical habitat for those species. EPA is responsible for reviewing information and data to determine whether a pesticide product may be registered for a particular use. As part of that determination, we assess whether listed endangered or threatened species or their designated critical habitat may be affected by use of the product. All pesticide products that EPA determines “may affect” a listed species or its designated critical habitat may be subject to EPA's Endangered Species Protection Program.

Regulations implementing the pesticide statutes are available at [40 CFR Part 150-189](#).

[Read more about EPA laws.](#)

Pesticide Permit Rule Takes Effect

By Steven Johnson / ECT Staff Writer Published: November 18th, 2011

A new Environmental Protection Agency regulation that took effect November 1 will add an extra layer of paperwork for co-ops that apply pesticides and herbicides along rights of way.



A new EPA rule will add more permit paperwork for co-ops that use pesticides and herbicides applicators. (AP Photo/Chen yibao)

Related Content

- [Senate Panel OKs Pesticide Reform](#)
- [EPA Has a Full Plate for Co-ops](#)
- [Pesticide Regs Called Redundant](#)
An effort by Sen. Pat Roberts, R-Kan., to hold off on implementing the rule for two years stalled in the Senate and paved the way for the permit requirement to go into effect.

“It is a shame this common-sense compromise was rejected due to partisan politics,” said Roberts, the ranking member of the Senate Agriculture Committee. “I remain committed to finding a permanent solution to protect American agriculture and public health departments.”

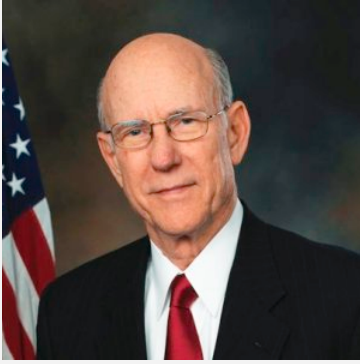
At issue is a second round of permits that herbicide and pesticide applicators will have to secure, since the chemicals could end up in navigable waters. A federal court held in 2009 that EPA must issue those permits under the Clean Water Act.

That’s in addition to permits required under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), which enables EPA to regulate the distribution, sale and use of pesticides and herbicides.

Co-ops have been working for a legislative solution to the court ruling, so they don’t have to get a secondary round of permits, as long as they comply with current rules.

EPA also won a delay in the court ruling to provide time for a congressional fix, but that authority expired Nov. 1.

About 35,000 pesticide applicators will need permits to cover 500,000 applications per year, according to EPA estimates. The agency said the permits will cost states, local entities and applicators \$50 million a year.



Sen. Pat Roberts

Roberts has been a leading voice for a bill that would reverse the court decision and prohibit EPA or a state from requiring a permit under the Clean Water Act, when the user already has a proper permit under federal law.

The bill, H.R. 872, sponsored by Rep. Bob Gibbs, R-Ohio, passed the House and the Senate Agriculture Committee earlier this year with bipartisan support, including Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman Debbie Stabenow, D-Mich.

It has not received floor action and Roberts offered the two-year delay as a compromise to avert the Nov. 1 deadline, but opponents rejected his effort to bring it up for a vote.

Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee, which shares jurisdiction on the issue, instead wants a comprehensive study of pesticide impacts on waters. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., backed her instead of his other committee chairman.

Kirk Johnson, NRECA senior vice president, government relations, said co-ops will continue to work with members of Congress to find a common-sense solution and address the duplicative permitting requirement.

EPA said for the first 120 days of the rule, it will focus on providing compliance assistance and education of the permit requirements, as opposed to enforcement.



Duke Energy restores more than a million outages in the Carolinas; 235,000 customers still without power.

October 11, 2016

- **Restoration army grows to nearly 9,000, with more on the way**
- **Some outage repairs can't be made until flood water recedes**

CHARLOTTE, N.C. -- Duke Energy has restored more than a million (924,000 in North Carolina and 180,000 in South Carolina) of the 1.36 million customers who lost power due to Hurricane Matthew.



The company has quadrupled its resources since storm preparations began (2,300 last week to nearly 9,000 this week). More than 1,500 additional resources are en route today.

Utility companies sending resources include Duke Energy Midwest and Florida, First Energy, CenterPoint Energy and Delaware Electric Coop.

States providing additional personnel include Delaware, New York, Nebraska, Maine, Indiana, Florida, Oklahoma, Iowa, Massachusetts and Pennsylvania. Canada has also sent personnel.

There were still 235,000 customers (158,000 in North Carolina and 77,000 in South Carolina) without power this morning.

The hardest hit counties include: Robeson, Bladen, Columbus, Pender, Duplin, Wayne, Johnston, Sampson, Harnett, Cumberland, Lenoir, Pitt, Greene, Craven and Beaufort.

In some of these areas, flood waters remain or continue to rise. It could be days before crews are able to access these areas to make repairs. Additionally, customers whose homes or meter boxes have sustained substantial damage will need to make repairs before we are able to restore service.

"At Duke Energy, our sole focus is to safely restore power for our customers as quickly as we can," said Lynn Good, Duke Energy chairman, president and CEO, who surveyed Hurricane Mathew's devastation first-hand in southern Wake County Monday.

"This is a very challenging time for all of us, and we appreciate the patience and understanding our customers have shown," she added. "This was an historic storm requiring a massive restoration effort."

Good also spent time at the company's Customer Care and Storm Response centers in Raleigh,

speaking with employees and listening to their interaction with customers.

"People want us to know what they're going through, and we do," Good said. "That's why we've dedicated all available personnel to deal with this catastrophe, and contacted other agencies throughout much of the country and Canada to assist."

Duke Energy focuses on restoring power in a sequence that enables power restoration to public health and safety facilities and to the greatest number of customers as safely and quickly as possible, starting first with the larger transmission lines.

Matthew caused significant damage to Duke's transmission system:

- Nearly 60 transmission lines were knocked out of commission (32 restored)
- More than 115 substations were inoperable due to damage or flood waters (98 restored; many of the remaining ones are submerged)

Hurricane Matthew is the fifth worst storm to hit the combined Duke Energy / Duke Energy Progress service area. Some liken the storm's effects to Hurricane Floyd in 1999 and Hugo in 1989.

"We may continue to lose equipment due to rising flood waters, which could cause additional outages," said Bobby Simpson, who is overseeing Duke Energy's restoration efforts. "The good weather certainly helps our restoration effort, but rising flood waters continue to place additional challenges on us in some areas."

Duke Energy has posted estimated times of [restoration on its website](#). Customers should understand those restoration times reflect the latest time a customer's power could be restored. However, as crews assess specific areas, these times may be improved.

Once crews restore power to a trouble spot, our systems indicate all power provided by that device is on. We are using calls and text messages to gather information to determine remaining outages down the line. If you receive a call or text, it means we are actively working in your area. Please respond if you are still without power. This will assist us in restoring your power as quickly as possible.

Duke Energy's customer service centers have supplemented their ranks to assist customers who call to report outages and emergencies.

Customers can report outages and electrical emergencies, such as downed lines and poles, by calling Duke Energy's automated outage-reporting system for their specific service area:

- Duke Energy Carolinas – 800.769.3766
- Duke Energy Progress – 800.419.6356

Customers can text OUT to 57801 to report an outage from their mobile phone. Be sure to use the mobile phone associated with the customer's account.

Flooding

Ash and cooling pond dams at our Carolinas' facilities continue to operate safely. Flooding continues to subside near the retired Weatherspoon Plant in Lumberton, N.C. The Neuse River near the H.F. Lee Plant in Goldsboro, N.C., continues to rise and is flowing into the plant's cooling pond. The Weatherspoon Plant ash basin and active ash basin at H.F. Lee Plant are not affected. The company is monitoring conditions, and state regulators continue to support operations at both plants.

Safety

Duke Energy urges everyone to be safe during this challenging time. Please follow these important tips:

- Our employees are trained to be vigilant and constantly aware of their surroundings.

- If, at any time, our crews believe they are in an unsafe situation, they will postpone the work until the area is safe and secure.
- We will continue to monitor this evolving situation with our focus on the safety of our customers and employees.
- Anyone encountering electrical equipment after a storm, whether it is a downed power line, a substation or a solar site, take extreme caution and assume that the equipment is energized -- especially do not go near electrical equipment when it is immersed in standing water. Please report downed power lines to Duke Energy or your local power provider.
- If a power line falls across a car you're in, stay in the car. If you **MUST** get out of the car due to a fire or other immediate life-threatening situation, do your best to jump clear of the car and land on both feet. Be sure no part of your body is touching the car when your feet touch the ground.
- Power lines can be hidden by debris and standing water so please be extremely careful moving around in damaged areas.
- "Move Over and Slow Down" Law: The "move over" law requires drivers to move over one lane when two or more lanes are available in each direction to make way for emergency responders, tow trucks, DOT incident management assistance patrols and roadside work crews, such as utility crews. On roads with only one traffic lane in each direction, drivers must slow down and be prepared to stop. Violators could face fines.

Stay Connected -- Duke Energy offers a number of ways for customers to get information about outages and restoration efforts.

- **Online** -- www.duke-energy.com/matthew. Customers can access outage maps and other information online from a computer or mobile device. Once on the map, customers can zoom in to their specific location and hover over the outage indicator nearest their home. A message box will appear showing total customers affected, status and an estimated time of restoration, if available
- **Facebook** -- www.facebook.com/dukeenergy
- **Twitter** -- <https://twitter.com/DukeEnergy>

Media Line (24-hour): 800.559.3853



About Duke Energy

Duke Energy, one of the largest electric power holding companies in the United States, supplies and delivers electricity to approximately 7.4 million customers in the Southeast and Midwest, representing a population of approximately 24 million people. The company also distributes natural gas to more than 1.5 million customers in the Carolinas, Ohio, Kentucky and Tennessee. Its commercial and international businesses operate diverse power generation assets in North America and Latin America, including a growing renewable energy portfolio.

Headquartered in Charlotte, N.C., Duke Energy is an S&P 100 Stock Index company traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol DUK. More information about the company is available at duke-energy.com.

The [Duke Energy News Center](#) serves as a multimedia resource for journalists and features news releases, helpful links, photos and videos. Hosted by Duke Energy, [illumination](#) is an online destination for stories about remarkable people, innovations, and community and environmental topics. It also offers glimpses into the past and insights into the future of energy.

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Making Pollinator Habitat a Priority

By Travis Rogers, market development specialist, Dow AgroSciences and Pat Burch, field scientist, Dow AgroSciences

You've likely heard about the decline in worldwide pollinator habitat and the many initiatives taking place around its restoration and preservation. But perhaps you're wondering why this is considered such a serious and mounting issue.



Pollinators include bees, butterflies, moths, flies, beetles, birds and some mammals like bats. According to a 2015 report from the White House's Pollinator Health Task Force, pollinators contribute more than \$25 billion annually to the U.S. economy, with honeybees alone accounting for \$15 billion through their vital role in keeping fruits, nuts and vegetables available for consumption. Those are staggering numbers. Yet, bee, monarch butterfly and other pollinator populations have experienced significant declines over the past decade for various reasons but in part because of a lack of habitat — native forbs to provide pollen and nectar. For example, bee colonies (beehives) have shrunk from around 6 million in the late 1940s to just 2.5 million today. Now you might be wondering how this relates to the Vegetation Management industry.

Reverse the trend using sound vegetation management practices

Even as pollinator habitat is in decline, there are opportunities to reverse that trend. Those in our industry can contribute by managing vegetation in a manner that is both effective in achieving operational goals, while also promoting healthy habitat for pollinators and wildlife.

Rights-of-way such as electric utility, gas and pipeline, and roadsides in particular are perfect candidates for creating or restoring pollinator habitat. Using selective herbicides or selective application techniques to manage vegetation allows plant species desirable to pollinators to thrive in these corridors while at the same time improving the habitat for wildlife species like large and small mammals, game birds and many other wildlife species.

Misinformation is everywhere about the role herbicides can play with respect to pollinators. It's important to understand many of the commonly used herbicides for rights-of-way management are classified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in the least toxic category with regard to these species. Since the products do not directly impact pollinators the benefit comes through habitat improvement.

Federal and state agencies across the United States are already dedicating significant resources to this issue and are working with partners and private land owners across the country. In fact, the 2008 and 2014 farm bills made pollinators and habitat improvement a priority and encouraged "the development of habitat for native and managed pollinators; and the use of conservation practices that encourage native and managed pollinators."

Are your vegetation management practices compatible with pollinator habitat? If not, perhaps only minor changes would make a substantial difference. Dow AgroSciences has accumulated a wealth of information around establishing and maintaining these critical habitats based on sound

science and operational experience. We will gladly share what we've learned in helping develop a program that fits within the scope of your current vegetation management goals. Contact your local Dow AgroSciences [IVM specialist](#) or contact us evistas@dow.com.

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Calendar of Events

SAVE THE DATE
2017 GVMA Convention
Savannah, GA
April 5-7, 2017

Event Name: ISA Certification Review & Exam - Greensboro
Date: 12/14/16 - 12/16/16
Time: 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m

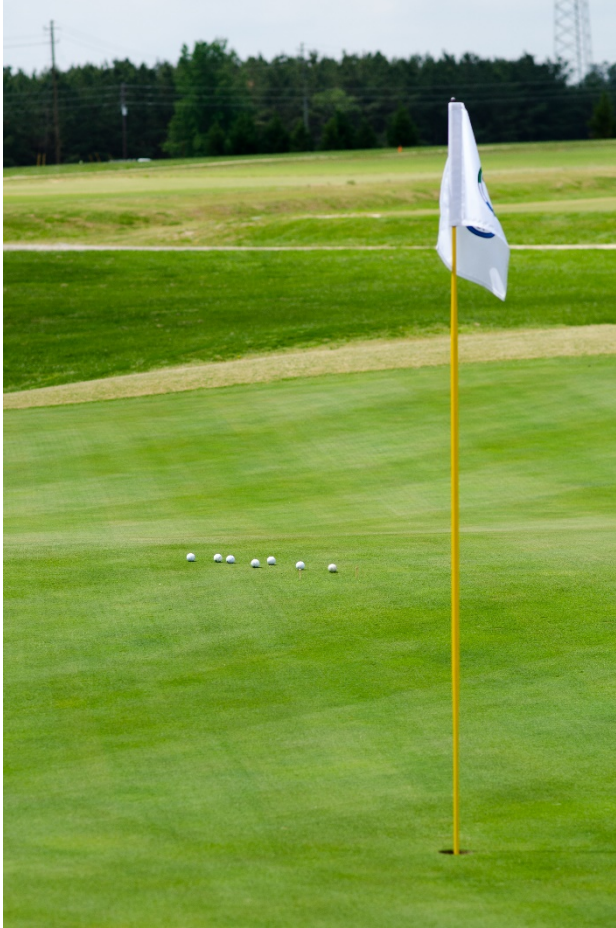
Description: In partnership with the NC Cooperative Extension Service, the NC Urban Forest Council is excited to offer an ISA certified arborist review course. The course offers two days of review of the topics on the arborist certification exam, with the ISA exam being offered on the third day. For more information on exam registration, please visit: <http://www.isa-arbor.com/certification/becomeCertified/index.aspx>



2016 NCVMA Field Day







NCVMA DIRECTORS CONTACT INFORMATION

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Derek Smith – Advisor

Roxie Lee - Newsletter

<p>2016 -2017 Directors (President-Elect to be nominated from Board at March BOD Meeting)</p>
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**NCVMA
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Asplundh Tree Expert Company

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Carolina Tree Care

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