



## 2017 Fall Newsletter



### **President's Message Korey Meadows**

We've almost made it through another fast pace year. Early and frequent rains in some parts of the state transitioned to near drought later on. Other parts of the state are probably asking what rain? While the remainder of you out there probably feel like the rain will never stop. No matter where you fall on the spectrum one thing you know for sure is, you're in North Carolina!

This year's hurricane season has been a wild one with many long standing records broken and some new records created; from the total number of Category 5 hurricanes spinning at the same time

to hurricane Irma sustaining wind speeds of 185mph making it the second strongest hurricane on record based on sustained wind speed.

Some reports say gusts from Irma peaked at 200+mph. Many of you felt the effects of hurricane Irma here at home in the Carolinas. Many of you likely participated or led hurricane restoration and cleanup efforts here in the Carolinas or packed your bags and traveled elsewhere. I'd like to say, Thank You, to you and your families for supporting all of our communities near and far. Hopefully we've seen the worse Mother Nature has to offer us this year in the way of hurricanes. I personally am looking forward to shifting my focus to more important things like spending time with family and friends. One of the best ways I can think to do this is by spending time in the duck blind, deer stand or simply out in the woods with those I love and care about. I could probably sit here at my kitchen table and think of several catchy phrases or sayings that might inspire a brief pause to think about safety at home, away from work, but for me listening to Tony Crow has stuck with me for months! I highly encourage each of you to take five minutes of your time and click the link below. Share it, talk about it and make Safety a Core Value in your life at Work and at Home!

Tony Crow "It's Not Just About Me"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zHXmLBS--oI>





*"Don't Give Up . . . Don't Ever Give Up!"®*

## **NCVMA Annual Scholarship Awards**

### **NCVMA Scholarship Undergraduate Student Award**

Alston N. Willard, Biological Engineering  
Craig W. Person, Forest Management

### **Derek C. Smith NCVMA Graduate Scholarship Award**

Erika Haug  
Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences, PhD Student

Come join us again for CASINO NIGHT at the NCVMA. Our membership's generosity through the years for the fight against childhood cancer has made a difference and is making a difference. Make plans to contribute to the fight against cancer while having a night of fun with your peers at the 2017 NCVMA fundraiser for the Jimmy V Foundation. We vow to keep working until we win the war.

Your donations may be sent in with your conference registration or given prior to the event at the registration desk. Your chips may be picked up at the door on the day of the event.



## **2017 Annual NCVMA Symposium**

**December 6-7, 2017**

**Koury Convention Center  
Sheraton Four Seasons  
Greensboro, NC**

**Register @ <http://www.ncveg.com>**

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](http://www.ncveg.com)

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

### **The Hunt for A Wanted Weed, Cogongrass**

Written by Kelly Oten & Bridget Lassiter

It's not often you hear about grasses with criminal intent, but if that could describe any weed, Cogongrass would be it. Listed as one of the "Top 10 Worst Weeds in the World", two new spots of Cogongrass were found in Pender County in August 2017. These are the sixth and seventh detections of the invasive weed in N.C. since 2012.

The first detection of Cogongrass in the state was in Pender County in 2012. Subsequent finds in Stanly, Martin, Scotland, Wake, and the two additional sites in Pender County indicate that this weed is not going away without a fight. At each location, the NCDA&CS Plant Industry Division attempts to eradicate the weed using a combination of herbicide, fire, and mowing.

The weed may not look like much, but its ecological impacts are significant and what lands it on the Top 10 Worst Weeds list. It is an aggressively-growing plant that covers large areas and out-competes native species. Essentially, in areas where Cogongrass has taken root, little else can thrive because of allelopathy (meaning the roots emit a chemical that kills other plants). It also burns hotter than native grasses and shrubs. Prescribed fire, typically a useful management tool across the southeast, can spell disaster if Cogongrass is a part of the equation. Fires can easily get too hot, burn out of control, and kill seedlings or trees. Longleaf pine, our state tree, depends on periodic wildfires for its success, and if the understory is comprised of Cogongrass, even these fire-adapted trees are threatened. Cogongrass can also bounce back quickly after a fire because its

rhizomes, or underground roots, are unharmed and able to quickly sprout new plants.

Unfortunately, the nefarious Cogongrass doesn't drive a certain make and model of car to be on the lookout for, but we do know what it looks like. Cogongrass is a tall grass, reaching 2-5 feet in height and is yellow-green in color. The mid-vein of each blade can be off-center and the edge is finely toothed. However, the best way to identify this plant is to jump out of your truck and try to pull it out of the soil with your bare hands. You will be able to do this with most of the look-alikes such as Johnsongrass and Vaseygrass. Cogongrass, on the other hand, has very strong roots and you will need a shovel to get them out of the ground. Once you get some of the roots out of the ground, inspect them – they will be bright white in color, and VERY sharp – capable of cutting through roots of other plants or drawing blood upon inspection. Cogongrass blooms in late spring or early summer and seed heads are large, fluffy, and white. It grows in circular patches, and you won't find just one plant growing by itself. In addition, there is no central "leader" to this plant like Johnsongrass – each of the leaves comes from the ground-level, and the plants will all be the same height.

Cogongrass is native to Asia and has become invasive in every continent except Antarctica. It is suspected to have first arrived in the U.S. near Mobile, AL in the early 1900s as packing material for oranges shipped from Japan. It was later intentionally introduced for animal feed and soil stabilization. Today, Cogongrass continues to spread across the Southeast. The most heavily-impacted states are Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida, though it can also be found in Texas, Louisiana, Georgia, and South Carolina.

We've all heard the expression "there's a snake in the grass", but in this case, the snake IS the grass. Often, Cogongrass infiltrates a new area

when ornamental cultivars of it (e.g., Red Baron and Japanese Bloodgrass) are planted and they escape cultivation. It is illegal to sell or buy these cultivars in N.C. Cogongrass can also spread if its rhizomes are accidentally moved long distances on heavy soil-moving equipment or mowers, and it is even known to spread in contaminated hay.

They say the grass is always greener on the other side of the fence and if the other side of the fence is Cogongrass-free, they'd be right. For more information about the hunt and fight against Cogongrass, visit the [NCDA&CS Cogongrass webpage](#). To report a suspected Cogongrass infestation, contact the NCDA&CS Weed Specialist, Bridget Lassiter at (919) 707-3749, or [newpest@ncagr.gov](mailto:newpest@ncagr.gov).



Cogongrass forms large mats where no other species can grow (left). The mid-vein on the grass is off-center (top right) and the rhizomes are scaly and pointed (bottom right). Images: K. Oten, N.C. Forest Service.

- Maintain all application equipment in good working order and calibrate it regularly.
- Check equipment for leaks and malfunctions before use to minimize the potential for accidental spills.
- Rinse pesticide application equipment and pesticide containers on a solid surface where it won't drain to waterways.
- If not specified on the label, apply when wind speed is between 3 and 10 mph.
- For ground boom applications, apply using a nozzle height of no more than 2 feet above the ground or crop canopy, unless a greater height is required for efficacy or safety.
- Use a low pressure, large droplet sprayer, and spray close to the crop canopy or the ground.
- Do not spray if heavy rain is expected within 48 hours as the pesticide may wash away from the area of application and into water bodies.
- Where possible, leave a vegetative buffer strip between the field and areas where wildlife may be present, including downhill aquatic habitats. Be sure to follow any label requirements related to buffers, as well.
- Make sure you get and maintain proper training and certification.

## Tips for Certified Pesticide Applicators

- Follow all requirements on pesticide product labels.

“When it rains, look for rainbows.”

## NCVMA Member Company supports National Wildlife Turkey Federation

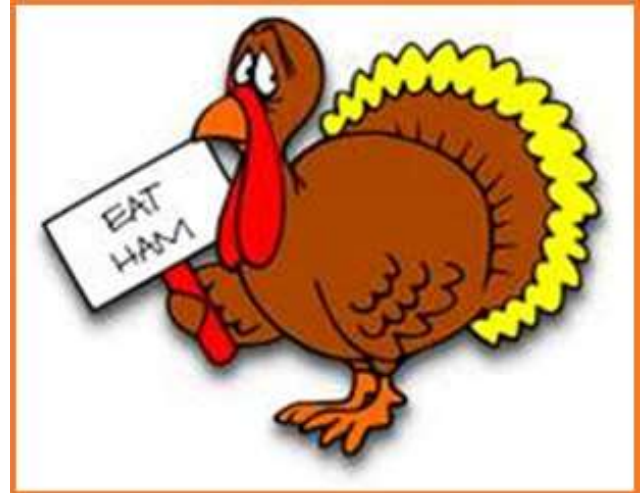
### NWTF program gets \$500K boost from Duke Energy



The NWTF Energy for Wildlife program recently picked up steam thanks to a \$500,000 Duke Energy Foundation grant to conserve or enhance more than 6,000 acres of critical habitat across Florida, the Carolinas and Indiana.

The project is designed to benefit imperiled pollinators and birds, as well as other wildlife. Conservation efforts will focus on establishing or enhancing habitat on public lands, such as state or national forests, and nearby areas where Duke Energy's transmission rights-of-way split large areas of forested habitat. The enhanced habitat conditions will provide cover and sustainable food source, while serving as a protective travel corridor for wildlife that need it most. "The NWTF has worked with Duke Energy to rehabilitate many rights-of-way, but this partnership takes our relationship for wildlife and habitat improvement to an entirely new level," said NWTF CEO George Thornton. "We look forward to leveraging this funding and the dedication of our volunteers to directly affect some of the most imperiled habitats across Duke Energy's 'overage areas."

Funding will also support education efforts for Duke Energy customers about the benefits of adopting conservation practices on their own properties.



HAPPY THANKSGIVING



## Resources in the event of pesticide poisoning, non-emergency pesticide spills, and chemical spills

- For **pesticide poisoning**, call 911 if the person is unconscious, has trouble breathing, or has convulsions. Otherwise, call **Poison Control at 1-800-222-1222**.
- For information about cleaning up or otherwise dealing with **non-emergency pesticide spills**, you can contact:
  - the [National Pesticide Information Center](#) at (800) 858-7378
  - the pesticide manufacturer. Their contact information is on the product label.
- For **chemical spills**, [CHEMTREC](#) provides access to technical experts on chemical products and hazardous materials, and maintains a large database of Material Safety Data Sheets. CHEMTREC can be reached at (800) 424-9300.



## ARBORMASTER PRECISION TREE FELLING, CHAINSAW SAFETY & HANDLING

Date: November 7, 2017 - November 8, 2017

Location: Biltmore Estate, Asheville, North Carolina, UNITED STATES

Organizer: ArborMaster Training

Sponsor: ArborMaster Training

Description: Precision Tree Felling, Chainsaw Safety & Handling.

No pre-requisites

Contact Name: ArborMaster Training

Contact Phone: 860.429.5028

Contact FAX: 860.429.5058

Contact Email: [Info@ArborMaster.com](mailto:Info@ArborMaster.com)

Website:

<http://arbormaster.businesscatalyst.com/services/location-schedule>

## Western N.C.

### Sustainable Forestry Conference

October 30 @ 9:30 am - 5:00 pm

\$40

### Event Navigation

Doors open at 9:00 a.m. Program begins at 9:30. Please note that you will not be able to access the meeting facility prior to 9:00.

Pre-registration is required.

6 hours CFE credits (estimated)

**2017 NCVMA  
Field Day  
Biltmore Estate  
Asheville, NC**



**NCVMA**  
North Carolina Vegetation  
Management Association

*Thanks* **Field Day  
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**NCVMA Field Day**



## NCVMA DIRECTORS

### CONTACT INFORMATION

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**NCVMA  
2017  
Sustaining Members**

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Aerial Solutions, Inc.

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Bayer Environmental Science

Bost/Centaur ATV

Carolina Tree Care

Clearion

Crop Production Services (Timberland Division)

CWC Chemical, Inc.

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ECI Environmental

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