



**NCVMA**  
**North Carolina**  
**Vegetation Management**  
**Association**

*Spring 2014*



Roxie Lee – 2014 President

**Save the Date**  
**NCVMA Field Day**  
**September 25, 2014**  
Bartlett Research Center  
13768 Hamilton Road  
Charlotte, North Carolina 28278  
**Phone - 704-588-1150 x-121**

Wow, we have come out of some tough winter weather across the country that has impacted our industry. Roadside crews, utility crews, municipal crews and vegetation management personnel are working overtime, trying to restore, reliable services to the public. Hats off to those of you who play a part in keeping our lights on, our highways and municipal corridors clear, you serve the public well.

“Begin each day with a process and start each process with SAFETY.” At every pre-operation training session that I have attended in the last two years this has been the mantra. Each work site requires personnel to be aware of what is going on in the area. Safety briefings at the site helps identify site hazards to avoid. Personal Protective Equipment and proper hydration are additional safety issues that should be at the forefront of all briefings. As you preform your job on the vegetation management corridors along North Carolina rights-of-ways, keep in mind that you help deliver safe reliable services to the public. Thanks for the work that you do and I look forward to serving as the 2014 president of the NCVMA.

Travel and work SAFE.

Respectfully,

Roxie Lee



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)

It is with heavy hearts that we report to you the passing of a former NCVMA board member and editor of the newsletter Mr. Rick Iverson. Rick died over the last weekend in April in a biking accident. Rick was serving as a Weed Specialist with the NCDA&CS, Plant Industry Division. Please keep his family in your thoughts and prayers.

2014

Life Time Achievement Award

The time to nominate a colleague from the industry for the NCVMA 2014 Lifetime Achievement Award is now. Nominate someone that you believe deserves this distinguished recognition. We need all nominations in by September 30, 2014. The nominating forms may be found online at [www.ncveg.com](http://www.ncveg.com)

2013

Scholarship Winners

Congratulations to:

TiEra D. Worsley  
Senior, Animal Science

Travis L. Cummings  
Senior, Agricultural Education



Matt Lynch

NCVMA added \$27K to NC Agricultural Foundation @ NCSU for the **NCVMA Scholarship Fund** in memory of Matt Lynch. Matt was the 2011 President of the NCVMA and a Duke Energy employee. Matt's wife, Paige and daughter, Lauren were on hand along with Mrs. Chris Cammarene-Wessel from the NC State University Agricultural Foundation to accept the honor.



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

**Ailanthus: A Nonnative Urban Tree Is Causing Trouble in Our Forests**

**Dr. Joanne Rebbeck, U.S. Forest Service**

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Photo by Chuck Bargeron,  
University of Georgia

**Ailanthus: An Asian Native**

The ailanthus tree is a deciduous native of northeast and central China and Taiwan. It grows rapidly and can grow to 15 meters (49 feet) in 25 years and can live more than 100 to 125 years. Ailanthus was imported into eastern North America in 1784 by gardeners attracted to its rapid growth and toughness, as well as its exoticism. It became a popular street and yard tree and was also marketed to farmers and other rural-dwelling folks. Later, when farms were abandoned, ailanthus trees became part of regrowing forests and survived in the shady understory. Whenever these second-growth forests were harvested, small ailanthus grew rapidly in the sunny clearings and took over. In the western United States, ailanthus was brought in by immigrants for use in traditional Chinese medicine. It has been grown extensively both in China and abroad as a host plant for the ailanthus silk moth, which is grown for production of Shantung silk.

Ailanthus, the so-called tree-of-heaven, is probably the most famous invasive tree in the United States. It's the title tree in Betty Smith's classic 1943 novel *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*, where it is used as a metaphor for persistence and toughness in the face of adversity. However, that toughness makes this tree—*Ailanthus altissima* (aka ailanthus, tree-of-heaven, stink tree, and Chinese sumac)—a serious problem wherever it grows. It usually grows in urban settings, industrial wastelands, and mine spoils, and along railroad and highway corridors. It survives in hot, dry, and toxic soils, and sends down its roots around and through concrete and paving cracks. It sends out seeds in enormous numbers, smells bad, and is allelopathic (toxic to other plants). Ailanthus can create dense clonal thickets, almost monocultures. It grows very quickly, often displacing native plants, which may affect wildlife. It is extremely difficult to eradicate, and cutting down the trunk and/or pesticide treatment only result in new shoots growing up from the roots. Botanists, ecologists, and foresters plus forest owners and managers have realized that ailanthus has now spread into eastern forests and is endangering regeneration and restoration efforts, especially in the mixed-oak forests of West Virginia, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. Forest ailanthus may be trees descended from those planted at abandoned farmsteads or from seeds brought along transportation corridors.

## **SCIENTISTS WORK TO CONTROL AND PREVENT AILANTHUS INFESTATIONS**

Many scientists in the U.S. Forest Service's Northern Research Station (NRS) are working to improve oak regeneration and restoration in eastern forests, which has become problematic in past decades. *Ailanthus* exacerbates the challenges of regenerating oaks, especially in natural disturbances, timber harvests, and prescribed or wild fires. Although *ailanthus* is shade-intolerant, it can survive under shade and then grow vigorously into even small clearings, interfering with growth of native oaks and other trees and spreading out into large clonal patches. *Ailanthus* Response to Forest Disturbances and Interactions with Native Plants NRS research botanist Cynthia Huebner is working with a team including NRS researchers Rakesh Minocha (Durham, NH), Matthew Dickinson (Delaware, OH), and Gary Miller (Morgantown, WV), as well as Glenn Matlack (Ohio University), and David McGill (West Virginia University) and their students to define the ecology and mechanisms of *ailanthus* growth and competition in the forest. How much sunlight do *ailanthus* seedlings need to germinate and grow? Can natives outgrow *ailanthus* under particular light and forest conditions? There are many questions to be answered! The team evaluated germination, survival, and growth of three invasives (*ailanthus* as well as garlic mustard and Japanese stiltgrass) typically found in disturbed forests. They studied these species under five management regimes (control or undisturbed forests, single burns, repeat burns, selection harvests or thinnings, and heavy shelterwood harvests) along regional and local moisture gradients at 56 field sites in West Virginia, Ohio, and Virginia. They found that once it has germinated, *ailanthus* is likely to survive in each of the 20 combined management and environment types tested. However, *ailanthus* was more likely to germinate and grow in the heavy shelterwood sites (20% of full sunlight) than in the control forests (2 to 5%) and the selection harvests (10%). Harvested sites with more cover of native species in the understory showed lower germination and growth of *ailanthus*, indicating that healthier forest sites that respond to disturbances with relatively rapid growth of early successional native species may have reduced proliferation of invasive plant species. In other research, Huebner found that staghorn sumac can out-compete *ailanthus* under high light conditions and red maple can out-compete *ailanthus* under low light conditions (closed canopy forest) and that mycorrhizae play a key role in *ailanthus*' competitive ability. To determine the effects of more specific light levels on growth, Huebner and Minocha grew the same three invasives in growth chambers to represent forest light conditions under different management regimes. They found that the invasives showed significantly less shoot growth at lower light levels, roughly equivalent to a forest that had been thinned or harvested as a light shelterwood. Adequate oak growth in the field has been achieved at these same lower light levels (10% full sunlight) by others. These results were also supported by plant biochemical growth and stress indicators, including chlorophyll a/b, the polyamines putrescine, spermidine, and spermine, and the amino acid proline. Thus, forest management resulting in low light levels (around 10% full sunlight) may reduce the likelihood of nonnative species invasion but still enable oak regeneration. The team has used these data to define an invasive potential value (IPV) for each combined forest management and environment types. The team is now running stand growth and yield models (Forest Vegetation Simulator) to evaluate if such harvesting limitations are commercially viable. If harvesting at lower light levels (at least for the first cut of a shelterwood) is commercially viable, land owners and managers may be willing to change their current harvesting preferences.

## **Forest Management Practices Affect *Ailanthus* Distribution in Forested Landscapes**

NRS research plant physiologist Joanne Rebbeck is working with a team including NRS ecologists Todd Hutchinson and Louis Iverson and GIS specialist Matthew Peters (Delaware, OH) to determine how the distribution and abundance of *ailanthus* is related to seed sources, timber harvesting, recent prescribed fires, and landscape features. The team developed an effective mapping tool to identify seed-bearing *ailanthus* trees across thousands of acres of forest land. In all, 62 variables were considered in the models, including those related to management activities, soil characteristics, topography, and vegetation structure. Harvest history within the last 25 years was the best predictor of *ailanthus* presence or absence; prescribed fire was not a significant predictor.

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The team is currently validating these predictive models in other forests so that this risk assessment tool can be used by forest managers throughout the eastern United States.

### **Aerial Detection Guides Ground Treatment**

As part of the above effort, scientists from the NRS Delaware (OH) laboratory partnered with Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) and Wayne National Forest personnel to develop a combination of aerial detection and ground work to find and eradicate ailanthus in forests and parks. Rebbeck can spot a female ailanthus from 600 feet in the air! This works because ailanthus is a dioecious species (meaning that individual trees are either male or female) and female trees produce huge clusters of seeds that are particularly visible in winter. These can be seen from a helicopter and mapped digitally. Usually, male trees grow near females, so both sexes can be eliminated, but even eradicating just the females helps to slow the spread. After the location data are collected, they are transferred to handheld GPS (global positioning system) devices, which are given to ground crews that go out, locate the trees, and give them the “hack-n-squirt” treatment with herbicide. Seedlings can be hand-pulled, but all root fragments must be carefully removed because roots can resprout. Unfortunately, ailanthus is so tough that most nonherbicidal methods either do not work or only partially so. Even herbicide treatment may not necessarily be effective, especially foliar sprays, which should be limited to treatment of small seedlings and sprouts. For ailanthus trees up to 6 to 8 inches in diameter at breast height, a basal bark treatment using an oil carrier for the herbicide can be used to spray the lower 12 to 18 inches of an ailanthus trunk. However, nontarget damage can be a problem with both foliar and basal bark treatments. Another option is the stem injection treatment called “hack-n-squirt,” in which bark cuts are made around the base (hack) and then undiluted herbicide is applied (squirt). It can be highly effective if done at the right time of the year, typically late summer through late fall when the herbicide moves down into the roots as the trees shut-down for the winter. Follow-up inspection and retreatment is usually necessary, no matter which method is used. This technique has been very successful, providing forest managers with a cost-effective (a typical helicopter survey costs only 40 cents an acre) and efficient tool to locate, monitor, and treat invasive plants across large forested landscapes. Location information can be used to delay a planned harvest or prescribed burn until after seed sources are eliminated from a stand.

### **A Promising Alternative Method for Controlling Ailanthus**

The good news is that there may be a biological control method for ailanthus in the near future. NRS collaborator Donald Davis and graduate students at the Pennsylvania State University identified a species-specific and deadly wilt-causing fungus on ailanthus. In 2002, they isolated *Verticillium nonalfalfae* from dead and dying ailanthus trees within forested areas in Pennsylvania. The fungus is native to North America, so it does not have to be treated as an introduced nonnative organism (these must be handled according to strict APHIS regulations). Davis and his graduate students tested this fungus in the greenhouse and in the forest and achieved 100% mortality within 10 to 16 weeks. To date, they have tested more than 70 other tree species and found them unaffected. In 2008, the same fungus was found at multiple forest stands in Virginia, and in 2012, Rebbeck found and isolated the same ailanthus-killing fungus in Ohio. Her preliminary greenhouse results on native Ohio sources of ash, beech, elm, and oak seedlings are encouraging—no signs of wilt have been observed in anything but ailanthus. She hopes to begin inoculation trials in Ohio forests in summer 2014. Once introduced into a stand, the fungus can spread from tree to tree through root grafting and naturally build up in the forest. That makes work easier, because not every ailanthus stem in a stand needs to be treated. Ambrosia beetles may also be vectors of the fungus. Since the fungus specifically kills ailanthus and it can survive in the soil for many years, it has great potential as a biological control. Although it is not a magic bullet that will completely kill all ailanthus from our forests, it will improve the chance for successful restoration of native vegetation as ailanthus dies out.



## Dominion's Project Plant It! Inspires 33,000 Students

Submitted by Mike Kelly-Dominion Power

Thirty-three thousand elementary school students in six states are participating this year in Dominion's Project Plant It!, the environmental education program developed by Dominion to teach the next generation of tree-planters about the benefits of trees to our ecosystem. The program culminated with outdoor celebrations and tree-planting events throughout the week of Arbor Day, April 21-25, at many of the participating schools.

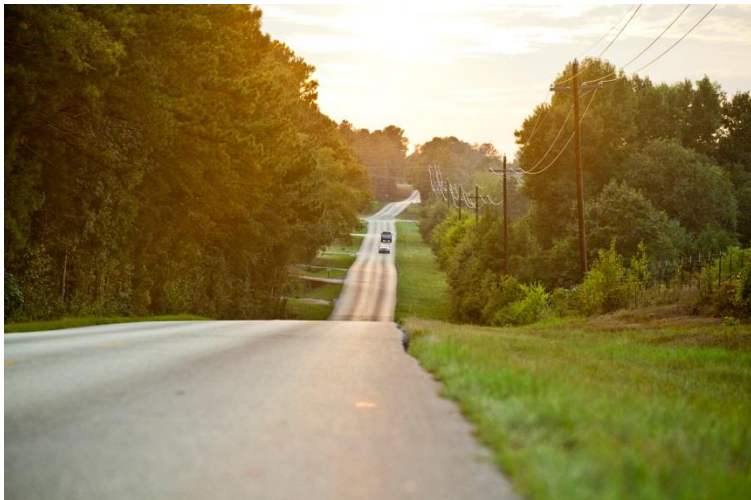
*Project Plant It!* connects students to the environment in a fun and interactive way with nature-based lessons and activities for use in the classroom and outdoors. Along with the education program, each participating student receives a free tree seedling – a spring-flowering redbud this year.

The Eastern Redbud produces spectacular spring blossoms and its seeds provide winter food for birds. It can be used for nesting sites and nesting materials and provides shelter for birds and mammals alike. The redbud provides good shade when planted near patios and is an excellent tree for planting near utility lines.

"Dominion created *Project Plant It!* in 2007 and it has really taken root in the areas where we conduct business," said **Robert M. Blue**, president-Dominion Virginia Power. "The program is a contributing reason to why Dominion Virginia Power has been named a Tree Line USA utility for the past 3 consecutive years." The award is given to utilities whose forestry practices protect and enhance America's urban forests.

This spring, more than 33,000 students in Virginia, Maryland, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, New York and Connecticut will bring home a redbud tree seedling in a recyclable container with instructions for indoor and outdoor planting.

The program is funded by Dominion Resources, parent company of Dominion Virginia Power. Two longtime partners with Dominion are the national Arbor Day Foundation and the Virginia Department of Forestry.



## Increased Crew Productivity Helps Balance Budgets

*Excerpt from DuPont Land Management*

*Weed Wise, Summer 2013*

When fuel prices climb, departments of transportation must maintain roadside safety and aesthetics while balancing budgets. Increasing crew productivity becomes essential.

“A key money-saving option for roadside

managers is to be smarter about fuel use,” says Matt Kraushar, habitat specialist, Purdue University. “Less time on the road for vegetation management means less money spent on fuel. Selective herbicide programs can reduce costs of fuel, labor and equipment, so maintenance programs can focus resources on other tasks.”

### Savings Add Up

Kraushar, who conducts research in conjunction with the Indiana DOT, has examined the costs of various roadside maintenance programs. “Using 2011 figures, a one-cycle mowing program for roadside maintenance cost nearly twice as much per mile as a program that included a selective herbicide and plant growth regulator (PGR) treatment (see chart below),” Kraushar notes. “There are also some major advantages to using a selective herbicide program in man-hours.”

### Lasting Benefits

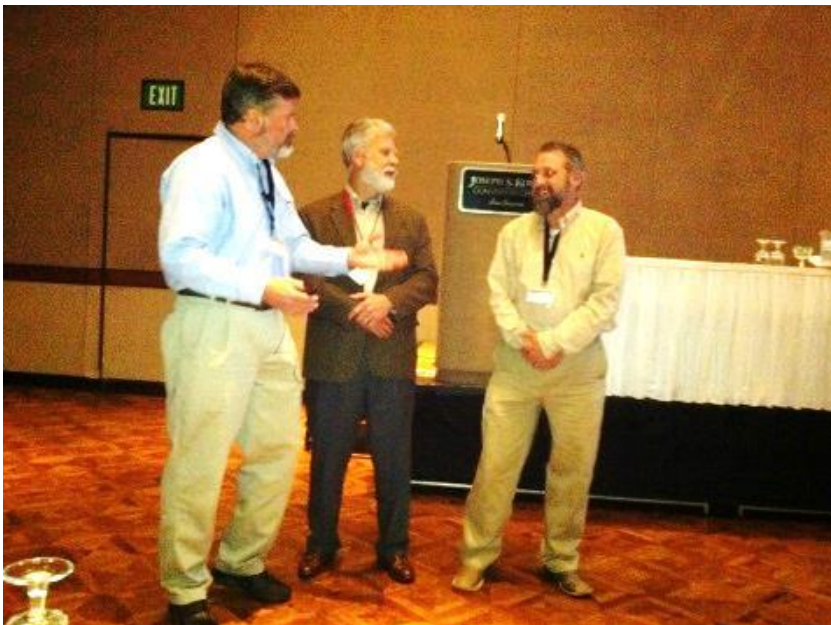
The benefits of using a selective weed-control program are even more pronounced when desirable grasses out compete weed populations. “Selective herbicides with residual activity, such as DuPont™ [Perspective](#)® herbicide, control targeted broadleaf weeds to allow desirable grass density to increase. This shift helps reduce the amount of open growing spaces where weed species can develop.

“Mowing only makes vegetation shorter; it doesn’t change the composition of the stand for future years.” A summer trip through several states made the downside of poor weed management clear to Kraushar. “Delayed mowing had allowed both weeds and desirable grasses to flower and produce seeds. Had these roadsides been treated with a selective herbicide, more areas would have been available for the grass seed to grow and have a lasting impact on the roadside.”

For best roadside weed-control results, Kraushar recommends a fall selective herbicide treatment. “Controlling most perennial broadleaf weeds in the fall gives you a jump-start on weed control in the spring and frees up time during the busy season for maintenance crews to handle other critical tasks.”

Roadside Weed Control Cost Comparison (10 feet by 1 mile)	
Selective Herbicide/PGR Treatment	Mowing (one cycle)
3 people	4 people
2 trucks	1 truck
1 sprayer, 1 arrow board	3 mowers
60 miles per day	18.5 miles/day
Cost per mile	
\$37 per mile (+/- \$5 per mile)	\$65 per mile (+/- \$10 per mile)
Time per 1,000 miles	
16.7 days	54 days
375 man-hours	1,621 man-hours

Source: Purdue University and Indiana DOT



**The Competition**

**“dos equis the most interesting man alive”**

Jeff Racey, Neil Loyd & Tommy Eubanks



## Where to Look?

### As Foresters Are We Trained to Look Up....

J. Mark Smith

Environment Design Landscape – [m.smith@edInc.com](mailto:m.smith@edInc.com)

Vegetation managers are often trained foresters however, their lens has to be broader. So where are we training those teams to look? Do we look up or down? It's obvious to think that the greatest threat is above eye level in terms of vegetation, but I want you to consider the science of looking down where trees, grass, and ornamentals begin at their rooted level. How often do you notice medium and large maturing trees planted directly under an energy line? How often have you noticed vegetation growing inside a station, vines on fences, trees outside the station encroaching fence lines? Whether you are managing vertical or horizontal vegetation, awareness of their "life cycle" is exponential. If it grows, you can measure it. Once you have the ability to measure, it becomes predictable. Armed with an understanding of a tree's exposure to sun, rainfall, and growth rate affords a level of prediction.

Once that is understood, scheduling frequency of tasks builds an efficient delivery that reduces waste. The greater the tax value the greater the expectation and the greater the population density the greater the opportunity for the stakeholder's awareness. The ability to laser with perfect timing reduces distractions, improves results and drives your efficiency. Understanding plant life cycles is key to vegetation management too. Bare ground treatments are somewhat simple. Your goal should be to eradicate weeds and make long grass short again. An effective herbicide cocktail based on region and timing is paramount; too soon or too late can compromise results. Interrupting plants life cycles start with seeds. Allowing weeds to mature at the point of seed production creates added threats to herbicide programs.

No one appreciates the distractions from a "Notice of Violation" (NOV) due to mowing frequency. What if it's directed through the proper communication channels and the supplier has scheduled before the enforcement action date? I see that as a positive, providing that you're not negatively affecting market brand. It's critical to meet stakeholder expectation but equally important to not over service to the point the stakeholder doesn't perceive value. That's waste! From the stakeholders (community) point of view, it's usually about aesthetics and their perception. Does it affect your brand image? Does it affect safety? Might it create an interruption that ripples through certain levels of your organization? YES, YES and indeed... Typically there's a connection to population density, and tax value when it comes to community stakeholder's expectation. Understanding the correlation influences frequency.

Mow crews are often a reoccurring visitor to a station. Conditioning them to help the forester to look down creates value. Educating these teams on detecting the next future power outage is invaluable. During a loss of power event; customers call, you investigate, take action, and attempt to calm the waters. The ability to predict is invaluable when we think about vegetation management; consider looking closer to the root before looking at the leaves.

## Sun Safety

Submitted by Steve McCorkle-EnergyUnited

Most people would be hard pressed to say that they have never been sunburned, much less someone who works in the vegetation management field. Given that your occupation keeps you outside or traveling for a majority of your time, exposure to the sun's UV rays will be unavoidable.

According to the AAD (American Academy of Dermatology) greater than 2 million Americans are diagnosed with skin cancer each year, however, through early detection and treatment it remains highly curable.

It is also important to remember that regardless of skin color, skin cancer can still affect you and there are often factors other than UV exposure that can contribute to the development of skin cancer (for a more comprehensive list of factors please refer to the websites listed at the end of this article).

Here are a few tips to help reduce the risks associated with UV exposure:

- Try to avoid exposure or cover skin between 10am – 2pm.
- Be sure to apply sunscreen (30 spf or greater) prior to exposure and again every couple of hours.
- Wear a broad brim hat and sunglasses for additional protection.
- Educate friends, family, and co-workers about the risk of UV exposure.
- Do a monthly self exam (full body). Report any odd or suspicious changes in moles (change in color, shape, growth, or bleeding to your physician).
- Annual exams by a physician are recommended for early detection.

Remember, even though it would be nearly impossible to hide from the sun we can take steps to reduce the hazards associated with exposure to UV radiation.

For more detailed information including risk factors, types of skin cancer, and related images please take the time to visit the websites listed below:

[www.skincancer.org](http://www.skincancer.org)

[www.aad.org](http://www.aad.org)

Sources:

The Skin Cancer Foundation

American Academy of Dermatology

Equipment. University of Nebraska, Lincoln. G1770.

Whitesides, Ralph, Utah State University, personal communication.





# Pollinator Protection

## Steps to Protect Pollinators

EPA is:

- Taking steps to change pesticide labels to limit applications to protect bees.
- Along with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the EPA is working with agricultural companies to develop and apply [technologies to reduce pesticide dust drift](#) during planting and crop management activities.
- Sharing best management practices with beekeepers on the use of pesticides to control diseases in colonies.
- Collaborating with state agencies and the North American Pollinator Campaign to advance education and training modules in pesticide applicator certification courses.
- Has issued [new enforcement guidance \(PDF\)](#) to federal, state and tribal enforcement officials to help them investigate bee kills.

**THE NEW EPA BEE ADVISORY BOX**  
On EPA's new and strengthened pesticide label to protect pollinators

**PROTECTION OF POLLINATORS**

**APPLICATION RESTRICTIONS** EXIST FOR THIS PRODUCT BECAUSE OF RISK TO BEES AND OTHER INSECT POLLINATORS. FOLLOW APPLICATION RESTRICTIONS FOUND IN THE DIRECTIONS FOR USE TO PROTECT POLLINATORS.

Look for the bee hazard icon in the Directions for Use for each application site for specific use restrictions and instructions to protect bees and other insect pollinators.

**This product can kill bees and other insect pollinators.** Bees and other insect pollinators will forage on plants when they flower, shed pollen, or produce nectar.

Bees and other insect pollinators can be exposed to this pesticide from:

- Direct contact during foliar applications, or contact with residues on plant surfaces after foliar applications
- Ingestion of residues in nectar and pollen when the pesticide is applied as a seed treatment, soil, tree injection, as well as foliar applications.

When Using This Product Take Steps To:

- Minimize exposure of this product to bees and other insect pollinators when they are foraging on pollinator attractive plants around the application site.
- Minimize drift of this product on to beehives or to off-site pollinator attractive habitat. Drift of this product onto beehives can result in bee kills.

Information on protecting bees and other insect pollinators may be found at the Pesticide Environmental Stewardship website at:  
<http://pesticidestewardship.org/pollinatorprotection/Pages/default.aspx>

Pesticide incidents (for example, bee kills) should immediately be reported to the state/tribal lead agency. For contact information for your state/tribe, go to: [www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov). Pesticide incidents can also be reported to the National Pesticide Information Center at: [www.npic.orst.edu](http://www.npic.orst.edu) or directly to EPA at: [bee@epa.gov](mailto:bee@epa.gov)

Alerts users to separate restrictions on the label. These prohibit certain pesticide use when bees are present.

The new bee icon helps signal the pesticide's potential hazard to bees.

Makes clear that pesticide products can kill bees and pollinators.

Bees are often present and foraging when plants and trees flower. EPA's new label makes it clear that pesticides cannot be applied until all petals have fallen.

Warns users that direct contact and ingestion could harm pollinators. EPA is working with beekeepers, growers, pesticide companies, and others to advance pesticide management practices.

Highlights the importance of avoiding drift. Sometimes, wind can cause pesticides to drift to new areas and can cause bee kills.

The science says that there are many causes for a decline in pollinator health, including pesticide exposure. EPA's new label will help protect pollinators.

**EPA**

Read EPA's new and strengthened label requirements: <http://go.usa.gov/jHH4>

As vegetation managers, continue to watch the new rulings and make comments through the appropriate channels as it relates to pollinators and the use of pesticides.

## 2013 Annual Meeting Greensboro, North Carolina



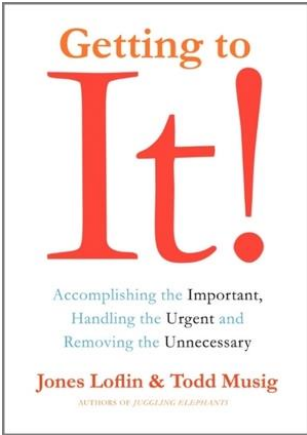
*We appreciate the generosity  
of our break sponsors:*

- 🍊 Davey Tree Expert Co
- 🍊 Aerial Solutions, Inc
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2013 NCVMA  
Annual Symposium  
Dec. 11-12  
Greensboro, NC





Jones Loflin kick started our conference by helping Us get to our IT. “**In the daily struggle to get it all done, what are you forgetting?** Is your mind constantly racing with lists of all the things you could and should be doing? Does your day often feel like you're treading water in an ocean of rushes and deadlines, trying to keep from drowning while handling increasing work and life demands?” He reminded us in a humor filled presentation that we have to all find our IT- the Important Thing in our lives. Once we find It, we have to define It, plan It, focus on It, and get excited about It. Discover your “IT” in 2014.

Sam Keziah, NCVMA Advisor  
&  
Jones Loflin, Author

**Laughter is the best medicine!**



Jeff Racey, System Forester Transmission Duke Energy spoke on the value of utility Partnership with NC DOT.



Chris Kelly, Clearion Software, Inc Shared the importance of Planning & Tracking Software for Vegetation Management.



During the 2013 Symposium, our members raised over \$ 5,170.00 for the “V” Foundation for Cancer Research. Our membership is filled with people with hearts of gold.

### Calendar of Events

#### **Forestry Day in the Legislature 5/20/2014**

The NCFA’s Forestry Day in the Legislature will take place on the Halifax Mall at the North Carolina General Assembly on May 20th. The day starts at 9:30 a.m. with a briefing for NCFA members. Members are then released to meet with their elected officials and invite them back to a luncheon on the mall, starting at 11:30 a.m. More details and registration materials will be available closer to the date.

#### **NC State Turfgrass Field Day**

**AUGUST 13, 2014**

**Lake Wheeler Research Station, Raleigh**

**2014**

#### ***National Roadside Vegetation Management Conference***

Huntsville, Alabama

Von Braun Center

October 7 - 10, 2014

**Save the Date**

**Annual NCVMA Symposium**

**December 10-11, 2014**

Koury Convention Center  
Sheraton Greensboro at Four Seasons  
3121 High Point Road  
Greensboro, North Carolina 27407  
**Phone - 336-292-9161**

**ISA Southern Chapter Events**

**May 10, 12 & 13, 2014** - Central Piedmont Community College will host "NC Landscape Contractor Exam Review", and May 17 will be a "NC Department of Agriculture Pesticide Applicator Exam Review".

**June 2 & 3, 2014** - TCIA will host an "SRT Climber Workshop" at Forest Hills Park (1639 University Drive, Durham, NC).

**June 19 - 20, 2014** - Urban Forest Innovative Solutions LTD. will host "Soils & Urban Trees 2014" at the Biltmore Estate in Asheville, NC.

**We're on the Web!**

*Come see us at:*

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

NCVMA  
PO Box 26784  
Raleigh, NC 27611

## 2014-2015 Board of Directors

2013 & 2014 Directors	2014 & 2015 Directors
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Roxie Lee (At Large)	J. Mark Smith (Contractor)
David Harris (NCDOT)	Curt Horn (At Large)
Dan Reynolds (Contractor)	Travis Bode ( Utility)
Steve McCorkle (Utility)	Kevin Clemmer NCDOT)
Roxie Lee, President	
Travis Rogers, Advisor	Derek Smith, Sec./Treasurer

NCVMA could use a few good women and men to serve on the board of directors. This is an opportunity to get a well-rounded view of how vegetation management helps to keep the power on and the roadsides free and clear for safe travel.

**Please contact an Officer or Board member with any questions that you may have or any input that you can provide regarding all NCVMA activities and programs.**

### NCVMA 2014 Officers and Directors

## Officers

### **President**

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### **Secretary-Treasurer:**

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## Board Of Directors

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