

2016 Spring Newsletter

President's Message

Why "NCVMA"?

My initial introduction to the North Carolina Vegetation Management Association was involvement with past officers in setting up a field day at the Biltmore Estate. This was a new adventure for me professionally. Actually, I felt really out-of-place, thinking I was ill-prepared for this, and I had no idea how they found me hiding in the mountains of western North Carolina!

At the time, I had a very active role in the actual field spraying for control of invasive plants on the property. They were plentiful, and I was busy! The coordination of the Field Day event involved implementing demonstration plots of herbicide applications and selecting stations for skill and knowledge demonstration. The resources provided by the Field Day experience were valuable in advancing my own effectiveness in my daily work. Equally important, the experience led me to realize the value of networking with other professionals in the field.

Since then, my work role has transitioned to more administration and less actual field activity.

Meanwhile, I was drafted into service as a member of the NCVMA Board of Directors. Either my talents were recognized or the past board members were ready to transition the association governance onto fresh faces. Probably it was the later!

As time has passed, my role with NCVMA has changed, from board member to vice president and now president. In this transition, the perceived value of the association has grown. The educational opportunities and interaction with others in the industry, especially those with roles different from my



own (i.e. NCDOT, contractors, utilities, manufacturers, distributors, educators, etc.), are invaluable resources.

NCVMA is not about one individual. It is about how the individual can contribute to the betterment of the whole, while gleaning from others' resources for their own improvement. It is about sharing information, techniques and knowledge in the path of advancing the industry. NCVMA provides each of us the opportunity to do our job better, whether as a member of field staff, administrator, government employee, salesman or other entity. I know I am better from the experience, and I hope you are too.

Together we grow and advance. Thanks to all for your involvement in any of the association's activities.

Curt Horn

The Biltmore Company Asheville, NC

Come Join Us! 2016 NCVMA VEGETATION MANAGEMENT FIELD DAY May 11th, 2016 9:00am-4:00pm

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Bayer CropScience Clayton Development and Training Center

> 981 NC HIGHWAY 42. CLAYTON NC, 27527-8062





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

The NCVMA Membership donated \$5016 to the Jimmy V Foundation for cancer research through our annual casino night. Thank you all for supporting the research. Our goal in sponsoring the fundraiser is to eliminate cancer but in particular to eliminate childhood cancer for good.





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



2016 NCVMA president congratulates Steve McCorkle on his years of service to the NCVMA.

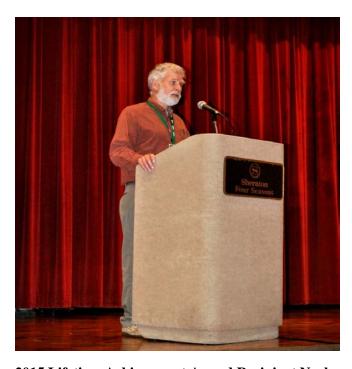
NCVMA Graduate Scholarship Award

In honor of his leadership, contributions and outstanding service in the vegetation management industry and to the NC Vegetation Management Association, our association's graduate school scholarship at NC State University has been named the "The Derek C. Smith NCVMA Graduate Scholarship Award". Derek C. Smith is approaching 25 years of service with NCDOT where he supervises the Vegetation Management and Aesthetic Sections. As he has been a valuable human asset for the NCDOT, he has been an unbelievable asset for the NCVMA. Derek has spent countless after work hours making sure that the NCVMA was on solid ground and poised to go forward for years to come. For the past 20 years Derek has been the Active Secretary for NCVMA, but anyone who ever served on the board knows that he has truly been the EXECUTIVE Director. (Derek wants to give thanks and acknowledge the NCDOT employees who have helped over the years with registration, pesticide licensing, etc.) He has been the main force behind setting up annual conference, bookkeeping/minutes, and the countless other jobs in making an association successful. He helped set up the Edward Jones account which we are able to use to sponsor 3 NCSU scholarships annually.

We thank Derek for his service and are proud of the new graduate scholarship that we offer to students annually in his honor.



The first recipient of the "Derek C. Smith NCVMA Graduate Scholarship Award' is Erika Haug, a Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences, PhD candidate at NC State University.



2015 Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient Neal Loyd spent 35 years as an outstanding advocate for the vegetation management industry. We salute Neal Loyd for his contributions and wish him well in retirement.

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

Bridget Lassiter, PhD North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services

Cogongrass Found in Scotland County

A large patch (~1/2 acre in size) of cogongrass (*Imperata cylindrica*) was discovered in a Scotland County loblolly pine plantation in December 2015 by the NC Forest Service. Cogongrass is a Federal Noxious weed, and is considered one of the top 10 weeds in the world because it competes with native plants. In addition, the grass is not a good source of food or habitat for wildlife, and the grass also burns very hot which creates dangerous forest fires or controlled burn conditions.

This is the fourth time that Cogongrass has been found in North Carolina. The first location was found in Pender County in 2012, Stanly County in



Patch of Cogongrass in a Loblolly Pine Plantation. Scotland County, NC. December 2015.

2013, and Martin County in 2014. All of those sites were treated with herbicides and/or fire, and are considered eradicated (although they are still checked for new populations at least once during each summer.

A training session will be held at the Scotland county site for anyone interested in invasive species control on Thursday June 2nd, 2016 from 10am to 12:30



Cogongrass in Scotland County, NC. December 2015.

PM. Participants will be able to view the plant in flower, and will discuss how to identify the plant in the field using a field guide prepared by the University of Georgia. The seedhead is the most identifiable part of the plant, and this will be an excellent opportunity to see the seedhead in person. Participants will also be able to discuss various control options with weed control experts. The field day will be co-hosted by the NC Department of Agriculture (NC Forest Service and the Plant Industry Division).

Please dress appropriately for field work, and bring plenty of water and sunscreen. Helena Chemical Company has generously offered to sponsor lunch, so a boxed lunch will be provided to all registered participants. The event has been approved for 2 hours of NCDA Pesticide Credits (Categories G H I L N O D X). The event is also pending approval for CFE credits from the Society of American Foresters for professionals seeking continuing education credits. Those interested in attending the field day are encouraged to register at the EventBrite website (www.eventbrite.com) where you can search for "Cogongrass Training Event". The event location is detailed in the registration website. As always, if you think that you have spotted this or any other invasive weed, please contact me at

<u>bridget.lassiter@ncda.gov</u> or (919) 707-3749. I hope that your field season is getting off to a great start!

Understanding Pesticide Risks



Many people believe that some pesticides are safe, while others are dangerous. Actually, the words "safe" and "dangerous" are misleading. Any chemical, including any pesticide, can pose risks to people, pets, or the environment. Understanding pesticide risk will help you take **steps to minimize** it.

The risk of a pesticide depends on two things, exposure (how much?) and toxicity (how poisonous?). The exposure is the amount you get in or on your body, or the amount that is released into the environment. The toxicity of a pesticide is

measure of how poisonous it is to people or the environment.

Even products that are low in toxicity can be hazardous if the exposure is high enough. This is the basis for the argument that, "the dose makes the poison." For example, one aspirin is beneficial for pain or certain medical conditions, but too much aspirin could be very hazardous. As the amount of exposure (the dose) increases, so does the risk.

Pesticides often contain more than one **ingredient**, and each one may have a different toxicity. One easy way to estimate the toxicity of a pesticide product is to look at the **signal word**. Most pesticides will have either the word CAUTION, WARNING, or DANGER on the **label**, and that signal word reflects the toxicity of the product:

CAUTION represents the lower toxicity products WARNING indicates medium toxicity products

DANGER stands for the highest toxicity products

Our page on **Minimizing Pesticide Risks** provides more information on how to reduce pesticide risks.

If you have questions about your pesticide risk, or any pesticide-related topic, please call NPIC at **1-800-858-7378** (8:00am - 12:00pm PST), or email us at npic@ace.orst.edu.

Minimizing Pesticide Risks



Because "the dose makes the poison," someone may get sick from exposure to just about anything if their exposure is high enough.

The <u>risk</u> of experiencing health problems from a pesticide depends on the **toxicity** of the pesticide and the amount of **exposure**. Even very low toxicity pesticides can be hazardous if too much is inhaled, gets on the skin, or is ingested.

Minimizing the amount of pesticide used, selecting lower toxicity products and using protective equipment to minimize your exposure can all help to minimize the hazards associated with using pesticides.

Tips for Minimizing Pesticide Risks:

- Consider adopting an <u>Integrated Pest</u>
 <u>Management (IPM)</u> approach. This
 approach emphasizes prevention, sanitation
 and exclusion, and utilizes pesticides only as
 a last resort when other options have failed.
- Review the product <u>signal word</u> and <u>active</u> <u>ingredients</u>, and then choose the product lowest in toxicity. Call NPIC for help comparing products.
- Choose products with formulations least likely to lead to exposure.
- Read the **product label** first. The pesticide label will list the minimum amount of protective equipment, like gloves or goggles, necessary to reduce your exposure.
- Consider using additional protective equipment to decrease your exposure even further.
- Make sure the pesticide label lists the specific place you intend to use the product. Using a pesticide in unlisted locations is illegal and unsafe.
- Use the appropriate amount of pesticide for your job by following the label directions closely. Applying too much pesticide may lead to higher levels of exposure to people, pets and the environment.

- Avoid allowing children, pets, or sensitive people in treatment areas to prevent accidental exposures during pesticide applications.
- Consider staying out of treated areas after an application for the amount of time listed on the label directions.
- For liquid products, consider avoiding treated areas until they have dried thoroughly and the area has been ventilated.
- Consider keeping pets and children off treated lawns and gardens until granular pesticides have dissolved.
- Ensure items such as food, toys, pet bowls and clothing are stored a safe distance away from any pesticide treatment.

These are just a few general tips on how to minimize pesticide risks. One of our specialists can provide you custom-tailored advice on ways to minimize the risk of your particular situation. If you have questions, consider giving us a call at **1-800-858-7378** (8:00am - 12:00pm PST), or email us at npic@ace.orst.edu.

Protections Finalized for Threatened Northern Long-Eared Bats

Regulations focus on significant threats to the species so conservation efforts can be focused where they have the greatest effect



Photo by New York Department of Environmental Conservation; Al Hicks

US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) passed a 4d rule identifying the Northern Long-Eared Bat (NLEB) as threatened under the Endangered Species Act due to its numbers being greatly diminished by a disease called White-nose syndrome (WNS). The NLEB is predominantly located in the northeastern US as well as NC, so VMA members should likely be aware of some of the nuance of the rule.

You cannot purposefully take (which FWS defines as harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, capture, or collect) a NLEB. Of course there can always be exceptions, like removal of bats from human structures, or even activities authorized by permit.

As for incidental take, the final 4d rule prohibits incidental take of NLEB from tree removal in the following locations:

- 1. From June 1 through July 31, you may not remove any trees that are occupied by NLEB as this is their maternity roosting season. This also includes any other trees within a 150-foot radius from a maternity roost tree.
 - a. During a recent Q&A with FWS, it was clarified: You can cut down a known maternity roost tree outside of June/July.
 - b. Several callers wanted clarification on "known" roost trees. This was stated a few times that these are trees where the NLEB has been tracked back and known to roost. If there is no record that says that the NLEB Exists (or is "known") in that location, you can assume that they do not. (This is opposite of the Indiana bat where they are assumed present until a survey confirms otherwise.)

- 2. All year long, you may not conduct tree removal within a 0.25-mile of a known hibernaculum (essentially the location where the NLEB return annually to hibernate during winter months).
 - a. Below is the map from the NC Heritage Program website showing the NC counties that have reported known habitats? There are 28 listed: Ashe, Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Camden, Cherokee, Clay, Currituck, Davidson, Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Lee, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, New Hanover, Polk, Rutherford, Swain, Transylvania, Wake, Washington, Watauga, Wilkes, Yancey.
 - I. Within these counties, it would be most beneficial for folks to contact NC Heritage Program to locate the known hibernaculum to see if it could affect their plans to do any tree removal.
 - ii. Again, if no survey has been done to show that the NLEB is known to exist in a location, it is presumed NOT present.

The final rule appears in the *Federal Register* on January 14, 2016 and takes effect on February 16, 2016. For more information on the special rule for the northern long-eared bat, go

to http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/mammals/nleb/index.html. For information on whitenose syndrome, go

tohttps://www.whitenosesyndrome.org/

Contributing Author: Amy Roswick, NC Electric Membership Cooperatives

Chainsaw Safety & Maintenance

Lonnie Peyton, Carolina Tree Care

Safety Training - Chainsaw

Chainsaw Overview



Safety Training - Chainsaw

- Chainsaw Safety Features
 - Chain Brake
 - Throttle Interlock
 - Right-Hand Guard
 - Chain Catch
 - Spark Arrestor









Safety Training - Chainsaw

Avoiding Chain Saw Kickback



- Kickback occurs 7.5 times faster than you can react!
- · Respect the saw, use it carefully.



Safety Training - Chainsaw

- · Tips to help avoid kickback
 - Use proper working techniques
 - Do not use the "danger zone" of the bar
 - Use proper grip
 - Avoid unsafe and off-balanced working positions
 - · Do not use saw above shoulder height
 - Cut at high speed
 - Keep working piece secure
 - Make sure working area is free of obstructions



Safety Training - Chainsaw

- · Chainsaw handling and use
 - No left handed chain saw
 - How to properly start the saw
 - · No drop starting
 - Proper grip, wrapping the thumb
 - Safe Operating Distance
 - · At least 10 ft. from co-workers



Safety Training - Tree Felling

- 5 Step Felling Plan
 - 1. Height & Hazards
 - 2. Lean & Lay
 - 3. Notch & Hinge
 - 4. Back cut
 - 5. Escape Route





Safety Training – Tree Felling

- · Open-faced Notch
 - Total Angle
 - Ideally 90°; at least 70°
 - Top Cut
 - Angled Downward; 70°
 - Bottom Cut
 - Angled Upward; 20°
 - Back Cut
 - · Horizontal; at the same height as the corner of the notch
 - Depth
 - 1/4 1/3 of tree diameter

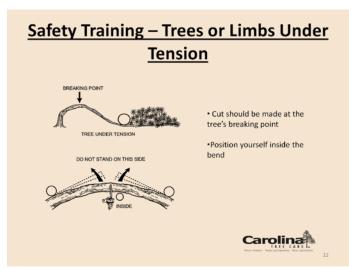


<u>Safety Training – Limbing &</u> Crosscutting

- · Increased risk of kickback
- · Start at the base/trunk of the tree
- Take your time and work methodically
- Position tree between yourself & saw whenever possible
- · Consider tension



Safety Training — Trees or Limbs Under Tension • Pressure on the top • Pressure on the bottom







Before operating chain saws in any capacity, please read all safety instructions for using the tool in a manner that allows you to go home safely at the end of the day.

Are Rights-of-Way Vegetation Management Practices Compatible With Pollinators?

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

Pollinators such as honey bees, monarch butterflies, and certain bird and bat species have experienced significant population declines over the past decade. Perhaps you're wondering why this is considered such a serious and mounting issue. According to White House reports pollinators contribute more than \$24 billion annually to the U.S. economy and more than 75% of the leading food crops globally are dependent on pollination¹. Those are staggering numbers. For many of these species habitat loss is a key factor in the declining populations.

Even as pollinator habitat is in decline, there is an opportunity to reverse that trend. Within the U.S. alone there are approximately 38 million acres of rights-of-way between electric Transmission, gas and pipeline, and federal, state, and county roadways^{2,3}. These corridors are perfect candidates for creating or restoring these declining but critical

habitats. Fine tuning existing vegetation management practices to encourage pollinator habitat wouldn't be too much of a stretch. Existing best management practices already recommend methods that promote and encourage low growing, sustainable plant communities because these methods have proven to reduce future maintenance costs and improve biodiversity. Research and operational experience have proven that using selective herbicides or selective application techniques to manage vegetation allows plant species desirable to pollinators and other wildlife species of high public interest to thrive in these corridors.

As public interest in pollinator conservation grows, you are likely to receive more inquiries about the impacts your vegetation management practices have with respect to pollinators and their habitat. Consider developing some talking points for your staff and contractors to address these questions. One frequently asked question is "Are the products you use toxic to pollinators?" All frequently used herbicides used on the rights-of-way are considered non-toxic to pollinators according to U.S. EPA classifications so rest assured these products when used according to label direction aren't adversely effecting pollinators. Where vegetation managers sometimes go wrong is in how the habitat is managed. Poor habitat management strategies can lead to the destruction of desirable pollinatorfriendly plant communities. Research has shown mechanical vegetation management practices alone and non-selective application techniques are not favorable for pollinator habitat.

Are your vegetation management practices compatible with pollinator habitat? If not, perhaps only minor changes would be necessary. Dow AgroSciences has accumulated a wealth of information around establishing and maintaining these critical habitats based on sound science and operational experience, and 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 you can reach out to us at twrogers@dow.com or plustings dow.com.

We also have some research studies available to review. These include: <u>Plant and Animal</u>
<u>Community Response to Long-Term Vegetation</u>
<u>Management Practices on Rights-of-way; Native</u>
<u>Forb and Shrub Tolerance to Milestone® Herbicide;</u>
and <u>Integrating Herbicides into Prairie and</u>
<u>Grassland Management;</u> — all available for download on techlinenews.com.

- ¹ The Economic Challenges Posed by Declining Pollinator Populations
- ² Electric Power Rights of Way: A New Frontier of Conservation
- ³ Habitat Highways

[®]Trademark of The Dow Chemical Company ("Dow") or an affiliated company of Dow

When treating areas in and around roadside or utility rights-of-way that are or will be grazed, hayed or planted to forage, important label precautions apply regarding harvesting hay from treated sites, using manure from animals grazing on treated areas or rotating the treated area to sensitive crops. See the product label for details. State restrictions on the sale and use of Milestone apply. Consult the label before purchase or use for full details. Always read and follow label directions.

Calendar of Events

NC Forestry Association

FORESTRY DAY IN THE LEGISLATURE

5/3/2016

The NCFA's Forestry Day in the Legislature will take place on May 3, 2016 on the Halifax Mall in Raleigh, NC. The briefing will begin at 9:30 a.m and lunch will start at 11:30 a.m.



Pesticide Exam Review Session & SC Pesticide Certification Exam

Tuesday, July 19th &

Wednesday, July 20th SCDOT Rock Hill Maintenance 338 Robertson Road Rock Hill, SC 29730

Trees SC

May 23 @ 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

2016 SC Tree Climbing Academy

Join us on May 23, 2016 at the Irmo Municipal Building for the South Carolina Tree Climbing Contact Karen Hauck at (843) 814-4620 for more information.

"We must invest in vegetation management to maintain reliable electric service to our customers and to ensure visual and physical access to our equipment and to prevent costly damages and outages."

Sarah Sankowich, System Arborist

2015 NCVMA Symposium & Tradeshow

Save the Date NCVMA Annual Symposium

December 7-8, 2016

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











2015 NCVMA Symposium & Tradeshow





























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Derek Smith - Advisor

Roxie Lee - Newsletter

2016 -2017 Directors (President-Elect to be nominated from Board at March BOD Meeting)

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NCVMA 2015 Sustaining Members

Aerial Solutions, Inc.

Asplundh Tree Expert Company

Bayer Environmental Science

Bost/Centaur ATV

Carolina Tree Care

Chemical Containers, Inc.

Crop Production Services (Timberland Division)

CWC Chemical, Inc.

Davey Tree, Inc.

Helena Chemical Company

HOMS, LLC

Kershaw- A Division of Progress Rail Services

NaturChem

NuFarm Americas, Inc.

Superior Forestry Service, Inc.

Woodland Vegetation Management, Inc.

Xylem Tree Expert



Pilot Mountain Blue Star Memorial



