



President's Message
Shawn Cox

A brand new year is underway for the North Carolina Vegetation Management Association. The board met in February and is aggressively pursuing educational and membership opportunities for the year ahead. During the first meeting Eddie Johnson was elected Vice President for the year and will be the upcoming president for next year. Eddie works for NaturChem and is well versed in an industry that he has worked in for years. Eddie and other board members are actively working on a spring field day and the symposium for this year. Neither of these events would be possible without the support of our loyal sponsors; sponsors that often don't get enough recognition. We are so grateful. A campaign is also underway this year to retain and recruit additional sponsors to help us reach our goals. Foremost my message to the membership is **Be Proud and Tell It!**

A few years ago my mother gave me a lecture on how poorly we had been treating the environment. After listening for a few minutes of how we had poisoned the earth I finally spoke up. I said "Mom I take offence to that." She looked at me kind of puzzled and said. "You do.?" I stiffened my back and said "Yes I do." Then I started to explain. "Mom I have invested my adult life and my career trying to improve the environment and now you are telling me it's not good enough. Well I like to think that we are making some headway on correcting our past. For instance Mom, do you remember how it was when you grew up and the rivers ran red with industrial waste and the air was black from coal emissions? Well in today's world we have water and air quality regulations in place. Life has returned to the rivers and I haven't witnessed any brown snow lately. Our chemical manufactures are stepping up to the call to make more target selective products. The list goes on and on." So instead of focusing on how bad we have been to the environment lets **Be Proud and Tell It!** Let the public know about the accomplishments in our industry. We may not be where we need to be or want to be yet in regards to the environment, but we are headed in the right direction.

I'm looking forward to the year ahead to be with each of you as we train and educate ourselves to the next step in our evolution.

Come Join Us!

2018 NCVMA VEGETATION MANAGEMENT FIELD DAY

June 14th

9:00am – 4:00pm

**Bayer CropScience
Clayton Development and Training Center**

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



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

Thank you again for your generosity. We raised over \$3800 for childhood cancer research. Anyone who has had a child or a loved one who has gone through cancer understands the agony and the anguish of not being able to do more. Your contributions help scientist do more.

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



Photo by Thad Boatwright

Sunset is still my favorite color, and
rainbow is second.

Mattie Stepanek

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)

NC Native Plant Society – Invasive Exotic Plants in NC

We hope this list will help eliminate the use of invasive exotic plants in landscaping and restoration projects.

The intent of this list is to:

- Rank exotic plants based on their demonstrated invasive characteristics
- Educate the public and resource managers
- Encourage early detection of invasive exotic species so that a rapid response can be implemented when needed

Rank 1 - Severe Threat

Exotic plant species that have invasive characteristics and spread readily into native plant communities, displacing native vegetation.

Scientific name	Common name
Ailanthus altissima (Mill.) Swingle	Tree of Heaven
Albizia julibrissin Durz.	Mimosa
Alliaria petiolata (Bieb.) Cavara & Grande	Garlic-mustard
Alternanthera philoxeroides (Mart.) Griseb.	Alligatorweed
Celastrus orbiculatus Thunb.	Asian bittersweet
Elaeagnus angustifolia L.	Russian olive
Elaeagnus umbellata Thunb.	Autumn olive
Hedera helix L.	English ivy
Hydrilla verticillata (L.f.) Royle	Hydrilla
Lespedeza bicolor	Bicolor lespedeza

Lespedeza cuneata (Dum.-Cours.) G. Don	Sericea lespedeza
Ligustrum sinense Lour.	Chinese privet
Lonicera fragrantissima Lindl. & Paxton	Fragrant honeysuckle
Lonicera japonica Thunb.	Japanese honeysuckle
Microstegium vimineum (Trin.) A. Camus	Japanese stilt-grass
Murdannia keisak (Hassk.) Hand.-Mazz.	Asian spiderwort
Myriophyllum aquaticum (Vell.) Verdc.	Parrotfeather
Paulownia tomentosa (Thunb.) Sieb.&Zucc. ex Steud.	Princess tree
Persicaria perfoliata (Linnaeus) H. Gross (=Polygonum perfoliatum L.)	Mile-a-minute vine
Phragmites australis (Cav.) Trin. ssp. australis	Common reed
Pyrus calleryana Decne.	Bradford pear
Polygonum cuspidatum Seib. & Zucc.	Japanese knotweed
Pueraria montana (Lour.) Merr.	Kudzu
Rosa multiflora Thunb.	Multiflora rose
Salvinia molesta Mitchell	Aquarium water-moss
Vitex rotundifolia L.f.	Beach vitex
Wisteria sinensis (Sims) DC	Chinese wisteria

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Ticks and the Threat of Lyme Disease

38% of ticks have tested positive for Lyme Disease this year.



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.

Background

According to the Wall Street Journal, the combination of a mild winter, a burgeoning mice and deer population and a productive acorn harvest means this year's tick season is expected to be more severe than in the past.

Ready. Set. Summer Safety.

The deer or blacklegged tick can transmit up to seven pathogens that cause human diseases, including Lyme disease, which is the most common vector-borne disease in the United States. Symptoms can include a ring-like rash, along with flulike symptoms, muscle and joint aches and swollen lymph nodes.

Preventing tick-borne illnesses involves avoiding wooded and bush areas with high grass and leaf litter, tucking pant legs into boots and wearing long sleeved shirts. Ticks are unlikely to transmit an infection if they only latch on for a few hours – so check your skin and clothes for ticks before, during and after every job:

- To remove an attached tick, use fine-tipped tweezers, grasping the tick as close to the skin as possible and pull straight away in a steady motion. Please inform your supervisors and consult the Employee Care Nurse if you find a tick attached on your body for further guidance.
- After removing the tick, thoroughly clean the bite area and your hands with rubbing alcohol, an iodine scrub or soap and water.
- Place the tick in a zip lock bag with the date labeled and notify your supervisor.
- If you develop a rash or fever within several weeks of removing a tick, see your doctor. Be sure to tell the doctor when and where the bite occurred.

More Information

- Click [here](#) to see Carol Barajas' special message about summer safety concerns.
- View a short video from Jeff Williams about what Duke Energy does to mitigate the threat of ticks and Lyme disease:



A Conversation in Heaven Between God and St. Francis

God: St. Francis, you know all about gardens and nature. What in the world is going on down there in the USA? What happened to the dandelions, violets, thistle and stuff I started eons ago? I had a perfect, no-maintenance garden plan. Those plants grow in any type of soil, withstand drought and multiply with abandon. The nectar from the long-lasting blossoms attracts butterflies, honeybees and flocks of songbirds. I expected to see a vast garden of colors by now. But all I see are these green rectangles.

St. Francis: It's the tribes that settled there, Lord. The Suburbanites. They started calling your flowers "weeds" and went to great lengths to kill them and replace them with grass.

God: Grass? But it's so boring. It's not colorful. It doesn't attract butterflies, birds and bees, only grubs and sod worms. It's temperamental with temperatures. Do these Suburbanites really want all that grass growing there?

St. Francis: Apparently so, Lord. They go to great pains to grow it and keep it green. They begin each spring by fertilizing grass and poisoning any other plant that crops up in the lawn.

God: The spring rains and warm weather probably make grass grow really fast. That must make the Suburbanites happy.

St. Francis: Apparently not, Lord. As soon as it grows a little, they cut it, sometimes twice a week.

God: They cut it? Do they then bale it like hay?

St. Francis: Not exactly Lord. Most of them rake it up and put it in bags.

God: They bag it? Why? Is it a cash crop? Do they sell it?

St. Francis: No, sir -- just the opposite. They pay to throw it away.

God: Now, let me get this straight. They fertilize grass so it will grow. And when it does grow, they cut it off and pay to throw it away?

St. Francis: Yes, sir.

God: These Suburbanites must be relieved in the summer when we cut back on the rain and turn up the heat. That surely slows the growth and saves them allot of work.

St. Francis: You aren't going to believe this, Lord. When the grass stops growing so fast, they drag out hoses and pay more money to water it so they can continue to mow it and pay to get rid of it.

God: What nonsense. At least they kept some of the trees. That was a sheer stroke of genius, if I do say so myself. The trees grow leaves in the spring to provide beauty and shade in the summer. In the autumn they fall to the ground and form a natural blanket to keep moisture in the soil and protect the trees and bushes. Plus, as they rot, the leaves form compost to enhance the soil. It's a natural circle of life.

St. Francis: You'd better sit down, Lord. The Suburbanites have drawn a new circle. As soon as the leaves fall, they rake them into great piles and pay to have them hauled away.

God: No. What do they do to protect the shrub and tree roots in the winter and to keep the soil moist and loose?

St. Francis: After throwing away the leaves, they go out and buy something which they call mulch. They haul it home and spread it around in place of the leaves.

God: And where do they get this mulch?

St. Francis: They cut down trees and grind them up to make the mulch.

God: Enough! I don't want to think about this anymore. St. Catherine, you're in charge of the arts. What movie have you scheduled for us tonight?

St. Catherine: "Dumb and Dumber," Lord. It's a real stupid movie about...

God: Never mind, I think I just heard the whole story from St. Francis.

Read more at
<http://www.beliefnet.com/inspiration/2004/04/did-god-create-lawns.aspx#RLKGCKs9MYTzRLEV.99>



“The butterfly counts not months but moments, and has time enough.”

Rabindranath Tagore

IVM White Paper

Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM) is used to create, promote, and conserve sustainable plant communities that are compatible with the intended use of the site, and discourage incompatible plants that may pose concerns; including safety, security, access, fire hazard, utility service reliability, emergency restoration, visibility, line-of-sight requirements, regulatory compliance, and environmental, or other specific concerns. Techniques include manual or mechanical cutting, herbicide treatments, cultural and biological controls.

- **Manual or mechanical cutting** techniques are used for site restoration when targeted incompatible plants are tall and/or dense and inhibit the intended use of the site. Routine use of cutting does not constitute IVM since the cut stems simply re-sprout from viable root systems. Mechanical equipment can negatively impact nesting wildlife or feeding pollinators, rut wetland soils and pollute hydrocarbons.
- **Herbicides** are necessary to remove incompatible plants and should be applied according to height thresholds that enable accurate and effective targeting.
 - Broadcast treatment may be necessary if incompatible plants are dense and inhibit growth of compatible plants. Routine broadcast treatments do not constitute IVM since conversion to compatible plants cannot be accomplished with this technique alone.
 - The primary herbicide method after prairie vegetation is established, is by selective treatments using handheld nozzles (preferably low volume backpacks). This technique will be very selective towards taller woody

vegetation and allow a rich diversity of prairie plants and some appropriate shrubs to thrive in the ROW. Invasive woody and herbaceous vegetation can also be easily targeted with handheld backpacks, with decreasing inputs and costs over time.

- **Cultural** controls involve the introduction of plants usually by seeding local, native species for erosion control after construction to hold soil until subsequent germination of the native seed bank. Isolating and then spreading top soil back over construction sites expedites this process.
- **Biological** controls are derived from compatible plant competition for sunlight, water and nutrients and their production of natural herbicides (allelopathic chemicals) that inhibit growth of incompatible plants, and predation of seeds and seedlings by animals (birds, voles, mice, etc). Selective herbicide treatments develop and sustain biological controls, with corresponding cost reduction of 30-50% compared to routine mechanical cutting or broadcasting herbicides.

IVM selects the correct technique according to vegetation conditions found by inspection not arbitrary cycles. Herbicides are a necessary tool but chemical choice, application method and timing determines success. Grasses and small forbs may be desired for electric utility wire zones, natural gas pipeline zones, highway safety zones and agricultural filter strips and ditches; while border zones of electric and gas pipelines, back-slopes of highway corridors, and CRP lands around cropped fields may allow larger forbs, shrubs and small stature trees.

When compatible plant communities become established in their respective zones, periodic selective treatments are able to manage this stable state with decreasing inputs of herbicides, disturbance, and cost.

IVM derived early successional plant communities not only provide for the intended use(s) of the site, but provide prairie-type habitats necessary for food and cover of native bees, butterflies, birds and a host of vertebrate and invertebrates. Adoption of these best IVM practices can positively influence habitat on millions of acres of land in the United States.

Mowing Reclamation IVM Management



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GAS

**HIGHWAY,
AG CRP
AND DITCHES**





News Release

Bayer Announces New Supplemental Label for Method® 240SL Herbicide

(October 2, 2017) – Environmental Science, a division of Bayer Crop Science, announced that EPA has granted a supplemental label authorizing Method® 240SL for individual plant treatment (IPT) on rights of way (ROW) vegetation management sites transecting grazed areas.

“With the supplemental label, there will be no need to switch to a non-ACP brush control herbicide in ROWs transecting pasture and rangelands grazed by livestock,” said Dr. David Spak, Stewardship and Development Manager the Bayer Vegetation Management (VM) business. “Customers have asked for Method 240SL to help manage these areas, and we’re excited to deliver this effective and flexible innovation.”

The control of woody plant species within ROW areas is critical to maintain safe, reliable and accessible infrastructure for our nation’s roadsides and electrical, gas and water services. ROW areas include roadsides, electrical transmission and distribution lines and substations, oil and gas pipelines, and other essential infrastructure. Brush encroachment into ROWs can reduce roadside visibility, interfere with electrical power lines, create fire hazards, reduce drainage, and compromise fence integrity – posing a threat to human, animal and environmental safety.

VM applicators have been required to switch to a less-effective herbicide in ROW areas transecting grazed lands. The supplemental label granted by the EPA allows Method 240SL to be

applied in those areas when utilizing IPT techniques via high or low volume treatments. In addition to efficacy benefits, application frequency and cost can be reduced when applicators use Method 240SL, a key solution in the Bayer VM brush management portfolio.

Additionally, selective IPT applications (versus broadcast treatments) are proven to protect important wildlife habitat and encourage the development of native grasses and forbs. For more information about IPT, [watch this educational video](#).

Bayer is in the process of obtaining approval of the supplemental label from the states. Please check with your local Bayer representative for updates regarding state registration.

To learn more about Bayer VM solutions and stewardship, please visit BayerVM.com.

Bayer is committed to bringing new technology and solutions for agriculture and non-agricultural uses. For questions concerning the availability and use of products, contact a local Bayer representative, or visit Crop Science, a division of Bayer, online at www.cropscience.bayer.us.

Forward-Looking Statements

This release may contain forward-looking statements based on current assumptions and forecasts made by Bayer Group or subgroup management. Various known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors could lead to material differences between the actual future results, financial situation, development or performance of the company and the estimates given here. These factors include those discussed in Bayer’s public reports which are available on the Bayer website at www.bayer.com. The company assumes no liability whatsoever to update these forward-looking statements or to conform them to future events or developments.

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Action Steps for Sun Protection

While some exposure to sunlight can be enjoyable, too much can be dangerous. Overexposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the sun can result in a painful sunburn. It can also lead to more serious health problems, including skin cancer, premature aging of the skin, cataracts and other eye damage, and immune system suppression. Children are particularly at risk. This fact sheet explains simple steps to protect yourself and your children from overexposure to UV radiation.

Be Sun Wise

Most people are not aware that skin cancer, while largely preventable, is the most common form of cancer in the United States. More than one million cases are reported annually. By following some simple steps, you can still enjoy your time in the sun and protect yourself from overexposure. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recommends these action steps to help you and your family be “SunWise.”



Do Not Burn

Sunburns significantly increase one’s lifetime risk of developing skin cancer, especially for children.



Avoid Sun Tanning and Tanning Beds

UV light from tanning beds and the sun causes skin cancer and wrinkling.



Generously Apply Sunscreen

Generously apply sunscreen: about one ounce to cover all exposed skin 20 minutes before going outside. Sunscreen should have a Sun Protection Factor (SPF) of at least 15 and provide protection from both ultraviolet A (UVA) and ultraviolet B (UVB) rays. Reapply every two hours, even on cloudy days, and after swimming or sweating.



Wear Protective Clothing

Wear protective clothing, such as a long-sleeved shirt, pants, a wide-brimmed hat, and sunglasses, when possible.



Seek Shade

Seek shade when possible and remember that the sun's UV rays are strongest between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.



Use Extra Caution Near Water, Snow and Sand

Water, snow and sand reflect the damaging rays of the sun, which can increase your chance of sunburn.



Check the UV Index

The UV Index provides important information to help you plan your outdoor activities in ways that prevent sun overexposure. The UV Index forecast is issued daily by the National Weather Service and EPA. Visit www.epa.gov/sunwise/uvindex.html.



Get Vitamin D Safely

Get Vitamin D safely through a diet that includes vitamin supplements and foods fortified with Vitamin D. Don't seek the sun. Early detection of skin cancer can save your life. A new or changing mole should be evaluated by a dermatologist.

For More Information

To learn more about UV radiation, the action steps for sun protection, and the SunWise Program, call EPA's Stratospheric Ozone Information Hotline at 800.296.1996, or visit our Web site at www.epa.gov/sunwise.

UV Index

Exposure Category	UVI Range
Low	< 2
Moderate	3 to 5
High	6 to 7
Very high	8 to 10
Extreme	11+

The UV Index forecasts the strength of the sun's harmful rays. The higher the number, the greater the chance of sun damage. Visit www.epa.gov/sunwise/uvindex.html.

2018 FARM Bill H.R.2

Farm Bill (H.R. 2, the Agriculture and Nutrition Act of 2018): Support the Agriculture and Nutrition Act of 2018 (H.R. 2)

This week the House of Representatives is planning to bring the Farm Bill up for a vote. The bill passed the House Agriculture Committee April 18 by a 26-20 party-line vote.

The bill addresses important fixes for our industry within Title IX of the Farm Bill which relates to the registration of pesticides under the Federal, Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA).

Included is FIFRA-reform, which will address the process under which pesticides are reviewed for potential impacts to threatened and endangered species and critical habitat. The longstanding and ongoing conflict between the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Office of Pesticide Programs and the Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service (the

Services) about how to best protect species when regulating pesticides only frustrates the ability to bring specialty pesticide products to market and to protect public health and safety. The language included in the Farm Bill will clarify the roles of EPA and the Services and seeks to establish a predictable and efficient regulatory process for better protecting species and registering pesticides. Also included in the Farm Bill is the reauthorization of the Pesticide Registration Improvement Act, and a fix to the duplicative National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permitting requirement both passed by the House of Representatives in 2017. Support the Agriculture and Nutrition Act of 2018 (H.R. 2).

NCVMA Annual Symposium





“We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children.”
Native American Quote



I DON'T WANT TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT
I WANT TO CREATE A WORLD WHERE THE ENVIRONMENT DOESN'T NEED PROTECTING





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2018-2019

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Pilot Mountain Blue Star Memorial

FREEDOM IS NOT FREE
 By Kelly Strong
 Memorial Day Tribute

I watched the flag pass by one day.
 It fluttered in the breeze.
 A young Marine saluted it,
 And then he stood at ease.
 I looked at him in uniform
 So young, so tall, so proud,
 He'd stand out in any crowd.
 I thought how many men like him
 Had fallen through the years.
 How many died on foreign soil?
 How many mothers' tears?
 How many pilots' planes shot down?
 How many died at sea?
 How many foxholes were soldiers' graves?
 No, freedom isn't free.

I heard the sound of TAPS one night,
 Everything was still
 I listened to the bugler play
 And felt a sudden chill.
 I wondered just how many times
 That TAPS had meant "Amen,"
 When a flag had draped a coffin
 Of a brother or a friend.
 I thought of all the children,
 Of the mothers and the wives,
 Of fathers, sons and husbands
 With interrupted lives.
 I thought about a graveyard
 At the bottom of the sea
 Of unmarked graves in Arlington.
 No, freedom isn't free.