

2025 WINTER SYMPOSIUM
56TH CVNLA SHORT COURSE
PESTICIDE RECERTIFICATION
HOMES AND HABITATS

FEBRUARY 12, 13, 14, 2025



THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2025

8:30 AM

REGISTRATION OPENS FOR IN-PERSON ATTENDEES

8:45 AM

ZOOM WEBINAR OPENS FOR VIRTUAL ATTENDEES

9:00 AM

WELCOME

9:10 AM

CULTURAL CONTROL: AN IPM TOOL FOR PEST AND DISEASE MANAGEMENT

Jessie Ward, Bartlett Tree Research Laboratories

Improving landscape conditions for trees and shrubs can be a powerful tool to manage pests and diseases, but one that often goes overlooked. Practical solutions for cultural control of current and emerging pests and diseases will be presented and plant health will be discussed as a factor to consider in long term landscape management.

10:10 AM

BREAK

10:20 AM

SUPPORTING RESILIENT FORESTS AND COMMUNITIES IN A TIME OF CHANGE

Alex Grieve, Urban Forestry Division

Urban trees support human health and well-being by cooling our neighborhoods, reducing stormwater, and absorbing pollution. Trees are also impacted by a changing climate and associated impacts such as drought, extreme heat, and storm events. This presentation will first, cover the challenges facing our urban forest and communities; and second, focus on the tools and strategies we implement to cultivate a resilient urban forest and support the communities within it.

11:20 AM

LUNCH & NETWORKING BREAK

12:30 PM

A CELEBRATION OF ECCENTRICITIES - FAMOUS PLANT PEOPLE AND THEIR PLANTS

Tony Avent, Juniper Level Botanic Garden and Plant Delights Nursery

Behind every plant we grow is a unique plant person and a great backstory. Most often, both nurserymen and customers have no idea who the people are behind the plants, who have allowed us to have such an amazing array of diversity in our gardens. In addition to plants, we collect plant people and their amazing tales, and look forward to sharing some favorites from our four decades in the industry.

1:30 PM

BREAK

1:40 PM

TINY HOMES FOR TINY INSECTS - ADVANCES IN INSECT GALL DEVELOPMENT

Sarah Melissa Witiak, Virginia State University

Insect galls are unique plant organs that only develop in response to an insect's specific chemical signal. While we have not yet identified the signals that induce these structures, progress has been made to identify some of the important developmental programs that are co-opted by insects to form the galls that provide shelter and nutrition. This talk will cover insect gall morphology, diversity, and the relationship of gall development to fruit and seed formation.

2:40 PM

BREAK WITH SNACKS

2:55 PM

CHASING THE BLOOM IN THE SOUTHERN APPALACHIANS

Don Hyatt, American Rhododendron Society

The Southern Appalachian Mountains have one of the richest and most diverse floras in the world. This presentation focuses on the sequence of bloom of native plants and wildflowers in this very scenic region. Recent weather has changed this area for the near future, but we can look forward to its recovery.

3:55 PM

ADJOURN

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SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

JESSIE WARD



Jessie is a Research Associate with the Bartlett Tree Research Laboratories working with Dr. Chris Riley on research, education, and outreach in the Mid-Atlantic. She holds a bachelor's degree in Biology from JMU and a master's degree in Forest Resources from Penn State. She spent over 5 years as a production arborist and plant health care specialist at Bartlett in Richmond, VA before joining the lab team this year.

ALEX GRIEVE



Alex is the volunteer and partnership coordinator for the urban forestry division with the department of transportation in Washington, DC. Alex graduated from Michigan State, BS Forestry, 2014, where his passion and interest for urban forestry and arboriculture intersected. This led him to pursue a Masters in Urban Forestry at Virginia Tech, researching waste wood utilization feasibility in Washington, D.C. The allure of the District's urban forests prompted him to move there upon graduation; thereafter he gained a position with the District's Urban Forestry Division. Outside of work, Alex enjoys traveling and backpacking around America's national forests

TONY ADVENT



Tony founded Plant Delights mail order nursery & Juniper Level Botanic Gardens in Raleigh, NC, and writes a daily blog about plants in the garden at JLBG.org Tony is a plant explorer, plant breeder, and plant collector and conservationist, who has taken over 100 botanizing trips around the world, and has grown over 80,000 different kinds of plants.

SARAH MELISSA WITIAK



Sarah Melissa Witiak is an Associate Professor of Biology at Virginia State University, where she teaches plant biology and works with students and the city of Petersburg to improve local urban ecology. Trained as a plant developmental biologist at Penn State, she is interested in questions of plant form, especially the mechanisms that insects deploy to bend plants to their needs as well as plant strategies to manipulate insects.

DON HYATT



Don Hyatt earned his Masters degree in Computer Science from Virginia Tech and spent most of his 33-year professional career in Fairfax County Public Schools as a Computer Science teacher. Having started his first garden at the family home in Northern Virginia when he was only three, Don claims to be a "plant person" at heart rather than a computer scientist. The spectacular private garden he developed over 60 years (pictured to the right) has been on many garden tours. Don's Bachelors degree was in Horticulture with a double major in Biochemistry from Virginia Tech and he has always been active in the plant world despite his career as a computer science teacher. Don is active in the American Rhododendron Society in Atlanta, GA, as well as the Azalea Society of America.

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CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS INSTRUCTIONS

To ensure you receive your CEUs for participating in this event, please follow the instructions below. In general, if you are seeking CEUs for any organization, please make sure your name was checked off the main attendance list at the registration table so we can verify your attendance with CEU-granting organizations as needed. For virtual attendees, we will verify your attendance through Zoom reporting.

IN-PERSON ATTENDEES: To earn CEU credit for LA CES and ISA, it is required that you sign-in on the appropriate form at the registration table. CEUs can't be guaranteed if you don't complete this step. For ISA CEUs, sign-in is required in the morning AND after lunch; missing one of these sign-ins could result in only partial CEU credit. For virtual attendees, see information below under LA CES and ISA sections for instructions.

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS (LA CES)

Approved CEUs*: Day 1: 5 CEUs | Day 2: 5 CEUs

**LA CES continuing education credits are only available through in-person participation. Virtual attendees will not qualify for these CEUs.*

In-person attendees are required to confirm their attendance through a sign-in form provided at the event. Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden is responsible for submitting attendance verification to LA CES within 20 business days of the event. Contact meganc@lewisginter.org or laces@asla.org with questions.

CENTRAL VIRGINIA NURSEY & LANDSCAPE ASSOCIATION (CVNLA)

Approved CEUs: Day 1: 5 CEUs | Day 2: 5 CEUs

Continuing education hours can be self-reported. Contact Executive Secretary, Karen Merica, at contactcvnla@gmail.com with questions.

CHESAPEAKE BAY LANDSCAPE PROFESSIONALS

Approved CEUs: Day 1: 3 CEUs | Day 2: 4 CEUs

Continuing education hours can be self-reported online. Contact Chesapeake Conservation Landscaping Council PA/DE Coordinator, Melissa Dombrowski, at melissa@cblpro.org with questions.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

- Erosion & Sediment Control (ESC)
- Stormwater Management (SWM)

Approved CEUs: Day 1: 2 CEUs | Day 2: 2 CEUs

Continued on next page



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY *(continued)*

Continuing education hours can be self-reported through the Certification Accreditation Tracking System (CATS). Contact ESC/SWM Program Administrator, Kim E. Seckman, at certification@deq.virginia.gov with questions.

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF ARBORICULTURE

Approved CEUs:

- Day 1: Management: 4 CEUs | Climber Specialist: 4 CEUs | ISA Certified Arborist: 4 CEUs | Utility Specialist: 2 CEUs | Municipal Specialist: 4 CEUs | Aerial Lift Specialist: 4 CEUs
- Day 2: Practice: 1 CEU | Management: 4 CEUs | Climber Specialist: 5 CEUs | ISA Certified Arborist: 5 CEUs | Utility Specialist: 2 CEUs | Municipal Specialist: 5 CEUs | Aerial Lift Specialist: 5 CEUs

In-person attendees must confirm their attendance through a sign-in form provided at the event. Virtual attendees will have their attendance confirmed through Zoom attendance reporting. We must have your ISA certification number to report your CEUs. Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden is responsible for submitting attendance verification to ISA within 30 business days of the event. Contact meganc@lewisginter.org or admin@macisa.org with questions.

RICHMOND TREE STEWARDS

Approved CEUs: Day 1: 2 CEUs | Day 2: 5 CEUs

Continuing education hours can be self-reported through TrackItForward. Contact Education Chair, Sharon Harless, at swardharless@gmail.com with questions.

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & CONSUMER SERVICES (VDACS)

For pesticide applicators seeking recertification, in-person attendance for the entirety of Day 3 is required. Paperwork will be completed at the beginning and end of the day to meet requirements. Arriving late or leaving early will mean you forfeit credit for the day. Contact Ed Olsen with the Virginia Cooperative Extension at edo@vt.edu with questions.

VIRGINIA MASTER GARDENERS

Approved CEUs: Day 1: 5 CEUs | Day 2: 5 CEUs

Continuing education hours can be self-reported. Contact the VMGA Chair of the Education Committee at Education@VMGA.net with questions.

VIRGINIA MASTER NATURALISTS

Approved CEUs: Day 1: 5 CEUs | Day 2: 5 CEUs

Continuing education hours can be self-reported. Contact the Program Director of the Virginia Master Naturalist Program, Michelle Prysby, at mprysby@vt.edu with questions.

VIRGINIA NURSERY & LANDSCAPE ASSOCIATION (VNLA) CERTIFIED HORTICULTURISTS

Approved CEUs: Day 1: 5 CEUs | Day 2: 5 CEUs

Continuing education hours can be self-reported on VNLA's website. Contact VCH/Certification Committee Chair, Neal Beasley, at Neal.Beasley@timmons.com with questions.

