



# 2017 Western Gulf

## FOREST HEALTH CONFERENCE

Louisiana Tech University Shreveport Center, 8028 Shrevepark Drive, Shreveport, LA

### Thursday, May 18<sup>th</sup> – Day 1

- 8:30 Welcoming Remarks  
*Wade Dubea, Louisiana State Forester, Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry*  
*Doug Akin, Forest Management Chief, Arkansas Forestry Commission*
- 9:00 General Session 1  
History of Forest and Tree Health Pests
- 10:15 Break with Refreshments – **Sponsored by BioForest**
- 10:45 General Session 2
- Laurel Wilt and Beyond: Emerging Threats to American Trees  
*Andrew Loyd, Doctoral Candidate, Forest Pathology, University of Florida*
- 12:00 Lunch Provided
- 1:00 Concurrent Session I
- Urban Tree Selection  
*Paul Johnson, Urban and Community Forests Program Leader, Texas A&M Forest Service*
  - Tools for Identifying and Reporting Pest and Disease Issues  
*Elizabeth Moss, Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Management, University of Georgia*  
*Jake Bodart, State Survey Coordinator, Arkansas State Plant Board*
  - Native Bark Beetles  
*Chandler Barton, Forest Health Specialist, Arkansas Forestry Commission*  
*Dr. David Coyle, Director, Forest Health and Invasive Species Program, Southern Research Extension Forestry*
- 2:30 Break with Refreshments
- 3:00 Concurrent Session II
- Silviculture and Tree Care 101  
*Dr. Eric Taylor, Silviculturist III and Extension Specialist, Texas A&M Forest Service*
  - Urban Pests and Single Tree issues  
*Efran Vafaie, Extension Program Specialist – IPM, Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Service*
  - Abiotic Factors and Their Impact to Rural and Urban Trees  
*Dr. Mary Anne Sword Sayer, Research Plant Physiologist, US Forest Service*  
*Ricky Kilpatrick, Area Forestry Agent – Bossier Parrish, Louisiana State University AgCenter*
- 5:00 Adjourn Day 1



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### Friday, May 19<sup>th</sup> – Day 2

- 8:00 Welcoming Remarks  
*Scott Huff, Forest Management Chief, Oklahoma Forestry Services*  
*Bill Oates, Forest Management Chief, Texas A&M Forest Service*
- 8:30 General Session 3
- Weather Trends and Long Term Outlook  
*Dr. John Nielsen-Gammon, Texas State Climatologist, Texas A&M System*
  - USDA Climate Hub Mission, Goals and Objectives  
*Michael Gavazzi, Acting Coordinator, Southeast Climate Hub*  
*Clay Pope, Hub Coordinator, Southern Plains Climate Hub*
- 10:15 Break with Refreshments – ***Sponsored by Plant Growth Management Systems***
- 10:45 General Session 4
- How do We Monitor Forest and Tree Health  
*Dr. Chris Asaro, Forest Health Monitoring Program Manager, US Forest Service, Forest Health Protection*
  - Model for Developing Public Based Reporting: TexasInvasive.org/Citizen Scientist  
*Dr. Hans Landel, Invasive Species Program Coordinator, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center*
  - Unmanned Aerial Systems for Forest Health Monitoring  
*Wes Palmer, GIS Program Coordinator, Louisiana Tech University*
- 12:00 Lunch Provided
- 1:00 Concurrent Session III
- Invasive Plants, An Issue for Rural and Urban  
*Dr. Tamara Walkingstick, Associate Professor and Extension Specialist, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service*
  - Improving Soil and Tree Health Using Biochar  
*Mark Mann, CEO, Plant Growth Management Systems*
  - Using Pesticides to Promote Tree and Forest Health  
*Dr. Kyle Cunningham, Assistant Professor, University of Arkansas*
- 2:30 Wrap Up and Adjourn