NORTH CAROLINA VEGETATION MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

2026 Annual Meeting

December 9–10, 2026

Tuesday & Wednesday

December 8 setup · December 9 morning program

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8

3:00 p.m. — **Registration Opens (closes at 6:00 p.m.)**

4:00 p.m. — **Sponsor Booth Setup Opens (closes at 6:00 p.m.)**

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9

8:00 a.m. — **Registration Open / Vendor & Sponsor Visits**

8:30 a.m. — **Welcome / Safety Briefing / President's Remarks**

Jesse Peery, President

8:45 a.m. — **Researching Your Rights of Way**

Abby Aycock, Corteva

Rights-of-way are more than operational corridors - they are valuable sources of data that can demonstrate the effectiveness and business value of vegetation management programs. This presentation explores how organizations can transform routine rights-of-way activities into a structured research study that measures environmental, operational, and financial outcomes.

9:30 a.m. — **Advancing Forest Health Through Targeted Herbicide Prescriptions**

Jeff Tapley, Nutrien

This presentation will provide the audience with an overview of several herbicide options used in managing longleaf, loblolly and piedmont hardwood areas of North & South Carolina. Jeff will touch on commonly used forestry herbicides and many tank mixtures that may be used to achieve the vegetation management objectives for landowners. Site preparation, herbaceous weed control, pine release and timber stand improvement treatments will be discussed followed by a Q&A session.

10:15 a.m. — **Break / Vendor & Sponsor Visits**

10:45 a.m. — **Why Herbicides Fail: Understanding the Causes Behind Poor Weed Control**

Jesse Peery, Envu

This session will examine the most common reasons herbicides fail to deliver expected results in the field. Topics will include weed size and growth stage, environmental conditions, application timing, spray coverage, herbicide resistance, product selection, and application errors. By understanding the factors that lead to poor performance, attendees will be better equipped to diagnose failures, improve control outcomes, and make more informed weed management decisions throughout the growing season.

11:30 a.m. — **Presentation of Lifetime Achievement Award**

Jesse Peery, President and Andrew Summers, Vice President

12:00 p.m. — **Lunch**

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1:00 p.m. — **The Next Evolution of Vegetation Management**

Travis Rogers, The Orion Companies

Travis will discuss the importance of how data and technology are driving smarter decisions, how to strengthen compliance in your operation and ways to create further operational efficiencies and improve outcomes.

1:45 p.m. — **Vendor Shoutout**

Sponsors and Exhibitors will have the opportunity to introduce their company and highlight the services they provide.

2:00 p.m. — **License Update**

Travis Snodgrass, NCDA & CS Structural Pest Control & Pesticides Division, Pesticide Section

During this time, Travis will review state laws, regulations and licensing changes that have occurred this year. There are several new ESA (Endangered Species Act) label changes, UAV/Drone rule modifications, and a few other changes that industry partners need to be aware of in order to continue compliance.

2:15 p.m. — **Know Your Chemistry and What It's Capable Of**

Koby Cutchall, Arborchem

Koby will discuss commonly used herbicides for bareground substation treatments and utility rights-of-way applications. Also covered will be pre-emergent and post-emergent herbicides and herbicides that have both characteristics. Koby will review different aquatic herbicides and how they work on different vegetation types (submersed, floating, emergent, and shorelines) and what can happen when specific herbicides are used in incorrect places. This discussion will heighten applicators' awareness of what each herbicide is capable of and how to properly use them in the field.

3:00 p.m. — **Modern Roadside Herbicide Application Technologies and Flow Control Systems**

Allen Chase, Chase Enterprises

This presentation provides an overview of modern roadside herbicide application technologies. Key topics include: primary components of roadside sprayers - understanding the essential parts of application equipment, flow control systems - a technical explanation of how these systems function to deliver a calibrated solution, and recent technological advancements including examples of on-line tracking and digital documentation options for pesticide applications.

3:45 p.m. — **Jimmy V Foundation**

4:15 p.m. — **Recap of the day / Adjourn / Vendors open until 5:00 p.m.**

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8:00 a.m.

Safety Briefing / NCVMA Board Business Meeting

Jesse Peery, President and Andrew Summers, Vice President

During the 2026 business meeting, the current president and vice president will review activities of the board during the year, welcome new members of the association and discuss the 2027 outlook.

8:10 a.m.

Scholarship Committee Update

NCVMA Scholarship Committee Members

The NCVMA has always engaged our responsibility to educate our industry to the best of our ability by continuously supporting scholarship initiatives and opportunities. During this time, committee members will update the association on how those initiatives are going to date and how the support of the association has impacted the industry.

8:20 a.m.

Safety Presentation

Wes Tregilgas, Wright Tree Service

During this presentation, Wes will share videos of the injury potential and lack of control from approaching wires under tension in storm conditions the traditional way and why the practice of “tying the wires down” doesn’t provide safety to the extent needed. New industry approaches to solving these hazards will be shown with methods that are much more predictable, controlled, and proven during Hurricane Helene. Wes will also share case studies of past jobs that went wrong and discuss why.

9:15 a.m.

Practical Application of the A300 for Utility Arborists

Stephen Hilbert, ArborVista

Steve will present on the practical application of the Tree Risk and Pruning clauses of ANSI A300 and how these standards translate into actionable field procedures for arborists, utilities, and land managers. This presentation explains inspection protocols, decision-making criteria, pruning techniques, and documentation requirements to ensure safety, tree health, and regulatory compliance.

10:00 a.m.

Break / Vendor & Sponsor Visits / Last Chance for Silent Auction

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Managing Nuisance Aquatic Vegetation In and Around Non-cropland Sites

Dr. Robert Richardson, North Carolina State University

Large non-cropland sites are highly likely to contain aquatic resources that need periodic management. Nuisance aquatic vegetation can impact these sites by restricting water flow, impairing recreational use, degrading water quality, and creating safety hazards or other negative impacts for managers. Numerous management techniques are available, but not all are practical or economically sustainable. This presentation will review key problematic species, selection of appropriate and practical management techniques, regulatory considerations, and best practices for minimizing non-target impacts.

11:45 a.m.

Pilot to Program: How Utilities and Partners Can Scale Remote Sensing Together

Chris Harris, ArborMetrics

Utilities across North America are sitting on more vegetation, asset, and corridor data than ever before, yet many programs still struggle to convert that data into consistent, defensible field decisions. This session presents a practical, low-risk framework utilities can use to adopt remote sensing technology without overcommitting budget or disrupting existing operations: a "Crawl, Walk, Run" partnership model.

12:30 p.m.

Closing Session

Jesse Peery, President and Andrew Summers, Vice President

President's remarks will be given by the sitting president, Jimmy V Silent Auction winners will be announced. CEU sign ups will be reviewed.

12:45 p.m.

Adjourn