

Speaker Biographies

Thursday, January 24th.



Ric Bessin, Ph.D.,
Dept. of Entomology,
Univ. of Kentucky,
Lexington

Ric has worked at the University of Kentucky since 1991 with extension responsibilities including insect management on field and specialty crops, and greenhouses. He has evaluated IPM decision guidelines and management strategies for specialty and field crop insect pests. Dr. Bessin provides education to a wide audience from Master Gardeners to the commercial agriculture industry. Recent research includes evaluation and implementation of alternative treatments for control of Oriental fruit moth and codling moth in commercial apple orchards, evaluation of a reduced-risk and organic controls for cucumber beetle, bacterial wilt, squash bug, and yellow vine decline control in cucumbers and squash, manipulation of wild pollinators in cucurbit production systems, evaluation of alternative insecticide seed treatments for corn on secondary soil insect pests, and evaluation of *Trichogramma ostrinae* and habitat modification for natural enemies to control pests of peppers. He has provided the entomology expertise to address economic, pest management, and ecological issues surrounding the deployment of genetically modified Bt corn in Kentucky. He serves as the Kentucky Integrated Pest Management Coordinator and Kentucky Liaison to the IR-4 Project that helps to register pesticides for minor uses and minor acreage crops.



Christopher Chandler, The Nature Conservancy, Louisville

A Louisville native, Chris holds a B.A. in communications and anthropology from the University of Louisville and has more than nine years of experience serving as a project manager and business developer for several Louisville-based ecological consultants. His professional background has given Chris a demonstrated ability to work with private landowners, governmental agencies, volunteer organizations and other partners on a variety of habitat restoration projects already underway in Louisville. A certified Arborist, Chris also serves in leadership positions with local non-profit and community-based environmental organizations. Chris has a passion for connecting conservation work to human health and well-being, and loves spending time in nature with his three children.



Mark Andrew Czarnota, Ph.D., Dept. of Horticulture, Univ. of Georgia, Griffin, GA

Mark is an Associate Professor (60% Research, 40% Extension) in the Department of Horticulture at the University of Georgia, Griffin Campus. His job responsibilities include supporting the nursery and landscape, Christmas tree, floriculture, and small fruit industries with weed control problems they might be encountering. He has been involved in the Plant Science Field all his life. He has held positions in landscape maintenance, commercial nurseryman, nursery sales, and as a laboratory technician

between his many years of schooling. He received a B.S. degree in Agriculture specializing in Plant Science from the University of Delaware, M.S. in Agriculture specializing in Weed Science from Virginia Tech, and a Ph.D. in Floriculture and Ornamentals Horticulture specializing in Weed Science from Cornell University. As an extension specialist at the University of Georgia, he supports the nursery, landscape, Christmas tree, and small fruit industries by working with the agricultural chemical industry, federal government, and local grower groups to try and solve weed problems. Work has included publishing weed control information in University fact sheets and bulletins, popular articles, scholarly publications, as well as performing applied and laboratory weed control research. He has generated over \$1.1 million grants and gifts. Major research interests are anything related to applied herbicide research. Other research interests include finding additional Christmas tree species for Southern Christmas tree growers, herbicide formulations, invasive weeds, and natural plant products. In his personal life, Dr. Czarnota has been married for 21 years, has 2 children (16 and 12), and a few dogs. His major hobbies include gardening, taekwondo, weight training, wood / metal working, and enjoying time with the family!



Rick Darke, RICK DARKE, LLC, Landenberg, PA

Pennsylvania-based consultant, author and photographer Rick's work is grounded in an observational ethic which blends ecology, horticulture and cultural geography in the design and stewardship of living landscapes. His collaborative projects include parks, post-industrial sites, transportation corridors, conservation developments, botanic gardens and residential landscapes. Since 2014 he has collaborated with 21st Century Parks and Bravura Architecture on the design of the Parklands' Woodland Garden, Louisville, KY. Rick's many books include *The American Woodland Garden: Capturing the Spirit of the Deciduous Forest*, *The Living Landscape: Designing for Beauty and Biodiversity in the Home Garden*, co-authored with Doug Tallamy, and *Gardens of the High Line: Elevating the Nature of Modern Landscapes* co-authored with Piet Oudolf. For further info visit: www.rickdarke.com



Winston Dunwell, Ph.D., Dept. of Horticulture, Univ. of Kentucky, Princeton

Dr. Win was born on Long Island in Southampton, NY. He grew up in East Quogue, NY where farming consisted of horticultural crops. His neighbors grew either nursery crops or vegetables. Dr. Dunwell worked in the nursery / landscape industry throughout his teenage years and part time through his military service and college education. He attended the State University of New York at Farmingdale and received his Associates Degree in Nursery Management. Following 4 years in the US Air Force he attended the University of Wyoming and received his Bachelors of Science in Plant Science/Horticulture. He earned his Ph.D. at the University of Idaho where he worked on the effects of cold stress on Ornamental Plants,

particularly Rhododendrons. In 1979 Dr. Dunwell accepted a position with The University of Kentucky as an Extension Horticulture Specialist for Nursery Crops housed at the University of Kentucky Research and Education Center at Princeton, Kentucky. His area of interest is developing educational programs related to sustainable ornamental and Kentucky native plant introduction, propagation, production, and utilization.



Nicole Ward Gauthier, Ph.D., Dept. of Plant Pathology, Univ. of Kentucky, Lexington

Nicole is an Extension specialist in the Department of Plant Pathology. She is responsible for outreach and research of diseases of ornamentals and fruit crops across the state. As part of her Extension duties, Nicole provides growers with disease management recommendations including the identification, biology, and management of pathogenic organisms. Her publications range from traditional fact sheets to spray guides and social media updates – all of which are intended to provide growers and other professionals with quick disease management solutions. Dr. Ward Gauthier earned her BS in Horticulture Science and her PhD in Plant Pathology from Louisiana State University. She also owned her own landscape business in Louisiana, in which she installed landscapes, irrigation, low voltage lighting, and water features. She joined the UK College of Agriculture in 2011. Nicole looks forward to working with county Extension agents, growers, and other stakeholders around the state. Her publications can be found on her webpage, while alerts and notifications can be found on her on Facebook, Twitter, or Blogspot sites. She can be contacted at nicole.ward@uky.edu, 859.218.0720 or 859.797.3333.



Marvin N. Miller, Ph.D., Ball Horticultural Company, West Chicago, Illinois

Marvin has held the market research manager position for Ball Hort since 1983. Marvin has both horticultural and agricultural marketing backgrounds, having received a B.S. in horticulture and a M.S. in Agricultural Economics from Purdue University and a Ph.D. in Food and Resource Economics, majoring in Agricultural Marketing, from the University of Florida. The focus of his research efforts involves the changing structure, conduct, and performance of the horticulture industry, with current emphasis on North American floriculture. He travels extensively, visiting both greenhouses and retail establishments. Marvin also frequently writes and speaks about industry trends affecting the industry. During his 35-year career at Ball, Marvin has worked with three USDA agencies and has served on the Boards of the Society of American Florists, the American Floral Endowment, OFA (now AmericanHort), the Seeley Conference and America in Bloom. Marvin worked for 10 years with the USDA Agricultural Research Service on their new crops program, helped to initiate the Floriculture and Nursery Crops Research Initiative, and continues to work with ARS on the Herbaceous Ornamental Crops Germplasm Committee. Marvin also currently serves on the National Agricultural Statistics Service's

Agricultural Statistics Advisory Committee. With Marvin's broad industry experience, he has served on industry committees relating to research, statistics, new crops, civic pride and beautification, education, government relations, market development and promotion, marketing and business and economic trends. Marvin is the past chairman of both the Business and Economic Trends Committee and the Government Relations Committee of the Society of American Florists and OFA's Industry Advocacy Committee. Marvin currently serves as co-chair of AmericanHort's Industry Advocacy Committee. Marvin currently serves on the Board of Trustees for the American Floral Endowment and as a Board member for Cornell University's Seeley Conference. Marvin has served on the Board of Directors of America in Bloom (AIB) since its founding in 2001, has served as President of the Board of Directors for AIB from 2005 until 2014, and is currently serving as Treasurer.



Andrea Mueller, Insideout-Design, Frankfort, KY

Native Kentuckian and 2003 magna cum laude graduate of the University Of Kentucky College Of Design with a Bachelors of Arts in Design. She was raised in the horticulture industry by her dad, who founded one of the largest nurseries in Kentucky, Wilson Nurseries. This is where she first realized her love of nature and went on to study, apprentice, and work in architecture, interior design, and landscape design. She is the first and only APLD certified landscape designer in the state of Kentucky. Her specialties are residential and commercial complete outdoor space design with an emphasis on ecologically sound solutions.



Alan Windham, Ph.D., Dept. of Entomology and Plant Pathology, Univ. of Tennessee, Nashville, TN

Dr. Windham is a professor with UT Extension. His expertise is in the diagnosis and management of plant diseases of ornamental plants. He is located at the Soil, Plant and Pest Center at Ellington Agricultural Center in Nashville. He co-teaches a graduate level class on plant problem diagnosis of horticultural crops. Dr. Windham holds a B.S. in plant pathology and weed science and a M.S. in plant pathology and botany from MS State University. He earned his Ph.D. in plant pathology with a minor in soil science from North Carolina State University. Dr. Windham co-edited *Plant Pathology Concepts*, 1st and 2nd editions and contributed to the 3rd edition. This book is used as an introductory text for plant pathology undergraduate classes. He is a member of the multi-disciplinary Combating Rose Rosette team funded by an USDA Specialty Crops Grant. He is a member of the UTIA Dogwood Team that has released the Appalachian series of disease resistant dogwood cultivars for the nursery industry including *Cornus florida* 'Appalachian Joy' for which he holds a plant patent. Dr. Windham works closely with the Green Industry in Tennessee and the Southeast. He uses social media to alert professionals and the gardening public of current plant disease outbreaks via Facebook and Twitter. You can follow him on Twitter @UTPlantDoc.