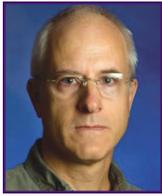


Speaker Biographies

Wednesday, January 23rd.



Steve Berberich, Dept. of Horticulture, Univ. of Kentucky, Lexington

Steve is an extension associate with extension responsibilities that include greenhouse production, soilless culture, and irrigation water quality.

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!



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.



William M. Fountain, Ph.D., Dept. of Horticulture, Univ. of Kentucky, Lexington

Bill joined the University of Kentucky Dept. of Horticulture faculty in 1979 and is professor of arboriculture and

landscape management. He has taught Woody Plant Materials, Introduction to Arboriculture and Urban Forestry, Arboriculture, trained arborists for the ISA Certified Arborist exam and Tree Risk Assessment Qualification (TRAQ). His appointment also involves training and assisting Cooperative Extension Agents and diagnosis of problems. He has served on the ISA Board of Directors, Council of Representatives and numerous ISA committees. He is also involved with the Kentucky Arborists' Association Board of Directors and is a TRAQ and TPAQ instructor. Bill is a Board Certified Master Arborist, ASCA Registered Consulting Arborist, Tree Risk Assessment Qualified (TRAQ), and Tree and Plant Appraisal Qualified (TPAQ). He has served as National Junior Horticultural Association (NJHA) as National Program Chair, state leader, and as a member of the Board of Directors. He has traveled extensively in Asia where he has trained arborists for ISA credentialing programs.



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 pathological 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



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,

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.



Dewayne Ingram, Ph.D., Dept. of Horticulture, Univ. of Kentucky, Lexington

Dewayne is a Professor of Horticulture at the University of Kentucky with extension, research and teaching

responsibilities in sustainable production systems with an emphasis in nursery crops. He teaches Nursery and Floriculture Crop Production. Dr. Ingram obtained his Ph.D. in Plant and Soil Science from the University of Tennessee in 1977. He was a Professor of Environmental Horticulture (Nursery Crops) at the University of Florida from 1977-1990. Dr. Ingram was also the Chair of the Horticulture Department at the University of Kentucky from 1990 to 2009. Dr. Ingram is Past President of the American Society for Horticultural Science. He has also received the Nursery Extension Award from the American Nursery and Landscape Association in 1988, and the Porter Henegar Award for Outstanding Research from the Southern Nursery Association in 1986.



Thomas C. Keene, Dept. of Plant and Soil Sciences, Univ. of Kentucky, Lexington

Tom graduated from the University of Kentucky with a degree in Production Agriculture. Upon

graduation, Tom worked on both Spendthrift and North Ridge Farm for ten years as Agricultural Manager. During that period, he managed a collective 5000 acres of central Kentucky horse pasture. He was also instrumental in developing and serving as President of the Central Kentucky Equine Maintenance Managers Association. Tom then worked for Creech, Inc. as a Hay Broker and Logistics Manager. Over that span he traveled extensively throughout the United States sourcing and procuring inventories of hay and straw to be transported nationally and internationally. From 2003 – 2004, he was elected President of the American Forage and Grassland Council. Tom has been a Forage Agronomist at the University of Kentucky since his arrival in 2005. His primary responsibilities include conducting statewide meetings on forages and forage production while working with farmers and other universities to conduct research trials around the state. His primary focus has been on hay, pasture and biomass production. Since 2012, Tom has spent time working in RCARS as part of a research project evaluating the effectiveness of mountain top grazing on cattle. During his time at UK, Tom received his Master's Degree in Plant and Soil Sciences. From 2013 – 2014, he served as President of the National Forage Testing Association. In May of 2016, Tom accepted a position as Extension Specialist in Industrial Hemp Production with the University of Kentucky, College of Agriculture Food and Environment. He is now working with industrial hemp focusing on sustainable agronomic practices and its many opportunities for Kentucky farmers.



Dave Leonard, Leading Technologies, LLC, Versailles, KY

Dave Leonard has been promoting tree health care in Lexington, Kentucky and the Bluegrass area for 44 years. As

an active member of the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) for 39 years, Dave has served as both president and executive director of ISA's Kentucky Chapter and has been an active member of its Board of Directors for 25 years. Dave was part of the team that composed the ISA Arborist Certification exam and the Board Certified Master Arborist exam. He earned a Forestry degree from the University of Kentucky in 1974 and became a member of the American Society of Consulting Arborists in 1993. Dave has been a rider in the Tour des Trees, an annual cycling event that raises money for urban tree research and education 17 times, riding over 9,000 miles around the country. Dave has personally raised over \$55,000 for the TREE Fund. In 2009, Dave was recognized by the ISA as one of the first seven recipients of their new "True Professionals of Arboriculture" award, recognizing arborists who help increase public understanding of arboriculture and the skills of professional arborists. In 2010, he was awarded the "Arborist of the Year" Award by the Society of Commercial Arboriculture. He always strives to educate both himself and others on the latest trends in arboriculture. His favorite tree is the Bur Oak.



Chuck Watterson, Wolf Creek Company, Cleveland/Akron, Ohio Area

Chuck will explore the wide range of landscape lighting options now available for landscapers. Some

are better than others, all offer advantages for installers and owners. More than a quality issue, product choice represents a marketing position.



Jake Shreckhise, Ph.D., USDA-Agriculture Research Service, Wooster, OH

Jake earned his B.S. and Ph.D. in Horticulture from Virginia Tech after having been raised working for his family's

retail nursery and landscaping business. Currently, Dr. Shreckhise works as a research plant physiologist with the USDA-Agriculture Research Service. His research focuses on mineral nutrition of containerized woody ornamentals and improving retention of nutrients, namely phosphorus, in potting media during irrigation. Dr. Shreckhise has been a frequent contributor to the quarterly Virginia Nursery and Landscape Association Newsletter, authoring the recurring "Featured Plant" column in which he identifies and promotes underutilized landscape plants in Virginia.