

**60th Annual Western Forest Insect Work Conference
March 23-26, 2009 – Spokane, Washington**

Plenary Sessions and Workshops in Brief

Plenary Sessions

Plenary Session I - Wednesday Morning March 25, 10:00 – 11:30

“Fire and Insect Interactions” moderated by Rob Progar, Pacific Northwest Research Station

“Fire History and Behavior Mechanisms in the West” – Donald McKenzie, USDA Forest Service, Pacific Wildland Fire Sciences Laboratory

“Effects of Forest Insects on Fire Risk and Behavior” – Richy Harrod, USDA Forest Service, Okanogan/Wenatchee National Forests

“Influence of Fire on Insects” – Joel McMillin, USDA Forest Service, Southwestern Region

Plenary Session II – Thursday Morning March 26, 10:00 – 11:15

“Forest Insects and Climate Change” moderated by John Lundquist, USDA Forest Service, Alaska Region

“Climate Change and Its Effects on Western Forest Vegetation” – Jeremy Littell, University of Washington

“Effects of Climate Change on Forest Insects” – Steve Cook, University of Idaho

“Effects of Forest Insects on Climate Change” – Jeff Hicke, University of Idaho

Concurrent Workshops

Concurrent Workshop I – Tuesday Afternoon, March 24, 3:30 – 5:00

“Are Current Insect Outbreaks Unprecedented? What Can History Tell Us” - moderated by Sandy Kegley, USDA Forest Service, Northern Region

This workshop will be a combination of a few presentations and open discussion looking at what we know about the extent of historic insect outbreaks compared to what is happening today and possible reasons why current outbreaks may or may not be unprecedented. The following speakers and topics will be included:

“Mountain Pine Beetle Outbreaks in Whitebark Pine in the 1930's in Central Idaho” - Dana Perkins, Ecologist, BLM, Idaho

“Historic Outbreaks in the Black Hills” - Bill Schaupp, USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Region

“Vegetation Changes in British Columbia Since 1900 in Relation to Mountain Pine Beetle Outbreaks” - Art Stock, British Columbia Ministry of Forests, Southern Interior Region

“Historic Spruce Beetle Outbreaks in Utah and Colorado” - Liz Hebertson, USDA Forest Service, Intermountain Region.

“Where We Are, and How Did We Get Here? – Forest Insect Conditions in the West” – moderated by Ken Gibson, USDA Forest Service, Northern Region

Status of overall conditions followed by discussion.

“Western Bark Beetle Conditions” – Carl Jorgensen, USDA Forest Service, Intermountain Region

“Western Defoliator Conditions” – Sheryl Costello, USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Region

“Status of Invasive Insects” – Terry Rogers, USDA Forest Service, Southwestern Region

“Hard Times for Hardwoods: New Problems for Walnuts, Oaks, and Elms in the Western U.S.” – moderated by Tom Coleman, USDA Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region.

“1,000 Canker Disease/Walnut Twig Beetle in Colorado” – Bill Jacobi, Colorado State University

“Walnut Twig Beetle in California” – Andy Graves, University of California, Davis

“Work with Banded Elm Bark Beetle” – Steve Seybold, USDA Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Research Station

“Gold-spotted Oak Borer in Southern California” – Tom Coleman, USDA Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region

Concurrent Workshop II – Wednesday Morning March 25, 8:00-9:30

“Current Aerial Survey Techniques and Data Uses” moderated by - Keith Sprengel. USDA Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Region

“Statistical Forecasting of Potential Climate Change Impacts on Bark Beetles”- Alan Ager, USDA Forest Service, Western Wildlands Environmental Threat Assessment Center

“Validation of Lodgepole Pine Susceptibility Predictions for Mountain Pine Beetle Using Aerial Survey Data” – Andris Eglitis, USDA Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Region

“Using Aerial Survey Data to Enhance a Stand-Specific Forest Health Hazard Rating System for Eastern Washington Landscapes” – Scott McLeod, Washington Department of Natural Resources

“Using Aerial Survey Data as a Forest Health Indicator in the Montreal Process” – William Ciesla, Forest Health Management International

“Invasives on our Doorstep” – moderated by Steve Munson, USDA Forest Service, Intermountain Region

This workshop will provide information on the Exotic Forest Pest (ExFor) website and risk mapping for several introduced forest insects and a pathogen. Other presentations will focus on recent introductions of forest pests summarizing current research initiatives and suppression/eradication programs for the Mediterranean pine engraver, emerald ash borer, Asian long-horned beetle and light brown apple moth. Presentations include:

“The Exotic Forest Pest (ExFor) Website and Risk Mapping to Identify Invasive Species on Our Doorstep” – Marla Downing, USDA Forest Service, Forest Health Technology Enterprise Team

“A Stranger in a Strange land: Dispersal Behavior of the Mediterranean Pine Engraver in California's Central Valley” – Steve Seybold, USDA Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Research Station

“The Emerald Ash Borer Invasion of North America: How Can a Secondary Pest Threaten the Existence of an Entire Tree Genus?” – Dan Herms, Ohio State University

“The Asian Longhorned Beetle in North America: Round 5” – David Lance, USDA APHIS-PPQ

“Scales, Adelgids, and Other Meristematic Insects” moderated by - Bobbe Fitzgibbon, USDA Forest Service, Southwestern Region

A semiformal workshop on meristematic insects will include discussions by Don Alstad, University of Minnesota on black pineleaf scale; Ingrid Agauyo, the State of Colorado, on a damaging scale of aspen; Ann Lynch USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station, on spruce aphid in the southwestern US; and Lee Pederson USDA Forest Service, Northern Region on current balsam woolly adelgid work in the western US.

“Mountain Pine Beetle and High-Elevation Pine Management” moderated by Carl Jorgensen, USDA Forest Service, Intermountain Region

This workshop will have several short presentations followed by an open discussion. Presentations include:

"Monitoring Verbenone Operational Use in Whitebark Pine" - Dana Perkins, Ecologist, BLM, Idaho

"National Whitebark Pine Program Update" - John Schwandt, USDA Forest Service, Northern Region

"Prescribed Burning for Whitebark Pine Restoration - Issues, Challenges, and Concerns" - Bob Keane, USDA Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Station

"White Pine Blister Rust Resistance Testing and Protection of Limber and Bristlecone Pines in the Central Rockies" - Sheryl Costello, USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Region

Concurrent Workshop III – Thursday Morning March 26, 8:00 – 9:30

“Non-traditional Pesticides and Biocontrol for Defoliators” moderated by Cynthia Snyder, USDA Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region

A panel discussion of current projects dealing with Douglas-fir tussock moth, western tent caterpillar, birch leaf miners, light brown apple moth, and Hawaiian biocontrols. Panel members include: Robert Progar USDA Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station; John Lundquist, USDA Forest Service, Alaska Region; Lorraine Maclauchlan, British Columbia Ministry of Forests, Kamloops Region; and Cynthia Snyder, USDA Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region.

“Fire and Insect interactions” moderated by Bob Cain, Rocky Mountain Region

”Simulating Fire Crown Hazard Following Bark Beetle Caused Mortality” – Chad Hoffman, University of Idaho

“Mountain Pine Beetle –Caused Mortality and Subsequent Fire Occurance in Colorado” Dan West, Colorado State University

Presentations followed by discussion, led by Bob Cain and Liz Hebertson (USDA Forest Service, Intermountain Region) on research and tech transfer needs and accomplishments in the fire and Insects/disease relationships.

“*Semiochemicals to Suppress Bark Beetles: Pheromone-Releasing Flakes*” moderated by Dave Wood, University of California Berkeley

Bark beetles in the genus *Dendroctonus* are causing unprecedented damage to western North American forests. A series of large-scale studies have demonstrated the potential of pheromone-releasing laminated flakes to manage *Dendroctonus* spp. bark beetles in these coniferous forests. The flakes, which will soon be available in a biodegradable formulation, can be applied using fixed-wing aircraft or helicopters. Alternatively, they can be broadcast from the ground using fertilizer-spreaders or can be sprayed directly onto tree trunks using a special hand-carried applicator. This workshop will consist of short presentations followed by open discussion.

Presentations include:

“Verbenone Flakes For Control of Mountain Pine Beetle in Lodgepole Pine Stands” - Nadir Erbilgin, University of Alberta

“Verbenone Flakes for Control of Mountain Pine Beetle in Whitebark Pine Stands” - Nancy Gillette, Pacific Southwest Research Station

“MCH Flakes for Control of Douglas-fir Beetle in Douglas-fir Stands” – Connie Mehmel, USDA Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Region

“Operational Concerns With Area-wide and Individual Tree applications of Pheromone – Releasing Flakes – Jeff Webster, Total Forestry

Concurrent Workshop IV -Thursday Afternoon, March 26, 1:30 – 3:00

“*Beyond the Science of Climate Change – Where Do We Go From Here?*” moderated by John Lundquist, Alaska Region

This will be an informal workshop to maximize audience participation. Objective is to explore what management actions are being taken to address predictions for climate change, with emphasis on planning and implementation. Panel member will give a short synopsis on how their agency is responding, followed by open dialogue with the audience. The panel includes representatives from a range of management levels: Lee Pederson, USDA Forest Service, Northern Region; Karen Ripley, Washington Department of Natural Resources; Steve Patterson, USDA Forest Service, Alaska Region; Jerry Beatty, USDA Forest Service, Western Wildland Threat Assessment Center; Mary Ellen Dix, USDA Forest Service, Research and Development , Washington DC; and Larry Yarger, USDA Forest Service, Forest Health Protection, Washington DC

“*Can State and Federal Agencies Effectively Respond to Invasive Species? Yes, We Can!*” moderated by Ron Billings, Texas Forest Service

This workshop on invasive species will give examples of important challenges and successes at the state and provincial level for addressing invasive species. Rob Flowers, Oregon Department of Forestry in Salem, will discuss programs in Oregon; Jennifer Burleigh, Provincial Forest Entomologist with the BC Ministry of Forests in Victoria, will cover invasive species campaigns in British Columbia; and Ron Billings, Principal Entomologist with the Texas Forest Service, will update participants on the Texas approach. Time should be available for open discussion on what others may be doing to address invasive species in the West. You are invited to invade our workshop!

“Cone and Seed Pest Workshop” moderated by Ward Strong and Robb Bennett, British Columbia Ministry of Forests

The workshop will consist of an open discussion with 4-5 topics. Each topic session will be kicked off by a 3-5 minute presentation to set the stage for the discussions. Topics include: Pesticides in cone & seed pest management: New chemistries and systemics - Presenter: Alex Mangini, USDA Forest Service, Southern Region; Living in a degree-day world: degree-day summation as a management tool - Presenter: Jim Corrigan, BC Ministry of Forests; Advances in *Leptoglossus* research - Presenter: Ward Strong, BC Ministry of Forests; *Dioryctria* -- biology, life history and treatment - Presenter: Dan Miller, USDA Forest Service, Southern Station; and Identifying research needed to fill in the gaps in seed/cone insect biology - Presenter: Beth Willhite, USDA Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Region.

Concurrent Workshop V- Thursday Afternoon, March 26, 3:30 – 5:00

“Potential Implications of International Entomological Research to North American Forests” moderated by Nadir Erbilgin, University of Alberta

As increasing international trade has resulted in an ever-increasing arrival and establishment of alien species in new parts of the world, research conducted in different countries or continents is invaluable for understanding of the potential risks associated with several exotic insect pest species in other regions. In this workshop, presenters will demonstrate some of their research conducted in different regions of the world and critically evaluate potential implications of their results to future and stability of North American forests.

Presentations include:

“The Boomerang Project: *Dendroctonus valens* and its Ophiostomatoid Hitch-hikers” - Nancy Gillette, USDA Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Research Station

“Investigations of an Apparently Undescribed Species of *Dendroctonus* Bark Beetle in Southern Mexico” - Brian Sullivan, USDA Forest Service, Southern Research Station

“Colony Establishment and Survival of the Spruce Bark Beetle, *Ips typographus*, in Three North American Spruce Trees in Norway” - Nadir Erbilgin, University of Alberta

“Defoliator Dynamics and Changing Management Needs” moderated by Lorraine MacLauchlan and Jennifer Burleigh, British Columbia Ministry of Forests

“Research Updates on Bark and Ambrosia Beetles” moderated by – Dan Miller, USDA Forest Service, Southern Research Station and Brytten Steed, USDA Forest Service, Northern Region

Open workshop with no powerpoint or slide presentations. Goal is to talk about bark and ambrosia beetle work in an informal setting. Each person can have up to five minutes to discuss past, current or proposed research. Discussions will be organized by species or species groups.