# Forest Health Dynamics Laboratory Update

Luis Mendez and Dr. Lori Eckhardt

Forest Health Dynamics Laboratory, School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences, Auburn University, Auburn AL

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# Forest Health Coop Diagnostic Laboratory Services - Overview

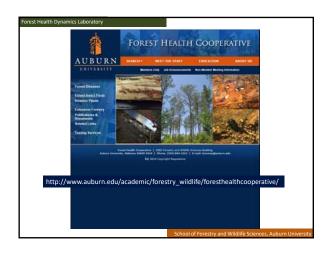
- History
- · Weather Data
- Laboratory Sample Analysis
- Results

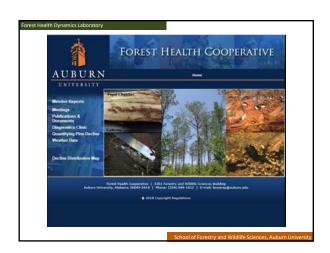
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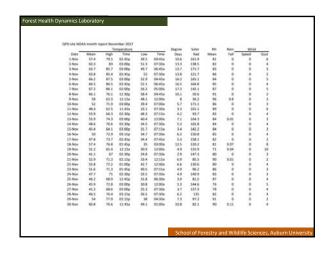
# **History**

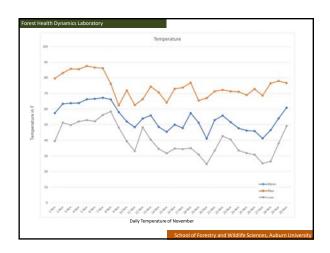
- Forest Health Cooperative began in 2008
- To bring together parties interested in maintaining forest health, productivity, and sustainability
- Membership for those managing for or purchasing forest products, wildlife and endangered species
- Address important and current forest health issues with real world management as a focus

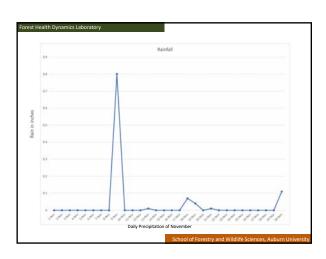


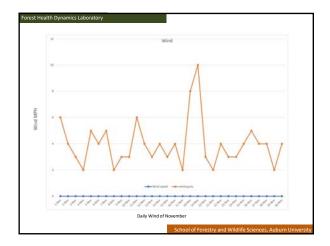








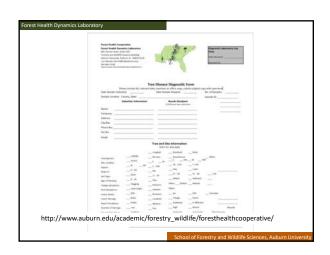




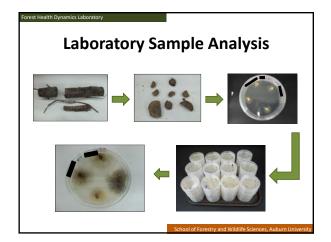
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# **Diagnostics Clinic**

- Sample collection and submission guide
  - Provide an instruction set for collecting "good" samples for laboratory analysis
- Tree Diagnostics Form
  - Provide a detailed sample/site history to aid in diagnosis accuracy
- Members only page Diagnostics Clinic
- Project Updates in process



# Field Consulting Travel to member's location Provide onsite diagnostic information Collect samples for laboratory analysis



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### **Results**

- Results available after a minimum of twentyone days after sample is received
- Results letter sent to member with description and relevant species information

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# Emerging Forest Pests and Sudden Oak Death Review

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# Sirex spp.

- Sirex noctillio not native to U.S.
- Vectors Amylostereum areolatum
- A. areolatum v.s. Ophiostomatoid fungi
- Damage caused by larvae and fungus
- Wasp needs healthy wood
- Sirex nigricornis native to southeastern U.S.





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# **Needle Diseases**

- Lophodermium spp.
- Phytophthora spp.
- Coleosporium spp.
- Dothistroma spp.
- Lecanosticta spp.
- Mycosphaerellaceae family
- Pestaltiopsis spp.



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### **Emerald Ash Borer**

- Family-Buprestidae (jewel beetles)
- First detected in Michigan 2002
- Damage caused by larvae
- Ash tree mortality in the millions
- Now in 33 states
- Confirmed in Calhoun County, AL

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## Don't Move Firewood

- Limiting the movement of infested firewood could help control the spread
- Infested trees can be treated with insecticides, quarantined, or destroyed onsite









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Within



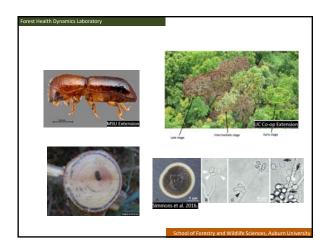


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## Laurel Wilt

- Caused by Raffaelea lauricola
- Family-Ophiostomatacea
- Vectored by Red Bay ambrosia beetle, *Xyleborus glabratus*
- Spread via natural flight and firewood movement
- Kills many species in the Lauraceae family
- Symptom-green leaves wilting then turning redbrown
- Has impacted Avocado industry in Florida

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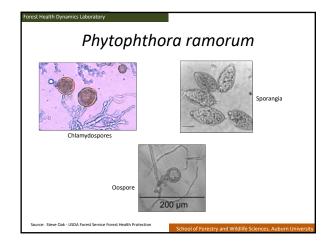


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## Sudden Oak Death

- First reported 1995 coastal region of central California with *Phytophthora ramorum* positively linked to the disease in 2001
- Fungus-like water mold (Oomycete)
- Spreads aerially and aquatically
- Pathogen has a wide host range
- Three expressions of the disease

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### **Risk To Our Forests**

- *Phytophthora ramorum* persists in infected nurseries even after eradication measures.
- Inoculum is leaving infected nurseries via waste water
- A pathway from the water into terrestrial ecosystems is plausible
- Southeastern US climate is at least seasonally suitable for infection
- Eastern woody plants are susceptible

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# Phytophthora ramorum symptoms Forest Health Dynamics Laboratory Phytophthora ramorum symptoms School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences, Aubrum University.

# Field Sampling Field Sampling School of Evestry and Wildlife Sciences. Authors Indicated



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### Results

- 2013: 7 Alabama sites, 2 confirmed positive; 6 Mississippi sites, 1 positive
- All sites negative for 2014 and 2015 sampling
- 2016 Spring: 7 AL sites, 3 confirmed positive; 6 MS sites, 1 confirmed positive
- 2016 Fall: 7 AL sites, 1 confirmed positive; 6 MS sites, all negative
- 2017 Spring: 7 AL sites, 1 confirmed positive; 6 MS sites, 1 confirmed positive
- Awaiting Fall 2017, Spring 2018 Results

# Acknowledgements Dr. Ryan Nadel Dana Stone Shrijana Duwadi Undergrad Student Workers COMMISSION