

**Joint Meeting with the  
Forest Health Cooperative Annual Meeting  
and the  
4<sup>th</sup> Annual Brown Spot Needle Blight Assessment Workshop  
November 4-5, 2025  
The Park – 540 Devall -**

**AGENDA**

| <b><u>TIME</u></b>                   | <b><u>EVENT</u></b>  | <b><u>SPEAKER</u></b>                         |
|--------------------------------------|--|---|
| <i>Tuesday – November 4</i>          |  |   |
| 12:30 – 1:00                         | Registration   | Pat Gordon                                    |
| 1:00 – 1:10                          | Welcome and Introductions  | Dr. Lori Eckhardt<br>FHC Director             |
| 1:10 – 1:15                          | Workshop Objectives and Housekeeping   | Dr. Lori Eckhardt<br>FHC Director             |
| <i>Extent and State of Knowledge</i> |  |   |
| 1:15 – 1:20                          | Current brown spot needle blight on loblolly in Arkansas                               | Dr. Laura Sims<br>Univ. of Arkansas           |
| 1:20 – 1:25                          | Current brown spot needle blight on loblolly in Alabama                                | Mr. Drew Metzler<br>AL Forestry Comm.         |
| 1:25 – 1:30                          | Current brown spot needle blight on loblolly in Mississippi                            | Mr. Garron Hicks<br>MS Forestry Comm.         |
| 1:30 – 1:35                          | Current brown spot needle blight on loblolly in Louisiana                              | Mr. Tyler Cloud<br>LA Dept of Agri & For      |
| 1:35 – 1:40                          | Southeast update of brown spot needle blight on loblolly pine across the southeast     | Dr. Rabiou Olatinwo<br>USFS, SRS              |
| 1:40 – 1:45                          | Loblolly pine potential genetic and nutritional BSNB resistance patterns               | Dr. David Wilkenson<br>Manulife Invest. Mgmt. |
| 1:45 – 2:00                          | Questions and Open Discussion  | Dr. Lori Eckhardt<br>FHC Director             |
| <i>Grant Update</i>                  |  |   |
| 2:00 – 2:05                          | Mitigating needle blight: A growing economic threat to pine forests – project overview | Dr. Lori Eckhardt<br>FHC Director             |

|                    |  |  |
|--------------------|--|--|
| 2:05 – 2:15        | Component 1 Update (Part 1): Isolation and Identification of <i>L. acicola</i> and other foliar pathogens Associated with needle blight on <i>Pinus taeda</i>    | Andrew Howard<br>UG Student Researcher                     |
| 2:15 – 2:30        | Component 1 Update (Part 2): Susceptibility of <i>Pinus taeda</i> families to <i>L. acicola</i>  | Emmanuel Nyarko<br>MS Student                              |
| <b>2:30 – 3:00</b> | <b>BREAK (and Group Picture)</b>   |  |
| 3:00 – 3:15        | Component 2 Update (Part 1): Physiological responses to brown spot needle blight and anatomical variation among families of loblolly pine                        | Jaden King<br>Ph.D. Student                                |
| 3:15 – 3:30        | Component 2 Update (Part 2): Evaluating a portable NIR-based model to detect susceptibility in loblolly pine trees affected by BSNB                              | Laura Nieto<br>Research Assistant                          |
| 3:30 – 3:50        | Component 3 Update: Remote sensing-based detection of BSNB: A comprehensive review and UAV-based, spatially explicit assessment.                                 | Swati Singh<br>Ph.D. Student                               |
| 3:50 – 4:05        | Component 4 Update (Part 1): <i>Lecanosticta acicola</i> 's genome features and its significance in BSNB   | Temitope Folorunso<br>Ph.D. Student                        |
| 4:05 – 4:20        | Component 4 Update (Part 2): Integrative bioinformatic and molecular approaches to elucidate the genomics of <i>Lecanosticta acicola</i> and its impacts on BSNB | Gabriel Silva<br>Ph.D. Student                             |
| 4:20 – 4:35        | USFS Component: Environmental triggers and seasonal changes in the mycobiome on symptomatic and asymptomatic loblolly pine needles                               | Dr. Rabiun Olatinwo<br>USFS Plant Pathologist              |
| 4:35 – 4:45        | Why sentinel gardens in forestry?  | William Heaster<br>Jake Podemski<br>UG Student Researchers |
| 4:45 – 5:00        | Questions and Open Discussion  | Dr. Lori Eckhardt<br>FHC Director                          |
| 5:00 – 5:30        | Poster Session and Social  |  |
|                    | Effects of control burns and weather on <i>L. acicola</i> Spore dispersal  | Joseph Anglin<br>UG Student Researcher                     |
|                    | Using dendrochronology to evaluate the impacts Of brown spot needle blight   | Gracey Goldsby<br>UG Student Researcher                    |
|                    | Survival of spores in pine straw liter   | Jaden King<br>Jessica Baldwin<br>Ph.D. & MNR Student       |
| <b>5:30 – 7:00</b> | <b>DINNER (Corner Office – 540 Devall)</b>   |  |

Music provided by Dennis LeBleu (Retired Forester)

*Wednesday – November 5*

|                    |  |                                   |
|--------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| <b>8:00 – 8:30</b> | <b>BREAKFAST</b> (The Park)                                    |                                   |
| 8:30 – 10:30       | Business Meeting<br>( <i>FHC Member Representatives Only</i> ) | Dr. Lori Eckhardt<br>FHC Director |
| 10:30              | Adjourn for FHC Members – Have a Safe Trip Home!               |                                   |