

## 2019 AVMS Featured Speakers

**Dr. Fudd Graham** holds a B.S. in Animal Science and a Ph.D. in Entomology. Currently he is employed by the Auburn University Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology as a coordinator of the Alabama Fire Ant Program and the Pesticide Safety Education Program.

**Dr. Thomas C. Mueller** is a Professor in the Department of Plant Sciences at the University of Tennessee. He received his B.S. from the University of Illinois in Agronomy, his M.S. from the University of Kentucky in Crop Science, and his Ph.D. from the University of Georgia in Crop Science. His primary research areas are environmental fate of pesticides (especially herbicides) in soils, water systems, and in the air (via drift), and the confirmation and subsequent control of herbicide-resistant weeds. Dr. Mueller has served on an US-EPA Scientific Advisory Board, has served as an associate editor for *Weed Science* and *Weed Technology*, has served on the executive board for the Weed Science Society of America as Secretary, and was named a fellow of the WSSA in 2014.

**Charles "Chuck" Sykes** is a Choctaw County native who took his passion for the outdoors and earned a Wildlife Biology degree from Auburn University in the School of Forestry and Wildlife Science. After graduation, he worked as a guide and/or general manager for several prominent commercial hunting lodges in Alabama. Mr. Sykes assimilated the hands-on knowledge from the field with scientific instruction for the classroom to create a full-service natural resource consulting firm in 1999. Since then, Mr. Sykes has managed hundreds of thousands of acres across the nation. In 2012, Mr. Sykes accepted the position of Director of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries in the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. He currently oversees the operations of all wildlife and fisheries biologists and conservation enforcement officers.

**Dr. Eve Brantley** is an Associate Professor with the Auburn University Department of Crop, Soil and Environmental Sciences. She also serves as the Alabama Cooperative Extension System Water Resource Specialist. Eve has worked on water education and project implementation at the watershed, basin, and regional scales. Her degrees are from Berry College, Clemson University, and Auburn University.

**Jack Ingram** was raised in Houston County and attended Wallace College for Criminal Justice. Jack has been employed at the Alabama Department of Agriculture & Industries for the last 17 years where he serves as an Agriculture and Consumer Protection Specialist with Pesticide Management. Before that, he worked 7 years for Terra International as a Certified Crop Advisor. He enjoys spending time with his wife and daughter and does a little hunting on the side.

**Michael Kelley** has served at the Alabama Rural Electric Association (AREA) since early 2006 where his primary focus has been to conduct monthly safety meetings and RESAP inspections for Alabama's 22 member cooperatives, as well as cooperatives in Florida. Prior to moving to AREA, he served as a line man and safety coordinator in the Utility Industry. He has coordinated with Alabama and other states during times of disaster; his restoration campaigns include Hurricanes Katrina, Gustav, and Rita.

**Chris Francis** is an ISA Board Certified Master Arborist, Alabama state licensed in all four horticultural categories, and ALNLA Certified Landscape Professional. He also holds the ISA Tree Risk Assessment Qualification and AUFA Urban Forestry Certification. Chris has a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from University of South Alabama and is working on a master's degree in Arboriculture and Urban Forestry from University of Central Lancashire. He is a practicing and consulting arborist at Chris Francis Tree Care.

**Dr. Beau Brodbeck** is both an Extension Forestry Agent and an Affiliate Faculty in the School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences at Auburn University. Beau holds a Ph.D. in forestry and is both an Alabama Registered Forester and ISA Certified Arborist. Over the past seventeen years Beau has worked in various facets of forest and urban forest management. He began his career as a forestry consultant before transitioning to become an Urban Forestry Specialist at Auburn Extension managing the Alabama hurricane recovery program. Over the past few years Beau has developed a number of educational programs and publications to serve the forestry and urban forestry communities in Alabama. His research has focused on urban forestry practices as well as migrant labor within the forest industry. Beau currently serves as a trustee and on the research committee for the Tree Fund and as president of the International Society of Arboriculture Southern Chapter.

**Dr. John Byrd** serves as an extension and research professor at Mississippi State University in the Department of Plant and Soil Sciences. His focus is on weed control in non-croplands and forages. He has authored numerous publications addressing weed control in various agricultural and home environments. His hobbies include collecting "cats".