



FINAL AGENDA – 1.29.25

Invasive Species Ambassador Training 2025

**All Times Noted are for Central Standard Time (CST)*

Monday, February 3, 2025	
All Day	Travel Day / Check – in available at 4:00 pm
11:00 am – 5:30 pm Upstairs	Registration <i>(Meal Tickets for all Dining Room Meals will be with your registration materials.)</i>
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm Dining Room	LUNCH – Buffet <i>(Lunch available for all attendees. Meal Ticket required.)</i>
1:00 pm 4:00 pm 7:00 pm Huntsville International Airport Arrivals	Shuttle Service from Huntsville International Airport to Lake Guntersville State Park Lodge LOADING WILL BE AVAILABLE 30 MINUTES PRIOR TO DEPARTURE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited free shuttle service from Huntsville International Airport (HSV) to Lake Guntersville State Park Lodge is available for Monday, February 3rd. Look for the “Wild Spotter Ambassador Training Signs” on our shuttle at the “arrivals” area right outside of baggage claim for easy curbside loading! Shuttles WILL NOT wait on passengers who are not loaded by the scheduled departure time. You may wait for the next shuttle pick up if you experience any delays in your travel. Shuttle service can be reserved during the online registration process.
5:30 pm – 7:00 pm Dining Room	DINNER – Buffet <i>(Dinner available for all attendees. Meal Ticket required.)</i> Hickory Lounge will be open for attendees until 10:00 p.m. Drinks available for purchase.

Tuesday, February 4, 2025	
6:30 am – 8:00 am Upstairs	Registration
7:00 am – 8:00 am Dining Room	BREAKFAST – Buffet <i>(Breakfast provided for all attendees. Meal Ticket required.)</i>
8:00 am – 9:15 am Goldenrod	I. SETTING THE STAGE
	Opening Remarks: Steven Manning, Invasive Plant Control, Inc. <i>(5 mins)</i>
	Where We’ve Been and A Paradigm Shift Mike Ielmini, Certified Wildlife Biologist, Virginia <i>(20 mins)</i>
	A Disruption: Capacity Building at the Grassroots Level Chuck Barger, UGA Center for Invasive Species & Ecosystem Health <i>(20 mins)</i>
9:15 am – 9:45 am	Training Facilitation Remarks Kendall Lott, M Powered Strategies <i>(10 mins)</i>
	BREAK <i>(Hospitality area available for self-purchase items.)</i>

9:45 am – 11:45 am Goldenrod	II. THE BASICS	
		Keynote Speaker: Core Concepts About Invasive Species Everyone Needs To Know Dr. Stephen Enloe, University of Florida (60 mins)
		Basic Use of EDDMapS & Wild Spotter Applications for Mapping & Reporting Debby Monfort, UGA Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health (30 mins)
		The Roles of Wild Spotter Invasive Species Ambassadors for Invasives Free USA Mike Ielmini, Certified Wildlife Biologist, Virginia (30 mins)
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm Dining Room	LUNCH – Buffet (Lunch provided for all attendees. Meal Ticket required.)	
1:00 pm – 2:30 pm Goldenrod	III. PRINCIPLES & FUNDAMENTALS OF SUCCESS (Part 1)	
		Keynote Speaker: Co-Design: Community Stakeholder Engagement Principles, Practices & Mindset Dr. Anthony (Anth) Boxshall, Science Into Action, Australia (60 mins)
		Tribal & Indigenous Community Engagement for Landscape-scale Conservation Jon Martin, Ecological Restoration Institute, Northern Arizona University (30 mins)
2:30 pm – 3:00 pm	BREAK (Hospitality area available for self-purchase items.)	
	III. PRINCIPLES & FUNDAMENTALS OF SUCCESS (Part 1, continued)	
3:00 pm – 4:30 pm Goldenrod		How to Build a Strong Volunteer Community: Case Studies from Community Conservation Initiatives Sim Barrow, Arkansas Wildlife Federation (30 mins)
		Engaging The Whole Community: Using ParSci to Solve Invasive Species Problems Angela Gupta, University of Minnesota (30 mins)
		Leveraging Resources to Facilitate Grant Funding Tasha Simon, Alabama State Parks (30 mins)
4:30 pm	DAILY WRAP-UP AND ADJOURN	
4:45 pm – 6:00 pm Hickory Lounge	NETWORKING SOCIAL (Hickory Lounge will be open for attendees. Drinks available for purchase.)	
6:00 pm – 7:30 pm Dining Room	DINNER – Buffet (Dinner provided for all attendees. Meal Ticket required.)	
8:00 pm – 10:00 pm Goldenrod		Group Photo* & Fireside Chat Movie Night, invasive species style, to kick off group conversations. *Attendance Required

Wednesday, February 5, 2025		
7:00 am – 8:00 am Dining Room	BREAKFAST – (Breakfast provided for all attendees. Meal Ticket required.)	
8:00 am – 10:00 am Goldenrod	IV. PRINCIPLES & FUNDAMENTALS OF SUCCESS (Part 2)	
		Keynote Speaker: Financial Capacity Building and “Friend-raising” Fundamentals Dr. Dale Walker (CFRE), Brite Divinity School at Texas Christian University (60 mins)

		Marketing Awareness for Invasive Species Issues Ken Donnelly, Beyond Attitude Consulting, Canada (30 mins)
		Social Media Strategies and Multimedia to Raise Awareness and Support Dr. Dave Coyle, Clemson University (30 mins)
10:00 am – 10:30 am	BREAK (Hospitality area available for self-purchase items.)	
10:30 am – 11:30 am Goldenrod		Environmental Education to Achieve On-the-Ground Action Kim Morris-Zarneke, Georgia Department of Natural Resources (30 mins)
		Citizen Science Principles – Volunteer Recruitment, Management & Retention Mona Dominguez, Alabama Water Watch (30 mins)
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm Dining Room	LUNCH – Buffet (Lunch provided for all attendees. Meal Ticket required.)	
1:00 pm – 2:30pm Goldenrod	V. PRINCIPLES & FUNDAMENTALS OF SUCCESS (Part 3)	
		Keynote Speaker: Building Community Commitment and Support (virtual presentation) Dan Tompkins, Predator-Free New Zealand (60 mins)
		Effective Invasive Species Management Requires Engagement with and Empowerment of Our Citizens: How Indiana Collaborates with the Forgotten Dawn Slack, Indiana Invasive Species Initiative (30 mins)
2:30 pm – 3:00 pm	BREAK (Hospitality area available for self-purchase items.)	
3:00 pm – 4:00pm Goldenrod		Models of Cooperation & Support in Public/Private Land Management Lesley Beckworth, Teton County, Wyoming (30 mins)
		The Changing Landscape of Invasive Species Management: Thinking Globally & Acting Locally Steven Manning, Invasive Plant Control, Inc. (30 mins)
4:00 pm – 4:15 pm	DAILY WRAP-UP AND ADJOURN	
4:15 pm – 6:00 pm	Free Time (Hickory Lounge will be open for attendees. Drinks available for purchase.)	
6:00 pm – 7:30 pm Dining Room	DINNER – Buffet (Dinner provided for all attendees. Meal Ticket required.)	
8:00 pm – 10:00 pm Goldenrod Hickory Lounge		Movie Night & Fireside Chat Connect with expert speakers and fellow attendees in the Hickory Lounge or enjoy an invasive species movie and conversation in the Goldenrod meeting room.
Thursday, February 6, 2025		
7:00 am – 8:00 am Dining Room	BREAKFAST – (Breakfast provided for all attendees. Meal Ticket required.)	
	VI. PUTTING THEORY INTO PRACTICE (Capstone Talk)	
8:00 am – 9:00 am Goldenrod		Capstone Speaker Dr. Fran Mainella, 16 th Director of the National Park Service and Visiting Scholar - Clemson University (60 mins)

		VII. PUTTING THEORY INTO PRACTICE (Team Exercises)
9:00 am – 9:30 am Goldenrod		Scenario Exercises Prep – Instructions and Team Assignments Kendall Lott, M Powered Strategies (30 mins)
9:30 am – 1:00 pm Locations Vary		Team Collaboration Breakout Meetings
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm		WORKING LUNCH – Pick Up Boxed Lunch (Lunch provided for all attendees.)
1:00 pm – 2:30 pm Goldenrod		Team Project Presentations and Team Scoring
2:30 pm – 3:45 pm	BREAK (Hospitality area available for self-purchase items.)	
3:45 pm – 5:00 pm Goldenrod		Team Project Presentations and Team Scoring
5:15 pm – 5:20 pm Goldenrod		Brief Remarks & Ambassador Certification Mike Ielmini, Certified Wildlife Biologist, Virginia (5 mins)
5:20 pm – 5:30 pm Goldenrod		Logistics Instructions for the Banquet & Closing Ceremony Kendall Lott, M Powered Strategies (10 mins)
5:30 pm	DAILY WRAP-UP AND ADJOURN	
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm Grandview Ballroom	Closing Banquet & Awards Ceremony with Special Guest Final Remarks in Closing (approx. 6:45 pm.) Steve Manning Invasive Plant Control, Inc. (10 mins) Introduction of Guest Speaker (approx. 7:00 pm.) Kendall Lott, M Powered Strategies (10 mins)	
Breakout Rooms for Team Scenarios		
Boardroom	Yellow Team	
Dogwood	Red Team	
Azalea III	Blue Team	
Azalea II	Gray Team	
Pinecrest II	Orange Team	
Hickory	Pink Team	
Camellia	Black Team	
Grandview	Green Team	

Friday, February 7, 2025	
All Day	Travel Day / Check-out by 11:00 am Breakfast On Your Own
5:00 am 8:00 am Lake Guntersville State Park Lodge Front Entrance	Shuttle Service from Lake Guntersville State Park Lodge to Huntsville International Airport LOADING WILL BE AVAILABLE 30 MINUTES PRIOR TO DEPARTURE <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Limited free shuttle service from Lake Guntersville State Park Lodge to Huntsville International Airport (HSV) is available for Friday, February 7th.• Look for the “Wild Spotter Ambassador Training Signs” on our shuttle near the front entrance doors to the main lodge!• Shuttles WILL NOT wait on passengers who are not loaded by the scheduled departure time. You may wait for the next shuttle pick up if you experience any delays in your travel. Shuttle service can be reserved during the online registration process.