

Tennessee Entomological Society 52nd Annual Conference



Ellington Agricultural Center, Nashville • October 6-7, 2025

All TES activities will take place at Ellington Agriculture Center, Ed Jones Auditorium.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2025

REGISTRATION: 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. CT (all times are Central Time)

2:00 p.m. Welcome and Opening Remarks

Presiding..... Jennifer Tsuruda, Past President, Tennessee Entomological Society and Assistant Professor, Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN

Remarks, **Andy Holt**, Commissioner, Tennessee Department of Agriculture.

2:15 p.m. KEYNOTE ADDRESS: “Yellow-Legged Hornets: Georgia’s Response”

L. David Williams, Senior Manager, Plant Protection Division, Georgia Department of Agriculture, Tifton, GA

STUDENT PAPER COMPETITION

Presiding..... Cindy Bilbrey, President-elect, Tennessee Entomological Society and Entomologist, Tennessee Department of Agriculture, Nashville, TN

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT PAPERS

3:30 p.m. **“Strepsiptera Diversity in Sewanee and Throughout Tennessee”**

Samantha D. Moore¹. ¹-Department of Biology, Sewanee: The University of the South, Sewanee, TN

3:45 p.m. **“The Effects of Essential Oils on Reducing Ambrosia Beetle Attacks”**

Aspen Northcutt, Karla M. Addesso, Jason Oliver, Nadeer Youssef, Gabby Magness, Hank Whittemore. Department of Agriculture Science and Engineering, Otis L. Floyd Nursery Research Center, Tennessee State University, McMinnville, TN.

GRADUATE M.S. STUDENT PAPERS

4:00 p.m. **“Insectary plants' spatial arrangement for pest management in vegetable production.”**

Manju Yogi¹, Kaushalya Amarasekare¹, Binita Sigdel². ¹- Tennessee State University, Nashville, TN; ²- University of Georgia

4:15 p.m. **“Bugs in Biofilms: Metabarcoding intermittent streams in West Tennessee”**

Kimberly Baldwin¹, Leigh Boardman¹, Shawn P. Brown¹. ¹-Department of Biological Sciences, University of Memphis, Memphis, TN

4:30 p.m. Short break

4:45 p.m. **“Understanding the Seasonal Incidence and Abundance of Spotted Lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula* (White) (Hemiptera: Fulgoridae)) in Tennessee”**

Rebekka Horn¹, Midhula Gireesh¹. ¹-Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tennessee

5:00 p.m. **“Establishing vector surveillance in areas with limited infrastructure through MEGA: BITESS – “**

Hannah Ginn¹, Karen Vail¹, Rebecca Trout Fryxell¹. ¹-Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN

5:30 p.m. **“Phorid fly trap improvement”**

Sam Fann, Karla M. Addesso, Jason B. Oliver, Nadeer Youssef, Gabby Magness, Hank Whittemore. Department of Agriculture Science and Engineering, Otis L. Floyd Nursery Research Center, Tennessee State University, McMinnville, TN.

GRADUATE Ph.D. STUDENT PAPERS

6:00 p.m. **“Feeding Assays of Stink Bug Pests on ThryvOn Cotton”**

Nathan Arey ¹ and Sebe Brown¹. ¹- Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN.

6:15 p.m. **Wrap-up and Adjourn**, dinner at Chuy's Tex-Mex –100 E Park Dr, Brentwood.
Presenting students' dinners sponsored by BASF.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2025

REGISTRATION: 8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. CT (all times are Central Time)

8:30 a.m. **TES Business Meeting and Awards Ceremony**

Presiding.....Dr. Jennifer Tsuruda

Reading of the Tennessee Entomology Week Proclamation

Dr. Steve Murphree

Announcement of Awards

Dr. Pat Parkman

Annual Business Meeting and Committee Reports

NON-STUDENT PAPERS

9:15 a.m. **“Leggo My Leg Yo: Sexual and Geographic Disparities in Autotomy for the Joro Spider, *Trichonephila clavate*”**

David R Nelsen¹, D Daniel Baldwin¹, Elizabeth A Baldwin¹, Joshua R Bedwell¹, Dana Robinson¹, Abigayle E de Fluiter¹, Lucas C Singletary¹, Zoi Toh¹, Grace Kim¹, Yan Poniatovskiy¹, and Alyssa A Lopes¹. 1-Department of Biology and Allied Health, Southern Adventist University, Collegedale, TN.

9:30 a.m. **"Arthropod exosomes as novel strategies to control vector-borne diseases"**

Hameeda Sultana, Department of Biomedical and Diagnostic Sciences, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN

9:45 a.m. **“Affecting transmission of a rickettsial pathogen from ticks”**

Girish Neelakanta, Department of Biomedical and Diagnostic Sciences, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN

10:00 a.m. Short Break

10:15 a.m. **“Comparing Monitoring Methods for Parasitic Varroa Mites in Honey Bee Colonies**

Jennifer Tsuruda¹, Selina Bruckner², Robyn Underwood³, and Geoffrey Williams². 1-

Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN; 2-

Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology, Auburn University, Auburn, AL; 3-

Department of Entomology, Penn State University, University Park, PA.

10:30 a.m. **Tennessee Update 2025: Predictions and Evaluations**

Cindy Bilbrey, Tennessee Department of Agriculture, Nashville, TN

10:45 a.m. **Closing Remarks and TES New Board Meeting**

With thanks to our sponsors:



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