

Southwest Vegetation Management Association (SWVMA)

2024 Annual Conference

SCHEDULE

Day 1 -- Thursday, October 24, 2024



Cliff Castle Casino Hotel, 555 W. Middle Verde Rd, Camp Verde, AZ 86322

For overnight stays - <https://www.cliffcastlecasinohotel.com/accommodations/>

The Hotel at Cliff Castle Casino (122 rooms)

The Lodge at Cliff Castle (80 rooms)

Other local hotel options - Comfort Inn, Days Inn, and The Copper Hotel

8:00 am Arrival and registration – continental breakfast and mingling / networking

***please arrive by 8:30 am for CEU registration

9:00 am Welcome – Corina Anderson, SWVMA President

9:10 am Keynote Speaker (30 min) Fire in the Sonoran Desert: An overview of a changing landscape, **Ben Wilder** - Director, Next Generation Sonoran Desert Researchers

EMERGING ISSUES / METHODS (*Moderated by Bethany DeRango*)

9:40 am (30 min) Ravenna Grass Treatment in Grand Canyon National Park, **Melissa McMaster** - Plant Biologist, Mariposa Ecological and Botanical Consulting

10:10 am (30 min) Results of Yellow Bluestem Treatment in Northern Arizona, **Jesse Duff-Woodruff** - South Zone Botanist, Kaibab National Forest

10:40 am Break 1 (10 minutes)

10:50 am (30 min) Experimenting with technology for buffelgrass management, **Elliot Anuta & Liz Langenbach** - City of Apache Junction Parks and Recreation Department

11:20 am (30 min) Effective and timely treatment of Stinknet, **Perry Grissom** - Invasive Species Specialist / Ecologist, Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum / Saguaro National Park (retired)

11:50 pm Word from our conference sponsors (20 minutes)

12:10 pm **Lunch - buffet style** (40 min) - vegan / vegetarian options available

PREVENTION PRINCIPLES (*Moderated by Corina Anderson*)

12:50 pm (30 min) Building a culture of prevention: Essential management techniques, **Bethany Derango** - Invasive Species Strike Team Lead, Arizona Refuges, US Fish and Wildlife Service

1:20 pm (30 min) Certified weed free products program, **Alan Rubida** - President, Arizona Crop Improvement Association

1:50 pm Break 2 (10 minutes)

CHEMICAL TREATMENT (*Moderated by Nick Braiser*)

2:00 pm (45 min) Herbicide calibration and mixing techniques, **Michael Turner** - Deputy Liaison, National Park Service - Southwest Invasive Plant Management Team

2:45 pm (45 min) Herbicide use in the field, **Jack McMullin** - Associate Director of Operations, American Conservation Experience

DATA MANAGEMENT & MONITORING (*Moderated by Mary Fastiggi*)

3:30 pm (30 min) Aerial Solutions: Drone-assisted stinknet mitigation in county parks, **Joshua Sutter** - GIS Analyst, Maricopa County Office of Enterprise Technology

4:00 pm (30 min) Lower Salt River Restoration Project and Green Drone AZ, **Jacob Draper & Justin Eddinger** - Project Managers, Ecoculture

AWARD & FIELD TRIP (*Moderated by Corina Anderson*)

4:30 pm (10 min) Weed Manager Award Recognition – Corina Anderson

4:50 pm (10 min) Field trip info – Nick Brasier, SWVMA Vice President

5:00 pm Networking & happy hour w/ appetizers

6:00 pm End of Day 1 - Dinner on your own

Note - presentation times and topics may be subject to change, as are field trip sites.

Day 2 -- Friday, October 25, 2024 – Field Trip (2 sites)

Start time 8:00 am / End time: Noon

Meet at Cliff Castle Casino Parking Lot - far north side **Carpool to consolidate vehicles***

We will return to Cliff Castle Casino so carpoolers can retrieve their vehicles.

Restrooms are available at both field trip sites.

Bring water, snacks, and field attire (sunglasses, hat, hiking shoes, boot brushes, etc.).

Salt Mine Road is a winding / narrow road, please exercise caution and obey speed limits while driving.

Field Site 1. White Bridge Picnic Area

8:15 to 9:00 am

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/xGVBzJjfFV5iZaKy8>

At White Bridge Picnic Area we will introduce participants to the vegetation commonly found along the Verde River. This includes a number of native tree species, and many invasive species and noxious weeds such as Arundo (giant reed), salt cedar (tamarisk), Tree of Heaven, and others. In addition to plant identification, we will also discuss treatment approaches and methods.

Guided by Willie Sommers, DFFM and Andy Pigg, Coconino National Forest

Objectives are to identify native and nonnative plants, view treated and untreated areas, and discuss prioritization for control and removal of invasive species.

NOTE: Once we are done at this site, we will need to turn left on Highway 260 and then make the second left turn on Salt Mine Road.

Field Site 2. Rockin' River Ranch State Park

9:15 to 11:30 am

4513 S. Salt Mine Rd, Camp Verde, AZ 86322

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/EPM8Jgbguf9VPcZo8>

Rockin' River Ranch State Park is 209 acres located at the confluence of West Clear Creek and the Verde River. The state park is new and was opened and dedicated in February 2024. Within the park there is a mature mesquite bosque, flood-irrigated pastures, and portions of the 100 year floodplain. The Verde Irrigation Ditch passes through the park and is available for flood-irrigating pasture lands. Moreover, the park contains aquatic habitat and cottonwood-willow riparian vegetation along a one-mile stretch of the Verde River.

Guided by Elaine Nichols, Friends of the Verde River and Jennifer Steffen, Acting Park Manager, Arizona State Parks & Trails

Objectives are to learn about the property history, cultural and natural resources, invasive plants / noxious weeds, and future plans for restoration and other enhancements.

Discussion 1 (90 minutes) – opportunities for treatment of invasive weeds in riparian areas along the Verde River portion of Rockin' River Ranch State Park. Hike the White Cliffs Trail through the southern end of the park along the river banks.

Discussion 2 (45 minutes) – opportunities for treatment of invasive weeds in upland areas of Rockin' River Ranch State Park and the establishment of pollinator gardens. Walk the Pasture Loop Trail where there is potential for irrigation to support a variety of upland plant species.

Have a safe trip home and thank you for coming!

Note – Next year's conference will be in southern Arizona.