

Keynote Speakers

Dr. Jim Lacefield lives in rural Colbert County near Tuscumbia with his wife Faye. He is a retired adjunct professor of biology and the Earth sciences from the University of North Alabama. He holds a doctorate in science education from the University of Alabama, with subject specializations in biology and geology. Jim is the author of a popular-level book on Alabama's geologic history, rocks, and fossils entitled *Lost Worlds in Alabama Rocks: A Guide to the State's Ancient Life and Landscapes*, published in 2000 by the Alabama Geological Society. The book is currently in its fifth printing, and is used in a variety of geology and earth science classes in the state from middle school through the college levels. The book has been adopted as a text or supplemental text by nine universities. He is nearing completion on a much larger second edition of his book, due out within the next year.

Dr. James (Jim) Miller is an Emeritus Research Ecologist with the U.S. Forest Service, Southern Research Station, at a laboratory on the Auburn University Campus where he has been since 1977. He participated in drafting the national and regional Forest Service invasive species strategic plans. He then chaired a regional task force on invasive species including all branches of the Forest Service to identify the most threatening alien species to southern forest sustainability. He has published over 150 scientific and popular articles: most noteworthy is the book *Forest Plants of the Southeast and Their Wildlife Uses*, coauthored with Dr. Karl Miller, wildlife professor at the University of Georgia. He designed and implemented the Forest Service southern region's monitoring system for tracking invasive plants on all forested lands. The identification guide used for this survey, *Nonnative Invasive Plants of Southern Forests*, has 140,000 copies distributed in the U.S. An expanded two volume set was released in 2010 (copies available free at the conference). The survey data is being used to model plant invasions in the South over the next 50 years, which will be presented in a forthcoming report chapter of the Southern Forest Futures Project. Miller's works have been honored in Washington by two national U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Awards and in 2010, he received the first Award of Excellence presented by the SE Exotic Pest Plant Council and the first Natural Resource Leadership Award presented by the Southern Research Station. He was a founding member of the Alabama Invasive Plant Council and the Alabama Plant Conservation Alliance. He is an avid hiker with his wife, Anne, and white water kayaker, and photographs plants along trails, streams, and rivers in the Southeast and US.

Dr. Jacob N. Barney is Assistant Professor of Invasive Plant Ecology at Virginia Tech, where he leads a laboratory investigating the interacting factors of biological invasions with a goal of mitigation and management. Dr. Barney received a PhD in

weed ecology from Cornell University in 2007, and did a postdoc at the University of California, Davis where he worked on the invasive potential of the bioenergy crops switchgrass and miscanthus. He has published broadly in the field of invasive plant ecology, biofuel ecology, restoration, risk assessment, and chemical ecology. Dr. Barney's research program focuses on the invasive potential of bioenergy crops and identifying mitigation strategies to manage that risk, as well as general invasive plant ecology and risk assessment. He is native to Kentucky, but enjoyed his time in the introduced range of California.