

GENERAL SESSIONS

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2026					
7:30-8:30 AM: Check-in & Coffee					
EDUCATION TRACKS	BUSINESS OPERATIONS	LANDSCAPE OPERATIONS	IRRIGATION	TURF MANAGEMENT	GROWERS
Location	Guilford D	Guilford E	Guilford F	Guilford G	Auditorium II
8:30 - 9:20 AM	Exiting 101 Setting Yourself up for a Successful Transition Liz Vetter, James Gorzynski, Philip Kolb, New Leaf Brokerage ■ ■ ■ ▲	PPE Transportation Storage and Security of Pesticides Eric Jones, Turf Teacher, Inc. ■ ■ ● ■ ▲	There's a Fire in the Wire Jason Shanabarger, The Toro Company/ Unique Lighting ● ▲	How to Save Money in Turfgrass Management Dr. Ray McCauley, NCSU ● ● ▲	Management of Japanese Maple Scale and Other Pests Threatening Container Production Dr. Karla Adesso, TSU ● ▲
9:30 - 10:20 AM	Sales Manager Vs. Sales Leader: Which Are You? Rayne Gibson, Taproots Horticulture Consulting ■ ▲	Landscape Under Siege: Identifying and Reporting New Invasive Pests Amy Michael, NCDA&CS Dr. HT Tseng, NCDA&CS Josie Pasche, NCDA&CS ● ● ● ■ ▲	There's a Fire in the Wire: Tools for Advanced Troubleshooting Jason Shanabarger, The Toro Company/ Unique Lighting ● ▲	You Pick the Pests: Turf Insect Edition Dr. Terri Billeisen, NCSU ● ● ▲	Selling Solutions, Not Just Plants: Rethinking Value in the Green Industry David Hoffman, Hoffman Nursery ▲
10:30 - 11:20 AM	What We Learned from Hurricane Helene Bill Jones, Carolina Native Nursery ■ ● ▲	Eliminating Murder: How Not to Kill Plants Bryce Lane, Horticulturist ● ▲	Understanding Soil-Plant-Water Relationships for Optimal Scheduling Dr. Grady Miller, NCSU ● ▲	New Challenges and Changes Ahead with Turf Pesticides Dr. Travis Gannon, NCSU ● ● ▲	Get the Most Out of Preemergence Herbicide Programs in Container Nurseries Dr. Joe Neal, NCSU ● ▲
11:30 AM - 12:00 PM: Lunch, available on a first-come, first-served basis 12:00 - 12:50 PM: Keynote Presentation	Rayne Gibson, Taproots Horticulture Consulting ■ ■ ■ ▲ Passion is Not Leadership In this thought-provoking keynote, we will debunk the myth and delve into the intricate layers that truly define exceptional leadership. Embark on a Paradigm-Shift Journey: Discover the power of passion as a driving force, but go beyond the surface to explore why it's not the sole ingredient for effective leadership. Illuminate the Pitfalls: Explore the limitations of passion-driven leadership and learn from real-world examples where passion alone fell short in the face of leadership challenges. Unlock the Components of True Leadership: Dive deep into the essential qualities of successful leaders, from emotional intelligence to strategic vision and team collaboration. Nurture Your Leadership Growth: Walk away with practical insights and actionable strategies to develop and enhance your leadership skills, ensuring you are equipped to lead with purpose and impact. Ignite Your Leadership Potential: This keynote isn't just a speech; it's a call to action! Be inspired to transcend the passion paradigm and embrace the multifaceted dimensions of true leadership. 				
EDUCATION TRACKS	EXPLORING REGIONAL PLANTS	LANDSCAPE OPERATIONS	IRRIGATION	TURF MANAGEMENT	GROWERS
Location	Guilford D	Guilford E	Guilford F	Guilford G	Auditorium II
1:00 - 1:50 PM	Southern Stars - Native Trees and Shrubs that Work in Real Landscapes Mark Weathington, JCRA ● ● ■ ▲	Pond Management and its Relation to Turf and Plant Health Trent Nelson, Kasco Marine ● ▲	Advanced Troubleshooting: Electrical Diagnostics for Irrigation Systems Maggie Sarvor, Tucor ● ▲	Diagnosis and Management of Turfgrass Diseases in the Landscape Lee Butler, NCSU ● ● ▲	Labor Saving Innovations in Nursery Production Dr. Anthony LeBude, NCSU ▲
2:00 - 2:50 PM	Native Perennials for the Shady Site Shannon Currey, Izel Plants ● ▲	Water-Wise by Design: Creating Sustainable Landscapes in North Carolina Amy Mead, NCSU ● ● ● ■ ▲	Drip Irrigation for Shrubs, Flower Beds, and Groundcovers JB Liefert, SiteOne ● ▲	Turfgrass Weed Management: Identification, Control Strategies, and Emerging Technologies Dr. Navdeep Godara, NCSU ● ● ▲	Soiless Substrates for Nursery Production: Trends, Innovations, and Management Strategies Dr. Brian Jackson, NCSU ▲
3:00 - 3:50 PM	Adding Native Plants and Conservation Landscaping to Your Services Gloria Putman, NCSU Amy Mead, NCSU ● ▲	Zen and the Art of Landscape Maintenance Tom Joyce, Tom Joyce Consulting ● ● ▲	Applying Pump Station Curves in the Field Lee Barnwell, SiteOne ● ▲	Precision Turfgrass Management for Optimized Pest Management Dr. Qiyu Zhou, NCSU ● ● ▲	New Plant Showcase ▲

CEU Opportunities The NCNLA applies for continuing education credits from the following entities:

● LC Landscape Contractor License (NC) — Technical CEU

● LCB Landscape Contractor License (NC) — Business CEU

● LA Landscape Architect License (NC)

● IC Irrigation Contractor License (NC) — Technical Irrigation CEU

● ICB Irrigation Contractor License (NC) — Business CEU

● PA Pesticide Applicator License (NC)

● ISA International Society of Arboriculture — Certified Arborist

● CPP Certified Plant Professional

This is an Education schedule preview and is subject to change. The final schedule will be featured online and available in the on-site showbook. NCNLA applies for continuing education units (CEUs) from various state and national entities. For CEU status updates, please visit www.greenandgrowin.com.

Please note that Marketplace attendees will not be able to earn Continuing Education Units (CEUs) by walking the trade show floor. In lieu of offering this credit, we will continue to seek credit approval for the sponsored demonstrations.