

Nationally Renowned Speakers

Dr. John Buchanan, PE is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Biosystems Engineering & Soil Science at the University of Tennessee. John has 15 years of teaching, research and outreach experience. His professional areas of interest include on-site wastewater disposal, soil and water conservation engineering, and livestock waste management. His current educational and research programs include soil-based wastewater renovation and soil erosion and sediment control on construction sites. John is actively involved in a national effort to develop a comprehensive glossary for decentralized wastewater terminology through the Consortium of Institutes for Decentralized Wastewater Treatment.

Dr. Bruce Lesikar, PE serves as Associate Department Head, Professor, and Extension Program leader in the Biological and Agricultural Engineering Department at Texas A&M University. Bruce conducts research into the effectiveness of on-site wastewater treatment systems under various site, soil, and water table conditions; evaluates various innovative/alternative on-site wastewater treatment systems; evaluates water conservation practices; and develops informational resources describing water conservation, treatment, and reuse systems. Bruce is the director of the three Onsite Wastewater Treatment Training Centers located in Texas. He supports the development of curriculum materials through the Consortium of Institutes for Decentralized Wastewater Treatment, and he is actively developing informational materials to assist in reaching homeowners, decision makers and professionals in the industry.

Mr. George Loomis is a Research and Extension Soil Scientist specializing in on-site wastewater treatment in the Department of Natural Resources Science at the University of Rhode Island. During his 23 years at the university, George has worked with denitrification of septic systems, alternative and innovative technologies, risk-based wastewater management, soil-based wastewater treatment, and soil/site suitability for on-site wastewater systems. George is the Director of the On-site Wastewater Training Center at URI, where he directs research and leads outreach education. George is also critical member of the Consortium of Institutes for Decentralized Wastewater Treatment and its effort to develop nationally standardized curriculum materials.

Dr. Larry West is a Professor in the Department of Crop and Soil Sciences at the University of Georgia. Larry's extensive experience with soil/site evaluations in relation to land use issues is well known. Larry focuses his work on use of morphological properties and landscape distribution of soils to understand and predict hydraulic properties of soils. His specific projects include investigations of the relationships between redoximorphic features and duration of seasonal saturation; genesis of preferential flow zones in soil horizons; distribution, genesis, and hydraulic properties of sandy and loamy argillic horizons in Coastal Plain landscapes; and soil-landscape relationships and their effect on landscape redistribution of water.