

AGENDA FOR 2025 FALL OKVMA CONFERENCE
Hard Rock Hotel & Convention Center

GENERAL SESSION – October 1, 2025 – Wednesday

TIME	SPEAKERS	PRESENTATION TOPIC INFORMATION
7:00 – 8:00	REGISTRATION - OSU Conference Services	
8:00 – 8:15	PRESIDENT’S WELCOME & Nominations of New Board Members	
8:15 – 9:15	Megan Parker Pesticide Certification & Training Administrator	Laws & Rules Update Stay informed and compliant with the latest changes in Oklahoma’s pesticide regulations. This session provides a comprehensive overview of the 2025 updates to the Oklahoma Combined Pesticide Law and Rules, as administered by the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry(ODAFF).
9:15 – 9:30	Business Meeting, Election of New Board Member Positions, & Scholarship Awards.	
9:30 – 10:00	BREAK with Exhibitors	
10:00 – 11:00	Paul Ohlman Davey Resource Group	Wildfire Mitigation and Resiliency Through Forest Management and Fuel Reduction Forest and fuels management inside and outside of the ROW can increase forest health, increase firefighting safety and capabilities, lower fuel loading, and decrease fire risk to both the utility and the public. Traditional silvicultural practices and scientifically sound fuel reduction treatments can be implemented at scale to benefit the environment, utilities, and the public. Utilities are starting to look outside of the ROW to implement techniques to manipulate fuel structures of the forest and wildlands. In this presentation, we will explore the different types of forest and brush treatment techniques, the cost of doing so, funding sources for forest management, and partnerships that can be established to achieve common goals among utilities and adjacent property owners.
11:00 – 12:30	LUNCH PROVIDED	
12:30 – 1:30	Christopher Gabbard Director of Horticulture, Nature, and Sustainability Gathering Place	The Gathering Place Trees Christopher Gabbard’s work at the Gathering Place is rooted in redefining horticulture for a modern world – one that balances beauty, ecological responsibility, and public engagement. This presentation will explore how the parks 66.5 acres of meadows, wetlands, woodlands, and curated gardens serve as a living classroom and sanctuary for all ages.
1:30 – 2:30	Scott Mackey EDKO	Navigating Requirements for Drone Usage A presentation on how drones are being utilized in our industry including: How to navigate the FAA. Operations, exemptions and waivers. State licensing and DOT. Drone use cases.
2:30 – 3:00	BREAK with Exhibitors	
3:00 – 4:00	Phillip Swart ArborWorks, LLC. Regional Account Manager - Midwest	Rethinking IVM: More Than a Toolbox Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM) isn’t just using multiple control methods—it’s a structured framework for making sound, site-specific decisions. This session will clarify what true IVM is, highlight common misconceptions, and offer practical guidance on building an integrated, goal-driven program. Attendees will learn how to move beyond ad-hoc tactics toward a consistent, sustainable approach to vegetation management.

BREAKOUT SESSION - October 2, 2025 – Thursday

Time	SPEAKERS	PRESENTATION TOPIC INFORMATION
8:00	PRESIDENT’S WELCOME – Introduce Conference Sponsors/Vendors & Housekeeping.	
8:00 – 10:00	<u>North American Training Solutions</u> Josh Galiley Safety and Training Specialist	<u>Electrical Safety Tools and Applications for Line Clearance Tree Workers</u> According to OSHA electricity has long been recognized as a serious workplace hazard. For tree workers conducting operations in proximity to electrical hazards, there is specific training in electrical protective tools and techniques for workers to effectively manage risk. This talk will review electrical protective tools, techniques and applications such as detection equipment, protective equipment and devices as well as safe work practices specific to line clearance tree workers.
10:00 – 10:30	BREAK with Exhibitors	
10:30 – 11:30	<u>North American Training Solutions</u> Josh Galiley Safety and Training Specialist	<u>Aerial Chainsaw Safety and Cutting Applications for Line Clearance Tree Workers</u> According to OSHA struck by accidents are a major cause of workplace injuries in tree care and line clearance operations. For tree workers it is critical that proper control measures are in place when operating a chainsaw in an aerial position to avoid being struck by the saw or striking a co-worker or other valued property with tree parts cut aloft. This talk will review knowledge, tools, techniques and applications including the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH’s) hierarchy of controls specific to line clearance tree workers utilizing a chainsaw aloft.