



# Dr. Bert Swanson to Speak at WNA's Winter Workshop

Wisconsin Green Industry Federation press release

October 26, 2009

Dr. Bert T. Swanson, president of Swanson's Nursery Consulting, Inc., will be the keynote speaker at the Wisconsin Nursery Association's largest educational event of the year, Winter Workshop. It's an all-day event, and it will be held at the Country Springs Hotel in Waukesha on Wednesday, February 24th, 2010.

Dr. Swanson has close to 40 years of experience serving the nursery, garden center, and landscape industries, and will be giving two presentations at the event.

Dr. Swanson will be speaking about Herbicides for Nursery and Landscape Weed Control, including basic herbicide terminology, classification, effectiveness, and toxicity. Dr. Swanson will talk specifically about a variety of products and give his viewpoint on those that have good value for container as well as field production.

His second presentation, titled "What is Involved in the Determination of Costs of Production of Nursery Crops?" will focus on general and specific parameters and guidelines to set the stage for determination of costs involved in the production of nursery crops. The discussion will include an interactive exchange of ideas, data, or procedures in which Dr. Swanson invites you to participate. It's a two-part presentation to explore a very intangible subject.

Dr. Swanson has a Ph.D. in plant physiology and has served as a professor and nursery management specialist at the University of Minnesota for 18 years and at Colorado State University for seven years. He worked for nationally known nurseries throughout high school and college, before establishing and managing a container

production operation of his own for five years. He is a member of the MNLA Board of Directors, and is on the MNLA Foundation Board of Trustees. He is also the chair of the MNLA Nursery Committee and is the editor of the *MNLA Certification Manual*.

Dr. Laura Jull will be speaking at the upcoming Winter Workshop as well. She'll be giving a special presentation about research that she conducted recently. The topic is Compost Tea Use in Greenhouse Production of Woody Ornamentals, and was a project that garnered WNA funding.

Besides her duties as an associate professor at UW-Madison, Dr. Laura Jull is the state Extension Specialist of Woody Ornamental Horticulture. She is a native of Detroit and earned two associate degrees from Oakland Community College, one in Liberal Arts and the other in Applied Science in Landscape Technology. From there, Dr. Jull earned a bachelor's degree in Horticulture from Michigan State University, and went on to graduate school at North Carolina State University, from which she received her master's and doctorate degrees in Horticultural Science with a minor in Agricultural and Extension Education. She currently teaches Identification and Culture of Woody Landscape Plants and Arboriculture and Landscape Maintenance courses, and through her role in the UW-Extension, provides direction for statewide programs and supports county extension agents with their programs and training.

Dr. Jull will also be on hand to give details about the candidates on the ballot for the Plant of the Year so that all attendees can make an informed choice when it comes time to vote; a highlight

of the Workshop. The results will be announced by the end of the day. And Dr. Jull will give a presentation entitled "Ashes to Ashes, EAB and Alternative Species to Plant," a hot topic in the face of the recent developments in Wisconsin regarding the emerald ash borer.

Bob Dahl of the WDATCP will return to the workshop to give us a state pest update. Mr. Dahl has been a state nursery inspector with the Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection since 1993. He is Section Chief for the Plant Protection Section of the Bureau of Plant Industry where he supervises field staff in the nursery, Christmas tree, sod, ginseng, potato and other inspection programs. He works closely with the gypsy moth and pest survey programs, and also is the editor and producer of the *Cooperative Pest Survey Bulletin*. Mr. Dahl's presentations are comprehensive, featuring the most critical and latest information on the subject.

Midday will bring a hot lunch buffet, featuring roast beef, roast turkey, mashed potatoes with gravy, salad, a hot vegetable, with cookies and brownies for dessert. After the hearty lunch, WNA's general membership meeting will take place, along with an ANLA update. The day starts with registration and a continental breakfast at 8 a.m. and ends with a free raffle at 4 p.m.

The rates for WNA's Winter Workshop 2010 have stayed the same, and don't forget the special price discounts for students and for anyone who signs up before February 15th. To register, call (414) 529-4705.