



# RINLA Winter Conference & Annual Meeting

Wednesday, January 27, 2021

9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**FREE virtual event**

To register Ctrl + Click this link: [Register Here](#)

**9 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.**

## Recent advances in using bio-control on two invasive plant species

*(Pesticide credit: 1 Credit Hour 3A, 3B and Private Licenses)*



**Session Description:** Japanese knotweed and Common Reed are two of our worst invasive species in R.I., especially since they impact our fragile coastal zone. Dr. Bernd Blossey, in collaboration with Dr. Richard Casagrande and Lisa Tewksbury at the University of Rhode Island, has been working on evaluating and now releasing insect species that feed on the invasive species. The goal is to control the weed populations without negatively impacting native plant and animal species. This should ultimately allow for increased biodiversity and healthier, more resilient communities.

**Speaker:** Dr. Bernd Blossey heads the Blossey lab at Cornell University, and chairs the Cornell Deer Management Committee. His research spans a broad range of topics, acknowledging that knowledge of a species should include ecologic and evolutionary relationships. His work on the bio-control of invasive plant species includes how other stressors, like deer and earthworms, interact with the plants and the resultant effect on the ecosystem.

**10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.**

## What to expect from our second COVID-influenced spring season



**Session Description:** In this session, Dr. Charlie Hall will discuss the current economic conditions, the status of the lingering effects of COVID-19, and the outlook for spring 2021. He will also incorporate a discussion of the structural changes already brought about by Covid-19 and the business responses (key success factors) that will influence success in the green industry marketplace. Are you trying to determine your best path forward? Then you do not want to miss this session!

**Speaker:** A native of North Carolina, Dr. Charlie Hall received a B.S. in Agricultural Economics from the University of Tennessee in 1984, a Master's Degree in Ornamental Horticulture and Landscape Design from the University of Tennessee in 1986, and his Ph.D. from Mississippi State University. He began his academic career at Texas A&M University in 1988, where he spent 13 years on the faculty before joining the faculty at the University of Tennessee in 2002. In August

2007, Dr. Hall returned to Texas A&M University as Professor and Ellison Chair in International Floriculture.

Dr. Hall's expertise is in the production and marketing of Green Industry crops. He is nationally recognized in academia and among the horticultural clientele he serves. His major research, teaching, and extension areas of specialization include strategic management, market situation / outlook, cost accounting, and financial analysis for Green Industry firms.

**11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. – RINLA's Annual Meeting**

2020 Report and financials; Election of officers and new directors;  
Awards – Young Nursery Person of the Year and Award of Merit

**12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

## *We've Got This: Staying positive and productive in challenging times*

**Speakers:** A panel made up of RINLA member company representatives

**Description:** 2020 was a real doozy of a year! Rhode Island's green industry confronted a pandemic, historic drought, targeted theft, increased demand for products and services, labor shortages, and more. This panel will discuss how – through innovation and hard work – they faced these challenges head on and were able to find the silver lining.