

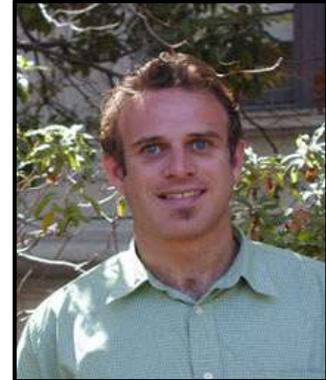
Fighting Invisible Invasives

Date/Time/Session: **WEDNESDAY, 5.01.2019, 9:00:00 AM, in the PESTS session**

Presentation Length: **60 minutes**

Presented by: **Matteo Garbelotto, PhD**

Co-Presenter (if scheduled): **NA**



Overview of Presentation:

The exotic tree disease known as Sudden Oak Death provides one of the best examples of an invasive managed through an innovative collaborative approach among stakeholders. Education on how to diagnose this invasive pathogen is provided to all interested through multiple yearly Town Hall meetings, followed by volunteer-lead surveys called SOD Blitzes. Results of the volunteer-based effort are combined with those of researchers and made available in real time through the web (www.sodmap.org) and through the App Sodmap mobile. Disease management recommendations are based on local presence of the disease. Two levels of disease control are available: a)- oak-centric, small scale, aimed at protecting high value oaks; b)- stand-level, based on silvicultural prescriptions. Specific approaches, their known efficacy, and the possible role of tree care professionals, both at the surveying and protection phase, will be discussed. The SOD experience has resulted in the creation of Calinvasives, a spin off to alert professionals about the distribution of novel exotic pathogens in California, making invisibles, visible.

Presenter Bio:

Dr. Matteo Garbelotto is an Adjunct Professor in Environmental Sciences at the University of California Berkeley, and the Forest Pathology Specialist for the entire University of California system. He began his teaching and research career at Berkeley in 1996. Today, he is the head of the Forest Pathology and Mycology Lab, which he established in 2001 and where he supervises over 20 researchers and lab technicians. His work focuses on understanding the epidemiology of infectious diseases in natural ecosystems.

In the greater San Francisco Bay Area and throughout California into Oregon, Matteo is well known for having co-discovered the agent responsible for Sudden Oak Death ("SOD"), a disease that is quickly killing many oak species throughout Northern California. His work on SOD has resulted in the understanding of how the causing agent arrived in the states and has also resulted in several treatment options to protect the oak trees. Matteo is actively working with local communities to educate property owners, arborists, and the general public on preventive measures to help slow the disease on how to protect oak trees.