



THE MAGNOLIA CHAPTER Florida Native Plant Society

December 2017 Program

Dr. Don Spence:

Laurel Wilt & the Loss of Red Bay



Dr. Spence is an Assistant Professor in the Natural Sciences Department at Bethune-Cookman University and has been a Certified Arborist for 12 years. He specializes in tree biology and tree diseases caused by fungal-beetle interactions. He earned his PhD from the University of Florida in plant pathology and has published peer reviewed research and written articles for magazines relating Florida's plants, plant communities and trees. Dr. Spence has 21 years of combined experience as an educator in middle school, high school, adult continuing education, and at the university level. Dr. Spence is a Board Certified Master Arborist and is a past member of the Volusia County Code Enforcement Board and Volusia County Green Ribbon Panel; he also won an elected seat on the Volusia Soil and Water Conservation District in 2006. Dr. Spence is a native of Volusia County and spent seven years in the U.S. Coast Guard.