

## Richard A. Johnstone Biography

Rick Johnstone is President of *Integrated Vegetation Management Partners, Inc. (IVM Partners)* a 501-C-3 non-profit corporation, and Owner of *Vegetation Management with Environmental Stewardship, LLC (VMES)* consulting.

*IVM Partners* acts as a liaison between industry, public agencies, conservation and academia so that best vegetation management practices are used to resolve vegetation problems, control invasive weeds, improve wildlife and endangered specie habitat and lower the risk of wildfire. Rick acts as an advisor and trainer for federal and state land management agencies and conducts IVM and Ecosystem Management Workshops that include field tours of botanically documented case study sites with equipment demonstrations. He has assisted Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge, MD and the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge, MI in controlling invasive weeds and improving wildlife habitat, and is administering vegetation and ecosystem management best practice case studies for Arizona Public Service and Baltimore Gas & Electric.

*VMES* provides assistance to utilities in developing vegetation management programs that meet their safety and reliability needs of services to the public in an efficient and economical fashion. Rick is presently assisting Baltimore Gas & Electric, Columbia Gas and CenterPoint Energy.

Rick has 33 years experience as a system forester for the electric industry. He is a member of the Edison Electric Institute (EEI) Vegetation Management Task Force that negotiated a 2006 Memorandum of Understanding between the electric industry and federal agencies (EPA, USFS, FWS, NPS, and BLM) to adopt best IVM practices on rights-of-way of federal lands. He is past president of the Utility Arborist Association, was an advisor to the United States–Canadian Blackout Report, coauthor of the EEI Environmental Stewardship Strategy for Electric Rights-of-Way, producer of a training video with Virginia Tech titled “Integrated Vegetation Management for Rights-of-Way” and expert to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service training DVD “Managing Utility Rights-of-Way for Wildlife Habitat”. Rick serves as a judge for the Department of Defense Environmental Installation Award, chairman of the ROW Task Force for the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign, is a member of the Society of American Foresters, the International Society of Arboriculture, and is a registered professional forester receiving a BS in Forest Resources Management from West Virginia University in 1976. He is a recipient of the Utility Arborist Association Education Award and is listed in several Who's Who publications.

Rick is a regular speaker at industry, agency and conservation conferences and has published in IPM ROW Symposia, the Journal of Arboriculture, the Utility Arborist Quarterly, and several industry publications.

Rick, his wife Tessa and son reside in Newark, DE and have 3 daughters in college.