

Vitae

Gregory Russell Armel was born the second of two sons to Mr. and Mrs. Julius Russell Armel on February 15, 1975 in Winchester, Virginia. He spent his entire childhood in Winchester, Virginia and graduated from James Wood High School in 1993. He received a Bachelor's degree in Wildlife Science and a Master of Science Degree in Agricultural Education from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in 1997 and 1998, respectively. During this time he was part of a team of researchers that discovered a virulent soil-borne pathogen for control of the invasive tree *Ailanthus altissima*. Upon completion of his student teaching requirements for his Master's degree at Carroll County Intermediate School, he then pursued a Doctor of Philosophy degree at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in Weed Science under Dr. Henry Wilson. Gregory completed his requirements for a Doctor of Philosophy Degree on April 19, 2002.