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*$G_2$ -structures and Ricci solitons.*

In this talk we present some general results about  $G_2$ -structures whose underlying Riemannian metric is Einstein, as well results on the existence of left invariant closed  $G_2$  forms determining a Ricci soliton metric on nilpotent Lie groups. For closed  $G_2$ -structures, we will also show some results related to the Laplacian flow. (Received February 09, 2018)