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President
Joe Collins
UK Entomology
S-225 Ag. Sci. Ctr.-N
Lexington, KY 40546-
0091
(606) 257-5838
(606) 323-1120 fax
jtcollin@ca.uky.edu

Vice President
Nels Brosted
6501 E. Splitrock Rd
Sioux Falls, SD 57110
(605) 336-8174

Secretary
Vicki Wohlers
NE Dept. of Ag.,
Plant Industry,
P.O. Box 94756
Lincoln, NE 68509
(402) 471-6854
vickibw@agr.state.ne.us

Treasurer
Cherie Copeland
KS Dept of Ag.
2728 West 17th North
Wichita, KS 67203
(316) 943-5501
mantis@feist.com

Editor
Carl Harper
UK Entomology
S-225 Ag. Sci. Ctr.-N
Lexington, KY 40546-
0091
(606) 257-5838
(606) 323-1120 fax
charper@ca.uky.edu

Inside this Issue

- Robert McAdams Award Nomination
- HIS Central Chapter Agenda
- President's Corner
- Oak Tatters
- 1999 Interstate Nursery Inspection
- Oak Bacterial Leaf Scorch Affected By Drought
- Oystershell Scale

THE INSPECTOR'S FORTE:

To Make Professionalism a Part of Every Effort.

THE ROBERT MCADAMS, CENTRAL CHAPTER, HORTICULTURAL INSPECTION SOCIETY AWARD

An award has been established for superior achievement in professional development in Horticultural Inspection within the Central Chapter, Horticultural Inspection Society (H.I.S.).

This award will be awarded on an annual basis to a member of the Central Chapter of the H.I.S. This award will be limited to individuals who are nursery inspectors. It will be given in the name of, and commemorating Robert McAdams, a former nursery inspector with the Illinois Department of Agriculture. Robert McAdams was a charter member of the Central Chapter, H.I.S., who epitomized the motto of the society, "Make professionalism a part of every effort".

The individual who receives this recognition will automatically be the designated suggested nominee for the "Carl Carlson Award" (name forwarded to Central Plant Board for consideration as nominee). Any former "Carl Carlson Award" recipient will not be eligible for consideration for the Robert McAdams Award.

Please submit your nomination on the form and return **BY OCTOBER 20, 1999** to:

Vicki Wohlers
Nebraska Department of Agriculture
PO Box 94756
Lincoln, NE 68509
(402) 471-6854
(402) 471-6892 (Fax)
E-Mail: vickibw@agr.state.ne.us

Editor Motto: There is no information too trivial!

✂*****

**NOMINATION FOR THE ROBERT
MCADAMS, CENTRAL CHAPTER,
HORTICULTURAL INSPECTION SOCIETY
AWARD:**

Name: _____.

Address: _____.

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

**Please explain why you believe the above-listed
person should be considered for this award
Nominated by:** _____ **(Optional)**

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Voting will take place at the annual meeting of the Central Chapter, H.I.S. in Sioux Falls, SD, October 26-28, 1999.

HIS 1999/Sioux Falls SD Agenda

Nels Brosted, South Dakota

Tuesday October 26

- 8:30 - 8:45am Welcome & Announcements
- 8:45 - 9:30am Pests: looking at them from the tree's perceptive John Ball, Assoc Professor of Forestry, SDSU
- 9:30 - 10:30am Verticillium and Other Wilt Diseases of Shade Trees. Cindy Ash, Dir. of Scientific Service, American Phytopathology Society
- 10:30 - 10:45am Break
- 11:00 - 11:50am Dutch Elm Disease - the Current State of Management. Mark Stennes, Consulting Arborist, Top Notch Tree Care
- 12:00 - 1:00pm Lunch (included)
- 1:00 - 1:45pm Ash Yellows in the Northern Plains. Jim Walla, Professor of Plant Pathology, NDSU
- 1:45 - 2:45 Foliar Disease of Shade Trees: Identification & Management. Marty Draper, Extension Plant Pathologist, SDSU
- 2:45 - 3:00pm Break
- 3:00 - 4:00pm Borers from A (Asian long-horned beetle) to Z (Zimmerman pine moth). John Ball, Associate Professor of Forestry, SDSU & Laura Stepanek, NE Forest Service
- 4:00 - 4:30pm Herbicide Injury & Trees. Leon Wrage, Extension Weed Specialist, SDSU
- Dinner on your own

Tuesday Evening

- Bring your odd and interesting specimens to share with the group.

Wednesday October 27

- 8:30 - 8:45am Announcements
- 8:45 - 9:30am Bark Beetle Management. Kurt Allen, Forest Entomologist, US Forest Service

- 9:30 - 10:30am Nursery Production Problems. Marcus Jackson, Extension Forester, NDSU.
- 10:30 - 10:45am Break
- 10:45 - 11:45am Crabapple Cultivars: Growth Characteristics and Disease Resistance. Jeff Illes, Extension Horticulture Specialist, ISU
- 11:45 - Noon Conference closing / Tour information.
- 12:00 - 1:00pm Lunch (included)

WALK TO ACTIVITIES

- 2:00pm to 3:00pm -- Meet at the Old Courthouse Museum // 6th Street & Main Ave
Subject: A Tour Behind the Scenes
- AND •
- 3:30pm to 4:30pm -- Meet at the Sioux Falls Brewing Co. 431 N Phillips Ave #100 // @ 5th Street and Phillips Old Warehouse District
Subject: Handcrafted Beer: A Tour
- Dinner & Evening on your own

Thursday October 28

- Business Meeting: Begins at 9am

President's Corner

Joe Collins, Kentucky

Carl Harper and I attended the inaugural meeting of the H.I.S. Southern Chapter (H.I.S.S.C.) in Nashville, Tennessee on September 15-18. There were approximately 50 people in attendance representing 9 different states. Everyone seemed to be enthusiastic about beginning a new chapter and developing relationships with neighboring states. We were impressed with how well their meeting went, especially since it was the first time for such an event. Jeanette Cooper (Arkansas) will continue to serve as president until their next meeting, which will be held in North Carolina. Texas has tentatively agreed to host the meeting in 2001.

There was considerable talk and information shared about several important pests but most of the discussion seemed to be centered around imported fire ant and noxious weeds, in particular kudzu. The meeting also included a trip to McMinnville, TN where we visited Pleasant Cove Nursery, which has approximately 1,000 acres under cultivation. While there we saw T budding of dogwoods (the majority of dogwoods originate in TN), pot in pot production, and conventional field and container production.

They also discussed starting an interstate inspection program although nothing has been finalized yet. They are tentatively thinking about having the inspections opposite of where the annual meeting is to be held, i.e. if the meeting is in North Carolina and inspection might be held in Texas or Arkansas.

They have had an excellent response to recruiting new members. All the states of the Southern Plant Board have at least one representative with the exception of Alabama, Florida, Georgia and Puerto Rico. They have had 75 inspectors from Texas alone join the H.I.S.S.C.

We, as members of the Central Chapter, need to do all we can to encourage the them and to promote their new society.

"Oak Tatters"

Chuck Stoltenow, Iowa Department of Agriculture

One of the more common disorders of trees this past spring and summer was oak tatters. Even though it is most common on species of oak, especially white oak, it was also found on maples, lindens, and other species. Oak tatters was observed on two year old seedling stock up and through mature trees. Tatters was observed in rural as well as urban areas.

Symptoms can include stretched out leaf material, numerous small holes in the leaves between the lateral veins and irregular leaf material loss along the margins of the leaves.

Some of the suggested causes have been environmental stress in early spring just as leaves are beginning to emerge. A short cold period below freezing seems to play a role. Wind, mechanical damage, herbicides and temperature extremes have all been implicated.

Most healthy trees do not appear to be adversely affected by tattering. Normal care (watering, mulching, etc.) seems to be the only treatment needed.

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Here are some websites that you might find interesting (sent in by Chuck Stoltenow, Iowa Department of Agriculture)

The Pennsylvania State University:

Plant Disease Facts-

<http://www.cas.psu.edu/docs/CASDEPT/PLANT/ext/fact.html>

PA IPM Website-

<http://www.cas.psu.edu/docs/casdept/ipm/index.html>

Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture-

<http://www.pda.state.pa.us>

Biological Control-

<http://www.nysaes.cornell.edu:80/ent/biocontrol>

National IPM homepage- <http://www.reusda.gov/nipmn>

### **Interstate Nursery Inspection**

Vicki Wohlers, Nebraska Department of Agriculture



Front row left to right: Sharon Ebertow, MI; Sharon Dobesh-Beckman, MO; Steven Shimek, MN; Nellie Brown, MO; Todd Voss, IA; and Bill McAdams, IA. Back row left to right: Vicki Wohlers, NE; Gregg Rabe, NE; John Crouch, IA; Bill Hilbert, KS; John Harre, IA; Chuck Stoltenow, IA; and Chuck Bock, MO.

Interstate nursery inspection training was conducted at two nursery growers in Nebraska and one nursery grower in Iowa this year. Nebraska Department of Agriculture hosted a total

*Horticultural Inspection Society*

of 13 nursery inspectors from five states (Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, and Nebraska). Participants included: Iowa: John Crouch, Todd Voss, Bill McAdams, John Harre, and Chuck Stoltenow; Kansas: Bill Hilbert; Minnesota: Steven Shimek, and Chuck Bock; Missouri: Sharon Dobesh-Beckman, Nellie Brown, and Susan Ehlenbeck; and Nebraska: Vicki Wohlers, and Gregg Rabe. Dr. Jay Fitzgerald, Associate Professor of Horticulture at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln also accompanied us.

On June 22, 1999, an interstate group inspection was held at Mulhalls Nursery in Omaha, Nebraska. Mulhalls Nursery consists of a large retail area as well as B & B and container holding areas, container production areas, and growing fields of deciduous and evergreen nursery stock. The nursery owner, John Mulhall, began the morning with an introduction of the nursery and its history. Jason Kuehl, Field and B & B Manager, then took us to the growing fields where we looked at a number of insect, disease, physiological, and environmental problems. Plant problems that were observed and studied in the field included anthracnose on maple, apple scab on flowering crabapple, rust on hawthorn, ash leaf rust on ash, birch leaf spot on birch, locust tar spot on honeylocust, leaf blister on oak, possible fireblight on aspen, necrotic canker on honeylocust, verticillium wilt on catalpa, ginnala maple, and redbud, possible foliar nematodes on anemones, potato leafhoppers on maple, leaf miner on river birch, honeylocust mites, honeylocust pod gall midge, leafhoppers and honeylocust plant bug on honeylocust, pine needle scale on white pine and blue spruce, spruce needleminer on blue spruce, whitefly, aphids, and thrips on a number of perennials in the retail area, apple leaf crumpler on flowering crabapple, and an unknown problem on ash and lilac that may be herbicide damage, bud/graft incompatibility, or MLO. Control measures and regulatory actions were also reviewed.

On June 23, 1999, an interstate group inspection was held at Bluebird Nursery in Clarkson, Nebraska. This nursery produces perennial plants and ships all over the United States as well as internationally. The owner, Harlan Hamernik, gave a nice background introduction about the nursery and discussed a number of issues such as alien invasive plants and other regulatory problems. Rod Ackerman, plant pest control and tissue culture supervisor, also addressed the group. We looked at the packing and shipping areas, the propagation and production greenhouses, the retail outlet, and the display gardens. Problems observed included foliar nematodes, various virus problems, pine bark aphid, pine nesting sawfly, spider mites, leaf miner, and alternaria leaf spot. Also discussed were such problems as clematis wilt, whitefly, aphids, slugs, snails, thrips, and virus testing.

On June 24, 1999, an interstate group inspection was held at Brewers Crescent Nursery in Crescent, Iowa. Problems observed in the field included quince rust on hawthorn, cherry leaf spot/shothole on Canada red cherry, anthracnose on oak, ash rust on ash, potato leafhoppers, aphids, and whitefly on flowering crabapple, flatheaded appletree borer on maple and linden, white-marked tussock moth larva and aphids on oak, and ash plant bug, leaf tier, ash flower gall mite, and stalk borers on ash. Oak tatters was discussed in detail.

The group also discussed Grecian foxglove, an invasive ornamental plant. Bill Hilbert brought along informational pamphlets for everyone. These can be obtained by contacting the Kansas Department of Agriculture, (785) 862-2180.

Interstate inspections definitely are needed for continuing education of field inspectors. Our objective is to enhance uniform inspections of nursery stock between states. If you have not attended an interstate nursery inspection training, I would recommend that you do. Everyone ends up learning more than they had originally planned on learning. The support of each state department of agriculture is appreciated.

### ***Oak Bacterial Leaf Scorch Affected By Drought***

Dr. John Hartman, University of Kentucky Plant Pathology Extension Specialist

This summer has been one of extreme drought and most of the trees in central Kentucky, as well as those in other regions statewide, are showing stress related to the dry weather. In many urban neighborhoods where pin oaks have predominated, the simultaneous occurrence of bacterial leaf scorch (*Xylella fastidiosa*) and drought shows diseased pin oaks at their worst.

Symptoms of bacterial leaf scorch, this chronic and eventually fatal disease, are most noticeable in the fall, and the disease is often overlooked at other times of the year when disease symptoms are not readily noticed. In fall, leaves of healthy trees are still green. They stand in obvious contrast to the browning and falling foliage of diseased trees. Some recently infected trees have some limbs with green foliage and others with brown foliage. Infected trees are gradually debilitated, however, as over the years, twigs, branches, and limbs begin to die. Many of our urban pin oaks are showing branch dieback typical of trees that have been infected for 5 or more years. Unfortunately for these trees, the disease is made worse by the drought, so they look worse than usual this year. Bacterial leaf scorch disease does not spread rapidly- indeed some of the pin oaks in many neighborhoods appear to be uninfected, as yet. There is no cure for bacterial leaf scorch, so one should expect diseased trees to be gradually lost over the years. In the meantime, newly infected trees can be made to look somewhat presentable for a few more years if the dead wood is pruned out.

The best remedy for bacterial leaf scorch is tree replacement. To maintain species diversity, avoid planting all the same species in each neighborhood. Choose trees that do well in Kentucky such as those listed in the three U.K. Cooperative Extension Service publications *Small Trees for Urban Spaces in Kentucky*, *Medium-Sized Trees for Kentucky Landscapes*, and *Large Trees, the Giants of Kentucky's Landscape*, which are available at County Extension Offices. When replanting, it is not necessary to use large transplants. Often, smaller nursery stock becomes established more quickly than larger nursery stock so that ten years later, their relative sizes might not be much different. In all cases, during the several years following tree planting, make provisions for watering the trees regularly, apply mulch periodically, and pruning trees

*Horticultural Inspection Society*

correctly so that good, strong, branch structure is established when the trees are young. During dry seasons such as this one, all trees, not just the newly planted ones, will need regular watering.

### ***Oystershell Scale On Ash Clone Liners From Large Propagation Nurseries-Horticultural Inspection Society Alert.***

Don Orton, Illinois Department of Agriculture

Several Northern Illinois nurseries have again received *Fraxinus* clone liners produced by out of state propagation nurseries. These liners are sometimes noted to be infested with Grey Oystershell Scale as soon as the first to second season after planting. Since oystershell scale infestations are somewhat difficult to detect when they are slight, and since scales are noted to often be located immediately above a bud, it is obvious that the scales can be inadvertently transferred to the understock during the budding operation. During the past winter season, I wrote letters with explanatory illustrations detailing this continuing problem. The letters included suggestions for cultural methods to alleviate this problem. Copies were mailed to the propagating nurseries. The nurseries have not responded to my concerns or suggestions. This report is submitted to alert the other states in the Midwest Chapter of the Horticultural Inspection Society about a continuing problem and inquire whether other states have had similar experiences. I am including copies of the letter and illustrations for your comments. Please write or call me with your experiences and comments. Don Orton, Illinois Nursery Inspector, 1125 Howard St, Wheaton, Illinois 60187, Phone: (630) 668-8573, E-mail: [SpiraeaDon@aol.com](mailto:SpiraeaDon@aol.com)

### ***Scale Insects in Propagation Daunt Contractors for Years***

The Landscape Contractor, December 1992

(submitted by Don Orton, Illinois Department of Agriculture)

Scale insects unnecessarily contribute to maintenance problems for Illinois landscape and nursery industries, according to a state nursery inspector. Donald A. Orton, an official with the Illinois Department of Agriculture, says the insects, found on deciduous trees and shrubs, often are dispersed during asexual propagation procedures. Then, five to 10 years later, contractors and owners of the plants must correct a problem that never should have occurred in the first place.

"Spraying a 10-acre block of ash is no small expense," says Orton. "Neither is sending a crew to prune and replace plants, or spray a hedge of cotoneaster infected with these pests."

A common pattern he has observed in several large Illinois nurseries is the appearance of infestations on trees and shrubs after they have been planted in nursery production fields for two to five years. These trees and shrubs were commonly purchased as "liners" from propagation nurseries.

An example of this pattern is the observation, during the last five years, of a gray race of oyster shell scale on the ash clones

Patmore, Autumn Purple and Roschill. In discussions with Illinois nurserymen, Orton has learned that these selections are often chip budded in mid-to-late summer, and the source of bud wood is usually a permanent stock block.

“When bud wood sticks are taken from these stock blocks at that season of the year, the young scale insects are one-third to one-half grown and, in light infestations, inconspicuous,” says Orton. “They have been frequently observed to locate immediately above the lateral buds of the current season's growth. Here they are easily transferred to the receiving root stock during the budding operation. It is my opinion that this is probably occurring in some propagation nurseries using permanent stock block.”

Methods that would preclude or greatly reduce this problem include: 1. Taking bud wood from young, vigorous plants in the growing field rather than from a "permanent stock block." 2. Inspecting bud wood sticks under 10x magnification for young scales. Scale free bud wood would be used to develop new scale-free stock blocks. 3. Thoroughly inspecting clone stock blocks to locate and destroy offending stock plants. Thorough insecticide treatments of those blocks are essential. 4. Using meristem propagation where feasible to preclude passing of scale infestations through propagation.

Orton says nurserymen and contractors, as well as some propagators, are unaware of the problem. “I've looked at nursery stock for 25 years and have seen this problem many times,” he says. “Because the scales are inconspicuous in light infestations, nurserymen do not perceive the necessity for insecticide applications. By the time the problem is apparent to nurserymen, they are ready to sell the plants.”

Scale insects look like an aphid with a shell over it. A grayish or whitish crust will form on plants such as ash, causing portions of the plant to die when the crusting is abundant. Plants affected include lilac, cotoneaster, flowering crabs, ash and birch.

It is important to understand the way certain nursery plants are propagated because of the devastating effect scale insects have on plants that contractors maintain for their customers, says Orton. “It is very insidious at first because the people who propagate plants could easily pass this insect by as inconsequential. However, by the time it gets into a landscape it can be quite devastating.”

#### *Controlling the Insects*

Contractors have several options available to them. Orton believes solutions to this problem lie in the hands of plant propagators, and that contractors should “go back to their suppliers and make them aware of the problem.” In addition, contractors should look for scale insects on plants going into landscapes. “Sometimes, infestations can be fairly heavy, depending on the source of the plants,” says Orton. “When they find infestations, they should alert the grower from whom they purchased the plants.”

It is important to use blossoming correlatons to time applications of insecticides. With oyster shell scale insects, for instance, the spray time coincides with the early bloom of *Spiraea nipponica* 'Snow Mound.' At that time, the young crawlers are present on the plant.

It is also possible to take viable cuttings before insects hatch. “What you are doing then, in effect, is taking the cutting away from the infestation,” says Orton.

More information about controlling these insects can be found in the book *Coincide*, -- co-authored by Orton and Dr. Tom Green of the Morton Arboretum. It can be purchased at nurseries in Illinois and at the Arboretum.

#### *Editor's Comments:*

I want to thank **Chuck Stoltenow, Vicki Wohlers, Dr. John Hartman, Joe Collins, Nels Brosted and Don Orton** for contributing an article for the newsletter. Without you this would be much more difficult.

Please send articles for the newsletter, it is YOUR newsletter. I would like to have information of what is going on in your state. Highlights from any of the inspectors, supervisors, department heads, etc. Let everyone know what is going on this spring, summer, fall and even winter. I will publish as often as is necessary...provided I have the information to put in the newsletter. In other words, promote what you are doing to the rest of the members. By the way, the newsletters, except for the one with the state reports, are available on the web at: [www.uky.edu/Agriculture/NurseryInspection/](http://www.uky.edu/Agriculture/NurseryInspection/)

# Hope to see y'all in Sioux Falls!!!