Josh Plunkett, Minnesota, HIS President

HIS 2014 was a great year, and in my opinion the Central Horticultural Inspection Society (HIS) has really come alive. The connections we have within each other are boosting our professionalism to another level. Through conversations I had with planning the 2014 in-service training, I realized how much we are interacting with each other with respect to our profession and how important it is to maintain good working relationships. I would like to start off by thanking all of our members for their level of professional commitment to this profession. Thank you to the people who help make the HIS Central Chapter so important.

As an example, I had a conversation with Eric B. from Indiana regarding thousand cankers disease (TCD) just prior to this year’s conference. The discovery of this fungus, hundreds of miles away from any known diseased trees, was the topic of our conversation. This disease was found not on a walnut tree or even a twig beetle -- it was found on a weevil. Eric and I discussed the implications for Indiana and how its industry will keep on chugging. Low and behold, I had already had a similar conversation internally because of this find and Eric and I were able to discuss this issue first hand. Because of this, we were better prepared and informed for performing work on TCD in our respective states. The overall point to this story is that HIS is reinforcing the work we do and the people we interact with.

Look at last summer’s annual intrastate group inspection. Kankakee Nursery was gracious in allowing state inspectors to review operating procedures, inspect their grounds, and participate in plant diagnostic demonstrations. Critical control points including growing ranges, liner fields, container blocks, water sources, pesticide application records, and nursery equipment, which were inspected and reviewed by more than twenty HIS members.
To help facilitate and organize this group inspection, the Illinois Department of Agriculture provided private industry professionals to provide narratives to our group. Their specific pathological knowledge of pests and diseases in the area enhanced this type of professional experience. Pests and diseases observed included *Fusarium* root rot, elm flea weevil, honeylocust pod gall midge, nectria canker, crown gall, hackberry mosaic virus, eriophyid mites and a giant swallowtail caterpillar. Special thanks to Bill McAdams for helping make these group inspections a real success.

Yes, it was a good year, and the weather could not have been better for the HIS Annual Conference at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. HIS members were presented to by many great speakers ranging in topics from: pollinators, pesticides, Japanese beetle, urban forest health, plant breeding related to elms and apples and much more. With perfect weather, HIS members enjoyed a tram tour of the arboretum and a walking tour of the display gardens. Overall, this year’s HIS conference was a great success. These conferences and group inspections could not be so successful if it were not for all of our members.

Thank you to everyone for the outstanding work that you do.
A Positive Reflection on EAB

Scott Schirmer, IL, Emerald Ash Borer Program Manager

Reflecting upon the Emerald Ash Borer situation in Illinois: 2014 was definitely a disheartening year, but I can't say it was completely unexpected. Sixteen new counties were confirmed positive in this year alone, 7 of which were outside the established quarantine. Compare this figure to a total of 34 from when it was first detected in 2006 up to the end of 2013, and we had about a 50% increase in confirmed communities. It remains uncertain as to whether we have hit that arbitrary critical point in the infestation as a state. Perhaps the weather of 2012 and 2013 stressed the trees and contributed to increased vulnerability to EAB. Still perhaps, maybe the weather conditions have actually highlighted or accelerated existing EAB infestations making it more apparent earlier than expected. Nonetheless, with a 7 year average of around 5 new counties confirmed positive per year, seeing 16 in a single season sure seems significant.

As a whole, and rightfully so, the main perception of EAB has been dominantly negative, a “doom and gloom” scenario that has no positive anything associated with it, but dare I beg to differ? Considering the aforementioned, I think larger government has a tendency to focus, when it comes to EAB, on newly detected areas as well as areas where EAB has not been found. This makes sense in that their major objectives are detection surveys and subsequent regulations and quarantines; they have a state-level or national-level perspective. On top

South Dakota inspector honored at retirement

Dale Anderson, South Dakota Department of Agriculture

Nels Brosted retired on March 6, 2015 after working for the South Dakota Department (SDDA) of Agriculture as a Program Specialist in the Agricultural Services division. Nels attended a gathering in his honor at the SDDA all staff meeting in Pierre on April 1st. Governor Daugaard proclaimed April 1, 2015 as Nels Brosted Day in honor of his 27 years of service to the state of South Dakota.

Pictured (left to right) are Secretary of Agriculture Lucas Lentsch, Nels, and South Dakota Governor Dennis Daugaard.
of this, most, if not all, of the education and outreach efforts are executed in these same areas. This has a tendency to lend to the highly negative perspective; we’re primarily working in areas where people are expecting the worst, and we are helping them prepare for it.

However, the forest gets lost for the trees (pun intended) considering the local level back in the core area. Again, much of the focus remains on the devastation EAB will cause and how to prepare for this proactively in anticipation of its detection, and this happens out beyond the leading edge. Yet, communities have been battling EAB for years, and the management of this pest ultimately comes to rest on the shoulders of local governments. The impacts EAB will have become determined by the decisions made on the local level, within these communities, for better or worse. What seems to get lost are the success stories, or the stories of communities working their way through EAB and reaching an end or at least seeing an attainable one in the near future.

Going into 2015, some communities in Illinois have been battling EAB for 8 years now, but more fall into the 4-6 year range, so they have had time to make a difference -- and many have. Mike Collins, municipal forester for the Village of Riverside, sees EAB as a way to make lemonade from lemons. “EAB is challenging but not unmanageable. Ultimately, I see it as a great opportunity to diversify species on urban parkways in a short time frame. We are losing such a large percentage of our inventory and it’s nice to replace with many different species.” Riverside is a historic village with natural areas mixed in to the residential, and those areas have too been impacted by EAB. “Also, I have started a few woodland restoration projects along the Des Plaines River due to canopy openings created by the loss and removal of ash trees,” added Collins. Riverside was confirmed positive for EAB in September of 2010. After over four years, when asked if he saw an end near, Collins said, “I have about 300-400 ash left on inventory and it does feel nice to see the light at the end of the tunnel.”

Algonquin, a village located primarily in far southeast McHenry County, was confirmed a few years earlier. Steve Ludwig, General Services Superintendent for the Village, attributes early planning and communication as the key to success. “Algonquin was identified as infested in 2008. We did some great work in preparing our constituents early, and continued to do so often.” “We came up with Algonquin’s plan, not someone else’s plan for us.” The Village had 5022 community owned trees when EAB was first found. When asked to reflect upon the current situation and how the plan they developed worked, Ludwig had this profound perspective: “Today we have about 500 trees left to remove and around 2,000 to replace. As we head toward the more manageable end of our journey I would relate the following things: it’s a tragedy, but it further bonded an amazing team. It impacted our town dramatically, but cured our diversity problems. It taught us to breathe, to have great patience, to have compassion for others, and to really appreciate what we had, but more importantly, what we have. Instead of feeling overwhelmed, we chose to control the things we could very well. We are better people because of this tragedy, and by our commitment, we will leave this town a great legacy of an amazing, healthy, and diverse forest, as a gift from those of us who patiently dominated our EAB invasion.”

The Village of Wilmette in northern Cook County was the first incorporated community confirmed in Illinois, found one month after EAB was first detected in the state. Kevin Sorby, arborist for the Village, said “For 2014, Wilmette planted more trees than removed for the first time since 2006, the year we found the first EAB beetle within Cook County. There is a light at the end of the tunnel for those that actively manage EAB within their community.”

Continued on page 6
Sadie Todd, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship

At a recent conference, I attended a talk about the Purdue Plant Doctor apps. There are four apps available for trees, perennials, annuals, and tomatoes. The apps appear well designed and easy to use. I haven’t personally downloaded any as they are not free (although reasonably priced at $1.99 for the Tree Doctor and $0.99 for the others).

There are a lot of plant diagnosis apps out there. No matter how you feel about technology as a whole, it’s undeniable that apps have potential benefits. Whether you’re stumped on a set of symptoms, looking for photos, tracking pest detections, or some other purpose, there is likely an app out there designed to meet your needs.

If you have used any plant apps would like to contribute a review to the newsletter, please do so! I have downloaded a couple of the free ones, but not remembered to use them while in the field. I hope that this field season I’ll have a chance to try them out.

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**Asian Longhorned Beetle**

*Anoplophora glabripennis*

**Life Cycle and Damaging Stages:**

Adults emerge in the spring and mate after a couple days of feeding the bark of young twigs and on the tissue around the main veins of leaves. Adults lay eggs in small depressions they make by chewing on the bark. Eggs hatch within two weeks and begin feeding on tree vascular tissue. After a few weeks, the small larvae bore into the heartwood to feed until they reach nearly 1.5

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**Fire Blight**

*Erwinia amylovora*

**Management Suggestions:**

The use of resistant varieties is the only reasonable means of managing this problem in the urban landscape. Fireblight resistant cultivars are available for crabapple, flowering pear, firethorn, cotoneaster, flowering quince, hawthorn, and mountain-ash.

Planting susceptible cultivars in a location that provides more than six hours of sunlight per day, correct fertilization and adequate tree spacing will reduce the risk of infection. Prunino should only be performed in dry conditions.

**Effective Pesticide Active Ingredients:**

Copper salts, Streptomycin
A Positive Reflection on EAB (continued)

The Village of Homewood in southern Cook County decided to take action as soon as EAB was identified in Michigan in 2002, according to Jim Tresouthick, village arborist and supervisor of the landscape and maintenance division. This was partly due to Homewood's location near many transportation corridors, relative proximity to states with known infestations, and the fact that they were near many processors and manufacturers of ash material. These three facts increased the probability of an EAB introduction. Homewood ceased planting ash trees in 2002 and began systematically searching for EAB during regular tree maintenance while expanding communication locally and regionally, tabulating numbers for sound decision making, and researching management methods. Homewood found EAB in November of 2007 and implemented their plan in the spring of 2008. After examining all aspects of management and cost, it was determined not to treat, but rather put resources and efforts toward removal and replacement diversification. From November 2008 until the last tree was cut in 2013, more than 2,500 ash trees were removed. Re-estoration of these lost trees is still ongoing, but more remarkable is the diversification achieved in these removals. Depending upon stock availability and quality from year to year, Tresouthick was able to replant 29 to 58 different species of trees to fill the void left behind from the ash. This will pay dividends in not only an interesting and unique urban forest, but will also prevent major impacts from future invasives. Again, there is a silver lining in the ability to diversify as a result of EAB, and Homewood is a shining example of preparing and having a plan, executing that plan, and coming out of the storm.

The overall sentiment of EAB continues to be one of overwhelming devastation, destruction, and hopelessness, and I think this is mostly due to an unexpected outcome and the anticipation of loss. Perhaps it's time to try and look at it from a different perspective. Take it from the folks that have been there and done that, that looked it in the eye, stood strong, and battled it best they could to make their way through it, and arguably came out ahead in doing so. There is a light at the end of the tunnel, and it can be very bright.

Note from the editor

Many thanks to those who submitted contributions to this issue. Please don’t hesitate to contribute articles, photos, stories, or ideas for the newsletter! I would like to get newsletters out on a regular, quarterly basis. I’m counting on you all to provide me with content.

Any interesting stories or ideas from the field season are welcome!

Submissions may be sent to Sadie.Todd@IowaAgriculture.gov or sadielunatodd@yahoo.com. Thank you!