



Horticultural Inspection Society Central States Chapter

Making Professionalism a Part of Every Effort

Volume 36, Number 1

March 2006

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PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Julie Van Meter – HIS – Central States Chapter President
Nebraska Department of Agriculture

35th Annual HIS Meeting in Nebraska City was a great success!

We had a great turn out for the 2006 HIS Meeting, held in Nebraska City this past October. All 12 states in the Central Chapter sent staff, which resulted in 45 attendees at the meeting. I hope all of you that attended had a great time, learned valuable information, and enjoyed the Lied Lodge. I invite all of you to come to the HIS meeting in Michigan in 2006, and recruit other inspectors and survey coordinators from your states to come, too.



As always, we listened to excellent speakers cover a variety of topics during
2005 Meeting Summary continued on page 2

MARK YOUR CALENDERS FOR THE 2006 CENTRAL CHAPTER MEETING IN MICHIGAN

John Bock - HIS Central Chapter Vice President
Michigan Department of Agriculture

Plan to attend the upcoming meeting of the Central Chapter of H.I.S., hosted by the Michigan Department of Agriculture, October 16th- 19th, at Brook Lodge Hotel and Conference Center in Augusta, Michigan.

Brook Lodge is located in the countryside north of Interstate 94 between Battle Creek and Kalamazoo. Visitors to the conference center may not notice or fully appreciate the vast tract of property that makes up Brook

Mark Your Calendars continued on page 6

MEMBER STATES

Illinois,
Indiana,
Iowa,
Kansas,
Michigan,
Minnesota,
Missouri,
Nebraska,
North Dakota,
Ohio,
South Dakota,
Wisconsin



Master diagnosticians, Bruce Cummings and Chuck Stoltenow compare notes during the plant pest challenge.

We accomplished a lot at the business meeting this year. We discussed putting the HIS Manual on CD, instead of printing copies. It was decided that Bill Hilbert, would look into this. Based on Bill's recommendations, the Executive Committee later voted to offer the HIS Manual on CD. Bill has agreed to continue to handle the sales. A great deal of discussion revolved around a resolution to regulate the use of the HIS list-serve. After much discussion, the resolution was tabled until it could be further discussed.

the meeting. Dr. Tom Powers, UNL Nematologist, showed all of us that, yes, even nematodes can be fascinating. Chelsey Wasem, UNL Graduate student, provided the latest information in her ongoing research related to the use of auto-inoculators to distribute *Metarhizium anisopliae* spores for the control of Japanese beetles. After the presentation on Methamphetamine Awareness, by Sergeant Mark Kula, Nebraska State Patrol, most of us will never look at the motel shower or coffee pot in the same way again. While this topic was not a typical HIS presentation, I think we will all be more aware of our surroundings. I would like to thank those HIS members who presented during the meeting, including Larry Hanning, Ken Cote, and Rick Davis. Your contributions were greatly appreciated. Several members also provided instruction, and entertainment, through slides and samples in the hospitality room.

Several business items were forwarded on to Central Plant Board (CPB) for their consideration. HIS asked CPB to support the Japanese Beetle (JB) treatment option presented by Ken Cote, and pursue adding it to the list of acceptable JB treat-

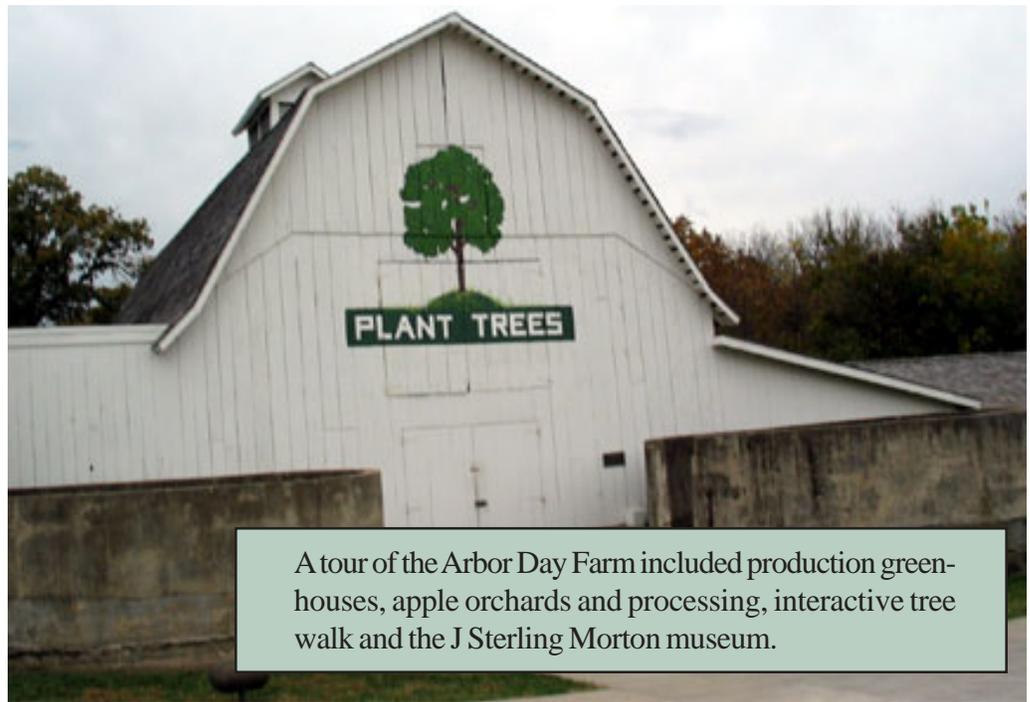


Dr. Loren Giesler (right), Professor of Plant Pathology, with the University of Nebraska, Lincoln provides a tour of Nebraska's mobile plant diagnostic laboratory to Ryan Krull and Larry Hanning.

ments in the JB Harmonization Plan. CPB was supportive of this JB treatment, and will forward it on to the National Plant Board (NPB) JB Harmonization/Treatment Committee for review. Resolution #4 from the 2004 HIS meeting, dealing with the inspection of foreign plant material, was resubmitted to CPB. You might remember that this resolution came about as part of a discussion on viruses and nematodes in perennials. CPB supports the concept of the resolution, and is currently working on a final version to send to NPB.

CPB was also made aware of a concern about the distribution of “Red Gnome” dogwood, a cultivar that may be the result of a mycoplasma infection. This discussion was largely due to a posting on the HIS list-serve. There was agreement within the CPB that an infected/infested plant was not desirable in the trade, but that there wasn’t enough specific information available on this particular situation for the CPB to take action. Tom Harrison, State Plant Regulatory Officer for Ohio, will continue to look into the situation. Scott Kinzie, Past President of HIS, had sent a letter to the CPB President in 2004, outlining additional concerns related to lack of timely inspections in some states and the need for all states to participate in HIS. This letter was well received by CPB, and I believe that this directly led to the increase in attendees at the 2005 meeting.

Our HIS chapter was proud to announce that one of our members, Lee Burgess, Missouri, received the Carl Carlson Award from the National Plant Board (NPB) in 2005. Lee had won the Robert McAdams Award from HIS in 2004, and his name was forwarded on to CPB, which then nominated him for the Carl Carlson Award. Each of the four Plant Boards in the U.S. forwards a nominee for this award to NPB. Because of Lee’s hard work and dedication as an inspector, he received a great deal of support from his coworkers and individuals in the



A tour of the Arbor Day Farm included production greenhouses, apple orchards and processing, interactive tree walk and the J Sterling Morton museum.

nursery industry. Many people contributed letters of recommendation that were included with his nomination. Congratulations Lee, on winning this national award!

Steven Shimek, Minnesota, was the winner of the 2005 Robert McAdams Award. His name was also forwarded on the CPB, who has selected Steve as the CPB nominee for the Carl Carlson Award. The NPB will consider all nominations and select a winner, to be announced at the August NPB meeting. Good luck Steve!

Several states have experienced significant turnover in inspection staff in the last few years. Retirements and budget constraints have led some states to work with reduced numbers of inspectors. Yet each year new pests emerge as threats to plants all across the U.S. The annual HIS meeting is one of the best ways to continue to educate ourselves about pest issues. This is the opportunity for continuing education for inspectors and survey coordinators in the central states. We are able to share insights and experiences with one another, and meet colleagues in other states. The experience is invaluable. So, hope to see you all in Michigan in October.

ALTERNATIVE METHOD TO DIPPING FOR TREATMENT OF JAPANESE BEETLE GRUBS

Management of Japanese beetle grubs *Popillia japonica* can be a difficult task. Proper management of a 'weed free zone' immediately adjacent to trees is important in preventing adult egg laying and subsequent grub infestations in the later part of the growing season. Japanese beetle adults prefer to lay their eggs in grasses that are approximately 6 inches tall. Vegetation of this type combined with ample soil moisture during adult flight creates an environment in which there is a high probability of future grub infestation. Often these situations require growers to implement rescue treatments in order to meet requirements set forth by the Japanese Beetle Harmonization Plan. Chemicals such as halofenozide (Mach 2), imidacloprid (Merit) and imidacloprid + cyfluthrin (Discus) are effective tools for management of this pest in a preventative manner. These products must be applied in late June prior to adult emergence and they are not effective a killing large, established populations of grubs. The only product that will provide effective rescue treatments in a field situation is Dylox.

Japanese beetle populations were very large in Indiana during the 2005 growing season. There was ample rainfall during adult flight which created ideal conditions for egg laying and made it difficult for growers to maintain 'weed free zones'. The later part of summer and early fall became very dry in Indiana. Despite dry conditions during our 2005 inspection we found numerous grubs while inspecting a large nursery. Nearly 90% of the nursery failed inspection and could not ship plant material to states uninfested with Japanese beetles. The efficacy of field applications of Dylox was questionable in this situation because of the high grub population and lack of adequate rainfall that is needed to move the product into the soil toward the target pest.

The grower was faced with a situation in which all root balls being shipped to category 2 states would need to be treated with chlorpyrifos by dipping. However, the grower was not equipped to dip root balls and had to complete all treatments before soil temperatures dropped below 50 F and grubs move further into the soil. Root ball dipping is very labor intensive and costly. Often there are special environmental requirements for treatment sites and there is a risk of phytotoxicity. Root balls also become extremely fragile and are difficult to handle once they have been dipped. This led the grower to seek an alternative method for delivering pesticide to the grubs and to utilize the alternative Tree Ring™ method.

The Tree Ring™ method utilizes a product that is similar to a Tree Gator. It is a plastic tub that has a 20-gallon capacity and small holes in the bottom of it. The tub fits around the base of the tree and allows the water to slowly drain and saturate the soil around the tree. Tree Rings™ are placed around trees and a small amount of soil is piled around the Tree Ring™ to create a well. This well is designed to keep the liquid from spreading out and concentrate the flow of product downward in the soil. The system utilizes Dylox 80 TO at the turf rate of 3.75 oz. per 1000



Tree Ring™ with well. Confirmed deep product penetration

square feet and essentially replaces the need for irrigation or rainfall to move product down to where grubs are present. It also appears to be more efficient than heavy rain which can spread product along the ground before downward movement occurs. Tree Rings™ take approximately 2 hours to drain and trees can be dug 48 hours after application.

The calibration of equipment is not easy and it will most likely require a microbalance to properly measure out the product. Each Tree Ring™ with a well around is treating approximately 10 square feet. This means that each tree ring needs 15 gallons of water with 0.0375 oz. of product diluted in it. This is accomplished by mixing large tanks with the appropriate amount of product. The tanks are taken to the field and each Tree Ring™ is filled with 15 gallons of mix. The concentration of Dylox seems very low, but according to Bayer Corporation, Dylox is very effective even at low concentrations. According to the manufacturer, Dylox 6.2G applied at a label rate of 2-3 lbs per 1000Ft.² has been shown to kill grubs down to 12 inches in the soil. This is actually less product than is being delivered with the Tree Ring system using Dylox 80 TO.

The Japanese Beetle Harmonization Plan has not yet officially adopted this method, but it does show promise. It is not necessarily a process that a grower would want to plan on performing every fall. Although it does not require a lot of product, this system still requires a great deal of labor to implement. The grower estimated that it cost their company well over 100,000 dollars to treat their nursery, but it provided them with an option that would allow for effective treatment despite the unfavorable environmental conditions for ordinary field treatments of Dylox. Many states are interested in the method and some have accepted it as a treatment method. However, more research may be necessary to determine how soil type and moisture level will affect the results of such applications.

Kenneth W. Cote,
Indiana DNR,
Division of Entomology
and Plant Pathology.
February 2006



Confirmed deep product penetration

Editors Note:

Sorry for the delay in getting this issue out to the membership. What started out in January as the winter issue became the Spring issue became the Summer issue. Please share your talent and keep your articles coming for use in the next issue.

Compliments can be forwarded to me at: steven.shimek@state.mn.us, criticism is welcome but must be accompanied by a contribution including text and pictures for an article to appear in the next issue.

Lodge Hotel & Conference Resort - 637 acres, of which forty are maintained for the enjoyment of guests. Space not used by guests is leased to the adjacent Sherman Lake YMCA and Kellogg Forest, which is maintained by Michigan State University.

This property once belonged to Dr. W. E. Upjohn (Will) founder of The Upjohn Company. Brook Lodge offers eight fully appointed cottages. Each cottage is decorated in a relaxed, tasteful country style, including a comfortable living room with sofa, lounge chairs and cable TV/VCR. Private bedrooms are furnished with desks, data port phones, voice mail and coffee makers. Smoking and nonsmoking rooms are available.

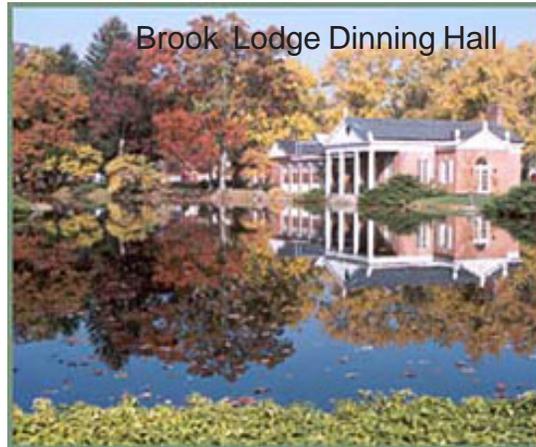
Recreational activities include: a tennis court, putting green and driving range, basketball and volleyball courts, bicycling, nature and jogging trails. Nearby is Kalamazoo Nature Center, seven golf courses within 5 minutes driving distance, cruises on Gull Lake, and the YMCA Sherman Outdoor Center.

Visit <http://www.hfs.msu.edu/brooklodge/index.html> for more information on the Brook Lodge and Conference Center.

A wide variety of speakers and topics are planned for the agenda again this year. While we are still putting together the speaker roster, following are a few of the speakers / topics we have lined up.

Speakers include our very own Ken Rauscher, Division Director of our Pesticide and Plant Pest Management Division. He will welcome H.I.S. Central Chapter to Michigan and highlight the activities within our Division. Ken is also the current President of the National Plant

Board and will give us an update and future direction of this organization as well.



Brook Lodge Dinning Hall

Mike Philip is our State Survey (CAPS) Coordinator – topic to be determined. Mike is a very enthusiastic and entertaining speaker.

Deb McCullough is a Forest Entomologist and Associate Professor in the Departments of Entomology and Forestry at Michigan State University. Deb is a knowledgeable and gifted speaker who is always in demand. Deb will be giving us an

update on Emerald Ash Borer in Michigan (we are working on a possible Emerald Ash Borer tour as well)

Haddish Melakeberhan is an Associate Professor of Nematology in the Entomology Department at Michigan State University. Topic to be determined.

As always, there will be time for state reports and discussion of inspector concerns. There will also be time for State Survey Coordinators to meet together to discuss survey issues in their states. A hospitality room will be open in the evenings, for food and fun. Bring slides/PowerPoint presentations/samples of things seen in the field, and share your finds with the rest of us.



Brook Lodge Grounds

While the agenda is not complete as of this Newsletter, we can assure you of a delightful stay at Brook Lodge in October along with a host of speakers and topics that will not only hold your attention but will give you something to take home with you.

We look forward to seeing all of you at the 2006 HIS meeting!