



# Horticultural

## INSPECTION SOCIETY

### CENTRAL CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

Volume 43, Number 1  
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#### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Nanette Kalscheur – HIS Central Chapter President  
Illinois Department of Agriculture

The start of 2014 has been challenging with its extreme cold temperatures, above average snowfall and harsh winds. The sub-zero temperatures and severe wind chill will likely result in winter injury to boxwood, roses and rhododendron in this year's nursery fields with other species requiring pruning back to the snow line. Despite our complaints about the snow, we are thankful for its insulating properties and the precipitation it will provide as the snow melts. Hopefully, the spring melt will be slow enough to recharge the ground water gradually, versus a sudden warm up causing flooding, soil erosion and delayed entry into the nursery fields.

In Illinois the snow started early last year with our first flakes appearing during the 43rd HIS Central Chapter conference in October. The two-day conference was held at The Morton Arboretum in Lisle, IL and drew 42 attendees from 10 states including Jeff Brothers, President of the HIS Eastern Chapter. Presentations included: canker diseases of trees, viruses of greenhouse plants, scale pests and their control, along with numerous other topics. The outdoor diagnostic session was led by Stephanie Adams (Pathologist) and Sharon Yiesla (Plant Clinic Specialist), of The Morton Arboretum. Despite the unseasonably cold temperatures, attendees bundled up and enthusiastically accompanied Stephanie and Sharon in examining foliar nematodes on Brunnera, Seridium canker on Leland Cypress, Phytophthora root rot in the dwarf conifer collection and Sycamore anthracnose on Bloodgood Planetree (supposedly resistant).

The State reports presented revealed a universal trend that the numbers and acreage of nurseries is decreasing, with sod and Christmas tree farms declining the most. After the burst of the housing bubble in 2008 many sod farms changed significant portions of their acreage over to corn and soybeans, with many farms getting out of the sod business entirely. Christmas tree growers are feeling the squeeze created by competition from big box stores that are selling inexpensive trees as well as the

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**Making Professionalism a Part of Every Effort**



You are invited to the

44th Central Chapter Horticultural  
Inspection Society (H.I.S.) Meeting  
Monday, October 20th through Thursday, October 23rd  
Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, Chaska, Minnesota

Plan to attend the upcoming meeting of the Central Chapter of H.I.S., hosted by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum in Chaska.

The Minnesota Landscape Arboretum is a collection of trees, gardens, prairies and woods with extensive collections of northern-hardy plants on 1,100 plus acres. The Arboretum was first established by the University Of Minnesota Horticultural Research Center in 1958 and is under the leadership of Dr. Edward Schneider.

A wide variety of speakers and topics are planned for the agenda this year, including a focus on Minnesota plant breeders. While we are still putting together the speaker roster, here are a few of the speakers / topics we have lined up thus far.

Our Very own Division Director and National Plant Board President, Geir Friisoe will highlight activities within our Division and discuss National Plant Board future directions including SANC.

Mark Abrahamson an Entomologist with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture will give an update on Emerald Ash Borer in Minnesota including cold hardiness for this pest.

In keeping consistent with our expected forum, state reports and discussion of inspector concerns will be covered. A hospitality room will be available for social gathering, food, beverages and photos so bring samples for the rest of us to share.

We are looking forward to seeing all of you at the 2014 HIS conference!

Josh Plunkett (Vice President, H.I.S. Central Chapter)

# UNDERSTANDING AND MANAGING GOUTY OAK GALL

WILLIAM R. MCADAMS  
MCADAMS CONSULTING, INC.

To begin with, the common name, gouty oak gall has not been officially confirmed by taxonomists. Much confusion surrounds the identity of this pest, but it does appear to be closely related to the horned oak gall common to the eastern United States. However, the gall pest described in this article “does not” construct horns characteristic of the horned oak gall. In the literature, the closest description of the pest was identified as gouty oak gall, *Plagiotrochus punctatus*. (Plant Galls and Gall



**Figure 1: Gouty Oak Gall – Second generation stem galls which pass through the winter**



**Figure 2: Adult wasps in stem galls during early spring (March).**

Makers, Ephraim Porter Felt, D.Sc. Hafner Publishing Company, New York and London. 1965 Reprint. 363 pages.)

The gouty oak gall is caused by a small, black wasp which is in the Calcididae family. It attacks trees of the white oak group, primarily swamp white oak, and will also infest, but is not limited to sawtooth oak and regal prince oak cultivars. Leaf and stem galls disfigure infested tree canopies making them unsightly. The damage is more of an aesthetic issue rather than a vitality problem. The gouty oak gall has two generations per year. One generation is primarily developed within “leaf galls” and the second generation is primarily developed within “stem galls”.

The adult wasp over-winters within stem galls present on the oak host. During the early spring (April), as the leaf buds of the swamp white oak swell, the adult wasps emerge and infest the emerging leaf tissues of the susceptible oak species. Contact insecticide treatments are applied to control the adult wasps when the swamp oak leaf buds are between ¼” to ½” in length. This first adult treatment period is typically a short period of time, lasting for about a week. However, if a cold front comes through during this period of adult activity, the treatment period may need to be extended due to developmental suppression. In any event, when the swamp oak leaf bud reaches about ¾” in length, it is too late; the new tissues are already infested and adult treatments become futile.



**Figure 3: Gouty Oak Gall – Adult wasps emerge from stem galls during early spring (April)**

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The first generation larvae primarily develop within expanding leaf tissues and form leaf galls. Leaf galls are about  $\frac{3}{4}$ " in diameter and have a characteristic globe shape. By the time *Spiraea vanhouttei* is in bloom (May), most of the first generation leaf galls are "well" developed. First generation wasp adults begin to emerge from the leaf galls when *Catalpa* and *Syringa reticulata* are in bloom (June). This adult emergence will last from about 4-6 weeks. During this time period contact insecticides can be successfully applied. At this time, it is primarily the stem tissues of the susceptible oak which are infested. Second generation larvae develop within the stem galls (July and August). Second generation adult wasps are predominantly present during the fall (October). Sometimes second generation larvae will enter into the dormant season, but primarily it is the adult stage wasp which passes through the winter months. When the leaf bud tissues of the swamp white oak begin to expand during the spring (April), the adult wasp emerges to continue the cycle.

Gouty oak gall is not a new pest to the Midwest. In the state of Illinois, for example, it was commonly present primarily in the central and southern regions of the state. In the northern part of Illinois it was present, but only as infrequent spot infestations. However, in recent years, since the dawn of the emerald ash borer crisis, susceptible white oak species have been being planted in large numbers in the northern Illinois. This has allowed for the introduction and establishment of the gouty oak gall in many nursery production fields. Infestations have now become fairly typical in many upper Midwest nurseries, not only in northern Illinois, but also in Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin and etc. Gouty oak gall can be successfully managed. One of the best ways it can be managed is to trim out and dispose of active stem galls during the dormant months. For commercial, municipal, and residential sites, translaminar insecticides



**Figure 4: Gouty Oak Gall – Adult wasps are emerging when swamp white oak buds are in early development (April). Cercis bloom buds prominent but not open yet. Also Amelanchier and Pyrus are in bloom. Emergence may last from about 1 week up to 3 weeks depending on temperature exposure.**

**Figure 5: Gouty Oak Gall – Second generation develops within leaf galls (May)**



might be applied via soil drenches or soil injections for additional control results. However, the best control results can be provided by production nurseries. By trimming out active stem galls during the dormant months, treating with contact insecticides during adult wasp activity periods, and by protecting the new oak growth with foliar translaminar applications.... nurseries can achieve very high levels of control, if not eradication.



**Figure 6: Second generation leaf galls (May)**



**Figure 7: Second generation adults begin to emerge (May)**



**Figure 8: Second generation stem galls develop (July/August)**



**Figure 9: Second generation stem galls develop (July/August)**

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Oak trees are a very important part of our landscape. Replacing ash trees with oak trees does make sense, if the oak are planted in suitable site conditions and in moderation. Overplanting any one species of tree is a mistake which should be avoided.

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE HORTICULTURAL INSPECTION SOCIETY (H.I.S.),  
CENTRAL CHAPTER, 43rd ANNUAL IN-SERVICE TRAINING BUSINESS MEETING

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2013 Lisle, Illinois

President Bob Buhler, Kansas, called the 2013 business meeting to order at 8:12 a.m.

Roll call was conducted by Secretary John Bock, Michigan.

States present: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, North Dakota, and Wisconsin.

States not present: Nebraska, Ohio and South Dakota

Minutes from the 2012 H.I.S. business meeting were made available at the meeting and beforehand.

A motion was made by Nanette Kalscheur, Illinois to accept the minutes from 2012 as presented. Julia Thompson, Missouri seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The 2013 Treasurer's Report was presented by Susan Ehlenbeck, Missouri Acting Treasurer standing in for absent Treasurer, Sarah Phipps, Missouri and submitted to Secretary, John Bock, Michigan (see attached report). Current balance is \$32,931.38.

A motion was made by Deb Hudak, Minnesota to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Todd Voss, Iowa seconded the motion. Motion carried.

## OLD BUSINESS

### H.I.S. CENTRAL CHAPTER MULTI-STATE NURSERY INSPECTION IN KANSAS

Bob Buhler presented a video presentation. The multi-state inspection was held in Ottawa, Kansas August 19th through 20th. Inspectors from Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, South Dakota, North Dakota, Wisconsin and California attended. It was nice to have California present to get a different perspective on doing inspections. SANC training was done with a grower. Several presentations were done by Kansas State professors. The multi-state inspection incorporated the Incident Command System model as part of the training.

### H.I.S. CENTRAL CHAPTER INSPECTOR'S MANUAL UPDATE

Susan Ehlenbeck reported on sales (see attached 2013 Treasurer's report for details). We presently have 28 manuals printed and available for sale (\$65.00). Manuals are available to sell outside of H.I.S. (growers, foresters, pesticide applicators, etc.).

Todd Voss, Iowa thanked Bob Buhler, Kansas for his help as assistant editor for the manual. Julia Thompson, Missouri is going to take over as assistant editor for the manual. Jared Spokowsky, Indiana volunteered to revise and update the entry for Sirex Wood Wasp. Boxwood Blight and TCD articles have been updated and added to the new manual for the next printing.

Nanette Kalscheur, Illinois asked what was in place for inspectors to get copies of these new updates. Todd Voss, Iowa will put the updated articles on the listserve in a PDF format. This is a good incentive for people to be H.I.S. Central Chapter members and to join the listserve to have access to these new manual articles.

### ROBERT MCADAMS AWARD NOMINATION/CARL CARLSON AWARD

Bill McAdams, Iowa, son of Robert McAdams talked about the founding of the Robert McAdams award. He presented the 2012 Robert McAdams Award to award winner John Bock, Michigan.

Secretary John Bock, Michigan called for any final nominations from the floor for the Robert McAdams Award. With none being nominated from the floor, the two nominations that were received earlier were presented by John Bock, Michigan. The two nominees were Ryan Krull, Iowa and Jim Senechalle, Illinois. By written ballot, Ryan Krull of Iowa was selected as the 2013 Robert McAdams Award Recipient.

Ryan's name will be forwarded to the CPB Awards Committee Chair as our suggested nominee for the Carl E. Carlson Distinguished Achievement Award in Regulatory Plant Protection.

Carl Carlson was a SPRO for Iowa and was killed in 1992. The award given in his honor is a National

Plant Board Award. Carl was very good about introducing new inspectors to inspection work. Each of the four H.I.S. Chapters recommends a nominee to their Regional Plant Board. Each Regional Plant Board will then consider the H.I.S. nominee along with any other nominees from within their region and will select a single nominee to forward to the National Plant Board for consideration. The National Plant Board will then select the Carl E. Carlson Award winner from this slate of Regional Plant Board nominees.

Our very own Susan Ehlenbeck, Missouri received the Carl E. Carlson Award for 2013.

## CENTRAL PLANT BOARD (CPB) 88th ANNUAL MEETING REPORT, MANHATTAN, KANSAS, 2013

President, Bob Buhler, Kansas reported that he attended the Central Plant Board meeting on April 30th in Manhattan, Kansas. He gave a presentation about H.I.S. Central Chapter's accomplishments and plans for the future. The SPROS were very positive about the organization in general, and commented that they like the changes that were made to the substance and description of our meeting agendas as exemplified in this year's annual conference agenda.

Bob encouraged members to thank their SPRO for allowing them to attend. Bob sent out a thank you note after the meeting in Kansas to all the SPROS for allowing their inspectors to come to the meeting. It was suggested that as a matter of policy the incoming President may want to do that after every annual meeting going forward.

Susan Ehlenbeck, Missouri, encouraged members to write up a little summary report of their H.I.S. Annual Conference attendance to share with their SPRO and fellow inspectors who were unable to attend. Bill McAdams encouraged members to put detail into these reports, to make them more meaningful to the SPRO and those higher up in the hierarchy.

Bob attended the Western Chapter annual meeting in Helena, Montana. They had SANC training for four hours one of the mornings. They combine their multi-state inspection with their annual meeting. Nurseries are very small in Montana 5-10 acres with most nursery stock being brought in. Biggest concern was Japanese beetle from Midwest states. It was good for them to have someone from a state that had Japanese beetle. Bob talked with an inspector in Colorado about their Japanese beetle protocol. Colorado doesn't seem to understand much about what states with Japanese beetle are doing to protect their stock that is going to Category 1 and 2 states. EAB has them very concerned. 50% of trees in Helena are green ash. No slide slows or evening presentations like we have in the Central Chapter.

The 89th Central Plant Board meeting in 2014 will be May 4th through 8th in Rapid City, South Dakota. Charles Elhard, North Dakota will be attending this meeting on behalf of H.I.S. Central Chapter.

## NEWSLETTER

Editor Steven Shimek asked that people send any pictures from the current meeting or other pictures of interest for our group. He also asked that members send in articles for the newsletter. Steven will continue in the role of Newsletter Editor, since no one else has come forward to do it at this time. He is going to try and get two newsletters published this year. He reminded everyone (and Nanette) that the first page of the Newsletter is the President's message – usually a recap of the previous year's annual meeting.

Bill McAdams expressed that being the Newsletter Editor is a great experience (he was the Newsletter Editor for three years when he first joined H.I.S.). He indicated that he learned a lot about the organization, Central Plant Board, how the different state's inspectors operate and so much more. He highly recommends the position.

## HONORARY MEMBERS

Secretary John Bock, Michigan read the requirements for honorary membership from the H.I.S. Central Chapter Constitution. No Honorary Members were put forth at this time.

## 2014 MULTI-STATE GROUP INSPECTION

Nanette Kalscheur, Illinois proposed that Illinois would host the 2014 multi-state inspection. They have a 1,400 acre nursery (Kankakee Nursery) that is interested in participating. Hotels in the area would be relatively inexpensive. There is a wide variety of plant material in this area of Illinois. The firm has a Boxwood Blight compliance agreement in place already.

Susan Ehlenbeck, Missouri recommended two other ideas. Nebraska was willing to look into hosting the

multi-state inspection. Blue Bird nursery is a large perennial grower in Nebraska that may be available. It has been brought up by other chapters that they might be interested in doing a combined inspection.

Kathy Sharpe – Kankakee, Illinois is a beautiful setting, lots of unique plants and terrain, good restaurants.

Bill McAdams stated that Kankakee area would have lots of pests available to find.

Bob Buhler, Kansas asked if some training could be incorporated into the multi-state inspection.

Susan Ehlenbeck, Missouri – Comments on evaluations of last year's multi-state inspection, which recommended not so much classroom training. Participants would like more field work training.

Jared Spokowsky, Indiana – A group inspection he was a part of in the H.I.S. Eastern Chapter had Margery Dougherty for hands on training in the field.

Susan Ehlenbeck, Missouri – we have \$7,200 to work with for interstate inspections. Susan had a conversation with Ken Rauscher about possibly getting reimbursement for travel using SANC money.

The end of July or early August was suggested as the best timing for the multi-state inspection.

Sponsorship for bringing speakers in is a possibility, but has to be done very carefully to avoid conflict of interest concerns.

## NEW BUSINESS

### AUDIT COMMITTEE

The 2013 Audit Committee was comprised of Deb Hudak, Minnesota; Dan Connelly, Illinois and Jeremy Maples, Kansas. The committee reported that the books were balanced, well maintained, organized, clear and easy to understand. The Audit Committee thanks Bob Buhler of Kansas for leading them through the process and a special thanks to Susan Ehlenbeck of Missouri for her work as Acting Treasurer and Sarah Phipps of Missouri for her work as Treasurer for the 2013 calendar year.

A motion was made by Nanette Kalscheur, Illinois to accept the Audit Committee report as presented. Charles Elhard, North Dakota seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

There were no concerns presented for Constitutional Review, subsequently no committee was convened.

### MEMBERSHIP

No membership committee was convened. Todd Voss, Iowa spoke about the work the Vice President from the hosting state puts in to set up the annual conference and make it work. Nanette Kalscheur, Illinois pointed out that the hosting state (Department of Agriculture) also pays for the time of the Vice President and possibly other aspects of hosting the meeting.

A motion was made by Todd Voss, Iowa – Since the Vice President is from the hosting state and is responsible for the planning and implementation of the annual meeting be it moved that the Vice President's annual meeting registration fee be waived for this meeting and all future annual meetings as a token of appreciation from the H.I.S. Central Chapter. William VanWassenhove, Illinois seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE AND 2012 HOST STATE

The 2013 Nominations Committee consisted of Laurinda Ramonda, Kansas; Christel Zillmer, Wisconsin and Kathy Sharpe, Illinois. The committee presented the following list of suggested officers for 2013:

President:	Nanette Kalscheur, Illinois
Vice President:	Josh Plunkett, Minnesota
Secretary:	John Bock, Michigan
Treasurer:	Charles Elhard, North Dakota

Newsletter Editor: Steven Shimek, Minnesota

Non-Executive Committee Volunteers:

H.I.S. Central Chapter Manual Editor – Todd Voss, Iowa

H.I.S. Central Chapter Manual Assistant Editor - Julia Thompson, Missouri

H.I.S. Central Chapter Manual Sales – Sarah Phipps, Missouri

H.I.S. Central Chapter Webmaster – Todd Voss, Iowa

Julia Thompson, Missouri made a motion to accept the nominations of officers and volunteers as presented by the committee for 2014. Dan Connelly, Illinois seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Minnesota will be the 2014 host state. Dates of meeting will be October 20th through 23rd.

## RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

The 2013 Resolutions Committee was comprised of Charles Elhard, North Dakota; Jennifer Smith, Kansas and Robert Phillips, Missouri. The following resolutions were presented:

### Resolution #1

Whereas, the 43rd annual in service training of the Horticultural Inspection Society, Central Chapter was held in Lisle, Illinois on the 21st through the 24th of October,  
And whereas, the meeting was hosted by the Illinois Department of Agriculture, that graciously provided a hospitality room for the meeting,  
And whereas, the meeting accommodations and program were of excellent quality,  
Therefore, be it resolved that the Horticultural Inspection Society, Central Chapter, wishes to express its appreciation and sincere thanks to Nanette Kalscheur for coordinating the meeting and all other Illinois Department of Agriculture staff for making the 43rd meeting a success.

### Resolution # 2

Whereas, the 43rd annual in service training of the Horticultural Inspection Society, Central Chapter was held in Lisle, Illinois on the 21st through the 24th of October,  
And whereas, the National Plant Board provided the funding for the Horticultural Inspection Society, Central Chapter, interstate inspection,  
And whereas, the National Plant Board provided the funding for the travel of Horticultural Inspection Society, Central Chapter, members to attend the meetings of other HIS chapters,  
Therefore, be it resolved that the Horticultural Inspection Society, Central Chapter wishes to express its appreciation and sincere thanks to the National Plant Board for their support of the continuing education and training of our horticultural inspectors.

### Resolution # 3

Whereas, the 43rd annual in service training of the Horticultural Inspection Society, Central Chapter was held in Lisle, Illinois on the 21st through the 24th of October,  
And whereas, the National Plant Board selected Susan Ehlenbeck as the recipient of the Carl E. Carlson Award,  
Therefore, be it resolved that the Horticultural Inspection Society, Central Chapter wishes to congratulate and recognize Susan Ehlenbeck and thank her for her honorable representation of the Central Chapter.

A motion was made by Nanette Kalscheur, Illinois to accept the resolutions as presented by the Resolutions Committee. Catherine Smith, Missouri seconded the motion. Motion carried.

## OTHER BUSINESS

President, Bob Buhler, Kansas thanked Vice President, Nanette Kalscheur and the Illinois Department of Agriculture for putting on a great conference.

President Bob Buhler, Kansas handed off the gavel to new HIS Central Chapter President, Nanette Kalscheur, Illinois.



I'm pleased to announce that the HIS Central Chapter website was updated this winter with a new page design. Hopefully the new design will make it easier for people to find our website online, and to also find various information for events scheduled within our chapter. Some of the new things that were added to the design are links to each state's agency and a photo gallery. The links were added as a convenience for our members to find contact information between central chapter states, and the photo gallery is something where members can have pictures posted from interstate inspections or other interesting items or concerns found in the field.

In addition to the new items added to our webpage, members can still find information for meetings and interstate inspections, the tentative schedule for states to host meetings, as well as contact information for our current officers and order forms for inspector references such as *Coincide* by Don Orton and the central chapter's inspection manual.

I encourage people to take a look at our new website, and contact me if they would like to add pictures to our photo gallery, or to include information of upcoming events.

Todd Voss; Tel# 515.306.0895; [todd.voss@mchsi.com](mailto:todd.voss@mchsi.com)

The website can be found online using the search terms "HIS Central Chapter" or by using <http://nationalplantboard.org/hiscc/>

Todd Voss - Iowa

The Horticultural Inspection Society - Central States chapter includes state plant pest regulatory officials from:

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

Newsletter editor - Steven Shimek,  
Minnesota Department of Agriculture.  
[steven.shimek@state.mn.us](mailto:steven.shimek@state.mn.us)

improved appearance and growing acceptance of artificial trees. As with sod farms, Christmas tree growers are looking at the value of their land and choosing to grow other crops that can be harvested annually versus the longer term commitment of Christmas trees.

The Central Chapter reported a wide variety of pests and disease findings for 2013, with aphids, flatheaded apple tree borers, Zimmerman Pine moth, Fletcher and pine needle scale leading the list of insect pests. Anthracnose, powdery mildew, rust and various viruses were the most commonly reported diseases, with many inspectors expressing concern about the number of new viruses appearing every year.

On the last night of the HIS conference, attendees were treated to several types of Chicago-style pizza at Connie's Pizza; where deep dish, stuffed, pan and thin crust pizzas were served by a warm fireplace.

Thinking ahead to warmer days, Illinois is planning to host the 2014 Interstate inspection this summer; although the exact dates have not been set, a location has been arranged. Kankakee Nursery in Aroma Park, IL is one of Illinois' premier growers of wholesale nursery stock with over 1,200 acres of trees, shrubs, containers and an extensive pot-in-pot program. Aroma Park is located approximately 60 miles south of Chicago and is easily accessible via Interstate highway 57. Details for the summer interstate inspection program will be posted to the HIS web site so be sure to check it periodically.

Speaking of web sites, take a look at the newly formatted HIS Central Chapter web site at <http://nationalplantboard.org/hiscc/index.html>. Todd Voss has done an excellent job of modernizing our web site; the new version is easy to navigate and has a photo gallery which includes photographs of insect pests and diseases as well as images from past meetings. If you have photos you would like to share with your fellow inspectors please send them to Todd ([todd.voss@mchsi.com](mailto:todd.voss@mchsi.com)) so everyone can benefit from your findings and experience in the field. (See page 10)

Spring will be here before we know it and we will all be busy in the nursery fields again. Wishing everyone good health for 2014 and I hope that many of you will be able to join us at the summer interstate meeting in Illinois or the fall conference in Minnesota.