Making Professionalism a Part of Every Effort

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HIS Central Chapter Newsletter

2015 HIS Multi-state Inspection Carmel, Indiana; July 27 - 29

Above: Inspectors entering Brehob Nursery. Photo: Steve Shimek

Top: Tulip tree scale. Photo: Todd Voss

Todd Voss, Iowa

This year's multi-state inspection began as they usually do, with a few ideas being kicked around during the annual HIS meeting as to where to go. Eventually someone expresses an interest and decides to look into the possibility of having their state host an inspection. Indiana was our host this year, which was somewhat special considering that this was the first time they had hosted such an event for HIS.

Two nurseries hosted our group during the two days. At one point we had 37 people attend including six invited guests from the Purdue Plant and Pest Diagnostic Lab and Purdue's Horticulture and Entomology Departments. We had people from-

Continued on page 2

In this issue:

2015 HIS Southern Chapter Meeting Report

Charles Elhard, North Dakota

I had the opportunity to attend the Southern Chapter HIS meeting in Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia, September 21-23, 2015, using funds provided by SANC to encourage harmonization among the different Chapters. I'll include some highlights of the meeting in this report. The meeting had nearly 45 attendees with each state represented (except for Puerto Rico). The format of the Southern meeting was very similar to ours, with speakers and state reports scattered throughout the agenda. State reports were not actually printed out for inspectors to pick up copies, rather just a short presentation by each state. The southern chapter

Continued on page 3

HIS Multi-state inspection, *continued*

Above: Crown gall. Below: Tulip tree root crown borer. Photos: Todd Voss

Minnesota, Wisconsin, Indiana, Missouri, Iowa, North Dakota, and Michigan which is a very good turnout for a multi-state inspection. Information was freely exchanged by everyone, and I think it's safe to say that everyone learned something new during the two day event.

The weather was hot and we went through more than two coolers full of water the first day, yet people were more than happy to dive in and see what they could find in the field. In my opinion, this is a testament of the dedication and passion that we have as a group for what we do—a unique multifaceted service for the horticulture industry and for our respective state agencies—and a drive to learn something new and interesting pertaining to our jobs.

Brehob Nursery was the first day. They have 97 acres of nursery production located in Carmel, Indiana with production in containers, hoop houses, and pot-in-pot. We started the morning reviewing the nursery's production systems. Ken Rauscher led us through SANC and the questions to ask when starting a new nursery through the process. Members from Purdue University attending included Tom Creswell and Gail Ruhl from the Plant and Pest Diagnostic Lab, Cliff Sadof from Entomology, and Kyle Daniel from Horticulture. K & S Farms was the second day. They have 78 total acres located north of Westfield, Indiana that include wholesale and retail sales, and production of B&B and field trees. They also do a significant amount of landscaping services for the area.

Rose rosette virus. Photo: Todd Voss

Several pests were found that were new to me including tulip tree scale and tulip tree root-crown borer. A number of other pests were found as well during the two days such as various spider mites, crown gall, rose rosette virus, a number of unconfirmed scales (San Jose, Calico and others), fire blight, and apparently two different species of mealybug on hawthorn. I also had a chance to become familiar with a couple of new trees that are not commonly planted in my area.

Although there was a lot of work accomplished, we still had time for fun after the day's inspection. Big Hoffa's BBQ was a big hit and apparently this small hole in the wall was voted one of Indiana's best BBQ places. The food was excellent and the place seemed to be a hit with the local residents which was enough confirmation for me. There always seems to be time for slideshows of insect and diseases and the socializing that goes along with it. This seemingly has become an HIS tradition whenever we get together. There was also the usual discussion of technology, inspection methods, procedures, and state regulations.

To sum it all up, Indiana hosted an excellent multi-state inspection. I am glad that we have people in our organization who are willing to take on the challenge of setting up a multi-state inspection or be involved with our meetings and other aspects of our organization. I'm also glad that we have SPRO's who are favorable toward our organization, and who are willing to stick their necks out to get people the funding to attend. Thank you to everyone involved—past, present, and future. You make HIS a truly unique organization.

2015 HIS Southern Chapter Meeting Report, *continued*

Above: HIS Southern Chapter members (and guest Charles Elhard) at the 2015 meeting. Photo: Martha Oellerich (Georgia)

begins the final day of the meeting (typically our business meeting day) with a couple of final speakers, and then holds their business meeting from 10:30-12. The first day of speakers focused on insects while the second day focused more on pathology. You can view their agenda at https://sites.google.com/site/hisscsite/.

Dr. Michael Raupp from the University of Maryland did a couple of presentations for us. Sticking with the historical theme of the meeting, his first discussion was about the history of invasive insects in the US and how that affected us economically. He discussed that while it may seem like the rate at which invasives are being introduced is increasing, the rate has been steady since a spike during the industrial revolution. He encouraged an IPM approach for cost-effective management of non-natives, striking the right balance between cultural controls (minimizing plant stress), choosing resistant varieties, bio-control and chemical control. He spoke on native plants versus non-native plants, and which of these is more susceptible to pests. His discussion revolved around the origins of plants versus the origin of pests interactions. He summed it up by saying native plants are destroyed by exotic pests, exotic plants are destroyed by native pests so in a global economy the key is DIVERSITY. Native plants have a 'double whammy', a complex of native pests and the added destruction by non-native pests. He questioned whether the 'plant more native species' mentality is the appropriate way to go. You can read more about Dr. Raupp at his website, http://bugoftheweek.com/.

On the pathology side, Norm Dart of Virginia Department of Agriculture discussed several pests on his "Blacklist" and the best way to manage each. He described 5 management tools and paired them with the 'blacklist' diseases. These included exclusion (regulatory), eradication (cull and destroy), protection (treatment), resistance (resistant varieties), and avoidance (don't plant or create unsuitable environment). When doing inspections, think about which of these tools would best fit the pest you are presented with, and then make the appropriate recommendation to the nursery.

Each day a tour of the historical areas nearby was given. The first day, we took a walking tour through Colonial Williamsburg gardens and discussed the colonial influence on today's landscapes and what pests were dealt with during colonial times as well as the status symbols one's gardens showed. The second day we got a tour of

Continued on page 4

2015 HIS Southern Chapter Meeting Report, *continued*

Historical Jamestown where we were guided by an excellent tour guide.

During their business meeting, HISSC passed a resolution expressing favor for a National HIS meeting. This could be an interesting idea that could be combine with a National CAPS meeting. We could discuss this as a possible resolution coming out of the central chapter next fall. The southern chapter also does a nice job of promoting membership of HIS, and I'd like to share Southern President Thomas Cary's points he laid out in their latest newsletter on why it's important to be involved in HIS.

Network with peers across state lines (having contacts in other states is great!)
Develop your professional status and enhance your resume
Receive the newsletter
Attend annual conference and interstate inspection training opportunities to learn and network
Support a professional group which enhances the work and standing of inspectors
Can get it all for $15/year ($1.25/month, $0.29/week, and $0.04/day!!!)

In my short time as a member of HIS Central, it has been a very rewarding experience for me. I've had the opportunity to learn a lot, and have meet many great people. I've been able to use these connections when a problem arose whether it be problematic nursery stock from a supplier in another HIS Central state or a phytosanitary issue. I'd encourage everyone to stay involved and be a proactive member of HIS.

2016 SANC Workshop Report

Recently, (SANC) pilot facility inspectors (from Central HIS, this is WI and MO), some pilot facility representatives, and other SANC members met at a SANC Workshop.

Some highlights included continued training of and discussion by inspectors from the eight states currently involved in the SANC Pilot Program, quick view of the GAIP Program in OR (this is an audit-based P. ramorum shipping program), points of view from 3 pilot facilities, subcommittee meetings and discussion from other industry members, SPROs and USDA attendees.

Some updates from the SANC program: First, please visit the SANC website, http://sanc.nationalplantboard.org , and feel free to give suggestions to those involved in SANC to make improvements. Second, the first SANC Pilot Facility, Conard Pyle Nursery (PA), has completed their SANC Facility Manual—and it is only 17 PAGES IN LENGTH!!! This manual doesn't include supporting documents such as their Pest Management Plan, scouting records, etc. which will be continuously added to the stack of records they will keep—but was impressive that it didn't need to be a three-inch thick manual to prepare for the first audit. (Conard Pyle is not as complex of a nursery—they don't have B&B, lots of container sizes, etc., as some of the other pilot facilities, but still—the Facility Manual was 17 pages!) This also shows that the program can include less duplications and paperwork than some of the other audit based programs such as the (USNCP) program (this was a complaint from facilities involved in this federal program, which also is a deterrent for small nurseries).

Their manual is now going to the pilot committee for review, to make sure that they have met the SANC standards, in order to keep the program standardized even though working with many state plant laws. After that, Conard Pyle will be the first facility to have an audit! The other pilot facilities are following closely behind. This was noteworthy, as about 5 years ago, this program was little more than a concept at a meeting with some USDA, SPROs and HIS representatives.

Continued on page 5

2016 SANC Workshop Report, continued

Some comments from industry representatives included: "We need to rethink the audit process as a scouting process," and "This isn't a game of 'gotcha' but instead a team working together for compliance in a voluntary program." Another comment was, "Experienced people don't often like change, buy-in from nursery employees and inspectors is needed to help the audit process." Jerry Lee, who is a leading consultant in the SANC group, but formerly worked at Monrovia (GA), commented about having been through audits in USNCP. He said, "We couldn't say we saved 10% (or other amount) in production costs, but it did help us to reduce risks, and helped us to do a better job of growing plants than ever before." Walter from Monrovia (CA), said that the audit process "made us document what we were doing, and helped us to see what we needed to do." He added that through audits they found out that the employees were (or maybe weren't) doing what was discussed during training meetings - and this helped them identify strengths and areas that needed improvements.

Some comments from states' points of view: "It is clear that doing an 'audit' is not a 'paperwork only' process. This requires in-field audits (inspections) and questions of field employees." An example was offered—cull piles. It requires the inspector to actually look at the cull pile to make sure that it is properly placed and handled so as to not contaminate or harbor pests to spread to production areas. Another example was propagation. The audit would include a discussion with the propagators to describe the handling process used during propagation to prevent the spread of pests when taking cuttings and check their documentation of that process. Melissa Luan (OR) described the audit process of the GAIP program as "preventative scouting".

Concerns were discussed by attendees, such as harmonization of audits across state lines, the amount of time to complete the risk assessment (the committee is looking into a system of drop-down menus to make the process less intimidating, and time consuming), and buy-in from other states.

"...It did help us to reduce risks, and helped us to do a better job of growing plants than ever before."

So, where do we go from here? An evaluation subcommittee was added, and they are capturing opinions and tangible data from the pilot process (and all participants) to make improvements as needed and to promote the program. The pilot subcommittee is working on interviewing new facilities for the next round of pilot nurseries or greenhouses (so if your state has one that you think should be included—contact SANC members), and will continue reviewing manuals as they are completed. Training modules for inspectors and industry members will be completed and be made available as we progress. Standards and documents are being reviewed, and there is even discussion from USDA in how to potentially apply SANC for international shipments (much further down the road). So much progress has occurred over the last 5 years.

In closing, a question is being posed to HIS groups/inspectors...What can SANC do for you (to help inspectors understand what's being done in the pilot facilities to help you answer questions from other inspectors or the industry, to market SANC, or to simply open discussions of Best Management Practices and Critical Control Points with non-SANC growers)? Are there some educational resources that they can provide for in-field inspections to make our jobs easier, to increase harmonization efforts, or to be a part of the team to help grow better plants? If you have some comments or suggestions (good or bad), please contact someone involved with SANC so it can be passed on to the proper people to help you and/or the industry.

Horticultural Inspection Society
Central Chapter

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Secretary:	John Bock, Michigan
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Note from the editor:

Thank you to those who contributed to this issue!

Please keep the submissions coming. I would love to see some photos of insects and plant pathology, especially as spring is almost upon us!

As usual, any requests or ideas for articles are welcomed as well.

Thanks,

Sadie