

Horticulture Inspection Society

Western Chapter

WINTER 2013 NEWSLETTER

CHAPTER PURPOSE:

To promote high standards of inspection work, To combine and share expertise, knowledge, experience, and training among Plant Pest Inspectors, To stimulate interest and professionalize plant inspection work, To provide a means of disseminating information particularly pertinent to plant pest inspection work, To provide a means of furthering fellowship among Plant Pest Inspectors and allied workers. WHIS members, through dialog and training expand the level of expertise necessary for professional horticultural inspection and plant protection.



PASSING OF THE GAVEL

Joshua Kress is a Senior Environmental Scientist with the Nursery Services Program, California Dept. of Agriculture, and served as WHIS President for the 2012 / 2013 cycle. Joshua shares these words at the close of his term.

As outgoing President of WHIS, I just wanted to share a few words with you all and let you know what has been going on with our organization.

First, I would like to thank those of you who were able to attend our 2013 Annual Meeting in September in Helena, MT. Besides the usual pest presentations and networking, this year's meeting also included extensive discussions on Japanese Beetle infestations, J.B. movement via nursery stock, as well as presentations on new topics such as agricultural incidents and regulatory communications.

Aurelio Posadas, National Plant Board's Executive Secretary, led us in a valuable discussion on Systems Approach to Nursery Certification (SANC) that included a visit with a local nursery in Helena. It was great for the attendees to be able to discuss the practical applications of SANC concepts with an active nurseryman and then be able to walk out and look at the nursery's Critical Control Points for pest introduction and what Best Management Practices are or could be in place.

In addition to representatives from 8 of the 13 western states, we also had representatives from the Central and Eastern chapters of HIS. Bob Buhler of Kansas and Michael Arnold of West Virginia provided great insights into the similarities and differences in what inspectors deal with across the country. A big thank you to Bob and Michael, and to the National Plant Board for continuing to provide travel funds for these types of cross-chapter activities.

I also want to congratulate the new and returning members elected to the Executive Committee:

President: Beth Eiring, Montana
Vice President: Ruben Arias, California
Secretary: Andrea Thompson, Idaho
Treasurer: Melissa Lujan, Oregon
Editor: John Wraspir, Washington
Webmaster: Lisa Rehms, Oregon

Our entire leadership team is incredibly talented and dedicated, and I cannot think of a better group of people to lead us into 2014.

Speaking of which, our next annual meeting will be held in SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA in October 2014. Start making your travel plans now, as I am sure that this meeting will be our best yet. Thank you to the San Diego County Agricultural Commissioner's Office for volunteering to host the meeting and share with our group what life is like in the biggest horticultural production county in the US.

If you need assistance in obtaining travel funds or writing a justification for your department's approval, please let us know and we will do our best to help out. The biggest benefit to these meetings is having a diverse group of people to discuss and share ideas with, and it is the continued participation of ALL states that makes these meetings so valuable and keeps us going from year to year.

Finally, a huge thank you goes to Beth Eiring for all of her hard work on making this year's meeting such a great success. I guarantee that Beth's leadership will take WHIS to bigger and better places in 2014. I look forward to seeing what she and you all are able to do in the next year.

Best Regards,
Joshua Kress



13th ANNUAL MEETING - Helena, Montana

September 16th to 19th , 2013

ANNUAL MEETING SYNOPSIS

The venue for our 13th Annual Meeting was located in historic downtown Helena at the Holiday Inn. Guests enjoyed crisp fall weather with intermittent sunny skies.

Our meeting began with Donna Rise, Pest Management Bureau Chief, providing welcome and introductions. This was followed by participants providing reports from their respective states. The morning was capped off by a spirited discussion regarding Japanese Beetle introductions from the Mid-West and actions taken so far in an attempt to mediate infestations.

Dr. Jeaine Rankin, MSU Extension Service, presented Agro-Emergency Preparedness which is a part of national strategy for Homeland Security to include natural and agricultural resources. Unfortunately, agro-emergencies are not all that uncommon. Water contamination, animal disease (hoof & mouth, bird flu), plant pests (potato cyst), food contamination (*Salmonella/E. coli*), just to name a few, can seriously affect public health and jeopardize economic stability. Planning, preparing, and mitigating emergencies also include strategies to prevent or minimize the affects of corrective actions that may add to or cause additional problems. <http://eden.lsu.edu/Pages/default.aspx>

Marshal Roth, Dept. of Military Affairs, provided an overview of Incident Command Systems and explained the importance of advanced planning for emergencies. Most notably, identifying persons/agencies with authority and expertise to take charge and/or lead other entities towards a common goal. If not predetermined, identifying the authority to take actions can be a major stumbling block to facilitate effective action.

<http://montanadma.org/search/google/incident%20command%20systems?query=incident%20command%20systems&cx=000717711809986190986%3A3a3i0eutjym&cof=FORID%3A11&sitesearch=>

Ian Foley, MDA Pest Management, furnished information for the Eastern Heath Snail, *Xerolenta obvia*, which is native to Europe and recently detected in Montana. The snail prefers dry grassy areas and survives long periods of drought by withdrawing into its shell and sealing the opening with a mucous membrane. It feeds on a wide range of plants and can be found on vegetation, under rocks, or attached to other hard surfaces. This species is known for climbing upright objects to escape high temperatures and will aggregate in enormous numbers in a behavior called massing. The species readily attaches to hard surfaces such as stone or granite tile, rail cars, shipping containers, and other conveyances used in domestic and international trade. *X. obvia* obtained status as a pest because it has the potential to reduce crop yields and quality, contaminate agriculture commodities, and transmit plant and animal disease. http://fieldguide.mt.gov/detail_IMGASE0040.aspx

Aurelio Pasadas, National Plant Board, provided Introduction to Systems Approach To Nursery Certification being developed through NPB. Key strategies of SANC are; Risk Analysis, Critical Control Points, Best Management Practices, Verification, and SANC Agreement. Aurelio also led the field trip to a local nursery and performed a mock "SANC Interview" with the nursery owner. <http://sanc.nationalplantboard.org/>

SR. Officer Gerald LaChere, Helena Police Dept., provided insight on Conflict Management/Resolution. Conflict is a normal part of any healthy relationship. We need to learn how to deal with conflict rather than avoid it. People respond to conflict based on perceptions, which is not always the best solution. Use "I" statements, be assertive not aggressive, show respect, speak calmly and be willing to compromise.

Lori Witham, USDA-APHIS, shared insight on "Smuggling, Interdiction & Trade Compliance". The role SITC plays is to detect and interdict prohibited agriculture commodities from entering the US from foreign source. Lori shared many examples of exotic products that were intercepted. http://www.aphis.usda.gov/international_safeguarding/sitc/index.shtml

USDA, Plant Protection & Quarantine provided update on major pests of concern to include Emeralds Ash Borer, Japanese Beetle, Asian Longhorn Beetle and European Gypsy Moth. The focus of the presentation was recognizing pests, symptoms of infestation and the damage left behind. Many pictures and preserved specimens were presented. http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/index.shtml



Jeaine Rankin - Agro-Emergency Projects Coordinator MSU - Extension Services



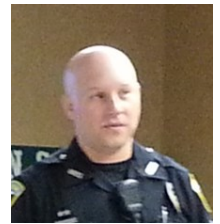
Marshal Roth - Training Coordinator, MT Dept. of Military Affairs, Disaster and Emergency Services



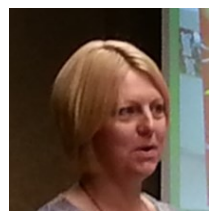
Ian Foley, Pest Management Program Manager, MT. Dept. of Agri.



Aurelio Pasadas Executive Secretary National Plant Board



Gerald LaChere Senior Officer Helena Police Dept.



Lori Witham USDA - APHIS Smuggling Interdiction & Trade Compliance



Horticultural Inspection Society – Western Chapter 2013 Annual Business Meeting Minutes

Call to Order:

The 2013 Annual Business Meeting of the Horticultural Inspection Society – Western Chapter was called to order at 11:35 p.m. on Thursday, September 19, 2013 at the Holiday Inn in Helena, MT by WHIS President, Joshua Kress.

Introductions/List of Members:

In Attendance:	Via Phone Conference:
President: Joshua Kress, CA	Editor: John Wraspir, WA
Vice President: Beth Eiring, MT	Treasurer: Melissa Lujan, OR
Immediate Past Vice President: Beth Slate, CA	
Secretary: Andrea Thompson, ID	
Invited Guests In Attendance:	Invited Guests Via Phone Conference:
Robert Buhler, KS, CHIS President	Karen Melvin, CA
Marlea Stout, NV	Deloris Brandon, CA

State(s) not present: New Mexico, Arizona, Wyoming, Utah, Colorado, Hawaii, Alaska, British Columbia.

- 2012 WHIS Annual Business Meeting Minutes
Motion was made by Beth Eiring and seconded by Beth Slate to approve the minutes as distributed. No objections. Motion carried.
- Treasurer’s Report/Financial Audit
Beth Eiring informed the meeting that the Treasurer was not available (at this time in the meeting) and that the hard copies of the financial documents were recently received. Motion was made by Beth Eiring and seconded by Joshua Kress to audit the Treasurer’s report by Friday, September 27th, 2012. No objections. Motion carried.
- Western Plant Board Meeting & Other Meeting Attendance
Joshua Kress shared a summary, positive review, and feedback from the Western Plant Board Meeting in Honolulu, HI.
- Beth Slate provided a summary, positive review and feedback from the Kansas Interstate Inspection conducted last month. Robert Buhler offered that WHIS should consider extending the timeframe allotted and “ramp-up” the nursery inspection field trip day to a full 2-day trip which is common at the CHIS Annual meeting.
- Beth Eiring to attend EHIS in Mt. Holly, New Jersey in October. Joshua Kress reiterated that WHIS is allowed to use National Plant Board SANC funds for these interstate and inter-chapter HIS trips.
- Andrea Thompson volunteered to attend the CHIS Annual Meeting, October 21-24th in Lisle, Illinois. Motion was made and seconded to send Andrea using SANC funds. Motion carried without objections.

Old Business

• Annual Meeting Handbook

Beth Slate suggested that there should be a rough outline for hosting and that the Annual Meeting Handbook is both helpful and beneficial. She also offers to work with Beth Eiring and

Andrea Thompson in collaboration developing this document. Robert Buhler states that he has a collaborative document between other HIS groups and could help with it. Beth Slate also suggested that it would be good to send out "Save the Date" reminders. Beth Eiring to lead all HIS Chapters in working on this at the President's Meeting.

State Report Format

It was generally agreed that obtaining the state reports early was a big success this year and presenting them during the conference day allowed for open discussion and helped promote acquaintanceship.

Joshua Kress mentioned that for next year it would be good to limit discussion of the California state report to the host county only and the overall state summary.

New Business

Memberships / Meeting Registration Rates

John Wraspir and Joshua Kress mutually offered that it may be worthwhile to incorporate the membership dues as part of the registration fees. Robert Buhler noted that the membership rates for the Central Chapter are only \$15 but that the fees are used to fund the hospitality room. They purposefully separate the membership dues from the registration fees so that there is no perception of illegitimate activities funded by state entities.

The question was then asked, "For the \$20 per year membership fee, what do you get?" Beth Slate stated that you are allowed to vote. Robert Buhler stated that people then have "skin in the game with access to the Listserve" Joshua Kress noted that the list of former members is very long and the list of current members is very short. John Wraspir mentioned that WHIS could boost attendance and membership by being more persistent about contact with those former and current membership lists by sending out a "We Miss You" card or survey.

John Wraspir proposed that there be a future events reminder being sent out. This duty falls in line with those of the Secretary and Andrea Thompson is therefore responsible to carry it out.

2014 WHIS Annual Meeting Location

Joshua Kress stated that it would be beneficial and ideal to have the meeting location for future years planned out at least two to three years in advance. He continued that in January there is a CASAP conference performing a border tour in San Diego, California. Combined with the fact that California is the #1 nursery producing state in the nation, he recommended that San Diego, California be the location for the 2014 WHIS Annual Meeting. Motion was proposed by Beth Slate and seconded by Andrea Thompson for San Diego, California to be the 2014 WHIS host. Motion carried without objection.

John Wraspir asked Karen Melvin if the 1st or 2nd week of October would be okay for the date. She replied affirmative. He also asked her who would be the main point of contact as typically the Vice President plans the meeting and is from the host state. Karen stated that she would have to get back with WHIS about a main point of contact because they see themselves as assisting but not being in charge of the meeting or holding a role in the WHIS Executive Committee.

2015 & Beyond WHIS Annual Meeting Location

Andrea Thompson recommended Boise, Idaho as the location for the 2015 WHIS Annual Meeting. Idaho's largest industry is agriculture and Boise is easily accessible with a regional airport and has many retail and wholesale nurseries within an hour drive of downtown.

Motion was made and seconded for Boise, Idaho to be the 2015 WHIS host. Motion carried without objection.

The 2016 WHIS Annual Meeting host state was tentatively agreed to be Arizona without motion. There are still other suggestions for other locations. Some more or less involved in agriculture and horticultural production. It is suggested that Aurelio Posadas can entice Arizona to play an active role, especially, with their relative proximity and likelihood of attendance at the 2014 San Diego, CA meeting.

Beth Slate stated that WHIS should offer a scholarship to AZ for the 2014 meeting. Motion proposed by John Wraspir to offer at least two \$500 scholarships, especially to AZ and OR to promote attendance. Motion was made, seconded and carried without objections.

A general question remains about establishing a set list rotation of host states excluding Alaska & Hawaii.

Election of Officers

The 2013 Executive Committee presented the following list of suggested officers for next year:

President:	Beth Eiring, Montana		Treasurer:	Melissa Lujan, Oregon
Immediate Past President	Joshua Kress, California		Editor:	John Wraspir, Washington
Vice President:	Ruben Arias, California – pending notification		Webmaster	Lisa Rehms, Oregon
Secretary:	Andrea Thompson, Idaho			

A motion to accept the nominations named above was made and passed without objection. Joshua Kress and Beth Slate noted that they would be staying involved in a support role to assist the new Executive Committee.

State Reports

State Reports were presented as part of the conference agenda by all of the member states with exception of Arizona, Wyoming, Hawaii, Alaska, & British Columbia.

Adjournment:

Joshua Kress, Immediate Past President, and Beth Eiring, newly elected President, thanked the officers for their work throughout the year, and Montana for being a gracious host state. The gavel was passed to the new H.I.S. Western Chapter President, Beth Eiring of California informally after the meeting adjourned. Joshua & Beth thanked all attendees for their participation and involvement that lead to the success of this year's meeting. A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 12:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Thompson
H.I.S. Western Chapter Secretary
September 30, 2013

Submitted For 2014 Business Meeting Approval.



13th ANNUAL MEETING - Helena, Montana

September 16th to 19th , 2013

The Western Chapter of the Horticulture Inspection Society would like to express our sincere appreciation to the Montana State Department of Agriculture for hosting this years annual meeting. A special thank you to Beth Eiring for taking the lead in organizing this event.



From Left to Right: Cheryl Vestal, Colorado; Chris Herron, Montana; Pat Wherley, Montana; Heidi Humlicek, Montana; Beth Eiring, Montana; Josh Kress, California; Aaron Paul, Washington; Marlea Stout, Nevada; Ellen Kragh, California; Andrea Thompson, Idaho; Levi Strauss, Washington; Beth Slate, California; Bob Buhler, Kansas; Bill Segura, New Mexico

**It's not too soon to reserve a space on your calendar for our
14th Annual Meeting to be held in San Diego - October 2014**



The Executive Committee is already working on plans for our next Annual Meeting. If you have subject matter that you would like to see addressed, please contact Beth Eiring eeiring@mt.gov with your ideas and recommendations.