



NEWSLETTER

Nov. 2022

IN THIS ISSUE

Teleconference Review: p. 2-3

Business Meeting Highlights: p. 4

About WHIS: p. 5

Tell your SPROs!

In-Person Annual Conference

Oregon, September 2023

Have a topic idea? Something you want to learn? An event or training suggestion? Send your programming ideas to Vice President Kara Mills at Kara.MILLS@oda.oregon.gov

**We look forward to seeing you all again
in-person soon!**

<http://whis.org/> | [Find us on Facebook](#)

Teleconference Review

We hope to post links to most of the talks on our website!

Dr. Dean Kelch of California Department of Food and Agriculture discussed **tropical milkweeds** and the proposal listing it as a class B weed in California. Plantings of this milkweed may contribute to protozoan parasite dispersal in some monarch butterfly populations. The plant's beauty and the fact that it's easy to grow makes it a popular choice for nurseries. Listing the plant as a weed early may help protect monarch populations while more evidence is accumulated.



[Rebekah D. Wallace, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org](#)

Dr. Len Coop of USDA gave a talk on **boxwood blight**, giving pointers for how to look for it in the field (look for symptoms down in the middle where the plant where it is most humid). Sticky spores hide under the leaves and cause leaf spots. The disease shows up more in humid environments and can occur at cool temperatures. Overhead watering can contribute to the spread. There is a boxwood blight infection model that he mentioned.



[David L. Clement, University of Maryland, Bugwood.org](#)

Review, cont'd

Dr. Leslie Edgar of the NMSU Agricultural Research Stations talked to us about **reforestation efforts** and the effects recent fire had on the Mora research station in particular, causing evacuation of the seed bank there. These research stations grow trees on contract to reforest NM after fires.

Dr. Max Ragozzino of Oregon Department of Agriculture discussed **emerald ash borer** recently found in Oregon. EAB had not been detected by trapping, but rather by a citizen with pest detector training. Oregon is tackling the issue with a task force of 40+ agencies, using a combination of trapping and visual surveys to delimit the infested area. ODA is currently looking for biocontrol options. This particular population appears to go through two life cycles per year, which may help with control. ODA is working on a quarantine. A concerning discovery is that EAB may be able to infest cultivated olive, though more research is needed.

Dr. Bruce Snyder of Georgia College and State University spoke about invasive earthworms, particularly **Pheretimoids**. They exhibit distinctive behavior to escape predators including thrashing and self-amputation. They are harmful due to the destruction of soil structure in areas they infest. However, controlling these worms is difficult because of limited IPM options. Preventing new infestations may be the best option to control this pest as they can be moved through bait, soil, and compost. Education may be a viable way to prevent their spread.

Business Meeting Highlights

- The executive committee and 55 members attended the business meeting. As many as 107 members attended this year's teleconference.
- Bethany Abrahamson provided a summary of the state reports that were submitted, mostly highlighting the array of different pests of concern and surveys Western states do. Cheryl Smith sent out the state reports to the membership.
- Travis Elder thanked all those who made the conference possible, and is working on ordering gifts for the speakers as well as future meeting swag. Stay tuned!
- Kara Mills discussed her upcoming attendance at the HIS Central Chapter meeting, which WHIS is helping to fund. She plans to report back to the society regarding their meeting to provide useful insight into horticultural inspection in this area.
- The society's finances are very healthy, because we have not incurred costs associated with in-person meetings since 2019. This puts the society in the position to hopefully offer reduced registration rates and even more exciting content for our 2023 meeting, which will take place in Oregon's Willamette Valley in September. Kara Mills is currently organizing the event.
- The executive committee for 2023 was established by vote, with no new nominations offered.

The Horticulture Inspection Society - Western Chapter (WHIS) seeks to solicit and exchange information from its participating members, creating an avenue to further educate the organization as a whole. New information is continuously garnered and learned along the way, much of which is not available or timely able to be presented in a formal educational approach.

WHIS members, through dialog and training expand the level of expertise necessary for professional horticultural inspection and plant protection.

WHIS PURPOSE:

- *To promote high standards of horticultural and regulatory inspection work*
- *To combine and share expertise, knowledge, experience and training among plant pest inspectors toward stimulating interest in and professionalizing plant inspection work*
- *To advocate harmonization between State and affiliated agencies*
- *To provide a means of disseminating information to plant pest inspectors, allied workers and the general public that is particularly pertinent to plant pest inspection work*
- *To provide a means of furthering fellowship among plant pest inspectors and allied workers*

Become a member!

Submit an application at <http://whis.org/membership>

We want to hear from you!

Send newsletter article/photo submissions to editor Bethany Abrahamson at babrahamson@nmda.nmsu.edu