



# NEWSLETTER

## Spring 2024

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**The 2023 conference in Portland was a huge success! Thank you to Kara Mills and the rest of the planning committee!**

*Photo credit: public domain image, [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Fireworks\\_2.png](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Fireworks_2.png)*

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# 2023 Annual Conference Re-Cap

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## Classroom Lectures

- Oregon's Grasshopper Program allowed the state to survey and provide treatments to alleviate stress on public lands.
- We learned about introduced slugs that inspectors might encounter and signs to look for (slime trails, weedy/algal areas, under trays.)
- We got an overview of Oregon's Noxious Weed board and several weeds of concern, including some kinds of butterfly bush
- Oregon's Japanese beetle eradication is proceeding since it began in 2017, which is located in a quarantined area.
- Our guest attendee from HIS's Central Chapter gave an overview of spongy moth infestation in the U.S. and the Slow the Spread program.
- The Christmas tree industry in Oregon accounts for 31% of Christmas trees. One new pest was elongate hemlock beetle that was found at big box stores.



*Monrovia Nursery. Photo credit Bethany Abrahamson.*

# 2023 Annual Conference Re-Cap

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- Common phyto errors include misspelled botanical names, unapproved pesticide treatments, and hybrid issues.
- We learned about sudden oak death trace forwards, trace backs and remediation.
- Online enforcement of state quarantines is a growing issue. Some sites like Amazon possess a regulatory body to help facilitate quarantine compliance while sites like Etsy rely on individual sellers to comply.
- ArcGIS's Survey123 has been a useful tool for Oregon to perform extensive surveys and prevent transcription errors.
- Those that attended the conference provided an overview of pest issues and new programs in their state. Pests of concern included JB, RIFA, EAB, pink hibiscus mealybug, rose mosaic virus, redbud disease, boxwood blight, Monstera rust, and fruit flies.



*Photo credit Cheryl Smith.*

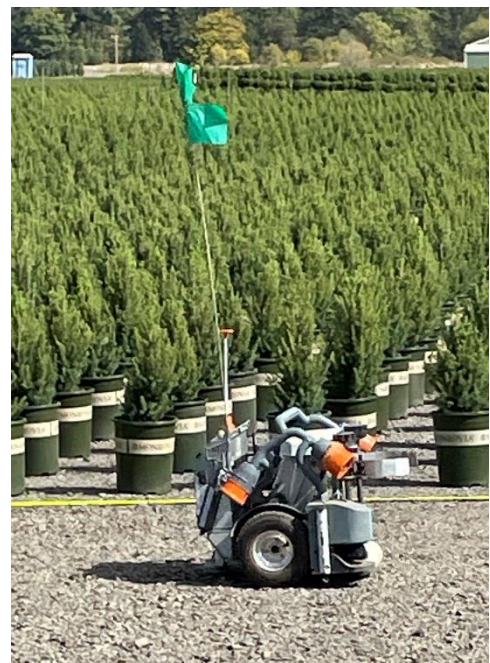
# 2023 Annual Conference Re-Cap

## Field Trips

We took a tour of Oregon Pride Nursery and learned about several of their SANC critical control points, such as pot sanitation methods, media components, propagation, and scouting.



*Left: storage container repurposed for steam treatment of pots at Oregon Pride Nursery. Photo credit Tory Hougland.*



*Right: a robot at Monrovia Nursery. Photo credit Tory Hougland.*

We toured Monrovia and looked at several technologies used at the nursery including automatic pruners, canning machines, and robots for pot placement/spacing. They want to focus on technologies that keep workers safer and healthier and may move to including robots that apply pesticide applications in future.

Oregon Department of Agriculture demonstrated how *P. ramorum* samples are taken. If the sample is positive, the inspectors require destruction of all plants within a 2m circle of the positive plant. All plants within a 4 meter circle must be kept in 90 day quarantine.

# 2023 Annual Conference Re-Cap



*Above: stripping bark to reveal EAB larval galleries. Photo credit Tory Houglan.*

## EAB in Oregon

Non-Asian ash have little to no resistance to EAB, which can now be found in 36 states. There is 1 generation a year or every 2 years. Adults fly May-Oct. White fringe tree and olive also a concern. 13km spread/year. Lots of cooperation makes massive response possible—response is to slow the spread to save money on removal and prepare areas for invasion.

There is a 5.7 mile area infested in Forest Grove. Several biocontrols are being worked on to help control EAB. We then went into the field to practice stripping bark to look for EAB galleries, examined infested trees, and looked at biocontrol release methods.



*Above: EAB found trapped while emerging from an ash tree. Photo credit Tory Houglan.*

# New WHIS Officers!

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President: Kara Mills (OR)

Vice President: TBD

Secretary: Cheryl Smith (CO)

Treasurer: Carson Thomas (MT)

Website: Cynthia Robinson (OR)

Editor: Bethany Abrahamson (NM)

We're looking forward to planning your  
**2024 annual meeting!**

# 2024 Meeting Plan & Call for Topics

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## **We're looking for presentation topics for the 2024 meeting!**

Our annual meeting for September 2024 will be another teleconference, and the planning committee is looking for presentation topics and speakers! Presenting at the WHIS meeting is a great opportunity to showcase your state's horticultural industry and current plant pest issues that face your state.

If you have an idea for a talk, please contact WHIS President Kara Mills at [kara.mills@oda.oregon.gov](mailto:kara.mills@oda.oregon.gov).

We hope to host another in-person meeting in 2025. Details to come!

# Got Newsletter Content?

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Have an emerging horticultural plant/pest issue in your state? Spread the news to your fellow state inspectors by contributing to the WHIS newsletter! If interested, contact editor Bethany Abrahamson at [babrahamson@nmda.nmsu.edu](mailto:babrahamson@nmda.nmsu.edu)

*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.*