



HORTICULTURE INSPECTION SOCIETY

Western Chapter

WINTER 2017 NEWSLETTER



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2016 Annual Meeting October 11th - 14th in Albuquerque, New Mexico



Left to Right: Ellen Kragh-CA, Joe Platero-AZ, Nick Bieser-NV, Dave Schock-AZ, Bethany Abrahamson-NM, Diego Lozada-NV, Emily Fricke-NM, Connie Jones-NM, Alejandro Ruiz-NM, Bill Segura-NM, Ruben Arias-CA, Wayne Dixon-FL, Benita Matheson-WA, Patricia Malally-AZ, Jeanetta Cooper-OK, Carol Sutherland-NM, Edward Carr-AZ, Pam King-CO, Ive Eddy- NM, Jacqueline Schade-AK, Cheryl Smith-CO, Jack Wilkins-UT, Beth Eiring-MT.

The New Mexico Department of Agriculture welcomed visitors from across the Western Chapter and beyond to our annual meeting, where attendees heard talks ranging from nematology to SANC at the Hotel Albuquerque, explored the Arthropod Rearing Lab at the ABQ Biopark, and learned about forest pests at the Elena Gallegos Open Space picnic area. Attendees spent the evenings networking and conversing on upcoming issues in the horticultural industry, and enjoyed New Mexico's sunsets and cuisine in Albuquerque's Old Town. We would like to thank the NMDA and the executive committee for making this year's conference both interactive and informative.

Meeting Re-Cap & Review



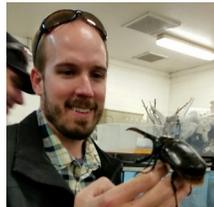
New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA) is an agency organized under the Board of Regents of New Mexico State University (NMSU). This unique relationship makes NMDA an integral part of the university, and fosters progressive, responsive, and comprehensive programs that serve the ever-changing needs of the agricultural industry. NM Secretary of Agriculture Jeff Witte provided insight to the agencies strategic planning process, moving their program to a risk-based inspection assessment.

SANC is a National Plant Board initiative promoting a harmonized, risk-based approach to nursery and greenhouse certification. Eight nurseries from the four Plant Board regions were selected to participate in Phase 1 of this pilot program. Wayne Nixon (NPB) and Jeanetta Cooper (Oklahoma Department of Agriculture) reported on the progress of pilot nurseries and showcased Greenleaf Nursery (Park Hill, OK) which has been newly certified in the program. They spoke about the processes and methods used to become a “SANC-tified” nursery or greenhouse. Phase 2 of this initiative will begin in 2017 with an additional eight nurseries selected to participate.



Dr. Steve Thomas, distinguished professor of Nematology at NMSU, gave a very informative presentation on these tiny pests, describing some of the more common nematodes encountered in horticultural environments and how to identify them. Of particular interest was Dr. Thomas’s explanation of how nematodes, which normally thrive in aquatic conditions, can survive periods of drought and then rehydrate themselves during favorable conditions.

Dr. Carol Sutherland, NMDA’s state entomologist, was especially entertaining. She shared her vast knowledge of historical and current pests in NM with enthusiasm, and provided a lively introduction and status update on biological control species for some New Mexico pests. She also accompanied us to the ABQ Biopark, where she shared her knowledge on common wood borers.



The ABQ Biopark’s Botanic Gardens, BUGarium and Arthropod Rearing Lab gave a vibrant start to the second day of the conference. This venue also included a fantastic aquarium. We visited the back rooms of the BUGarium, observing such wonders as a collection of tarantulas and a rhinoceros beetle that some of the inspectors got to hold. We observed walking stick insects, millipedes, and ants that carried food from one end of the BUGarium to the other. The Botanical Gardens displayed a myriad of native plants as well as a vineyard and apple orchard.

We visited the Elena Gallegos Open Space where US Forest Service entomologists Dr. Andrew Graves and Dr. Tom Coleman talked about Western forest pests and how to identify them. They also discussed how they trap and record pest outbreaks in their territory. They shared their fantastic collection of visual aides which included many specimens and examples of damaged wood, illustrating the destruction these pests can inflict.



Inspectors spoke at length about the legalization of cannabis in some states and the future roles that we, as inspectors, may play in the industry. States that have legalized cannabis are being regulated by other agencies (liquor control, health) and at this time, most of our agencies are only providing minimal service.

Horticulture Inspection Society - Western Chapter
Business Meeting Minutes – 2016 Annual Conference, Albuquerque, NM
Friday, October 14, 2016 – 9:00am MST

Attending: Jack Wilkins – President; Bethany Abrahamson – Vice-President, newly elected co-editor and in-coming President; Cheryl Smith – Secretary; Ruben Arias –Acting Treasurer; Bill Segura-Co-Chair, Albuquerque; Beth Eiring-MT-newly elected Treasurer; Josh Plunkett-MN; Benita Matheson-WA; Nick Bieser-NV, newly elected Website editor; Diego Lozada-NV.

President's Report –

1. Jack 'passed' the gavel to Bethany who is now the new president.

Secretary's Report-

1. Approval of Minutes from Oct. 4, 2016 – Jack- 1st., Bethany- 2nd, approved.
2. Cheryl to send minutes of Business meeting to all attendees. Ruben has sent a list of all attendees to Cheryl.

Treasurer's Report –

1. Beth Eiring is the newly elected Treasurer and she is already been put on as a signer on the credit card account.
2. \$124 made on the silent auction.
3. Ruben will tally up expenditures, such as Walmart, Office Depot, vans, etc. and submit a report by the next conference call.
4. Marlea is still on the account and needs to be removed. Melissa we thought had been removed but is still on the account also.
5. Ruben will get Jack reimbursed for attending the Southern Chapter meeting.

Old Business –

1. Wayne Dixon from the NPB paid for his own registration. He has not asked for reimbursement. We paid for his wife on the tour day. We'll let stand as is.

New Business-

1. AZ has deferred to host the annual meeting until 2018. WA has definitely accepted to host in 2017 and already has ideas.
2. Ruben is on his way to the Central Chapter meeting next week and they have asked him to give a summary of our meeting. Funds were already approved.
3. Bethany will be submitting her travel request today to attend the Eastern Chapter meeting in April. Funds have been approved.
4. Bethany assumes the role of president and is also elected as co-editor to learn the job from John. Official election of that position will be at next year's business meeting and Bethany has expressed high interest in assuming the full position. Beth Eiring -MT elected as the new treasurer. Nick Bieser-NV elected as new website/facebook editor.
5. Jack now becomes immediate past president and therefore Ruben no longer fills an official position.
6. Motion: To elect Ruben Arias as an Honorary Member-Jack-1st; Cheryl-2nd - Passed. Honorary members' membership dues are usually waived and registration at the annual conference is at a reduced price.
7. Bethany will submit a survey to Cheryl. Cheryl has sent it to all attendees including the speakers.
8. Bethany to get addresses of speakers to Cheryl to send out Thank you notes. Cheryl will try to make a Thank you card with the WHIS logo on it.
9. Motion: to approve a National HIS conference every 5 yrs. in lieu of our own regional meeting; Jack- 1st., Bethany- 2nd, passed.
10. Much talk on gaining and retaining membership:
 - a. Write a letter to your SPRO thanking for the opportunity to attend, how beneficial it was and how beneficial it would be for other inspectors to attend.
 - b. Have a member of our committee give a presentation at the up-coming Western Plant Board meetings each year. Our Deputy Plants Director says that it is still undecided for this next year. Should be Alaska. They are waiting to hear from them. If not, then probably New Mexico.
 - c. Cheryl does have all the western states SPRO's , plus many other state officials and USDA officials on her email list as well as all past and present memberships, etc. Please give her any others that you think she should have.
 - d. Discussion on annual conference registration fee. Western - \$100, Central - \$165 or \$175, Southern - \$220. We are currently receiving \$5000 in NPB funds every year that compensates for any deficit from fees paid and expenses on the annual conference. Leave ours the same for now while we are receiving the NPB funds to help encourage more attendance.
 - e. Discussion on membership dues. All Chapters charge \$20 for membership. Discussion about a possible switch to an all-inclusive single payment for as many memberships that a state wants to do. States that have a lot of inspectors would be getting a much better deal than states that only have a few inspectors. Also, this might increase membership but states would still have to pay registration fees for the annual conference, therefore still limiting actual attendance at the annual conferences.

Next Meeting – Tuesday, December 6, 2016. Conference call 10:00 MST, 9:00 PST

Meeting adjourned: 10:25 MST

Respectfully submitted on November 4, 2016 by Cheryl Smith.

2017 ANNUAL MEETING

Washington State, Fall 2017

Dates TBA

Washington State has generously agreed to host our next annual meeting and plans are already underway. Proposed topics and activities include federal export certification, post-entry quarantines, and tours of a SANC pilot nursery and a National Clean Plant Center. We will convene in the city of Richland, located in the southeast part of the state.



If you have any ideas or comments concerning agenda topics, or if you would like additional information, please contact: Benita Matheson at BMatheson@agr.wa.gov.

WHIS BUSINESS NOTES



www.whis.org

The purpose of this chapter shall be:

- (1) To promote high standards of horticultural and regulatory inspection work;*
- (2) To combine and share expertise, knowledge, experience and training among plant pest inspectors toward stimulating interest in and professionalizing plant inspection work;*
- (3) To provide a means of furthering fellowship among plant pest inspectors and allied workers;*
- (4) 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;*
- (5) To advocate harmonization between State and affiliated agencies.*

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It's Not Too Late To Become A Member.....

Please Join Us!



2017 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND RENEWAL

PLEASE CHECK APPROPRIATE CATEGORY:

NEW MEMBER _____ RENEWAL _____

PLEASE PRINT:

NAME: _____

POSITION: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

PHONE: _____ FAX: _____

E-MAIL: _____

PLEASE MARK BOX IF YOU DO NOT WANT YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION POSTED ON OUR WEBSITE.

**CHECKS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$20.00 SHOULD BE MADE PAYABLE TO:
HORTICULTURAL INSPECTION SOCIETY – WESTERN CHAPTER**

PLEASE RETURN THIS COMPLETED FORM AND CHECK TO:

Beth Eiring, MT