



Greenline: HISSC Summer 2016



Message from the President Thomas Carey, VA

I invite you to attend our 18th Annual HIS/SC Training meeting in exciting and beautiful Daytona Beach. This year's conference promises to be exceptional with training on the Caribbean Fruit Fly, Giant African Land Snails, Apiary inspection, Cone head Termite, Florida Detector Dog Program and more. We will visit a diverse nursery, producing field, container, and floral crops. While there, we will tour a Citrus Health Response Program (CHRP) facility. We will also tour a Florida waterway and discuss aquatic invasive species and see their impact on the environment. As always, this meeting provides us with the opportunity to meet colleagues from across the southern region and discuss work similarities and pest problems we may share.

Link to meeting registration:

<http://www.eventbrite.com/e/his-sc-2016-florida-tickets-26471906184>

The Horticulture Inspection Society/Southern Chapter have had many accomplishments in the past year, increasing our profile and enhancing plant pest inspection across the south. One area where this is evident is our updated website <https://sites.google.com/site/hisscsite/> where you can find a new resource tab, webinar announcements, and a link to last year's training meeting speaker presentations. Also, on our website, the Beverly Bewley Scholarship is now operational and can be applied for.

HISSC held a successful training meeting last April in Huntsville Alabama. Participants were updated on the SANC Program and trained on Boxwood Blight and the Boxwood Blight Compliance Agreement. This training meeting was attended by over 35 people representing 12 states.

The many benefits of HISSC membership are being discovered and membership continues to grow as people realize the advantages of getting involved in this dynamic organization. My hope is this year will set a new high mark for membership in HISSC. Greater membership increases awareness of pest problems and makes more connections with colleagues across state borders helping to mitigate potential pest risks. Please consider renewing your membership or becoming a new member.

This past year has been exciting and productive; and with your involvement next year can be even more. I hope to see you in Florida for the 18th annual HIS/SC training meeting. I encourage you to get involved in this active professional society. Join a committee and present your ideas; encourage coworkers to look into HISSC, and inform your SPRO of the enriching content of this training meeting, and benefits of this professional society.

A day in the life.... by Marty Oellerich,
State Survey Coordinator,
Georgia Department of Agriculture



Georgia is considered by USDA-APHIS-PPQ to be a gateway state, meaning we have an increased risk of threat of exotic pest entry. These pests are usually invasive and/or have limited distribution within the U.S. These surveys help to ensure that new introductions of harmful plant pests and diseases are detected as soon as possible, hopefully, before they have a chance to cause significant damage. Early pest detection helps reduce expenditures for pest eradication and often prevents such pests from becoming widely established in the environment.

The GDA Pest Detection Coordinator and Plant Protection staff works closely with USDA-APHIS-PPQ and other agencies to support the overall goal of safeguarding U.S. agricultural and environmental resources by conducting various surveys. These surveys are accomplished primarily under USDA-APHIS-PPQ funding that is provided through cooperative agreements. The two USDA sources funding these surveys are the Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS) program and Farm Bill funded program.

Under both funding sources, GDA conducts science-based national and state surveys targeted at specific exotic plant pests, diseases, and weeds identified as threats to U.S. agriculture and/or the environment. Surveys conducted through the CAPS and Farm Bill funded programs represent a line of defense against the entry of harmful plant pests and weeds.

Though these surveys the program is able to target high-risk hosts and commodities, gather data about pests specific to a commodity, and establish better baseline data about pests that were recently introduced in the United States. The mission of the CAPS and Farm Bill program funded surveys is to provide a survey profile of exotic plant pests in the United States deemed to be of regulatory significance through early detection and surveillance activities

USDA-APHIS has put together a list of approved methods and guidelines for each target pest to ensure the best method is used to detect new introductions as soon as possible, before they have a chance to cause significant damage. There are several different types of approved survey methods including the use of pheromone traps, visual surveys and sample surveys. When using pheromone trapping as the survey method, multiple trap types may be used. The methods used will vary between commodity and survey type depending, but not limited to many factors, such as commodity surveyed and target pest. A survey may have a single method used to survey or it may be a combination of two or more methods. For example some surveys will include pheromone trapping along with a visual and/or sampling component.

In 2016, GDA Pest Detection will be conducting surveys, throughout the state, in the commodities of Apple, Grape, Stone Fruit, Blueberry and Solanaceous. Additionally we will be conducting surveys in Honey Bees and around distribution centers, railroad yards, ports, airports, and other high risk areas.

We will also be assisting Georgia Forestry Commission and USDA in monitoring traps in a delimiting survey for Asian Gypsy Moth in the Savannah area. Delimiting meaning an Asian Gypsy Moth was found in the area and now traps are placed at a high density in a 10 x 10 sq. mile area with a trap every .2 miles.

Overall in 2016, GDA Pest Detection will be involved in various commodity based surveys distributed throughout the state with over 1200 pheromone traps (checked every two weeks), will conduct over 7000 visual inspections and will be helping with the 1200 plus Asian Gypsy Moth traps deployed in the Savannah area.

So next time you see a trap let it be a reminder that the Department of Agriculture, Pest Detection Program is working hard to protect threats to U.S. agriculture and/or the environment.

Boxwood Blight Update



On June 24th Pennsylvania issued an official quarantine in an attempt to prevent further spread of the pathogen. You can see the official order and find out more on the Pennsylvania Landscape & Nursery Association website. <http://www.plna.com/news/296535/>

To help you identify the disease in your daily inspections the following is an excerpt of Edward Burlett's article in our last newsletter. Boxwood Blight has three symptoms; Small brown to black leafspots, which leads to defoliation, and black streaks or cankers on the stems. Seeing these three symptoms is a good indicator, but next you need a lab confirmation. The infections usually appear down low, on the shady side of the plant and progress up the plant. American & European boxwood varieties seem most susceptible, Asian boxwood varieties often do not express the disease, which means they could be a disease reservoir (a Trojan horse).



Boxwood blight needs temperature between 45° to 86° F and available moisture to jumpstart the life cycle. It reproduces by sticky spores (Conidia) and overwintering spores (Microsclerotia) that can last up to 5+ years in boxwood leaf litter. The blight is easily spread by wind, splashing water, animals and yes, you guessed it, man!

Emerald Ash Borer

Emerald Ash Borer, *Agrilus planipennis*

Planus = plane or flat + penna = wing or feather, so planipennis = flat wing



The brilliant metallic green Emerald Ash Borer emerges, in the spring, leaving a D shaped exit hole. They are only about a half inch long. You might find one on a calm spring day on the sunny side of a tree. But look quick they only have a short while left to live. During that time they mate. Each female can lay about 80 eggs in her two to three weeks of adult life. She lays her eggs on the outer bark of the Ash tree. The egg hatches within 10 days and then bores into the tree to feed. They spend most of their lives as larvae, inside the tree spring, summer, and fall carving out galleries. These galleries interrupt phloem movement in the tree. They pupate during winter and emerge in the spring thus beginning the life cycle again.

They came from eastern Asia, probably in wood packing material. The first detection of them in the United States was in 2002 in Michigan. They have killed millions of trees in this time, moving across 25 states and into Canada. The economic impact is absurd. Most recently it was found in Texas in May and in Nebraska in June.

This gorgeous pest is a big deal. Wood from Ash is valuable for furniture making and many other applications. The trees are prized for their shade and fall color. They seem to be more prized the farther north you go.

The definitive website on the topic

<http://www.emeraldashborer.info/#sthash.HEFJWJk5.dpbs>

Upcoming Events:

Southern Peanut Growers Conference
July 21-24 in Sandestin, FL

Southern Nursery Association Trade
Show
July 21-23, 2015 Atlanta, GA

Virginia Tech Eastern Shore AREC Re-
search Field Day
Late July / August in Painter VA

UT Steak & Potatoes Field Day
August 2 in Crossville TN

Tomato and Vegetable Field Day
August in Mills River NC

NCNLA Summer Green Road Show
August 4-6, 2015 Hickory, NC

Texas Nursery Landscape Expo
August 18-20 in Houston TX

Georgia Peanut Tour
September 13-15 in south GA

**Horticulture Inspectors Society
Southern Chapter Annual Meeting**
September 18-22 in Daytona Beach FL

International Citrus & Beverage Confer-
ence
Sept 15-18 at Clearwater Beach FL

Oklahoma Nursery and Landscape As-
sociation Convention & Trade Show
September 28-30 in Oklahoma City OK

Arkansas Green Industry Association
Landscape Day
October 1 in Bentonville & Fayetteville
AR

Tennessee Green Industry Expo
October 6-7 in McMinnville TN

Fall Flower & Garden Fest
October 14-15 in Crystal Springs MS

Sunbelt Ag Expo
Oct 18-20 in Moultrie GA

Greenhouse Vegetable Growers Annual
Meeting
End of October 25-26 in Raleigh NC

Alabama Fruit & Vegetable Growers As-
sociation Annual Conference & Trade
Show
November 17-18 in Clanton AL