



**INLA Strategic Plan**

The Iowa Nursery and Landscape Association Board Members, along with additional members, gathered for a meeting in December 2011. The purpose of this meeting was to initiate and put in place a strategic plan for the INLA.

During this meeting, those in attendance put together four “areas of focus”, that they feel will benefit the association and help propel the association in a progressive direction.

Those areas of focus are:

- Education of Membership and the General Community
- Public Service with our Neighborhoods
- Development of Hardscape Education and Involvement
- Government Advocacy/Lobbying for our Industry

Please stay tuned for further details as our new dues year approaches.

If you have questions or suggestions please contact Joan O'Brien by emailing [joano@agribiz.org](mailto:joano@agribiz.org) or by calling the office at 515-262-8323.

**Deer Rule Proposal Being Considered by NRC**

The deer rule proposal, approved by the governor, for NRC consideration is for a 13,000 cut in antlerless tags; compared to the original proposal of nearly 26,000 less tags. The issue will be discussed at the upcoming NRC meeting.

The next meeting date is Thursday, April 12 and will be held in the 4<sup>th</sup> floor conference rooms of the Wallace Building, at 502 E 9<sup>th</sup> Street, in Des Moines. The meeting will begin at 9:30 A.M. and will be open for public participation at 10 A.M.

Any interested person may make written suggestions or comments on the proposed amendments on or before May 23, 2012. Written comments may be directed to Wildlife Bureau Chief, Wallace State Office Building, 502 E. 9th Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0034; by Email at [wildlife@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:wildlife@dnr.iowa.gov); or by fax at (515)281-6794.

To view the rule, as it will be presented, please see attached.

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**First Annual INLA Service Day!**

Mark your calendars!

The first Annual INLA Service Day will be September 12, 2012. The project will take place on the State Capitol grounds and will be a fun filled all day event.

We encourage you to put this on your calendars, so our first service day will be a successful event.

More details will be shared throughout the Summer. Please feel free to call Joan O'Brien with any questions. She can be reached by email at [joano@agribiz.org](mailto:joano@agribiz.org) or by calling 515-262-8323.

Hope to see you all there!

**Webinars Available Online**

INLA would like to announce that the 2012 and 2011 Continuing Education Webinar Series' will be available ,to INLA members, for viewing.

Please go to: [iowanla.org/webinars/](http://iowanla.org/webinars/) to view a list of all available webinars, at this time.

You will need a password in order to log in, as an INLA member. That password is: **webinar2012** .



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## Preserving Trees Conference: June 7 & 8, 2012

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The Preserving Trees Conference sponsored by Trees Forever, Kirkwood Community College and the Iowa Arborist Association will feature Dr. Gary Johnson from the University of Minnesota and Dr. Jeff Iles from Iowa State University.

The event will take place on June 7 and 8, 2012, at The Hotel at Kirkwood Center and will run from 8:30 A.M. - 4 P.M. on June 7th and from 8:30 A.M. - 1 P.M. on the 8th. To inquire about the discounted room rates call The Hotel at Kirkwood before May 17!

Take advantage of this great opportunity to learn about how to care for big trees and to how to select and care for young trees so they, too, one day become big and healthy.

The material presented at this workshop will be of particular interest to land managers & others who want to grow, maintain and evaluate their large trees.

To learn more about the conference please go to: [www.treesforever.org/Default.aspx](http://www.treesforever.org/Default.aspx)

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## Save the Bees!

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A Cresco couple on Wednesday joined 30 beekeepers and organizations across the country to petition the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in an attempt to stop use of a pesticide they believe is killing honey bees.

Manley and Linda Bigalk run Golden Ridge Honey Farm Inc. and supply honey to 110 grocery stores.

The Bigalks once tended to 1,400 hives but now have 600. They typically replaced 15 percent of their bees each year, but now replace 30 percent.

They blame insecticides, including clothianidin, for their losses, the petition notes.

The Bigalks and other beekeepers asked the EPA to suspend use of the chemical and to make sure similar chemicals aren't used in the future. More than a million people submitted comments expressing concern about the chemical as part of the petition effort.

"EPA has an obligation to protect pollinators from the threat of pesticides," petitioner Jeff Anderson of California Minnesota Honey Farms said in a statement. "The agency has failed to adequately regulate pesticides harmful to pollinators despite scientific and on-the-ground evidence presented by academics and beekeepers."

The Bigalks could not be reached for comment. The EPA

didn't respond to an email seeking comment.

Scientists still debate why bees are dying in large numbers, but many consider pesticides only one reason. Fungi, habitat loss and parasites also are involved, researchers say.

The petitions claim the EPA has known for nine years that the pesticide hurts bees, which are important both for honey production and for their role in pollinating various plants.

"EPA ignored its own requirements and failed to study the impacts of clothianidin on honey bees," said Peter Jenkins, an attorney for the Center for Food Safety, which also signed on to the petition.

"The body of evidence against the chemical continues to grow, yet the agency has refused to take action."

The groups accuse the EPA of failing to follow its regulations, granting temporary registration for clothianidin in 2003 without a required field study establishing that the pesticide would have no "unreasonable adverse effects" on pollinators. The agency failed to follow up with a required field study, the petition alleges.



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## Order Your INLA Garden Catalog!

The Iowa Nursery and Landscape Association strives to provide our members the tools and knowledge needed to run a successful business. One of the tools INLA provides are Garden Catalogs that you can provide to your customers.

INLA offers the following catalogs, planners, and care guides: trees and shrubs, perennials, ideas, yard and garden, and planting and care guide.

Attached is the order form for INLA catalogs. If you would like to order any catalogs, please fill out the form and return it to the INLA office. If you have any questions, please call the INLA office at 515.262.8323.



# Insect Invasion Lands in Iowa

By: Perry Beeman

Iowa's unusually mild winter and early spring brought the early arrival of insects that could mean trouble for crops and picnics, but also spared many bees, setting up a potentially sweet year for Iowa's \$3.5 million honey industry.

The early arrivals include pesky backyard gnats loitering in big numbers on cars and houses, and corn and soybean pests that will require farmers to keep insecticides handy.



The fungus gnats are already blackening cars, house siding and compost piles, said Iowa State University extension entomologist Donald Lewis. One woman feared they were termites, which are similar in appearance.

"They all came out at once because of the 80-degree temperatures last week," Lewis said.

The little black gnats are difficult to see. They aren't the ones often seen swarming in a cloud over neighborhood parks. Those actually are midges, he noted.

People shouldn't necessarily expect an insect explosion this year, though, Lewis added. "Some things will be here sooner than we expect," Lewis said. "Some will come in greater numbers because of the warm weather. Overall, insects will probably be about average," and the key is the spring weather, when many of the insects reproduce, he said.

But the mild winter was just what the doctor ordered for one welcome species — bees in commercial hives.

State apiarist Andrew Joseph said queen bees have laid more eggs than usual at the state's 10 demonstration hives near Bondurant. The past couple of Iowa winters resulted in some of the highest bee mortality rates in the nation, killing off about 66 percent of the hive population last year and 74 percent in 2010. This winter probably only killed 25 percent.

With plenty of pollen already on the landscape, the state's 2,500 beekeepers are hoping for a big year, Joseph said.

"We are off to a great start," said Joseph, who works for the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship. "We are going to have big colonies of bees." Joseph said that should result in increased honey production if favorable conditions persist.



More than 30,000 Iowa bee colonies together produce 3.1 million pounds of honey a year, worth an estimated \$3.5 million. But that's only a small fraction of their overall economic benefit to the state's economy. The work they do to pollinate soybeans, strawberries and many other plants is worth another \$92 million annually.

Jerald and Cindy Deal are expecting a healthy crop of apples at Deal's Orchard near Jefferson — if Mother Nature doesn't throw a cold curveball. Last year, a May cold snap dropped production on their 45-acre orchard to 10,000 bushels, down from the usual 15,000 to 18,000.

The bugs shouldn't be any more of a problem than usual, Jerald Deal said.

"I'm not as concerned as much with the insects," said Deal, who plans to apply insecticides in the usual way, as little as possible. "There could be a possibility of greater pressure from insects because we didn't get quite as cold. But we just hope it doesn't get cold again."

On the downside, the warm weather has already produced pests that could cost farmers more time and money. And are bugging homeowners.

ISU also had an unusually early report of a black cutworm moth. The moths mean that their offspring, which begin as caterpillars, will be poised to saw corn plants off at the base unless farmers spray insecticide.

A Muscatine County farmer found one of the moths in a trap on March 19. "This is very early to see migratory moths moving up north," ISU entomologist Erin Hodgson wrote on her blog, "It's a Bug's Life."



Black cutworm moths don't stay in Iowa in winter. They fly up from the south. They are a sporadic problem in Iowa's crop fields, said Adam Sisson, a program assistant at ISU.

Soybeans are in the cross hairs, too. An Iowa winter worth its wind chill typically kills 60 to 90 percent of the dreaded bean leaf beetles, which eat soybean plants. This past winter, which was barely able to frost a windshield, only killed 30 to 53 percent.

That's the lightest kill-off of the beetles since ISU began using a new model to predict the mortality rate in 2000.

The good news: the mild winter probably won't mean an explosion in the number of mosquitoes, flies or other insects nagging us. The spring weather determines those populations, not winter temperatures, said Lewis, the ISU entomologist.

"Populations won't build until we have standing water and warm temperatures," he said.

Robin Pruisner, an entomologist with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, said the warmth could bring an early burst of bugs. That includes ants, which most likely survived the winter in higher numbers.

"If this warmth continues, some insects may build up their numbers more quickly," she said.

But the warmer winter actually could have hindered some species, Pruisner said. Some rely on snow for insulation, and may have died or become stressed by exposure. Others may have gotten active too early, using energy they had stored for later.