



Thank You to Service Day Volunteers



I wanted to take a moment to give sincere THANKS to everyone who participated in the 3rd Annual INLA Day of Service Project at the ABE Building on the ISU Campus.

This year's project was the most ambitious project to date. It was also performed under the worst weather conditions. I sincerely appreciate everyone taking time from your very busy schedules to come together and deliver yet another wonderful facelift to a building in need. **The dedication of this building is in a couple of weeks** and I know those that attend the dedication will notice the beautiful landscaping.

I also wanted to send a special thanks to our **student groups** that took a day to assist with the project: ISU Landscape Club, Kirkwood

Community College Horticulture and Landscape Students and Iowa Lakes Community College Horticulture students. Without their valuable contribution this project would not have been possible. I hope each student had the opportunity to learn with this hands-on experience as well as have the opportunity to network with, and learn from, INLA industry professionals. These students are the future of our industry and I am personally encouraged by their enthusiasm.

Thanks again to everyone for your contributions this week.

*Jeff Engel*  
INLA Past President

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Iowa to Reduce Number of Deer Licenses

By: Erin Murphy - Gazette

Fewer does will be hunted this year in Iowa under changes adopted Tuesday by the state. The state will issue 10,000 fewer hunting licenses for antlerless deer this year, and no antlerless hunting will be allowed in northwest Iowa's 27 counties during the early muzzleloader and first shotgun seasons. The state also eliminated the January antlerless season.

The reductions are an attempt to slow or halt a population reduction effort employed over the past seven years. Department of Natural Resources officials said the state's deer population once deemed too high has been reduced to levels at or lower than those recorded in the mid-1990s.

"We were in a reduction mode for a number of years. Now we are in a stabilization mode. We're trying to keep the numbers similar to what they are," DNR spokesman Kevin Baskins said. Iowa DNR director Chuck Gipp said the state's deer population was too high in 2006, so the state increased antlerless tags to thin the herd. Gipp said that goal has been achieved in most parts of the state, so in those areas the number of antlerless licenses will be reduced.

According to DNR statistics, from 2006-13 the deer count observed by bowhunters and

reported to the state was down 22 percent. During a public comment period, roughly two-thirds of comments were in support of the new rule, officials said.

"In the last couple of years, probably, the pendulum has swung to where we're getting more complaints from hunters (over a lack of deer) than we are from people who think there are too many deer," Baskins said.

Gipp said most of the concerns expressed over the new rule were from Iowans who still see too many deer in their region.

When asked about the changes, the Iowa Farm Bureau issued a statement that said the organization believes individual landowners are the best to decide the size of a deer herd on his or her property.

"Iowa Farm Bureau members prefer that a greater number of antlerless deer be harvested," said a statement emailed by the bureau's public relations coordinator Andrew Wheeler.

State officials do not believe the rules changes will impact the number of hunters this season. DNR officials said the new quota for this year is 10,000 fewer antlerless licenses than were sold last year, when 22,000 went unsold.

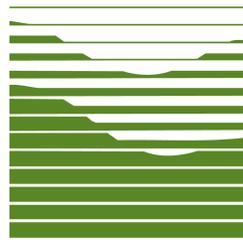
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## ASLA Conference: October 8, 2014

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The American Society of Landscape Architects is holding their annual conference on October 8 in Des Moines, Iowa.

For a list of presenters and the agenda you may go to: <https://2014iowaaslafallconference.eventbrite.com> or see the attached flyer.



AMERICAN  
SOCIETY OF  
LANDSCAPE  
ARCHITECTS

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### New Iowa Homes Might Get Less Topsoil

*By: Donelle Eller - The Des Moines Register*

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The amount of topsoil that comes with a new home could shrink following a decision by the Iowa Environmental Protection Commission.

Existing state rules require builders to provide four inches of topsoil evenly distributed across the yard of a new home.

A new rule that the commission backed Tuesday gives homebuilders more discretion. It would require existing topsoil on a lot to be replaced, unless it's not feasible.

Opponents say that language is too ambiguous, but homebuilders say the change will save thousands of dollars that add to the cost of new homes.

The new rule, which would match federal requirements, must go through a series of public hearings before it would take effect.

The existing requirement is costly and difficult to meet, said Creighton Cox, executive officer of the Home Builders Association of Greater Des Moines. He led a stakeholders group, dominated by building industry leaders, that was appointed by Gov. Terry Branstad.

Cox said providing four-inches of topsoil costs developers about \$4,500 and builders \$1,500 for each home.

"Throughout Iowa, every \$1,000 increase in home costs ... prices out 3,126 families," Cox told the commission. "At \$6,000, the rule ... prices out over 18,756 Iowa families."

But two members of a topsoil task force said the language will enable builders to decide against providing adequate topsoil to cut costs.

Homeowners across the state have complained that too little topsoil means they're unable to grow grass or gardens, they said. More importantly, the topsoil in a homeowner's yard can determine how much rainfall is absorbed and how much runs into streams and rivers, contributing to flooding.

"Topsoil acts like a sponge," task force member Pat Sauer of

the Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities said. "It's important for water quality in this state."

Task force member Lucy Hershberger of Forever Green Landscaping in Coralville said homeowners have to spend thousands of dollars to rehabilitate their soil because builders are not providing it.

"If homebuilders are already returning the topsoil to lots, where does this new cost come from?" she asked. "If they were returning the topsoil, they wouldn't be fighting this so hard."

Sauer said it will be difficult for the cities she represents to enforce the new rule.

"It's so ambiguous, how can companies be held accountable," she said.

Cox said he couldn't imagine many situations in residential development where returning topsoil to a lot would not be feasible.

Asked why some Iowans struggle with lawns that are unable to grow grass, Chip Classon of Jerry's Homes blamed irresponsible developers who fail to clean up gravel or other materials stored on a lot during construction.

"I don't know that a rule fixes that," he said.

Hershberger blamed builders who lay sod directly on compacted clay soils for the growing difficulties. Four inches of topsoil underneath sod is designed to alleviate that, she said.

Chuck Gipp, Iowa's Department of Natural Resources director, said Iowans will have several opportunities to talk about the proposed topsoil requirement during the rule-making process, likely to take several months.

Until then, Iowa homebuilders will be required to meet the four-inch topsoil rule, he said.

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### Press Release Updates: The Western

#### Western's 1st Field Day at Greenleaf Nursery Co. :

Greenleaf Nursery Co. in Park Hill, Oklahoma will be the site of the Western Nursery & Landscape Association's 1<sup>st</sup> Field Day on October 16. **FREE** Registration and **FREE** buses from Kansas and Missouri will be provided compliments of The Western and Greenleaf Nursery Co.

#### Western Celebrates 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in K.C.:

The 2015 Western marks the 125th Anniversary of the Western Nursery & Landscape Association. Help The Western celebrate this milestone as well as their heritage as an Association at the 2015 Western!

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# Homeowners Advised to Wait Until Spring for EAB Tree Treatments

By: *Dar Danielson - Radiolowa*

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The continued discovery of new counties infested with the emerald ash borer may have you thinking about getting your ash tree treated. Iowa State University entomologist, Mark Shour says they don't recommend any treatments after Labor Day. "It's a really good time for people to have the opportunity to get bids for tree treatments for next spring. Look at those bids, check on references and decided on which bid they are going to accept and then do the treatment next spring — say mid April to mid-May," Shour says.

He says you'll be wasting most of the treatment if it's put into the trunk of the tree right now. "Really by the end of July the tree has stopped doing active relocating of the resources down to its roots and buds and stuff. And so really, injecting something this time of year — trunk injection — is not going to do as good a job as it would in the spring," Shour explains.

He says that goes for other types of ash tree treatments

as well. "Outside soil treatment or basil bark spray, they'll just sit there in that environment for that period of time and can be lost off the tree if not careful," Shour says. Shour says he's heard the treatments can be a success in healthy trees.

There is work on a non-chemical treatment that uses three wasps from the area in China where the ash borer originated. "It's been released in centers where EAB has fairly large populations, and they are doing a good job of getting establish," Shour says. Researchers have also found a wasp in Michigan that can be used to kill the emerald ash borer. "An it's switched over from its normal host over to EAB, so it's starting to work too," Shour says. "But still, when everything is rocking and rolling so to speak, and when we're ten years down the road where the wasps are catching up to the beetle, we are still only going to be 30 to 40 percent in control of the emerald ash borer." The state just recently announced the 13th county infestation from the pest.

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## Number of Iowans Sickened by Insects Rose in 2013

By: *Rod Boshart - Gazette Des Moines Bureau*

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New data from state health officials confirm what some Iowans already knew: insects make them sick. Diseases spread via insects significantly impacted Iowans in 2013, according to the latest report on disease surveillance issued by the Iowa Department of Public Health. The yearly report provides a snapshot of what, how, and when events affect the public's health, agency officials said.

In 2013, there was a notable number of insect-borne diseases reported to state health officials, including Dengue fever, Lyme disease, malaria, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, and West Nile virus. Of that list, Lyme disease and West Nile virus increased when compared to the previous three-year average.

"We expect to see an increase in imported insect-borne diseases in the future," said Dr. Patricia Quinlisk, the department's medical director.

"Chikungunya is a mosquito-borne disease that has become common in the Caribbean and Iowans who vacation and are bit by an infected mosquito there can come home and become ill," she said. "If you're traveling to areas outside the U.S., it's important to know what diseases are circulating there and how to protect yourself against them."

Also last year, health officials noted that more than 71,000 laboratory results of infectious diseases and conditions were submitted to the state agency's disease surveillance programs.

In general, the number of reported cases of vaccine-

preventable diseases decreased when compared to the previous three-year average (2010-2012); however, the number of reported Hepatitis A cases increased. During the summer of 2013, Quinlisk noted that 136 Iowans from 35 counties were diagnosed with Cyclosporiasis as part of a multistate outbreak linked to consumption of a bagged salad mix. Cyclospora is a rare parasite that can cause prolonged, watery diarrhea, which, if left untreated, can last weeks to months.

Only 10 cases of Cyclospora had been reported in Iowa before 2013, health officials said. Cases increased by nearly 315 percent last year. In addition to the Cyclospora outbreak, 59 other outbreaks affecting more than 1,100 people were reported and investigated in 2013.

The most-common implicated pathogen was norovirus, and outbreaks occurred most frequently in restaurants, long-term care/assisted living facilities, schools/child care facilities, and homes.

Other significant elements of note in the 2013 report included an increase in enteric or diarrheal diseases, which are typically associated with contaminated food or water.

The 2013 Iowa Surveillance of Notifiable and Other Diseases Report can be found at the <http://bit.ly/1uZMudv> link on the health agency's website.

Read more at <http://thegazette.com/subject/news/number-of-iowans-sickened-by-insects-rose-in-2013-20140919#jeER2aSQ7xwXF1wr.99>

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# Introducing Aronia Berries, Iowa's Superfood

By: Jennifer Miller - The Des Moines Register

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Bob Pertzborn drives around town in a van advertising Pertzborn Insurance. Which makes sense, because that's his business. During the late summer, though, inside the van are the real fruits of his labor: more freshly harvested aronia berries than he could have imagined when he planted 1,000 aronia bushes in 2011. And frankly, more than he knows what to do with at the moment.

There could be quite a few growers in the same boat. A member of the board of the Midwest Aronia Association, Pertzborn said there are probably nearly 100,000 aronia plants growing within 20 miles of his plot near Ankeny.

It's not that Pertzborn, 54, and his wife, Kathy, 56, haven't made some plans or sold any berries. It's just that there's so *many* all of a sudden.

## A hardy, native crop:

So why aronia berries? Ask that question of the Pertzborns and they'll both wax eloquent about everything aronia. The entrepreneurial opportunities, the fact that aronias once grew like weeds here, the berries' nutritional wow factors, the boon to small farmers.

## Sustainability:

Because the plants are native and hardy, there is little reason to use chemicals, so most aronias grown in the



U.S. are organic. The plants are also long-lived perennials so the same ones can be harvested for decades.

## In all 99 counties:

So why *isn't* everybody growing aronias? Andrew Pittz of Sawmill Hollow might wonder that, too — and definitely would like to change that.

"Last year I planted aronias in all 99 counties," he said. **"Now my goal is for every household to plant an aronia bush. I think aronias can be to Iowa what peaches are to Georgia."**

He estimates that there are at least 300-400 growers in the state.

What's still missing, Pittz, Pertzborn and Iowa State Extension Horticulturalist Joe Hannan agree, is a large, national market.

"The industry is really still in its infancy. In my opinion, if the industry is going to succeed, it needs to have success developing, marketing and selling processed (value added) products," Hannan said in an email.

To read the full article go to: <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/life/home-garden/2014/09/02/aronia-berries-health-benefits/14954085/>

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# The Next Generation is Stepping Up: The Plight of the Honey Bees

By: Staff Writer - Radiolowa

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The teenager chosen to be a spokeswoman for Iowa's beekeeping industry has spent her summer visiting fairs around the state to tell the public about the plight of bees. Gabrielle Hemesath of Clermont is the 2014 Iowa Honey Queen.

"Last winter, Iowa lost 70 percent of their honey bee populations, so it's been a big struggle," she says.

In a normal winter, the loss is far lower, somewhere between 15 and 20 percent. Hemesath says honey bees are crucial for the pollination of a wide variety of crops. Experts estimate at least one-quarter of the food consumed in the U.S. can be traced back to a plant that was pollinated by a bee.

"That's things like 60 percent of fruits and vegetables, but also it affects things like beef because honey bees pollinate alfalfa and cows eat alfalfa," she says. "So we need to take care of honey bees because they're such a big part of our food supply, but honey bees have been dying off."

Bee populations have been dying at a rate that USDA officials say is "economically unsustainable." Bee keepers

and researchers say the dramatic escalation in bee deaths is due at least in part to the growing use of pesticides. Hemesath is urging Iowans to think twice about killing those dandelions in the lawn.

"Because that gives honey bees a great source of food and also protects them from those potential pesticides," Hemesath says.

Hemesath, a senior at North Fayette Valley in West Union, first started working with bees as a seventh grader. Her older sister was working for a beekeeper in Elgin and there was a job opening. She still works for that operation, but has two hives of her own as well.

"Honey bees are very nice creatures," Hemesath says. "They won't sting if they think you're going to threaten their hive or their queen, so if you don't bother them, if you're calm around them, they won't sting."

Hemesath was crowned the 2014 Iowa Honey Queen last November. She visited the Clay County Fair this past week. She plans to compete for the title of American Honey Queen this December.

# SAVE THE DATE!

## 59th Annual ISU - Shade Tree Short Course & INLA Trade Show

*February 24-26, 2015*

### **Thank you to Members Who Have Renewed Their Commitment to INLA!**

INLA strives to promote certified Garden Center and Landscaping professionals, so thank you to the following INLA members who have already renewed their membership and paid 2014 - 2015 dues!

**We appreciate your support of the Iowa Nursery and Landscape Association!**

If you have not yet renewed your membership please keep your eye out for the second round of dues invoices which will be sent shortly. The following renewals have been received **through 9-23-14**.

*\* Indicates an ICNP dues paying member.*

**Dena Davis\***

Iowa City Landscaping & Nursery  
*Wellman, IA*

**Tyler Maifeld\***

Maifeld Landscaping LLC  
*Sumner, IA*

**Kent Reimann\***

Country Landscapes, Inc.  
*Iowa City, IA*

**Sheila Elsey**

Mississippi Valley STIHL  
*Peoria, IL*

**Jim Mason**

Country Landscapes, Inc.  
*Ames, IA*

**Anna Mary Riniker**

Boots Nursery, Inc.  
*Anamosa, IA*

**Pat Ford**

Farber Bag & Supply Co.  
*Peosta, IA*

**Judy Nauseef\***

Judy Nauseef Landscape Design  
*Iowa City, IA*

**Jil Roberts**

Twixwood Nursery, LLC  
*Berrien Springs, MI*

**Gary Garles**

Bob Lenc Landscaping, Inc.  
*Des Moines, IA*

**Shirley Peckosh\***

Peck's Green Thumb Nursery  
*Cedar Rapids, IA*

**Steve Trusty**

Trusty & Associates  
*Council Bluffs, IA*

**Irv Geffre**

Alta Falls & Pond Supplies  
*Long Lakes, MN*

**Ethel Picado\***

Bob Lenc Landscaping, Inc.  
*Des Moines, IA*

**Ann Marie VanDerZanden\***

Iowa State University  
*Ames, IA*

**Vincent Knoot\***

City of Ankeny  
*Ankeny, IA*

**Will Pirtle**

Guideone Insurance Company  
*WDM, IA*

**Bret Wram\***

TNT Landscaping & Nursery  
*Ankeny, IA*

**Roseanne Latcham\***

Iowa City Landscaping & Nursery  
*Iowa City, IA*

**Deb Proctor**

Pace Supply  
*Fairfax, IA*