



INLA Committee Meeting - July 8, 2015



All members are welcome to join our committee meetings on July 8 at Reiman Gardens in Ames, IA.

Gardens. Lunch will be provided after the meeting adjourns.

If you have further questions about the meeting and its contents please contact Joan O'Brien.

INLA Committees (Tradeshow, Membership, and INCP) will meet at 10 AM at Reiman

Email: joano@agribiz.org or by calling the office at 515-262-8323.

Inside this issue

INLA Committee Meeting - July 8, 20151

4th Annual INLA Service Day - Save The Date!.....1

Statement in Response to Lowe's Position on Neonicotinoids.....1

Iowa Organizations Join to Create Monarch Butterfly Consortium.....2

Iowa Honey Production Dips to Five-Year Low.....2

INLA Job Board.....3

Iowa City Named Tree City USA.....3

ISU Extension Hosting Emerald Ash Borer Meeting - May 5.....3

Order Your Catalog Today!3

4th Annual INLA Service Day - Save The Date!

The fourth Annual INLA Service Day will be Friday, September 11, 2015. The project's location is being planned by the INLA Board. This will be a fun filled event with lunch provided. We had a great group of volunteers at the ISU Campus in Ames last year and we would love to see even more participate this year. 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 or by calling 515-262-8323.

Hope to see you all there!

Statement in Response to Lowe's Position on Neonicotinoids

A press release by AmericanHort: As professional horticulturists, we grow trees, plants and flowers, and healthy trees, plants and flowers are critically important to healthy bees and healthy bee habitats. Pollinator health is a highly complex issue, and we recognize that there many factors that can affect bee health. Although the improper use of pesticides can harm bees, a growing number of credible independent studies indicate that neonicotinoids, when used as directed, are not the cause of widespread bee health issues.

Lowe's position is surprising, considering the most recent and positive reports on the state of honeybee health ([NASS honey report](#)) and recent [peer reviewed research](#). This is an issue for which sound science must take priority.

Consumers want plants that are healthy, beautiful and pest-free, and neonicotinoids have proven to be among the most effective pest management tools available. Neonicotinoids also are among the safest products we have for both our employees and the environment.

Plant growers are experts on how to produce healthy plants. We embrace the challenge of protecting bee and pollinator health and the opportunity to be part of the solution. We will continue to fund important research on the health of bees, and guide horticulture on safe and responsible pest management. Horticulture will look to the best science to guide our efforts.

For additional information on what horticulture needs to know about pollinator health, view our video at <http://bit.ly/ProtectingPollinatorsVideo>.

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Iowa Organizations Join to Create Monarch Butterfly Consortium

By: [Julie Ferrell, Ames Tribune](#)



Photo By: The Ames Tribune

Nick Onken, an ISU student in agriculture business, works in on of the university's greenhouses.

The Iowa Monarch Conservation Consortium is taking a science-based approach to enhancing monarch-butterfly reproduction. The group will assist community-led implementation efforts and includes farmer and conservation organizations and companies. Enhancing the monarch butterfly's habitat in rural and urban Iowa is the goal of a new, broad-based statewide effort.

Declines in monarch butterflies nationwide have been attributed to the loss of overwintering habitat and the loss of milkweed habitat. Monarchs depend on milkweed plants for laying their eggs and for caterpillar nutrition. As adults, monarchs also rely on other plants for nutrition. Research will evaluate criteria for optimal reproduction-promoting habitats, including the mix of milkweed species and companion plants, and the size and spacing of milkweed patches.

Initial partners in the Iowa Monarch Conservation Consortium include farmer and conservation organizations, state agencies, companies and Iowa State.

The Iowa Monarch Conservation Consortium, established through the efforts of Iowa State University's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, the Iowa Department of Agriculture and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, will take a science-based approach to enhancing monarch butterfly reproduction and assist community-led implementation efforts.

The consortium's efforts complement a recently announced national campaign by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that plans to establish on-the-ground monarch-conservation

Joe McGovern, president of the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, said, "The consortium will build on Iowa's experience in related conservation efforts and can make great strides in benefiting monarchs. We look forward to getting the word out to all Iowans about how they can help increase monarch habitat."

Nationally, declines in monarch butterflies have been attributed to loss of overwintering habitat, and the loss of milkweed habitat. in both rural and urban settings.

Visit www.fws.gov/savethemonarch for more information.

Iowa Honey Production Dips to Five-Year Low

By: [George C. Ford, The Gazette](#)

Honey production in Iowa fell 20 percent last year to the lowest point since 2010, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service.

Honey from Iowa producers with five or more colonies totaled 1.51 million pounds in 2014, down from the 1.87 million pounds produced in 2013. The number of honey producing colonies in the state fell from 39,000 colonies in 2013 to 35,000 colonies last year.

Yield per colony in Iowa averaged 43 pounds, down from 48

pounds per colony in 2013. The state ranked 19th nationally in honey production last year, unchanged from 2013.

Iowa's 2014 honey crop was valued at \$3.78 million, down 18 percent from the previous year's \$4.59 million. The average price per pound was \$2.51, up 6 cents from 2013.

Andrew Joseph, state apiarist and bee expert, said Iowa's honey bee population was sharply reduced in 2014 by harsh winter weather along with pesticide problems, colony collapse and parasites such as varroa mites.

The INLA Job Board

.... is a handy tool!

Current Opening: Purchasing Manager

Foster's, Inc., the Midwest's leading wholesale distributor of lawn & garden, outdoor décor and landscaping supplies is seeking an experienced individual to lead our product acquisition team. Qualified candidates should forward their resume to sales@fostersinc.com or mail to: President, Foster's, Inc., PO Box 2674, Waterloo, IA 50704-2674.

Full Job Description and to access the job board on the website please go to: <http://iowanla.org/job-postings/>



ADVERTISE WITH US!

Placing an ad within the INLA monthly newsletters is a great way to reach fellow industry professionals across the state and beyond.

Whether you're selling products or services, we'll help you get the word out.

Call the office at 515-262-8323/800-383-1682 or email Joan O'Brien for more details.

Iowa City Named Tree City USA

For 35 years, Iowa City has been named Tree City USA by the Tree City USA program.

The city received its 35th Tree City USA Award from the National Arbor Day Foundation's Tree City USA program.

The Iowa City Forestry division was presented the award by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources Forestry Bureau at the 25th Annual Community Forestry Awards Luncheon Friday, April 10.

The program is a national program that provides the framework for community forestry management for cities and towns across America. Participating communities have demonstrated a commitment to caring for and managing their public trees.

Communities achieve Tree City USA status by meeting four core standards of sound urban forestry management: maintaining a tree board or department, having a community tree ordinance, spending at least \$2 per capita on urban forestry and celebrating Arbor Day.

On Tuesday, April 7, Mayor Matt Hayek issued a proclamation pronouncing Friday, April 24, 2015 as Arbor Day in Iowa City.

For more information, contact Superintendent of Parks and Forestry:

Zac Hall at 319-356-5107 or zac-hall@iowa-city.org

ISU Extension Hosting Emerald Ash Borer Meeting - May 5

The discovery of the emerald ash borer (EAB) in 20 Iowa counties has increased interest in this exotic, invasive insect and what Iowans can do to protect ash trees on their property.

ISU Extension and Outreach of Cerro Gordo and Hancock counties are hosting a free informational meeting concerning the emerald ash borer at **6:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 5, at the Ventura Community Center, 4 N. Weimer St. The event is free.** No pre-registration is required.

Mark Shour, Iowa State Extension and Outreach entomologist, will discuss how to identify the EAB, signs of infestation, how to determine if ash trees are candidates for replacement, how and when to treat ash trees and ash tree replacement options.

Order Your Catalog Today!

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. 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.