



SAVE THE DATE!

58th Annual ISU - Shade Tree Short Course & INLA Tradeshow

February 25-27, 2014
Scheman Building, Ames, IA

Call to reserve your room at the
Hilton Garden Inn today!
Ask for the INLA room block.

1325 Dickinson Ave Ames, IA 50014
(515) 233-8000



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ICIP Offers Concrete Paver Installing Course

The ICPI is offering a Concrete Paver
Installing Course February 24-26, 2014 at
Reiman Gardens in Ames, Iowa.

The two-day classroom course is designed to
enhance the knowledge of individuals with at
least one year's experience in the
construction of interlocking concrete
pavements. The registration fee includes a
student manual and an exam. Those who
attend the course and pass the exam receive

a Record of Completion for the course.
Attendance at this course is one of the
requirements for earning a Concrete Paver
Installer Certification.

For more details regarding this course please
see the attached registration form.

If you have questions please contact
icpi@icpi.org

2013 American Garden Award Winners Announced

The 2013 American Garden Award, now in its
fifth year, featured four new flower varieties
chosen by their breeders for their excellent
garden performance.

Once these varieties were planted and put on
display at the thirty-one participating gardens
across the U.S. (and in Quebec), the public
was invited to vote for their favorite using one
of several voting methods. The winners were:
Most Popular Grand Prize Winner:

Verbena 'Lanai® Candy Cane' by Syngenta
Flowers, Second Place Winner
Zinnia 'Zahara™ Cherry' by PanAmerican
Seed and Third Place Winner:
Impatiens 'SunPatiens® Compact Electric
Orange' by Sakata Ornamentals.

The American Garden Award program is
administered by the All-America
Selections® Display Garden program.

**Iowa Nursery &
Landscape Association**
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INLA
IOWA NURSERY &
LANDSCAPE
ASSOCIATION

2014 INLA Dinner/ Scholarship Auction

February 26, 2014
Reiman Gardens (ISU)

Schedule of Events:

- 5:00 – 6:30 pm** **Hospitality Reception** (Silent Auction Begins)
(Entertainment by Dan Jones of the Bobcats)
6:30 – 7:15 pm **Dinner** (Catered by Olde Main Brewery)
7:15 – 7:45 pm **Announcements and Awards Ceremony**
7:45 – 8:45 pm **Live & Silent Scholarship Auction**
8:45 – 10:00 pm **Entertainment** (Dan Jones of the Bobcats)

Plan to attend the annual INLA Dinner/ Scholarship Auction to be held February 26 at Reiman Gardens for a fun and relaxing evening. It is a great time to unwind after a long day at the INLA Trade Show and Iowa State Shade Tree Short Course at Scheman Building and network with others in the industry. There will be an open bar during the hospitality reception with entertainment provided by Dan Jones of the group Bobcats from the Des Moines area. The Silent Auction will also begin during the Reception. Please purchase a ticket for the dinner that will be catered by Olde Main Brewery in Ames to continue with the eventful evening and support the INLA and the Scholarship Program.

After dinner we will recognize our INLA Award Winners and our 2014 Scholarship Recipients in a short program before we start our Live Auction with our enthusiastic Auctioneers and a rewarding lineup of items to bid on and raise money for our Horticultural Scholarships. You will not be disappointed with the entertainment of our Auctioneers and the items available for bidding. You can then they stay around and relax with entertainment provided by Dale Jones and open bar before heading to your hotel and preparing for the final day of the INLA Trade Show/ & ISU STSC.

This event is important to the INLA in raising funds to continue providing Scholarships to students in the Horticultural Field at Iowa State University and Community Colleges across Iowa. We provide at a minimum of four scholarships per year plus up to ten STSC Registrations for horticulture students in Iowa.

We would like to thank all our Sponsors and Donors that have made this event successful for more than twenty years. Please plan on attending and donating to this worthy event again in 2014 to support our industry in Iowa and the people to keep it moving forward into the future. So, please come with deep pockets and get ready for an exciting evening!

Contact: Iowa Nursery & Landscape Association
Joan O'Brien
900 Des Moines Street
Des Moines, IA. 50309
515-262-8323 or joano@agribiz.org

Emerald Ash Borer Plague Hits Mechanicsville

By: *Orlan Love - Cedar Rapids Gazette*

State foresters say the discovery of Iowa's fourth emerald ash borer infestation – confirmed this week in Mechanicsville in Cedar County – may herald a widespread emergence of the tree-killing invasive beetle.

"I think we will see it start to fill in the gaps between the confirmed infestations," Paul Tauke, chief of the Department of Natural Resources Forestry Bureau, said Wednesday.

"I would not be surprised to see it surface in many Iowa counties within the next year," added State Urban Forester Emma Hanigan.

Tauke said the ash borer likely has been active in the infested areas for several years.

The combination of the progressing infestation and drought-induced stress has "made it pop in places like Burlington and Fairfield," he said.

Ash trees can mask their symptoms with vigorous growth until weather-related stress makes them more noticeable, Hanigan explained.

This year's flash drought, following last year's prolonged drought, made the ash tree's already impaired vascular systems more vulnerable to the lack of rainfall, she said. After the initial confirmation in Burlington on July 16, DNR foresters in mid-September surveyed the approximately 700 ash trees on city property and found ash borer symptoms in about 40 percent of them, according to Hanigan.

The state's first infestation was confirmed in 2010 on a Mississippi River island in Allamakee County. Rigorous monitoring found no additional infestations until July, when infested ash trees were confirmed in both Burlington and Fairfield.

State Entomologist Robin Pruisner said a Mechanicsville resident contacted local officials about a declining ash tree along the right-of-way. Several larvae were pulled from at least one street tree and another tree in a nearby yard on Sept. 26.

The USDA then confirmed the larvae were emerald ash borer, making Cedar County officially infested. Pruisner said all Iowans are urged not to transport firewood across county or state lines. Most ash borer infestations have been started by people unknowingly moving infested firewood, nursery plants or sawmill logs, she noted.

The adult beetle also can fly from two to five miles, ensuring a more gradual spread of the pest. Pruisner said state and federal agriculture officials soon will issue a regional quarantine that will restrict movement of hardwood firewood, ash logs and wood chips out of the quarantined counties.

State foresters said it's too soon to tell how much of a toll recent droughts will take on other species of Iowa trees.

"We're seeing symptoms of stress," Hanigan said. Urban trees with confined root space and more disturbed soil are more vulnerable than rural trees to drought stress, Tauke said.

Drought-impacted deciduous trees tend to shut down and drop their leaves early to conserve energy, he said. Prolonged stress drains trees' energy reserves, weakening their resistance to disease and pests, which eventually can kill trees long after the drought has ended, said DNR forester Mark Vitosh, whose district includes Linn and Johnson counties.

Stress has been less noticeable in northeast Iowa, where rainfall has been more abundant this year, according to DNR forester Bruce Blair.

It also remains to be seen whether drought-related stress will affect the onset and intensity of fall colors, state foresters said.

Last year's fall colors, following the worst drought in 50 years, came earlier than usual and provided especially spectacular scenery, Blair said.

From his office in Des Moines, Tauke said most leaves remain green.

"Things are going to have to change pretty quickly" to attain peak color by the normal date of Oct. 12, he said. Mechanicsville, as with more than 180 other Iowa communities already had been the site of a DNR tree inventory, which in 2010 found 559 trees of more than 40 species.

Maple at 39.8 percent was the top genus, followed by ash at 32 percent.

About 8 percent of the city's trees were considered in need of management, and 16 trees were recommended for removal.

"There is a strong possibility that (all of Mechanicsville's city owned ash trees) will die once (emerald ash borer) becomes established in the community," stated the report that accompanied the inventory.

Ash, one of the most abundant native tree species in North America, has been heavily planted as a landscape tree in yards and other urban areas. Iowa has an estimated 52 million rural ash trees and approximately 3.1 million more ash trees in urban areas, according to the USDA Forest Service.

If they all die, the cost of removing and replacing them would be staggering.

That cost, coupled with the lost benefits of energy savings, property value and storm water retention, has been estimated at \$2.5 billion.

With the recent addition of Colorado to the list, the emerald ash borer is now found in 22 states, 5 of them contiguous to Iowa.

Pining for Profit: Christmas Tree Growers Say Summer Heat Took its Toll

By: *Jim Offner - Waterloo Courier*

Christmas tree growers in Northeast Iowa say they anticipate a better season this year than last.

But then, something is better than almost nothing, they say.

Last year's drought virtually decimated Iowa's Christmas tree crop. Fraser firs, which are not native to Iowa and don't adjust well to the state's broiling summers, took a particularly vicious hit.

The extended dry conditions from last year will leave their mark on trees ready for market this year, said Greg Heidebrink, an Iowa Department of Natural Resources district forester based in Charles City.

"Following last year's drought, it really hit them hard," Heidebrink said. "When we get those warmer days in the winter, they try to start moving moisture, and that causes problems. This last dry spell definitely didn't help them at all. Since they stay green, there's not enough moisture and they dry up so fast they end up dying."

This summer was easier on trees, but not by much, he said.

"I think this will just add on to that. They're just turning yellow and dying," Heidebrink said.

Fortunately, timely rains in the spring brought needed relief, said Jan Pacovsky, owner of Pine Acres near New Hampton and executive director of the Iowa Christmas Tree Growers Association.

"We got enough rain in the spring, and that's when we need our moisture, because that's when our trees are starting to grow," Pacovsky said. "Through the summer, they're already established. After the end of June, all the shearing is done and the trees are basically getting ready."

The springtime moisture was ample and timely enough to boost hopes for a good crop, said Gary Beyer, owner of Pine Ridge Christmas Tree Farm, a 12-acre operation near Nashua.

Then, the weather turned hot, and it stayed hot, he said.

"It was kind of a double-whammy because the trees were really stressed after last year," Beyer said. "We started out the year with a lot of rain, which helped, but the second half of this summer, the heat came on and caused problems."

"Iowa Christmas tree growers have been trying to grow more and more Fraser fir because that's what the preference is for Christmas trees," said Beyer, who was a district forester for the Iowa DNR for 30 years before he retired and opened a consulting service to go with his established tree farm.

The problem is, Fraser firs are best-suited to a gentler summer climate than Iowa typically offers, he said.

Beyer said varieties of pine are more acclimated to Iowa conditions than are firs.

Last year, Beyer planted 500 fir trees and lost them all to the drought.

He said his crop is faring better this year.

At Wapsie Pines Tree Farm, a 26-acre operation in Fairbank,

the crop came through the summer heat in good shape, said Bob Moulds, owner.

"Actually, they did very well because by the time the real heat and dry came, they were finished their growing," said Moulds, who estimated his farm has 25,000-30,000 trees. "I have some of the best-looking trees I've had for a long time."

Seedlings didn't fare as well against the summer heat, due to immature root systems, Moulds said.

Moulds' son, Danny, who owns Kris Kringle's Trees, a 46-acre farm north of Cedar Falls, said he likely will deal with some supply gaps in the future, thanks to the flooding of 2008, as well as the drought of 2012.

For this year, though, things seemed to be shaping up acceptably, Danny Moulds said.

"We'll have an adequate amount to get through this season, but it will be kind of a hit-and-miss this year," Danny Moulds said.

He said he generally sells 1,300-1,600 trees each year.

"We lost a lot of trees to the flood; when the drought will really hurt will be about five years from now," he said.

"They're tough to grow, but that's the tree they want," he said.

"We haven't changed much on price," Beyer said. "Our pines are anywhere from \$30 to \$28, and fir run \$40-50. If you go to Des Moines, you can pretty much double those prices."

Other than weather, there are other hurdles Christmas tree growers have to overcome. One of those phenomena, deer, will sideline Pacovsky for the next couple of years, since deer damaged all 60,000 of Pine Acres' trees over 8 acres two years ago.

"It takes about six to seven years for a good 6- or 7-foot tree to be cut and sold, and that's putting in a transplant," Pacovsky said. "That's what we've done the last two years to try and catch up a bit."

Bob Moulds said he empathized with his colleague.

"The deer problem is horrible here," he said. "I feed them corn pines from the grain driers and we get some from the distillers. We feed them in the woods away from the trees. But on some years, I spend \$1,400 to feed and keep the deer away from the trees. And we spray a deer repellent on some of our smaller trees. But our layout is almost impossible to fence. It's many, many thousands of dollars. And we only have to feed the deer when the snows come."

To view this article in its entirety please go to:

wfcourier.com/business/local/pining-for-profit-christmas-tree-growers-say-summer-heat-took/article_4e436866-f740-52b6-a8ea-bb7b2e4a2cbc.html

Summer Garden Program Helps Teens Grow Up Positive

By: Joel Aschbrenner - *Des Moines Register*

Dennis Henderson bends down on one knee and holds back the branches of a freshly planted shrub, while four teenagers pack potting soil around the roots.

Cars zip past while the group plants a row of shrubs in front of a boarded-up former community center on Sixth Avenue.

For Henderson, who returned to Des Moines last year after two and a half decades in prison, this is a way to give back to the community.

"I've always believed that I would be able to parlay my 25 years into something positive," he said.

Henderson, an outreach coordinator for former state Rep.

Wayne Ford's community organization Urban Dreams, launched a youth gardening program this summer in Des Moines. The goal is to give teens a leg up by providing a job and career training.

The program employed 20 teenagers over the summer. Another class of nine will work through the fall.

The teens spend half their time tending four vegetable and flower gardens in the neighborhood just north of downtown.

The other half of the program takes place in the classroom, where the youths study for job placement tests, write resumes and practice job interviews.

The program is funded by a Department of Agriculture grant through Urban Dreams. Ford ran the same program for two years in Ames before handing the reins to Henderson.

A rash of shootings this spring added to the pressure to launch the jobs program. Community leaders met in May and expressed concerns that a violent summer lay ahead. They said more jobs were needed to keep teens out of trouble.

So Henderson, a tall man with wide shoulders and a head full of dreadlocks woven into a single braid stretching the length of his back, helps the teens rake and till a plot of dirt sown with beans, asparagus and cauliflower near the corner of Sixth Avenue and Jefferson Street.

Henderson was 25 when he was convicted of armed robbery. Over the years, he watched young people join him behind bars and realized he wanted to help them avoid the same mistakes he made.

"I had every opportunity," he said. "I was a very good athlete. I could have easily gone to college for football, basketball. I was a decent boxer. I had people who were trying to help me out when I was a kid, but I made bad choices and I had to pay the consequences."

Now, in addition to the gardening program, he also runs a program that helps former convicts find housing, employment and transportation.

Henderson talked with The Des Moines Register last week about his experience and his goals for the youth gardening program.

Q: Why gardening?



Dennis Henderson, right, outreach coordinator with Urban Dreams, supervises several teens as they rake and till a garden sown with beans, asparagus and cauliflower near the corner of Sixth Avenue and Jefferson Street. Henderson's summer program helps keep youths employed and out of trouble. / BILL NEIBERGALL/THE REGISTER

A lot of inner-city kids don't take advantage of the opportunities that are happening in agriculture. Landscaping, beautifying the neighborhood, that's a business unto itself. These are good occupations, good career moves for young people. Gardening is a natural fit, especially in Iowa.

Q: What are you hoping to accomplish by offering teens work through gardening?

If we do nothing else but get kids involved in the process, building the work skills, building the work ethic, learning soft

skills — how to do interviews, how to talk, how to make eye contact — if we do nothing else but that, that's going to put them in a position to compete. So when it comes time to get employment, they will know how to conduct themselves. I want to give them the tools to compete with anyone.

Q: What's next for the program?

We're going to keep tweaking it. We have a lot of elderly people who can't handle the winters in Iowa. Now what we can do is take this to snow removal. My first job when I got out (of prison) was snow removal. It's a lucrative business in Iowa.

Q: You hand out the paychecks at the end of the week. What's that like?

That's the best part, especially when it's their first paycheck.

To view the entire Q and A sequence view the article by going to: www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20130926/NEWS/309260089/Summer-garden-program-helps-teens-grow-up-positive?archive

2014 INLA Dues

Dear INLA Members,

We began a new dues year as of July 1, 2013 and as you may have noticed the 2014 dues invoices have been sent out via USPS.

You may review/edit the forms sent to you regarding your membership and send back with payment or simply call the office, confirm your information and use credit card to complete your renewal process.

We look forward to a promising and exciting new year for our members and hope you will join us.

If you have questions please contact Joan O'Brien at joano@agribiz.org or by calling the office at 515-262-8323.



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 2013—2014 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 10-21-13.

** Indicates an ICNP dues paying member.*

B & B Bedding
Ann Brouwer - Oskaloosa, IA

Central Landscape Supply
Herman Roerick - St. Cloud, MN

Earl May Direct
Blake Jensen - Shenandoah, IA

Farber Bag & Supply Co.
Pat Ford - Peosta, IA

Ferguson's Garden Center, Inc.
Chris/Renee Quance - Spirit Lake, IA

Frazier Nursery
John & Carolyn Frazier - Vinton, IA

Green Gables
Ann Grimm** - West Bend, IA

Guideone Insurance Company
Will Pirtle - West Des Moines, IA

Iowa Outdoor Products
Karon Dematteis - Urbandale, IA

Johnson's Nursery, Inc.
Brent Gustatson** - Menomonee Falls,

Kelly Tree Farm
Kevin Kelly - Clarence, IA

Midwest Groundcovers, LLC
Mary Beth Eckhart - St. Charles, IL

MLS Landscapes & Design, Inc.
Mark & Dana Klein - Granville, IA

Turf & Landscape, Inc.
Jeff Rhea - Sumner, IA

Vic Scott Landscaping & Nursery
Vic Scott** - Ankeny, IA

Wells Hollow Landscaping Inc.
Matthew Wells - Waverly, IA

Wood Duck Tree Farms
Ron Eike - Panora, IA