A Word from our President
Guy Gibson

The holidays are quickly arriving and our already busy lives become busier. We all need to take a little time to enjoy our families, friends and even ourselves during this time as we know life is all too short.

I want to thank everyone for their support and input with this organization this past year. It was a fun and enjoyable. Hopefully our new president, Todd Reese, also finds this to be true.

Our organization will be having some new Board openings this year: Director at Large 1, Secretary, SW Rep and NE Rep. We would like to thank the board members that are leaving, Brian Jay, Rachel Deskins and Mike Cook for all your service to the organization. We will miss them.

If anyone is interested in being on the board please let me know as soon as possible. The ballot for voting will be sent out in January by

http://forestry.about.com/cs/christmastrees1/a/top10-xmastree.htm

As this season comes to an end, we want to remind everyone of our annual meeting that we hold at the Shade Tree Short Course. The meeting will take place on the afternoon of the first day.

We will also need member help with CEU classes. Please let me know if you can help.

Have a wonderful Christmas and New Year!

The Ten most popular Christmas trees this year are:
1. Fraser Fir
2. Douglas Fir
3. Balsam Fir
4. Colorado Blue Spruce
5. Scotch Pine
6. Eastern Red Cedar
7. White Spruce
8. Eastern White Pine
9. White Fir or Concolor Fir
10. Virginia Pine

Joke of the Day
Q: How can you tell that a tree is a Dogwood?
A: By its bark!
Iowa Climbing Day Recap
By Scott Carlson

The forecast was possible rain early Friday, September 7th as competitors, volunteers and supporters arrived at Jester Park in Granger, IA to the Seventh Annual Tree Climbing Day Workshop and Competition. 25 Midwest climbers showed up to learn and compete. Around 100 total attended the event.

Josh Hodson, Wes Tregilgas and Jason Deihl ran the show. Wes started the day with prayer and stresses the importance of safety. An introductory hands-on discussion of what to expect in a competition was held before gear safety inspection was performed then the competition began. The Events were: the Aerial Rescue, Belayed Speed Climb and the Work Climb.

IAA thanks Mark Dungan and Polk County for allowing us to use beautiful Jester Park again this year. Thanks to Jim Scott and Don Slycord of Vermeer of Pella, IA for again providing great prizes for the winners and Vermeer of Pella, Marcus & Tipton, IA for financial donation to the event. Thanks to Dan Morales of the Shade Tree Service Co. of Fenton, MO and Adam Larson with Asplundh for their financial contribution to the event. Thanks to Bill Reese of Trees Inc. for providing great hand embroidered hats to the three winners of the Spirit of the Competition Award.

Thanks to Asplundh for providing bucket trucks, being receptive to the event and encouraging great attendance by their employees. Thanks to Mike Cook and Perifict for Providing a bucket truck this year and every year. Thanks to Brad Terry from Advantage Tree Service in Davenport for coming over and helping with the set up the day before the event.

Thanks to Meagan Tregilas for expertly running the scoring software. Thanks to Brock & Michelle Schrader, Rachel Deskins and Leah Carlson for working the registration table.

Thanks to Brad Terry and Jeremy Bowling of Advantage Tree Service our in-tree techs who went without breaks most of the day! Thanks to all those too numerous to credit individually who jumped in and helped out.

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2012 Iowa Arborist Association Board Members

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Reminders
Yearly membership dues are due in January; we will mail out reminders.

January
Vote for new board members.
Emerald Ash Borer Recap
By Emma Bruemmer

A contingent of Urban Forestry Professionals from Iowa toured EAB infestations in Fort Snelling, MN and saw first-hand some of the early signs of EAB. The Forestry Professionals were comprised of both municipal and commercial arborists.

Presentations were given for the cities of St. Paul and Minneapolis as well as S & S Tree Care, followed by a question and answer panel.

Some of the feedback from participants included, “Many of the signs I have been looking for to indicate EAB infestation, such as crown dieback, d-shape exit holes, and sloughing bark on the lower stem, are really late stage signs. It was very helpful to see some of the early signs first hand, such as bark splitting and woodpecker “flecking” in the crown.”

This bus tour was hosted by the Minnesota DNR and Department of Agriculture and was sponsored by Iowa Arborists, Iowa DNR Forestry, and US Forest Service. Additional workshops and tours will be offered.

A Letter from President-Elect Todd Reese

Greetings IAA members. In 2013 I am going to have the pleasure of serving as your president and I would like to take this opportunity to tell you a little about myself and the projects we are working on for this coming year.

In the early 80’s I started my arboriculture career, working for my brother’s company, Old Master’s Tree Service. In the late 90’s I went from the private sector to utility line clearance for Davey Tree Expert on Mid-American Energy’s property. I worked my way up from ground man to General Foreman. In 2002, I began working for Wright Tree Service as a General Foreman, and in 2005 I moved over to MidAmerican Energy as the District Forester out of the Des Moines office. I am currently a Certified Arborist/Utility Specialist. One of my goals as District Forester for MidAmerican, is to encourage the continuous training of my contractor so that they may present themselves as the highest professionals in their field.

During this current year, the IAA board has employed the use of some great tools that will allow its members to be more efficient and better informed. The first of which is the ability to accept credit cards for membership dues and workshop fees. The second is the complete revamping of the website to make it more user-friendly.

In 2013, we are once again partnering with the DNR on a Couple of workshops. We are still partnering with Iowa State University for the Shade Tree course. We are also exploring the possibility of turning our annual fall climbing event into a two day workshop, couples with ISA testing for all levels of certification.

This year the board also has to prepare for the MWISA conference in the beginning of 2014.

For the year 2013, the IAA board will be seeking sponsorship from companies that are related to the arboriculture field. The goal is to help us offset the rising costs of our workshops so we don’t have to pass on so much of this cost on to our members.

I am looking forward to serving as your president. Please feel free to contact me with any concerns, ideas or comments you may have. I can be reached at TAReese@midamerican.com my work phone is 515-281-2638 or at home 515-287-7320.

Together we can do great things!

IAA website
www.iowa
arborist
association.org
Spotted Wing Drosophila Fly detected in Iowa
By Donald Lewis & Laura Jesse

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach

Ames, Iowa - The Iowa State University Plant and Diagnostic Clinic confirmed today that the spotted wing drosophila (SWD), an invasive pest that can cause damage to many fruit crops, has been found in Story County, Iowa.

This is the first confirmed SWD infestation in Iowa, "said Laura Jesse, entomologist with ISU Plant and Insect Diagnostic Clinic. "Previous specimens had been collected in Dubuque County that appeared to originate in fruit brought from another state."

The spotted wing drosophila (Drosophila suzukii) is an invasive pest that attacks fresh fruits and is fast becoming a problem throughout the U.S., Jesse said. Drosophila flies, sometimes called vinegar flies, are familiar to producers and homeowners. The household fruit fly is commonly found on or near overripe, damaged and fermenting fruits and vegetables. The new, invasive species is closely related but behaves very differently.

SWD causes damage when the female flies cut a slit and lay eggs in healthy, undamaged fruit, particularly thin-skinned fruits such as raspberries, blackberries, blueberries, cherries, strawberries and grapes. Larvae emerge inside the fruit and begin to feed causing collapse and eventual decay and complete destruction of the fruit. "Producers of raspberries, strawberries, plums and other soft skin fruits in neighboring states have been seriously impacted with maggots in the fruit. Some producers are facing a complete loss of their crop this year," Jesse said.

SWD is native to Asia and has been in Hawaii since the 1980's. It was found in the mainland U.S. in California in 2008 and quickly spread to Oregon, Washington and Canada. It is now widely established in North America with confirmed detections in at least 20 states, including neighboring Wisconsin, Illinois and Minnesota. SWD has been detected along the Atlantic coast from Maine to Florida and in New York, Ohio and Michigan. It appears that SWD is here to stay and has spread very quickly. Human-assisted transport is the likely cause of the recent rapid spread. The small flies cannot fly very far and natural dispersion is unlikely.

SWD is approximately one-eighth inch long and resembles the common household vinegar flies with bright red eyes, a pale brown body, dark horizontal stripes on the abdomen and two transparent wings. Distinguishing SWD from the normal fruit fly (Drosophila melangaster) requires magnification with a hand lens or microscope. The adult males of SWD have a dark spot along the front edge of the wing near the wingtip. The females have an extended ovipositor (egg laying organ) on the end of the abdomen. The ovipositor has two rows of dark, serrated, saw-like teeth that allow this female to saw open and lay eggs in healthy fruit.

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Iowa Climbing Day (continued from page 2)

Thanks to all who sacrificed a day of work or a personal vacation day to attend. Last but not least thanks to Josh, Wes and Jason-our instructors-for a great program!

Thanks to Wes Tregilgas, Adam Larson, Scott Carlson, Bill Reese, Ralph Conner, Brandon Gordon, Jonathan Holstein, Blake Boyle, Brad Terry and Mike Cook-the Work Climb officials. In this event Jason Thornton of Asplundh in Des Moines scored highest, Alex Ploen of Ace Tree Service in the Quad Cities placed second.

Thanks to Jason Deihl, Mike Christianson, Brandt Jelken, Mindy Charron, Todd Reese, Monty Buttons, Jeremy Bowling, Jeff Cook and Jimmie Crafton-the Aerial Rescue officials. The overall winner of the aerial rescue was Ryan Lewis of Asplundh in Adel, IA, followed by Phil Schissler of Asplundh in the Quad Cities. “It’s always fun to see how differently everyone approaches an aerial rescuing event,” commented Jason Deihl-the head judge of the event.

Thanks to Jason Hasse, Guy Gibson, Mitch Salek and Tom Allen-the Delayed Speed Climb officials. Josh Hodson of Asplundh in the Quad Cities won the event, David Curtis of Asplundh in Council Bluffs took second place.

Congratulations to Derek Sanders of Asplundh in the Quad Cities for an overall 3rd place finish for the day, Phil Schissler for a 2nd place finish and Alex Ploen for winning the Seventh Annual Iowa Tree Climbing Competition.

Jason Ahlf of Asplundh in the Quad Cities, Beige Turner of Asplundh in Des Moines and Trevor Spicer from Scott Carlson Certified Arborists in the Quad Cities shared the Spirit of the Competition Award. This award is given to the competitors who best exemplify good sportsmanship and enthusiasm. Congratulations!

Wes Tregilgas-head judge of the Work Climb and one of the presenters stated, “A big thank you to all that participated in some way to help make Iowa Climbing Day 2012 a huge success and safe for all those attending! Having so many first time competitors attend the training and competition is exciting and the very reason this event is held each year. Take something you learned and apply it throughout the coming year and we’ll see you back safe and more productive next year. Remember, practice anything new “slow and low” and be sure you understand its limitations.”

Josh Hodson, one of the presenters and a competitor said, “It’s always a great time sharing tips and tricks with fellow climbers.

The rain held off and the event went well. The Hy-Vee grill went over much better than the cold box lunch of previous years and the ability to accept credit cards was also a big improvement. Thank you to all who helped make this event safe, fun and educational again this year. I look forward to next year’s event being even better. It should be in early September at Jester Park again. If you would like to receive regular updates about the event shoot your email address to me at
Spotted Wing Drosophila Fly (continued from page 4)

Once established this new pest will cause big headaches for fruit growers and home gardeners,” said Donald Lewis, entomologist with ISA Extension and Outreach. “Management options are being refined and will be shared at a later date.” Until then, Lewis said to consider the following:

- Use good sanitation to prevent spread and further establishment of SWD.
- Pick all fruit when harvesting and remove and destroy any fallen, damaged and overripe fruit.
- There are insecticides available but options will be limited and reapplication at weekly or bi-weekly intervals may be needed.
- At this point do not treat until SWD has been confirmed in your area.

Though this is the first confirmed infestation of SWD in Iowa, it is likely that the insect is already established elsewhere in the state.

“We are interested in documenting the presence of SWD in Iowa,” Lewis said. “Your help in tracking its distribution in the state will be appreciated. Please report your observations and submit suspected specimens to the Plant and Insect Diagnostic Clinic.” Directions for submitting insect samples are found at [www.iubio.iastate.edu/pidc/](http://www.iubio.iastate.edu/pidc/).

Lewis said property owners can make simple, vinegar-baited traps for surveying their property. Instructions for building and using traps for monitoring SWD in fruit plantings can be found at [http://www.ipm.iasu.edu/SWD/SWD-monitor.htm](http://www.ipm.iasu.edu/SWD/SWD-monitor.htm).

Photo: A male Spotted Wing Drosophila fly; photo by Martin Hauser, Michigan State University.

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Emerald Ash Borer Surveillance Results, 2012

This article was published originally on 9/12/2012

The following news release was sent Wednesday, September 12, 2012, from the Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, and Iowa State University Extension and Outreach.

DES MOINES - The Iowa Emerald Ash Borer Team today said that results from surveillance efforts undertaken again in 2012 show little movement of the emerald ash borer (EAB), an invasive pest that kills ash trees. The pest had initially been found in Iowa along the Mississippi River in Allamakee County in 2010 and this year’s survey results show the pest has not moved outside of Allamakee County.
The Iowa EAB Team continues to discourage homeowners more than fifteen miles from known infestations from treating their ash trees with insecticides to protect them from this pest. This would be nearly all of the state at this time. Unfortunately, some tree care companies are distributing inaccurate information and recommending insecticide treatments for healthy ash trees located as far away as central Iowa.

EAB management recommendations (PM-2084) for homeowners are available from Iowa State University Extension and Outreach.

The EAB Team in Iowa has been conducting annual surveys to determine if this pest is in Iowa since 2003. Efforts have included visual surveys, sentinel trees, trap surveys, nursery stock inspections, sawmill/wood processing site visits, and educational programs.

This summer, USDA APHIS PPQ placed nearly 1,200 purple sticky traps in an effort to monitor the spread of EAB; most of these traps were placed in eastern Iowa. Two traps in Allamakee County, one in New Albin and another in Lansing, each caught one beetle. "The Iowa EAB Team is not surprised by the two positives in Allamakee County as it has been quarantined for two years. We are pleased that other traps did not pick up any infestations outside of Allamakee County in our latest surveys," said Robin Pruysner, IDALS State Entomologist.

In addition to the purple traps, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources is in the process of evaluating 416 sentinel trees for signs of infestation, and conducted visual inspections of 1,291 trees in 58 counties for signs of EAB infestation. "We continue to monitor for EAB throughout the State, we have also completed 110 community urban forest inventories and Community Forest Management Plans to assist communities with preparing for and dealing with EAB and other pest issues. Current plans are to complete another 120 community inventories and plans over the next two to three years," said DNR State Forester Paul Tauke.

"With the new results in Allamakee County, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach is suggesting that preventive treatments for individual healthy ash trees could be done in New Albin, and Lansing, IA," said Mark Shour, ISU Extension Entomologist. "Other communities outside 15 miles of the known infestations should be prepared to begin preventive treatments in 2013 if additional evidence of EAB is found in eastern Allamakee County."

For trees with 25" circumference ("8" diameter), homeowners can treat their own trees following the recommendations of ISU Extension and Outreach. If a tree is larger than that size, a commercial pesticide applicator should be called for assistance. Treatments will need to be done every 1-3 years for the life of the tree to maintain protection. As a reminder, insecticide products to manage EAB work best as preventive treatments for healthy ash trees planted along streets or in yard settings. Healthy trees have full crowns, elongating branches, and bark tightly held to the trunk/branches. It is not practical or cost effective to treat woodlot trees with insecticides.

A federal and state quarantine has been in place for Allamakee County since 2010. The quarantine prohibits the movement of firewood, ash nursery stock, ash timber, or any other article that could further spread EAB.

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is native to eastern Asia, and was detected in the United States near Detroit, Michigan in 2002. EAB kills all ash (Fraxinus) species by larvae burrowing under the bark and eating the actively growing layers.
The metallic-green adult beetles are a half inch long, and are active from late-May to early-August in Iowa. Signs of EAB infestation include one-eighth inch D-shaped exit holes in ash tree bark and serpentine tunnels packed with sawdust under the bark. Tree symptoms of an infestation include crown thinning and dieback when first noticed, epicormic sprouting as insect damage progresses, and woodpecker feeding.

EAB has killed ash trees of various sizes in neighborhoods and woodlands throughout the Midwest. Ash is one of the most abundant native tree species in North America, and has been heavily planted as a landscape tree in yards and other urban areas. According to the USDA Forest Service, Iowa has an estimated 52 million rural ash trees and approximately 3.1 million more ash trees in urban areas.

The Iowa Emerald Ash Borer Team includes officials from the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, USDA Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and the USDA Forest Service.

The movement of firewood throughout Iowa and to other states poses the greatest threat to quickly spread EAB even further. Areas currently infested are under federal and state quarantines, but unknowing campers or others who transport firewood can spark an outbreak. As a result, officials are asking Iowans to not move firewood and instead buy and burn it locally.

To learn more about EAB please visit the following websites:

- Iowa Tree Pests
- Iowa Department of Natural Resources
- Iowa State University Extension & Outreach

By the Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship