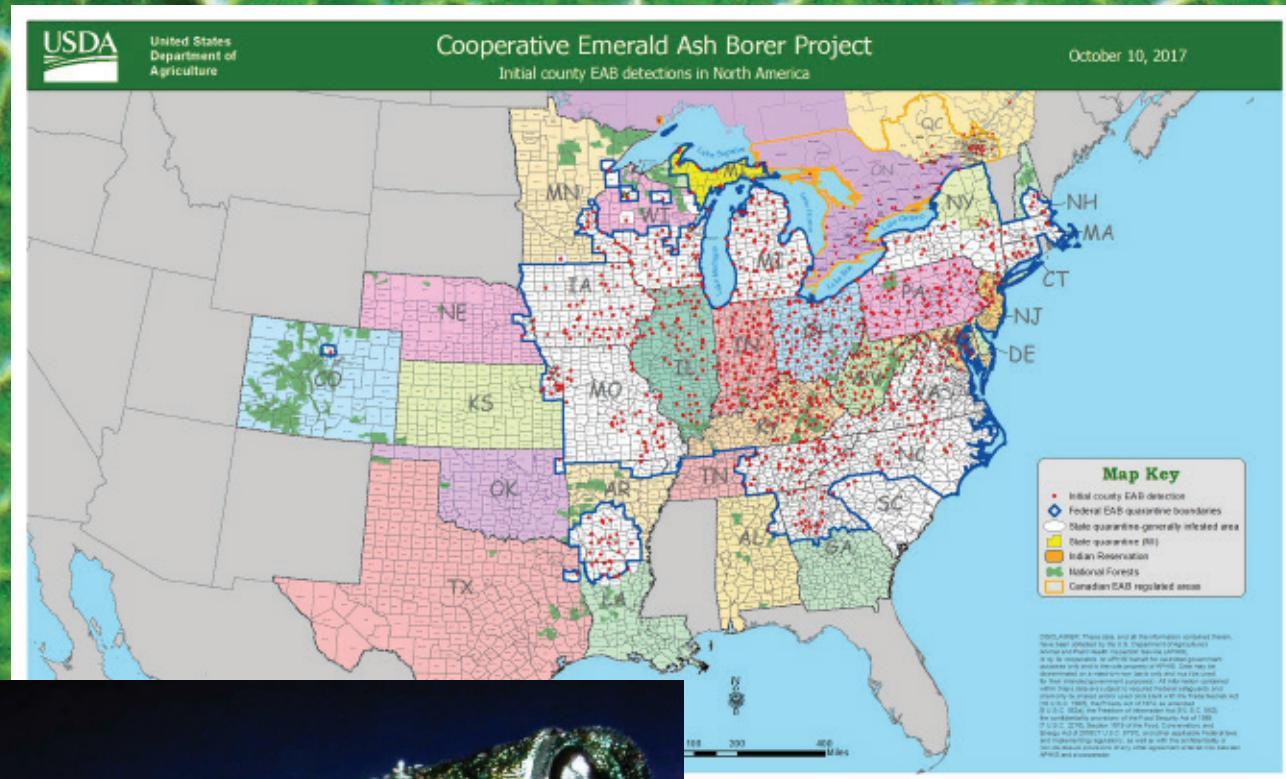


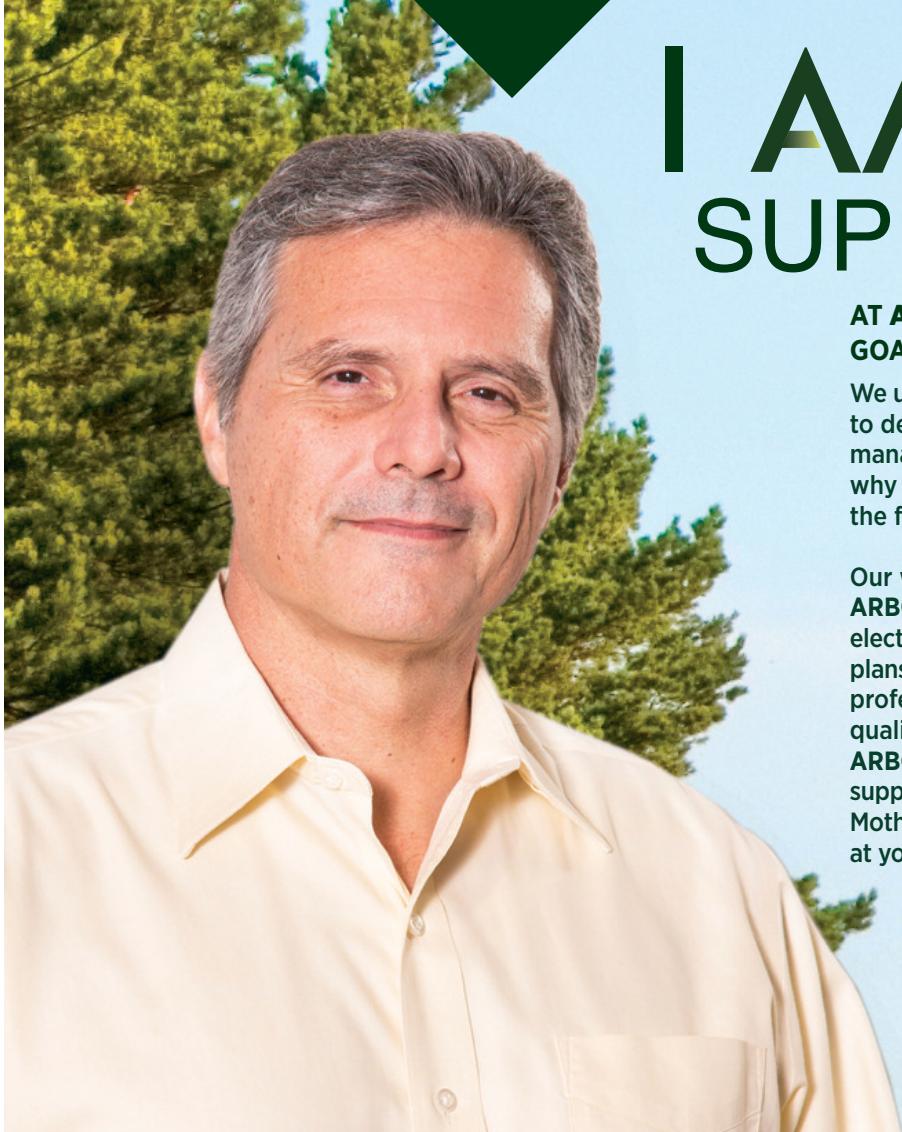
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Emerald Ash Borer

SEE PAGE 4





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Changing with the times Message from the President, Billy Kelly

Throughout time, symbols have been used to distinguish countries, organizations, religions, and families. Some symbols struck fear while others were uplifting, like the way our U.S. flag invited the world to start a new life with greater opportunities.

These symbols lost their significance over the years. With today's generation immersed in the computer world, symbols stand to represent and gather attention in ways our founders would have never imagined.

The Chapter's first logo was a magnolia bloom, which represented us very well for many years. When ISA revised their logo, the Chapter followed with a version similar to it. That sort of branding got the job done for our members in the industry, but it didn't do a good job of marketing our organization. The future of our industry is reverting back to labeling by symbols which must be marketable.

In order to attract the attention of new family members searching for a new home within their field, we must market our brand.



So what to do in order to grow our family? That's a question your Chapter board has been asking for some time. When there are new methods or challenges within the industry change, we create safety standards and ways to safely change with the industry. Following that logic, we have decided to change our communications and marketing to move with the times. We have created a new logo to represent our family to the world.

The new logo is bold and is very marketable. Staying with the color scheme of our past logo, we have moved forward in style and substance. The tree symbolizing family and the green industry will make the Southern Chapter recognizable to new and potential members. The two different versions (seen here and on this issue's cover) allows multiple marketing opportunities on different canvases.

Along with a new logo, the Chapter has redesigned its website, www.isasouthern.org. The new website will contain everything it has in the past but will be more mobile-friendly. In addition, the new website can change as our industry grows.

I know a lot of people do not like change. Please remember that with change in our industry, we must continue to evolve not only in our daily operation, methods, and safety but also in how we communicate our mission to the world.

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EAB invades South Carolina

by Dena Whitesides, Urban Forester, South Carolina Forestry Commission

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), *Agrilus planipennis*, is an extremely destructive, invasive wood-boring beetle that is ravaging the ash tree populations throughout North America. It is regarded as the most destructive insect pest of ash trees on the continent. Just this past August, this metallic green invader has been confirmed in three upstate counties of South Carolina (Greenville, Spartanburg, and Oconee). The destruction of this pest is inevitable, as all species of native ash (*Fraxinus spp.*) are succumbing to attack, regardless of age, size, or vigor. The EAB is also known to attack the native fringe tree (*Chionanthus virginicus*).

This tiny green beast is about the size of a cooked grain of rice, approximately 1/3" in length. Its native range spans across eastern Russia and northern Asia. So how in the world did it get here? Popular belief is that it was introduced into North America in ash wood used for shipping pallets and packing materials found in cargo ships and shipping containers.

The beetle first made its debut in North America in 2002 where it was found in southeastern Michigan near Detroit and Ontario, Canada. Experts theorize that the beetle may have been present for many

years prior to its first discovery, possibly since the mid 1990s. Since its initial attack, the EAB epidemic has spread across many eastern and mid-western states, wiping out hundreds of millions of ash trees. In 2011, it was found as far south as Knoxville, TN, and continues to creep across the southern region. As of August of 2017, the EAB has been found in 31 states, overtaking most of the eastern and Midwestern U.S. territories.

Life Cycle and Destruction

The timing of adult beetle emergence is in the spring and is known to coincide with the blooming of black locust trees. Adults feed lightly on ash foliage and lay eggs under bark crevices. The beetle's larvae are incredibly destructive. After hatching, larvae chew through bark and into the phloem and cambium of the tree, creating S-shaped (serpentine) tunnels. These larval feeding galleries carved in the tree's tissue leads to the disruption of water and nutrient flow and causes life-threatening damage, decline, and death of the tree. It takes larvae one to two years to develop into a full grown adult beetle, at which time the mature adult beetle then exits the tree and the symptoms of devastation become noticeable.

Symptoms

Once ash trees are infested by the EAB, there are several signs and symptoms to look for, including the following:

■ **Crown Dieback, Thinner Canopy, or Chlorotic Foliage:** Dieback begins in the upper and outer crown after multiple years of EAB larval feeding. Trees start to show dead branches throughout the canopy as larval feeding disrupts nutrient and water flow.

■ **Epicormic Sprouts:** When trees are stressed, they form new branches and leaves where they can. In EAB infected trees, new shoots typically emerge from the base of tree, just below feeding galleries.

■ **Bark Splitting:** Vertical bark splitting is caused by callus tissue development around larval galleries.

■ **Woodpecker Damage ("flecking"):** Woodpeckers consume emerald ash borer larvae that are under the bark, usually in the upper portion of the tree where the EAB prefers to attack first. Woodpecker "flecking" will appear as strips of bark that have been pulled off of the tree.

continued on page 6



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Signs

- S-shaped (Serpentine) galleries under bark
- D-shaped exit holes
- Larvae feeding under bark are cream-colored, 1.5" long, slightly flattened, and have pincher-like appendages at the end of their abdomen.
- Adults are metallic, emerald green and 1/3" long.

Management and Control

■ **Quarantines.** Management of the Emerald Ash Borer has been extremely challenging and the successful eradication of this pest is very unlikely. Still, some management strategies have shown effectiveness in slowing or preventing spread. State and county quarantines control the movement of ash wood and can help reduce the spread of the EAB. South Carolina is currently under a statewide quarantine for ash, which prohibits the movement of ash wood and any material derived from ash trees into or out of South Carolina. This quarantine is only applicable during the months of March through October, the months that the insect's larvae are alive in South Carolina.

■ **Insecticidal Treatment.** Other defensive management includes the treatment of ash trees with systemic insecticides, removal of ash trees, and biological control. Preventative treatment of "high value" ash trees with foliar, basal trunk, and soil applications may improve resistance to infestation. This option may not always be feasible as annual treatment costs can become expensive to landowners and urban forest managers. For more information on insecticidal treatment options, download the Insecticide Options for Protecting Ash Trees Guide at www.emeraldashborer.info.

Tree Removal and Replacement.

Planning for the removal of some ash trees prior to attack may help to spread out the long-term costs associated with the loss of ash trees, especially in areas with high populations of ash. Urban canopies with a higher diversity in species composition create more resiliencies to pests and diseases. Follow the "ten-percent rule," which recommends no more than 10% of any species be planted in any one area.

There are several medium and large canopy species to plant as replacements to ash trees that share similar soil, moisture, and light requirements. Some examples

include Red oak (*Quercus rubra*), American linden (*Tilia Americana*), Sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*), Hickory (*Carya spp.*), and American Elm (*Ulmus Americana*).

■ **Biological Control.** An experimental biological control effort has been in progress since 2007, when two types of biocontrol agents, natural enemies of the EAB, were released. An egg parasitoid (*Oobius agrili*) and two larval parasitoids (*Tetrastichus planipennisi* and *Spathius agrili*) were released first. In 2015, a third EAB larval parasitoid (*Spathius galinae*) was released. Due to the large number of ash trees in North America and the long life cycle of trees, it may be many years before we know if the biocontrol is effective for protecting ash trees against the EAB.

■ **Funding and Awareness.** Some states are seeking federal funding to help communities defray the costs associated with the Emerald Ash Borer epidemic. Virginia's Department of Forestry has been awarded a grant to help tackle the high costs of tree removal, disposal, and treatment of ash trees. South Carolina plans to seek federal funding support as well.

continued on page 8

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In an effort to raise awareness and spread education about this invasive pest, the South Carolina Forestry Commission's Urban & Community Forestry Program plans to partner with Trees SC, South Carolina's Urban Forest Council, to offer workshops to educate communities and private landowners on the EAB threat and how to manage the situation. As information becomes available, the South Carolina Forestry Commission plans to keep citizens and municipalities informed as to state action plans, management options, progress, and effectiveness of control as well as any funding resources that may become available. Visit the South Carolina Forestry Commission website for more information at www.state.sc.us/forest/.

Community Preparedness

To prepare for the EAB in your community, there are some things you can do now:

- Conduct a quick inventory to determine if ash trees are present and record location, sizes, and learn the extent of the population.
- Monitor trees by looking for signs and symptoms of EAB presence.

■ Start planning for removals, treatment, and replanting. Spreading out the costs of removing trees and replanting trees over a few years will help soften the impact on budget. Also consider investing in treatment for higher-valued trees. If your community has a high population of ash trees, expect a significant loss in natural and urban areas, and begin the planning process as soon as possible.

■ Help prevent spread! Stop the movement of firewood. Since eggs are laid just under the bark, make sure all trees species are properly identified before removing.

EAB Impact in South Carolina

Ash species commonly inhabit natural, bottomland areas of towns and community forests that boast moist, rich soils, especially near rivers and creeks. Ash trees are also planted ornamentally in urban areas as street trees and yard trees. Dead or dying ash trees located along streets, sidewalks, walking and hiking trails, picnic and playground areas, and campgrounds may elevate risk and become a serious threat to public safety. Ash trees in the urban landscape should be routinely inspected for signs and symptoms of the EAB.

The impact of the EAB in South Carolina is projected to be much lower than in other states, primarily because the majority of ash trees can be found growing in natural, lowland areas. Only a small percentage of ash are planted in the urban environment, where the costs of managing the EAB epidemic are typically much higher, taking into account the cumulative costs of treatment, removal, disposal, and replanting over a span of several years. For states losing more ash trees in natural areas, such as South Carolina, another management challenge will be controlling invasive plants like Chinese privet that quickly establish in forest gaps created as trees decline.

If you suspect the EAB presence in your town or city and would like more information, visit the following websites:

emeraldashborer.info/

www.srs.fs.usda.gov/compass/tag/emerald-ash-borer/

www.state.sc.us/forest/emeraldashborerdeTECTED.htm

www.clemson.edu/public/regulatory/plant-protection/plant-pest-regulations/state-plant-pest-information/pest-alerts/eab.html

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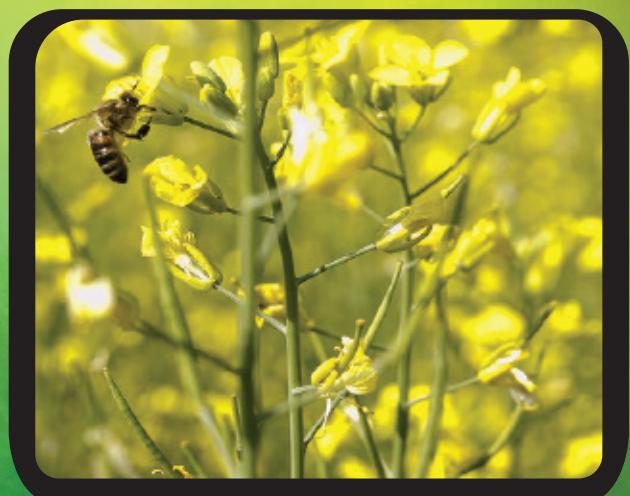
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Back on TRAQ

by Jimmy Walters, Vice President and ISA TRAQ instructor

The ISA's Tree Risk Assessment Qualification (TRAQ) is a five-year qualification which begins on the day of TRAQ course completion and passing the test. The qualification expires after five years and must be renewed. Last year, the ISA announced the implementation of a renewal option of a one-day refresher course followed by the same two-part test. Those who wish to repeat the entire course may do so but the one-day option offers a considerable savings in time and expense.

Anyone with the TRAQ qualification may take the renewal course at any time within the 18 months prior to the expiration of their qualification. After successfully completing the renewal course and test, the arborist's renewed qualification is good for five years past the original expiration date. There is no grace period for renewal after the expiration date, so those who fail to renew before their qualification expires will need to take the whole 2.5 day course and test again.

TRAQ renewal course dates and locations will be posted on the ISA website and will be announced through the ISA Southern Chapter.

For more information on TRAQ renewal, call Jimmy Walters at (864) 992-0252 or e-mail at jimmy.3t@gmail.com. For information about the TRAQ program, visit the ISA website, www.isa-arbor.com/certification/becomeQualified/becomeQualified.aspx.



Southern Chapter Vice President Jimmy Walters, new ISA Executive Director Caitlyn Pollihan, and Southern Chapter Executive Director Dwayne Carter at the annual Leadership Workshop in Champaign, IL.

Introducing ISA's new Executive Director

Caitlin Pollihan has served as the executive director of the Council of Western State Foresters and the Western Forestry Leadership Coalition since 2009. She facilitated the development of the organization's strategic goals and agendas, and worked to ensure the organization's success. Prior to this role, Pollihan was the CWSF/WFLC Governmental Affairs director, where she was instrumental in the passage of key legislation and educating CWSF and WFLC members on legislative proposals and national policy with western implications.

"I am honored to be selected as the next executive director of the International Society of Arboriculture," Pollihan said in a release. "Working in concert with the ISA staff and members to promote the professional practice of arboriculture, building on Jim Skiera's legacy, is an exciting opportunity that I am eager to undertake."



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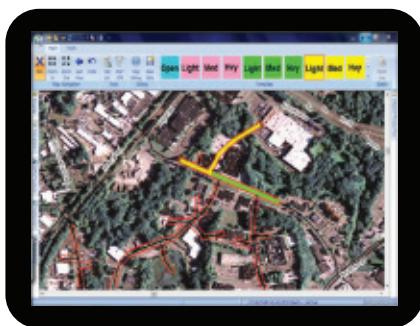


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Southern Chapter update

■ **Chapter member check-in.** We hope to share news with you about our Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Island members after the devastating hurricane season. Look for updates on Facebook, found at www.facebook.com/SouthernChapterISA/. Like our page and show your support to our Chapter.

■ **Disaster Response stories.** We all seem to be dealing with disasters of one sort or another. Would you like to share your story with our Chapter? Do you have any tips that might help another member? Contact Sarah Mitchell (e-mail sarahmitchell@live.com) to submit your stories, pictures, and comments.

■ **TREE Fund news.** Join in a free TREE Fund webinar with CEUs on November 30, 2017, at 12pm MST. "Drought Tolerance in Trees – Improving Tree Selection for Challenging Urban Sites" features Dr. Andrew Hiron, Myerscough College, U.K. More information at www.treefund.org/webinars.

TREE Fund is pleased to announce that the Utility Arborist Research Fund endowment has reached nearly \$1.2 million. \$50,000 in annual grant awards for utility research will begin in 2018.

TREE Fund is happy to shine the spotlight this month on Southern Chapter's very own Beau Brodbeck. Beau started his involvement with TREE Fund as the Liaison for Southern Chapter and quickly stepped up to chair the Liaison Committee and join the Board of Trustees. TREE Fund webinars were Beau's brainchild. Beau still finds time to participate in our Research and Education Committee that reviews grant applications, and to ride the Tour. We are grateful for all you do, Beau!

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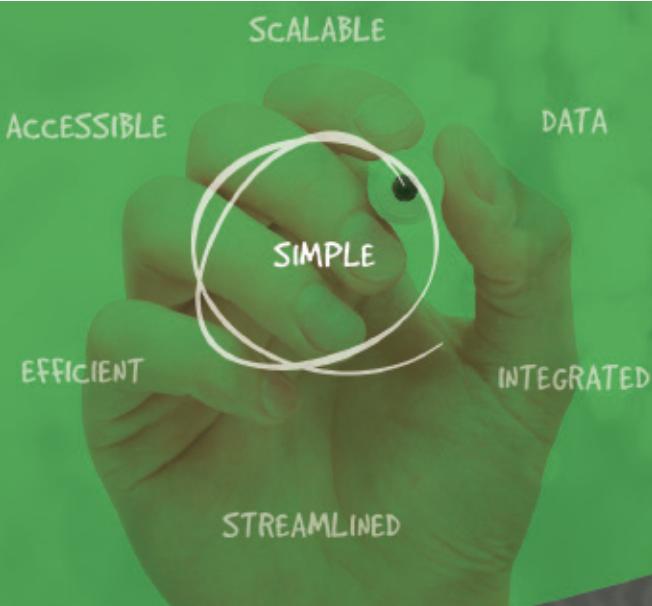
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Upcoming Events

from www.isasouthern.org

■ GEORGIA

November 7-8, 2017. Issues and Threats: Tree and Forest Health Care. Flinchum's Phoenix. Athens. Contact Robert Ingvar Elle at (706) 583-0566.

November 8-9, 2017. Georgia Urban Forestry Council's 27th Annual Conference & Awards Program. Callaway Gardens Lodge & Conference Center. Pine Mountain. Contact Mary Lynne Beckley at (470) 210-5900.

November 14, 2017. Job Site First Aid & CPR Tips. DeKalb Extension Training Center. Decatur. www.georgiaarborist.org.

December 14, 2017. GAA Winter Symposium & Awards. Lawrenceville. www.georgiaarborist.org.

March 13, 2018. Climber & Equipment Safety Presentation. www.georgiaarborist.org.

July 10, 2018. Tree ID for Beginners & Advanced. www.georgiaarborist.org for more information.

■ MISSISSIPPI

January 25-26, 2018. Annual Conference of the Professional Arborist Association of Mississippi. Eagle Ridge Conference Center. Raymond. Contact Jason Gordon at (662) 325-8851.

■ NORTH CAROLINA

November 14-15, 2017. Eastern North Carolina ISA Certification & Review. Onslow County Cooperative Extension Office. Jacksonville. Contact Leslie Moorman at (919) 614-6388.

■ TENNESSEE

November 7-8, 2017. 2017 West Tennessee Commercial Horticulture Expo. Memphis. Contact Booker Leigh at (901) 752-1207.

December 13-15, 2017. Innovations in Invasive Species Management Conference. Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center. Nashville. Contact Steven Manning at (615) 969-1309.

January 9-10, 2018. Middle Tennessee Grounds Management Shortcourse. Franklin. Contact Karla Kean at (931) 648-5725.

March 24-27, 2018. Southern Chapter ISA's 76th Annual Conference & Trade Show. Memphis. www.isasouthern.org.

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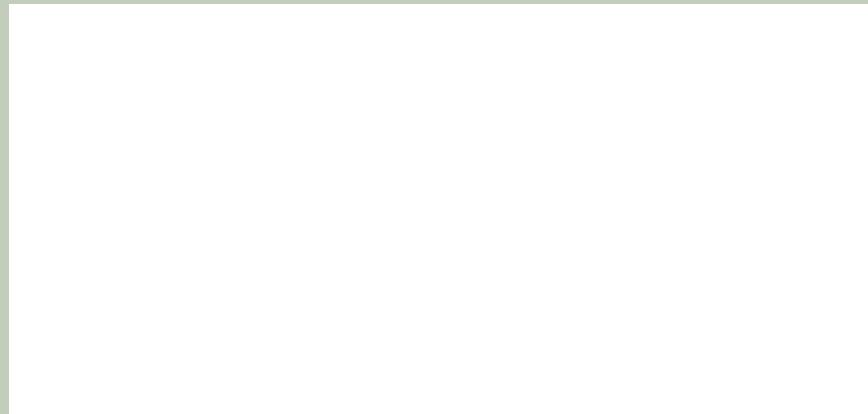
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