

CNLA Update



Connecticut
Nursery &
Landscape
Association

CNLA Update - February 14, 2014

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Opening Day of the 2014 General Assembly

The 2014 session of the Connecticut General Assembly convened informally on Wednesday, February 5, but formal events were pushed back a day because of the weather. At the Thursday session, Governor Malloy addressed legislators and the public and outlined his agenda for the year. On the fiscal side, the Governor's plan is to tap an expected \$500 million surplus by depositing more than \$250 million into the state's Rainy Day Fund, to make an additional \$100 million payment toward the state's long term pension obligations, and to inject more than \$440 million into the economy through different tax relief proposals that will take effect over the next two years. He also outlined several educational reforms, including moving the state to make early educational activities available to all children in the state.

Ag Unionization, Minimum Wage Bills Raised

The General Assembly has raised two significant bills for a public hearing. HB 5066 contains a provision that would delete the exemption agricultural workers have from unionization. SB 32 would raise the minimum wage to over \$10/hour. The Labor and Public Employees Committee is holding a public hearing on the two proposals on Tuesday, February 18 at 1 p.m. in the Legislative Office Building in Room 1E.

DEEP Chief of Staff Klee to Succeed Esty

On January 15th DEEP Commissioner Dan Esty announced

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that he is resigning. He plans to leave DEEP to resume his position at Yale Law School on February 3rd. Governor Malloy has announced that Robert Klee, DEEP chief of staff to Commissioner Esty will be his successor. Klee has a varied background with a BA from Princeton in Geology and Earth Science, a master's degree in environmental management from Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. He has a law degree and a doctorate in environmental science and policy. He was hired by Commissioner Esty in April of 2011 as his chief of staff. Formerly, he was a member of the law firm of Wiggin & Dana.

CNLA Participates In Meeting of Ag Organizations to Discuss 2014 Legislative Agendas

CNLA participated in a meeting Friday on Jan. 24 at the Legislative Office Building with a number of agricultural and natural resources organizations to discuss the 2014 legislative session. Those attending included: The Connecticut Farm Bureau Federation, Connecticut Nursery and Landscape Association, Connecticut Vineyard and Winery Association, Working Lands Alliance, the University of Connecticut and Agricultural Experiment Station, Connecticut Environmental Council, Inc., Connecticut Irrigation Contractors Association and Koskoff Egg Farm.

The meeting was extremely informative with each group sharing their legislative priorities and agenda. Additional meetings of the group will be held as needed during the session. Participants also agreed to seek a joint meeting with the Commissioner of Agriculture to continue to discussion of the best ways to promote the industry sector.

Welcome to New CNLA Members

Please welcome the following companies to the CNLA membership ranks!

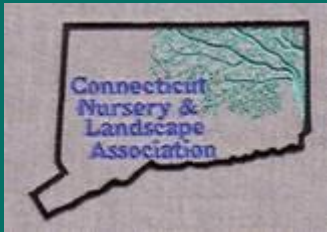
Red Barn Farms (Woodbury, CT)

Garden Gate - Chris Billings (Clinton, CT)

Emerald Green Farm & Garden (Wallingford, CT)

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The Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture at the University of Connecticut is seeking applications for the position of Visiting Assistant Extension Educator - Nursery Integrated Pest Management (IPM). The successful candidate will be expected to develop, conduct, and evaluate a statewide Extension IPM educational program for nursery growers and garden center owners.

[Click here](#) for a complete job description on the UConn website. All applicants should submit their information directly through the Husky Hire webpage.



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