

The Urban Update



Summer 2004

Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry
Southeast Ohio Community Forestry Newsletter



What you need to know about the Emerald Ash Borer

What's green and small, but deadly to ash trees? Answer, the Emerald Ash Borer, a.k.a. EAB. This Asian beetle has been boring its way through ash trees from southern Michigan into five Ohio Counties. It has also moved into Indiana, Ontario, Maryland and Virginia. It was first discovered in July 2002 in Michigan, but evidence suggests that the beetle has been active for at least seven years in that area. It has been assigned the scientific name *Agrilus planipennis*. It appears to infest all types of Midwest ash species. In its native range, it is also known to infest Asian walnut and elm species.

You are invited to...
**The Southeast Ohio Tree
Care Conference**
Wednesday, September 29th, 2004
In Athens

In Ohio, EAB was first found in Lucas County near the town of Whitehouse. At that time the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) issued quarantine on infested trees, logs, lumber, wood chips, and firewood. Infested trees and buffer trees were removed and destroyed and replacement trees were planted. Since then EAB infested nursery stock was detected in Franklin County and in Maryland. The most recent infestations include over 1000 ash trees at Oak Openings and near Maumee State Park in northwest Ohio. Michigan has lost an estimated 6 million trees to the EAB. Ohio lost over 30,000. In Ontario, over 84,000 ash trees were destroyed to create a six-mile wide firebreak in hopes of halting the beetles' advance. Officials are working diligently to learn more about the beetle and to stop its spread.

Infestations of EAB can be difficult to detect until the canopy dies back and basal sprouting begins. Evidence of infestation includes D-shaped exit holes on branches and the tree trunk. Callus tissue produced by the tree in response to larval feeding may cause vertical splits 5-10 cm in length visible on the bole of the tree. A profusion of dense shoots will arise at the base of dying trees. Besides the D-shaped exit holes on stems, other evidence of emerald ash borer includes frass-filled larval tunnels in a serpentine pattern in the outer sapwood and phloem of the trunk and branches.

A confounding factor in looking for this pest is that ash trees have commonly shown symptoms of decline for more than 25 years. In short, declining ash trees are old news and may not catch our attention. Native ash borers and several diseases are associated with ash. The banded ash borer and the ash/lilac borer are the most common pests of stressed ash trees. Both are clearwing moths and the larvae produce large and round exit holes, compared to the small and very D-shaped exit hole left by emerald ash borers.

Find more information at: <http://www.ohiodnr.com>

Emerald Ash Borer Checklist...

- Have you received firewood, landscaping or logs from Michigan in the last five years?
- Do your ash trees exhibit small distinctly D-shaped holes in the bark?
- Are there S-shaped tunnels under the bark of ash trees?
- Do you notice unusual woodpecker activity?
- Do your ash trees exhibit dieback and vigorous root sprouting?

If so, call the ODA at 1-888-OHIO- EAB

Don't move firewood...It can spread the EAB and other exotic pests including the gypsy moth and hemlock woolly adelgid.



Chillicothe's Millennium Grove and the People Behind It

At the turn of the last century, the USDA Forest Service gave every state 100 historical trees. Ohio chose Chillicothe to be the home for these living gifts. Chillicothe, an early Native American settlement and Ohio's first capital includes the hilltop vista that inspired our state's official Seal. These assets made Chillicothe a logical choice for the home of these trees. But most importantly was Chillicothe's very active Tree Commission and city tree care program that included 2 working tree nurseries. Whitey Coates, a retired chemical engineer and forester from MeadWestvaco chairs the Tree Commission. Four other foresters also serve. They are Steve Mathey, Bob Nelson, Ryan Brown and Rich Simpson. The Commission also benefits from Constance Jones of the National Park Service, Theresa Heirnstain of the Garden Club and Pat Patrick from the City Council. Past members involved are Jean Foor, Mary Rutledge, Randy Sneddon and Tom Truschel. Cathy Primer and Brad Cosenza from the City's Park and Recreation Department turn these Tree Commission dreams into action and reality.

With Whitey's vision for the Millennium Grove, these dedicated folks went to work. They ordered and organized the trees in the city nurseries. They mulched, watered and weeded and weeded some more. All the while they formally pursued plans to secure a permanent home for the trees. Finally a deal was struck with the North Bridge Street Development Company who donated seven acres of cornfield along the Scioto River in the heart of town.

In November 2003, the growing seedlings and saplings were planted. There are 47 different species with varying historical backgrounds, from apple and ash to walnut and willow. Celebrities from Elvis to Napoleon are represented. There is even a descendent of the tree under which General Stonewall Jackson's arm was buried! In fact, many Civil War events are commemorated here as well as D-Day and humankind's first flight. There are seven glades in all- the Ohio, American History, Civil War-North, Civil War-South, Presidents, Famous Men and Famous Women Glades.

These trees must be nurtured and protected if they are going to grow over time as living monuments to history. That means mulching, watering, weeding and protecting from lawn equipment and deer. To accomplish this, each tree has been encased in a staked wire cage. This was made possible through donations from the City Parks and Recreation Department, the Ross County Federation of Garden Clubs and the Jackson District of the Garden Club of Ohio, AEP and MeadWestvaco and through the diligent labor of the Tree Commission and Parks Department. The next step is the development of a brochure so the public can identify the trees by glade, species and historical background.

Congratulations to Whitey, the Tree Commission, the Parks Department and **all the folks** in Chillicothe who are working so hard to create a living museum that is so uniquely connecting nature to history! Keep up the great work!



Zanesville Hosts Tree City USA

A big thanks goes out to the Zanesville Tree Commission- Mayor and Mrs. Fenton, Amy Kirkbride, Cheryl Sebring, Dick Sorg, Dan Sylvester, Tom McCray, Bonnie Dailey, Bert Hendley and Wess McCoullough for hosting this year's Southeast Ohio Tree City USA Program. Mayor Fenton warmly welcomed the visiting Tree City USA Awards recipients. Eleven communities received Tree City USA Awards. Athens, Marietta and Zanesville earned Growth Awards. Bill Hendricks of Klyn Nurseries gave an inspired slide show of Ohio's best trees. A memorial tree was planted for Brad Worth, the energetic utility forester from Westerville who was much loved. Bert Hendley graciously invited all the participants to tour his private garden, Mission Oaks. Thanks again, Zanesville. You did a great job!



Sudden Oak Death

Sudden Oak Death was first reported in 1995 in California. Since then, tens of thousands of oaks have been killed. On oaks, the fungus causes a bleeding canker. Sudden Oak Death also infects *Rhododendron* spp.

huckleberry, bay laurel and some maples. On these hosts the fungus causes leaf spot and twig dieback.

As of 2002, the disease was known to occur only in California and Oregon. However, transporting infected hosts is thought to spread the disease. Tests show that many oaks are susceptible to the fungus, including Ohio's northern red oak and pin oak.

Cankered trees may survive for one to several years, but once crown dieback begins, leaves turn pale yellow to brown within a few weeks. A reddish ooze often bleeds from the cankers, staining the surface of the bark. Necrotic bark tissue surrounded by black lines is usually present under affected bark. Because these symptoms can also be caused by other pathogens, only laboratory tests can confirm Sudden Oak Death.

In the Eastern United States, other disorders of oaks have similar symptoms. These include oak wilt, oak decline, Canker rots, slime flux, leaf scorch, root diseases, freeze damage, and herbicide injury. To date, sudden oak death is known only to occur along the west coast.

However, the fact that widely traded rhododendron ornamentals can be infected with the pathogen and the demonstrated susceptibility of some important eastern oaks make introduction to eastern hardwood forests a significant risk. Early detection will be important for successful eradication.

-US Forest Service Pest Alert



Middleport Adds Shade and Beauty to Downtown

Congratulations to the **Village of Middleport** for their efforts to replace the downtown street trees. The Tree Commission had dutifully removed the gnarly honeylocusts and the downtown merchants helped replace them with ornamental flowering pear trees. Mayor Iannarelli also hosted a Tree Care Workshop this spring. Nearby **Pomeroy** is looking beautiful too, with trees and lush flowers being maintained by Mayor John Musser, George Wright and Ann Chapman as well as other energetic Pomeroy gardeners.

The Southeast Ohio Tree Care Conference September 29th, 2004

This fall's Tree Care Conference will host some great speakers and topics. Catch the latest on stem girdling roots, tree planting, Dutch Elm Disease, Emerald Ash Borer, Utility Pruning, ODNR's FireWise Program and fire safe landscaping and a special visit and presentation by Jim McCormac, Author of Birds of Ohio speaking on Birds of the Urban Forest. The food is good, the price reasonable and ISA CEUs are available.

Watch for registration flyers.

Congratulations to the following communities who have completed their tree planting grant projects!

Amesville

**Marietta Portsmouth
New Lexington**

The ODNR Division of Forestry will continue to work on ways to replenish our tree planting grant funding. Thanks to the OEPA and all who have supported these community tree planting projects.



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