

## A Newsletter for the Caretakers of Northwest Ohio's Urban Forests

Stephanie Miller, Regional Urban Forester  
OH Division of Forestry

Welcome 2006!

It is with great excitement that I ring in the New Year. The past 3 years have certainly been challenging to Northwest Ohio Communities as we waded through difficult budgets, families and friends sent afar for military duty or hurricane relief, ice storms, political battles, impending doom for many of our protective urban trees, and the occasional accidental mowing. Despite the challenges, we made it! Many of you may still face the same or similar challenges, but know that we will survive!

Why am I looking forward to 2006? A big reason is the arrival of Marianne Prue as the Division of Forestry's Emerald Ash Borer Urban Forester. EAB has been an overwhelming "project" (for lack of a better term,) and having her take on the special EAB projects will allow me to work with you on the more day-to-day urban forestry activities and *help you develop Community EAB Management Plans*. Take a peek at page 3 to read her update and get to know her a little. I have a feeling that most NW Ohio communities will have an opportunity to work with her sooner or later.

Another reason I'm anticipating 2006 relates to EAB. I believe we will have a better picture of what to expect from this critter. I'm ready to throw away the crystal ball!

EAB, gypsy moth, and weather damage is an opportunity for every Ohio community to take their tree care program up a notch. It's an opportunity to prove to our community leaders and citizens that investing in urban tree care is critical to improving the quality of life in our neighborhoods and the economic health of our towns. It goes beyond beautification. Trees are a component of our urban infrastructure and people will take notice when they are damaged or absent. Utilize your local media to talk about why tree topping results in more storm clean up efforts. Take a look at what your community is spending money on: is it all on planting and none on young tree training? Are you spending more time cleaning up messes than preventing them?

Now is your chance. Not since Dutch elm disease have tree issues been so poignantly in the forefront of Ohioan's minds. The Ohio Division of Forestry wants to make sure that Ohio's communities are prepared to handle EAB if/when it gets to your community. We have identified the critical components of an EAB management plan, but it will take *your* community's participation to develop a plan that works for your town. Contact me to schedule a time to sit down and begin the process and watch for upcoming events designed to help you work through the details. Let's make 2006 *your* year!

- Steph

### Seedlings for Arbor Day



Pemberville (Wood County)

Looking for tree seedlings for your Arbor Day celebrations? The Ohio Division of Forestry may have the product for you! These young trees, grown for reforestation efforts in Ohio, make great Arbor Day handouts for school groups and other community gatherings.

Visit [www.ohiodnr.com/forestry/Seedling/default.htm](http://www.ohiodnr.com/forestry/Seedling/default.htm) for details today. Quantities are limited, so order soon.

Arbor Day is April 28<sup>th</sup> this year.

In this Issue	
2006	1
Seedlings	1
NW Ohio News	2
Upcoming Events	2
EAB Update	3
Meet Marianne	3
Tree City USA	4
Reference Corner	4

Remember to share *As We Grow* with your fellow tree commissioners, urban forestry department, and community leaders. This, along with all previous issues, is available on the Ohio Division of Forestry web page at [www.ohiodnr.com/forestry/Urban/Region4.htm](http://www.ohiodnr.com/forestry/Urban/Region4.htm)

## Happenings Around NW Ohio

The Village of **Wayne's** (Wood County) council adopted the town's first tree ordinance in 2005. They are in the process of formally developing their tree commission and look forward to future programming.

Citizens in **Wauseon** (Fulton County) were saddened to see one of its largest American elm trees succumb to Dutch elm disease in 2005. The tree commission paid homage to the beloved tree by using tree cookies (small disks of cut branches) for their homecoming celebration. Jim Beck, Wauseon Tree Commissioner, worked countless hours branding and finishing the tree cookies as mementoes for the town's homecoming.

**Dupont** (Putnam County) reports continuing benefits from their tree care efforts. Howard Sheperd, Tree Commissioner, says that work they did on their village trees prior to the 2005 ice storm was the primary factor in their low branch failure.

On a similar note, **Upper Sandusky's** Parks Manager, Mike Cheney, is convinced that their attention to planting depth in recent years saved several of the city's young trees from 2005's dry summer. They experienced good survival of trees with trunk flares at the soil surface and increased death rates of deeply planted trees.

**Genoa** hosted an EAB information meeting for its citizens. The program was well attended and included guest speakers from OSU Extension, Ohio Dept of Ag, and Division of Forestry.

**Fostoria** and **Tiffin** have been hard at work planning this spring's Tree City USA awards program. Both tree commissions are working cooperatively to bring you what they hope will be a memorable day of fun, learning, and fellowship.

**Toledo** has been actively involved in removing emerald ash borer-infested ash trees for a year now. Several thousand ash trees have been removed from along streets, in parks, and in wooded areas since 2004. The city had around 7000 ash street trees prior to their ash reduction program.

Several NW Ohio communities began working with **AMP Ohio's** new tree pruning and line clearance crews in 2005. AMP Ohio purchased a company renowned in its dedication to modern and arboriculturally correct pruning practices in an effort to help communities have more effective line clearance programs, provide cost savings for utility upgrades, and have an opportunity to invest in other tree pruning activities at a reasonable cost.

**Bowling Green** recently completed their East Wooster Street widening project. This endeavor included the removal and replanting of several trees in the street right of way as well as on the BG State University campus.

**Bryan** is looking forward to a big year in 2006. In February, they will be hosting an informational program about protecting trees during construction. Steph Miller will be the guest speaker. They are also excited to be participating in ash reduction efforts with the help from an Ash Reduction Grant from the Ohio Division of Forestry.

**Fayette's** Mayor Anita Van Zite is excited to revive the village's Tree Commission. They have been familiarizing themselves with their responsibilities as a volunteer board and will be focusing on identifying and addressing their community tree needs this year.

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## Upcoming Events

(Check out the Urban Forestry site at [www.ohiodnr.com/forestry/](http://www.ohiodnr.com/forestry/) for more events)

**Reducing Construction Damage Around Trees:** February 22, 2006; 9:00-11:00 AM; Bryan Community Center, 1130 Buffalo Road, Bryan; Free; Contact Todd Roth, City Engineer, for information 419-636-0193

**North Coast Urban Forestry Conference:** March 10, 2006; Lakeland Community College; Alan Siewert, 440/632-5299; [www.ohiodnr.com/forestry/Urban/meetings.htm](http://www.ohiodnr.com/forestry/Urban/meetings.htm)

**BG's Historical Trees and History of Bowling Green/Wood County:** March 25, 2006; 9:00-11:00 AM; Simpson Park Building, 1291 Conneaut Ave; Contact Dave Bienemann, Municipal Arborist, for information at (419) 353-4101 or at [arborist@bgohio.org](mailto:arborist@bgohio.org)

**Tree City USA Awards Program:** April 26; Bascom Ballroom, Bascom (Hosted by Tiffin & Fostoria)

*What's Up?* This is a newsletter *for* and *about* urban forestry in NW Ohio, so tell us what you are doing. Send articles and/or pictures to me, Steph Miller, at [Stephanie.miller@dnr.state.oh.us](mailto:Stephanie.miller@dnr.state.oh.us) 952-B Lima Avenue, Findlay, OH 45840; Phone: 419/429-8313 Fax: 419/424-5008

*E-mail Your E-mails:* Let me send *As We Grow* electronically. Please e-mail your e-ddress to [Stephanie.miller@dnr.state.oh.us](mailto:Stephanie.miller@dnr.state.oh.us). I also occasionally forward pertinent urban forestry information such as **grant** opportunities and educational sessions to those who have e-mail.

*Please let me know of any changes to your tree commissions or administration so that mailings are addressed to the correct people. Thank you!*

# Meet Marianne Prue, EAB Urban Forester

We are delighted to have Marianne join the Division of Forestry as our newest forester. Marianne grew up in South Bend, Indiana where she still frequents to visit her family. She earned her forestry degree from Purdue University and has experience as a forester with the State of Indiana and as a utility forester here in Ohio. She is an ISA Certified Arborist and Utility Specialist.



Marianne comes to us courtesy of a US Forest Service grant to fund a position to provide EAB assistance to Ohio's communities. She has been getting her feet wet overseeing canopy restoration programs, ash reduction grants, and EAB awareness activities. She is here to assist you with any EAB concerns in your community and in implementing your EAB management plan.

Welcome Aboard Marianne!

## How to Contact Marianne

Phone: 419-429-8304

Fax: 419-424-5008

E-mail: [Marianne.prue@dnr.state.oh.us](mailto:Marianne.prue@dnr.state.oh.us)



## Get Ready for EAB!



A message from your Emerald Ash Borer Urban Forester ~ Marianne Prue

It's 2006 and by now everyone should have made their new year's resolutions. I hope those resolutions include proactive provisions for EAB in your community. Recently, an appropriations bill made its way through Congress, calling for only \$10 million in EAB funding to be split among Indiana, Michigan, and Ohio. This is substantially less than President Bush's original \$32 million proposal.

What does this mean for your community? The time to act is **now**. Proper management of the ash population now is vital to your community's future. While the Ohio Department of Agriculture received federal funding for EAB eradication of infested areas in the past, it may not have the funding to continue an aggressive eradication program. If there's an infestation in your community, it means certain death for the ash trees, and counting on federally funded removals is not an option.

First of all, the best thing to do right now would be to take inventory of all the ash trees on public property. Next, start to remove them. I know that nobody wants to remove a tree that seems beautiful and healthy, but it's necessary to reduce the number of ash trees in order to reduce the risk, minimize the impact, and respond more effectively to an infestation in your community. Gradually reducing the number of ash now will spread out your removal costs of hazardous dead and dying trees over time, instead of having to pay for a large number of dead trees all at once. Remember, a dead tree can cost much more to remove than a live tree.

Here are a few other useful tips:

- ♣ Continue to monitor ash trees and watch for signs of EAB infestation.
- ♣ Inspect all ash wood when pruning and removing (see sample contract clause below).
- ♣ Educate members of your community about EAB.
- ♣ Get the message out: DO NOT MOVE FIREWOOD!
- ♣ Contact Steph Miller to develop a community EAB Management Plan
- ♣ Keep your urban forest healthy and beautiful. Plant a diversity of new trees!
- ♣ Keep updated at [www.ohioagriculture.gov/eab](http://www.ohioagriculture.gov/eab) and [www.emeraldashborer.info](http://www.emeraldashborer.info)
- ♣ Remember that I am always here to help *and* answer any of your EAB questions!

Emerald Ash Borer Hotline: 1-888-OhioEAB (1-888-644-6322)

# Tree City USA

The following communities qualified as Tree City USA's for 2005. A BIG THANK YOU to all communities who sent in timely, complete packets. Congratulations to all of you and especially to Carey ~ one of Ohio's first Tree City USA's ~ on their revival of their community tree care program.

ADA	DEFIANCE	LIMA	PORT CLINTON
ARCHBOLD	DUPONT	LINDSEY	REPUBLIC
ATTICA	EDGERTON	MAUMEE	ROCKFORD
BELLEVUE	ELMORE	MINSTER	ROSSFORD
BLOOMDALE	FINDLAY	MONTPELIER	ST. MARYS
BLOOMVILLE	FOSTORIA	NAPOLEON	SYLVANIA
BLUFFTON	FREMONT*	NEW BREMEN	TIFFIN
BOWLING GREEN*	GALION	NEW WASHINGTON	TOLEDO
BRADNER	GENOA	NORTH BALTIMORE	UPPER SANDUSKY
BRYAN	GIBSONBURG	NORTHWOOD	WAPAKONETA
CAREY	HOLGATE	OAK HARBOR	WATERVILLE
CLYDE*	HOLLAND	OREGON	WAUSEON
COLDWATER	HOYTVILLE	OTTAWA	WEST UNITY
COLUMBUS GROVE	KENTON	PEMBERVILLE	WOODVILLE
CRIDERSVILLE	LEIPSIK	PERRYSBURG*	

Mark your calendars today for this year's awards ceremony in Bascom hosted by the cities of Fostoria and Tiffin.

Wednesday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2006

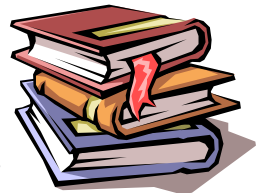
\*Reminder to Growth Award Recipients: Please e-mail or send me your presentation materials by March 31st. Thanks!


Share your Community Tree Care activities by sending me pictures. I'll gladly accept digital or originals - I'll even scan and return them to you if you want. These are fun to show at the awards ceremony and other events throughout the year. They may even show up in this newsletter or on the Division of Forestry webpage!


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## Reference Corner


Want to focus on the basics of tree care and have the science to back you up? The following books are a *must have* for any tree care hobbyist or professional.



 *Modern Arboriculture*; Alex Shigo ISBN 0-943563-09-7; 1991; Shigo and Trees, Associates.

 *A New Tree Biology*; Alex Shigo ISBN 0-943563-04-6; 1986; Shigo and Trees, Associates.

 *Urban Forestry: Planning and Managing Urban Greenspaces*; Robert Miller; ISBN 0-13-939620-9; 1988; Prentice-Hall, Inc.

 *Tree Anatomy*; Alex Shigo; ISBN 0-943563-14-3; 1994; Shigo and Trees Associates.