

Urban Forestry-related News in the Midwest

(August 21, 2014)

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OUTSIDE THE REGION, BUT OF POTENTIAL INTEREST TO ALL

70 Carefully Lit Candles for Smokey Bear

[Carefully Lit Candles for Smokey Bear](#)

Moira McLaughlin The Washington Post for
Chicago Herald (IL)

Celebrate with Smokey

Send Smokey Bear a birthday card! Write him a birthday letter, and he will write you back! Send it to Smokey Bear, Washington, D.C. 20252

Real black bears don't live to be 70 years old. But a pretend black bear named Smokey Bear, who was born out of a desire to help save U.S. forests, turned 70 on Aug. 9.

One of the most recognized characters in the United States, Smokey has been a spokesman (or spokesbear?) for the U.S. Forest Service since 1944. The Forest Service is the part of the government that manages national forests, where people go to camp and hike.



U.S. Forest Service. Smokey doesn't look like he has aged a bit since he was featured in this 1948 poster.

Wildfires in those forests can burn millions of acres of land a year, so the Forest Service created Smokey to help spread the word on how to prevent fires. That means no playing with matches and always making sure your campfire is out when you're done with it.

At first Smokey's slogan, or what he always said, was, "Care will prevent 9 out of 10 fires." But in 1947, Smokey's slogan changed to, "Remember, only you can prevent forest fires." That's the slogan that your mom and dad probably know. In 2001, his words changed slightly, and "forest fires" became "wildfires." His look, which includes an easy-to-recognize ranger hat, has not changed much over the years.

Preventing wildfires is important because trees are a natural resource. We need them in order to make such things as paper for math quizzes and science books. It's also important to preserve forests so that everyone can enjoy them. And a big wildfire can put people's lives at risk, especially firemen. But maybe the most important reason to prevent wildfires is simply because people need trees to live. You'll remember from science class that trees produce the oxygen that we breathe.

While some wildfires are started naturally, such as when lightning hits a tree, most wildfires are started by people. That's why even today, Smokey's message is important. Since Smokey started his work, wildfires have decreased by nearly one-third, Forest Service reports.

"As these children develop into . . . adults, it's in their best interest to know the cost of . . .

wildfires," said Fred Hernandez, who works for the Forest Service.

In a big city, you may feel like you're far away from the big wildfires Smokey is talking about. And you are. Most of them are in the hot, dry and windy forests in states such as California and Oregon. But Virginia, for example, loses 8,000 to 10,000 acres of forest and grassland each year to wildfires, according to Virginia Department of Forestry. And Maryland officials say fires destroy about 4,000 acres a year.

Our nation's capital has had a connection to Smokey for a long time. In 1950, a young bear cub was trapped in a New Mexico fire. He climbed a tree to escape the flames but suffered burns on his back legs and paws. Firefighters saved him and named him Smokey. He came to live at the National Zoo in Washington until his death in 1976.

Kids have been writing to Smokey Bear, the character, for years. The big, cuddly bear even has his own Zip code. That's how important people think he is. You can see his posters around even today. Be on the lookout for him. He'll be there, looking down at you in a bus stop with his calm and gentle face, reminding you, "Only you can prevent wildfires."

ILLINOIS

Ash Borers Have Infected My Neighbor's Tree

[Ash borers have infected my neighbor's tree](#)

Deb Terrill for Kankakee Journal IL), 082114

Q: My neighbor has an ash tree that is dying from emerald ash borer and I am afraid it will get my large, healthy ash tree if they don't cut it down. Do you agree? — Manteno

A: You can't drive more than a few blocks without seeing a dead or dying ash tree in Kankakee County. Some are leafless skeletons and others are showing the balding upper branches and clusters of desperate suckering growth near the center.

I stopped in front of one house with three dying trees. The homeowner, who was in the driveway was surprised by my suggestion that the trees would not have long to live. "Actually, he said, they are just thin because of the hard winter and look ... they are filling in a lot." That dense cluster of new growth, dark green and robust looking is just cruel. It gives the homeowner hope that all will be well, when in fact it is a sure sign of emerald ash borer death. The tree's last gasp.



Photo/Deb Terrill. A dying ash tree from the Emerald Ash Borer

The infestation of the beautiful, emerald green Chinese beetle began in the Detroit area in 2002 and has spread rapidly, probably through the movement of firewood and nursery stock. Michigan has lost more than 60 million trees. Last reports show the bug being found in traps as far north as middle Canada, west to Iowa, south to Georgia and east into New York.

The adult female lays eggs in bark crevices. Many eggs are laid and when they hatch, the larvae burrow into the cambium layer, that corky layer under the bark where water and nutrients flow up and down. The larvae form extensive feeding galleries in the vital layer, interrupting the sap flow. When they are mature, they emerge through characteristic D shaped exit holes and fly into the canopy.

I wish I could offer more hope to those who have infested trees, and especially, those who have trees that appear to be healthy and free of insects. Some retailers and services offer a variety of chemical treatments that can, if used properly and within the narrow window of opportunity (April and May, October), prolong the inevitable for a couple of years, more if treated annually. These treatments are usually in the form of a drench for younger trees and injections for mature trees.

Most scientists agree that very small ash trees should be replaced now, with another kind of tree, like oak, maple, hickory, locust or linden. Trees that are showing signs of death, like a thinned canopy and suckering, are not likely to be saved, despite treatment. Only mature, healthy trees

that have not yet shown signs of dying are good candidates for treatment. But the fact remains that the insect has no natural enemies and its population is growing exponentially. We can drench our lawns with imidacloprid every year and the beetle will still be spreading in forested areas. That means treating for the life of the tree.

There was some anticipation that the cold winter of 2013-14 would kill off a significant portion of the Asian beetles, but they survived sustained temps of minus 16 and only in Minnesota, where it was much colder, did a large number die. The release of lab reared predators has not had an encouraging impact on populations either.

As far as your question is concerned, your neighbor's dying tree means the beetle is no doubt present in your tree. Whether or not they cut the tree down, you have almost certainly been infested. You have the option of beginning treatment for your tree. I recommend injections from an arborist because drenching means reaching soil where fine roots take up water and those roots are spread out far beyond the canopy of the tree. You would need to drench your entire lawn.

Your neighbor should cut the dying tree down in the winter, when the adults are dead and the eggs or larvae are dormant, as this will at least limit how many pests are spread by the removal process. Aside from harboring the beetle, a dead tree can be dangerous to homes, cars and people. There may be liability involved.

Emerald Ash Borer to Cost Bartlett up to \$1.4 million Next Year

<http://www.dailyherald.com/article/20140820/news/140829819/y>

Katlyn Smith Chicago Herald (IL), 8/20/2014

Bartlett officials will ramp up their fight against a tiny beetle, setting aside an extra \$1.1 million to cut down trees destroyed by the emerald ash borer.

Two summers of dry conditions, followed by a harsh winter, accelerated the decline of trees infested by the beetle native to Asia. That one-two punch also quashed expectations that at least 25 percent of infected trees in the village would survive. After a survey of all the emerald ash borers in town, public works officials say crews now have to uproot more than 4,000 trees.



Bartlett officials will pay up to \$1.4 million to a contractor clearing trees ravaged by the emerald ash borer through fall 2015. Courtesy of James Appleby

"Since we have more, we need to spend more and pick up the pace because our residents would really like to get those dead trees out of their front yards," village Administrator Valerie Salmons said. Trustees have agreed to extend a contract with Trees "R" Us Inc. -- whose crews typically remove 20 trees per day -- through September 2015.

The deal previously was expected to cost \$300,000 next year, but the village board agreed this week to pay the Wauconda contractor up to \$1.4 million. The extra money will come from a developer deposits fund.

Public works crews also will remove at least 700 smaller trees by fall 2015. "If we have decent weather for this winter, and they can continue to remove during the winter, we should beat that (timeline) quite a bit," Public Works Director Dan Dinges said.

In the next few weeks, village officials are developing a map to let residents track the progress of the campaign and when crews are scheduled to target a neighborhood. The map likely will be posted on village.bartlett.il.us.

"You can't just jump from place to place and cut down trees," Mayor Kevin Wallace said. "You've got to do it in sections."

Meanwhile, the work to cut down trees is outpacing the plantings of new ones. To date, 1,856 trees ravaged by the borer have been removed in Bartlett. The village plans to replace 700 to 1,000 annually with a diverse mix of varieties.

Bartlett will pick up the tab for planting 1-inch, curbside trees. If homeowners want 2-inch trees, they must pay a \$50 fee and choose from two lists of species for spring or fall plantings. This fall, residents can have their pick of Kentucky coffee tree or European hornbeam.

IOWA

Boone City Council Members Briefed On City's Emerald Ash Borer Strategy

[Boone City council members briefed city's emerald ash borer strategy](#)

By Jon Lloyd Ames Tribune (IA), August 20, 2014 - 10:24pm

The Boone City Council has been updated on the city's plan to deal with the emerald ash borer infestation and the spread of the pest that was discovered in the city earlier this month.

City Administrator Luke Nelson presented the two-page action plan recently issued by the Boone Park's Commission detailing the city's proactive approach to the invasive beetle, which kills ash trees.

EAB was positively identified in the city of Boone by a federal EAB team, making Boone County the 12th Iowa county declared to be infested with the invasive beetle that already has killed millions of ash trees in the Midwest.

"It does a good job of answering some of the key questions you're likely to hear from citizens in the future," Nelson said, noting that council members can direct citizens to the city's website — www.boonegov.com/eab — which he said is a "great resource" for EAB questions and information.

Earlier this month, Nelson, city staff and parks commission members joined Robin Pruisner, lead entomologist for the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS), in a telephone press conference regarding the EAB's arrival in Boone. It was first identified in northeastern Iowa in May 2010.

Nelson noted there are about 7,700 ash trees in the city, with about 1,000 located in its rights-of-way, on which the city will focus. Property owners are responsible for the ash trees on their property, he said.

The two adult beetles found in Boone — adults are metallic green in color and about a half-inch long — were found in a trap placed in a resident's yard after "suspect" galleries were found in an ash tree that fell during a June storm.

Galleries are the serpentine-shaped tunnels left by EAB larvae between the tree's rough outer bark and the hard sapwood. Feeding on the tree's nutrients, the larvae can kill it in two to four years.

In meetings this spring with the public and city and county staff, Mike Kintner, EAB coordinator for IDALS, said the beetle will probably kill 99 percent of the ash trees in the state. He estimated there are about 55 million rural ash trees and 3 million urban ash trees. EAB kills four Iowa species of ash trees: blue, green, black and white. A statewide quarantine was imposed by the IDALS in February. Still in place, it restricts the movement of hardwood firewood, ash logs, wood chips and ash tree nursery stock out of the state into areas of other states that are not

quarantined.

The action plan states the city will “aggressively remove the poor-conditioned ash trees,” and noted that many have already been removed in the past few years because of the city’s proactive strategy, which Pruisner praised.

The city will work with “local tree care professionals and public works officials as the first line of EAB-detection,” according to the action plan. Anyone handling tree debris must follow local and state regulations.

Ash trees that are removed will be recorded. The plan encourages private property owners to plant new trees if they remove ash trees. This summer, the city’s trees were recorded on a GIS system that shows the location of species in the city’s rights-of-way.

MICHIGAN

One More Cast: Ashes to Ashes

[One more cast ashes to ashes](#)

Petoskey News Service (MI0, 11:24 am, Wed Aug 20, 2014.

Near Hillman, alone in a field, stands a single elm tree. It's a relic of the second half of the 20th century when Dutch elm disease, a fungus carried by a bark beetle, wiped out most of America's elms. This one tree miraculously survived.

The eradication of elms hit Southgate, a suburb of Detroit, sometime in the 1960s when my mom was growing up there. She's the one who pointed out the lone elm to me during a trip to our Hillman family hunting camp in the '90s.

"When the homes were built in Southgate," she told me recently, "elm trees were planted to line the streets. They formed a beautiful canopy, and when you rode your bike it was like driving down a tunnel."

There was even an Elm Street, she said. Then, in a single season, all the elms died. The residents were left to deal with the aftermath in what must have looked like a disaster area.

"People actually cried," she said. "To lose that much vegetation in one summer was heartbreaking."

During a trip to visit family in Alpena last week, I noticed that a similar onslaught on Michigan's ash trees is now very much visible.

Anyone who didn't know what an ash tree looked like before the invasion of the emerald ash borer beetle can now recognize the tree species by its flaking bark and dead crowns. Stands upon stands of dead ash line M-32 between here and there. It has become a modern nightmare on Elm Street for landowners who love their ash trees.

I drove through a few neighborhoods around Long Lake and Grand Lake. Everywhere I went, I heard chainsaws running and saw guys building piles of ash logs 8 feet high. Firewood will not be in short supply this winter.

A friend of my dad had all his ash trees cut down and his home no longer has a buffer from the busy roadway. My dad, a craftsman, is planning to have his friend's largest ash trunk milled into lumber for building furniture.



HT- Mark Johnson Like many other areas around the state, the ash trees within the Louis M. Groen Nature Preserve near Johannesburg are dying after emerald ash borer infestation. The tree pictured here features the lines and patterns left behind by the beetles.

Calls to several tree removal services in Alpena and Gaylord went unreturned Tuesday. I assume it's because they are crazy busy taking down ash trees before winter winds do.

Tree-cutting jobs are probably the one upside to the ash dieoff. But the downsides are many.

Dad uses a lot of ash stock in his furniture building. The grain pattern is similar to oak.

"Anything you use oak for you can use ash for," he said. "If you stain it you can't tell the difference."

Ash is also weather resistant, making it good for fence posts, animal-feeding troughs, and handles for yard tools like rakes and shovels, he said. Expect to see fiberglass handles take the place of ash.

Most notably, ash is used for bats, including the legendary Louisville Slugger.

As ash trees disappear it is inevitable that bats in the major leagues will be some other wood. To the trained ear, a home-run crack of the bat will sound different.

According to MLB.com, Major League Baseball doesn't like using maple bats because they break more frequently than ash bats, and the barrel usually splits from the handle with a dangerous shard. You can bet there are scientists already looking for the best replacement when the ash bats run out.

The scariest part of the ash dieoff is the impact it will have on Michigan's morel mushroom. Avid shroomers head to the ash stands to find their secret spots – the morel is mysterious but seems to be drawn to standing and fallen ash trees, according to some pickers.

Stands of dead ash could be a sudden boon for the fungus, but what will happen when the nutrients from rotting trees runs out? A Michigan without morels is a scary thought.

In mom's yard, around her fire pit, is a lively stand of young ash trees she's coddled since they were saplings. It's where we get together when family is in town for bonfires and beers.

But on the other side of the street stands the pale gray skeleton of a mature ash, looming like Death, the grim reaper of trees.

Chris Engle is an avid outdoorsman and outdoor columnist for the Gaylord Herald Times. He can be reached at englemobile@gmail.com.

MINNESOTA

Minnesota Officials Say Emerald Ash Borer Infestation Found in 5th County, Impose Quarantine

<http://www.startribune.com/local/272118801.html>

Associated Press, August 21, 2014 - 4:50 AM

ST. PAUL, Minn. — Minnesota officials have confirmed trees in Olmsted County are infested with the destructive emerald ash borer.

The state Department of Agriculture said Wednesday the county will join Hennepin, Houston, Ramsey and Winona counties in a state and federal quarantine to prevent the infestation from spreading. That means ash logs, lumber, chips and tree waste can't be taken out of the county without a department certificate.

The larvae of the emerald ash borer beetle kill ash trees by tunneling into the wood and feeding on the tree's nutrients. Minnesota has approximately one billion ash trees, more than any other state.

The infested trees are about 45 miles away from the nearest infestation in Winona County, near the interchange of Interstate 90 and U.S. Highway 63.

Online: State quarantine: <http://bit.ly/1BF7Jga>

Emerald Ash Borer Found in Olmsted County

<http://www.kaaltv.com/article/stories/S3538027.shtml>

KAAL (MN), 08/20/2014 3:49 PM

(ABC 6 News) -- The Minnesota Department of Agriculture has confirmed the first emerald ash borer infestation in Olmsted County.

State officials say the infestation was discovered near the interchange of Interstate 90 and U.S. Highway 63. The infested trees are approximately 45 miles away from the nearest know EAB infestation in Winona County.

"Usually when they find it, it's already been around for 3 to 5 years so I imagine it's been in that area for quite a few years," said Jon Marx with Arborists of Rochester. "It can move at a rate of about 15 miles per year so I guess I would be concerned."

As a result of the discovery, state and federal officials are imposing a quarantine on Olmsted County. The quarantine is designed to limit the movement of any items that may be infested with EAB, including ash trees and ash tree limbs, as well as all hardwood firewood.

Emerald Ash Borer larvae kill ash trees by tunneling into the wood and feeding on the tree's nutrients. Since its accidental introduction into North America, EAB has killed tens of millions of ash trees in 24 states. It was first discovered in Minnesota in 2009.