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# Wisconsin Forestry Notes

August 2011

Wisconsin DNR - Division of Forestry

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*La Crosse and Racine Counties join the list of counties quarantined due to the ash-killing beetle, the emerald ash borer.*

## **Emerald Ash Borer Now Found in 9 Wisconsin Counties**

Two recent finds of emerald ash borer (EAB) bring the number of counties where it has been found in Wisconsin to nine. Eight beetles were discovered on three separate traps in Racine County on July 26 during a routine inspection of the traps. Then, on Friday, August 19, confirmation was received that six beetles discovered on a survey trap in La Crosse County were indeed emerald ash borers. A Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection EAB trapper found the adult insects during a routine trap inspection and end-of-season trap removal. This will trigger a quarantine of La Crosse County and neighboring counties may be added to the quarantine pending further review. The counties where EAB has now been discovered in Wisconsin are: Brown, Crawford, Kenosha, La Crosse, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Vernon and Washington. For more information about EAB, visit the DNR page <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/FH/Ash/> or the Wisconsin EAB site <http://datcpservices.wisconsin.gov/eab/index.jsp>.

*Maintaining working forests, protecting wildlife habitat and providing public recreation are top goals of this Forest Legacy project.*

## **Conservation Easement to Protect Valuable Forest Land**

At their August meeting, the Natural Resources Board approved a deal to protect additional acreage in the Chippewa Flowage from development. DNR will be purchasing a conservation easement on 10,083 acres in Sawyer County for \$4.5 million to maintain the area as a working forest. The federal Forest Legacy program will cover \$2.5 million of the cost with the remainder coming from the state Knowles-Nelson Stewardship program. This is the second phase of a two part transaction that will link more than 18,000 acres of resource rich forest with nearly one million acres of national, state, county and tribal protected lands. The Chippewa Flowage is third largest inland body of water in Wisconsin, the largest semi-wilderness body of water and a world-class fishery for muskellunge and walleye. This conservation easement will protect exceptional wildlife habitat and provide a wildlife corridor around the DNR's Chippewa Flowage property as well as providing recreational access and continuing to support the local economy.

*Timber salvage is underway on the 100,000+ acres impacted by a July 1st storm.*

## **Storm Recovery Continues in NW Wisconsin**

The massive storm that ripped through Northwest Wisconsin on July 1 caused immense damage to private property and both public and private timber resources. DNR has mounted a major effort to assist in the salvage of the estimated 2 million cords of blown-down timber. On Aug. 19, Governor Scott Walker, DNR Deputy Secretary Matt Moroney, Chief Forester Paul DeLong and representatives from other agencies hosted a conference in Siren to review recovery operations and hear local needs. About 160 people attended an August 20 workshop sponsored by DNR, Wisconsin Woodland Owners Assn and UW-Extension to answer landowners' questions about salvaging timber.

## Cable Logging Demonstration in Marinette County

Two day-long demonstrations of a cable yarding system will be held on August 31 and September 8 three miles west of Middle Inlet on County Road X in Marinette County. Register in advance at <http://glacierlandred.org/?110300000000> if you are interested in attending the event on either day.

*Visiting the Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest? Download a free iPhone app to enhance your exploration of the hiking trails.*

## Phone App Helps Visitors Explore Largest State Forest

Visitors to the Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest can have a “virtual” guide to help them explore the trail system on Wisconsin’s largest state forest. A free iPhone application providing users with trail locations, maps and details is now available through a link on the North Lakeland Discovery Center Website at <http://www.discoverycenter.net/nh-al-trail-iphone-app.html>. This 225,000-acre state forest gets millions of visitors each year and the new phone app is expected to provide better customer service as well as save the Division of Forestry money with a decreased demand for the printed trail guide. In addition to 930 lakes and 250 miles of rivers and creeks, this forest features five interpretive nature trails totaling nearly eight miles in length and three designated hiking trails totaling 18.5 miles. Other designated trails include 32 miles of mountain bike trails, 70 miles of cross-country ski trails and about 400 miles of snowmobile trails. Read an article featuring the Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest in this month’s issue of Wisconsin Natural Resource Magazine at <http://dnr.wi.gov/wnrmag/2011/08/nhal.htm>.

*Wisconsin’s school forest program is an important and growing education tool.*

## Strong History & Future for School Forest Program

Wisconsin has 382 school forests encompassing 27,390 acres throughout the state, according to LEAF (Learning, Experiences and Activities in Forestry), administrator of the school forest program. About half of Wisconsin’s school districts have ready access to the incredible educational opportunities offered by these outdoor classrooms. Teachers at all grade levels use school forests to meet education standards across the curriculum – from science to math to art. School forests model sustainable forest management and provide income to cash-strapped school districts. School forests were introduced to Wisconsin in 1925 by Dean Russell of UW-Madison College of Agriculture and got a boost in 1935 by legislation mandating conservation education. They got another boost in 1949 when a state statute revision made schools eligible to receive free planting stock from the state forest nurseries and use of state foresters for forest management plans. DNR foresters continue this important partnership today, helping school districts meet both education and sustainable forest management goals. School forests also play an important role in building school and community partnerships. If you know of someone who has contributed to the success of a school forest, consider nominating them for an award. Find an application form at <http://eeinwisconsin.org/Files/eewi/2011/2011WisconsinSchoolForestAwardApplicationForm.pdf>

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**“Wisconsin Forestry Notes” is a monthly electronic publication highlighting programs and activities of the Wisconsin DNR - Division of Forestry, Box 7921, Madison, Wisconsin 53707**  
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