

Northeast Wisconsin Forest Pest Update

September 16, 2010

Topics covered this month:

Insects:

APHIS Hungry Pests Website
Emerald Ash Borer
Gypsy Moth
Interrupted Dagger Moth
Joe Heller EAB Timeline Cartoon
Mite Damage on Maple
Oak Bullet Gall
Pandorus Sphinx Caterpillar

Diseases:

Annosum additional locations
Leaf Diseases on *Populus* species
Oak Wilt document updated
Thousand Cankers Disease

Other:

Japanese Stilt Grass
Urban Ash Management Guidelines

Insects

*information and photos in this document from Linda Williams unless otherwise noted.

APHIS Hungry Pests website – check out the Hungry Pests website developed by USDA APHIS <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/hungrypests/index.shtml> Titled “they’re here and they’re hungry”, the website gives detailed information on a number of invasive species, and includes this tip: “**Pests aren’t pets.** They may look cute and cuddly, but leave them where they are. Don’t move a pest from one location to another...you may be helping them spread” The pest tracker is a fun tool that highlights the states where a pest has been found, check it out at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/hungrypests/pestTracker.shtml>

Emerald Ash Borer – from Bill McNee. Dept. of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) staff have nearly finished takedown of the 8,000 purple EAB traps hung earlier this year. A few traps were unreachable due to standing water, and will be removed later this fall. If you see a trap still hanging, please contact DATCP by emailing Jennifer.Statz@wisconsin.gov. They want to make sure that all traps are removed. These traps did not find EAB in any new Wisconsin counties this year.

Here’s what has happened to our known infestations/detections so far in 2010. For a current map of these areas, contact Bill McNee.

- West Bend – infested trees found
- Cudahy – one beetle trapped
- Newburg – infestation size expanded



- Franklin/Oak Creek – infestation size expanded
- Kenosha – a second beetle trapped close to last year’s trapped beetle
- Victory – infestation size expanded
- Green Bay – no additional beetles or larvae have been found since one beetle was trapped in 2009

Beginning October 1, businesses with EAB compliance agreements can move regulated materials out of quarantined counties to compliant processing locations. This movement can occur until the end of March, and all transported items must be processed before April 30 to ensure that EAB adults do not emerge from the materials. If there are regulatory questions, contact DATCP by emailing Robert.Dahl@wisconsin.gov. For EAB detection trap questions about the movement of regulated articles to other states, contact Joann.m.cruse@aphis.usda.gov. Sample compliance agreements can be seen at www.emeraldashborer.wi.gov; click on ‘Resources’ at the top of the page.

Since mid-August a huge number of counties have been put under EAB quarantine in other states (although EAB hasn’t been found in all of these counties): New York - 16 counties, Ohio - 19, and Pennsylvania - 31.

Gypsy Moth – from Bill McNee. Now is the time for landowners and managers to look for gypsy moth egg masses to predict the pest’s population size and potential damage to trees next year. For more information, visit www.gypsymoth.wi.gov or read our recent news release available at

http://www.dnr.wi.gov/news/DNRNews_Article_Lookup.asp?id=1509

Populations remain high enough to justify aerial spraying in many areas of northeast Wisconsin even though there was a die-off of the caterpillars in June due to diseases. High egg mass numbers have been seen in parts of Marinette, Menominee, Oconto and Shawano Counties. Additional areas may be identified once the communities begin their egg mass surveys.

Communities should contact their county coordinator soon if they are considering participation in the DNR Suppression Program to spray next year. County coordinators must apply by early December of this year for spraying in 2011. Information on the Suppression Program, egg mass survey instructions and a list of county coordinators are available at www.gypsymoth.wi.gov.

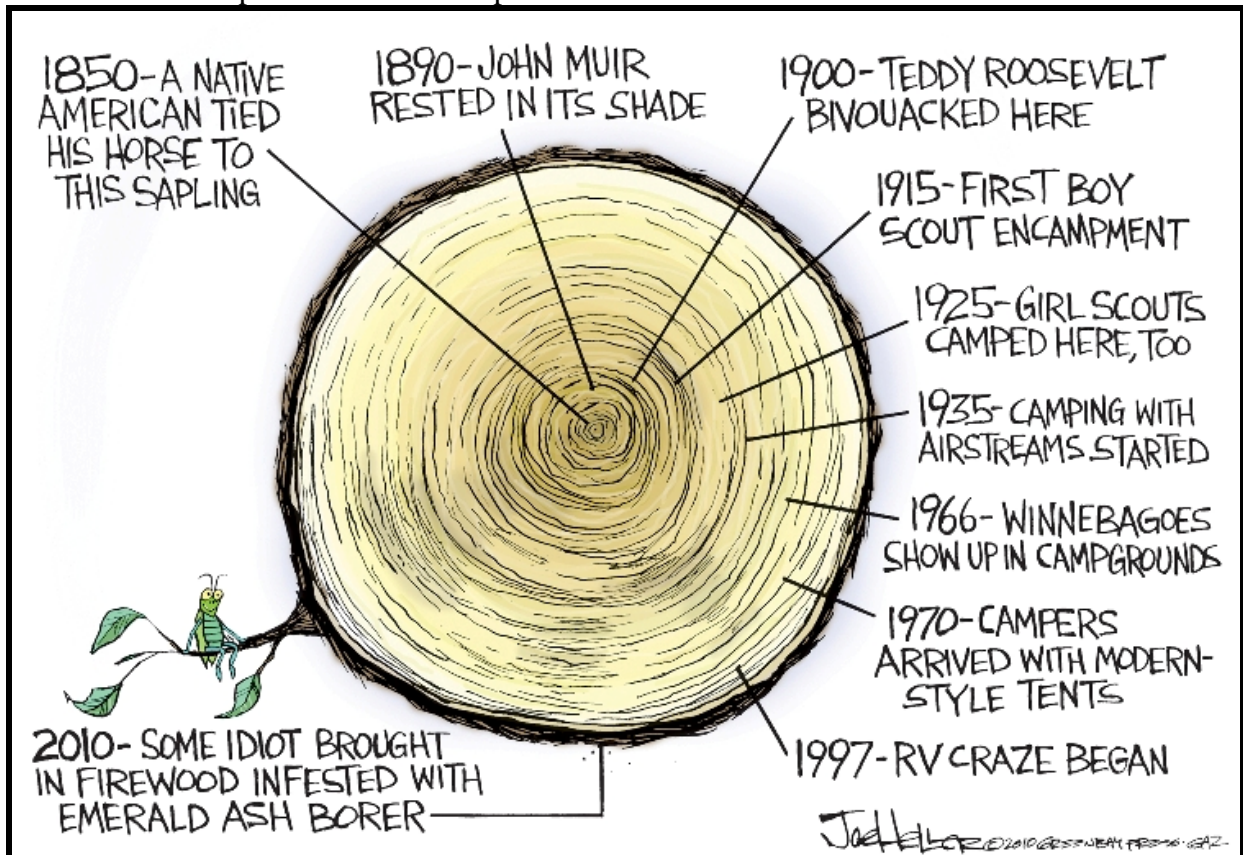
A Suppression Program training session will be held for local governments and lake associations that are contemplating participation. The session will be held on Wednesday, September 29 at the DNR office in Howard (Brown County) beginning at 9:30 AM. The address to map is 2984 Shawano Ave., Green Bay. Please register in advance by emailing bill.mcnee@wisconsin.gov. Similar sessions will also be held in the Madison and Milwaukee areas if they are more convenient for readers.



Interrupted Dagger Moth – after a site visit in Oconto County I emerged from the woods with this caterpillar clinging to my shoe. Interrupted dagger moth caterpillars (*Acrionicta interrupta*) feed on oak, cherry, elm, birch, and a few other species, although I've never seen significant defoliation from this particular dagger moth species.



Joe Heller EAB timeline cartoon – this cartoon was published in the July 2, 2010 Green Bay Press Gazette. Reproduced here with permission of the artist.



Mite damage on maple – maples in the Green Bay area were showing some leaf browning that followed the veins of the leaf. Closer examination of the leaf, where it attached to the petiole, showed very high concentrations of mites (right, the small yellow/orange dots) which is probably what is causing the browning. These leaves were dropping from the trees even though much of the leaf surface was still green.



Oak Bullet Gall – these dark green round swellings on the current-season twigs are galls caused by the Oak Bullet Gall wasp (*Disholcaspis quercusmamma*). Occurring on burr oak, these grow throughout the summer to about 1/3 of an inch in size by August. The galls then darken and exude honeydew which attracts wasps. Only a single wasp is produced in each gall. The galls will become brown and dry and may remain on the tree for a year or more. In 2006 an article in the Minnesota Forest Insect & Disease Newsletter had a nice write-up on it, including information on life cycle and control, go to page 5 in the document <http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/publications/fid/may06/fid.pdf> Thanks to Tony Nowak, Greenville, Wisconsin, for braving the wasps to get these photos.



Photo by Tony Nowak.

Pandorus Sphinx Caterpillar – this caterpillar was found in Waupaca County. It feeds primarily on grape leaves and Virginia creeper in this area. Pandorus sphinx caterpillars change color dramatically as they grow, shown at left from a page in the book *Caterpillars of the Eastern US*.

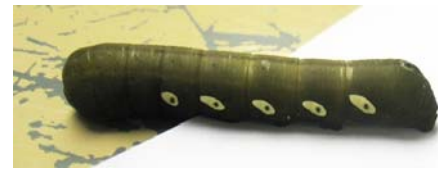
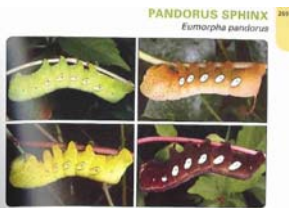
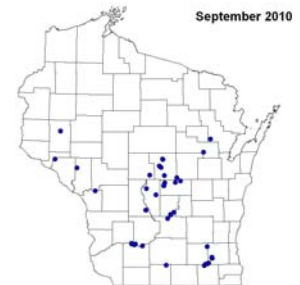


Photo by Mike Schuessler.

Diseases

Annosum additional locations – Annosum was identified in 2 additional locations in Waushara County; a 35-year old plantation in the Town of Rose, T20N-R10E Section 22 and a 52-year old plantation in the Town of Saxeville, T20N-R12E Section 7, both were last thinned in 1999. The map at right shows the known Annosum locations in the state. There are no curative treatments to eliminate Annosum once it enters your stand.



Prevention is the best tool we have for limiting the spread of Annosum. In counties where Annosum is known to occur, and in neighboring counties, it is particularly important to use a preventative stump treatment immediately following any conifer harvest (within 24 hours of a tree being cut) to prevent new infections.

Some loggers have put spray attachments on their equipment that will allow treatment as the tree is cut, or application can be done using backpack applicators or a shaker applicator if you're using Sporax. More info on management can be found on the Forest Health website <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/Fh/annosum/> and also includes information on Red Pine Pocket Mortality which is a separate issue affecting red pine.

If you write forest management plans and need a document on Annosum to include in your plans check out http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/fh/annosum/pdf/Annosum_Factsheet.pdf

The most common question I get regarding Annosum is: is it safe to cut pine in the winter and not treat the stumps. The answer: it is not risk free to cut during the winter, although it is a lesser risk. Spores of Annosum can germinate and grow any time that the temperatures are above freezing, and in Wisconsin we definitely get days throughout the winter that are above freezing. So, although the risk is less during the winter, there is still the risk that Annosum could grow in the winter and infect fresh stumps.

If you identify Annosum on property that you manage please let me know so that we can update the map which will benefit all landowners to know where the disease is located.

Leaf diseases on *Populus* species – all poplar species in the region are being affected by an assortment of leaf problems. Aspen Blotchminer is a tiny caterpillar that feeds within the leaves and causes portions of the leaf to turn brown after they're completed their feeding. The more common problem is an assortment of leaf diseases, like Marsonina leaf spot and Septoria leaf spot. Fungal leaf diseases are doing well due to the wet weather we had earlier this summer. I've also seen some rust occurring as well, mostly on cottonwood. In many areas around the region the *Populus* species are dropping leaves and the ones remaining on the trees look very brown, but this is not killing the branches, just the leaves, and the trees should refoliate next spring, barring any other insect/disease issues like borers or armillaria.



Oak Wilt document updated – the UWEX document Lake States Woodlands Oak Wilt Management – What Are The Options? has been updated with the most current information, including the latest map. Print the latest version at <http://learningstore.uwex.edu/Assets/pdfs/G3590.pdf>

Thousand Cankers Disease - in late July Thousand Cankers Disease of Walnut was reported in Knoxville, Tennessee and has likely been present there for 10+ years. Initial reports indicate that the infestation is at least 200 square miles in size. This disease was first noted in New Mexico in the 1990's and mortality was first noticed in Colorado in 2003. Thousand Cankers Disease of Walnut is a combination of an insect native to the western US, the walnut twig beetle, and a newly described fungal disease, *Geosmithia morbida* (proposed name). This combination is fatal to the tree, often within 3 years. Signs and symptoms to watch for include crown dieback, yellowing or flagging of branches, and tiny exit holes from the beetle. More information, including photos of the signs and symptoms can be found at <http://www.colostate.edu/Depts/bspm/extension%20and%20outreach/Walnut%20Twig%20Beetle%20Pest%20Alert%2012Aug2010.pdf>

Other/Misc.

Japanese Stilt Grass – from Tom Boos, Forest Invasive Plants Coordinator. Keep a Look Out for Japanese Stilt Grass! Japanese stilt grass is an annual grass that has been spreading very

quickly through the eastern and southern parts of the US in the last 10 years. It germinates in late spring and grows to 6+ feet, sprawling across other vegetation and forming a dense mat. In addition to blocking out light and killing tree seedlings and understory plants, it alters the nutrients and drastically alters fire behavior in forests and grasslands. Stilt grass produces a large amount of fine fuel that causes very high temperatures, high flames and very complete (not patchy) burns. Seedlings can continue germinating all summer and plants that germinate as late as August can produce seed before frost kills the plants. Seed production is very high. Seedling density can be as high as 150 seedlings per square inch.

The current known range of stilt grass is from New England and New York to Texas. In the Midwest it is not yet known north of Indianapolis, but its presence in New York indicates it would likely thrive in Wisconsin. We do not want this plant spreading in the upper Midwest, so it is up to everyone to keep a look out for it. If you see anything that fits its description, go to one of the websites listed below to ID it or send in a specimen or photo to determine what it is. Look for a sprawling grass with short leaves (3-5") that come off at right angles from the stem. The key ID characteristic is a silver stripe of hairs down the middle on the upper side of the leaves.

When it is found in the state it will need to be controlled before it develops seed that first year. Be certain to locate the entire population and look in the vicinity for other possible patches. Hand pulling can be effective for small patches and mowing or weed whacking for larger patches, but return to the site several weeks later to be sure all plants have been removed. Burn or otherwise dispose of any plants that have begun developing seeds. Grass specific herbicides can be effective if used in late summer but before seed development.

Anyone finding Japanese stilt grass, or any other invasive plant listed as prohibited under DNR's new NR 40 invasive species rule, should contact the DNR's Invasive Plant Coordinators right away. You can email invasive.species@wi.gov or call Kelly Kearns at 608-267-5066 or Tom Boos at 608-266-9276. Do your part to look for this plant and make sure it gets contained before Wisconsin's forests are overrun by an invasive that makes garlic mustard look easy!

WEBSITES FOR MORE INFORMATION:

WI DNR's fact sheet - <http://dnr.wi.gov/invasives/fact/japanstgrass.htm>

Management recommendations - <http://www.lukeflory.com/fire/management>

WI DNR's prohibited and restricted plants list - <http://dnr.wi.gov/invasives/plants.asp>

Click on the link on the River to River CWMA web page for a short video showing the impacts of stilt grass and how to ID it. <http://www.rtrcwma.org/stiltgrass/>

Urban Ash Management Guidelines - the urban ash management guidelines are now posted on the web. <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/uf/pdf/ManagingUrbanAsh8-3-10.pdf> Contents include:

Wisconsin's Urban and Community Ash Resource

Why Manage Ash Now for EAB?

Who is Responsible for Managing Ash and EAB

How to Manage Ash in Your Urban Forest

Ash Management Goals

Management Tactics

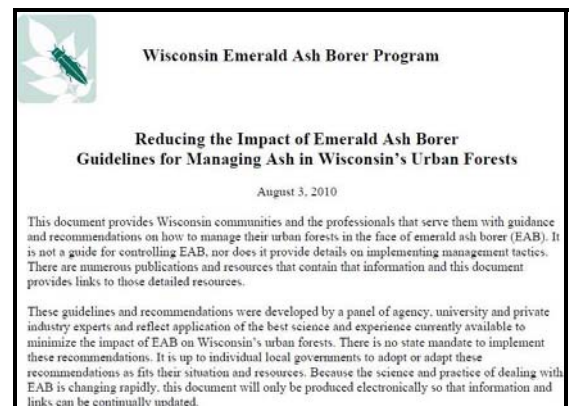
Develop and implement an inventory-based management plan

Reduce the risk of introduction and spread of EAB

Minimize the impact of EAB

Prevent future catastrophic losses

Selecting Management Options



Report EAB:

by phone 1-800-462-2803

by email DATCPEmeraldAshBorer@wisconsin.gov

visit the website <http://emeraldashborer.wi.gov/>

Report Gypsy Moth:

by phone at 1-800-642-6684

by email dnrfgypsymoth@wisconsin.gov

visit the website <http://www.gypsymoth.wi.gov/>

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Note: This pest update covers forest health issues occurring in Northeastern Wisconsin. This informal newsletter is created to provide up-to-date information to foresters, landowners, and others on forest health issues. If you have insect or disease issues to report in areas other than northeastern Wisconsin please report them to your local extension agent, state entomologist or pathologist, or area forest pest specialist.

Pesticide use: Pesticide recommendations contained in this newsletter are provided only as a guide. You, the applicator, are responsible for using pesticides according to the manufacturer's current label directions. Read and follow label directions and be aware of any state or local laws regarding pesticide use.