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Articles in this newsletter were written by Mark Guthmiller, Regional Forest Health Specialist, unless otherwise noted.

Emerald Ash Borer – Bill McNee
Insecticide Treatment
Property owners who are considering treating their ash trees with insecticide should apply them during the spring. It may be appropriate to delay treatments by a week or two due to the cold spring weather that we have been having. The current recommendation is to consider treating high-value trees with insecticide if within 15 miles of a known EAB infestation – a list of known detections can be found on the Wisconsin EAB webpage, www.emeraldashborer.wi.gov. This webpage also has a number of landowner and professional guides for insecticide treatments, including when to apply them.

Big Foot Beach and Richard Bong State Park Updates
Removal of EAB-infested ash trees began March 27 in public-use areas at Big Foot Beach State Park in Walworth County and at Richard Bong State Recreation Area in Kenosha County. The trees are being removed because they have become a safety hazard due to the likelihood of falling branches. Ash trees are prone to dropping their branches once they are in decline. Most of the trees being removed would die this year if left in place. All wood materials will be managed in a way that will not contribute to further EAB spread. It is expected that most trees will be turned into firewood and woodchips to be used on site, while some trees may be used for lumber. A mixture of tree species will be used during replanting efforts.

Removal of ash at the entrance to Big Foot Beach State Park creates a much more open environment.
New EAB detections in southern Wisconsin

In the last month we have had several new EAB detections in southern Wisconsin:
Village of Bristol (Kenosha Co.)
Town of Burlington (Racine Co.)
City of Beloit (Rock Co.)
Village of Williams Bay, Village of Walworth, and Town of Lyons (Walworth County).

In these area’s watch for woodpecker activity on ash trees. It is a common indicator of insects infesting the tree, and just might be emerald ash borer.

If you are located close to the Illinois state line, you may wish to look at the updated list of Illinois EAB detections and see if they have found EAB near your property or community:

Other recent EAB detections

• Concord, New Hampshire (that state’s first EAB detection).
• North Carolina - EAB larvae found in a sawlog originating from Pennsylvania (no known infestations in North Carolina, though).

NR40 Invasive Species Rule Update and EAB BMP's

Earlier this month we received final determination regarding a couple regulatory issues. In short, following the WI Dept. of Agriculture emerald ash borer quarantine regulations is considered the “reasonable precaution” as it relates to EAB and the WI DNR invasive species rule NR40. With that issue resolved a list of voluntary BMP’s (best management practices) to reduce movement of infested ash has been developed and finalized for use within an EAB quarantine. Click here to view the voluntary EAB BMP’s

If you have additional questions please contact Mark Guthmiller or Bill McNee.
Gypsy Moth - Bill McNee

Phenology
Biosim (software) simulations of gypsy moth development are predicting that we are about 2 weeks behind the average for 10% egg hatching in most cities modeled. We are very far behind 2012’s very warm spring.

Biosim is predicting 10% hatching between May 5-9 in southwest and south central Wisconsin. 50% hatch is predicted between May 11-16, and the model suggests aerial spraying might occur between May 24-27 (note that for timing of treatment, at a regional level, we look at actual on-site development along with appropriate weather conditions).

Homeowner control options
Homeowners who are interested in reducing gypsy moth populations should oil or remove egg masses before they start hatching. Horticultural oils that suffocate the eggs are available at many garden centers and large retailers. In general, these are applied when temperatures are above 40°F and freezing is not imminent. If removing egg masses, scrape them into a bucket of soapy water and then let them soak for a few days before discarding in the trash. Additional management options for homeowners and woodlot owners (sticky barriers, burlap bands, etc.) are available at www.gypsymoth.wi.gov.

Homeowners considering insecticide treatments this spring should contact an arborist or tree service soon. The Wisconsin Arborist Association has a list of certified arborists available at www.waa-isa.org. Additional businesses offering insecticide treatments may be found in the phone book under ‘Tree Service.’ Homeowners can also purchase insecticides at garden centers, hardware stores and large retailers.

It is getting very late to be able to set up privately-organized aerial spraying this spring, but if interested, a list of for-hire aerial applicators is available on the state’s gypsy moth website, www.gypsymoth.wi.gov.

Walnut Twig Beetle and Thousand Cankers Surveys
We are gearing up for this season’s walnut twig beetle surveys and surveys to assess declining or dying walnut here in Wisconsin. We will be setting what are called Lindgren funnel traps (4 funnels) that are baited with a short distance male produce aggregation pheromone primarily on state DNR properties. I also encourage municipal arborists, landowners, and foresters to send me reports of declining or dying walnut for further investigations.

For more information on walnut twig beetle and thousand cankers disease visit the WI DNR forest health site: WI DNR Thousand Cankers

For detailed information on survey methods visit the UC Davis web site: UC Davis Thousand Cankers

WI DNR handout on how to detect TCD
Hazard Tree Training
As part of training for WI DNR State Parks, forest health specialists recently assisted DNR forest pathologist, Kyoko Scanlon in a hazard tree training session at Wyalusing State Park this past month. The training showcased basic diagnostics and some tools for making assessments.

For more information on tree defects and hazards see: USDA Forest Service “How to Recognize Hazardous Defects in Trees”

WI DNR park staff gathers for discussions on both the art and science of assessing tree failure risk.

Forest health specialist, Mike Hillstrom, demonstrates the low-tech tapping method of determining possible internal decay.

Forest health specialist, Brian Schwingle, demonstrates the high-tech resistograph drill for determining decay.

Forest pathologist, Kyoko Scanlon, explains how to read the graph created by the resistograph drill.
Girdled Trees and Bark Stripping

Now that the snow has finally melted and folks are getting outdoors they may notice some girdling at the base of trees or recent bark striping on branches. Depending on where you are located it could be due to a number of critters including voles, rabbits, squirrels, porcupines, or other mammals.

UW Extension wildlife articles that may be of interest:

**Tree Squirrels in Wisconsin**

**Rabbit Ecology and Damage Management**

**Meadow Mice Control (Voles)**

Culturally Modified Trees of British Columbia

While searching for information of bark striping related to some old basal damage to hemlock in Sauk County I came across an interesting document titled “Culturally Modified Trees of British Columbia”. While the document addresses a number western tree species and uses by aboriginal people, it also includes mention of trembling aspen, spruce, paper birch and hemlock species. This is a large document so for a sampling of what is in the book visit (note: large file 5MB) [Culturally Modified Trees of British Columbia](#) For more information or to view the full book visit: [Culturally Modified Trees of British Columbia](#)

Ticks

It is that time of year to pay attention for ticks when working or recreating in the outdoors. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention has a great website with a lot of information and resources. I found the most recent (2011) reported cases map interesting. If you go the website you can see the reported cases data starting in 2001. I remember doing a tick survey back in the early 1990’s, collecting ticks from deer at a registration station as part of a statewide survey. At that time I recall the core incidence of Lyme bacteria infested ticks collected was mainly the west central Wisconsin and eastern central Minnesota at that time. I also recall for years not being overly concerned about Lyme disease and black legged ticks (deer ticks) while working in parts of eastern Wisconsin. No more! Visit the [Centers for Disease Control](#) for a lot more information on ticks and tick borne disease. For property managers don’t miss the “**Tool Kit**” site.
The Wisconsin Department of Health also has a great web site with resources including this ID reference card.

For this seasons prediction on deer tick populations visit the UW-Madison link for a short video: deer-tick-outlook-for-2013

**Lyme Disease Quiz**
If interested in testing your Lyme disease knowledge you can take this short quiz: “Lyme Disease Quiz”

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**Miscellaneous**

**Asian Longhorned Beetle Update**
After an 11 year battle with the Asian Longhorned Beetle in New Jersey, USDA and state officials have finally declared the pest to have been eradicated (eliminated) from the state. Read more at: http://www.nj.com/middlesex/index.ssf/2013/03/nj_is_free_of_asian_long-horne.html. ALB has also been declared eradicated from Ontario, Canada: http://www.cbc.ca/news/technology/story/2013/04/05/science-asian-long-horned-beetle-eradicated.html.

Other stories of interest:

- Monarch butterfly migration declines to its lowest level in decades: monarch-migration-plunges-to-lowest-level-in-decades
- Widespread honeybee deaths worry farmers: /soaring-bee-deaths-in-2012-sound-alarm-on-malady
Contacts for DNR staff, municipal foresters, and forestry cooperators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mark Guthmiller</th>
<th>Bill McNee</th>
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<tr>
<td>Forest Health Specialist</td>
<td>Forest Health Specialist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wisconsin DNR</td>
<td>Wisconsin DNR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3911 Fish Hatchery Road</td>
<td>1155 Pilgrim Rd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fitchburg, WI 53711</td>
<td>Plymouth, WI 53073</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone: (608) 275-3223</td>
<td>Phone: (920) 892-8756 x3043</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:Mark.Guthmiller@wisconsin.gov">Mark.Guthmiller@wisconsin.gov</a></td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:Bill.McNee@wisconsin.gov">Bill.McNee@wisconsin.gov</a></td>
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<td>Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Grant, Green, Iowa, Jefferson, Lafayette, Richland, Rock, and Sauk</td>
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For a statewide forest health staff list:  
http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ForestHealth/staff.html

Additional Program Web-based Resources:  
WI DNR Forest Health web site:  
http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ForestHealth/

Report Emerald Ash Borer:  
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: dnrfgyspmoth@wisconsin.gov  
visit the website: http://gyspmoth.wi.gov  
(It is also recommended to report gypsy moth to your local government)

Please direct public inquiries regarding yard tree concerns to UW county or state extension offices:  
http://www.uwex.edu/ces/cty/

[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.]