

Borer infestation of ash trees concerns state officials

Ash trees are dying from borer infestation in southeastern Michigan and state officials are concerned that deer hunters heading north could inadvertently spread the infestation.

The Emerald Ash Borer is thought to have arrived in Michigan five to 10 years ago in packing blocks of international shipping vessels. The small, metallic-green beetles are native to China and dine exclusively on ash trees, which eventually kills the tree.

Close to 300,000 ash trees and an untold number of forest trees have been destroyed by these invasive pests so far in the counties of Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Monroe, Livingston and Washtenaw.

The Michigan Department of Agriculture has issued a quarantine prohibiting the movement of ash trees from the six-county area to any other counties.

"A lot of people lost ash trees this summer or last year and have wood laying around their yard," explained DNR Press Secretary Brad Wurfel. "The logical thing to do would be to take it up north and burn it in deer camp. But we're very concerned that some of these logs won't get burned and the borers, which are laying dormant in the bark right now, will emerge in the spring and start infesting trees up north."

"So far more than one million trees have been impacted," he added. "It's like a snowball rolling downhill. It's very ugly."

Wurfel said southeast Michigan residents who bring firewood from ash trees up north need to be aware of the potential damage these invasive pests could inflict on their favorite forest. There are a couple common sense

steps to consider when heading north to camp:

■ Buy or gather firewood at camp and don't even bring any ash up north. ■ If you must bring wood north, be sure to burn ALL OF IT. Don't leave even one log behind or you could be unleashing a nuisance pest that could wreak havoc on our northern forests for years.

According to Wurfel, Emerald Ash Borers leave distinctive S-shaped patterns in the bark (phloem layer) of infested trees. When mature insects exit the tree, they leave a D-shaped exit hole in the bark.

"We've got a serious problem on our hands and we're trying to stop it from spreading," Wurfel said. "We're just trying to make people aware of the problem and the potential for spreading it further."

HELP WANTED

DNR conservation officers are seeking information on the death of four

wolves recently in the Upper Peninsula.

In the two most recent cases, two female wolves were found dead in Iron County, both apparently from gunshot wounds. On Sept. 22 a wolf was found about seven miles north of US-2, on the east side of Forest Highway 16. The other was found on Oct. 2 in northeastern Iron County near the Deerfoot Lodge Road and the Fence River.

On Sept. 17, a wolf was found dead from a gunshot near Krause Road, north of Engadine, in Mackinac County. Earlier this fall, the radio collar of another wolf was located in the Munuscong River, near Pickford.

Officials said the collar was cut off the wolf, and the animal's remains have not been found.

"It is certain that someone witnessed suspicious activity or has heard talk of what may have happened to these animals," said Lt. Thomas Courchaine, DNR district law supervisor.

Anyone with information on any of these wolves is asked to call the Report-All-Poaching Hotline at 1-800-292-7800 or contact their local DNR conservation officer. Tips can be provided anonymously.

The Grey Wolf is listed as an endangered species by the federal government, although it is expected to be delisted to threatened later this month.

Killing a wolf is a misdemeanor, punishable by up to 90 days in jail and fines up to \$1,000, as well as restitution of \$1,500. Federal penalties could also be imposed.

Hunters are reminded that coyote season is closed during the firearms deer season (Nov. 15-30) in the Upper Peninsula. This is done so hunters won't mistake a wolf for a coyote and shoot it.

(Bill Parker covers the outdoors for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. Hunters and anglers are urged to report their success. Questions and comments are also encouraged. Send information to: Bill Parker, c/o Outdoors.

OUTDOOR CALENDAR

FISH BUDDIES FISHING CLUB

The Fish Buddies Fishing Club meets the third Tuesday of each month in Rochester. Meetings are open to all anglers, boaters and non-boaters. Call Harold Leider at (248) 656-0556 for more information.

DOWNRIVER BASS ASSOCIATION

The Downriver Bass Association, a non-tournament bass club, meets at 6:30 p.m. the fourth Tuesday of every month at the Gander Mountain (4100 Pardee Road) in Taylor. For more information, call Ron Fodor at (734) 616-2863 or send an e-mail to river-rat22@home.com.

METRO-WEST STEELHEADERS

Metro-West Steelheaders meets at 7:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month in the cafeteria at Garden City High School. Call Dominic Liparoto at (248) 476-5027 for more information.

MICHIGAN FLY FISHING

The Michigan Fly Fishing Club meets at 7:30 p.m. the first and third Wednesdays of each month at Livonia Clarenceville Middle School, located on Middlebelt Road between Seven and Eight Mile roads. Visit www.mffc.org on the Internet for more information.

OAKLAND COUNTY THREAD SLINGERS

The Oakland County Thread Slingers, a group of flyfishing enthusiasts, will meet 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 13 at the Independence Township Library on Clarkston Road, west of M-16. Tom Erickson will review a midge pattern and brass pattern. Club members are asked to bring nymph hooks size 16-14, olive thread, black thread and peacock "herl. Visitors are welcome. Call (248) 625-4657 for information.

FOUR SEASONS

The Four Seasons Fishing Club meets 7:30-9:30 p.m. the first Wednesday of each month at the Livonia Civic Park Senior Center, 15210 Farmington Road. Visitors are welcome. For more information, please call Jim Judej at (734) 591-0843 or send him an e-mail at jjudej@aol.com.

CLINTON RIVER BASS 'N RATS

The recently organized Clinton River Bass 'n Rats meets the first Monday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at the Gander Mountain Lodge. Call (800) 249-9900 for direction and additional information. The club is an affiliated chapter of the B.A.S.S. National Federation.

METROPARKS

METROPARK REQUIREMENTS

Most Metropark programs are free while some require a nominal fee. Advanced registration and a motor vehicle permit are required for all programs. Call the respective parks toll free at the following numbers: Stony Creek, 1-800-477-7755; Indian Springs, 1-800-477-3192; Kensington, 1-800-477-3178; Hudson Mills, 1-800-477-3191.

OAKLAND COUNTY PARKS

COUNTY PARK REQUIREMENTS

Advanced registration and a motor vehicle permit are required for all nature programs at Oakland County Parks. Call (248) 625-6473 to register or for more information.

STATE PARKS

STATE PARK REQUIREMENTS

Maybury State Park, Proulx Lake Recreation Area, Bald Mountain Recreation Area, Highland Recreation Area, and Island Lake Recreation Area offer nature interpretive programs throughout the year. A state park motor vehicle permit is required for entry into all state parks and state recreation areas. For registration and additional information on the programs at Maybury call (248) 349-8390. For programs at Bald Mountain call (248) 693-6767. For programs at Proulx Lake and Highland call (248) 685-2187. For programs at Island Lake call (248) 229-7057.

(To submit items for consideration in the Observer & Eccentric's Outdoor Calendar send information to: Outdoors, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009; fax information to 248-644-3141.)

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(T) Traditional Banking Centers:

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