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Urban Projects

From the Morgantown Field Office, USDA Forest Service
Serving the Mid-Atlantic States

ASIAN LONGHORNED BEETLE FOUND IN WOODBRIDGE, ONTARIO

Canadian Food Inspection Agency News Release

OTTAWA (Sept. 12, 2003) – The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has made a positive identification of the Asian longhorned beetle (ALB), *Anoplophora glabripennis*, in Woodbridge, Ontario. This is the first confirmed find of Asian longhorned beetle attacking trees in Canada. This beetle is an invasive quarantine insect, native to Asia, and is known to kill healthy trees. Broadleaf trees at risk from this insect include all species of maple along with elm, ash, poplars, alder, willow, and various fruit trees.

While the insect presents no threat to public health, the beetle poses a significant risk to Canada's trees and forests. The ALB has no natural controls in North America that would prevent its spread.

The CFIA is implementing an aggressive campaign to control and eradicate this unwanted pest with the full cooperation of the city of Vaughan, the city of Toronto, and other federal and provincial partners.

[see "Asian Longhorned Beetle" on page 2]

NEW EXOTIC PEST IDENTIFIED IN MARYLAND'S ASH TREES: STATE WORKING TO PREVENT ITS SPREAD

Maryland Department of Agriculture

ANNAPOLIS, MD (Sept. 2, 2003) – Maryland officials confirmed the presence of the emerald ash borer (*Agrilus planipennis*), an exotic pest from Asia, in ash trees at one nursery in Prince George's County. The emerald ash borer is a serious invasive insect that has only been detected in the U.S. in Michigan (2002) and Ohio (2003). The insect feeds on and kills ash, an important neighborhood and landscaping tree, 1 to 3 years after infestation.

[see "New Exotic Pest" on page 4]

EMERALD ASH BORER DISCOVERED IN DEFIANCE COUNTY, OHIO: STATE AG DIRECTOR SEEKS QUARANTINE

Ohio Department of Agriculture

REYNOLDSBURG, OH (Aug. 15, 2003) – Ohio Agriculture Director Fred Dailey announced in August that the emerald ash borer (*Agrilus planipennis*), a destructive exotic

[see "Emerald Ash Borer" on page 5]





NATIONAL TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER TEAM RECEIVES CHIEF’S AWARD

It was recently announced that the National Technology Transfer Team received the Forest Service Chief’s Award for technology transfer. Mark Buscaino, Director of Urban and Community Forestry, Washington Office, recommended the award, presented by the Chief during a ceremony in mid-August. Team members include the State Association of Foresters, 15 USDA Forest Service professionals, 3 universities, 2 nonprofit organizations, and Team Leader Gracie Joy, Bioscientist with the Washington Office. The award recognizes a “demonstrated and outstanding” level of leadership, creativity, and innovation by creating “a national vision and strategic outlook” for technology transfer in the United States.

The Northeastern Area is well represented. NA team members include Lisa Burbán (SPFO), Dave Nowak (NE Research Unit), Dave Bloniarz (NECUCF), Jill Mahon (MWCUCF), and Donna Murphy (MACUCF). ♣♣

SUDDEN OAK DEATH PILOT SURVEYS IN SEVEN EASTERN STATES

Barbara Conkling, FHM Newsletter

Seven States in the eastern U.S. are participating in a Sudden Oak Death (SOD) Pilot Forest Survey: Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia. Survey crews collect samples of suspected hosts for the SOD pathogen (red oaks, pin oaks, rhododendrons, mountain laurel, and other shrubs) in forests near rhododendron nurseries and in random forest locations. The following is the status of the project so far. Virginia and West Virginia completed sampling this summer. As of mid-June, 21 locations had been sampled in Virginia and 23 in West Virginia. Sampling began in late June in Pennsylvania and North Carolina, and began midsummer in South Carolina. Samples are being analyzed in laboratories to check for presence of the SOD pathogen. Preliminary results are expected by this fall.

Excellent public education materials on Sudden Oak Death in California are available at the following Web site:
http://www.moore.org/stories/05_02/news_story.asp. ♣♣

LISA BURBAN AWARDED NE-NA’S MULTICULTURAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Lisa Burbán, USDA Forest Service, Forest Resources Management Group Leader, recently received the Northeastern Research Station and Northeastern Area’s Multicultural Achievement Award for her continued commitment and achievements in furthering multicultural objectives. Lisa, an expert in urban forestry, has been an advocate for encouraging urban forestry to reach out to new audiences and increase minority participation in the program. Lisa also serves numerous national and international outreach organizations. As a result of her work, the USDA Forest Service will be publishing a guide to assist urban foresters and other natural resources professionals in reaching underserved populations. ♣♣

FIRST NATIONAL U&CF OUTREACH CONFERENCE HELD AT SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

The first National Urban and Community Forestry Education and Outreach Conference for Underserved Communities was hosted at Southern University this summer. The conference was a collaborative effort of the university and the Civil Rights Unit of the USDA Forest Service. Over 300 people attended the conference with a goal to increase the involvement of minority and underserved populations in U&CF programs through education, creation of strong community networks, and career opportunities. ♣♣

“Asian Longhorned Beetle” [continued from page 1]

The CFIA has implemented strict import policies to regulate wood packaging and wood products. The CFIA also supports the adoption of a recent international standard created by the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) to reduce the plant health risks associated with wood packaging used in trade.

For more information on the Asian longhorned beetle, logon to the USDA APHIS PPQ Web site at: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/ep/alb/> or the Canadian Food Inspection Agency Web site at: www.inspection.gc.ca. ♣♣

NEWS FROM THE MID-ATLANTIC STATES

MID-ATLANTIC URBAN FORESTRY STAFF PARTICIPATE IN RISK ASSESSMENT TRAINING

The Midwest, Northeast, and Mid-Atlantic Centers for Urban and Community Forestry partnered with Forest Health Protection and the University of Minnesota Department of Forest Resources to deliver an Urban Tree Risk Assessment Train the Trainer workshop in St. Paul, Minnesota, September 3-5. Jennifer Brashears, WV DNR; Tod Ericson, MD DNR; Alice Sjolander, RLA; Scott Sjolander, Penn State Extension; and John Thomas, DC Urban Forestry Administration, attended the training. To ensure that the tools, training, and resources are replicated throughout the Mid-Atlantic area, attending urban foresters will work to develop train-the-trainer workshops for State staff and partners and/or pilot test risk assessment programs in communities this year.

Well-known professionals delivered 3 days of training on topics addressing historical perspectives, risk detection, reasonable care, and risk-defect correction. Emphasis was placed on the use of a newly developed methodology to implement risk management programs and risk management policies while integrating forest health with urban forestry. Sixty attendees participated in a full day of field training using the USDA Community Tree Risk Rating System and Community Tree Risk Evaluation freeware for hand-held computers.

The workshop was based on the recently released "Urban Tree Risk Management: A Community Guide to Program Design and Implementation." The fully illustrated, easy-to-read training manual is designed to improve public safety and protect tree health by helping communities design, adopt, and implement tree risk management programs in urban areas.

"Urban Tree Risk Management: A Community Guide to Program Design and Implementation" is now online! <http://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/uf/utrm/>. 🌳🌳

Delaware:

DELAWARE COMPLETES FIELD WORK FOR STORM ASSESSMENT PROTOCOL

This summer, pre-storm data collection required to implement the Storm Assessment Protocol in Delaware was completed in 56 communities throughout the State. The protocol is a standardized method to assess storm damage involving pre-evaluation of community street tree diversity, health, and location. The data is then used to estimate the amount of cleanup needed to mitigate

severe storm events, which, in the case of Delaware, are most likely to be Nor'easter storms or hurricanes. Bryan Hall, U&CF Coordinator, is working with the Delaware Emergency Management Agency (DEMA) to build support for the protocol across the State.

Street tree populations were sampled using PALM-based input freeware developed by the USDA Forest Service Northeast Center for Urban and Community Forestry. The Northeast Center is currently beta testing its new Web-based Storm Damage Resource Center and interface format for hand-held computers. The online center will provide a variety of updated and new tools related to estimating storm damage as well as information and forms related to FEMA damage estimating and reporting. 🌳🌳

District of Columbia:

DC HIRES URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY COORDINATOR

Chief Forester Ainsley Caldwell, District of Columbia Urban Forestry Administration, announced earlier this summer that Mariclaire McCartan has been hired as Horticulturalist - Urban Forestry Coordinator. Mariclaire's primary responsibilities will be to implement the District's Urban Forest Preservation Act and provide technical assistance to grantees and residents on tree planting, maintenance, and forest health issues. Prior to joining the District's program, Mariclaire served as Outreach Specialist with the New York State Division of Lands and Forests and as Forester with the New Jersey Forest Service, Community Forestry Program. 🌳🌳



Maryland:

MARYLAND FIELD TESTS RISK ASSESSMENT TOOLS AND TECHNOLOGIES

Mike Galvin, Maryland DNR Urban and Community Forestry, designed and delivered a full-day training session for his staff that integrated the Digital Microprobe Decay Drill (Sibtec DmP) with a beta test of the Risk Tree Analysis Utility and Risk Rating Calculator

freeware for hand-held IPAQ computers developed at the Northeast Center for Urban and Community Forestry. The field testing was done in consultation with the city of Annapolis. Mike Galvin customized some of the freeware fields to better meet his needs and integrated GIS using geotag tax map and aerial photo data in ArcPad. 🌳

<http://www.state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests/forest/community/bls.html> and <http://www.fs.fed.us/na/morgantown/palerts/leaf/leaf.htm>. 🌳

“New Exotic Pest” [continued from page 1]

“We will work aggressively to prevent the emerald ash borer from becoming established in Maryland and causing damage to neighborhood and landscaping trees,” said Secretary of Agriculture Lewis R. Riley. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Systematic Entomology Laboratory in Beltsville, Maryland, confirmed the identification of the insect on Friday, Aug. 29. Nursery records and regulatory investigations by the MDA and USDA indicate that the nursery received 121 ash trees in two shipments (57 ash trees on April 2 and 64 ash trees on April 3). All 121 trees are accounted for (93 have already been destroyed and the MDA has one in its laboratory). The MDA is inspecting sites where the remaining 27 trees were planted.

The MDA will begin a delimiting survey within a ½-mile radius from each of the known sites where infested ash trees are located to define the possible spread of the insect, if any, to other ash trees. 🌳

New Jersey:

NEW JERSEY FOREST SERVICE BEGINS BLS CONTROL STUDY

Pam Tappen, Forester, New Jersey Forest Service, reports that the Bacterial Leaf Scorch (BLS) Control Study, funded with a technology transfer grant from the Mid-Atlantic Center for Urban and Community Forestry, began first treatments in late May 2003. With oversight provided by Dr. Bruce Fraedrich, Bartlett Tree Experts, Inc, six treatment options were applied among 62 oaks ranging in size from 9” dbh to 62” dbh. Trees showing symptoms of BLS were selected from sites in Burlington City, Riverton Borough, Collingswood Borough, Trenton City, and Hamilton Township.

Pest control options included single and combination treatments using macro injections and capsule injections of the antibiotic oxytetracycline, injections of the iron supplement ferric ammonium citrate, and root collar soil drenches of the plant growth regulator Cambistat. Each pest control option was applied to 10 or 11 trees. Trees will be monitored for the next 18 months and findings will be presented at a symposium planned for late fall 2004 at Cook College-Rutgers University in New Brunswick, New Jersey.

Additional information on BLS is available on both the New Jersey and Morgantown Field Office Web sites at:



Pam Tappen and Mike D’Errico, New Jersey Forest Service, and Wayne Dubin and Dr. Bruce Fraedrich, Bartlett Tree Experts, Inc., inject trees with oxytetracycline and ferric ammonium citrate in Hamilton, New Jersey.

Highlights of New Jersey Legislative Actions

- ❑ The New Jersey Council is working in support of Bill S734 that would increase the funding of community forestry from \$1 million to \$2 million annually. The bill is working its way through the 2-year legislative process and committee review.
- ❑ New Jersey Senator Thomas H. Kean, Jr., introduced Bill S2553 in May that will allow school districts to qualify for assistance under the New Jersey Shade Tree and Community Forestry Assistance Act. The Legislature declares that the safety, health, and well-being of the State’s children is greatly enhanced if school districts participate in community forestry programs as provided in the New Jersey Shade Tree and Community Forestry Assistance Act. The Legislature determines that it is appropriate for the State to encourage the establishment of community forestry programs and seeks to commit \$3 million per year from the General Fund to support projects. School districts could enter into a memorandum of agreement with respective municipalities or counties to become eligible for benefits under the Act.
- ❑ Martha W. Bark, District 8, Burlington, sponsored Bill S2251 that establishes an Advisory Council to study Sudden Oak Death, bacterial leaf scorch, and other forest health threats to New Jersey’s forest and community trees. The Legislature determines that studying and tracking the spread of exotic pathogens is critical to preventing ecological disaster in New Jersey’s forests and establishes a nine-member Forest Health Advisory Council within the DEP.

Ohio:

“Emerald Ash Borer” [continued from page 1]

pest from Asia, has been identified in ash trees in Hicksville in Defiance County at sites that include a wholesale landscape nursery and tool handle manufacturer. Dailey will seek an emergency quarantine to restrict the movement of ash trees, firewood, branches, and logs off affected properties.

“We will work aggressively to prevent emerald ash borer from taking hold in Ohio and elsewhere and causing damage like in Michigan,” Dailey said. “I have initiated steps to quarantine the State and have asked for additional Federal funding to accomplish this goal. The quarantine will allow us to regulate areas with known infestations in order to prevent further spread.”

Ohio Department of Agriculture officials collected emerald ash borer adults from trees on one property in Hicksville on August 7 after they received a call from a nursery owner indicating they suspected a problem. The sample was positively identified as emerald ash borer on August 13.

Survey workers have identified borer damage on at least eight properties and will continue to look for affected properties in the area. Indiana officials are conducting a similar search across the State line just 3 miles west of Hicksville.

Citizens can help by reporting signs of emerald ash borer to the Ohio Department of Agriculture Division of Plant Industry at 800-282-1955. They should also refrain from moving ash trees, lumber, or firewood inside or beyond the borders of Defiance County and alert the department at 800-282-1955 if they receive such items from Defiance County.

More information on detection and identification is available at the Ohio Department of Agriculture’s Web site at www.state.oh.us/agr. 🌲

Pennsylvania:

ELM STREET ACT PROPOSED IN PENNSYLVANIA

The Pennsylvania House of Representatives has introduced HB 500, the Elm Street Act. As revised in June, the bill proposes the establishment of a grant program aimed at strengthening and revitalizing older, established residential neighborhoods. The grants would be available to municipalities who are able to demonstrate eligibility of need for these neighborhoods. Grants would assist with planning and implementing the revitalization strategies as well as providing for infrastructure improvements, including trees. Current language for the bill can be viewed at: <http://www.legis.state.pa.us/WU01/LI/BI/BT/2003/0/HB0500P1989.htm>. 🌲

West Virginia:

\$168,000 AWARDED TO WEST VIRGINIA’S URBAN FORESTS

Three statewide grant programs were available to West Virginia communities this year. During their September meeting, the West Virginia Urban and Community Forestry Council recommended awards for over 25 different projects, totaling approximately \$168,000. Two of the grant programs are supported by Federal Urban and Community Forestry Program funds and passed on by the State to local communities. The Demonstration City Grants fund urban forest management, inventories, consulting urban forester services, and tree planting and removal. Seventeen grants were funded.

The Inner City Grants are also funded by the Federal program. Multiple West Virginia municipalities requested over \$40,000 in projects; however, only \$22,000 was available to fund four projects. Highlights from these projects include the Charleston Renaissance Project that will involve planting trees in mini-parks and along a rail trail in a low-income section of Charleston, West Virginia, the State’s capitol.

The Cool Communities Grant Program was initiated this year. It is funded through the West Virginia Development Office and will provide \$50,000 for tree planting in projects focused on energy conservation. Five grants were recommended by the council for funding, including projects that will increase the number of trees in parking areas. 🌲

NE Research:

NORTHEASTERN RESEARCH STATION WEB SITE TOOLS FOR URBAN FORESTRY

The Northeastern Research Station has a number of tools available for calculating benefits provided by the urban forest. Individual Tree Carbon Calculators have been developed to provide quick and easy estimates of carbon storage and sequestration rates for individual sugar maples and white pines. These EXCEL spreadsheets provide a rough approximation of tree carbon storage and sequestration rates based on user inputs of tree growth rates.

The computer program OUTCOMES (OUTdoor COMfort Expert System) predicts human comfort and evaluates the impact of trees on air temperature, solar and thermal radiation exchanges, wind, and humidity. The program is a Windows® program that was written to provide an easy-to-use interface and ample on-screen help. OUTCOMES shows the shade pattern of a tree and calculates a human comfort index considering the full range of weather variables, tree density, and other features of the surrounding neighborhood. 🌲

MID-ATLANTIC CENTER FOR URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY AT KEYSTONE COLLEGE

Donna Murphy, Center Coordinator, USDA Forest Service

URBAN-ADAPTED, UTILITY FRIENDLY STREET TREE TRIALS PLANNED

The Mid-Atlantic Center for Urban and Community Forestry has entered into a partnership with the National Arboretum, D.C., to field test street tree cultivars more adapted to urban and utility environments. On Wednesday, August 20th, Donna Murphy, Center Coordinator, met with Dr. John Hammond of the National Arboretum; Ainsley Caldwell, D.C. Chief Forester; Dr. Marla McIntosh, University of Maryland; and representatives from the Maryland Electric Reliability Tree Trimming (MERTT) Council to discuss partnership opportunities that will assure long-term support. Ainsley Caldwell will be working with his staff to find suitable planting locations throughout the District of Columbia. MERTT representatives; Bill Rees, Baltimore Gas & Electric (BG&E); Steve Genua, A. Tas Taousakis, and Daniel Landy, Potomac Electric Power Company (PEPCO); and Sandi Patty, Maryland DNR, Transmission Programs, discussed utility planting issues. The group brainstormed potential funding options, toured the soon-to-be-constructed pot-in-pot nursery, and observed some of the new cultivars planted throughout the arboretum. A followup meeting is planned this December. 🌳



Representatives from the MERTT Council and District of Columbia Urban Forestry Administration observe cultivars at the National Arboretum that will soon be tested for adaptability to urban environments and utility rights-of-way.

TREE AUTOPSY WORKSHOPS IN MARYLAND AND OHIO PROVIDE VALUABLE INFORMATION

The two recent workshops hosted by Maryland and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (DNR) are excellent examples of successful technology transfer and partnership commitment. Geared after a similar workshop delivered by the Ohio DNR in 2001, the workshops filled a need for a level of diagnostic training that can only be learned through years of field experience. Both workshops offered a learning opportunity from committed professionals who have spent their careers aspiring to not only the highest technical standards, but who also have a deep-rooted desire to teach. Specimens collected from 20 years of fieldwork perfectly exemplified structural flaws. It is apparent that hundreds of trees were inspected prior to selection.

Becky Wilson, Maryland DNR, delivered the first workshop at Savage River State Forest on August 26th. Dr. Martin MacKenzie, USDA Forest Service Forest Pathologist, opened the workshop with a presentation on fungi growth characteristics and compartmentalization responses using more than 100 slides and 40 hand-selected examples. His afternoon autopsy sessions focused on injury history and CODIT responses. Mike Galvin, Supervisor of the MD DNR U&CF Program and President, MAC ISA, demonstrated the use of the Digital Microprobe Decay Drill and compared Excel-based graphs to actual tree autopsies later in the day. The afternoon was spent discussing injury history with followup autopsies and discussion of the CODIT response.

Stephanie Miller delivered the Ohio workshop, hosted by the DNR Division of Forestry, in partnership with the city of Toledo, Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry. Pat O'Brien, Forestry Inspector for the city of Toledo; Dr. Frank Telewski, Michigan State University; Dr. Martin MacKenzie; and Curtis Young, OSU Extension, delivered informative field sessions. Participants engaged in a diagnostic walk focusing on the identification of structural defects and participated in assessments using an air spade. The highlight of the workshop was an extensive array of tree boles collected by the city of Toledo. Filling an area an acre in size, specimens represented failures resulting from insects, brown rots, girdling roots, compaction, poor planting, construction, sidewalk restriction, and failure related to poor form, clearing, and storm damage.

The Mid-Atlantic Center for Urban and Community Forestry provided funding, technical assistance, and resources. Forty participants from Maryland, New Jersey, Delaware, and the District of Columbia attended the Maryland workshop and 56 participants attended the Ohio workshop. 🌲



Dr. Martin MacKenzie and attendees participate in Tree Autopsy Workshops held recently in Grantsville, Maryland, and Toledo, Ohio.

NEW LICENSE GRANTED FOR WOOD DECAY DETECTION

Janet Stockhausen reports that the USDA Forest Service has decided to award Arista Biological, Inc., of Allentown, Pennsylvania, the right to manufacture kits to detect wood decay caused by fungi. This license stems from work patented in 1994 on a method and apparatus for immunological diagnosis of fungal decay in wood. It is always exciting to see patented research move the next step forward in the commercialization process. 🌲

MID-ATLANTIC CENTER CELEBRATES ARBOR DAY AT MARYWOOD UNIVERSITY

This past spring, Donna Murphy participated in an afternoon Arbor Day program and tree planting at Marywood University, Scranton, Pennsylvania. The program included a presentation to 70 retired sisters in the Marian Convent delivered by the Northeast Audubon Society that focused on local bird species and their habitat needs provided by the arboretum plantings. After the session, a student environmental club and neighbors helped with the planting of 21 street trees along four neighborhood blocks adjacent to the university. Donna spoke about proper tree care and structural pruning. A 5-gallon watering bucket and educational materials, including door hangers describing the care of new trees and the USDA Forest Service brochure "How to Prune Trees," was provided to each resident receiving a tree. 🌲



Arbor Day was celebrated at Marywood University as environmental club students and neighbors plant trees in a Scranton neighborhood adjacent to the university.