

As Summer Vacation Season Begins, Use Caution Moving Firewood

They are a common sight on some Michigan roadways – those white bumper stickers that say, "Don't Move Firewood. It Bugs Me!" They are a tongue-in-cheek way to remind Michigan citizens about the danger of moving firewood to different parts of the state and how it could carry the emerald ash borer (EAB) as an unwanted hitchhiker.

As summer vacation plans begin to take shape, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) urges you to know Michigan's restrictions on the movement of firewood before you hit the road.

The emerald ash borer is an exotic Asian beetle responsible for the death of millions of ash trees in Michigan, and it threatens millions more. Following its discovery in 2002, the Michigan Department of Agriculture issued a quarantine for those southeastern counties infested with this invasive beetle.

Since then, MDA and its partners – the DNR, the United States Department of Agriculture, and Michigan State University – have learned a great deal about this pest's life cycle, its flight patterns, reproductive habits, and how it spreads.

They know, for example, that EAB has been artificially spread to at least 16 outlier sites through the movement of firewood brought from infested counties. Outliers are pockets of infestation found outside the affected counties.

Twenty-one counties currently are quarantined. They are: Branch, Calhoun, Clinton, Eaton, Genesee, Gratiot, Hillsdale, Ingham, Jackson, Lapeer, Lenawee, Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, Saginaw, Sanilac,



The DNR asks campers to help protect Michigan's ash trees and leave firewood at home. The DNR urges all state park visitors to purchase their firewood locally, either from concession sales within the park or from private firewood vendors located around the entrance to the park. (DNR photographs by David Kenyon)



Outdoor Matters

A column from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources

Shiawassee, St. Clair, Washtenaw, and Wayne counties.

The quarantine also includes 31 outlier sites. Visit www.michigan.gov/eab to learn more about the boundaries of the outlier quarantine.

Here's what people need to know to prevent the spread of EAB:

- The quarantine restricts the movement of all ash trees, branch-

es, untreated logs, and wood chips larger than one inch (in two dimensions).

- Under the quarantine, do not move firewood taken from non-coniferous trees from any quarantined area into a non-quarantined area. Non-coniferous refers to trees that lose their leaves annually or non-evergreen species.

- You may move firewood taken from coniferous trees such as pine or spruce (trees with needles).

- All hardwood firewood movement from Michigan's entire Lower Peninsula into the Upper Peninsula, other states, or Canada, is prohibited.

- You may move firewood of any species within quarantined counties as long as you do not pass through a non-quarantined area.

For example, you may move firewood from Oakland County to Saginaw County.

- It is illegal to move non-coniferous firewood from a quarantined area. It is punishable by fines and imprisonment.

Five things people can do to help stop the spread of EAB are:

1. Be aware of it; know what it looks like; report it if you suspect EAB is present in an area not already quarantined.

2. Understand the quarantine. Visit www.michigan.gov/eab for the latest maps, news and information on EAB.

3. Don't accidentally spread EAB to a favorite camping or recreation area. Don't move non-coniferous firewood. EAB larvae hide dormant under the bark and are undetectable until adults emerge in the spring and summer to lay eggs. It is the larvae that kill the ash.

4. Spread the word – not the bug.

5. If you inadvertently move ash wood, don't move it again. Burn it



For travelers heading to their favorite state park or state forest campground in the Upper Peninsula, firewood deposit boxes have been set up year-around near the Mackinac Bridge because it is illegal to bring deciduous firewood across the bridge. An EAB infestation was confirmed last September in Brimley State Park in Chippewa County.

on site and report it by calling the EAB hotline at (866) 325-0023.

Several state parks and recreation areas have seen infestations of EAB over the past two years. In fact, park officials at Warren Dunes State Park in Berrien County recently removed 4,000 ash trees from the modern campground as the result of EAB infestation.

Movement of firewood is the fastest way to spread EAB, and the DNR asks campers to not bring

firewood with them to their favorite state park or recreation area. Firewood often is available for purchase at a state park or from residents who live near the park. The DNR encourages campers to buy their firewood from local sources where they camp.

Michigan has more than 700 million ash trees to protect from the EAB. Campers can do their part this season by leaving their firewood at home and purchasing it instead from local vendors.

Michigan Politics

By George Weeks



Three Living Ex-Governors Remain in Limelight

They have retired from public office, but Michigan's three living ex-governors have not faded from the public stage.

Republican John Engler (1991-2002) is high-profile president of the National Manufacturers' Association and still an active spear carrier for President George W. Bush on such things as confirmation battles for pro-business Supreme Court and other nominees.

Engler was not the campaign "firewall" he vowed to be for Bush in Michigan, but he remains a well connected White House ally.

Democrat Jim Blanchard (1983-90), narrowly defeated by Engler, became President Clinton's ambassador to Canada; unsuccessfully sought the Democratic gubernatorial nomination won in 2002 by now-Governor Jennifer Granholm; stumped for 2004 presidential nominee John Kerry; and now touts Granholm's reelection.

"She's done an outstanding job," Blanchard said on public TV's "Off The Record" program. "I actually think she'll win (reelection) decisively."

Of late, there has been a bit of splash for Republican Bill Milliken (1969-82), who was co-chair of Granholm's advisory commission on land use, but has had a relatively quiet retirement, even while speaking out on occasion for a more moderate GOP and more aggressive pursuit of environmental protection.

Recent focus on Milliken comes from publication of "William G. Milliken: Michigan's Passionate Moderate," co-published by University of Michigan Press and Petoskey Publishing. It's written by Dave Dempsey, former Blanchard environmental adviser and current policy adviser for the Michigan Environmental Council.

The latest signing event for the book was last week in Traverse City, where Brian Lewis of Petoskey Publishing said some 250 books were sold, about the same as at an earlier event in Lansing. Lewis said the reception Milliken received "was warmer than anything we've ever seen" at book signings.

(Personal disclosure: I once worked for Milliken, and Lewis was 2005 co-publisher of a book I wrote on the Sleeping Bear Dunes.)

Lewis said he expects sales of the Milliken book to be "very comparable" or exceed the 6,000 or so of "John Engler: The Man, the Leader & the Legacy," published in 2002 by Sleeping Bear

Press, then owned by Lewis, and written by Engler speech writer Gleaves Whitney.

One of the best books I have read on Michigan governors – I suspect I have read all or most – is "Soapy: A Biography of G. Mennen Williams," published last year by University of Michigan Press and written by Professor Thomas J. Noer of Carthage College.

Ex-Governor Williams (1949-60) is a giant and transforming agent of the Michigan Democratic Party. As assistant secretary of state for African affairs in the Kennedy/Johnson administrations, he was the U.S. agent during Africa's winds of change.

While with United Press International in Washington, I closely covered Williams. But not closely enough. Noer, by tapping the archives of the State Department and those of the two presidents he served, reveals much about Williams that has not been reported.

And so it is with the Milliken book by Dempsey, who mines many a previously-mum source.

Reporters may do first drafts of history. Authors do the more compelling next drafts.

Family Ties

Michigan political history abounds with sons, wives, and other relatives running for office in the shadow of incumbents atop the family tree.

So it was when Milliken won the state Senate seat once held by his father and grandfather.

Downstate, there's U.S. Representative John Dingell (D-Dearborn), dean of the House and in line to become the longest-serving ever, holding the seat once held by his father.

Now come the sons of U.S. Representatives Sander Levin (D-Royal Oak) and Joe Knollenberg (R-Bloomfield Hills) running for the Michigan Legislature.

Andy Levin, upon filing for the state Senate, said in the *Detroit Free Press*: "The reason that I'm running and my connection – it's not about my name, but it is about family." The family includes Senator Carl Levin, brother of Sandy, and a cousin who was a Michigan Supreme Court justice.

Marty Knollenberg is running for the state House.

George Weeks recently retired after 22 years as political columnist for *The Detroit News*. His weekly *Michigan Politics* column is syndicated by *Superior Features*.

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All responsible letters will be considered for publication and may be edited. They must be signed and a telephone number must be included for verification. Personal thank-you notes, personal attacks against other people, form letters, and letters promoting political candidates are not accepted, although letters for or against ballot proposals are welcome.

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The quotation under the flag of *The St. Ignace News* on Page 1 is from the 10 triads written by Dr. Fred Newton Scott, creator and teacher of the first continuous course in journalism in the United States at the University of Michigan in 1890. The 10 triads are chiseled on the parapet of the Detroit News Building at 615 Lafayette Boulevard, Detroit. They were headed "Ideals of the Press" or "The Newspaper in a Free Society," and serve as a reminder of what a free press means to us.