

CHS Students Attend Inauguration



A group of Cedarville High School students stand on the steps of the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C., Wednesday, January 21. Social studies teacher Gretchen Storey took a group of 16 students to watch the Presidential Inauguration of Barack Obama as well as visit several national monuments, including the Lincoln Memorial, Jefferson Memorial, World War II Memorial, Korean War Memorial, and the White House. (Photograph by Sherri Huff)

Reduce EAB Growth, Protect High Value Trees Are Program Goals

EAB: From page 13

evaluated. If successful, either parts or all of this will hopefully be implemented in other areas."

The plan is to reduce EAB growth in core areas in Moran and St. Ignace and slow the rate of spreading, prevent satellites (spots where wood from an infested area is moved to an uninfested area), and protect high-value trees like those in parks.

Outside the core area, the team will lower the food availability for the bug by reducing the number of ash trees.

This is a multi-agency, multi-year, and multi-faceted project. Agencies working on the project include the U.S. Forest Service, Michigan State University, Michigan Technological University, Michigan Department of Agriculture, United States Department of Agriculture, and Department of Natural Resources.

The team will perform an EAB density survey, ash reduction, and

ash survey.

In Moran and St. Ignace, the team will establish a zone of girdled detection trees, which are trees that are wounded. This makes them vulnerable and more attractive to the insect. Next, a buffer of insecticide-treated trees will offer a zone of protection around the girdled trees, which helps control any EAB that flies from the core area of infestation. The plan calls for an injection of a chemical called Tree-age (pronounced "trige").

Plans also include significantly reducing ash trees in the area, said Mr. Bowes, by providing a financial incentive to private landowners for removing ash trees through wood use projects and to help them develop woodlots that would recover quickly after EAB has invaded an area.

The idea of enticing woodpeckers to the area through feeders has encouraging possibilities, said Mr. Bedford. The birds attack the larva under the ash tree bark.

Although not a big factor in the SLAM project, under consideration is the release of three types of parasitic Chinese wasps that kill the beetle larva and eggs.

Installation of more than 2,400 sticky purple panel traps across the entire U.P. is scheduled this year. The traps contain manuka oil, which attracts the ash borers.

Quarantines also will continue. State fines for moving ash wood can range from \$100 to \$5,000. Knowingly moving the wood or otherwise fraudulently interfering with the quarantine can result in a fine from \$2,000 to \$10,000.

The Michigan Department of Agriculture checkpoint at the Mackinac Bridge is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to stop the movement of ash wood. Crews work to make sure infested material is not brought to the Upper

Peninsula.

Brimley State Park, where EAB was found in 2005, has remained free of the insect after three years of work with girdled detection trees and panel trap surveys. When EAB was discovered there, a half-mile cut of trees was made.

"That was a very young infestation," said Mr. Bedford. "It was no more than two years old and the area had very low amounts of ash. Because of those two factors and our swift movement to get in there and get it done, we believe that we might have caught that one."

Other speakers participating Tuesday evening included Jean Perkins with the Hiawatha National Forest, Roger Mech with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Bernie Hubbard, a forestry consultant, and Dean Reid, a certified forester.

Veterans Benefit Program Is February 11

Families of wartime veterans and their spouses are invited to a free Veterans Benefit Seminar Wednesday, February 11, at 6:30 p.m. at Cedarbrook Village Senior Living in Mackinaw City.

The seminar will cover Veterans Affairs benefits and the application process, and information about assisted living centers. Call (231) 436-5535 to reserve seating.

What local property owners and residents can do to assist with SLAM

1. Allow and provide access to your property for project staff and activities.
2. Allow use and destruction of some ash trees for detection trees.
3. Allow ash to be injected with insecticide for use as buffer trees.
4. Be able to identify ash trees.
5. Be able to recognize EAB and the signs and symptoms of an EAB infested tree.
6. Report suspected infested ash trees to the EAB free hotline (866) 325-0023.
7. Understand and abide by quarantine restrictions.
8. Understand the purpose and use of a compliance agreement for moving wood.
9. Do not move regulated materials from a property.
10. Report suspected and known quarantine violations
11. Understand the amount and location of ash trees you have on your property.
12. Work to harvest and extract value from your ash.
13. Cut and burn ash for firewood rather than other tree species.
14. If not part of a timber harvest or used for firewood, cut and leave ash where it is or otherwise properly dispose of it.
15. Consider treating valuable landscape ash trees with insecticide.
16. When planting or replanting trees, plant a diversity of tree species.
17. Work to enhance woodpecker populations in the area.
18. Work to inform friends and family.

More information can be found on the State of Michigan Web site, www.michigan.gov.

Information provided by Michigan Department of Agriculture



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