

Woodland Advisor  
Program's Vision:

To be  
Minnesota's  
leading resource  
for citizens  
participating in  
forestry learning.

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## **Emerald Ash Borer in Minnesota**

by Angela Gupta



EAB galleries & exit hole  
in St. Paul

By now I'm sure many of you have heard - Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) has been found in Minnesota. EAB is an invasive insect that causes almost 100% mortality to our native ash (*Fraxinus*) species. Minnesota has the second largest number of ash trees in the U.S. behind Maine. EAB was found in St. Paul on May 13 near I-94 and Highway 280. This is the first, and currently only, confirmed case of EAB in Minnesota. EAB was found in April near Victory, WI, a mile from the Houston county line by the Mississippi River. So as a result of these EAB finds there are now three quarantined counties in Minnesota: Ramsey, Hennepin, and Houston. The quarantine prohibits the movement of any untreated ash material (including ash logs and limbs, untreated ash lumber with bark on it, and ash chips greater than 1" in size). Additionally, all movement of hardwood (non-coniferous) firewood is prohibited from the quarantine zones. So the take-home message for everyone is don't move ash wood and buy your firewood where you burn it so we can prevent additional introductions of EAB.

## **Protecting Your Ash Trees**

by Angela Gupta

The question on everyone's mind is "How do I care for my ash?" It's a tricky question. If you live 10-15 miles from a known EAB infestation; (10-15 miles from Victory, WI or I-94 and Highway 280) insecticide for high value trees is an option. Details on insecticides can be found in this issue's Suggested Reading section, "Insecticide Options for Protecting Ash Trees from Emerald Ash Borer." Scientific research on EAB management for forest ash and ash stands is far more limited. The current recommendation for forest landowners is to follow your current management plan with the understanding that ash is likely to disappear from the forest in the next 20 years. If you're going to do a harvest or understory planting in your stand, consider removing the ash and planting to replace it. If ash is a heavy component of your overstory consider management to encourage a desirable understory that can eventually replace ash. If invasive species are becoming a problem realize they may fill-in when the ash dies—early management may prevent this. More research is needed on forestland and EAB, so we'll keep you posted.



Photo by esagor

## **Building Fences and Partnerships**

By Julie Miedtke-Extension Educator



Earlier in May, Grand Rapids High School students and Woodland Advisors took to the woods to install a deer enclosure at the Forest History Center. Working side by side volunteers cleared vegetation, dug holes using post hole diggers, and raised the fence by mid-afternoon. The site fence will help protect white pine seedlings that have naturally seeded into the area from browsing deer and meets with the goals of the Woodland Stewardship Management Plan.

Keith Matson, a man who wears many hats: US Forest Service-retired, Woodland Advisor, and Itasca County Private Woodland Committee, organized that activity and remarked "the students certainly had ample horsepower for the job and we enjoyed getting to know them and hearing their interests in forests, wildlife and being outdoors. We certainly hope to continue this partnership with these future landowners. This activity has been a good experience for everyone".

Other Woodland Advisors involved with the activity included: Jim Columbus, Floyd Hovarter, Roxy Knuttila and Ralph Olson.

## 2009 Minnesota Northwest Region Tree Farmer of the Year!

By Angela Gupta



Congratulations are in order to Bob & Ingrid Sonnenberg of New York Mills. They were honored with the 2009 Minnesota Northwest Region Tree Farmer of the Year award in May!

Bob has been a dedicated and committed Woodland Advisor since he began taking classes in 2002. He is also co-chair of the Minnesota Forestry Association Finance Committee. Bob was highlighted in this newsletter's first addition in the spring of 2005!

Bob is a local woodland expert among his neighbors. They have started a white pine nursery and he's working with the University of Minnesota on hybrid poplar. In addition he cuts 175 cords of firewood annually, has planted over 80,000 trees on his 100 acre farm, and has harvested and sawn over 600,000 board feet of oak and white pine from he and his neighbors' property.

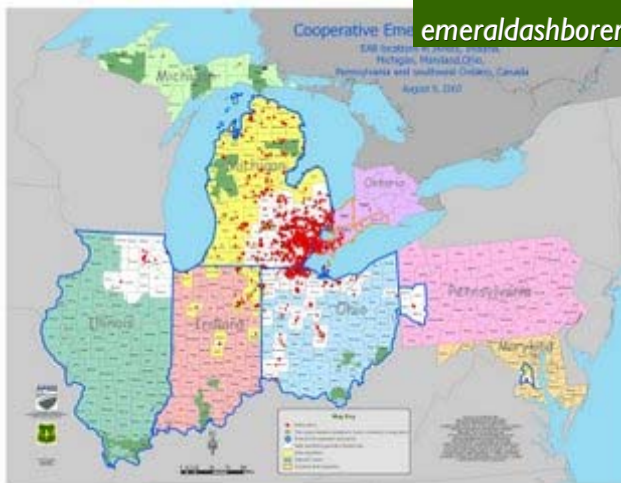
Great job, Bob—Keep up the good work!

## New Tool to help with Conservation Funding

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) has created a new tool to help landowners find appropriate conservation funding. "The Conservation Funding Guide is a one-stop, online tool Minnesota farmers and other landowners can use to learn about conservation practices, programs, and payments. It provides a wealth of information all in one place, complementing the advice available to landowners from ag & conservation professionals. It also makes a handy reference for professionals & policy makers."

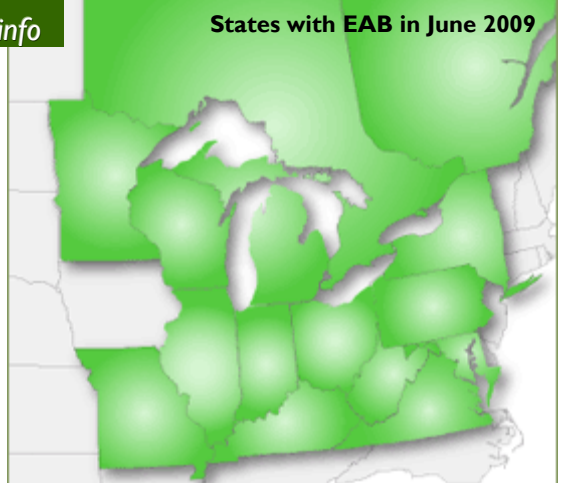
## EAB on the Move in the US

EAB is moving fast. In June of 2008 EAB was confirmed in 6 US States. One year later EAB has been confirmed in 13 US States.



[emeraldashborer.info](http://emeraldashborer.info)

States with EAB in June 2009



## Volunteer Opportunities

Angela Gupta is the Woodland Advisor Volunteer coordinator. To contact her call (888) 241-4536 or [agupta@umn.edu](mailto:agupta@umn.edu)

*"The world is hugged by the faithful arms of volunteers."*  
~Everett Māmor

Here are a few of the many great volunteer opportunities from the DNR. If you'd like more details or to see the entire list check it out at: <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/volunteering/statewide.html>

- **Construct Portable Field Desks for Kids:** Project Learning Tree needs volunteers to build portable field desks for the students to use outside. These portable field desks will serve 3 functions: 1) they let students carry into the field materials like paper, pencils and measuring tools, 2) the removable clipboard/lid gives students a hard surface to write on, and 3) the box itself allows students a portable stool to sit on.
- **Volunteer at the MN State Fair for the DNR:** The DNR has many volunteer opportunities at the Minnesota State Fair. The volunteer time commitment is at least one day for 4-6 hours depending on the job. Admission tickets are FREE for each day. Instructions and fair information will be sent about 1 week prior to the fair. Parking and meals will be the responsibility of the person volunteering. Volunteer half the day and go see the fair the rest of the day!
- **Minnesota Frog and Toad Calling Survey:** Volunteer to participate in the Minnesota Frog and Toad Calling Survey (MFTCS), Minnesota's portion of the nationwide program (North American Amphibian Monitoring Program) to monitor the number and distribution of frog and toad populations throughout the U.S. Participants will be assigned to pre-selected routes and will be asked to conduct nighttime "listening surveys" on three evenings per year between April and July. Help is needed statewide, but especially in



## Upcoming Events

**Activities:** Woodland Advisor Program Classes are underlined. For more information please see the web-site [cfc.cfans.umn.edu/wal](http://cfc.cfans.umn.edu/wal)

Once again there are very few Woodland Advisor summer classes currently on the calendar. Because of our funding and planning cycles this is common and not an indicator of a major program change or decline. Enjoy your woods this summer!

### July 2009

- Sat, 4th of July - Happy Independence Day!
- Mon, July 13, Paper Birch Management, 6:00-8:00pm, Grand Rapids, for info and to register contact Keith Matson, [keithmatson@hotmail.com](mailto:keithmatson@hotmail.com) or 218-246-8104
- Mon, July 20, Invasive Plant Species Control Measures, 6:00-8:00pm, Grand Rapids, for info and to register contact Keith Matson, [keithmatson@hotmail.com](mailto:keithmatson@hotmail.com) or 218-246-8104

### August 2009

- Mon, August 3, Tree Doctors— Diagnose Your Forest's Health, 6:00-8:00pm, Grand Rapids, for info and to register contact Keith Matson, [keithmatson@hotmail.com](mailto:keithmatson@hotmail.com) or 218-246-8104
- Mon, August 10, Making the Most of Your Woods, 6:00-8:00pm, Grand Rapids, for info and to register contact Keith Matson, [keithmatson@hotmail.com](mailto:keithmatson@hotmail.com) or 218-246-8104
- Mon, August 24, White-tailed Deer and White Pine, 6:00-8:00pm, Grand Rapids, for info and to register contact Keith Matson, [keithmatson@hotmail.com](mailto:keithmatson@hotmail.com) or 218-246-8104
- Mon, August 31, Seed Cone Collecting—for Fun and Profit, 6:00-8:00pm, Grand Rapids, for info and to register contact Keith Matson, [keithmatson@hotmail.com](mailto:keithmatson@hotmail.com) or 218-246-8104

### September 2009

- Mon, Sept 7 - Labor Day
- Sun, Sept 13- Grandparents' Day
- Sat, Sept, 19, Goods from the Woods 'UpNorth' Marketplace & Green Living Celebration, 9:00-6:00pm, Grand Rapids, Ruttger's Sugar Lake Lodge, Northern Minnesota's premier artisan market with the largest selection of handcrafted items from the bounty of our Minnesota forests. Visit [www.GoodsFromTheWoods.org](http://www.GoodsFromTheWoods.org)

### Enjoy the Summer!



Photo by mnScouser

## Ruffed grouse counts up significantly

## DNR press release

Minnesota's ruffed grouse spring drumming counts are significantly higher than last year across most of their range, according to a report released by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR). "Counts have been increasing steadily since 2005 but this is the substantial annual increase we've been hoping for," said Mike Larson, DNR research scientist and grouse biologist. "Drumming counts this year are as high as counts during recent peaks in the population cycle."

Ruffed grouse populations, which tend to rise and fall on a 10-year cycle, are surveyed by counting the number of male ruffed grouse heard drumming on established routes throughout the state's forested regions. This year observers recorded 2.0 drums per stop statewide. Last year's average was 1.4 drums per stop. Grouse counts increased most in the northwest region, from 0.9 to 1.9 drums per stop. Counts of 1.1 drums per stop in the central hardwoods and 0.5 drums per stop in the southeast were similar to last year's counts.

Minnesota frequently is the nation's top ruffed grouse producer. On average, 115,000 hunters harvest 545,000 ruffed grouse in Minnesota each year, also making it the state's most popular game bird. During the peak years of 1971 and 1989, hunters harvested more than 1 million ruffed grouse. Michigan and Wisconsin, which frequently field more hunters than Minnesota, round out the top three states in ruffed grouse harvest. "Higher drumming counts are good news," said Dennis Simon, DNR wildlife section chief. "Minnesota offers some of the best ruffed grouse hunting in the nation and we want to maintain and enhance those opportunities."

One reason for Minnesota's status as a top grouse producer is an abundance of young forest and other ruffed grouse habitat, much of it located on county, state and national forests, where public hunting is allowed. An estimated 11.5 million of the state's 16.3 million acres of forest are grouse habitat.

For the past 60 years, DNR biologists have monitored ruffed grouse populations. This year, DNR staff and cooperators from 15 organizations surveyed 132 routes across the state.

### **SHARP-TAILED GROUSE COUNTS INCREASE IN NORTHWEST**

Sharp-tailed grouse counts in the northwest survey region increased 15 percent between 2008 and 2009, Larson said. Counts in the east-central region declined slightly. Observers look for male sharptails displaying on traditional mating areas, called leks or dancing grounds. This year's statewide mean of 13.6 grouse counted per dancing ground was as high as during any year since 1980 and above last year's average of 12.4. During the last 25 years, the sharp-tailed grouse index has been as low as seven birds counted per dancing ground.

Overall, though, sharptail populations appear to have declined over the long term as a result of habitat deterioration. In recent years, the DNR has increased prescribed burning and shearing that keep trees from overtaking the open brush lands that sharp-tailed grouse need to thrive.

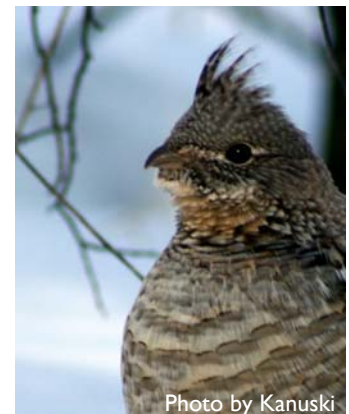


Photo by Kanuski



We're on the web!  
<http://www.cnr.umn.edu/cfc/wa/>

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## Suggested Reading



### **“Insecticide Options for Protecting Ash Trees from Emerald Ash Borer”**

This detailed publication outlines the newest research on insecticide options for EAB. There are very significant differences in the effectiveness, methods of application, and cost of pesticide treatments. Be a well informed landowner and Woodland Advisor Volunteer and can help others understand. [http://www.extension.umn.edu/issues/eab/EABInsecticideFactSheet\\_22May09.pdf](http://www.extension.umn.edu/issues/eab/EABInsecticideFactSheet_22May09.pdf)

*Woodland  
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## Woodland Advisor Program

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## Behind the Scenes of Woodland Advisor



Mary Jane Stearns is a critical part of “getting things done” in the Rochester Regional Office. Part of her work includes helping with the

Woodland Advisor newsletter and e-mailing the class calendar to those on our listserv. Mary Jane does many other behind-the-scenes work that keeps the program running smoothly, particularly for those classes in southeast Minnesota.

Mary Jane came to Extension in January 2004 via a variety of administrative positions in private industry, ranging from medical education to commercial construction. She has resided in Rochester for nearly 30 years and has 2 grown daughters.

Thanks to Mary Jane from all the Woodland Advisors for her efforts in supporting this group of dedicated woodland enthusiasts!

## What is the Woodland Advisor Program?

The Woodland Advisor Program is your opportunity to learn about forests and forestry. Classes are generally 3 hours in length. Participants who complete 45 hours of woodland ecology and management classes receive a certificate of completion. Classes also provide foresters and Stewardship Plan preparers with continuing education credit. Participants who are interested in ongoing educational opportunities after completing 45 hours of classes and want to participate as a volunteer can become a Woodland Advisor Volunteer. Woodland Advisor Volunteers are leaders in their communities. They help their neighbors learn more about the options and opportunities that exist for their forestland. This helps all Minnesota’s citizens by helping to maintain the health, beauty, and productivity of Minnesota’s forest land.

Classes are open to anyone on a pay-as-you-go basis. Costs may vary, but most 3-hour sessions cost \$20. A discount may be available for Minnesota Forestry Association Members on classes where registration is handled through the University of Minnesota Extension. Inquire when you register about a discount.

For class times and locations, registration information, or more about the Woodland Advisor program, contact the Cloquet Forestry Center at 888-241-0724 or visit [cfc.cfans.umn.edu/wa/](http://cfc.cfans.umn.edu/wa/).