

Woodland Advisor
Program's Vision:

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

- **Healthy Walnuts?**
- **Outstanding Tree Farmer**
- **Phenology, pg 2**
- **Wild Forest Goods, pg 2**
- **Volunteer Opportunities, Pg 2**
- **Upcoming Events, pg 3**
- **Black Ash Symposium, pg 3**
- **Outstanding Logger, pg 3**
- **Suggested Reading, pg 4**
- **WA Years of Experience, Pg 4**
- **WA Program, pg 4**

woodland ADVISOR

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Healthy Walnuts? Watch for TCD

by Angela Gupta -

The tiny walnut twig beetle (adults about 1.5-2 mm) and a *Geosmithia* fungus are killing eastern black walnut in the western US. This combination of fungus and bark beetle spreads thousand cankers disease (TCD) and is causing fear in many experts. TCD is moving closer to the native range, and valuable timber country, of eastern black walnut (Figure 1). This tiny twig beetle introduces the fungus through many small cankers in the phloem, killing the cambium. The cankers eventually coalesce to girdle and kill the tree. Major symptoms include branch mortality, many small cankers on the branch or trunk, and evidence of the tiny twig beetle.



Authorities are so concerned about this pest in Michigan that the Michigan Department of Agriculture recently announced the implementation of an exterior state quarantine against TCD. The quarantine restricts the movement of walnut material into Michigan.

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture is not currently planning a quarantine for TCD but it is, according to Kathy Kromroy of the MDA, "collaborating with the US Forest Service in a targeted survey to locate walnut trees in Minnesota with unexplained dieback. The MDA is asking people to watch for unexplained dieback of walnut." If you would like to help or know of some mysterious walnut dieback and would like to report it contact Kathy Kromroy at Kathryn.Kromroy@state.mn.us or (651) 201-6343.

For more information Google "thousand cankers disease" and check out Purdue University's fact sheet.

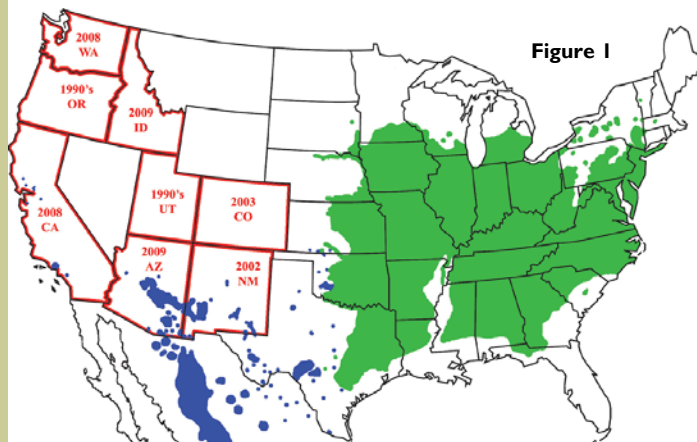


Figure 1



Walnut twig beetle

Figure 1. Thousand cankers disease has been confirmed in eight western states (outlined in red) as of April 2010. The year when symptoms were first noted is given. Native distributions of four species of western walnuts (blue) and eastern black walnut (green) are also shown. Eastern black walnut is widely planted in the West, but not depicted on this map.

All pictures and figure from the
USDA TCD Pest Alert



2010 North Central Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year!

Robert and Ingrid Sonnenberg, the North Central region Tree Farmers of the Year winners, own a 21-acre Tree Farm located in New York Mills, Minnesota. Robert grew up on the Tree Farm he now owns and has managed it for the past 50 years. In 1996, Sonnenberg sought professional forestry help to manage the less productive forestlands. A Forest Stewardship plan was created and the Sonnenbergs have been managing the land ever since. In 2002, their woodlot was recognized as a certified Tree Farm.

Since 1998, Sonnenberg has planted more than 80,000 trees on 100 acres of his woodlot. Sonnenberg is currently working with the University of Minnesota on hybrid aspen clones. He has restored a 45-acre wetland and with that given the numerous geese, ducks, and pheasants a new nesting ground. Along with other wildlife efforts the Sonnenbergs oversee all of the work done in their Tree Farm.

Bob was this newsletter's first highlighted volunteer, back in Spring 2005! We'd like to offer a special congratulations to Bob and Ingrid for receiving this well deserved award.

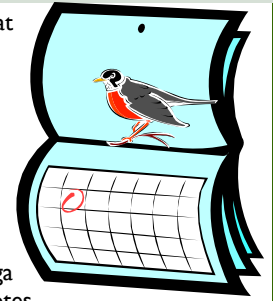
Phenology

by Ken Nichols - Woodland Advisor & Advocate

Phenology is the relationship between biological events and climate conditions. In other words, observing what is happening in nature during the seasons. For years I have been keeping lists of the date and location that I see individual bird species. The birds always seem to arrive within a week of the previous year. By recording day to day and month to month observations, I can definitely see some trends. Robins no longer seem to be the harbinger of spring that they have been historically. They are now observed throughout the year in Minnesota. (Climate Change?!) Sadly my notes and personal recollection have also revealed that I have not seen a Red headed Woodpecker or an Indigo Bunting in several years. (Habitat loss?) It is said that one cannot grieve what one does not know. I suspect that the disappearance of these two avian gems is not prominent enough in the general population's mind to be alarmed and therefore grieve.

Aldo Leopold and Rachel Carson were great phenologists. In her article in *The Leopold Outlook* publication, Inga Brynildson Hagge, refers to Leopold as 'nature's stenographer'. From the age of 11 Leopold kept detailed field notes of the activities of not only animals but plants and weather. He wrote, "Keeping records enhances the pleasure of the search and the chance of finding order and meaning in these events." I concur with his observation.

It is unlikely that any one of us will achieve the writing or observational ability of Leopold or Carson but in our own little way we can certainly document what is going on around us at any given season. Our own phenology field notes can be rewarding personal undertaking. Check out the National Phenology Network at: www.npnusa.org. Get out there and look around!



Wild Forest Goods: *expanding small woodland income opportunities through economic and ecological diversification.*

By Julie Miedtke - Extension

A remarkable assembly of participants from across the United States and Canada gathered for roundtable discussions on nontimber forest products (NTFPs). In attendance were researchers, educators, ecologists, entrepreneurs, foresters, woodland owners, members of the woodland cooperative, and others. From Minnesota, Dave Wilsey-Extension and Dean Current-Dept. of Forest Resources, and I participated. Over the course of three days, the group held engaging conversations, exchanged information and resources and emerged with an undeniable commitment to help the nation diversify its' economy through NTFPs. A core topic of discussion was the need to help family forest landowners, who are a significant component of our forest land base, develop strategies that will help cover the costs associated with ownership. Recent downturns of our economy and the consolidation of global wood markets have negatively affected the financial viability of landowners in Minnesota and across the nation. NTFPs are recognized as a viable option that will help landowners diversify their portfolio and provide supplemental income and the potential to expand green jobs.



Gusto searching for truffles

Field Trip! Conference organizers hosted an exciting field trip to a nearby Tree Farm owned by John Belton, retired professor of biology and National Tree Farm winner. Belton's own 200 acres of coastal Douglas-fir. It was an outstanding opportunity to learn how he has actively managed his land for multiple benefits to wildlife and recreation. Harvesting boughs is part of a livelihood strategy and folks demonstrated how they harvest western white pine boughs. Douglas-fir, *Pseudotsuga menziesii*, and Western White Pine, *Pinus monticola*, are frequently harvested for boughs.

Joining the field trip were Jean Rand & Gusto, a black lab, who is a trained search and rescue dog that also uses her keen nose to hunt Oregon's native truffles. Gusto quickly moved through the area and found the hidden truffles.

Volunteer Opportunities

"In every walk with nature one receives far more than he seeks."

- John Muir

- **Protect White Pine Seedlings from Deer**, Help the DNR maintain and establish deer browse protection in existing white pine on state land throughout the Brainerd Lakes area, in the Pillsbury State Forest, and near Cross Lake and Backus, MN. For information contact Bud Bertschi, 218-833-8695, or email Bud.Bertschi@state.mn.us
- **Planting Trees on the North Shore**, Help the DNR scarify the soil, plant trees, trim, and fence areas to keep the deer away from trees at Tettegouche and Temperance River State Parks. For information contact Gary Hoeft at 218-226-6365 extension 223 or email gary.hoeft@state.mn.us
- **Minnesota Frog and Toad Calling Survey**, Volunteers are needed in the Minnesota Frog and Toad Calling Survey (MFTCS), Minnesota's portion of the nation-wide 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 southwestern and northern Minnesota. Training materials including a CD of Minnesota's frog and toad calls, maps, and data forms will be provided. For information contact Krista Larson, at 651-259-5120 or email her at krista.larson@dnr.state.mn.us



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

Upcoming Events

Activities: Woodland Advisor Program Classes are underlined. For more information please see the web-site <http://woodlandadvisor.org/>
As is normal during his time of year, few classes are offered as we gear-up for next fall. Enjoy your land and the good weather.

Photo by jmayer | 129



Relax and enjoy the summer!

July 2010

- July 4 - Independence Day!
- July 5 most offices closed for Independence Day holiday

August 2010

- Thurs - Sun, Aug 12-15, A Woodland Wildlife Program for Private Landowners, Woodruff, WI. For more info Google "Wisconsin Coverts Project" and click on UW Forest and Wildlife Ecology, Extension, Coverts Project

September 2010

- Sat, Sept 25, Natural Resources Field Day, 9 AM-3 PM, Kellogg, MN, Complete details are at <http://www.aldoleopold.org/FieldDay.shtml>
- Mon, Sept 6, Labor Day

Black Ash Symposium

By Angela Gupta - Extension

Three weeks ago my husband reminded me how hard it is when I'm gone and my young kids got extra hugs before I turned my car north for another work event—the Black Ash Symposium in Bemidji. I've been logging plenty of miles this spring and wasn't looking forward to the trip but boy was this Symposium worth it! I'm not new to emerald ash borer (EAB) or ash management in Minnesota, but there was much to learn. The list of presenters read like a Who's Who in the EAB world.

I learned that Minnesota now has more ash trees than any other state in the nation (Michigan having lost that title because of EAB) and that private landowners own more than 50% of Minnesota's black ash. Also, it may take longer in Minnesota for our ash resource to be devastated (ash mortality due to EAB 99%+) because we found EAB early in the infestation in St. Paul and Houston Co and we're looking closely for it statewide - giving us longer to prepare and plan. Also, EAB larvae have increased mortality in extreme cold. It's unclear if this will encourage a more cold hardy super-EAB to develop or if this could slow EAB, but there's some hope. Even after this Symposium there are many unanswered questions, like what trees to favor or replace as we prepare for ash dieback and how site hydrology will be impacted after ash trees die.

During the evening event we watched an ash log get peeled and woven into baskets as is traditionally done in some Native American communities. The field day allowed us to look closely at the resource, reflect on the research, and talk through management ideas. There is still plenty of work to do. Many natural resource professionals are seriously looking at the problem and trying to develop strategies to best mitigate the impacts of EAB and ash mortality in our forests.

For complete proceedings Google "Black Ash Symposium."



Photo by esagor

Berthiaume Logging of Cloquet 2010 National Outstanding Logger Award



Berthiaume Logging of Cloquet won the 2010 National Outstanding Logger award given by Forest Resource Association (FRA). Dave Berthiaume commented, "My father, now 87, started the Berthiaume family logging business nearly 60 years ago. As I and my brothers grew up and entered the business, he instilled upon us the values of hard work, the unbendable rule of treating people fairly and that if you treat the land with respect, it will provide for you always." One of many examples of Berthiaume Logging's commitment to following Sustainable Forestry Initiative requirements is its use of logging slash on steep slopes to divert water runoff and mitigate erosion concerns. Also, Dave does not wait for the forester or landowner to shut his crew down if a site has received significant rainfall—he voluntarily suspends operations until conditions improve.

A family-run business for three generations, Berthiaume Logging has been a mainstay in the education of students at Cloquet Forestry Center. When students need to see an example of sound forest management, they tour an active Berthiaume Logging site, questioning crew members about practices and performance. The company has also made itself available to work with researchers at the Cloquet Forestry Center, in one case reducing productivity significantly to conduct a controlled experiment on the impact of spreading, versus removing, logging slash on an active job, to permit the Center to evaluate impacts.

Woodland Advisor Program



We're on the web!
<http://woodlandadvisor.org/>

*University of Minnesota
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Suggested Reading

Ash Anthracnose or Emerald Ash Borer?

Extension's Yard and Garden News has a new article about ash anthracnose, a fungus that can cause leaf damage and defoliation, and emerald ash borer. It's a great read and a good reminder that when folks start to look closely at their ash they find all kinds of things!

Google "Ash Anthracnose or EAB" and it pops right up.

Photo by withrow



**Woodland
Advisor**

Woodland Advisor Team Years of Experience



Mike Reichenbach

Eli Sagor

Congratulations to Mike Reichenbach and Eli Sagor for reaching their 10 year anniversary with Extension in the past year!

At a recently Woodland Advisor meeting we added up how long the team has worked for Extension and it turns out the seven Woodland Advisor organizers totaled 70 years with Extension—that's a lot of experience!

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/.