2010 Tri-State Forestry Conference  
March 13th 2010

This one day forestry conference is geared towards private landowners across the Midwest. This year’s conference will have 25+ talks spaced over 5 sessions. We have highlighted several of the talks below and more information on the speakers and the registration material can be found online at www.forestry.iastate.edu

Topics for the 2010 conference:

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<th>Taxes on forest land</th>
<th>Forest land estate planning</th>
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<td>Forest chemicals and how to use them properly</td>
<td>Marketing timber and current timber prices</td>
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<td>Maple syrup making for the beginner</td>
<td>Hands on GIS/GPS training sessions</td>
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<td>Short rotation woody biomass plantation setup</td>
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<td>Managing forests for wildlife</td>
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<td>Current state of chestnut restoration</td>
<td>Prescribed fire in woodlands: tips, tricks, and tools</td>
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<td>Tree planting do’s and don’ts</td>
<td>Regenerating your woodlands: even vs. uneven age management</td>
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Woodland Owner Biomass Survey: We Need Your Help!
John Tyndall, Jesse Randall, Julie Blanchong, and Tricia Knoot,  
Iowa State University NREM Department

Be sure to check your mailbox! The United States is entering an era of renewable energy production, including wood-based energy, to help meet our growing energy needs. New markets for woody biomass are on the horizon, with economic opportunities possible for Iowa woodland owners.

In March, a random selection of 1500 Iowa woodland owners will receive a questionnaire that will help us learn more about Iowa woodland owners and how new woody biomass market opportunities can best meet woodland owner needs. Please help us out by completing and returning the questionnaire as soon as possible! The survey should take no more than 20 minutes to complete. Thank you so much for your help!

ISU’s Portable sugarhouse will be on campus making maple syrup and providing educational programs!

(Extension will host maple weekends during mid-late February and early March as the weather gets above freezing)  
For more information contact Jesse Randall 515 294-1168

Newsletter Distribution: As printing and mailing costs continue to increase, we are asking those folks who would like to receive an email version of the newsletter instead of the printed version to email randallj@iastate.edu with Woodland Owner Newsletter in the Subject line. Past newsletters are always available online at www.forestry.iastate.edu
Emerald Ash Borer – How goes the battle?

Robin Pruisner, IDALS Entomology Bureau Chief

I typed the title, and then just stared at the blank page for several minutes. How do I even begin to give an EAB update in a succinct manner?

On one hand, it seems like it was just yesterday that the green menace was found in Michigan. But, it wasn’t just yesterday; it was way back in 2002 when entomologists first put a name with the little green beetle that was killing all the ash trees. Less than two-pages of literature on EAB existed in the world. We were at ground zero – we knew nothing about this insect, but it was causing the death of millions of ash trees. Since then, we’ve developed monitoring methods, discovered natural enemies, insecticide research is well underway, and communities now know how to begin planning ahead for an infestation.

And on the other hand, it feels like we’re scarcely making forward progress. EAB is now known to be in 13 states (MI, MD OH, IN, IL, PA, WV, MO, WI, VA, NY, KY, and MN) and because EAB is so hard to initially detect we have no idea how many other anonymous infestations are out there.

What lessons can be learned from neighboring states with known infestations?

- My peers tell me to look early, look often, and look repeatedly. The initial EAB finds are really hard to stumble on – often the infestation is 5+ years old before it is discovered.
- Outreach, outreach, OUTREACH! Don’t stop talking to the public about NOT moving firewood.
- Municipalities and other landowners need to prepare for EAB before EAB arrives. Tree inventories, equipment preparation, city ordinances, and response / recovery plans need attention before you find yourself neck deep in EAB.

What has Iowa been doing about EAB?

In Iowa, EAB surveillance was conducted by multiple agencies and by various means. Here’s the short version:

- **Visual Surveys.** For five years, Iowa DNR, and ISU have handled the bulk of the visual surveys. In 2004 & 2005, surveys of urban areas, sawmills, and nursery stock were conducted, hitting all 99 counties covering more than 3,386 mature trees and IDALS conducted inspections of innumerable nursery stock specimens. In 2006-2009, the survey emphasis shifted to high risk areas for out-of-state firewood movement. In total, 4,053 ash trees were surveyed from 2006-09. None were found to contain EAB.
  - **Visual Survey of New Housing Developments.** In the early stages of the EAB infestation in the eastern state, EAB was found to be transported interstate in nursery stock. Mass planting of the nursery stock in new housing developments created a ‘perfect storm’ in those areas. In 2009, 274 green ash trees in six new housing developments in Iowa were surveyed. None were found to contain EAB.
  - **Street Tree Survey in High Risk Communities.** Street trees were evaluated in six communities in Allamakee and Clayton counties were conducted. The inventory included 5 questions concerning symptoms of emerald ash borer: canopy dieback, epicormic sprouts, bark splits, D shaped exit holes, and woodpecker damage. A total of 212 ash trees were found, which is approximately 11% of the total trees inventoried. Only 4 ash trees inventoried had 2 or more of these EAB symptoms. None were found to contain EAB.
- **Sentinel Trees.** Since 2005, a total of 1,157 sentinel, or trap, trees have been established and subsequently analyzed at the end of the growing season by the Iowa DNR. None were found to contain EAB.
- **Sticky Traps.** The big purple sticky trap was used experimentally in 2007, and whole heartedly in 2008-09. In 2008, there were 192 traps set a special sites across the state, and 452 traps in a gridded survey in eastern Iowa. In 2009, there were 302 traps at special sites and 354 traps in a gridded survey in Allamakee and Clayton counties. In total, 1,300 sticky traps have been set since 2008 by USDA-APHIS-PPQ, Iowa DNR, ISU and IDALS and volunteers. None were found to contain EAB.
- **Public Outreach.** Getting the Don’t-Move-Firewood message to Iowans has been a top priority for the entire Iowa EAB Team since 2002. The Team has deployed thousands of posters, wallet cards, clickers, fact sheets, media interviews, bark peeling workshops, Iowa State Fair displays, websites, billboards, permanent signs at campgrounds, postcards, online campsite registration messaging, and answered hundreds of one-on-one phone calls and emails from concerned citizens. The list of outreach activities could go on for pages... USDA-APHIS-PPQ also placed an officer in eastern Iowa, and one to conduct regulatory activities and public outreach full time in Iowa EAB high risk areas. Additionally a PPQ Officer has been located in LaCrosse, WI, who will cover SW Wisconsin, SE Minnesota, and NE Iowa.
- **Citizen Calls.** The Iowa EAB cannot even begin to calculate the hundreds, and likely thousands, of phone calls, email and personal visits conducted with Iowans who suspect they have an EAB-infested tree. Because the survey tools like sticky traps and sentinel trees are not perfect, the Iowa EAB Team takes citizen calls very seriously and make follow up a priority.

What does Iowa planned for 2010?

Planning for the 2010 growing season is well underway, though not completely finalized.

- Iowa DNR is waiting to hear if the Forest Service will find 2010 activities, which include 420 sentinel trees; visual survey of parks and sawmills; and community street tree surveys in municipalities with a population less than 5,000 in Allamakee, Clayton, Dubuque, Clinton and Jackson counties. If funded, each of these communities will receive a management plan to encourage tree
species diversity, reduce the ash phloem level in preparation for EAB, and a long term plan on how to manage the health of their street trees.

- Trap survey plans call for roughly 1,500 traps in the Iowa counties adjacent to the Mississippi River, plus an additional 200 traps at special sites across the state.
- And of course, citizen calls will continue to receive priority attention!

What research is underway?
I am frequently asked about the kind of EAB research is happening around the world. I’ll try to keep it short, but the amount and variability of the research is amazing! Topics such as origin of EAB based upon genetic similarities; insecticidal treatments; trap improvement, both in color and lure; host specificity – is the EAB likely to jump to something other than ash; natural enemies in the US and China; microbial control with pathogens; host range, ash host susceptibility; host spatial relationships; EAB survival in firewood and chips; EAB flight capabilities; SLAM (Slow Ash Mortality) via woodland management; etc., etc.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call IDALS, Iowa DNR, ISU or USDA-APHIS-PPQ.

New Iowa DNR State Urban Forestry Coordinator

On January 08, 2010 Emma Bruemmer was named the State Urban Forestry Coordinator for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. As the State Urban Forestry Coordinator, Bruemmer’s most important duty will be to provide assistance to local government officials, community volunteer leaders and other groups interested in managing and protecting the tree resources in their communities.

Bruemmer has worked for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources in Urban Forestry since June of 2008, previously coordinating a residential tree distribution, Operation ReLeaf and an environmental education program, Trees for Kids. Bruemmer graduated from Iowa State University in 2008 with a degree in Forestry with an emphasis in Urban and Community Forestry.

Emma Bruemmer can be contacted at: (515)281-5600 or emma.bruemmer@dnr.iowa.gov
Iowa DNR Forestry website: http://www.iowadnr.gov/forestry/index.html

New Iowa DNR Supervisor to oversee District Foresters and State Forest Nursery

Greetings, my name is Aaron Lumley and as of January 22, 2010 I will be assuming the very large shoes of two foresters that recently retired; with a combined experience of more than 73 years, Roger Jacob and Denny Michel will be missed. Due to budget constraints within the department the position of Forestry Supervisor will now oversee the Private Lands/District Foresters as well as the State Forest Nursery.

What I offer as a Forester is a variety of experience that includes Montrose State Forest Nursery Manager, District Forester, City of Burlington Urban Forester, as well the staff forester for L & G Forestry, Inc. and Chestnut Ridge Forestry. I have been on both sides of the fence by being in the private and public sectors. My past employment has taken me away from Iowa, living and working in 5 national forests in four states while mainly staying in a tent. Eventually I made my way back and have been in Iowa since 2002, living with a solid roof over my head.

I have a B.S. in Forestry (Forest Ecosystem Management) and Environmental Studies from Iowa State University. I have trained with the U.S. Forest Service Forest Inventory and Analysis and Forest Health Monitoring teams. In 2007, I became a Certified Microsoft Office Specialist and received the Internet and Computing Core Certification.

While I have large shoes to fill, I am eager and ready for the challenge. This is a difficult time for the Forestry Bureau financially; but I am confident new and creative ways will be found to offset budget woes. I look forward to working closely with all DNR partners and woodland owners to find new ways to work together. While we are working out the details of the position, you can typically reach me at the nursery. As a great Anonymous author once said, “Do not be afraid to go out on a limb… That’s where the fruit is.”
Hi! I’m grateful for the opportunity to introduce myself to you and look forward to working with you! I came to my position at ISU after having worked with various wildlife, including amphibians, birds, mammals and reptiles. I obtained B.S. and M.S. degrees in Wildlife Ecology from University of Wisconsin. As a Master’s student, my research focused on ecological and social dimensions of white-tailed deer feeding on forest understory plants. My social research indicated that private woodland owners were unaware of the impacts that white-tailed deer feeding had on understory plants, with the notable exception of tree seedlings. For three years, I served as the Wildlife Outreach Specialist and the Ruffed Grouse Society’s Coverts coordinator in Wisconsin. As the Coverts coordinator, I was responsible for a 3-day training program for private woodland owners on how to incorporate wildlife habitat in their Forest Management Plans. The remainder of my Extension programming focused on “unhuggable” wildlife, e.g., reptiles, amphibians, and bats. I returned to school in 2002 to earn a doctorate in Fisheries and Wildlife at Michigan State University. My doctoral research focused on the human dimensions of rare snake conservation. As ISU’s Extension Wildlife Specialist, I’m responsible for the Iowa Master Conservationist and Iowa NatureMapping programs. The Iowa Master Conservationist Program offers individuals 32 hours of training on conservation issues with a subsequent commitment to donate 32 hours of volunteer time. The Iowa NatureMapping program trains individuals in methods to identify and observe various groups of wildlife and a system for tracking your observations online.