

The primary mission and purpose of Vermont WoodNet is to address the needs of the Vermont woodworking community and all those in it, professional, amateur and academic, WoodNet members and non-WoodNet members, by maintaining a network of communications, creating and sponsoring educational programs, workshops and symposiums, providing FSC certification assistance, and generally expanding opportunities and effectiveness for all those involved in the creation of “Vermont Made” products, the sustainability of forest resources, and the maintenance of a healthy environment.

## Emerald Ash Borer

Recently updated information from Barb Burns, Forest Health Specialist at the Vermont Department of Forest, Parks and Recreation suggests that the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is getting closer to Vermont Forests with the new findings of this destructive insect in Berkshire County, MA as well as in several new locations in Quebec, Canada in 2012. The following Vermont Forest Health information publication serves as a good introduction to and summary of the biology and ecology of EAB as designed for Vermont Landowners and others interested in our ash resource. Other information on EAB can be easily obtained by Googling: “Emerald Ash Borer” or go to the following Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation web site for additional information on EAB or other invasive species: <http://www.vtfor.org/protection/forestpestsfrontpage.cfm>



### *In this issue*

Emerald Ash Borer .....	1
Skills USA .....	5
Executive Conference Room Chairs .....	5
Social What? .....	6
For sale .....	7
WoodNet Board .....	7

## Vermont WoodNet Annual Meeting

January 15, 2013 at 7:00 PM  
at Brian Jones Shop  
73 Highlands Drive, Williston

### Topics

Brian Jones on finishing  
Fred Collins on chisel sharpening

### Direction

I89 to Exit 12  
2A South to top of hill  
Left onto Old Creamery Road  
Second Left onto Hilands Drive

## Emerald Ash Borer: Information for Vermont Landowners

Department of Forests, Parks, & Recreation  
November, 2011  
vtforest.com

### What is emerald ash borer?

**Emerald ash borer (EAB) is an exotic beetle that has been killing ash trees in North America.** Native to China, eastern Russia, Japan, and Korea, it was found near Detroit in 2002.

### What kind of damage does it do?

**EAB feeds on all species of ash.** None of Vermont’s native ash trees are resistant to the insect. Mountain-ash is not a host because it’s not a true ash species.

**It takes 2-4 years for infested trees to die.** Mortality of infested trees is close to 100%. One in a thousand ash trees may “linger” after nearby trees have died; their future is unclear.

**EAB damages trees by boring through the inner bark.** Heavy feeding by the immature, grub-like larvae blocks the movement of water and nutrients.



Infested trees die within 4 years.

**Branches as small as 1" in diameter can be infested.** Upper branches are often infested first.

#### **Will it spread to Vermont?**

**EAB is expected to spread to Vermont.** With over 100 million ash trees in Vermont, it will have a significant impact.

**EAB has never been seen in the state.** No beetles were caught on the 2200 purple panel traps set out, statewide, in 2011. We will continue to use traps in 2012, as well as other detection methods, including visual surveys, using trap trees, and monitoring predatory wasps.

**The closest known infestations are around Montreal and in New York's Hudson Valley.** Both are within 50 miles of Vermont's border. EAB has been spreading



rapidly. It is known to occur in 15 states and 2 Canadian provinces.

**The beetles are strong fliers, and good at finding ash trees.** When EAB first arrived in Maryland, the infested area expanded about ½ mile per year. Within a few years, insect populations had exploded, and the infested area grew more rapidly.

**Moving firewood is the #1 cause of spread.** Other new infestations have been traced to shipments of



nursery trees and logs. But all stages of the insect can travel 65 mph down the inter-state inside infested wood!

**EAB would survive Vermont's winters.** It is a cold-hardy insect, native to northern China, Mongolia, and the Russian Far East. It has also become established in Ontario and northern Michigan.

#### **How can I tell if I have EAB?**

**Woodpecker damage to live trees may be the first sign that a tree is infested.** When feeding on EAB, woodpeckers scrape off outer bark, leaving smooth, light colored patches. If the bark is removed, S-shaped galleries weaving back and forth on the surface of the wood would be visible. The D-shaped exit holes are good EAB indicators, but are only ¼" long and hard to see.

**Other health problems can kill ash trees in Vermont.** Ash are susceptible to drought. An infectious disease called ash yellows is common in parts of the state.



**Adult beetles are ½” long and metallic green.** Under the wing covers, their abdomen is purple. Beetles are found between June and August. Information about lookalike insects is available at [www.vtfpr.org/protection/documents/VTEABlookalikes\\_000.pdf](http://www.vtfpr.org/protection/documents/VTEABlookalikes_000.pdf).

**If you think you might have EAB, report it.** Collect and/or photo-graph any suspect insects. If you can't reach someone at the contact numbers below, call the EAB hotline at 1-866-322-4512.

**What will happen when EAB is found in Vermont?**

**The first step will be to determine the size of the infested area.** Most state and federal management decisions will depend on the results of this on-the-ground delineation survey.

**We won't get rid of EAB by removing ash trees.** This has been attempted unsuccessfully, time and again. Even when all ash within 1½ miles of known infested trees were cut, the beetle was soon found beyond the treatment area. Because it's accepted that infestations cannot be eradicated, the state will not be implementing widespread ash tree removal.

**Where EAB has spread into forest stands, most ash trees have died within 6 years.** Once trees die, additional sunlight reaches the forest floor. This stimulates the growth of young trees and other plants, including non-native invasive species if they are present. While they're standing, dead ash trees may provide

feeding and cavity sites for wildlife, but they also create a hazardous situation for recreational users, loggers and firewood cutters.

**Landowners will be able to sell ash logs, but there will be restrictions.** When a new EAB infestation is detected, a quarantine zone is established. Under current rules, ash logs can be transported out of the quarantine zone, but only to a sawmill with a “compliance agreement” to follow shipping restrictions. No restrictions apply if your woodlot is outside the quarantine zone, or if both your woodlot and the destination sawmill are within it.

**In other states, log prices have been affected as much by the threat of EAB as by quarantines.** Landowners harvested more ash as the insects approached, flooding the market, and driving down log prices. By the time the insect actually arrived, the easily accessible ash had already been cut. With less ash available, prices went up.

**“Trap trees” can indicate whether or not your woodlot is infested.** By monitoring your own trees for EAB, you will know when the risk of mortality becomes urgent. To find out how to use the girdled trap tree technique, ask your consulting forester, or contact one of the offices below. Vermont officials have no plans to remove infested trees on private land.

**Should I cut my ash trees now?**

**Don't panic.** While EAB is close to Vermont and may reach the state soon, it could be many years before it shows up in your woodlot. Consider the ecological, aesthetic, and economic value of your ash, your tolerance of risk, and your objectives for ownership. Stay abreast of new information to avoid short-sighted decisions. Visit [www.vtinvasives.org](http://www.vtinvasives.org) for the latest news on EAB.

**If your land is enrolled in the Use Value Appraisal program, you must follow your approved forest management plan or an approved amendment.** Contact your consulting forester if you wish to change your planned activities, treatment schedule, or management objectives. Remember that the county forester

needs to approve any changes before the management activity begins.

**Work with a consulting forester to protect your interests and your forest.** Studies have shown that woodland owners who use professional forestry services before they cut make more money and are more satisfied with the results than owners who sell timber on their own.

**Plan for EAB now if you have ash.** It may take awhile to carry out your plan, especially on large owner-ships. Know what's at risk: how much ash you have, its size and quality, and where it's located.

**Growing ash sawlogs is a riskier long-term investment than it used to be.** During scheduled harvests, take steps to reduce your exposure to loss. Focus harvests on stands where over 20% of the timber is ash, on larger ash trees (over 18" in diameter, depending on site quality), and on low vigor or low quality ash of any size. To keep from degrading your woodlot, retain good quality trees of a variety of species.

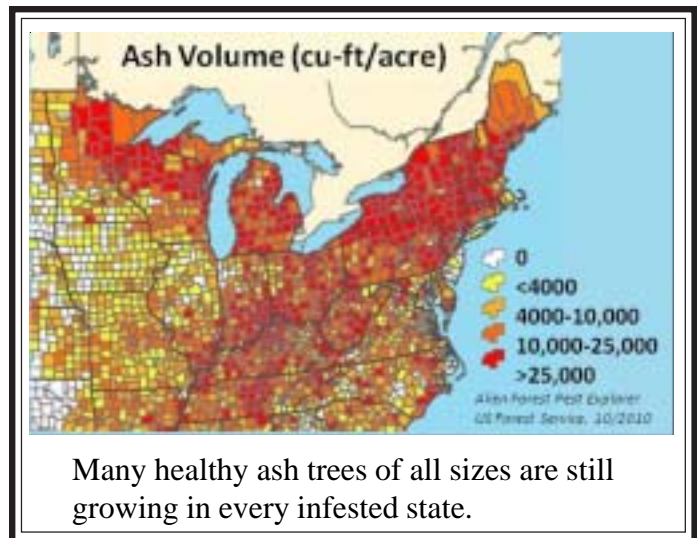
**If you're growing trees for timber income, don't cut immature ash too early.** If the trees are too small to yield high value sawlogs, you may get a better return if you allow them to grow. They will increase in volume, and may improve in grade, which will lead to a better return.

**Reassess your plan if EAB is detected in or near your county.** Keep abreast of news about the insect. The threat of imminent tree mortality increases when EAB is within 10 miles of your property.

#### What else can I do?

**Spread the Don't Move Firewood message in your town.** Visitors who bring infested firewood to second homes or campgrounds near you put your trees at risk. Talk with neighbors and campground owners. Post leaflets, available through the contacts below, in your community.

**Know when EAB arrives near you by supporting detection efforts.** Help spread the word in your community; a variety of outreach materials are available. Participate in more formal monitoring efforts through <http://vtinvasives.org/>.



**Think big. Take action. Encourage your town to plan ahead for EAB.** By addressing issues before EAB arrives, the loss associated with an infestation can be spread over a longer period of time. Neighboring communities can coordinate to share resources and reduce costs. See <http://www.vtfpr.org/protection/documents/PreparingforEmeraldAshBorerchecklist.pdf> for more information.

#### Is there any hope?

**We've only known about EAB for ten years.** Our knowledge about the insect is rapidly expanding. A substantial research effort is underway to improve insect management and tree survival.

**Scientists are investigating natural enemies of EAB.** Parasites and predators significantly reduce EAB populations. Several parasites from China have been released, and are now established in the US. As these efforts continue, the threat of EAB may be diminished.

**Many healthy ash trees of all sizes are still growing in every infested state.** Even where mortality has been severe, the occasional "lingering" ash has survived. Partial resistance has been found in North American blue ash. White ash is thought to be genetically diverse, providing hope that some genetic resistance may occur in that species as well.

#### For more information:

VT Division of Forestry: [www.vtforest.com](http://www.vtforest.com)

Vermont Invasive Pests: [vtinvasives.org/tree-pests](http://vtinvasives.org/tree-pests)

EAB Website: [www.emeraldashborer.info/](http://www.emeraldashborer.info/)

**For more information contact your County Forester or:**

Windsor & Windham Counties: Springfield (802) 885-8845

Bennington & Rutland Counties: Rutland (802) 786-0040

Addison, Chittenden, Franklin & Grand Isle Counties: Essex Junction (802) 879-6565

Lamoille, Orange & Washington Counties: Barre (802) 476-0170

Caledonia, Orleans & Essex Counties: St. Johnsbury (802) 751-0110

Forest health and Stewardship programs in the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation are supported, in part, by the US Forest Service, State and Private Forestry, and conducted in partnership with the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets, USDA-APHIS, the University of Vermont, cooperating landowners, resource managers, and citizen volunteers.

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### **Chair for Governor's Executive Conference Room**

The project is slowly progressing. A group of woodworkers met during the spring/summer and designed a chair. A model was built and the project was presented to the state/governor in the fall.

The seat up chair design was accepted by the state, the seat down was not acceptable. The bottom was made in a trestle style to match the tables. It was deemed unacceptable.

The group that met to design the chair did reconvene and came up with 6 additional possible designs for the chair bottom. We are now in the process of doing SKETCH UP prints of those designs. When completed, they will be presented to the state. Once a design is approved, we will then build a full scale model and get that approved as well.

The chosen wood is ash and will be harvested as FSC wood from the UVM research farm in Underhill. The wood, once designs are final and a cut list is made, will be sawn and dried by Stephen Taylor in Lincoln.

The plan is still to have one chair built by a woodworker in each of the 14 counties in Vermont. To date, we have

builders in 5 counties and are in need of a volunteer in the following counties: Orleans, Essex, Grand Isle, Lamoille, Addison, Rutland, Bennington, Windsor, Windham.

This is a great opportunity to be part of a high profile and lasting woodworking legacy for Vermont. Please email, get involved [info@vthoodnet.org](mailto:info@vthoodnet.org).

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### **Skills USA**

Again this next year on April 4th, 2013, there will be another statewide competition. Over 500 students come together to compete in 50+ competitions including traditional trades like carpentry, plumbing, wiring, etc., and also others like cosmetology, aircraft mechanics, CAD design and public speaking.

Vermont WoodNet will again sponsor the cabinet building competition.

Vermont winners receive prizes, usually tools for the trades, valued at \$250 for first place and less for second and third place.

The state winner in each category is able to attend the national competition in June in Kansas City.

This is an excellent opportunity for skilled woodworkers to coach and council some of the best woodworking students in the state and to help ensure that our replacements are in the wings.

If you would like to be involved in helping to design the cabinet for the competition, preparing materials for the competition, set up or judging, please call or email Bob Bouvier. [wdubelieve@aol.com](mailto:wdubelieve@aol.com), 802-863-5644.

## Wood Products Brand/Logo Use

There is a brand, owned and controlled by the VT Wood Products Marketing Council. VT WoodNet is a charter member of that council

The present use of the brand and all associated marketing manuals/materials is a donation charge only. There are far too few Vermont Businesses using it and taking advantage of the \$, both state and federal, that was spent to secure the brand and write up the marketing materials.

We encourage you to look at the information and sign up for the materials.

Click here to request to become a Vermont Quality Wood Products brand user: <http://vermontwood.org/branduse.htm>



## Social What?

By Rick Gravelin 12/19/12

This is a great time to take your business to the next level. There's lots of white stuff outside and that means it's cold. If you're not fortunate to have heat in your shop then there can be no other excuse not to work on your business planning. I have heat in my shop but it's still a good time for me work on my business and a goal that I have is to have a full featured website and store front by January 1<sup>st</sup> 2013.

Vermont WoodNet has been building it's own website thanks to the generous expertise of Mark Vanyush (Board Member) and website design topics are always

on the agenda in our meetings. One discussion we had recently was "What is social media?" and "How can we use social media?"

Using Google I quickly found the two top rated books on the subject: *The Social Media Bible 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition* by Lon Sotken and *Living a Laptop Life Style* by Greg & Fiona Scott. I will review the former in this article this time.

The first book is a must-have for anyone who plans to do anything on the WWW (world wide web). It reads really well and is not a put-you-to-sleeper. The first 10 chapters of section 1 are a must-read. Section 2 has five chapters and is also good to read. What is left between them is also good reading but focuses on audio, video, broadcasting feeds, and other unique forms of media.

Chapter one is all about answering the question "What is Social Networking?". I got great insight into how we interact as people and what is considered rude and what is acceptable behavior in small and large groups of people. Chapter 2 is all about the different types of social media including old types through to today's modern networking.

I wanted to know about *Facebook* and how do can I make it work for my business. Boy, I got head full of stuff now. Discussed are things like the "Like" and "Nudge" buttons and how they are very powerful. Also is the advertizing opportunities are explained as well as the use of affiliates and how to subscribe to these offerings to help fund your website.

I highly recommend this book to anyone who is serious about getting on the WWW.

Now back to my bills.

## Classified Section

For Sale, Services, Wanted

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### Want a Store Front?

I would be happy to add your beautiful, pieces to the

***The Knotty Professor***

The new store provides the means to manage multiple manufacturers and I would proud to serve Vermont's fine woodworkers with this opportunity.

Please Call 888.862.7678 toll free or  
Email me at [RickGravelin@gmail.com](mailto:RickGravelin@gmail.com)  
to discuss terms.

Rick Gravelin  
South Burlington, Vt 05403  
Toll Free 888 862 7678  
[www.kpwoodworkingvt.com](http://www.kpwoodworkingvt.com)

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**Save the Date**

### Wanted: items for Classified Section

Do you have items to sell or services others might not know about? Do you need something? Send your stuff to Barry at [batcabins@aol.com](mailto:batcabins@aol.com) and he will get them into the newsletter.

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### Vermont WoodNet Board Members

Bob Bouvier, Chair, 863-5644, [wdubelieve@aol.com](mailto:wdubelieve@aol.com)  
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