



THE CANOPY



Newsletter of Seno K/RLT Conservancy

Hauling Ash by Mark Lesko



Seno K/RLT Conservancy

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News and Events

Summer /Fall
2015

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As many of our readers and friends are aware, the Emerald ash borer (EAB) has been on the move since its discovery in 2002 in southeast Michigan. Previously, its host nations included China, Taiwan, Japan, Korea, and part of eastern Russia. The prevailing theory regarding EAB emergence in the United States is that the insect hitch-hiked in Ash wood used for pallets for commercial materials shipped to the U.S. from overseas. The EAB has now spread to 15 states and 2 Canadian provinces, and there is no expectation that it will cease movement in the near future. EAB obviously prefers ash trees, and as it kills all ash that hosts the larvae, it must move to find new ash trees as hosts and sustenance. Additionally, the spread of EAB is believed to have been expedited by movement of ash firewood, ash nursery trees, and perhaps ash sawlogs to previously uninfected areas. State and Federal agencies have promulgated quarantine zones, where movement of ash firewood and forest products must be restricted.

All ash trees larger than 1.5 inches of trunk diameter are susceptible. Infested trees usually die within 2-4 years, with larvae boring and tunneling through the cambium/phloem layer, just under the bark, robbing the tree from essential sap flow and nutrient conduction. Ash trees begin the decline at the top canopy. Infested trees will not survive. Specimen trees within a highly valued arboretum or backyard may be treated with systemic insecticide injection, but this treatment may be required for recurrent years and may be costly. Infested Ash stands in wood lots and forests, such as those in the Seno K/RLT-managed properties, require removal and replacement with native trees that will not host EAB. (cont'd pg.2)



Emerald ash borer





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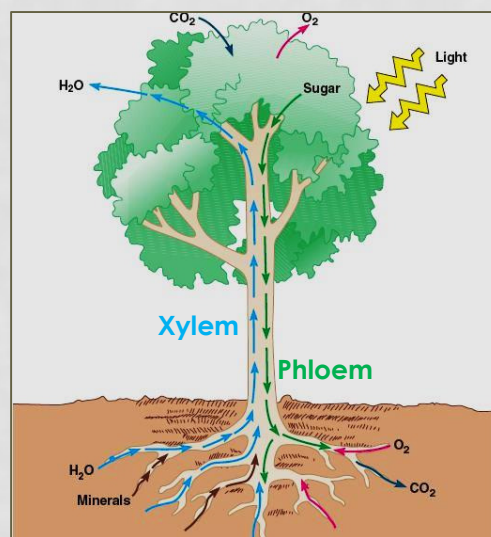
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How it works



EAB's Destructive Process

The larvae bore into the circulatory system of a tree and prevent the flow of nutrients and sap by deranging the xylem and phloem. Damage shown below.



There are 4 acres of established ash stands at Seno K/RLT, with additional and less dense areas of ash dispersed throughout. Ash was a very popular tree when the stands were planted by Elvira and Les Seno, as there were no native insect or disease threats. Now all ash at Seno K/RLT is infested or already dead/dying. The Board of Directors found no logger or timber interest in these trees, which were mostly less than 12 inches caliper (diameter breast height). So the ash trees were offered to private firewood users under strict harvest conditions involving requirements for safety, timing, and compliance with the quarantine restrictions. At the time of this writing, about 80 percent of the ash firewood harvest is complete in the core 4 acre target zone. Additionally, plans and grant applications are underway to replant the 4 acres in 2 successive years (spring 2016 and spring 2017). The replanting will include conifers (such as white pine and white spruce) and native hardwoods (such as black cherry, white oak and red oak).

If you would like to assist this replanting effort, and become educated on the replanting principles and practices, please contact Mark Lesko at mlesko@wi.rr.com. We invite Boy and Girl Scout troop leaders to contact us about this unique opportunity.

Mark Lesko has been a longstanding volunteer at the Seno-managed properties, owns Arbor Hills Nursery LLC in Burlington Wi, and is a member of the International Society for Arboriculture.

Questions may be addressed to mlesko@wi.rr.com