

Urban Forestry-related News in the Midwest (October 15, 2014)

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INDIANA

Proactive Owners can Curb effects of Emerald Ash Borer

[Daily Journal: Proactive Owners](#)

By Anna K. Herkamp Daily Journal (IN), October 13, 2014 - 7:03 pm

A lethal pest is on the loose in Indiana.

The deadly insect is wiping out nearly all of its prey — but you've got time to defend your backyard or neighborhood from the emerald ash borer.

"The killing wave is just starting to come through in the Greenwood area out of Marion County.

You're going to see more over the next several years — infesting, declining and dying trees," said Phil Marshall, a state entomologist and forest health specialist in the Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

IOWA

Tips for Prevention of Spread of Ash Borer

[Tips for Prevention of Spread of Ash Borer](#)

CBS2/FOX28, Tuesday, October 14 2014, 07:18 PM CDT

CEDAR RAPIDS, IA -- As the weather turns cooler, forest specialists are reminding people to be aware of where their firewood is coming from to further prevent the spread of the Emerald Ash Borer.

The tiny beetle continues its spread, killing ash trees across the country. It's believed to now be in at least 20 states.

Specialists are urging people to use firewood that is bought locally and to buy it or cut it as close as possible to where it's going to be burned.

MICHIGAN

Trees hauled to Detroit to jump-start urban forest

[Lansing State Journal: Trees Hauled to Detroit](#)

Associated Press (MI), 7:18 a.m. EDT October 14, 2014

DETROIT – Trees are being trucked to Detroit as part of an effort to create an instant, forest-like setting in one neighborhood.

Columnist Laura Berman of The Detroit News reports the work aims to show what trees planted for the Hantz Woodlands project might look like a decade from now. In May, hundreds of people planted 15,000 saplings on land bordered by burned-out homes and abandoned apartments.

This week, 150 mature trees are being planted on the city's east side. Tree broker Keith Alexander located 20-foot-tall sugar maples in Michigan and New York. He says he has planted trees before in Detroit "but never a woods" and called it "inspiring."

Entrepreneur John Hantz believes agriculture and forestry can play an important role in bankrupt Detroit.



Workers from Hantz Woodlands, Carlton Davis, top and Ray Thomas plant sugar maple trees at corner of Van Dyke and Goethe in Detroit. on Monday, Oct. 13, 2014. This week, 150 mature trees are being put in the ground on the city's east side. The work aims to show what saplings planted for the Hantz Woodlands project in May might look like a decade from now. (AP Photo/Detroit News, David Coates) DETROIT FREE PRESS OUT; HUFFINGTON POST OUT

Celebrate NeighborWoods month with tree plantings PLACE MATTERS.

<http://therapidian.org/placematters-celebrate-neighborwoods-month-tree-plantings>

By Friends of Grand Rapids Parks (friendsofgrparks) on Tuesday Oct 14th, 2014 11:32am in NONPROFITS

Friends of Grand Rapids Parks, with the help of the City of Grand Rapids and community partners, will celebrate NeighborWoods Month with tree plantings throughout our community.

These events are part of several hundred re-greening efforts throughout the country being promoted during October, which has been declared National NeighborWoods Month by the national nonprofit, the Alliance for Community Trees (ACT). Friends of Grand Rapids Parks (FGRP) is a member of ACT's NeighborWoods Network.



The first tree planting took place this past Saturday at Grand Rapids' newest public green space, Pleasant Park. /Eric Tank

"This year, we're excited that several of our planting events were neighborhood-initiated," said Steve Faber, Executive Director. "This means that community volunteers have recognized the need for trees and have approached Friends to help them organize a tree planting. It takes a community to grow a healthy urban forest." Last year, FGRP hosted nine events and planted 182 trees. These included a tree climbing demonstration and tree plantings at Richmond Park, Martin Luther King Park, Congress Elementary and Riverside Park.

Volunteers will plant 37 trees that were funded through sponsorships and donations to Friends of Grand Rapids Parks' "tree bank". Citizen Foresters that have completed a series of workshops through the Grand Rapids Urban Forest Project will be on hand to help with the planting.

Numerous studies have recently highlighted the benefit of community-sponsored tree plantings. A Yale University study in 2013 highlighted that trees have higher survival rates and tend to grow and establish more quickly when planted by community volunteers. Moreover, a growing body of research is connecting trees and tree planting to human health, well-being and community cohesion.

For all planting events, Friends of GR parks provides the tools, trees and training. Community volunteers provide the muscle. The planting portion of the event will take place rain or shine, so volunteers are encouraged to dress for the weather. You are also encouraged to bring your own bottle of water, a small snack and work gloves. Those interested in volunteering can find out more on the FGRP website.

This project is supported in part by the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative through the United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service.

National NeighborWoods™ Month is the annual October celebration of trees in our communities, and is part of the national NeighborWoods™ initiative to re-green North American cities from coast to coast. NeighborWoods™ is a program of Alliance for Community Trees, a national nonprofit dedicated to improving the health and livability of cities by planting and caring for trees.

Friends of Grand Rapids Parks is a citizen driven nonprofit with the mission to protect, enhance and expand parks and public spaces. In 2011, we founded the Grand Rapids Urban Forest Project, in partnership with the City of Grand Rapids and support from the Grand Rapids Community Foundation, to work toward engaging our community to achieve a 40% tree canopy in the city. View full calendars and additional event details at www.friendsofgrparks.org/events and www.urbanforestproject.com

Flint initiative redefines place-based education in urban schools

<http://midmichigan.secondwavemedia.com/features/glsiplace1014.aspx>

KIM EGGLESTON SecondWaveMedia.com (MI), TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2014

Education can take place anywhere. Students in Genesee County are learning their core content while also learning more about their own communities through an innovative, place-based sustainability education initiative.

A team of teachers and students at Flint's Southwestern Classical Academy has been busy working on turning the school's courtyard into an ADA-accessible garden. In the process, they discovered ducks nesting on school property. The students knew it really wasn't a healthy habitat for ducks, so they worked with the City of Flint to create a duck habitat on a nearby, city-owned property where the nesting ducks and their ducklings could thrive.



Flint students learn about gardening. LEYLA SANKER

This is no extra-credit activity; these students are participating in Discovering PLACE, a program that has them learning core curriculum content while also learning about, and making a difference in, their own communities.

It's called place-based education, and it is part of the Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative, a program founded in 2007 and backed by a \$10.9 million, 10-year commitment from the Great Lakes Fishery Trust. The aim of the GLSI is to motivate students to learn by making content more relevant to the places where they live.

"The goal is to develop knowledgeable, active stewards of the Great Lakes and its ecosystems, which includes inland watersheds," says GLSI coordinator Mary Whitmore, who oversees the program across Michigan.

Discovering PLACE, the Flint regional arm of the program, started up in 2011 and offers two-year mini-grants to teachers and schools to help support place-based education projects. Coordinator Leyla Sanker says many of the program's projects are working to redefine what our idea of "nature" can be; in an urban environment like Flint, it might mean reclaiming a small corner of wildlife habitat or learning about local food systems through a community garden.

"We try to offer opportunities that expand the conversation about what place-based education is," says Sanker. "Students connect with nature in their own, urban community."

The GLSI was formed in response to a shift in thought among Michigan conservationists toward the idea that positive environmental change requires a generational change in attitude about our lands and waters.

"I think we have some magical thinking going on, when we assume that adults will step up and be stewards," says Whitmore. "A person's affinity for nature and an interest in environmental stewardship is established when that person is young."

The GLSI employs three strategies to develop stewardship. First is place-based education, which is connecting students to the places they live through learning. Students can actually learn core content by learning about the place they live, and it makes it more relevant for them, so as a result they are more engaged. Second is sustained professional development for teachers, so they can be effective educators. And last, and perhaps most importantly, school-community partnerships. Each project has at least one community partner, like a land conservancy, local business or parks department. Goodwill, for example, assisted in the development of the ADA-accessible garden at Southwestern Classical Academy.

At Discovering PLACE, those partners include the University of Michigan-Flint, Goodwill Industries, the City of Flint and local urban farmers. Seven schools in Genesee County are currently running active projects.

At Beecher Middle School in Flint, students addressed the problem of lack of green space or parks in the neighborhood in a creative way. They reclaimed part of the school's own property, doing invasive species removal and creating a nature trail and outdoor classroom where future environmental education can take place. Along the way, they ended up creating a community-friendly space that the public also can enjoy.

"The kids wanted garden space and someplace they could go and just sit," says Teresa Krawscyk, a teacher at Beecher. "So we decided as a group to make an arbor with seating on the inside and crawling vines that could produce food."

As part of the work, students had to figure out how much wood and soil to purchase.

"So eighth grade geometry kids had to calculate volume by square feet and then convert that into cubic yards, because they don't sell dirt by the square foot," says Krawscyk. "If they don't see a real use for it, they are not going to be engaged. But if you can make geometry mean something to them besides figures on a piece of paper, you've got them."

Not all projects are on that scale, though. Sanker says Great Lakes stewardship education can be as brief as one assignment in an English class that makes good use of an outdoor classroom or finds a way to connect to the local community.

"We're working to build the understanding that place-based education can happen at a number of levels. Core teams can lead a big project, or it could be a single segment of a lesson," she says. "It can happen anywhere; you can do it any time. It's just about thinking outside of the box a little bit."

A major concern for Discovering PLACE is connecting students with tools they need to improve local food systems, since some areas of Flint are food deserts, says Sanker. A greater understanding of urban agriculture and community gardening helps solidify that link to the Great Lakes and its watersheds, too, as students come to see how they all are connected.

Whitmore says the best way to help kids become stewards of their environment is to show them, through the students' own direct experience, that they can contribute on a personal level in their community--so that's what the GLSI gives them a chance to do.

"A lot of the kids say something like, 'I understand now that I can make a difference in my community.' Or 'I can show my family the trees I planted'," she says. "The world needs stewards, and it needs good problem solvers, and people who can come up with solutions and work collaboratively. And that's what we're giving these kids practice at doing."

Kim Eggleston is a freelance writer and editor in Marquette, Michigan. You can find her on Twitter @magdalen13.

MISSOURI

Does your firewood contain an invasive pest?

<http://www.heartlandconnection.com/news/story.aspx?id=1109456>

Trees affected by the emerald ash borer can die within two years. / Troy Moling

by Troy Moling KTVO, 101414

KIRKSVILLE, MO. -- What's a better way to enjoy the cooler temperatures than by gathering around the fireplace or roasting marshmallows on a camping trip? However, the experts want you to be careful.

With cold weather approaching, forest specialists are urging you to take the necessary precautions to prevent the spread of an invasive insect.

The emerald ash borer is a tiny green beetle killing ash trees across the country. It entered the U.S. in the early 90's and since then has made its way into over 20 different states.

The pest can only travel about a mile a year on its own, so it's the transportation of wood that's causing the spread.

"We don't recommend you transporting firewood outside of your county at this time," said Missouri Department of Conservation Asst. Research Forester Peter Noble. "We recommend you getting and burning your firewood in one county."

The emerald ash borer has been reported in 11 Missouri counties. There have also been confirmed infestations of the pest throughout Iowa including Wapello, Henry and Jefferson counties. Trees that have been affected can die within two years.