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# FOCI Newsletter

Firewood Outreach Coordinating Initiative

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**DONTMOVE  
FIREWOOD.org**



## PlayCleanGo Week is coming right up

PlayCleanGo Awareness Week is an outreach week that integrates partner campaigns like Don't Move Firewood, Hungry Pests, and Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers in order to reach and educate recreationalists with diverse interests. This year, it will be held June 5–12, 2021 across North America. The goal is to show everyone how they can help the spread of invasive species- no matter if they want to hike, bike, boat, ATV or ride horses. The team at PlayCleanGo has built a great toolkit of advertisements, social media ready artwork, talking points, and more.

[Find the PlayCleanGo toolkit >>](#)

## New Firewood Kiln Certification, Treatments, and Labeling Factsheet

USDA APHIS has published a useful factsheet aimed at addressing questions about kiln certification, treatments, and labeling in the new regulatory environment created by the federal domestic deregulation of emerald ash borer. The factsheet, named "**Questions and Answers: Kiln Certifications, Treatments, and Labeling for Firewood**" joins several other new EAB program publications available on the USDA APHIS EAB program page, under the "Program Publications" heading near the bottom of the page- other factsheet topics include biocontrol and the program's recent changes as a whole.

[Find these documents in "Program Publications" >>](#)

## Plan for Tree Check Month in August

The Asian longhorned beetle has several remarkable look-alike species in North America, with the various and widespread pine sawyers in the **genus Monochamus** being among the most likely to be mistaken for an Asian longhorned beetle. In northern states like New York and Massachusetts, the adult Asian longhorned beetles emerge in late summer, while the lookalike adult native Monochamus tend to emerge several months earlier. So it is no wonder that Tree Check Month is in August each year- encouraging the public to check their trees for these big showy beetles and the signs of their presence, while minimizing mistaken identity for native insects in their northern range! Now that you've learned why August is a great time for Tree Check Month, please hit the link below for all the USDA APHIS materials that you can use this coming August.

[View the USDA Tree Check Month Resources >>](#)

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Photo of the month: The folks at PlayCleanGo have made a great portfolio of web banners and social media ready graphics for you to use in June. Find them all at <https://playcleango.org/take-action/playcleango-awareness-week/>

## Infestations and Regulations

### Nearing 10 years of GALS

In September 2011, USDA APHIS confirmed an infestation of giant African land snail (GALS, or sometimes giant African snail, GAS)- kicking off a decade of delimitation, quarantine, control, management, and one-by-one removal of distinct quarantined zones. Of the 28 total known infested zones in the greater Miami area, only five remain on the map at this time. It's worth noting that the prior infestation (discovered in 1966) took ten years to eradicate- but it was successful in the end. Not all forest pests that can be transported in or on firewood are beetles or moths- and in some cases, a methodical eradication effort can succeed in even the most complex of urban environments.

[Learn more about giant African snails >>](#)  
[View past and present quarantine maps >>](#)

## Don't Move Firewood Campaign

### Summer analysts are here

FORWARD THIS TO A  
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## In the News

**Forestry Experts Want You to  
Watch Out for 'Poolside Pests'**  
May 25 2021

**Fungi May Help Fight Emerald Ash  
Borer, Scientists Say**  
May 12 2021

## Share firewood news tips

Input from our readers is vital to the success of this newsletter — and to the mission it serves. Have you heard (or done) something that you think we and other readers should hear about? Please tell us about it!

The Don't Move Firewood campaign has added three summer analysts to the team for the summer of 2021. These analysts will be working on a large scale project to overhaul all state and provincial data and summaries, in order to improve the accuracy and accessibility of firewood recommendation and regulation information across North America. If you work in state or provincial outreach or regulation on firewood, please be on the lookout for our summer analysts reaching out to you for confirmation of their research!

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