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FOCI Newsletter

Firewood Outreach Coordinating Initiative

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Emerald ash borer awareness week is this week!

Emerald ash borer awareness week- the week prior to Memorial Day weekend (May 22-28 for 2022)- has been used by interested state and federal agencies to focus on EAB related issues specific to their local needs for nearly a decade. The week presents an excellent opportunity to focus on one or more important issues in your area related to the emerald ash borer. Here's a few last reminders before the week begins:

- Emerald Ash Borer University will be featuring a talk about ash tree resistance breeding on May 26th. [Learn more and register here >>](#)
- Procrastinators, breathe easy, we've got a list of [outreach materials and templates ready to go! >>](#)

PlayCleanGo Awareness Week is in June

PlayCleanGo Awareness Week is coming up fast- scheduled for June 4–11, 2022 across North America. This public education week is managed by North American Invasive Species Management Association (NAISMA) with the goal of showing outdoor recreationists how they can help slow the spread of invasive species through cleaning their gear, vehicles, pets, and more. NAISMA encourages everyone to participate- and please use @PlayCleanGo or #PlayCleanGo in your social media posts to help them see who's joining the movement.

[Find all #PlayCleanGo campaign materials here >>](#)

Encourage the public to report suspicious insects and tree damage!

Spring is here and folks are spending more time outdoors. Now is a key time they are likely to notice unfamiliar insects and new tree damage. Take it from Megan Abraham, State Plant Regulatory Official in Indiana, on how the public can help catch infestations early, "In Indiana, members of the public often report our first interceptions. Not least important is an interception of Asian longhorned beetle in Northwest Indiana a few years ago. We also have a member of the public to thank for discovering the first spotted lanternfly (SLF) infestation in southern Indiana. A homeowner found an insect he was unfamiliar with and sent an email with a picture to our general email account. Without the report it's unlikely that we would have found SLF in that area until the infestation had encroached on a far larger area."

For general reporting apps that might work for you, it's worth looking at the [EDDMapS site](#). They've got a ton of apps to choose from depending on region, audience, and more.

[Visit EDDMaps >>](#)

Looking ahead: National Moth Week

It's not too early to start brainstorming and prepping materials; the 11th annual National Moth Week will be here before you know it! This year's Moth Week is scheduled for July 23-31. Plan to celebrate the beauty and diversity of moths while bringing awareness to some of the invasive troublemakers we need to look out for. This is another great opportunity to embrace the new common name of *Lymantria dispar*, spongy moth!

[Check out this year's National Moth Week materials >>](#)

Photo of the month: Camping season starts soon for the northern states, and firewood is on everyone's mind as a must-have for their camping experience. Outreach messages should focus on how to choose safer firewood sources- choose positive and action oriented phrasing whenever feasible. Photo credit: K. Lyons of Hamburg PA, noted by her family for being a responsible firewood user.

Infestations and Regulations

Asian Longhorned Beetle history in Canada

Spatially discrete infestations of the Asian longhorned beetle have been eradicated from North America several times- and twice of those were in Eastern Canada. A new publication by Jean Turgeon details the Canadian experience and perspectives in eradicating this damaging pest from the greater Toronto area two times in quick succession. It's an interesting read and a good way to get a better grip on the complexities of a full scale eradication of a forest pest.

Read the study here: [Turgeon et al. 2022 >>](#)

Don't Move Firewood Campaign

Complement Awareness with a Call to Action

All awareness events are best complemented by a concrete call to action (CTA). In the case of Emerald Ash Borer Awareness Week, the CTA appropriate to your audience will vary by what actions are relevant to your region's prevention, infestation, and/or management status. Examples of CTAs to choose from are; learn about alternative trees for planting in your neighborhood, learn to recognize emerald ash borer signs and symptoms, learn to recognize ash trees, download and use invasive species reporting apps, or, our own favorites- **buy local or certified heat treated firewood, or gather and use firewood on site!**

FORWARD THIS TO A COLLEAGUE »

In the News

[Submit your comments to the Entomological Society of America for the new common name of *Vespa mandarinia* by June 10, 2022!](#)

[Tree-killing Insect Confirmed in Dallas County, Texas](#)
May 23, 2022

[Emerald Ash Borer Confirmed Near Crooks, South Dakota](#)
May 16, 2022

[Forest health in Arizona: Stressed by drought and pests, trees are losing resilience to changing climate](#)
May 9, 2022

[Emerald ash borer insects found in Stanly County, NC for first time](#)
May 4, 2022

[Vigilance urged in tracking spotted lanternfly in Missouri](#)
May 3, 2022

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!

Submit Your Story

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