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FOCI Newsletter

Firewood Outreach Coordinating Initiative

BROUGHT TO YOU BY
**DON'T MOVE
FIREWOOD.org**



It's Firewood Month!

It's still OCTOBER! Our favorite month is just about to finish up- so post something today and mark your calendars for 2024 while you're at it. October is Firewood Month and a great opportunity to share outreach materials and resources that raise awareness among fall recreationists along with anyone and everyone who uses firewood. Each week of Firewood Month has a different theme and slightly different target audience, but the take home message is always the same - don't let forest pests hitchhike on your firewood!

[Learn more about Firewood Month and how you can get involved >>](#)

Start Preparing Some Holiday Greenery Outreach

The department stores are already stocking up on holiday decor, so I guess that means the holidays are right around the corner whether we are ready or not! As we schedule out social media posts and prepare outreach materials, let's think about some messaging regarding Christmas trees and other holiday greenery that can carry forest pests. Need tips? We have a whole page on that!

[Check out our Holiday Greenery page here >>](#)

Audio Stories from the USFS Pacific Southwest Region

Have a commute? Want to learn more about forest pests and diseases?! Check out these audio stories recently conducted by our friends in the Forest Service in the Pacific Southwest Region.

[Forest Focus: Episode 35: Bark Beetles: The Science of Scents >>](#)

[Forest Focus Episode 31: Observing Tree Diseases with a Stump Buster >>](#)

Photo of the Month: A campfire roars at night in autumn. Celebrate Firewood Month with us with outreach targeted at **fall recreationists** such as campers/RVers, hunters, leaf peepers, and birders.

Infestations and Regulations

Beech Leaf Disease Confirmed in Vermont

Beech leaf disease (BLD) has been confirmed in the state of Vermont this month. Officials from the Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation took samples from American beech saplings in southeastern VT that were later confirmed by USDA staff as BLD by DNA analysis. BLD is caused by an invasive nematode. There is still much to learn about this pathogen including major pathways of spread—it's not yet clear if it could be firewood associated, given the nematode's biology.

[Read more about the finding here >>](#)

Don't Move Firewood Campaign

Missed the "Firewood Month - Meet the Don't Move Firewood Team" Webinars? No problem, they're recorded!

We celebrated this year's Firewood Month in part by hosting a couple webinars to discuss the education and outreach efforts of the Don't Move Firewood campaign, including: an overview of what the campaign does, why it's important, how you can access our many resources, and what we've got to offer both the everyday firewood user as well as professionals in the field of forest health. There were two call options in October to accommodate different time zones and schedules and the recordings are available on our Youtube channel.

[Access the recordings here >>](#)

FORWARD THIS TO A
COLLEAGUE »

In the News

Destructive beetle encroaches on Mississippi forests

Oct 18

Mapping tools could help forest managers get ahead of invasive species

Oct 12

Groups are working to protect trees – and traditions – from the emerald ash borer

Oct 10

USDA Forest Service Christmas Tree Permits Available Online through Recreation.gov

Oct 5

7 Invasive Species that are Migrating with Climate Change

Sep 30

Spotted lanternflies continue journey across Virginia

Sep 27

A fast-spreading disease threatens a foundational tree of eastern forests

Sep 27

'We can't save all of them.' Scientists work to protect Virginia's last remaining ash trees

Sep 21

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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