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November 2025 Firewood & Forest Pests Newsletter



A wary squirrel peers down from atop a tree branch on a cold autumn morning. Remember- your responsible firewood practices protect trees and the wildlife that rely on them! Photo by L. Downs.

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Thanks for a successful Firewood Month!

A big thank you to all of you who helped us spread the word about forest pests and the firewood pathway during Firewood Month 2025! We saw many social media posts and references in press releases from across the country - every little bit helps reduce the risk of new introductions and protect forest health! We also had a great turn out for our webinar series. Each of the webinars have been recorded, so if you missed them, fear not! The slides and links can be found on the [2025 Firewood Month webinar series page here](#) or go straight to the recordings on our [YouTube channel](#). Or, access the direct links for each recording below.

Beyond Wooden Thinking: Getting to the Heartwood of the Matter

Learn about human psychology and behavior as well as firewood characteristics from a study on campers in state parks in MS. Presentation by Dr. John Riggins, Associate Professor and Extension Specialist in Forest Health at Oregon State University

[View recording here >>](#)

Wildfire Fuel: How Destructive Forest Pests Travel in Firewood

Learn about goldspotted oak borer in Southern California. Presentation by Joelene Tamm, Natural Resources Director for the La Jolla Band of Luiseño Indians

[View recording here >>](#)

Updates on Emerald Ash Borer in the Pacific Northwest

Learn about recent infestation and quarantine updates across Oregon and Washington. Presentation by Wyatt Williams of the OR Dept. of Forestry and Maria Marlin of the Washington Invasive Species Council

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Laurel Wilt Established in New York

It has several vectors, it has several hosts, and it has made its way to Long Island, New York...and the experts are saying that it very likely got there on firewood! Laurel wilt is wreaking havoc on trees in the US and spreading farther each year, but the jump from the southeastern USA all the way to suburban New York was still very unexpected. Learn all about this pathogen, the beetles that spread it, and the recent detection of its establishment in Long Island.

[Cornell-led expert webinar on laurel wilt in NY here >>](#)

[Laurel Wilt Map and Public Dashboard >>](#)

Hawaii Implements Exterior Firewood Quarantine!

Firewood legislation has been passed in Hawaii! Act 240 was signed into law this past summer and includes well written, exact language prohibiting the entry of firewood unless it is certified, heat-treated. Way to go, Hawaii!! This is a huge step towards better protecting Hawaii's forests and trees!

[Read the Bill here >>](#)



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Holiday Greenery

It is that time - dish out your holiday greenery outreach now. We love real Christmas trees, wreathes, and other holiday greenery, but they all can come with a risk! Check our [Holiday Greenery](#) page for useful tips and outreach ideas that help protect against spreading hitchhiker forest pests this holiday season. And don't forget about the clean up; it's great to have some posts prepped to remind folks about safe disposal options for their Christmas trees and the like *after* the holidays as well!

[DMF Holiday Greenery Page >>](#)

EABU Webinars

EAB University is an excellent resource for information on not just emerald ash borer, but many invasive forest pests! Check out their fall webinar series (and access recordings to previous webinars) [here](#), and make sure to register for the December webinars below!

Tuesday, December 2nd, 10:00am EST

I Know What You Did Last Summer: Spread, impact, and management of elm zigzag sawfly

Kelly Oten, NC State

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Thursday, December 11th, 10:00am EST

Realistic expectations for invasive species management

David Coyle, Clemson University

[Register Here >>](#)

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Thank You! Order Materials Now!

As the holiday season begins, and we near the finish line for 2025, we are grateful for our partners and all those who help us raise awareness on the behaviors that help prevent the spread of forest pests and pathogens in firewood. Thank you!!

As we look ahead to 2026, our work is still cut out for us. **If you are planning on attending outreach events or re-stocking your materials for parks and visitor centers, consider reaching out to our team for some bulk outreach material!**

Kids love the temporary tattoos and conversations sparked by stickers can easily kick off between friends and family - simple things that can go a long way in terms of raising awareness about the firewood pathway. Email Laurel [here](#) to request educational outreach materials.

[Browse our bulk outreach material here >>](#)

Forest Pests In the News

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[WPR, November 24, 2025](#)

[Winter is the best time to check trees for hemlock woolly adelgid](#)

MDARD, November 20, 2025

[Vermont trappers fight to keep invasive beetle out](#)

The North Star Monthly, November 20, 2025

[MDARD Hosts “Holiday Hitchhikers: Unpacking Pests in Christmas Trees”](#)

WHMI 93.5, November 17, 2025

[Kansas officials confirm emerald ash borer in Marshall County](#)

K-State Extension, October 31, 2025

[Invasive insect spreading across Front Range; how Colorado Springs is preparing](#)

KOAA News5, October 27, 2025

[Spotted lanternfly may use ‘toxic shield’ to fend off bird predators](#)

PennState, October 27, 2025

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