

# CONSERVATION COMMENTS

## Preble Soil and Water Conservation District

1651 North Barron Street, Eaton, Ohio 45320-1021

Phone 937-456-5159

Fax 937-456-3589

OCTOBER 2010

### BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Dan Hays  
Lewis Jones  
Donn Kolb  
James Leedy  
Keith Schmidt

### DISTRICT STAFF

Jason Chappel - District Tech.  
BJ Price - Education/Tech.

### NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

Dennis Bunger - DC  
Paul Decker - CET  
Jeff Barnes - Soil Con.

### PHEASANTS FOREVER/ FARM BILL BIOLOGIST

Erik Lewis

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Preble SWCD  
Web Address:  
[www.prebleswcd.com](http://www.prebleswcd.com)

### *Open House - You're Invited to Attend the 61st Annual Meeting and Election*

The 61st Annual Meeting and Election will be held on November 16th at the Preble SWCD Office, 1651 North Barron St. in Eaton. An Open House forum will be held from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.; light refreshments will be available. Activities to take place at the meeting will consist of a supervisor election, recognition of the "Outstanding Cooperator" and this year's "Hall of Fame" inductee. We will also be highlighting the accomplishments of the District in 2010.

There is one supervisor position to be elected this year. Voting will take place from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Open House. Absentee ballots are also available in the office. Candidates for this year's election are: Kip Denlinger, Donn Kolb, and Ted Lybrook.

Groh Farms is being honored as the "Outstanding Cooperator" and Jean Woodhull will be inducted into the Preble SWCD "Hall of Fame". They will be recognized at 6:00 p.m.

Please come and join us for the open house!

### *ELECTION LEGAL NOTICE*

The Ohio Soil & Water Conservation Commission will cause the election of Supervisors of the Preble Soil & Water Conservation District to be held in accordance with Chapter 1515 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Residents or landowners, firms, and corporations that own land or occupy land in Preble County and are 18 years of age and older may vote for Supervisor. A non-resident landowner, firm, or corporation must provide an affidavit of eligibility, which includes designation of a voting representative, prior to casting a ballot.

There are three ways an eligible voter can cast a ballot: (1) at the Annual Meeting, which will take place Tuesday November 16, 2010 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.; (2) at the SWCD office until 2:00 p.m. on November 16, 2010; or (3) vote absentee by requesting the proper absentee request forms from the SWCD office. Absentee ballots must be **received** in the Preble SWCD Office (**not postmarked**) no later than 2:00 p.m. on the day of the election.

One (1) Supervisor will be elected.



**To Request an Absentee Ballot** - Anyone who wishes to vote absentee in the election for District Supervisor may request an absentee ballot from the District. To receive an absentee ballot request form, please call the Preble SWCD Office at (937) 456-5159.



## What's "Bugging" Ash Trees - Emerald Ash Borer Update

Ash wood is both economically important and culturally iconic in the United States. It can be turned into furniture, flooring, cabinetry, tool handles, traditional baskets, landscape timbers and, of course, the baseball bats used to play the American pastime.

But native North American species of this hardwood are threatened by emerald ash borer (EAB), an exotic, invasive wood-boring insect that infests and kills ash trees, both in forests and landscape plantings. All major North American ash species including green, white, black, and blue ash have been killed by EAB, which infests trees ranging in size from saplings to fully mature trees. While most native borers kill only severely weakened trees, emerald ash borer kills healthy trees as well, making it especially devastating. Just like chestnut blight and Dutch elm disease before it, EAB is capable of eliminating an entire tree species from forests and cities.

EAB was unknown in North America until June 2002, when it was discovered killing ash trees in southeast Michigan and neighboring Windsor, Ontario. It has since spread to Ohio and other midwestern and eastern U.S. states. This beetle is native to eastern Russia and northeastern Asia, where it feeds on several species of ash. It was probably imported into Michigan via infested ash crating or pallets at least 15-20 years ago.

Emerald ash borer belongs to a group of metallic wood-boring beetles. Adults are dark green, one-half inch in length, one-eighth inch wide and fly from early May until September. Adults feed on foliage for one to two weeks prior to mating. Females produce about 50 to 100 eggs, which are laid individually on the bark surface or within bark cracks and crevices. As larvae hatch, they tunnel into the tree, where they feed through the summer and early fall on the phloem and outer sapwood, excavating S-shaped, serpentine galleries just under the bark. Larvae spend the rest of the year beneath the bark of ash trees and leave one-eighth inch wide D-shaped holes in the bark of the trunk and main branches when they emerge as adults the following year. The larval feeding disrupts the flow of carbohydrates and water between the canopy and roots of the tree, which results in canopy thinning, branch dieback and finally tree death, typically within two to four years of initial infestation.



Ash bark showing 1/8 inch wide, D-shaped exit hole

On September 8, 2010, the Ohio Department of Agriculture expanded the state's emerald ash borer quarantine to include all 88 counties. This follows recent confirmations of emerald ash borer in Wayne National Forest and takes into account the infestations in surrounding states.

The quarantine stipulates that ash materials and hardwood firewood cannot be taken from a quarantined area into a non-quarantined area. Despite the fact that quarantining the whole state will allow for ease of movement of ash materials and hardwood firewood between counties, it is recommended that Ohioans continue to exercise caution when moving these materials.

"Limiting firewood movement helps the state protect against the artificial spread of many pests in addition to emerald ash borer, including gypsy moth and Asian long-horned beetle," said Ohio Agriculture Director Robert Boggs. "The department strongly urges Ohioans to continue buying firewood locally."

The federal quarantine, enforced by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, still remains in effect. This quarantine makes it illegal to transport ash trees, parts of ash trees and all hardwood firewood out of the state of Ohio.

For more information on the emerald ash borer, visit [www.ashalert.osu.edu](http://www.ashalert.osu.edu).

*- Thanks to the Ohio Department of Agriculture and OSU Extension for information contained in this article -*

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