

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Just when you might have thought, “Is there anything on emerald ash borer (EAB) we haven’t heard yet?”—along comes more information.

In this issue of *The Wisconsin Arborist*, you will read about the current plan of action that the state will take if EAB is discovered in Wisconsin. This “eradication” plan follows guidelines that have been used in Michigan and currently was quoted as being successful in eradicating EAB in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

The key element of this plan, as you will read, is to remove all ash trees within a half-mile radius of an infected site. Furthermore, representatives from the DNR and DATCP are not recommending preventative treatments for EAB.

Personally, I had difficulty accepting the state’s seemingly rigid views about eradication with no room for the possibility of preventative treatments for ash trees. So, I wrote a letter to the Urban Forestry Council to express my concerns.

My letter was shared with Melody Walker, DATCP Plant Pest Survey and Jane Cummings-Carlson, DNR Forest Health Protection, who in return, were diligent in addressing some of my concerns.

Bottom line—the state’s response plan is dictated at the federal level and Wisconsin must follow the federal guidelines if it does not want the entire state to be quarantined, and if it is to receive federal dollars to control the problem, should an outbreak occur.

So, we now know that if there is to be any challenge for policy change, it needs to be at the federal level, which is a much bigger nut to crack.

Meanwhile, at the local level, it is important to keep our lines of communication open with all agencies involved. We have set tentative plans for meetings between the WAA, DNR and DATCP. We will continue to relay our concerns, keep abreast of the latest news from these organizations and relay the information to our members.

In our communities, we need to work together in an effort to keep EAB out of our state. For instance, firewood movement is considered the most likely way EAB will be introduced. We can all be diligent about supporting any regulations involving the movement of firewood (i.e., buying or reselling out-of-state firewood).

On the home front, we need to educate our customers and community members about the potential for many ash trees to become infected, the potential for preventative treatments to save ash trees, AND the potential for the government to mandate the removal of many ash trees—regardless if the trees have been treated or not.

Sincerely,

*Brian Cassity, President, WAA*