

President's MESSAGE

As a landscape architect and tree lover, I have utilized many woody plant varieties throughout the years. Some, such as silver maple and boxelder, are seldom used by professionals, yet we constantly see them in the landscape.



And so it is with green ash.

In college, the term “excessive twig-giness” was often used to describe the tree that was prone to excessive under-canopy dieback. For that reason, I rarely recommended green ash plantings until the new cultivar ‘Leprechaun’ was introduced; finally, a small type *Fraxinus* with a tight head for streets. And I never hesitated to recommend one of my favorites – the white ash.

But along comes the emerald ash borer, and again, you and I must reconsider the use of ash.

And so it is that emerald ash borer was just recently found just south of my Janesville home in two Illinois counties (Kane & Cook). With Illinois on my mind, I am reminded of Abraham Lincoln who was first elected to the presidency in November of 1860.

In the duration of time between his election and inauguration, eight states had already left the Union and Jefferson Davis had been named the Confederate president. In his March inauguration speech, Lincoln reminded us, “In your hands my dissatisfied fellow countrymen, and not in mine, is the momentous issue of civil war...”

And so it is, that amongst the myriad pressures from other insects, drought, developers, diseases, natural disasters, and other urban forest challenges, along comes the momentous issue of emerald ash borer. And so it is now, that I would like to remind you that the EAB issue is in your hands - distinguished professionals and members of the Wisconsin Arborist Association. We must band together to help educate the public and advocate for the ash trees.

How can we work together?

1. Please read, duplicate, and share the EAB information page in this newsletter (p.10).
2. Take time to learn the facts about treatment of ash trees and the current state protocol if EAB is found in Wisconsin.
3. Visit the UW Entomology EAB Website & recommend it to others – <http://www.entomology.wisc.edu/emeraldashborer/>.

Thanks so much for all that you do. I wish you a safe summer and healthy work days.

Sincerely,
David W. Graham