



Who Knew Adversity Would Bring out the Best in Us?

Well, folks, it's finally here. Emerald ash borer (EAB) has been confirmed in our state, and our forests could be forever changed. Now we have the opportunity to see how much our preparations will pay off.

The WAA, WDNR and WDATCP have been quite proactive in the effort to educate the public and the arborists of our state about EAB. It is you, the arborist, who will ultimately be charged with dealing with this pest. It may seem to some that we have over-emphasized EAB at our conferences and workshops, but I feel that our level of awareness will serve us well in the fight against EAB. We have an advantage over those in other states in that we have had time to learn and plan for this invasion. The WAA, WDATCP and WDNR have been progressive in developing policy on how we as a state should deal with EAB. The guidelines developed by these organizations give us a blueprint to use when dealing with our clients or communities. I encourage each member of the WAA to get up to speed on the most recent recommendations that have been developed.

You, the arborists of Wisconsin, are on the front line of this battle. As devastating as this pest can be, this can be a tremendous opportunity for us to raise the public's awareness of arboriculture. The eyes of the media and the citizens of our communities have turned to us for guidance and advice on how best to proceed. We must make sure to represent our profession and our science in the best way possible. We have already heard of EAB treatment



scams from various parts of the state. Let's not let this be the picture that is painted of the arborist. We each have a duty to uphold the highest ethical and professional standards, especially in this time of increased interest and attention to our field.

We are fortunate that we have been able to have so many groups collaborate to deal with this dilemma. I'm confident that if we continue to foster this atmosphere of teamwork, we will be able to avoid the devastation that has been witnessed in other states.

Josh DePouw,
WAA President