



GREENews

A quarterly newsletter published by the Hillsborough County Conservation District
Hillsborough County Conservation District
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The Attack of Invasive Pests Too Close to Home

With an outbreak of Asian long-horned beetles causing thousands of trees to be cut 40 miles away in Worcester, Mass., the Mason Conservation Commission is taking action.

By April 1, the Worcester area could lose 30,000 trees, which would be cut in an effort to keep the beetle infestation from spreading.

The Conservation Commission has scheduled a free invasive insects program for 7:30 at the Town Hall on Feb. 17, according to Con Com member Barbara DeVore, who is extending an invitation to conservation commissions and other concerned residents of the area.

"Asian long-horned beetles are down in Worcester," said DeVore. She said that, as a result, at least 6,000 trees were recently turned into huge piles of wood chips, as part of a \$24 million venture to eliminate the insects from the city.

According to Kyle Lombard, an entomologist and Forest Health Program coordinator with the N.H. Division of Forests and Lands, who will be giving the presentation in Mason in February, the city of Worcester is planning to destroy several thousand more trees in an attempt to stop the insect infestation.

"The goal in Worcester is to cut 30,000 trees by April 1," said Lombard. "There's no other control

for the beetle," because they dig too deeply into the trees for chemical pesticides to be effective.

Lombard said the insects migrated to the United States from China, but pinpointing exactly when and how they made their way to Worcester has proven difficult. "This thing jumped aboard a ship and found a whole continent of host trees," in New York, and then Worcester. "It's a global community."

Lombard said the insects traveled to America hidden in raw wood material used to pack shipping crates. "They are in the dunnage that shims loads so they don't rock," he said.

The beetles can also be found in cut cordwood, which is why Lombard recommends residents purchase cordwood from local suppliers only, rather than from outside sources.

"If somebody cuts down an infected tree in Worcester and comes to a second home on some pond in Mason, those beetles would emerge in June and July and infest trees in Mason. We need to make sure none of that material is taken out of the infested areas and not brought to New Hampshire."

As far as Lombard can tell, there is no evidence that the Asian long-horned beetle has made its way to the Granite State, but since Worcester has had the infestation problem for at least 10 years, there is a chance that some do exist in the

state. "We have no known infestation of Asian long-horned beetles in New Hampshire," said Lombard, "but the chances are really good that it's at least been introduced here."

As part of his presentation, Lombard plans a comparison study between the native long-horned beetles of New Hampshire and Asian long-horned beetles. "It's important that people recognize the difference," he said, because there are many native types. "The native long-horned beetle attacks dead and dying white pine trees," as opposed to the Asian long-horned beetle, which attacks healthy, live trees such as ash, beech, birch and maple.

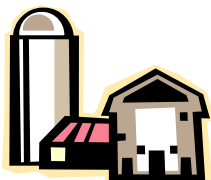
The Asian long-horned beetle is larger than the native long-horned beetle. "The Asian long-horned beetle is an inch to 2 inches long, with 2-inch antennas that come around and wrap behind," he said. "They are big, glossy, black and have a white spot on their back."

Article courtesy of Lizz D'Entremont, Monadnock Ledger-Transcript

To hear more about these invasive pests that are threatening our land, please attend our meeting on May 6th at the Milford Town Hall (see flyer insert).



Hillsborough County Landowners—Sign-up Now for Farm Bill Conservation Programs



If you are a landowner and are interested in protecting or preserving the natural resources on

your property through technical or financial assistance, or a conservation easement, now is the time to contact Krista Olson at the Milford Field Office to begin the conservation planning process.

“NRCS’ natural resources conservation programs help farmers and forest landowners promote environmental quality on farmland and forest land, address water quality and quantity challenges, and protect valuable wetland ecosystems, agricultural lands, and wildlife habitat,” said George Cleek, State Conservationist for New Hampshire. “The 2008 Farm Bill also provides targeted assistance to underserved, limited resource, beginner and minority farmers who would like to protect and preserve their land.”

Sign-up is underway for conservation programs under the 2008 Farm Bill. Applications for Farm Bill programs may be submitted at any time, and the first round of 2009 ranking and funding for programs in New Hampshire will begin on the following dates. If you are interested in any of these

conservation programs, contact Kerry Rickrode at the Hillsborough County Conservation District or Krista Olson, NRCS by calling 673-2409 to apply. For more information, visit <http://www.nh.nrcs.usda.gov>.

May 1, 2009 Apply on or before this date to be considered for funding in 2009 for the following programs:

Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) – This financial assistance program provides assistance to landowners who want to improve fish and wildlife habitat or restore natural ecosystems on their land.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) – This financial assistance program helps farmers and forest landowners address water quality, water conservation, invasive species control, soil quality, erosion control, nutrient and pest management, residue management, irrigation efficiency, energy conservation, air quality and other natural resource concerns.

Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA) – This financial assistance program helps farmers adopt conservation practices and investment strategies that will reduce or mitigate risks to their agricultural enterprises

May 15, 2009 Apply on or be-

fore this date to be considered for funding in 2009 for the following program:

Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP) – This easement program helps land conservation-focused partners assist farmers in keeping their land in agriculture. The program provides matching funds to our partners to purchase conservation easements.

May 29, 2009 Apply on or before this date to be considered for funding in 2009 for the following program:

Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) – This grant enables public and private entities to accelerate technology transfer and adoption of promising technologies and approaches to address some of the Nation’s most pressing natural resources concerns.

June 1, 2009 Apply on or before this date to be considered for funding in 2009 for the following program:

Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) – This easement program provides NRCS funding to purchase conservation easements, offering landowners the opportunity to protect, restore, and enhance grasslands on their property.

Come one, come all to hear about 2008 Farm Bill Conservation Programs

Krista Olson, NRCS & Kerry Rickrode, HCCD, will be hosting an informational workshop on conservation programs available through the 2008 Farm Bill on **Tuesday, April 21st from 6:30—8:30 PM at the Milford Town Hall**. Krista will explain how landowners can apply for financial and technical assistance from NRCS to promote conservation on farmland and forestland. For more information, please contact the office at 673-2409. Hope to see you there!

Burning Our Way to a Better Future

Biochar is charcoal created by the heating of a chemical substance which results in a product that can then be used to lock carbon in the soil. Biochar is a solution to reduce the global impact of farming and reduce the impact from all agricultural waste. It has received considerable interest as a potential tool to slow global warming. Biochar stores the carbon in the ground which could improve water quality, increase soil fertility and agricultural yields, and reduce pressure on old growth forests.

To learn more about using biochar in your own garden or on your farm, please plan to attend a **“Demonstration & Discussion of the Making & Use of Biochar”** on **Saturday, May 9th from 9 AM—4 PM at The Lodge at Pony Farm, Temple.** Cost is \$25, lunch provided. For more information and to pre-register, please contact Douglas Williams at 924-7008 or email douglaswilliams28@comcast.net.

Now Accepting Conservation/Natural Resources Scholarship Applications

A \$500 Scholarship will be awarded to an individual that will be graduating from High School, and is accepted into a program of study in the field of Agriculture, Forestry, Environmental Science, Soil Science, or a related Natural Resources program. Applications are due by **May 15th**. Please contact the office to receive an application at 673-2409.

Do Your Part to Celebrate Earth Day—April 22nd

Earth Day is a great time not only to assess our accomplishments protecting the air, water and land, but also to look to what other steps we can each take to protect our families and environment. Here are some simple ideas we can all do to promote a clean environment and healthy people.

Replace old-fashioned incandescent light bulbs with an energy-efficient compact fluorescent one. It uses 75 percent less energy and lasts about 10 times longer than an incandescent bulb. You will save money on energy bills and help produce fewer greenhouse gases.

Don't burn household debris and yard waste. Instead, create a compost pile or purchase an Earth Machine bin to store your waste. Visit www.earthmachine.com for more information.

Ensure that **household chemicals and pesticides are securely stored** out of reach of children and pets. When using these products, **read the label first** to learn how to safely use the product. Bring your **household toxins** to a local **Household Hazardous Waste** collection. Contact your local town office for locations or if in the Nashua area, attend the Nashua Regional Planning Commission's col-

lection on **May 2nd from 8 AM—12 PM in Milford.**

If you're in the market for a car, consider a **hybrid** model. You will get better gas mileage and your car will produce fewer emissions that create air pollution, including greenhouse gases.

When shopping for new appliances, **look for the Energy Star label.** This will save you money on your energy bills, help reduce demand on power plants and reduce emissions to the air.

Recycle everything you can: paper, cardboard, cans, plastic, glass, electronics. Contact your town to find out which products they can accept.

Carpool when possible! Combine errands, take public transportation, ride a bicycle or walk. You will reduce road congestion and reduce emissions to the air.

Plant a Tree! A tree provides shade, habitat for birds and wildlife, and beauty, but is a thoughtful legacy for future generations. **HCCD still has some trees, shrubs and flower bulbs available for sale. Please contact the office for more information. 673-2409**

**Information courtesy of www.epa.gov*



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Kerry Rickrode, District Manager

NRCS Staff:

Krista Olson, Acting District Conservationist

Help GREENews “Go Green”

In an effort to become more environmentally conscious while still being able to offer our quarterly newsletter, The Hillsborough County Conservation District would like to offer an alternate e-newsletter format to individuals who have an e-mail address. As we all know, costs have increased tremendously, and by providing this electronic newsletter, it will assist HCCD in maintaining its annual budget. Please send Kerry Rickrode (kerry.rickrode@nh.nacdnet.net) your e-mail to begin receiving the e-newsletter version. Put “Subscribe” in the Subject field.

