

August 25, 2006

## Emerald Ash Bore Update

The following information was received from an Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDA) representative this week;

- EAB Program issues on the state side of this issue are beginning to become clearer with resource needs becoming clearer and assistance requests starting to be realized.
- The demand on my time from the public, industry, and community governments has been at times almost overwhelming. But it really shows people are paying attention to the EAB issue and should help us all manage EAB
- Regarding estimates of ash trees in forested areas: Experiences of EAB affected States preceding Illinois have shown us that there are methods and formulas to achieve pretty accurate inventory counts in forest situations especially combined with good aerial photo's that we have available.
- Regarding potential impacts on forest environment: The Fish and Wildlife Service will be reviewing our survey results which should address potential impacts along with any threatened or endangered species they may find.
- Regarding the need for four man tree survey teams: Originally ( the first two survey days) we operated with two man crews. It became apparent this was extremely slow, especially with the equipment at our disposal. Each of the 4 crew members has a specific duty. Crew member #1 is the spokesperson and talks to each individual homeowner if they are home. This is generally the most knowledgeable, presentable, and professional person. This is usually quite time consuming. Crew member #2 carries with them a large aerial photo square mile map, this person physically plots each inventoried ash on the map. Crew member #3 locates and gets GPS coordinates of each individual ash. This person also records the dbh (diameter at breast height) of each individual ash. Crew member #4 follows #3 and physically records all the GPS coordinates and dbh's in a spreadsheet format to be later entered in a data base. #4 also physically records on the spreadsheet whether the ash are street trees, front yard, back yard, commons to the best of his ability, and ash in the edge of woodlots. #4 also records special circumstances that may cause difficulties. This week we have trained three to four new surveyors. We should finish the survey the end of this week and have a forest # to add to it late next week.

Bill Miller, Windings HOA President