

Annual Meeting: EAB – Planning for an Ash Free Future

By Bruce Breitmeyer

Mark your calendars now for the NYSAF Annual Meeting on January 27-28, 2011, at the DoubleTree Hotel in East Syracuse. The major topic of the meeting will be Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). We have heard in the past that it is not a question of “if” EAB would be in New York, but “when” EAB would hit the state. Well, that time has come and now what do we do.

The keynote speaker will be David Sivyer, Forestry Services Manager for the City of Milwaukee. Mr. Sivyer will detail Milwaukee’s strategies for preparing and responding to this devastating pest. Learn how we should be assessing and managing the risk associated with EAB or any other major incident for that matter. Maybe you should register and bring to the meeting your local government officials to learn what is entailed in “planning for an ash free future.”

The general session will focus on more specifics of EAB including biology, mitigation, and research. Concurrent sessions will include more on EAB preparedness, regulations, long-term plans, material exports, and everything else you need to know.

We will also have agency updates from ESFPA, NYS DEC, NYS Agriculture and Markets, and the Wood Products Council.

Are you already prepared and know everything about EAB, then attend the concurrent sessions on oil and gas leasing, hot topics in forest certification, DEC Strategic Plan for State Forest Management, or an update on new DEC Threatened and Endangered Species Part 182 regulations. There will also be the always well prepared and presented Graduate Student Presentations and evening poster session. Interested in the most recent changes to Tree Farm standards or need the required Tree Farm Inspectors training, then attend the session that will give you all the latest updates.

Also, we will have NYSAF awards at our luncheon and a few words from the President of the Society of American Foresters, New York’s own, Roger Dziengeleski. Various exhibitors will be on-site throughout the meeting providing us with the latest information on their services and products. Bob O’Brien (bob@cottonhanlon.com) will be running the always popular NYSAF Development Fund drawings that everyone has been gracious enough to donate to over the years. Make sure to contact Bob with items to donate and bring some extra cash for tickets and the silent auction. Come early on Wednesday, January 26 (2-6 pm), to attend the NYSAF Executive Committee meeting for discussions on important NYSAF issues. Don’t forget that as always there will opportunities to network with colleagues and students (i.e. future colleagues) during the meeting.

Registration for the meeting can be done on-line at www.safnet.org. Go to the “event calendar” and follow the directions. Breakfast and lunch on both Thursday and Friday are included with the meeting registration. We have expanded the meeting this year by an additional half day on Friday in response to members requesting more opportunity for CFE credits. See the full agenda and mail-in registration form in the New York Forester. Contact the DoubleTree, Carrier Circle, East Syracuse, (315-432-0200) to make room reservations (Group code: SAF). If you have any questions, please contact me at breitmeyer@esf.edu or 518-582-4551 x105. See everyone at the meeting in January.