



# Branching Out

## Tree Seminar for Northern Kentucky Public Workers Open to Everyone

The NKUCFC is pleased to announce its Fifth Annual Tree Seminar for Northern Kentucky Public Workers, to be held Thursday, March 18, 2004, at the Florence Government Center, 8100 Ewing Blvd.

As the title implies, this program is specifically designed for public works employees assigned, in addition to many other important tasks, the responsibility for care of street and park trees. Although designed for public works employees the program is open to the public, with members of local tree boards, garden clubs and landscape businesses es-

pecially encouraged to attend.

The 2004 day-long program will provide excellent training for those with limited tree care experience. It will also serve well for continuing education to individuals with previous arboriculture training. Main topics will include tree species selection, planting, pruning and maintenance; with the afternoon session held outside, at the Boone County Arboretum, for hands-on application.

Local horticulture and

forestry professionals will be on hand to lead the discussions. Attendees are encouraged to bring their questions, samples and photographs related to any tree concerns.

Program cost, including a buffet lunch and handouts, is \$10.00 a person prior to March 8 and \$15.00 thereafter. Seating is limited, so early registration is encouraged. Program information and registration details are available through Mark Leopold at NKU, Center for Applied Ecology, 572-7590, leopoldm@nku.edu.

## Meeting Planned to Get Public Input on the Banklick Watershed

*By: Melissa Jort, NKAPC*

A public meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 24, 2004, to obtain public input on the issues affecting water resources in the Banklick Watershed. This meeting is the first of a series to be held as part of an ongoing study by the Northern Kentucky Area Planning Commission and its project partners, including: Davey Resource Group, the Banklick Watershed Council, the Northern Kentucky Urban and Community Forestry Council, the Kenton County Conservation District, Sanitation District No. 1 and the Boone County Planning Commission.

The project, which is entitled "Banklick Analy-

sis, Characterization and Education" (BACE), is being carried out with federal cost-share grant monies awarded last summer by the US Forest Service. The project will focus on developing, implementing, and documenting a process for assessing the value of urban and community forests in water resource and watershed management. An analysis of geographic information systems (GIS) data, aerial photography and citizen input will identify target areas where urban forestry techniques can benefit the watershed.

Interested citizens and residents are encouraged to attend this important meeting on February 24<sup>th</sup>. A brief presentation of the project will be given starting at 6:00 p.m., followed by a focus group workshop where everyone will be given an opportunity to participate. The meeting will take place at Summit View Middle School, 5002 Madison Pike in Independence, KY. For more information, please contact the Larisa Keith or Melissa Jort at the Northern Kentucky Area Planning Commission at (859) 331-8980.

# New Educational Stormwater Management Program Available

By: Jenny Gulick, Davey Resource Group

With stormwater regulations and fees going into effect and with the continued development of northern Kentucky, it is important, now more than ever, to understand the role trees and natural systems can play in effectively managing stormwater runoff and water quality.

Sanitation District No. 1 just completed an educational, interactive computer stormwater model that demonstrates the effectiveness of "Green BMPs" on reducing stormwater run-off and improving water quality. "Green BMPs" are non-structural, best management practices that can be used on development sites to control stormwater runoff and decrease pollutants entering water resources.

The Council supported and contributed to this project. The development of this educational model was partially funded by a National

Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council grant, and has brought national attention to the Banklick Watershed.

The objective of this project was to develop a scientifically based model to predict the quality and quantity of stormwater runoff under various development scenarios. The model and computerized visualizations are used to demonstrate the effectiveness of "green" BMPs and appropriate land use planning on the site specific and watershed levels where urban growth is projected to occur.

This user-friendly, interactive program has many other educational functions:

- A glossary of technical terms
- Presentation of all data in text and graphic formats
- Access to complete engineering and stormwater data and calculations used in developing

the model

- Access to Technical Fact Sheets about individual "Green BMPs"
- Direct links to websites containing more information about "Green BMPs" and stormwater management issues

Sanitation District No. 1 and the Council believe that this program is a powerful educational tool that can benefit and be used by many people and groups --- urban foresters, stormwater managers, urban planners, developers, government staff, elected officials, non-profit conservation groups, and citizens alike.

You can access, use, and download the program free-of-charge from the Sanitation District's website [www.sd1.org](http://www.sd1.org). If you want more information, you can contact either Erin Pleiman, SD 1 at 859-578-6765 [eculp@sd1.org](mailto:eculp@sd1.org) or Jenny Gulick, Davey Resource Group at 513-772-3159 [jgulick@davey.com](mailto:jgulick@davey.com).

## Database Available To Help Northern Kentucky Tree Planters

By: Mark Leopold, NKU Center for Applied Ecology

The NKUCFC announces an exciting new "tool" to assist tree planting decisions in Northern Kentucky. Partnering with Northern Kentucky University's Center for Applied Ecology, a Tree Planting Database - containing information for over 400 trees hardy to the Northern Kentucky Region - is now available on NKUCFC's web site: [www.nkyurbanforestry.org](http://www.nkyurbanforestry.org) (which is also an excellent web site for links to tree publications, urban forestry information, and NKUCFC grants and other programs).

The Tree Planting Database is a comprehensive electronic database of tree species suitable for planting in the Northern Kentucky region. It will be valuable to anyone involved in the planning and planting of trees in home landscapes, parks, commercial properties, neighborhood streets, and forest restoration areas. Tree board members, community volunteers, public workers, urban planners, landscapers, and homeowners interested in making informed decisions regarding urban tree planting will find the site especially helpful.

The Tree Planting Database is a "Spreadsheet" of information including a tree's common name, scientific name, potential height and width, general form, soil and shade considerations, notable flower or fruit, and other characteristics of importance to the planting site, design, health, and maintenance. The Database also contains a "Query" program which allows individuals to search specific tree information to suit a particular site: for example, one could look up trees that grow to a maximum height of 30 feet, have a maximum width of 25 feet, and can be planted in soil of clay texture and high pH. A "Tutorial" is included to assist users in accessing the Spreadsheet and Query programs (and we recommend all first time users review the Tutorial).

Although the Tree Planting Database is up and running for public use, it

is far from 100% complete. There is much tree characteristic information that needs input from professional landscape, nursery and arborist professionals (a Feedback form is available on the Database to encourage such additions and revisions). Efforts are also in place to eliminate the home computer software presently required to view the "Spreadsheet" (Microsoft Excel) and to run the "Query" (Microsoft Access). In addition, photographs for many of the listed trees will be included when additional funding is received.

We look forward to the long term availability and continued upgrade of this much needed tree planting information program, and we hope you use it often through the years. Also be sure to pass the web site to others who could benefit from its use. Additional information about the Tree Planting Database program can be directed to Mark Leopold at NKU, Center for Applied Ecology, 572-7590, [leopoldm@nku.edu](mailto:leopoldm@nku.edu).



# Emerald Ash Borer

By: DJ. Scully, U.K., Campbell County Extension Agent

I want to bring to your attention a new pest that has been found in Michigan and lately in Ohio and Maryland. The emerald ash borer (EAB), *Agrilus planipennis* (Coleoptera: Buprestidae), was discovered infesting and killing thousands of ash trees (*Fraxinus* spp.)



in the Detroit area in July 2002. The beetle has emerald green wing covers and is larger and brighter green than any of the native species. It is believed that EAB first entered Michigan at least 5 to 10 years ago, presumably from solid wood packing materials used to transport manufactured goods. Most recently, EAB was found in August in northwest Ohio near a manufacturer of

implement handles who imported about 8,000 logs from Michigan in the past 12 months. EAB was most recently found in Maryland at a garden center who received a delivery of plants from Michigan. Both areas are being surveyed to determine how far the beetle has migrated out.

Michigan and Ohio have imposed state quarantines on movement of ash trees and ash wood products to limit human-assisted spread of this pest. The USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service issued a Federal quarantine on the EAB-infested portions of Ontario. In Michigan, this borer has been observed only on ash trees. It has killed green ash (*F. pennsylvanica*), white ash (*F. americana*) and black ash (*F. nigra*). The trees die when burrowing larvae girdle the conducting tissues along the main trunk. Many trees seem to lose 30 to 50% of the canopy after the first year of attack and the entire tree is often killed after 2-3 years of infestation. Stress likely contributes to

vulnerability. However, relatively vigorous trees have also been killed by this exotic species.

Ash occurs extensively in the natural and urban forests of the Eastern United States. In 2001, ash accounted for more than 149 million cubic feet of timber products nationwide. It is estimated that there are more than a billion ash trees in the United States, of which about 800 million occur in Michigan. Ash is planted extensively in cities and towns as a hardy urban shade tree. The quarantines restrict movement of ash logs, lumber, firewood and nursery stock.

More information can be found on the web at:

<http://www.michigan.gov/mda/0,1607,7-125--65294--,00.html>  
[http://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/pest\\_al/eab/eab.htm](http://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/pest_al/eab/eab.htm)  
[http://www.msue.msu.edu/reg\\_se/roberts/ash/eab\\_threat03.pdf](http://www.msue.msu.edu/reg_se/roberts/ash/eab_threat03.pdf)  
<http://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/eab/>



**Hardy Cedar of Lebanon** (*Cedrus libani* var. *stenocoma*) at the Boone County Arboretum (see **Kris's Corner**)

A few regional sources include:

Goshen Gardens Nursery, Inc.  
P.O. Box 161  
Goshen, KY 40026  
(502) 228-1733

Klyn Nurseries Inc. (Wholesale to the trade, and municipal)  
3322 South Ridge Road  
P.O. Box 343  
Perry, OH 44081  
1-800-860-8104  
Website: <http://www.klynnurseries.com>

Oikos Tree Crops (Mail Order)  
P.O. Box 19425  
Kalamazoo, MI 49019-0425  
Website: <http://www.oikostreecrops.com>

Other varieties to consider for our area:

*Cedrus libani* 'Purdue Hardy'—More pendulous branch tips, dense growth, and hardy to at least -27F. Originated at Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN.

*Cedrus deodara* 'Shalimar'—Most cold tolerant variety of Deodar Cedar withstanding -15F with no damage, and more graceful pendulous habit than Cedar of Lebanon. Needles are blue-green.

**NORTHERN KENTUCKY URBAN &  
COMMUNITY FORESTRY COUNCIL**

c/o Boone County Extension Service  
P.O. Box 876  
Burlington, KY 41005  
Phone: 859-572-2600

***Creating an awareness about the  
value of urban forestry in Northern  
Kentucky Communities.***

**We're on the Web!**  
**[www.nkyurbanforestry.org](http://www.nkyurbanforestry.org)**

## **KRIS'S CORNER**

Contributed by Kris Stone, Certified Arborist and Director of the Boone County Arboretum at Central Park

**Kris's Corner focuses on recommended and often overlooked high quality urban tree species.**

**Hardy Cedar of Lebanon** (*Cedrus libani* var. *stenocoma*) - Early last century, the Arnold Arboretum sent a plant collector to Asia Minor to obtain seeds of the Cedar of Lebanon from the coldest area in which it was known to grow, the Cilician Taurus Mountain range within southwestern Turkey at an elevation of 7,000 feet. The Arnold Arboretum received seeds collected at the expedition in 1902 with the resulting trees being decidedly hardier than those originating in warmer climates. This hardy race is *Cedrus libani* var. *stenocoma*, the Hardy Cedar of Lebanon. In Northern Kentucky this is the selection proven to withstand our coldest winters. Trees in numerous locations throughout the Ohio Valley have endured -25 to -30 F lows with no lasting effect other than a few lost needles that were quickly replaced the following spring.

The Cedar of Lebanon will attain a height of 125 feet in its native range, probably less under cultivation. It is pyramidal and very

formal in habit when young, with open stiff branches, but develops massive spreading branches and becomes flat topped with age.

The dark green leaves of this true Cedar are stiff, needle-like and three-fourths to one and one fourth inches long. Female cones are upright and barrel-shaped, 3-5" long by 2-2 1/2" wide, purple-brown in color, and require two years to mature. The cones break up and fall to the ground at maturity. Male cones are upright cylindrical catkins about two inches long that shed yellow pollen at maturity during the fall of the year. Both male and female cones appear on the same tree.

It should be noted that the genus *Cedrus* comprises the true Cedars. Our native Eastern Redcedar is not a true Cedar, and is in fact a Juniper belonging to the genus *Juniperus*, species *virginiana*. The key difference being that Junipers all have scale-like, or very small single needled foliage along with small cones comprised of several scales that become

fleshy and fused together to resemble berries that are in fact cones. True Cedars have very large by comparison upright cones with many scales that shatter on the tree at maturity leaving only the cone axis.

The best growing site for Hardy Cedar of Lebanon is rich, deep, well-drained loam and open sunny conditions. Cedars are intolerant of shade and wet soil conditions, though they tolerate calcareous soils (limestone based), heat, and drought very well. This adaptability lends the tree to be more widely used in Northern Kentucky, for the soils and climate here match very well its native conditions. This tree makes a great alternative to the plague of White Pine monoculture in our area.

Local sources for the tree are limited, but regionally it is available.