

# New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

## Division of Lands and Forests – 5<sup>th</sup> Floor

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Joe Martens  
Commissioner

Dear Concerned Citizen,

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is a destructive invasive insect that has already killed over 50 million ash trees in neighboring states, and has now been detected in seven counties in New York State. The first step to effectively manage EAB is to identify current infestations, and slow the spread. To do this, we need more people aware of the insect to be able to report possible infestations, and to help slow the spread by not transporting firewood.

This year NYS DEC is working to get a Governor's Proclamation for Emerald Ash Borer Awareness Week. EAB Awareness Week has been proclaimed by many other states for the past several years. This will be the first year for New York. We hope to have a press release about it, but in addition we need to take actions to increase EAB outreach and awareness.

This year, we would like to implement the EAB ash tree tagging program. This is an outreach tactic that other states have used, and has been reported as very successful. To do this we will create and print cards (or tags) that will be attached to ash trees using ribbon to tie around the tree. Please see the attached picture for an example of what the tag will say.

The goal is to get as many ash trees tagged as possible during awareness week (May 22- 28). To do this we will need many volunteers across the state to place tags in their local community, or park/recreation area. If you or your organization would like to participate in this project to tag ash trees, please contact the DEC at the contact information listed below by April 29<sup>th</sup>. NYS DEC will provide you with all the tags and ribbon that you need.

In addition, I will also need to know the intended location for deployment of the tags to guarantee that we do not have overlap between groups, so please let me know the specific locations of tag deployment (neighborhood, park name etc.). Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) will also be doing this project for Arbor Day, and they will hopefully leave their tags up through Awareness Week as well. CCE will be sharing their deployment sites with me to avoid overlap.

The tags can be removed anytime. However, I do recommend removing them before the end of summer, to avoid them breaking and becoming litter. Plus, some land owners may only want them left up for a week or so.



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Possible sites for tagging: (remember to get permission from land owners early, try to pick locations that are heavily visited, and do as many sites as possible!)

County, City or Town parks

Community street trees

Forest recreation areas: trailheads, Campgrounds, other popular spots

Also, if you are near current EAB infested areas (see map on next page), focus around towns near infestations.

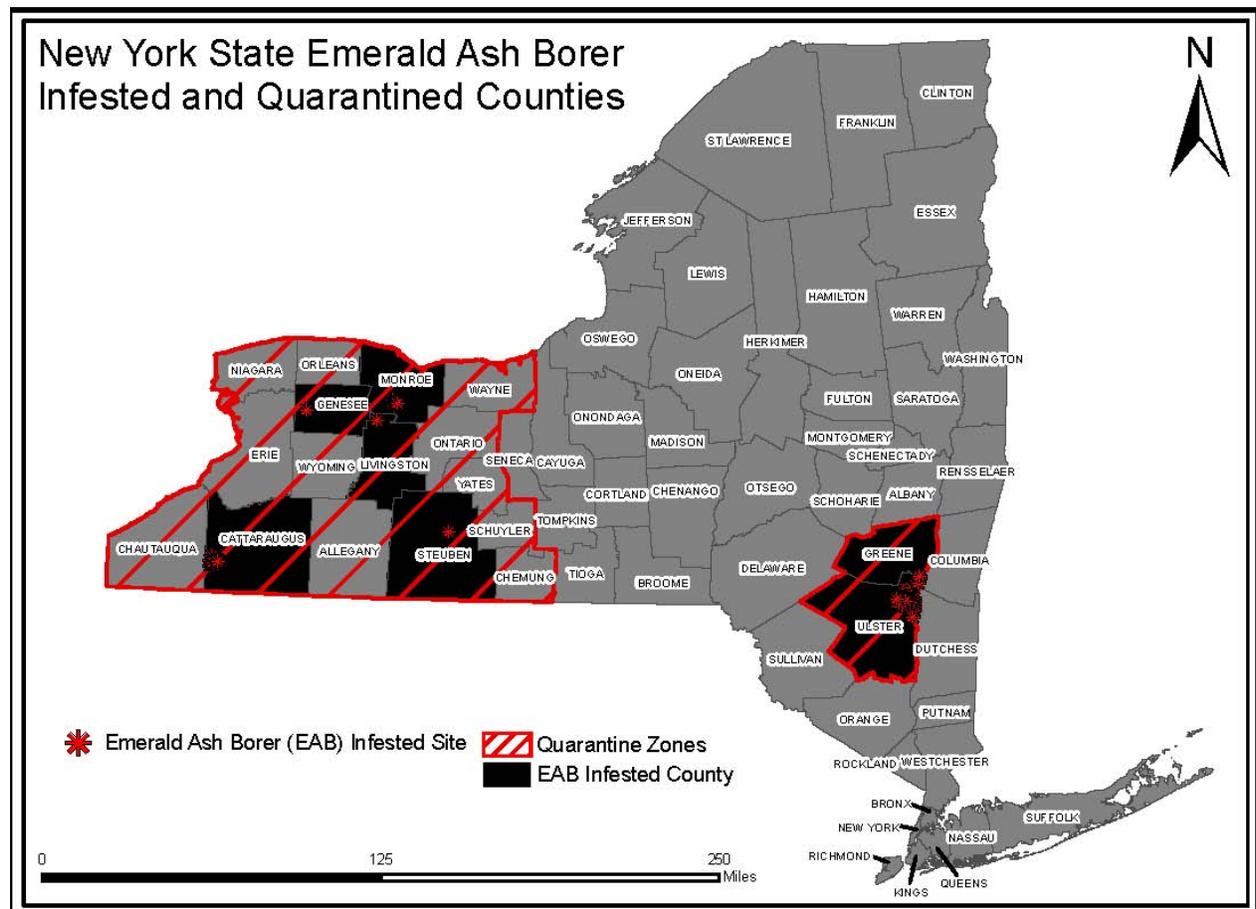
I hope you are as excited about this project as I am, and please let me know if you have any ideas on how we can make this a success.

Jason Smith

NYSDEC Division of Lands and Forests

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[See Tag Photo NEXT PAGE](#)

