



Elk Lick Echo

Winter 2010

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The D-shaped exit hole of an Emerald Ash Borer. Photo courtesy of Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources - Forestry Archive, Bugwood.org

Help us save on printing and postage costs by receiving your newsletter via email and in color! Send an email to Floracliff@aol.com and include your name and address so that we can make the changes. Thank you!

Nature Center Status

By: Charley Sither, Board President

I am pleased to announce the start of construction of the “Winifred W. Haggart” Nature Center. When completed, it will provide office space for our small staff, a library, a multi-purpose room for group activities, and a break-room, restrooms and storage areas. The building will also be fully handicap accessible. The winter weather going forward will be a challenge but looking at the bright side, contractors and vendors are more apt to give us reduced rates during what is normally a slow period. Stay tuned for an ‘Open Housewarming’ this spring.

The late Ms. Haggart, a friend of Dr. Wharton’s, is the benefactor of this worthwhile project. But without the professional help and generosity of the following individuals, I’d still be waking up each morning wondering how to navigate the challenging (and frustrating) zoning, permitting and construction planning process: Chris Edling, Kerry Willett and Dennis Anderson of Anderson Community Properties; Bill Rodgers and Jim Potts, James W. Potts Architects; John Park, Yunker & Associates; and Kay Wright, Rector Haydon Realtors. More recent donors of materials and services include Vulcan Materials (gravel), Haynes Trucking (hauling), and Kentucky Utilities. Please join me in thanking these folks.



The front and left side elevations depict what the Winifred W. Haggart Nature Center will look like. Images provided by James W. Potts Architects.

The Emerald Ash Borer Threatens Central Kentucky Trees

By: Beverly James, Preserve Manager

In May of 2009, the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) was discovered to be in two Kentucky counties, Jessamine and Shelby. By mid-July, it was confirmed in 7 counties and a quarantine was placed for 20 counties, including Fayette county. The EAB is a green, metallic beetle native to Asia that arrived in the United States through wood packing material. The larvae feed on the inner bark of ash trees, affecting their ability to transport water and nutrients, which eventually kills them. In June of 2002, the EAB was first identified in southeast Michigan and has since killed tens of millions of ash trees. The USDA estimates that Fayette County has approximately 511,000 ash trees. This includes white, blue, and green ash trees that are found along streets and in yards, parks, greenways, and forests, including Floracliff. It is probable that many of these trees will be affected by the EAB.

People can help in slowing the spread of the EAB. While the insect can only fly one-half to two miles in a year, it can move many miles through transportation of infested ash wood. It is important to not move firewood and to understand and comply with the quarantine. More information on the quarantine can be found at <http://pest.ca.uky.edu/EXT/EAB/welcome.html>.

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Identifying ash trees and recognizing the signs of EAB can also be helpful in monitoring the EAB. The Lexington Tree Board organized many volunteers who flagged ash trees throughout Lexington. Ash trees along the streets were marked with green flagging, which can assist those unfamiliar with the trees. All ash trees are oppositely branched with compound leaves composed of 5-9 leaflets. Signs of the EAB includes canopy dieback, 1/8" D-shaped exit holes in the bark, S-shaped tunnels under the bark, new sprouts growing from the base of the tree, vertical splits in the bark, and woodpecker damage. If you suspect an EAB infestation, you can call the EAB Hotline at 866-322-4512.

If you live within 15 miles of a known infestation, now is a good time to think about treatment options for ash trees on your property. Treatment options currently consist of treating the trees with insecticides or removing an ash tree and replacing it with a different species. More information about the EAB, including resources for treatment options, professional arborists, and lists of trees for replacement can be found at the following websites:

<http://www.ca.uky.edu/entomology/entfacts/ef453.asp>

<http://www.emeraldashborer.info/>

<http://www.KyStateEnt.org>

Ash trees with new shoots coming from the base of the tree like the one to the right are a sign of Emerald Ash Borer infestation. Photo courtesy of Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources - Forestry Archive, Bugwood.org



Adult EAB. Photo courtesy of David Cappaert, Michigan State University, Bugwood.org

Our Wish List

Please contact Beverly James at 859-351-7770 or floracliff@aol.com if you wish to donate any of the following items. All donations are tax deductible.

- Handheld GPS
- Tools (hand tool or power tools)
- Regional field guides
- Gift certificate to hardware or office supply store
- Work gloves
- Spray bottles
- Birding binoculars

Many Thanks!

2009 Donors

Acorns:

Christine Barton
Ramesh and Suzanne Bhatt
Claire Carpenter
Patsy Corns
Alan Fryer
Charles Gregg
Cecil McFarland
Joe Willett

Shooting stars:

Charles and Catherine Bishop
Dennis Chambers
W. R. & Nancy McDuffie
Mr. And Mrs. Richard Parks
Donna Pizzuto
Barbara Ruff
Meg Shaw

Spicebushes:

David and Karma Cassidy

Lib and Rick Dirkson
Down to Earth Garden Club

David Elbon
Lillian Jones
Leyton Register

John Sither
Clara Wieland

Dogwoods:

William Elwood
James Wagner

Hickories:

Charles Dirksen

Old Oak Trees:

Charles Sither
Bob and Ann Wilson

2009 Hike leaders

Beverly James
Tommy Kuhlman
Ciara Lockstadt

Rob Paratley
Neil Pederson
Ryan Quire
Charles Sither
Deborah White
Hank Yacek

2009 Volunteers

John Baggerman
Daniel Carubb
Laura Cockrell
Bill Crankshaw
Erin Cutler
Tiniqua Gay
Laura Goble
Colin Goggin
Laura Goode
Paul Harp
Amanda Heltzel
Edgar Hume
Tamarika Jackson

Roberta James
Angela Lovins
Claudia Marin
Brad McLeod
Montessori Middle School
Gerrica Morton
Will Overbeck
Louise Peppe
David Reigel
David Robertson
Leigh Ann Robertson
Bill Rodgers
Danielle Runyon
Stephanie Shaw
Charles Sither
John Sither
Robin Sither
Kristen Thompson
Angela Woodward
Kay Wright

Schedule of Events

All events require advance registration. Cost is \$4 per person or \$10.00 per family unless otherwise noted. Most programs last 2-3 hours. Call 859-351-7770 to register or for more information.

Interpretive Hikes

Saturday, February 13th @ 1:00 p.m.: Winter Tree Identification

Warm up on this hike to Elk Lick Creek. Preserve Manager Beverly James will discuss how to identify trees by looking at their bark, buds, and leaf scars.

Saturday, March 13th @ 1:00 p.m.: Signs of Spring w/ Beverly James

We can't make any guarantees, but hopefully we'll see some of the early risers such as purple cress, trout lilies, and snow trilliums.

Saturday, March 27th @ 1:00 p.m.: Wildflowers and Their History with Native Americans w/ Tommy Kuhlman

Native Americans used many of our native plants for food, medicine, fiber, ceremonies, and much more. Floracliff field tech, Tommy Kuhlman, will discuss many of these uses with a focus on what's in bloom.

Tuesday, March 30th @ 10:00 a.m.: Mid-week Wildflower Hike

This will be a chance to catch the spring wildflower display for those with some free time during the week.

Saturday, April 3rd @ 1:00 p.m.: Wildflower Folklore w/ Ryan Quire

Many of our wildflowers have interesting historical uses and superstitions or neat stories about how they were named. Floracliff field tech, Ryan Quire, will discuss the fun facts of wildflowers on this hike to Elk Lick Creek.

Saturday, April 17th @ 10:00 a.m.: Wildflower Hike w/ Brian Yahn

Brian Yahn, ecologist with the Kentucky State Nature preserves Commission, will lead this wildflower hike. Celandine poppies, dwarf larkspur, nodding trilliums, and shooting stars should be in full bloom!

Please check our event page on our website for any additions to the schedule:

www.floracliff.org/events.html

Weed Warrior Days - free!

Saturday, January 2nd, 10 am-1 pm
Saturday, February 6th, 10 am-1 pm
Saturday, March 6th, 10 am-1 pm

Volunteer activities will involve assisting with the removal of exotic plants from the preserve. This is part of an ongoing effort to protect our native species and we rely on the help of volunteers. Please call ahead to register and receive more information at 859-351-7770. If you are interested in helping out on any other day, give us a call and we can work something out!

**THE MARY E.
WHARTON NATURE
SANCTUARY AT
FLORA CLIFF**

P. O. Box 4006
Lexington, KY 40544

Phone: 859-351-7770
Email: floracliff@aol.com
Web address: www.floracliff.org

Floracliff is a non-profit organization. We rely on support from community members like you. Please support preservation in your region.

Yes! I would like to contribute a tax-deductible gift to Floracliff.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Email _____

Amount enclosed _____ Date _____

- \$25 - \$49 acorn
- \$50 - \$99 shooting star
- \$100 - \$299 spicebush
- \$300 - \$499 dogwood
- \$500 - \$999 hickory
- \$1000+ old oak tree
- other

Please make checks payable to Floracliff and mail to:
Floracliff, P. O. Box 4006, Lexington, KY 40544.



**P.O. Box 4006
Lexington, KY 40544**

Address correction requested