

# Treeways

March 2012

I love how the trees form a welcoming embrace around our family's home and give us the tranquility that we desire in our little slice of heaven in Sunfish Lake. I have heard that a beetle (EAB) is coming that will kill all the ash trees in Minnesota. I know I have ash trees in our woods ...should I just wait to see if it passes over us ...should I wait till it gets here ...or should I be doing something now?

While EAB has not yet been found in Sunfish Lake, it has been found within four miles of us. Based on historic data that means it is probably even closer. If you are thinking about protecting a legacy ash in your yard or taking positive action to limit the threat that EAB may make your ash woodland into a prairie, **2012 is the year to start**. There are good options for saving individual ash trees however saving a predominantly ash woodland is financially and practically impossible.

As your Forester I believe that I should be willing to take the action that I recommend. In fact I started reforesting our little place on Horseshoe Lake almost immediately after we moved here. Three winters ago we had 27 large, mature ash trees on the boundaries of our property and they were all important to our landscape. During winter 2009-2010 I removed seven of the largest ash trees to make room for new trees because I know it is just a matter of time before EAB gets here. Last winter I removed four more ash trees and this winter I will remove a few more. By the time EAB is devastating the ash woodlands around this area our young trees will be rapidly filling in the spots previously filled with doomed ash trees. We may have lost our ashes but we will still live in a beautiful woodland.

April is a good time to **control garlic mustard**.

Recommended Controls:

1. For small infestations pull by hand when they are young plants.
2. Spray large infestations with Roundup in the **early spring** when the garlic mustard is up and growing and **the native plants are still dormant**.
3. Spray large infestations with Roundup in the **late fall** when the garlic mustard is up and growing and **the native plants have gone dormant**.
4. Garlic mustard is a biennial weed so cutting off the flower stem at the ground level before it produces seed will help keep it from spreading. Collect the seed stalks, dry them and use them for starter for your next recreational fire.

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