

European Oak Borer Discovered in New York

In 2009 the European oak borer (EOB), *Agrilus sulcicollis* Lacordaire (Buprestidae), was reported as a new record for the United States when it was identified from a trap collection in Michigan from 2003. More recently, EOB was found in a trap in Brockport, New York (Monroe County). This is a new state record and the second state in the United States from which this species has been reported. EOB was reported in Ontario, Canada in February 2009 (www.pestalert.org/oprDetail.cfm?oprID=362). This beetle may have been overlooked due its similarity to an *Agrilus* that feeds on honey-suckle.

Agrilus sulcicollis is considered an economic pest that may be a factor of oak decline in Europe, but recent literature describes this beetle as more of a secondary pest – meaning that it typically attacks trees that area already stressed. EOB prefers to infest upper parts of the stems, branches, and smaller sized host trees. The beetle also inhabits freshly cut timber. EOB is native to most

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Make a Cheap Moisture Meter - Part I

There are too many gadgets here at the farm, and while I want a moisture meter, I don't want to buy one. I just want to know when firewood is "seasoned" and when our lumber is dry enough for homestead woodworking projects. Could I make one for moisture levels between 10% and 30% at little to no cost?

A definitive (and destructive) way to measure the moisture content of a wood sample is to weigh it, then cook it properly until its weight does not change (the "dry" weight). The moisture content can then be calculated by the difference in weight as a percentage of the dry weight. While less accurate but more useful, commercially-available moisture meters measure the electrical resistance of the sample and display the moisture content. So, given a reliable resistance measurement using a calibrated sensor, the amount of water in the sample can be known without cooking.

I can do that with my cheap electrical multimeter, which goes up to 200 megohms. I just need a pair of durable conductive probes and I need to generate a calibration table. My multimeter just became a moisture meter!

In the next issue of the *WFL Forest Owner*, I'll tell you how. In the mean time there is a great article on the subject by William L. James of the US Forest Products Laboratory entitled, "Electric Moisture Meters for Wood," which is available online.

Dean Faklis

Dean Faklis is a NYFOA member, NYS Tree Farmer, and a freshly-minted MFO.



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~ Upcoming Events ~

General Meeting - Propagating Tree Session

Wednesday, May 12th, 2010, 7:30PM

United Church of Christ

8758 Main Street, Honeoye, NY 14471

Learn how to propagate your own seedlings from seed and or cuttings that you collect yourself. You will learn how and when to collect, store, extract, and germinate the seed you collect. We will also look at the care these young seedlings need during their first growing season.

Our presenter will be Daniel Shaffer, Principal Forestry Technician, with the New York State DEC in Allegany, New York.

He has been working for the State of New York since 1995 and spent over 8 years running the day to day operations at the New York State Tree Nursery. During that time he was responsible for planting and the care of over 80 million trees.

Protecting and Enhancing Your Woodlot: Advice for Landowners

Saturday, May 15th, 2010, 9AM to noon

Wayne County Cooperative Extension

1581 State Route 88, Newark, NY 14513

\$10 registration fee for workshop and reference material.

This workshop will describe the main threats, both human and natural, that your woodlot faces; what you can do to combat them; and how you can maintain a healthy and productive woodlot. Topics will include how to protect your woodlot from timber theft and poor logging practices, how to recognize various invasive species and the effects they can have on a woodlot, how to develop a management plan, and what resources are available to help landowners practice good silviculture on their woodlots.

Speakers will include Mark Gooding, DEC service forester for Wayne County, and Mike Seager, president of the New York Forest Owners Association.

Registration deadline is May 7th 2010. To register, send your \$10.00 payment along with your name, address and phone number to: Cornell Cooperative Extension of Wayne County, 1581 Route 88 North, Newark, NY 14513. For additional information, contact Laurie VanNostrand at **(315) 331 8415** Ext 107.

Sponsored by:

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Wayne County Master Gardener Program
New York Forest Owners Association
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

~ Upcoming Events ~

Piestrak Forest WoodsWalk™

Saturday, June 26th, 2010, 9AM

9757 Watson Creek Road, Lindley, NY 14858

A woodswalk will be held at the Piestrak forest in Steuben County. The property encompasses approximately 900 acres and is guided by a 480A management plan.

During 2008, a commercial thinning was conducted on several hundred acres and a woodswalk was held during the thinning operation. At this time a follow-up would be appropriate to observe various changes in the forest due to the thinning. Some of the other observations will include: construction of truck access logging roads with three internal log landings, an improved wooded vernal pond, releasing oak and desired species in a ten-year-old clear cut, examining growth and diversity in a 17 acre deer enclosure, a crop tree release project, food plots, plus multiple other observations too numerous to mention.

Forester Bruce Robinsn will conduct the woodswalk. He does an excellent presentation.

We will meet at 9:00AM for coffee and donuts. At noon we will break for a free meal by cook "Jeffrey". Water and snacks will be provided.

We hope to provide transportation about the property by means of a wagon, etc. Please bring a chair for resting during lunch.

This woodswalk is an outreach program of the Western Finger Lakes Chapter of NYFOA. Note: this would also be a worthwhile experience for MFO's.

Coming from east or west take route 17 to Corning, Painted Post where you would pick up route 15 south toward Williamsport, PA. From Painted Post to Watson Creek Road is approximately 8 miles. Once on Watson Creek Road you go about 300 yards to the first home on the right. Woodswalk signs will be at the turn to Watson Creek Road.

For questions call Edward Piestrak at (570) 735-7647 or at his cell phone (607) 205-0350.

European Oak Borer

Continued from cover.

of Europe, except for the northernmost parts. The larvae develop in or under bark of live *Quercus* species, and require between one and two years to develop before emerging as adults. The host range of EOB includes *Quercus* spp. (oak), *Castanea* spp. (chestnut), and *Fagus* spp. (beech).

The Western Finger Lakes Forest Owner is published for members of the Western Finger Lakes Chapter of the New York Forest Owners Association (NYFOA) and is published 4 times per year. NYFOA was founded in 1963 and is organized to encourage the wise management of private woodland resources in New York State by promoting, protecting, representing and serving the interests of woodland owners. The Western Finger Lakes chapter was founded in 1988 and encompasses Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Orleans, Seneca, Steuben, Wayne, and Yates counties.

Membership is open to anyone interested in understanding how to manage a woodlot. NYFOA membership can bring returns in the satisfaction of growing quality timber, stabilizing forest industries and markets, providing permanent jobs, increasing the value of your woods, enlarging areas of natural beauty across the state, and leaving behind a monument in living trees to bless the tomorrows for the boys and girls of today. For information on becoming a NYFOA member, contact Liana Gooding, NYFOA Secretary, NYFOA, P.O. Box 541, Lima, NY, 14485 or at 1-800-836-3566. Annual membership is \$30 for individuals and \$35 for families and includes: subscriptions to this newsletter; to the bimonthly NYFOA state-wide publication, *The New York Forest Owner*; attendance at chapter meetings; and at two statewide meetings. Membership at the Contributing level (\$50- \$100) and Supporting level (\$101 & up) are also offered. For more information visit www.nyfoa.org.

Readers are encouraged to submit articles for publication in this newsletter. Articles should be mailed or e-mailed to: Richard Starr at the address to the left. Electronic submissions are preferred. Any letters should be sent to the Chair for consideration.

Welcome New Members

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