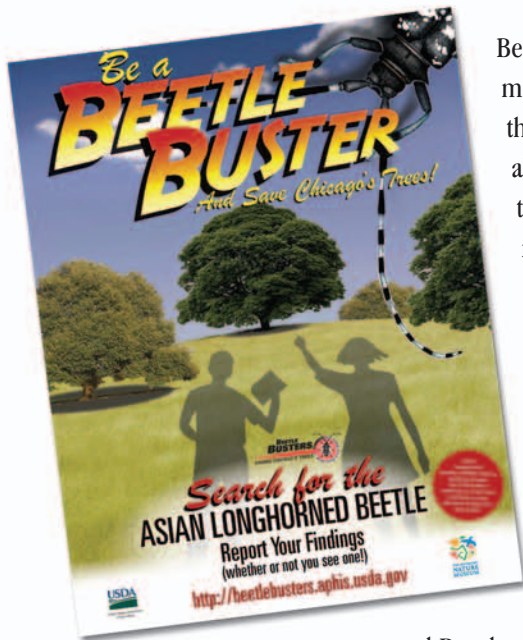


The Asian Longhorned Beetle

Cooperative Eradication Program

ALBs Invade the Classroom

USDA and the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum in Chicago created an educational curriculum for Chicago schools that builds upon the Beetle Busters outreach program introduced to Chicago last summer. Local teachers used the curriculum during late spring 2006 for the first time.



Beetle Busters 2006 educates middle and high school students, their teachers, and their families about the ALB and enlists their help in searching city neighborhoods for the notorious insect. Students and teachers are urged to report the results of their search to the Beetle Busters Web site—whether positive or negative for a beetle.

Terry Van Doren,
Special Assistant to the USDA
Undersecretary for Marketing

and Regulatory Programs, kicked off Beetle

Busters 2006 at a reception and training opportunity attended by 70 educators at the Notebaert Nature Museum in April. Chicago-area teachers ordered some 800 curriculum kits, and search results started coming in to APHIS in June.

“When we wanted to expand upon the success of our Beetle Busters summer outreach program with an in-school curriculum that could be taught to students this spring, we were thrilled that the Notebaert Nature Museum supported a partnership,” said **Christine Markham**, National ALB Program Director.

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United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service





News from ALB National Program Director Christine Markham

The Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB) Cooperative Eradication Program is dedicated to ensuring that every ALB in the United States is found and removed to protect the Nation's urban and suburban trees and hardwood forests from the ravages of this damaging invasive species. Great strides in achieving this goal have been made in the years since this insect was first discovered in the United States, thanks to the hard work of citizens; State, local, and Federal employees; countless tree advocates; and those involved in tree- and wood-related industries.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and ALB program cooperators are reducing quarantine zones. This July, Illinois became the first State battling ALB to deregulate all remaining quarantines when 9 square miles around Chicago's Oz Park were released from regulation requirements.

Previously, Chicago's quarantine had been reduced from 35 square miles to 9 through a 2005 deregulation action. The Hoboken–Jersey City, NJ, quarantine had been lifted in 2005.

APHIS worked with industry to develop, test, and successfully implement into the cooperative eradication program's protocols new methods of delivering chemical treatments for controlling the ALB. These treatments include (1) the basal soil-injection system used in New York in 2005 to accommodate the limited soil space typically found around urban street trees, now expanded programwide, and (2) the pressurized trunk-injection system first tested in New York in 2005 and now used programwide.

Furthermore, the program has maximized the efficiency of these delivery methods by streamlining the amount of product needed to achieve the desired results against the beetle. With these advancements has come speedier delivery of the pesticides that protect trees, more cost-effective use of

materials, and reductions in personnel needed to deliver the treatment and safeguard trees during treatment.

Finally, the ALB program has continued to detect infested trees through survey. We have discovered infested trees within the known infested areas of New York and New Jersey and are acting to remove these trees to prevent further ALB spread.

Because ALBs still exist in the United States, we cannot relax our vigilance. Whether you are a government employee, a business person, a member of academia, or a concerned citizen, please continue to keep your eyes open for this invasive insect and signs of it. Report any suspected sightings.

Contact the ALB Eradication Program based in your State. Absent one, please report any suspected ALBs to the USDA State Plant Health Director in your State, your State department of agriculture, or your local Extension Service office.



Chicago ALB Treatments Completed

Tree treatment with the insecticide imidacloprid was completed in May with 4,195 trees treated via soil and trunk injection. Spring 2006 marked the end of treatment in Chicago's then 9-square-mile quarantine. Though Chicago has been deregulated for ALB, surveys will continue until the ALB is declared eradicated.

Left: Reviewing treatment applications in Chicago are Terry Van Doren, Special Assistant to the Undersecretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs, USDA (background center); Christine Markham, National ALB Program Director (background right); and Chicago ALB Eradication Program staffer Erik Olson, PPQ Safeguarding Specialist. Photo by Robert Benjamin, Chicago ALB Eradication Program.

Oz Park Area of Chicago Now Deregulated

USDA and the State of Illinois each took action in July to deregulate the Oz Park area quarantine in Cook County, leaving Illinois free of active ALB quarantine zones.

Through intensive inspections, APHIS has determined that the ALB no longer presents a risk of spread from the 9-square-mile quarantine zone. This action is consistent with ALB eradication protocols, as there have been no additional ALB finds in the Oz Park area or any other areas of Illinois since November 2003.

“Our success against the ALB infestation in Chicago can be attributed to the science-based strategies the ALB Cooperative Eradication Program researched and employed to identify, contain, and systematically eliminate

what was, in July 1998, a new invasive species,” said **Paul Eggert**, Associate Deputy Administrator of APHIS’ Plant Protection and Quarantine division, at a July 12 deregulation event at Oz Park. “Throughout the eradication effort all levels of government here shared an excellent working relationship and were supported by engaged residents vigilant about looking for and reporting signs of ALB infestation,” he said.

With the final Cook County ALB quarantine zone deregulated, firewood, lumber, nursery stock, and other materials that serve as hosts for the invasive ALB now can be moved freely through the region.

Trees within the Oz Park, Cook County quarantine will be inspected annually by the ALB cooperative

eradication program. In order to declare an infested area eradicated, it must be free of any signs of ALB for 4 years.



Above: Paul Eggert, Associate Deputy Administrator of APHIS—Plant Protection and Quarantine, speaks on the deregulation at the Oz Park event July 12, 2006.

Farewell to Gwen Servies, Illinois ALB Project Director

Gwen Servies, former Illinois ALB Eradication Program director, has a new position within USDA as a supervisor with USDA APHIS’ Office of Smuggling Interdiction and Trade Compliance (SITC). SITC prevents unlawful entry and distribution of prohibited products that may harbor exotic plant and animal pests, diseases, or invasive species.

Gwen was with APHIS—PPQ from 1992 through 2003, starting as a PPQ officer based at Logan International Airport in Boston and ending in 2003, when she transferred to the Department of Homeland Security’s Customers and Border Protection unit. She rejoined APHIS—PPQ in fall 2004 as the first-line supervisor of the ALB Eradication Program’s Illinois office and was promoted to Illinois project director in 2005.

In her new position with SITC, Gwen supervises the SITC Great Lakes Work Unit.

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Chicago ALB Program Honors City Workers



Above: Illinois ALB Eradication Program staff and City of Chicago employees at the event.

City of Chicago employees who drove or operated the controls on the bucket trucks used to survey Chicago trees for ALBs were honored at an award ceremony January 24 at the Chicago ALB Eradication Program's Rockwell Street offices.

Christine Markham, National ALB Program Director, bestowed certificates

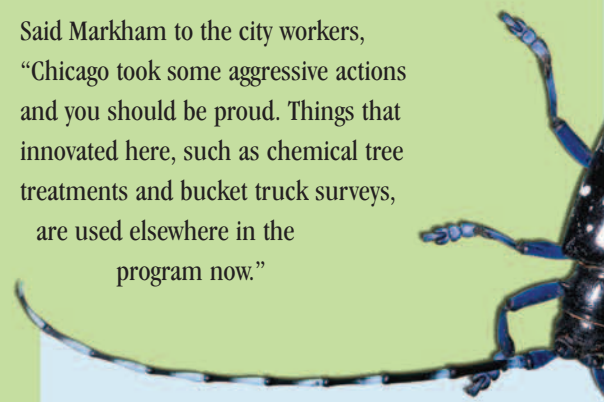
of appreciation from the U.S. Department of Agriculture on about 20 Chicago city employees. She was joined by **Gwen Servies**, who at the time was the Chicago ALB Program Director, and **Joe McCarthy**, senior city forester and ALB Project Manager from the Bureau of Forestry, Department of Streets and Sanitation, City of Chicago. The certificates were in recognition of the city employees' hard work and dedication in fighting the invasive ALB pest.

"You can be very proud to be leaving the program knowing you played a pivotal role in the program's success," Servies told the city employees.

The men who were recognized drove City of Chicago-owned bucket trucks or operated the controls to maneuver the bucket and arm to hoist

USDA ALB Eradication Program technicians high into tree canopies to seek evidence of the beetles. The Chicago ALB program was the first ALB program to put bucket trucks into use.

Said Markham to the city workers, "Chicago took some aggressive actions and you should be proud. Things that innovated here, such as chemical tree treatments and bucket truck surveys, are used elsewhere in the program now."



Fast Facts for Calendar Year 2005 – Illinois

- No infested trees have been detected in Illinois since 2003.
- A total of 1,551 infested trees were found and removed since the infestation was first discovered in Chicago in 1998.
- Some 220 high-risk trees were removed.
- Some 4,301 trees were treated in 2005.

ALBs Invade the Classroom, (Continued from page 1)

"Under the guidance of Chicago teachers," she continued, "the curriculum developed with the Nature Museum will help students make a difference in their communities as they help protect Chicago's trees from an invasive pest."



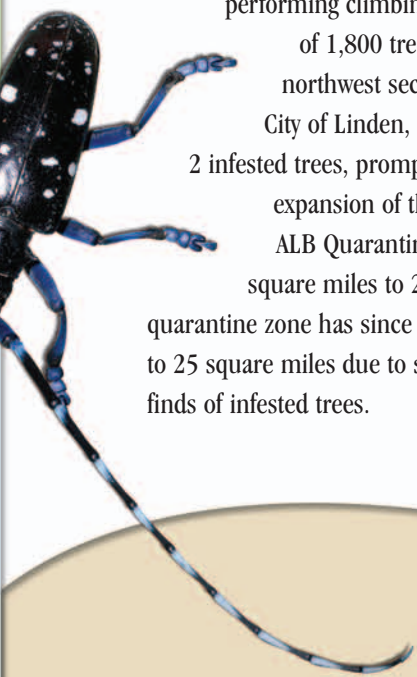
The curriculum teaches about the ALB, its life cycle, its impact on trees, Chicago's experience with the insect, and how to search for ALBs and report the results of that search—either positive or negative. A special component challenges students to develop a community outreach campaign to share information about the beetle.



The new and improved Beetle Busters outreach program will also be used during the summer through the Chicago Parks District, with activities geared towards day campers. While Illinois has been deregulated, the work of the Beetle Busters remains critical to ensuring that every last ALB in Illinois has been found and removed.

To visit the new Beetle Busters Web site log onto <<http://beetlebusters.aphis.usda.gov>> .

New Jersey Tree Surveys Uncover Infested Trees



This spring, ALB program contractors performing climbing surveys of 1,800 trees in the northwest section of the City of Linden, NJ, discovered 2 infested trees, prompting an expansion of the New Jersey ALB Quarantine from 16.5 square miles to 20. That quarantine zone has since been enlarged to 25 square miles due to subsequent finds of infested trees.

The new quarantine zone for New Jersey now reaches into parts of three new municipalities—Roselle Borough, the town of Clark, and the City of Elizabeth. The current quarantine zone includes the town of Linden and parts of Rahway, Carteret, and Woodbridge.

An infested horsechestnut was found in the northern part of Linden on March 23, 2006 on Hussa Street. This tree had about 20 egg sites but no exit holes, indicating that no adult beetles had emerged from the tree. It was immediately

removed, and an expanded search for additional infestations began.

The tree-killing beetles were initially discovered in the Middlesex–Union County area in 2004. Shortly after their discovery, the area was quarantined to curtail the movement of wood, wood products, and debris that could contain beetles in various developmental stages.

Professional climbers surveyed more than 11,000 trees in the Middlesex–Union County quarantine zone for signs of ALB in 2005 alone.

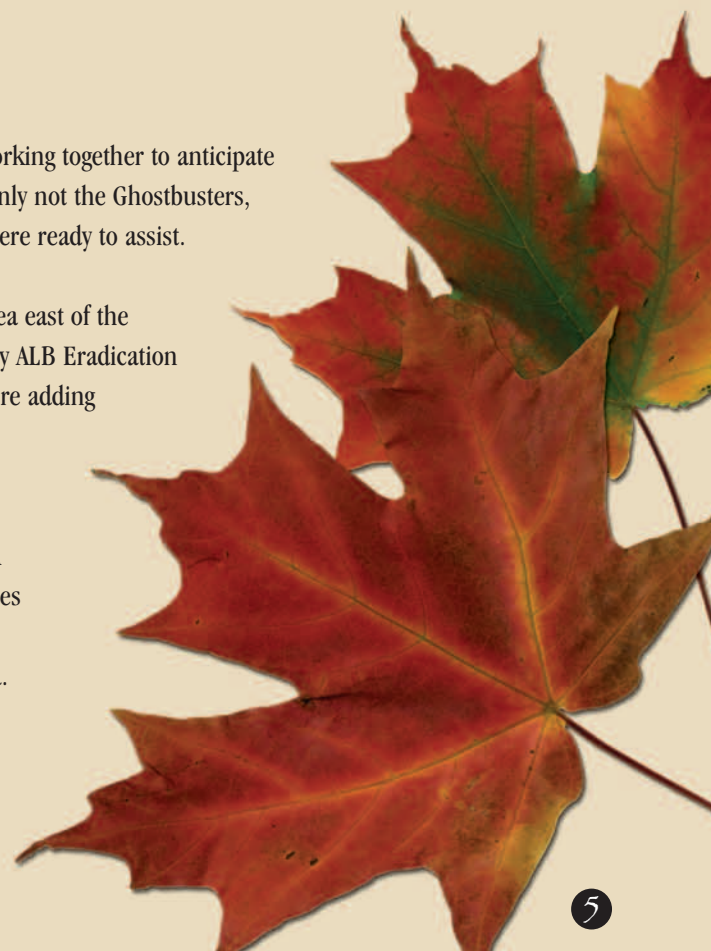
Additional Infestations Found in New Jersey


When you need detective work, scientific knowledge, and educated supposition working together to anticipate where to look for additional signs of ALB infestation, “Who ya’ gonna call?” Certainly not the Ghostbusters, but the entomology experts from the Otis Methods Laboratory in Massachusetts were ready to assist.

The Otis experts, guided by **Vic Mastro** and **Alan Sawyer**, pinpointed a search area east of the New Jersey Turnpike, between Exits 12 and 13. With **Barry Emens**, the New Jersey ALB Eradication Project Director, and representatives from the New Jersey Department of Agriculture adding their knowledge, an infestation involving up to 80 trees was located in eastern Linden on April 10.

The next steps will be to determine the age of this infestation and to perform DNA analysis. Analyzing DNA can help the ALB program determine if this find constitutes a different introduction than the Carteret infestation discovered in 2004. The entomological experts at Otis can also determine the year the infestation occurred.

On April 28, contract tree-climbers working in an expanded search as a result of the March 23 find discovered a second infested tree in Linden, NJ, outside the quarantine zone. The red maple street-tree at Curtis and Wood streets had exit holes present.





Fast Facts for Calendar Year 2005 – Hoboken and Jersey City

- No infested trees have been detected since 2002.
- Some 113 ALB-infested trees were found and removed.
- Some 348 high-risk trees were also removed in this area in 2002–03.
- Some 893 trees were treated in the area in 2005 alone.

New Jersey Tree Treatments Completed



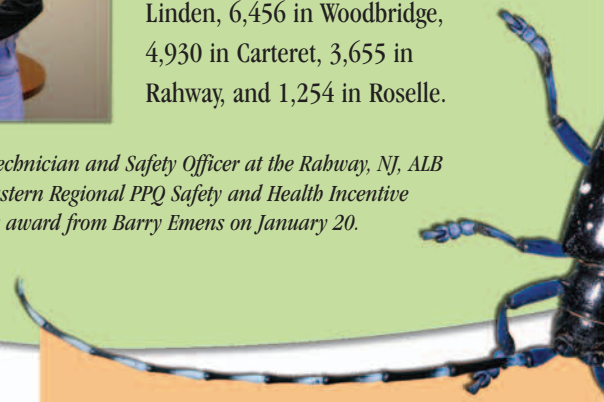
Above: Michael Welstead, PPQ Technician and Safety Officer at the Rahway, NJ, ALB office, was nominated for an Eastern Regional PPQ Safety and Health Incentive Program award. He received his award from Barry Emens on January 20.

The New Jersey ALB program treated just under 31,400 trees susceptible to the ALB in Middlesex and Union Counties—15,096 in Linden, 6,456 in Woodbridge, 4,930 in Carteret, 3,655 in Rahway, and 1,254 in Roselle.

Breaking News for New Jersey

An infested tree found on July 31 within the current infested area will require additional tree removals in Linden. The tree was found when a landscaper reported a live beetle about 2 blocks away from the infested tree. Program officials have identified 87 infested trees in the Middlesex–Union Counties infestation so far in 2006.

Tree replanting in Linden will resume this fall and continue in spring 2007.



Fast Facts for Calendar Year 2005 – Middlesex and Union Counties

- Some 92 ALB infested trees were found in 2005.
- A total of 527 infested trees were detected since 2004.
- A total of 11,209 high-risk trees were removed in the two counties since the infestation was discovered in 2004.
- Some 21,143 trees have been treated in the area in 2005.



Did You Know?

To date, 9,100 tons of wood chips have been delivered from the New Jersey ALB program to the Covanta Energy Company, Rahway, NJ, for conversion into electrical power. The energy produced by burning these chips provided electricity to 4,668 homes for more than a 3-month period.

New York ALB Project Updates

Roosevelt Island Searched for ALB

Climbers from the ALB Cooperative Eradication Program searched trees on Roosevelt Island, NY, for signs of the ALB. A poplar with signs of ALB infestation was discovered at Tony Capobianco field on April 17.

“No evidence of continuing ALB infestation has been found on Roosevelt Island, but it was important that our climbers examine all trees that could host the beetle to determine if there is an active infestation here,” said **John Evans**, Manhattan supervisor of the New York ALB Cooperative Eradication Program. “Fortunately, the Roosevelt Island trees have been chemically treated as part of the USDA’s comprehensive strategy to remove this pest from the United States.” Treatments assist in preventing ALB infestation in host trees.

All residents of Roosevelt Island are encouraged to visually inspect trees which could host the ALB and report any suspicions to the Manhattan ALB office at (212) 337-2645 or to officials on Roosevelt Island.



New York Tree Treatments Completed



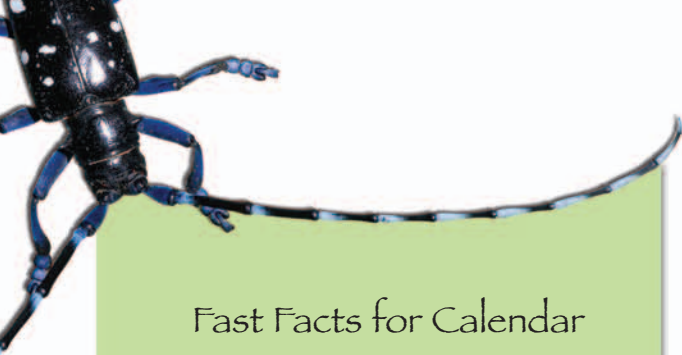
Just under 50,700 trees susceptible to the ALB were treated in New York this spring—10,309 in Manhattan, 24,032 in Brooklyn, and 16,357 in Queens.

Central Park Conservancy and WABC News Help Share Treatment News

With the help and support of the Central Park Conservancy and WABC Eyewitness News, **Joe Gittleman**, New York ALB Project Co-Director, shared the ALB program’s treatment efforts to help maintain Central Park’s tree-shaded beauty during a special segment called “Be a Part of Your Park.” The station is officially sponsoring the Central Park Conservancy’s 25th anniversary with a series of special programming geared at sharing the beauty of the park with viewers. The ALB Program thanks **Jennifer Pucci** at the Central Park Conservancy for assistance in planning the shoot.



Right: New York City’s Central Park in early autumn.



Fast Facts for Calendar Year 2005 – New York

- 83 infested trees were found in New York in 2005.
- A total of 6,035 infested trees were found in New York as of the close of 2005.
- Some 1,863 high-risk trees have been removed through the area since the program began.
- Some 63,006 trees were treated in New York in 2005.

Breaking News for New York

On July 18, an infested tree with several egg sites and two exit holes was found in Massapequa Park, Long Island, within the current infested area, but about 3/4 mile away from the closest known infested tree. The newly identified infested tree was detected as a result of ground surveys by project personnel. Climbing surveys are currently being conducted around this infested tree.

On July 20 and 21, a total of three infested trees were found in Queens, NY, all well within the current infested area. Program officials have identified 44 infested trees in New York in 2006.



Mark Your Calendar:

Invasive Species and Forest Health Conference in November 2006

To help the public better understand invasive species and how the government responds to them, USDA's APHIS and Forest Service (FS) are holding the "Invasive Species and Forest Health Conference" on November 14–15, 2006. This Washington DC, meeting is designed to share information about species deemed to be invasive pests and expand the team fighting them.

The conference will raise awareness about invasive species attacking our forests, build new partnerships to combat them, and strengthen existing partnerships with citizens and officials concerned with the health of U.S. forests, agriculture, and our overall ecosystem. A key goal is to engage participants in developing action plans for moving forward cooperatively.

For more information about the Forest Health and Invasive Species: Expanding the Team Conference, log onto <http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/news/calendar> or contact **Anna Rinick** by e-mail: anna.rinick@aphis.usda.gov.

NOVEMBER 2006						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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			Invasive Species and Forest Health Conference			
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