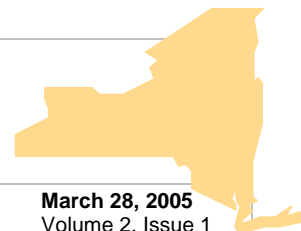


# Asian Longhorned Beetle

New York Asian Longhorned Beetle Cooperative Eradication Program Quarterly Report

March 28, 2005  
Volume 2, Issue 1



Report an ALB sighting:

**877-STOP-ALB**

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Photo: M. Keena

## Preventative Treatments to Begin

NEW YORK — The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service will treat approximately 78,200 trees susceptible to the Asian longhorned beetle in New York. APHIS will begin the treatments in April, as a critical part of its on-going Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB) Cooperative Eradication Program's effort to prevent further infestation of this destructive pest.

The trees will be treated with the insecticide imidacloprid, which has displayed promising results in past treatments. APHIS will treat trees in portions of the 132-square miles of the quarantine area in New York. Approximately 18,400 trees in Manhattan; 35,500 in Brooklyn; 19,400 in Queens and 4,900 on Long Island will be treated.



Adult Asian Longhorned Beetle

Photo: M. Keena

Program officials, through the use of certified pesticide applicators, will either be treating the soil surrounding the tree, where appropriate, or by injecting the insecticide into the tree through small capsules placed at the base of the tree's trunk, or through a hand-held hydraulic applicator that uses

*See Preventative Treatments page 2*

## ALB Intern Receives Scholarship

A Long Island City teen recently discovered that he won a \$100,000 collage scholarship, thanks in part to his work fighting the Asian Longhorned Beetle.

Recently, Antonio Fung heard the news that he had won a full college scholarship from the Posse Foundation, which helps young leaders get to college.

In the spring of 2004, Fung was part of an ALB survey team which quantified the economic threat of ALB to Long Island City. The team was formed with the help of the Young Citizens Center of New York's Service Learning Program and Long Island City's

International High School, which works with promising young New Yorkers from immigrant families on community-based projects throughout the city.

Fung, born in Venezuela to Chinese parents, was the team leader for the ALB project last year. Fung's science teacher first alerted him to the problem of the invasive insect eating and killing New York City trees. Fung, along with two classmates, were trained by USDA APHIS-PPQ inspectors on ALB identification, and then by New York State Department of Environmental Conservation on urban forest inventory techniques.

*See Scholarship on page 3*

## Carteret Infestation a Separate Introduction

The most recent Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB) infestation detected in the United States was found bordering the two counties of Middlesex and Union New Jersey. Due to the proximity of this infestation to the New York City and Jersey City infestation, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service submitted samples of the population for DNA analysis. These studies were conducted by scientists at Cornell University and the People's Republic of China, General Administration of Quality, Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine. The results of the DNA analysis collected from adult Asian longhorned beetles at the Middlesex/Union Counties infestation site have determined they differ genetically from samples of Asian longhorned beetles collected from New York City, Jersey City, as well as from the ALB populations in Chicago and Toronto.

Additionally, a study being conducted by APHIS scientists to age the Carteret infestation is currently estimating the infestation to be at least six years old. The study dates the infestation back to 1998, prior to the implementation of the Solid Wood Packing Material Rule.

"At first we thought the ALB infestation in Middlesex/Union Counties New Jersey may have been the result of the ALB being transported into the area from New York City or Jersey City," said Christine Markham, national ALB Program director with USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. "The findings of the DNA study, along with the study to age the Middlesex/Union ALB infestation are important because we now know the infestation to be a separate introduction into the United States, which occurred prior to the Solid Wood Packing Material Rule being implemented."

## Preventative Treatments

(Cont. from page 1)

compressed air to inject the insecticide into the tree's trunk. Site characteristics will determine treatment method and each site will be closely monitored.

The insecticide is dispersed through the tree's vascular system. This enables the insecticide to reach ALB adults feeding on small twigs and leaves and the larvae feeding beneath the bark of host trees. Imidacloprid is currently used by some lawn service companies to kill lawn grubs and in some domestic pet treatments to kill fleas.

To fight this destructive invader, agriculture officials removed and destroyed more than 7,190 trees in and around New York City and Long Island. APHIS and its cooperators undertake eradication by imposing quarantines, conducting intensified visual inspections around confirmed sites to delimit infestations, remove infested and high-risk exposed host trees, and chemically treat host trees as part of



Pressurized trunk injection.

an area-wide integrated pest management strategy. The goal is to eliminate this destructive insect from New York City and Long Island before it can establish itself elsewhere.

Residents can assist in the eradication effort by allowing project officials access to their property to treat trees. For more information on the treatment program, call 1-866-265-0301. To report a sighting of this insect, call 1-877-STOP-ALB.

## Scholarship (Cont. from page 1)

The teens, calling themselves the “Anti-ALB,” sampled Long Island City’s street trees, measuring the size of ALB host trees and surveying for signs of ALB infestations. Fung mapped and analyzed the results using DEC’s Geographic Information System. Together the group assessed the potential economic impact of an ALB-infestation, in terms of the replacement value of all host species found in Long Island City, at more than \$1.9 million dollars.

The results of the project made waves at YCC’s final expo, where the Anti-ALB presented their results. Fung was then selected as YCC’s valedictorian for the year, which allowed him to convey the message of the threat of ALB to YCC program supporters, teachers and fellow students. In a November 2004 *Queen’s Chronicle* cover story, Fung spoke about the problem of ALB and on how the public can report infestations.

When asked how working on the ALB project helped him receive the scholarship, Fung said, “Joining YCC and working on the ALB internship helped me become this leader that I am today! Thanks for everything!”

Fung plans to attend Dickinson College in Pennsylvania in the fall of 2005 to study International Business and Marketing.

## IL Dept. of Ag. to Discuss Deregulation

CHICAGO – The Illinois Department of Agriculture Bureau of Environmental Programs has scheduled three public information meetings on March 31 regarding the possible deregulation of the Bensenville, Park Ridge and sections of Ravenswood Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB) quarantine zones.

The public meeting for the Bensenville quarantine zone will be held in the [Bensenville Village Hall Board Room, 12 South Center Street at 10:00 a.m.](#) The public meeting for the Park Ridge quarantine zone will be held at the [Park Ridge Park District South Park Recreation Center, 833 Talcott Road at 2:00 p.m.](#), and the Ravenswood quarantine zone deregulation meeting will be held in the [Ravenswood school auditorium, 4332 N. Paulina St. at 7:00 p.m.](#) The public is invited to attend and provide testimony.

Through intensive inspections, it has been determined that a majority of the ALB quarantines no longer display evidence of infestation and may be considered removed from the quarantine region of Illinois.

If approved, this action will reduce the ALB regulated areas in Illinois from approximately 35-square-miles to nine-square-miles, covering the area around Chicago’s Oz Park, where three infested trees were detected in 2003.

## Gwen Servies Named Illinois Director

CHICAGO -- Gwen Servies has been selected as the Project Director for the Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB) Cooperative Eradication Project in Illinois.

Gwen replaces Steven Knight, who serves as the USDA-APHIS PPQ State Plant Health Director for the State of Illinois.

Gwen joined USDA-APHIS in 1992, as a PPQ Officer at Logan International Airport in Boston, Mass., after working several years with the Florida Department of Agriculture as a nursery inspector. Gwen transferred to The Department of Homeland Security’s Customs and Border Protection (CBP) in March 2003 and worked as a Supervisory CBP Agriculture Specialist in Boston, Mass. She returned to USDA-APHIS PPQ in September 2004, working for the ALB Cooperative Eradication Project in Illinois as the First Line Supervisor.



Gwen Servies Illinois ALB Project Director

Throughout her career, Gwen as worked on numerous outside projects and committees, most recently, as the Co-Leader for the PPQ Civil Penalties Issue.

## Contacts

**NY Beetle Sighting**  
(877) STOP-ALB

**NJ ALB Information**  
(866) BEETLE1

**Long Island Office**  
(631) 598-5943

**Brooklyn Office**  
(718) 852-4685

**Queens Office**  
(718) 747-6758

**Manhattan Office**  
(212) 337-2645

**Tree Replanting**  
NYS-DEC Lands &  
Forests  
(718) 482-6440

Questions or comments  
on this publication should  
be directed to:

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## New York ALB Outreach Events

### Compliance Training Workshops\*

March 24 9-11am  
Babylon Town Hall Annex

April 14 10am-12pm  
Olmstead Center, Queens

July 21 10am-12pm  
Brooklyn Botanic Garden

August 25 9-11am  
Babylon Town Hall Annex

\*DEC pesticide credits and  
ISA credits available

### March

30 Protector of Pine Oak Woods, Staten Island

### April

7 Invasive Species Seminar  
Farm and Home Center, Millbrook, NY 1-4pm

14 Carnegie Hill Neighbors Association

15 NYC Envirothon - Alley Pond Park - Queens

15-17 Hofstra Flower Show

15-17 New York International Orchid Show

29 Forest Park Arbor Day - Queens

30 New York City Volunteer Street Tree Inventory

Kickoff – Museum of City of New York

30-May 1 Planting Fields Arboretum Arbor Day – LI

### May

1 Heckscher State Park Arbor Day – Long Island

Contact (631) 598-5943 for more information or to set up an ALB event.

## Latest New York Infestations

**Brooklyn:** Four infested trees were found in Ocean Hill on 3/7/05

**Long Island:** An infested tree was found in Massapequa on 12/08/03

**Manhattan:** An infested tree was found in the Upper East Side on 11/17/04

**Queens:** An infested tree was found in Sunnyside on 3/14/05

## Information available on the web at:

Forest Service: [www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/alb/index.htm](http://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/alb/index.htm)

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service: [www.aphis.usda.gov](http://www.aphis.usda.gov)

University of Vermont Entomology Research Laboratory: [www.uvm.edu/albeetle](http://www.uvm.edu/albeetle)

New York City Parks & Recreation: [www.nycgovparks.org](http://www.nycgovparks.org)

## About the program...

The New York Asian Longhorned Beetle Cooperative Eradication Program includes participation from USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA Forest Service, USDA Agricultural Research Service, New York State Department of Agriculture & Markets, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and New York City Department of Parks & Recreation.

# DON'T MOVE FIREWOOD

The Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB) is a voracious, non-native pest of our nation's deciduous hardwood forests and urban landscape. Approximately 1.2 billion hardwood trees in the United States are at risk from this devastating pest. The ALB and other exotic insect pests can become established when infested firewood is transported to non-infested areas. Remember:

- Buy Firewood Locally
- **DO NOT** Transport Firewood From Home
- If You Have Moved Firewood, **BURN IT**

If you live or work in an established USDA quarantine area in New York, New Jersey or Illinois, do not transport firewood or other wood materials out of these locations. For more information on quarantine locations and disposal sites, please call:

New York: (866) 265-0301 New Jersey: (609) 292-5440 Illinois: (312) 742-3385

Search for ALB on the web at: [www.aphis.usda.gov](http://www.aphis.usda.gov)

Asian longhorned beetle egg site, exit hole and adults.



# STOP THE ASIAN LONGHORNED BEETLE