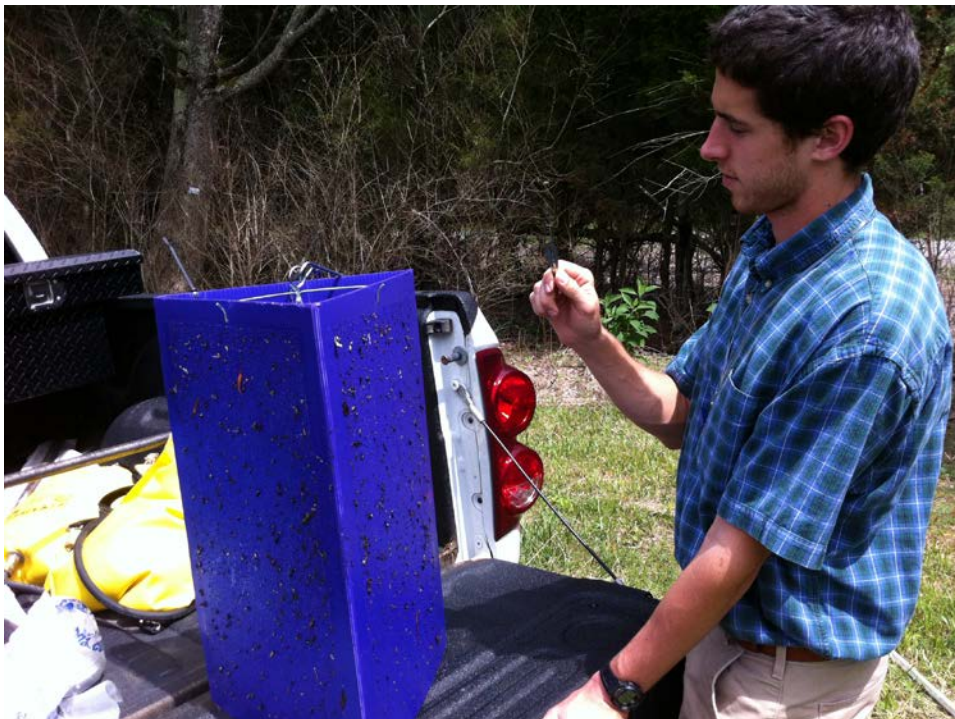


Purple traps yield Reservation's first detection of Emerald Ash Borer

The question of whether or not DOE's forests are infested with Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) has been answered. On May 10, a trap on Highway 95 at the Highway 58 interchange produced the first instance of the destructive non-native insect in Roane County. Five days later, a second trap on Bethel Valley Road near the East Portal turned up the first capture in Anderson County.

"Unfortunately, these finds signal the beginning of a decline of ash species throughout the reservation" according to Greg Byrd, forester with the ORNL Natural Resources Program. "Dieback will become more prominent as the insect populations expand. Native ash trees have little defense against this pest, which was transported from Asia a little over ten years ago - probably within wood shipping materials. There are control measures against EAB for high value individual trees if the dieback hasn't reached the tipping point, but on a forest scale, no controls have yet been found to be practical."

Greg says the Natural Resources Program will develop recommendations for dealing with the EAB impact at the campus level. One of the projects for our interns this summer will be to identify host trees within the high-use areas. "We'll examine how our ash trees matrix with the four 'P's': power, parking, pedestrians and picnic tables."



ORNL intern Jordan Chaney inspects an Emerald Ash Borer Trap near Bethel Valley Road. Jordan is an undergrad in Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries at the University of Tennessee.

“Don’t move firewood”

Campers from infested areas who unwittingly bring infested wood from home have allowed the pest to leapfrog quarantined areas and become established in new areas. Researchers believe adult borers would migrate only up to a mile from their hatching point without help from people. So one of the most important messages foresters have been passing along is the need to observe the state’s new regulations restricting the movement of hardwood firewood within our area.

Greg is hopeful that an informed DOE workforce will lessen the chances of spreading our community’s problem to other areas. “Fortunately, we have a culture here that understands the value of not spreading contamination!”

For more information on the Emerald Ash Borer and Tennessee’s regulations on firewood movement visit <http://www.tn.gov/agriculture/regulatory/eab.shtml>