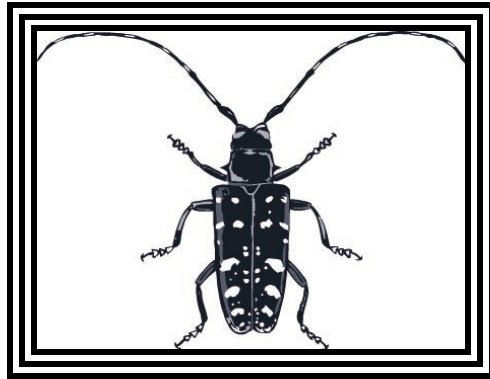


# WANTED



## THE ASIAN LONG-HORNED BEETLE

**Discovered in Worcester MA in 2008, the Asian Long-Horned Beetle could move into New Hampshire and devastate our forests. NH's best defense against this exotic pest is the eyes of its citizens. Come learn how to identify the beetle and its damage symptoms so it can be discovered as soon as it moves into Southern New Hampshire. See the beetles on display!**

**When: March 23 7:00 PM**

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**Where: Pinnacle Mountain Fish and Game Club  
Lyndeborough**

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**Questions: Margaret Hagen 641-6060**

**Register: Holly McKinney 641-6060**

**So we know how many will be coming**

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**Presented by: UNH Cooperative Extension Hillsborough  
County and The Pinnacle Mountain Fish and Game Club**

Free  
Free

Free  
Free

Free  
Free

**Contact Information**

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**For Immediate Release**

March 8, 2010

**Asian Long Horned Beetle Threatens New Hampshire Forests**

Forest health experts fear that an exotic pest called the Asian longhorned beetle (ALB), which made its way into the U.S. in wooden packing crates from China more than a decade ago, could move into New Hampshire and devastate our forest landscape. To prevent an infestation state agencies are relying on citizens to help identify and report this pest. "With nearly five million forested acres in New Hampshire, we believe ordinary citizen observers are the most important key to identifying this potential threat," says UNH Cooperative Extension entomologist, Dr. Stan Swier.

To help teach people how to recognize the adult Asian Longhorned beetle and signs of its presence, Hillsborough County Cooperative Extension and the Pinnacle Mountain Fish & Game Club will hold a **free** educational meeting on March 23 at 7 pm at the club in Lyndeborough. In addition to a question and answer session, those attending will learn how to scout for and report potential beetle sightings, how ALB could impact New Hampshire's forest and nursery industries, how to prevent the movement of ALB and how other states are coping with ALB infestations.

Please call Holly McKinney at 641-6060 to register for the workshop so we have enough publications on hand for everyone. If you have questions, please call Margaret Hagen, also at 641-6060.

To reach the Pinnacle Mountain Fish & Game Club take RT 101 west to Wilton. Take a right on Rt 31 north (RT 31 takes a sharp left in Wilton Center). Go about 3 miles to South Lyndeboro Center. Take a right across from the village store onto Cemetery Rd. Follow Cemetery Rd. for about 1.5 miles (make sure you bear right at the intersection of Putman Hill Rd). The Pinnacle Mountain Fish & Game Club is on the left.

**Beetle not yet found in N.H.**

"So far, we haven't found ALB in New Hampshire," Swier says. "But in the summer of 2008, the beetle was discovered in Worcester, Massachusetts. State and federal officials have mounted a massive eradication program there, expected to last many years and to cost tens of millions of dollars." To date, more than 25,000 trees have been taken down in the Worcester area.

First discovered in Brooklyn in 1996, the beetle turned up in other New York sites, New Jersey, Chicago, and Toronto before being discovered in Worcester.

### **Beetle behavior**

"The female ALB chews holes in the trunks and branches of many hardwood species--especially maples, but also birch, elm, ash, poplar, willow, horsechestnut, and many more--to lay her eggs," says Swier. "The eggs hatch, and the larvae excavate large galleries inside the tree, disrupting sap flow, weakening and eventually killing the tree. ALB attacks many hardwood trees, but is most common in maple and birch."

### **Beetle threatens forest values**

"New Hampshire's 4.6 million forested acres provide the scenic natural backdrop for the quality of life we all enjoy," says Swier. "Our timber industries are collectively worth \$2 billion and support 21,000 jobs. Forests also help protect our water quality, prevent flooding, provide wildlife habitat, give us our maple syrup industry, and support many recreational activities for both tourists and residents alike."

"Because the beetle attacks many different tree species, scientists fear an infestation could have long-lasting negative impacts on the entire forest ecosystem if it became established over a large area," Swier says.

### **Prevention: first line of defense**

"Prevention is our first line of defense, followed by aggressive eradication programs if the beetle is found," says Swier. "The larva burrows deeply into the tree, making it extremely difficult to control. We currently have no biological control methods for this pest, although the USDA is conducting experiments testing the effectiveness of some insecticides."

"Chemicals reduce the problem on landscape trees but aren't practical in a forest. Chemicals cannot eradicate ALB."

"Once the beetle has been discovered, it becomes a very expensive search-and-destroy operation, involving cutting, burning and chipping," says Swier.

### **Primary means for distribution: firewood moving in from infested areas**

"The primary way the beetle may move into New Hampshire is on firewood," says Swier. "People transport firewood long distances, especially to summer camps. In late May, both [State and Federal regulators banned](#) the movement of firewood into government-owned parks and the White Mountain National Forest. We've identified residents of the Worcester area who own property in New Hampshire and sent individual letters to them all, urging them not to bring firewood into the state and to notify us if they have."

As people learn to recognize the adult ALB and its emergence holes, it is hoped they'll alert the state authorities: the Department of Agriculture, Markets and Food, the Division of Forests and Lands, or their local Cooperative Extension Office. The Hillsborough County office can be reached at 641-6060.



More Information: <http://extension.unh.edu/ALB/>

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