

# New Forest Health Specialist to Focus on Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)

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*We asked Bill Davidson, the new Forest Health Specialist with the N.H. Division of Forests & Lands to tell us about himself. He is stationed out of the Fox State Forest in Hillsborough and can be reached at [William.Davidson@dred.nh.gov](mailto:William.Davidson@dred.nh.gov). This is what he wrote:*

I grew up on Cape Cod and received my Bachelor's degree from Westfield State University in Westfield, Mass., in 2009. It was there that I first gained an appreciation for forest health and saw firsthand the devastating effects another invasive species, the hemlock woolly adelgid, had on the region's forests. After graduating I worked with marine systems for four years as an intern on cephalopod camouflage in Woods Hole, Mass., and as an observer for NOAA collecting data onboard commercial fishing vessels, before returning to school to study forest pests.

I recently completed a master's program in forest entomology at the University of Kentucky where I was working to develop a method of EAB management which blended insecticide applications with releases of natural enemies. While in Kentucky I represented our graduate student entomology club as a volunteer at school events and a local children's museum where we led insect-themed demonstrations and tended insect exhibits. This past summer I worked for the U.S. Forest Service out of Anchorage, Alaska, conducting forest pest surveys and research on regional defoliators.

As the Forest Health Specialist with the Division of Forest and Lands I will be continuing my work with forest pests while leading detection and management efforts against emerald ash borer and taking part in outreach events to increase public awareness of this pest.