



RITree Sentinel

TREE ACTION: 'Tree Killing Asian Pest Found Near Rhode Island'

In early August, just days before going to press, RITree was informed by RIDEM-Forestry officials that the Asian Long-Horned Beetle (ALB) was found attacking trees in Worcester MA. This is very bad news. The ALB (*Anoplophora glabripennis*) has already killed thousands of trees in Chicago, New York and New Jersey. The Massachusetts discovery marks this tree munching pest's initial entry into New England. It places this destructive beetle at the doorstep of one of the largest contiguous forests in the United States, and only about 20 miles from the Rhode Island border and less than 50 miles from downtown Providence! Due to the serious nature of this finding, we are devoting several articles in this issue of *RITree Sentinel* to ALB. Our goal is to acquaint you with this exotic plant pest and the potential threat it poses to Rhode Island's trees and forests.

The ALB is native to China and neighboring regions of Japan and North Korea where it kills hardwood trees in both rural and urban settings. Unlike many wood boring beetles, which tend to feed on dead or dying trees, the larvae of the ALB bore holes in living trees, disrupting their vascular systems, weakening them, and eventually killing them.

This alien pest was first discovered in America in August 1996 infesting street trees in Brooklyn, NY. In 1998, USDA-Forest Service officials confirmed a second major outbreak of ALB in the Ravenswood neighborhood of Chicago. Before the Worcester discovery, the last state where this beetle was found killing trees was in New Jersey in 2002. The USDA has imposed ALB quarantine zones in New York, New Jersey and Illinois to help combat the further spread of this beetle. As of this writing, the combined size of these quarantine areas is roughly 160 square miles. That's about 1/6 the size of the total land area in Rhode Island (1,045 s.m.).

The USDA-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) investigators, the government agency responsible for confirming ALB sightings, believes this pest invader traveled to the United States inside solid wood packing material made in China. Their research indicates that this critter has been here since at least 1990.

There are two main reasons why ALB is so destructive. First, this pest has a wide host range and, secondly, it is very difficult to control once it is introduced into the environment. Many plant hosts preferred by this beetle are found in Rhode Island (see "Host Trees" inside). Because the beetle burrows deep into the heartwood of the tree, it is hard to control with natural pests or contact insecticides. Currently, the only effective means to eliminate ALB is to remove infested trees and destroy them by chipping or burning.

RITree has always been out in front of the ALB threat. In October 2001 we co-hosted with RIDEM-DFE an ALB Workshop held at Rhode Island College. Three years later, in March 2004, we once again highlighted ALB at our 13th Annual Conference "Global Pests" held at Salve Regina University in Newport. We've also used our website and Tree Stewards Course to educate the public on this and other foreign pests since 2000.

Finally, for more information on ALB see inside, or visit our website at www.RITree.org or the other websites that are listed in this newsletter. We also plan to post updates of the Worcester situation on our website as they come to us via local, state and federal officials.

POINTS OF INTEREST

ALB (see page 5)

Host species

Biology

Control Measures

New Vice Chair

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A Magical Tree

Experience

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PNPP Has New

Director (see page 6)

Tree Steward Course

(see page 3)

Annual Conference

(see page 6)

RITree In The News

Changing of the Guard: RITree Announces New Vice Chair by Margie Flanders

This fall, RITree reluctantly accepted the resignation of long time Vice Chair Margaret Ryan, with much gratitude for her years of service, and continuing on as a member of the Board.

It is with pleasure that we announce our new Vice Chair, Steven Pilz, and welcome him to the RITree Executive Committee. For the last few years, as a valuable Board Member and Tree Steward; he has also given his time to Chair the Arbor Day Program, and continues to do so.

Steven Pilz is a true RI native, with roots in North Providence, some sapling years in Pawtucket, later in Johnston. Currently, he enjoys life in western Cranston with his wife of 10 years Jane. They met at a RI Yacht Club dance in Providence on the eve of the Winter Solstice. The chance connection led to an exchange of phone numbers, dating, and then marriage.

Steve has worked as a professional landscape architect for the last 24 years, and his inspiration comes from compliments from clients and friends, as well as his acute sense of each design's possibilities, all balanced to achieve beauty and sustainability. Steve's work includes an impressive resume of design in a variety of public, private and design/build office environments. He currently is the owner and president of Giovanni

Design Associates, Inc., a firm specializing in small to medium sized site design projects. His firm is named in honor of his grandfather, Giovanni Cicerchia, a jewelry designer, farmer and barber, who once told him "Steve, stick to keeping your hands in the soil and you will always succeed." These prophetic words stayed with him, inspiring him to



achieve more than his grandfather could ever have imagined.

He enjoys the challenge of pursuing the newest knowledge of tree breeding, selection, species and cultivar availability, as the arboricultural standards and science of tree health care continues to evolve.

Being involved in RITree is a great opportunity to learn even more, since he sees trees as a dominant element in the landscape, deserving of our preservation, conservation, and care, one tree at a time.

It is no wonder that Steve and Jane take great pleasure in their back yard and the adjacent wooded wetlands. He is constantly tweaking the trees to shed shade in just the right places, or adding a new rose variety that he could not resist, creating just the right space for Jane to lose herself in her latest read. For Steve, their landscape is a labor of love, and he takes pride in what he has created. Some of the most special elements have been gifts, an ornamental with an injury looking for a good home, or bulbs he secretly planted on Christmas Day to surprise his wife in spring. In his own words, "The design flair and love of plants is my constant therapy."

RITree could not be happier that Steve has agreed to lend his time, expertise and unique perspective to the leadership of our organization.

Ode To The Bristlecone Pine



The lines of life, the trails
of pine
are deeply etched in your
sinewy spine.

The life you've led, the life
you will
are sequestered here on this
rocky hill.

History beckons in your
ancient wood
and surely I'd travel there,
if only I could.

There's yet one mystery left
to unfold
that of your age, which may
never be told.

Judy Hadley
May 2008

About the Author....
Judy is a RITree Steward (2006) and a die hard tree lover and "tree hugger", has an unashamed emotional connection to them and says she could not live without them.

She has been chairperson of the Lincoln Land Trust for seven years, and is on the Board of Directors of the Blackstone River Watershed Council/Friends of the Blackstone. The land trust is currently working on a town wide street tree inventory. Judy is very involved in trying to better the environment and leave the world a better place than when she entered it is presently considering becoming a licensed arborist.

RITree wishes you the best Judy.

RITree News Cont'd

Fall 2008 Tree Stewards Education Course

BECOME A RHODE ISLAND TREE STEWARD!!!

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- Tree biology
- Tree identification
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Which do you think is older, the bike or the tree?

My Magical Tree Experience by Robin Enos

I had the opportunity to take the Spring Tree Steward Course that was held at the Johnston Senior Center, the RITree Council offers twice a year, spring and fall. The Tree Steward course was spread over a six week period and had two Saturday workshops. I had no idea what I was going to learn or that there were so many things to learn.

I have always loved trees and knew that trees were important to the environment, but I never truly understood them or had the knowledge of taking care of them. This workshop gave me a whole new perception of the life of a tree and its' value. The class started with tree biology, the way trees work, then continued with tree identification, planting, pruning, mulching, and tree stewardship.

One of the instructors, John Campanini, Jr.(as with all of the instructors) was able to take a complex system of tree anatomy and make it understandable for the whole class, a class filled with different levels of

tree knowledge and different reasons for being there.

Some people took the class to advance their careers, while other, like me, were there just to learn more about these terrific creations of nature. I've always enjoyed nature lovers and their spirit so I am glad that I am finally moving in that direction. I knew that I was changing when early one rainy morning I was taking my children to the bus and thinking out loud I said to the trees "have a nice drink". My 13 year old son, looking at me like I was a stranger said, " Mom, I think you are taking this class a little too seriously." That comment made me think shouldn't we take trees seriously?

If I had a magical source that added 20% to my property value, provided oxygen, improved the air quality, provided shade to reduce my cooling cost, but allowed the sun to warm my house in the winter, why would I cut it down? Why would I not take care of it? Would you?



A Holiday Gift That Gives Forever!

A RITree gift membership or a scholarship for the RITree Steward Course is a gift that keeps on giving. Call or e-mail our office for more details



Helen Walker Raleigh Champion Tree Program

Champion Tree Update

The spring and summer period has been a very busy time for RITree’s Champion Tree inspectors, Kate Sayles, Allison Szyba, and Douglas Dalton. They’ve been out beating the bushes across the state, so to speak, in search of big trees. Along the way, we are happy to report, they have discovered some amazingly LARGE trees.

One such specimen is the Giant Sequoia (*Sequoia sempervirens*) located in Bristol’s Blithewold Gardens. While not a ‘new’ find this handsome tree is billed as one of the biggest of its kind east of the Mississippi River. Well, just how big is big in this case? This mystery was answered by our erstwhile inspection crew upon measuring the “Giant S” this past July. Their figures show that the Sequoia has a trunk circumference of 16’ 4” and is 85 feet tall. That’s pretty big for a tree that is growing about 3,000 miles from its native range along the coastline in northern California. Interestingly enough, our “Giant S”

alarmed Blithewold officials when they noticed last spring’s new foliage growth turning brown, withering and, then, dying in June.

Fortunately, the dieback was caused by low temperature injury that occurred in January 2007, and not a life-threatening disease or insect. We are glad to announce that the ‘Giant S’ has made a complete recovery and today, is as big and beautiful as ever.

RITree’s Big Tree Registry, the complete computer database of officially measured trees, currently has several entries of sizable Common Honeylocust (*Gleditsia triacanthos*). Three of them stand heads and shoulders above the rest.

A very handsome specimen can be seen on North Fair Street in the Pawtuxet neighborhood of Warwick. At 91 feet in height, this tree is presently the tallest honeylocust in Rhode Island but only the 3rd biggest of its kind when total points are computed for all measurements (see table below).

With a total point score of 237, the ‘silver’ medalist in this species category is a very picturesque Gleditsia located at the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary in North Providence.

This tree outranks the Warwick tree (232 pts) by the slimmest of margins, owing mostly to its circumference advantage (134” vs 121”).

But while these two trees may someday hold the title as champion, that honor is currently held by a very old, venerable beauty shading Hall Road in Coventry. This honeylocust does not have the height or crown spread as the former trees but, at 15’ 4”, is nearly 50 inches wider in girth than its closest rival! There is some deadwood in the crown, but otherwise this tree is quite healthy and should enjoy a long reign as champ.

The last find we are mentioning at this time, is a real dandy. As of this writing, it qualifies as the biggest tree, No 1, Numero Uno, etc., in all of Rhode Island.

This towering specimen is a European Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*).

This sylvan beauty is found along Beechwood Drive not far from Goddard Park in Warwick.

It was actually noticed by our tree inspection team while they were out examining another beech nearby. They asked and received permission from the homeowner to measure the tree. When they finished, they couldn’t believe the results.

The beech had a trunk circumference of 31’ 4”, average crown spread of 93’ and was 85 feet in height. When these figures were converted into points this specimen’s total score was a whopping 436 points. Somewhere on the streets, or in the parks, home landscapes and forests of Rhode Island, there may exist a bigger tree. But, until it is discovered, Warwick’s Beechwood Drive European Beech is Rhode Island’s Gargantuan as far as trees go!

Common Name	Location	Circumference	Ht	Crown Spread-1/4	CS	Total Points*
Giant Sequoia	Bristol	196”		85’	47’ (12)	293
Honeylocust	Warwick	121”		91’	79’ (20)	232
Honeylocust	North Providence	134”		84’	74’ (18)	237
Honeylocust	Coventry	184”		71’	52’ (13)	268

*1 point is awarded per inch in circumference and per foot in ¼ crown spread and height.

More Info About ABL

How To Identify The Asian Long-horned Beetle?

The adult beetle has three main features that aid in its identification.

- * it's a large insect between ¾ and 1¼ inches in length
- * its body is jet black with irregular white spots
- * it has long antennae with distinctive black and white bands on each segment

Because of the size and distinctive markings that adorn its black body and antennae, in China, the ALB is called the starry sky beetle.

ALB Life Cycle

ALB has four life stages in its life cycle, egg, larval, pupal and the adult beetle stage of development. The eggs are laid in the bark by female beetles. Eggs hatch into grub-like larvae from spring to fall. The larvae tunnel under the bark and into the wood where they eventually pupate. The adults emerge from pupation sites by creating a round exit hole in the tree. After emerging, male and female beetles feed on leaves and twigs before mating. Spring laid eggs complete their life cycle in one year; fall laid eggs take two years.

What are the signs of ALB Infestation?

There are typically four major ways to recognize tree damage by ALB.

- * Shallow, oval or rounded wounds in the bark. These are egg-laying sites made by female adults.
- * Oozing sap at egg sites caused by feeding larvae in wood.
- * Sawdust accumulation on branches and trunk caused by larvae tunneling in tree.
- * One-half inch diameter exit holes on trunk and stems caused by beetles when they emerge from tree.

How does ALB kill trees?

The larvae create deep tunnels in the wood by feeding on the cambium, sapwood and heartwood. This disrupts the flow of nutrients and water to a tree, eventually killing it. Heavy infestations can kill a tree in one to two years.

What trees are most vulnerable to attack by ALB?

In the United States, the ALB infests a variety of hardwoods. Host trees most susceptible to attack are maple, willow, elm, ash, poplar, birch, horse chestnut, sycamore and the planetree.

What to do?

If you find the insect, catch it in a jar and place it in your freezer. This will kill it. If you suspect a tree has been damaged by ALB note the exact location of the tree. In both instances immediately report the find by calling:

RIDEM-Division of Forest Environment: 401-647-3367

RIDEM-Division of Agriculture: 401-222-2781

RITree: 401-764-5885

For pictures and more information on ALB go to the following websites:

www.uvm.edu/albeetle

www.aphis.usda.gov

www.ritree.org

Trees Commonly Attacked By ABL

Norway Maple

Red Maple

Silver Maple

Sugar Maple

Elms

Willows

Birch

Planetree

Sycamore

Horsechestnut

Ohio Buckeye

*A complete list of host trees in the US has not been determined.



Asian Longhorn Beetle - Male



Asian Longhorn Beetle - Female

Around The State

*PNPP Welcomes Liz Downing As New Director

by Tom Morra



This Spring, the Providence Neighborhood Planting Program, a partnership between the Mary Elizabeth Sharpe Street Tree Endowment and the City of Providence, had the good fortune of bringing aboard Liz Downing as its new director. Liz graduated Summa Cum Laude with a degree in Environmental Sciences and Management from the University of Rhode Island, and has been in her own garden design, installation and maintenance business since 2002.

Liz grew up in Providence, attended college at American University in DC where she studied for 2 years. She then lived in San Lucan Toliman, Guatemala for four months, where she first learned about organic agriculture hands on, working on a small demonstration farm. Since then she has worked with numerous local farmers and environmental organizations including Southside Comm. Land Trust, Casey Farm, and the RI Natural History Survey.

"My time at URI was spent taking every field class I could, including Botany, Ornithology, Soil Science, Geology, and Plant Ecology. My professors were awesome and taught me to see the place I live in a whole new way; that there are stories within every stone, plant, morsel of soil," says Liz.

"The tree people I have met in Providence are filling the void I had felt in my learning since I left URI. Folks like Tom Morra, Peggy Sharpe, Margaret Brookner, Doug Still, and all the other people I meet each day who are applying and advocating for trees teach me about improving the city environment through caring for plant life here."

Liz is an exceptional person that truly understands the benefits of trees and plants in the urban landscape, and with one planting season already under her belt, she brings a great deal of enthusiasm and knowledge to the PNPP table. She is currently working with the Parks Department to develop outreach programs for low tree neighborhoods, so Providence residents will definitely be seeing more and more of her in the planting seasons to come.

Congratulations and Good Luck, Liz! RITree certainly has another great ally and tree advocate in Providence!



RITree's 16th Annual Conference



RITree's 16th Annual Conference will be held on Friday, October 3, 2008 at the Aldrich Mansion in Warwick, RI. This year's conference theme is "Sustaining Trees World-Wide."

Featured speakers will include Ron Henderson, Associate Professor of Landscape Architecture, Tsinghua University, Beijing, China and Providence, RI. Also speaking is Providence City Forester, Douglas Still and Frank Crandall, the owner of Wood River Evergreens, Inc., of Hope Valley, RI. They will discuss the use of green landscaping, arboriculture and urban forestry in urban planning here and abroad. The cost is \$40 per person and includes buffet lunch. For more information or to register for the conference, call RITree at 401-764-5885 or e-mail Robin at: RobinEnos@RITree.org

Mulch Day At Goddard Park -Volunteers Needed

Save the morning of Saturday, September 27, 2008 for mulching saplings at Goddard Park in Warwick, RI. These trees were planted as part of RITree's Arbor Day Fair in April of this year. The mulching is critical to protect their still tender roots from cold temperature injury this winter. We plan to start at 10:00am and be finished by noon. Please call RITree 401-764-5885 or e-mail RITree@RITree.org if you will be able to help us with this mulching project.

Tree Walk In Roger Williams Park

The Rhode Island Greenways Alliance will hold a guided tour of notable trees in Roger Williams Park, Providence, RI on Saturday, September 13, 2008. The tour will be led by RITree's technical advisor, John Campanini. The tour will begin in front of the Casino Building at 10:00am and last until 11:30am. The tour is free and open to the public.

Around The World

How Many Acres Of Trees Are Planted Annually In The United States?

The United States Forest Service prepares a report periodically on tree planting, timber stand improvement, and nursery production activities across all ownerships of forest land in the United States. To review highlights published in their most recent summary read further.

Answer: Tree planting on all ownerships total approximately 2.6 million acres annually. This annual planting roughly equals the size of the State of Connecticut. Compare this annual planting to 2.3 million acres of trees planted under the ten year Civilian Conservation Corps tree planting program (mid-1930's to mid-1940's) and to 2.2 million acres under the entire Soil Bank Program (1956 to 1961).

* * *

Malaysia To Help Indonesia Curb Forest Fires

Putrajaya, Malaysia (AFP) May 23, 2008

Malaysia will help Indonesian farmers practice safer farming methods to help curb forest fires blamed for the choking haze which shrouds the region annually, the environment minister said Friday.

Environment Minister Douglas Unggah Embas said both countries would sign a memorandum of understanding by June to enable Malaysian experts to assist farmers in the fire-prone Riau region on Indonesia's Sumatra island.

* * *

Bangladesh To Plant 100 Million Trees To Fight Floods, Cyclones

Dhaka (AFP) May 24, 2008

Disaster-prone Bangladesh announced on Saturday that it would plant 100 million trees to create a "natural fence" against frequent floods and cyclones.

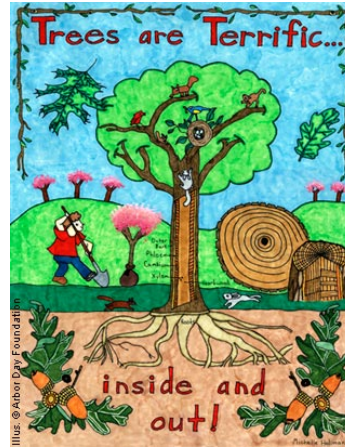
The head of the country's military-backed government Fakhruddin Ahmed launched the project in the capital, Dhaka, saying the trees would "fight storms, tidal surges, floods and droughts" in a "natural way."

He appealed to all Bangladeshis to build "a wall of trees in the coastal belt as a strong deterrent to disaster."

"Our main weapon to face these disasters is tree plantation," he said.

Arbor Day Poster Contest 2009

"Trees are Terrific...
in Cities and Towns"



2008 National winner
Michelle H. From Oklahoma

Educators, Teachers and Parents of 5th graders please watch for our 2009 Arbor Day National Poster Contest material being sent to all public and private schools. The lesson plan correlates with education standards and teaches the environmental, economic and social benefits of trees. Cash prizes awarded at State and National levels. For more information regarding the poster contest please visit our web site www.ritree.org

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GOING GREEN!

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 It can be read on our web site www.ritree.org We would like to give those who are not
 computer savvy an option to receive this by U S post mail by filling out the form below.**

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